



**CONTACT:**

Leeann Lavin  
718-623-7289  
leeannlavin@bbg.org

Kate Blumm  
718-623-7241  
kateblumm@bbg.org

WHERE PLANTS COME TO LIFE

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

PHOTOS AVAILABLE

Visit [bbg.org/photos](http://bbg.org/photos)

## **Brooklyn Botanic Garden Participating in Exhibition at 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China**

**Brooklyn, New York—August 21, 2008— Brooklyn Botanic Garden** is pleased to announce its participation in the World Botanic Gardens Exhibition, on display during the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

With the theme of “Homes for Plants, Gardens for Humans,” the World Botanic Gardens Exhibition is co-organized by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), the Chinese Academy of Sciences Botanic Gardens, and the Beijing Municipal Science and Technology Committee. Its goal is to share the beauty and value of biodiversity with visitors from around the world and to highlight the ongoing efforts of botanic gardens to preserve our natural plant heritage.

More than just beautiful landscapes, botanic gardens conduct research, innovate, educate, inspire, and heal. **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** will be showcasing its ongoing efforts in conservation and the New York Metropolitan Flora Project (NYMF). While most of the botanical community concentrates on tracking the threats to biodiversity in the tropics, scientists at **Brooklyn Botanic Garden** are undertaking the most comprehensive study ever of the plant biodiversity in metropolitan New York. In 1990 the Garden embarked on the New York Metropolitan Flora project, a multiyear effort to document the flora in all counties within a 50-mile radius of New York City. Understanding the urban landscape is critical in our rapidly urbanizing world. Findings of **Brooklyn Botanic Garden's** NYMF project serve as vital references for those involved in environmental efforts, from preserving rare plants to planning parks and greenways to repairing degraded habitats to designing home gardens in which native plant communities are preserved or restored.

The Olympic Games' theme, “One World, One Dream,” extends perfectly to the

worldwide family of botanic gardens, as they protect biodiversity in their backyards and around the globe while reconnecting people with the natural world.

The exhibition is located in the Science and Technology Park (just down the road from the National Stadium, known as “the Bird’s Nest”, and the National Aquatics Center, known as “the Water Cube”) and will be on display to a global audience from August 1 to September 8, 2008. It contains 70 exhibition panels containing stories from botanic gardens around the globe involved in plant conservation and research. Visitors can relax and enjoy the exhibition’s green space while watching videos provided by participating botanic gardens on a large LCD screen, learn more about the rare medicinal plants on display, and check out displays of seeds and leaves and an interactive plant-scent station that allows them to smell different oils and perfumes derived from fragrant plants around the world.

Read more about the exhibition at [http://www.bgci.org/usa/WBGE\\_OLYMPICS/](http://www.bgci.org/usa/WBGE_OLYMPICS/).

###

Founded in 1910, Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) is an independent nonprofit institution committed to education, research, and the display of horticulture. BBG serves communities in New York City and internationally through its world-class gardens, extensive research collections, and numerous educational and community programs. Situated on 52 acres in the heart of Brooklyn, the Garden is home to over 10,000 types of plants and hosts more than 700,000 visitors annually. Brooklyn Botanic Garden was rated Brooklyn’s number one tourist attraction in Zagat’s recently released 2008 *Best of Brooklyn*.

*About Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI): From grassroots action to global policy initiatives, BGCI works with and through a global network of over 2,500 botanic gardens and conservation partners in 120 countries to save threatened plants from extinction for the well-being of people and the planet. Founded in 1987, BGCI is headquartered in London and maintains program offices and staff in the United States, China, Kenya, Japan, and Singapore.*