



## Updated Children's Garden opens at U.S. Botanic Garden



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**Washington, D.C.** - The United States Botanic Garden announces the reopening of the Children's Garden in the Conservatory. Families can enjoy the updated garden where children can explore and grow their imaginations.

The garden features multiple updates including:

- **a new platform discovery structure** - a series of terraced platforms create a climbing structure, with overhead arching aluminum posts that span the width of the Conservatory. As children ascend the platforms (up to 4' high), they will experience interactive panels with botanical materials demonstrating the usefulness of plants;
- **leaf trellis and watering can seats** - a series of fabric and metal leaf shapes, at varying heights, provide overhead interest and shade for a garden area. Oversized watering cans are placed throughout the garden;
- **kiwifruit tunnel** - a metal arbor replaces the previous vine tunnel. Cables positioned to resemble spider webs will soon be covered by newly planted kiwifruit vines. As the vines grow and enclose the tunnel, they will provide shade for the garden;
- **digging area** - an area defined by metal and wood walls provides children a space to dig with child-sized tools and learn about composting;
- **dandelion sculptures** - metal sculptures appear as oversize dandelions, with steel "seeds" attached at the tips of wires. When the wind blows, the sculptures will sway with the breeze;
- **toadstool seats** - concrete formed to look like mushrooms at various heights accommodate children of all sizes.

Previously added favorites remain, such as the motion-activated misting poles, watering and planting stations with digging tools and watering cans, and interactive stations such as banana, apple, and fig.

When young children use their imaginations to relate to their surroundings, there is evidence that they are also developing a life-long affection for the natural world. To see what's in bloom, dig, plant, water, and touch and smell the plants in the Children's Garden. Watch your kids play, discover, and awaken their curiosity.

The U.S. Botanic Garden is open to the public, free of charge, every day of the year from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Children's Garden is open seasonally, typically from May to October. The Conservatory is located at 100 Maryland Ave. SW, on the southwest side of the U.S. Capitol. Visitors are encouraged to use Metrobus and Metrorail. More information is available at [www.USBG.gov](http://www.USBG.gov)

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Photos available at: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B6Z61UBj4v5YcHNINmo5MzV6bIU>

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## About the U.S. Botanic Garden

The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) is one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America. The Garden informs visitors about the importance and diversity of plants, as well as their aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic and ecological significance. With over a million visitors annually, the USBG promotes sustainable practices. The U.S. Botanic Garden is a living plant museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. [www.usbg.gov](http://www.usbg.gov)

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