

## General Tip Sheet for Visiting the United States Botanic Garden



**Location:** The United States Botanic Garden is located at 100 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C., 20024

- Indoors:
  - Conservatory (Glass greenhouse)
- Outdoors
  - National Garden
  - Bartholdi Park

### **Parking:**

- Public parking along Maryland Avenue is restricted Monday through Friday but available on the weekends.
- Accessible parking (*available for public use at any time*):
  - There are 6 designated accessible spaces available on a first-come, first-serve basis for vehicles displaying appropriate accessible placards/license plates – 4 spaces at the Eastern end of Maryland Avenue (roundabout) and 2 at the Western End of Maryland Avenue (perpendicular to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street). Both sets of accessible parking spots are adjacent to/near curb cuts.
  - If all 6 designated accessible spots are occupied, visitors with appropriate accessible placards/license plates are permitted to park in **any spot** along Maryland Avenue.

### **Metro:**

- The Metro station closest to the U.S. Botanic Garden is the Federal Center Southwest Station on the Blue/Orange/Silver lines, located about three blocks from the museum's Maryland Avenue entrance.
- For a map and additional information, please visit [Metro's website](#).

## Entering the Museum & Lobby

- The main entrance to the indoor Conservatory is located under the American flag.
- There is a very large ceiling fan that facilitates the movement of air
- Visitors are not subjected to a physical security screening.
  - Security/canine patrols: United States Capitol Police do conduct routine canine patrols of the Conservatory.

## Take a Break Spaces

- There are benches located throughout the Conservatory to take a break from your visit.
- Seasonal tables, chairs and benches are located outdoors on the Garden terraces and in the National Garden and Bartholdi Park.

## General Museum Environment

- Plant Collection: The Garden maintains approximately 65,000 plants for exhibition, study, conservation and exchange with other institutions. Noteworthy collections include economic plants, medicinal plants, orchids, carnivorous plants, cacti and succulents, and Mid-Atlantic native plants.
  - You might find on occasion plants that have slightly extended into the visitor pathway. Especially on crowded days, you may experience the sensation of a plant brushing up against an arm or leg.
  - We encourage visitors to “look with their eyes” as these plants comprise our documented museum collection. However, please communicate with a staff member if you feel that tactile exploration would enrich the experience and if possible, we will work to accommodate these requests.
- Accessible routes: The Garden is accessible. However, during higher visitation days (especially weekends), congestion of pathways and exhibit spaces is a frequent occurrence.
  - Elevator: There is an elevator on the east side of The Tropics providing access to the canopy walk.
- Ambient noise: Throughout the Garden, various ambient noise exists due to Garden Court music, high-velocity ceiling fans, plant misters, waterfalls, fountains and sliding doors.
- Music: Background music is piped into the Garden Court.
- Automatic sliding doors: In order to control for plant temperature requirements and allow for ease of movement for visitors throughout the Conservatory, there are automatic sliding doors between plant houses. These doors have built-in motion detectors which will respond to movement within close proximity of the sensor.

- Temperature: As you move through the Conservatory, noticeable temperature shifts occur due to the environmental needs of the plant collection.
- Light: Visitors may experience fluctuations in natural light levels throughout the Conservatory due to outdoor weather conditions and plant growth overhead.
- Scents: Depending on what might be in bloom, or recent gardening activities, visitors will encounter many scents during their visit to our living plant museum.
  - Please note that the structural frame for the East Gallery Railway is constructed from reclaimed cedar planks and retains a distinct odor throughout the holiday show.
- Misters: Water misters can be found throughout the Conservatory and intermittently turn on and spray water into the atmosphere, providing an important resource for the plants. Visitors may experience feeling moist when exploring a plant house when the misters are turned on.
- Water: Use caution when crossing wet pathways and bridges. Please refrain from entering areas of water.
  - Garden Court: Active fountains lining both east and west sides of the space.
  - Tropics: Tiered waterfall and
  - Mediterranean: Small sculptural fountain and surrounding pool
  - Orchids: Small waterfall feature
  - Hawaii: Large natural waterfall feature; potential for splash
  - Garden Primeval: Small waterfall and standing pool featuring aquatic plants
- Animals: Small rodents (e.g., mice) and some larger insects (e.g., roaches) occasionally take up residence in the Garden and venture out into public areas. They do not pose any harm.
  - Bird song recordings are piped into the Tropics.

### **Bathrooms:**

- Bathrooms are located in the south lobby, adjacent to the World Deserts and Medicinal Plants rooms.
  - It takes a few minutes, especially on high visitation days, to travel to the bathrooms from any location within the Conservatory. Please allow ample time for navigation to the south lobby
- Automatic and loud toilet flush
- On/off sinks
- Automatic, loud and powerful electric hand dryers

**Child Identification:**

- Please ensure that your child is wearing, or has identification with him/her, including a contact cell phone number.

*The Garden is quite large. If your child should wander away, the cell phone number will enable staff to contact you immediately. Please keep the contact cell phone ON. Also, you may want to include with the identification information a strategy for what staff can say or do to keep your child calm while we locate you (for example; sing, suggest s/he play with a particular toy, etc.).*