

Welcome to the Gardens!

Admission: Adults \$5

Children 12 & under: Free

Free admission to MBG members & members of Gardens subscribing to the American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Admissions Programs

Please pay at the Office (#7 on map)

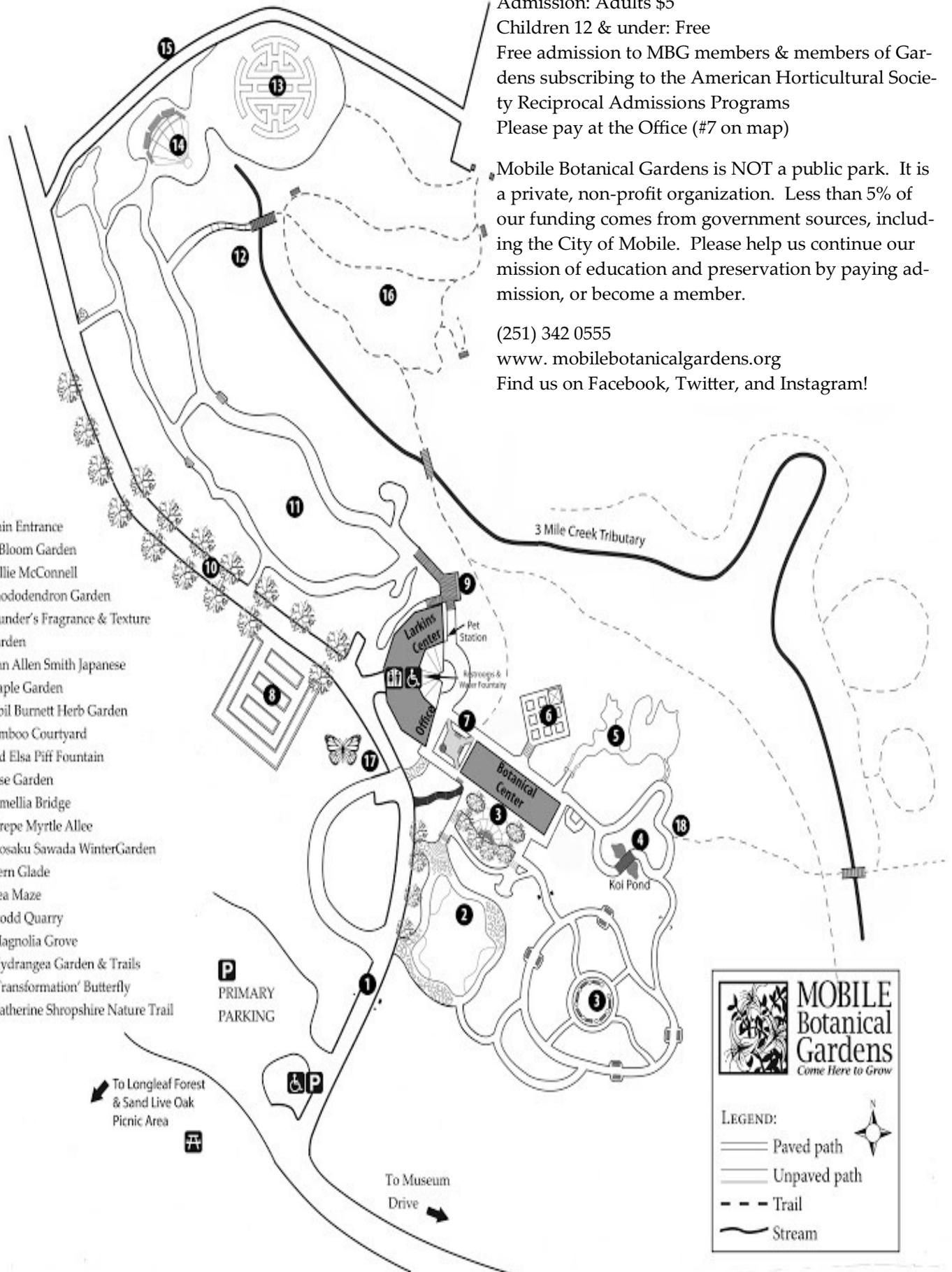
Mobile Botanical Gardens is NOT a public park. It is a private, non-profit organization. Less than 5% of our funding comes from government sources, including the City of Mobile. Please help us continue our mission of education and preservation by paying admission, or become a member.

(251) 342 0555

www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org

Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

1. Main Entrance
2. ReBloom Garden
3. Millie McConnell Rhododendron Garden
4. Founder's Fragrance & Texture Garden
5. John Allen Smith Japanese Maple Garden
6. Sybil Burnett Herb Garden
7. Bamboo Courtyard and Elsa Piff Fountain
8. Rose Garden
9. Camellia Bridge
10. Crepe Myrtle Allee
11. Kosaku Sawada WinterGarden
12. Fern Glade
13. Tea Maze
14. Dodd Quarry
15. Magnolia Grove
16. Hydrangea Garden & Trails
17. 'Transformation' Butterfly
18. Katherine Shropshire Nature Trail



The Mobile Botanical Gardens has 100 acres of plant collections and woodland areas. There are paved areas suitable for handicapped access, but also some woodland gardens and trails where we ask that you watch your step!

