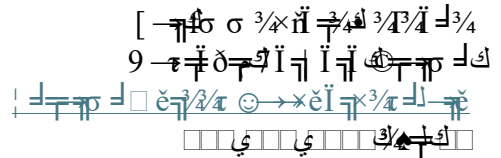


PRESS RELEASE



GREENWOOD GARDENS RESTORES CENTURY-OLD ITALIANATE CASCADE FOUNTAIN

Rare Water Feature Set to Open This May in Historic Garden

Short Hills, NJ, February 10, 2026 – Greenwood Gardens, the historic 28-acre public garden located in Short Hills, New Jersey, is delighted to announce the re-opening of its majestic Cascade fountain this spring. For the first time since the early part of the 20th century, water will flow down the seven tiers of this meticulously restored architectural structure, a rare example of an Italianate Baroque-style fountain in the United States.

The expansive Cascade was designed by William Whetten Renwick (1864 – 1933), for the property’s original owner, Joseph P. Day. William was the nephew of famed Gothic Revival architect James Renwick, Jr., designer of such notable New York City landmarks as St. Patrick’s Cathedral, the Smithsonian Institution, and Grace Church. William Renwick was a man of many artistic gifts: an architect, sculptor, painter, and garden designer. He studied sculpture at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and was affiliated with the American Institute of Architects, the National Sculpture Society, and the Salmagundi Club. He eventually became partner in his uncle’s firm, and his family’s presence in Short Hills was deeply rooted.

William's inspiration for the Cascade was a fountain created in the 1620s by renowned Baroque architect, Carlo Maderno, for a villa in Frascati, Italy. Maderno is remembered as one of the fathers of Baroque architecture. Maderno’s façades on Santa Susanna, St. Peter's Basilica, and Sant'Andrea della Valle were part of the evolution of the Italian Baroque style. The symmetry and complexity of the Cascade were purposefully built on a grand scale. Its strong architectural concept was meant to demonstrate dramatic flair, complementary to the garden overall.

“This project was three years in the making and represents the completion of the last of the site’s major water features,” said Louise Moos, Chair of the Board of Trustees. “We are grateful to the members of our extended community for their generous support,” she added.

-more-

“We believe our visitors will derive peace and relaxation from this stately structure,” said Abby O’Neill, Executive Director. She pointed out the fountain’s location, tucked into the hillside below the East Terrace, that offers breathtaking views of the 1,200 acres of South Mountain Reservation. New plantings, accessible twin horseshoe staircases, and Arts and Crafts era Rookwood ceramics in shell, leaf, and masque designs embellish the restored structure.

A masterpiece of movement, symmetry, and artistic ambition, the Cascade is a rare garden feature that tells a story not just of water and stone, but of grandeur revived. It wasn’t just ornamental; this structure was deeply personal for the Day family and the subsequent owners of the property, the Blanchard family — who in 2003, acted on their dream to create a public garden for all to enjoy. Today, Greenwood’s Cascade remains part of this storied legacy preserved in the spirit of stewardship passed down through generations.

The design team led by Allan Summers, Principal of Robinson Anderson Summers Landscape Architects, and Hobbs Incorporated, general contractor, conducted two years of rigorous testing and determined that much of the fountain’s existing structure could be preserved. Funding for the \$2.7 million project was provided by the private support of donors.

About Greenwood Gardens

In 2025, Greenwood Gardens was named one of New Jersey Travel and Tourism’s “One Dozen Must-Stroll Garden State Gardens.” Terraced gardens, stately fountains, pools, statues, grottos, walls accented with Arts and Crafts pottery, woodlands, winding paths, lawns, a pond, and a barnyard create a comprehensive experience. Music, art, nature, history, and horticulture programs are regularly offered. Greenwood is open for the 2026 season from May 1 through November 8.

Conveniently located between New York City and Philadelphia, Greenwood Gardens is supported by gifts, membership, and volunteers. For further information, visit www.greenwoodgardens.org or call 973-258-4026.

#

Photos, including credits and directions to save the images, can be found on the PDF which accompanies this press release. Please reach out for individual image if needed.