



Accessibility at the USBG

The U.S. Botanic Garden strives to make its collection, programming and facilities accessible to ensure a successful museum visit for all visitors. For additional information, please contact Maura Nelson, mnelson@aac.gov or 202-226-1047.

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Plan Your Visit

Accessible Pathways

All parts of the Conservatory and outdoor gardens are accessible. The Tropics elevator is currently offline but the canopy remains accessible by stairs. For more information on specific accessible routes through the Conservatory and outdoor gardens, please inquire at the visitor information desk upon arrival.

Admission

Admission to the U.S. Botanic Garden is free. The Conservatory and National Garden are open every day of the year from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM. The National Garden is open every day of the year from dawn till dusk. Find additional information, including any extended hours, on our [Hours and Location](#) page.

Best Times to Visit

If you are looking for a quieter time to visit, the months of January-early March and mid-July-early September tend to be the least crowded. Please note that there are extreme heat conditions during the summer months.

Breast-feeding & Lactation

Breast-feeding is welcome in all areas of the Garden. There are no private breast-feeding lounges or lactation stations for electronic pumping. Heating of expressed milk or formula is not available.

Exiting During an Emergency

U.S. Capitol Police are trained to assist you in safely exiting the building/grounds in the event of an emergency and/or evacuation.

First Aid

If you need immediate assistance at any time, please report to the front desk.

Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices

The U.S. Botanic Garden accommodates the use of some Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs), which are vehicles that are not wheelchairs, but are devices designed primarily for use by individuals with mobility limitations. In the interest of maintaining a safe and pedestrian friendly environment while ensuring that everyone has a positive experience, it is prohibited to operate a mobility device at a speed greater than the flow of the surrounding pedestrian traffic. OPDMDs include electric OPDMDs and other single-seat electric scooters with three or more wheels that cannot exceed more than 6 miles per hour and Segways. Segways are permitted but must operate only in "turtle" mode.

Parking

Designated accessible parking on Maryland Avenue SW for vehicles bearing a valid Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) disability parking placards or license plates on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Public Transportation

We encourage our visitors to take public transportation whenever possible. Please visit the [Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Metro's Accessible](#) page for more about accessible public transportation options.

Sensory Tip Sheet

A general sensory tip sheet provides an overview of the different areas of the indoor Conservatory.

Service Animals

We welcome service dogs that are trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability in all areas of the garden unless the dog poses a direct threat to the safety of others, is housebroken or is not under the control. Pets are not allowed on USBG grounds.

Strollers

Strollers are welcome on the grounds of the U.S. Botanic Garden. Personal property must be in the owner's possession at all times. There is no stroller parking.

Visitor Guides

The Garden's Map and Visitor Guide is available in nine languages and may be picked up at the front desk or downloaded as a PDF here: English, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Russian, and Spanish. Braille and large print guides are available at the front desk upon request and a PDF version of the large print guide is available here.

Visitor Information Services

Upon arrival, please feel free to stop at our front desk where trained staff and volunteers can provide information and updates on the daily schedule and events. The Garden is a living collection and changes in displays and navigation may occasionally occur. The Garden team is here to help you plan your onsite visit to make your museum experience.



Visitor Services

Drinking Fountains

Drinking fountains are located in the south of the indoor Conservatory near the restrooms.

Season's Greenings Access Pass

During *Season's Greenings*, the annual holiday show, the U.S. Botanic Garden experiences high visitation, especially through the model train exhibit. A separate entry point. Individuals that are unable to wait in line due to physical, sensory-processing and/or brain-based disabilities and their caregivers can request in advance, an access pass to advance through the line. As a courtesy, we ask that you limit the party size to six individuals. At this time, all requests must be requested in-person at the information desk.

Restrooms and Changing Tables

Accessible facilities and children's changing tables are found in both men's and women's restrooms.

Sign Language Interpretation

In cooperation with the Office of Congressional Accessibility Services, the U.S. Botanic Garden offers sign language interpretation upon request. If possible, please provide 48 hours advanced notice to schedule an interpreter.

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Wheelchairs

The Garden loans wheelchairs to our visitors as a courtesy on a first-come, first-serve basis. A valid driver's license or government-issued picture identification is needed to borrow a wheelchair. Your ID will be returned to you when you return the wheelchair. Wheelchairs are to remain on U.S. Botanic Garden property.



Onsite Resources

Assisted Listening Devices

Assisted Listening Devices (headsets and receivers) are available upon request for all guided tours and public programs. The headsets are compatible with most mobile devices.

Cell Phone Tours

The Garden's audio tour is accessible by cell phone.

Sensory Bags

Sensory bags are available to borrow from the Visitor Information desk. A valid driver's license or government-issued picture identification card is needed to borrow a sensory bag. Many individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and/or sensory processing disorders (SPD) experience difficulty with everyday sensory stimulation, including sight, sound, smell, taste, touch, or noise. Items available to borrow include noise-reducing headphones, weighted lap blankets, and a selection of sensory stimulation. These resources are also available for all public programs. For a complete list of items available, please contact Maura Nelson at mnelson@aoc.gov or 202-226-1047.

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Public Programs

For any questions or more information about public programs, contact Maura Nelson, mnelson@aoc.gov or 202-226-1047.

Roots and Reflections

Join members of the USBG's team for this engaging program specifically designed for individuals living with dementia and their companions. On the first Thursday of the month, participants explore the living plant collections through facilitated conversation and hands-on activities. Pre-registration is required. This program is designed to be a more intimate experience and limited to 6 participants.

Season's Greenings Access Pass

During *Season's Greenings*, the annual holiday show, the U.S. Botanic Garden experiences high visitation, especially through the model train exhibit. To ensure a separate entry point, individuals that are unable to wait in line due to physical, sensory-processing and/or brain-based disabilities and their companions can request, in advance, an access pass to advance through the line. At this time, access passes must be requested in-person at the information desk.

Sensory-Friendly Programs

Quarterly early openings provide museum access to individuals with cognitive and sensory processing disabilities and their families by offering early entry, pre-visit materials, and a take-a-break space. These programs are coordinated in conjunction with current exhibits.

Sensory Bags

Sensory bags are available to borrow from the Visitor Information desk. A valid driver's license or government-issued picture identification card is needed. Many individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and/or sensory processing disorders (SPD) experience difficulty with everyday sensory stimulation such as noise, touch, taste textures or a variety of sensitivities. Items available to borrow include noise-reducing headphones, weighted lap blankets, and a selection of sensory stimulation. These resources are also available for all public programs. For a complete list of items available, please contact Maura Nelson at mnelson@usb.gov or 202-226-1047.

Specialized programs

Experienced educators work with both children and adults at all developmental and cognitive levels. A tailored onsite experience is available upon request. If a teacher looking to schedule a field trip, please visit our [Planning Your Field Trip](#) page. Programs for special education/inclusion classrooms, community, and support groups include enhanced sensory opportunities and tactile experiences.

STOP! Smell and Touch Our Plants Tour

This tour invites individuals who are blind or have low vision and their companions for a hands-on exploration of the plant collections with no verbal descriptions. Offered the first Tuesday and Saturday of the month, these tours include verbal description as well as opportunities for smell and touch. Pre-registration is required. *Please note:* This program is designed to be a more intimate experience and limited to 10 participants. We welcome service animals and request that they perform tasks for an individual.

Tours

Guided tours allow all individuals to experience the living collection and the U.S. Botanic Garden's unique history. To reserve a group tour, please visit our [Tours](#) page.

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