We hope you enjoy your visit to the Gardens today .

Some areas of note are:

2 ReBloom Garden

The **ReBloom Mobile** project sought to rekindle the spirit of gardening in the City of Mobile and to provide suggestions for plants to achieve a 12-month color display. Our demonstration borders surrounding the lawn are planted with Color Year Round in mind.

3. Rhododendron Garden

The Millie McConnell Rhododendron Garden began as a native azalea garden, planted by Tom Dodd, John Allen Smith, and Dr. John Giordano in the 1970's. The garden was redesigned in 2006 to showcase azalea hybrids well-suited to our climate. These groups include the Eugene Aromi, Tom Dodd, and Kosaku Sawada hybrids from here in Mobile. This Garden also boasts the largest public collection of Satsuki azaleas in the U.S., as well as an extensive collection of historic Southern Indica azaleas. These plants are set among 19th century architectural artifacts and hand-made brick pavers from old Mobile. The central gathering area within the Rhododendron Garden is surrounded by reclaimed cast iron columns. The pavers were handmade and at one time were sited downtown in de Tonti Square near Beauregard Street.

4. Fragrance and Texture Garden

Dedicated to the Founders of the MBG, this was the first cultivated garden on site planted in the early 1970's. It was designed as a trail for the handicapped, especially those who are visually impaired or with mobility issues. Paved for wheelchair access and featuring a koi pond, the meandering trail takes you by plants chosen for their textures and fragrances.

5. Japanese Maple Garden

The specimen trees in this garden were relocated here from Mr. John Allen Smith's private collection. This serene garden serves as the site for memorials and dedication plaques recognizing many significant contributors to the MBG.

6. Herb Garden

The raised beds you find here will introduce you to herbs classified as culinary, spiritual, medicinal, native, historical, household, and fragrant. Around the perimeter of the Herb Garden you will find perennials and shrubs as companion plants. Volunteers from the Gulf Coast Herb Society plant and maintain this garden.

7. Entry Courtyard and Piff Fountain

Located between our two buildings, this area features clumping bamboo, perennials, shrubs and annuals. This garden changes with the seasons, but always features something interesting. The **Piff Fountain**, located in the center of the courtyard, was donated in memory of Mrs. Elsa Piff – a long-time supporter of the Gardens. Her beautiful plumeria are on display here every spring and summer.

11. WinterGarden

This garden is named in honor of Kosaku Sawada who immigrated

from Japan in the early 1900s and settled in Mobile. Sawada hybridized many camellias which are now famous around the world. The **Wintergarden** began with plantings by Tom Sawada and in 2007, under the direction of Bobby Green, this garden was re-established with a polished design and the addition of more camellia specimens. *This collection has been named a Garden of Excellence as determined by the International Camellia Society, one of just 23 in the world.*

12. Fern Garden

Located in an area with natural springs, the **Fern Garden** is especially lovely on a hot, sultry day. A variety of ferns are complemented by Cardinal Spears (*Odontonema stricta*) and Louisiana Iris that have been left to naturalize.

13. Tea Maze

Did you know that tea is made from the leaves of the *Camellia sinensis*? As tea became popular in the West, many requests went to China for tea plants. Misinterpreting the requests (perhaps intentionally) the Chinese sent *flowering* camellia japonicas instead, introducing these beautiful plants to Europe and the Americas. This Tea Maze is based on similar designs of tea plantations in Asia. Planted in 2012, it's not thick enough to get lost in yet!

14. Dodd Quarry

This gathering place was dedicated in 2010 to honor local plantsman, William Dodd. The large, granite slabs as well as pavers and cobblestones were once part of an old graveyard in downtown Mobile. The massive decorative iron columns date to the mid-1800's and once adorned the façade of a commercial structure long since destroyed.

18. Nature Trail

Dedicated in 1981 and reopened in 2014, this trail is a 1/4 mile walk through a wooded area. The careful observer may be treated with many different forms of wildlife as well as a wide variety of plants and trees native to our area. (Entrance through the Fragrance & Texture Garden.)

17. "Transformation " Sculpture

In 2014 the Bruce Larsen butterfly sculpture, *Transformation*, was given on long term loan to the Gardens from the Mobile Museum of Art. This sculpture serves as the focal point of the butterfly and pollinator garden which is currently under construction.

Longleaf Pine Treasure Forest

Fronting Museum Drive with the trail head adjacent to the main parking plaza, this 35 acre conservation area is one of the last remaining stands of Longleaf Pines within Mobile City limits. Prior to European settlement in the 1700s, the land on which Mobile Botanical Gardens stands today was part of a vast longleaf pine forest. This land was logged for longleaf pine in the early 1900's, Through preservation and conservation efforts using controlled burns since 2005, this area was designated a Treasure Forest by the Longleaf Alliance in 2010. It hosts an array of 165 plant species from giant longleaf pines and southern magnolias to tiny bluets and other native plants., as well as a variety of birds and other wildlife.

Several of the trails have QR markers which can be scanned using a QR reader app on cell phones, giving access to an audio tour of those areas.