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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Huntsville Botanical Garden adds mobility scooters, benches with grant from AARP

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (November 4, 2025) - Huntsville Botanical Garden (HBG) is adding two new mobility scooters and four new benches to help make the Garden more accessible for guests of all ages through funding provided by AARP.

These new amenities support HBG's continuing endeavors to make improvements to accessibility at the Garden.

"We are deeply grateful for this generous grant from AARP, which allows us to make the Garden even more welcoming and accessible to all," said CEO Susan L. Wagner. "The addition of new benches and mobility scooters ensures that every guest can explore, rest, and connect with the natural beauty around them. This support helps us continue our mission of connecting people to plants while fostering a space where everyone feels included and inspired."

The scooters join a small fleet of wheelchairs that are free for use by guests, first come first served. Two of the benches will be placed at tram stops to provide a place for guests to sit and relax while waiting for the garden tram (available seasonally during the daytime as well as during Galaxy of Lights). The remaining benches will be added to the collection of benches, swings, and other seating around the Garden used to offer moments of rest and respite while visiting.

"At AARP, we believe that everyone—regardless of age or ability—should be able to fully enjoy the beauty and benefits of their community spaces," said Candi Williams, AARP Alabama State Director. "We're proud to support the Huntsville Botanical Garden through the AARP Community Challenge Grant, helping make this beloved destination more accessible with new benches and mobility scooters. These enhancements reflect our commitment to creating more livable communities for all Alabamians, especially older adults and those with mobility challenges."

HBG thanks AARP for the generous support that made these improvements possible to help make this community a great place for all ages.

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About Huntsville Botanical Garden

Huntsville Botanical Garden is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that exists to connect people to plants in order to support a healthier quality of life for the region. Open year-round, the Garden contains diverse ecosystems to explore within its 118 acres. From grassy meadows to woodland paths, aquatic habitats to stunning floral collections, the Garden invites guests of all ages to discover the beauty and wonder of the natural environment. For more information, visit hsvbg.org.

About AARP

The AARP Community Challenge is a grant program to make tangible improvements in communities that jump-start long-term change. It is part of AARP's nationwide Livable Communities initiative, which supports the efforts of cities, towns, neighborhoods and rural areas to become great places to live for people of all ages. To learn more, visit AARP.org/Livable.