

Large-print
U.S. Botanic Garden
Visitor Guide

UNITED
STATES



BOTANIC
GARDEN

The United States Botanic Garden

The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) is one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America and informs visitors about the importance, value and diversity of plants, as well as their aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic and ecological significance. With more than a million and a half visitors annually, the USBG strives to demonstrate and promote sustainable practices.

The Garden is a living plant museum accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

History

More than 200 years ago, George Washington had a vision for the nation's new capital city that included a botanic garden. This garden would demonstrate and promote the importance of plants to the young nation.

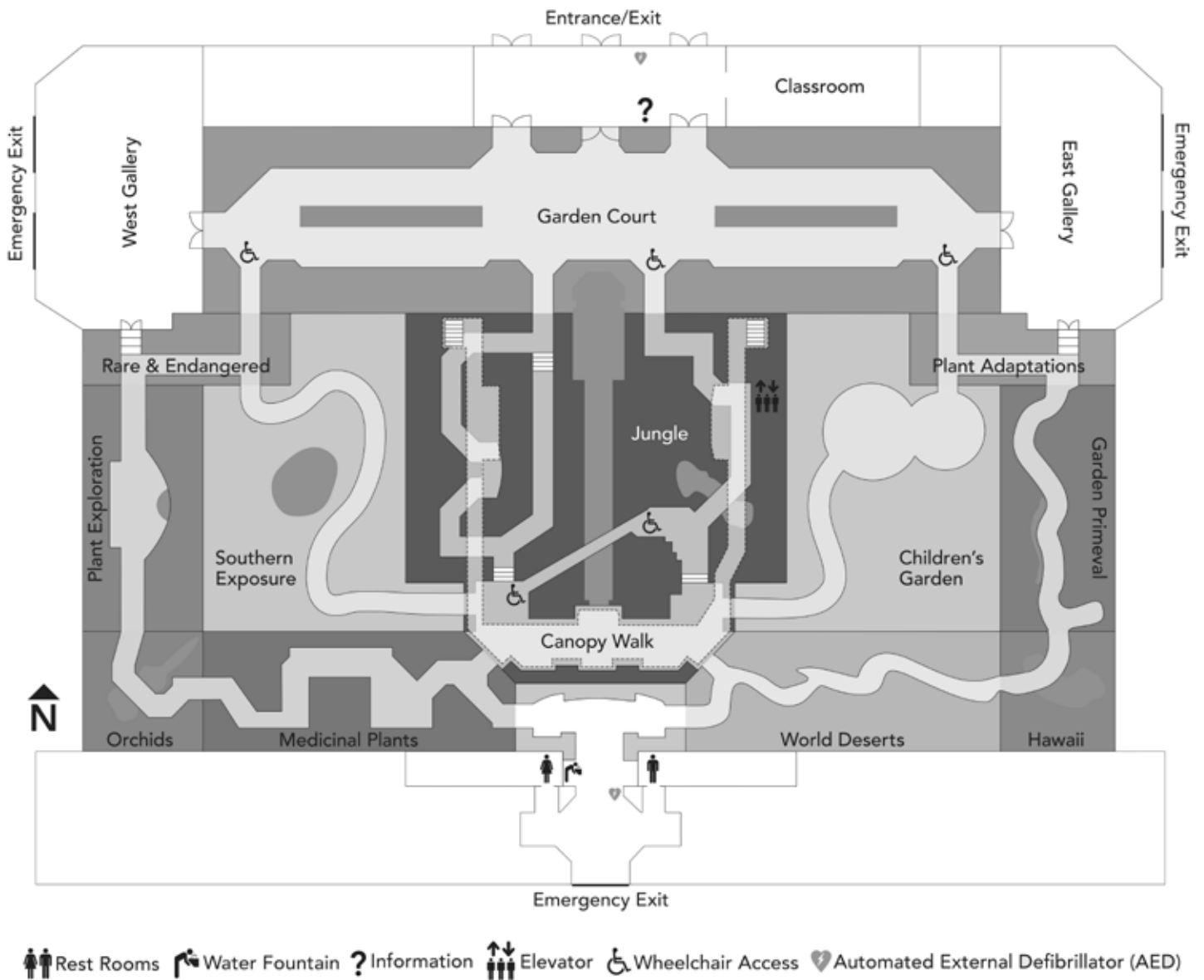
The Garden was established by Congress in 1820 and strengthened with a collection from the U.S. Exploring Expedition (1838-1842). Since 1934, it has been administered through the Architect of the Capitol.

Living Collections

The heart of the USBG is its plant collections. The Garden maintains more than 12,000 accessions, comprising 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. Several historic specimens collected during the U.S. Exploring Expedition are still on display.

Conservatory Directory



Children's Garden

A seasonal outdoor garden for children to plant, explore and informally learn about plants.

World Deserts

A collection of succulents, cacti and other plants adapted to arid environments.

Medicinal Plants

A collection of medicinal plants from around the world.

Southern Exposure

A seasonal courtyard featuring North American plants native to the Southeast and Southwest.

Hawaii

A collection of plants native to Hawaii, where species have adapted to live on remote volcanic islands.

Orchids

An ever-blooming, ever-changing display of hundreds of orchids from our collection of more than 5,000 specimens.

Garden Primeval

A reconstructed Jurassic landscape of ancient non-flowering plant groups that have survived for more than 150 million years.

Plant Exploration

A changing and seasonal display of plant discoveries from the wild and the laboratory.

Plant Adaptations

A display showcasing some of the fascinating adaptations that have evolved in the plant world.

Rare & Endangered

Learn to 'care for the rare' in this changing display of rare, threatened or endangered plants and habitats.

East Gallery

Changing exhibits that educate and inspire visitors to become more aware of the plants that support life on Earth.

Garden Court

A collection of important economic plants that provide our fibers, food, beverages, cosmetics, wood, spices and more.

Jungle

An immersive experience in a tropical rainforest including a canopy walk above the trees.

West Gallery

Plants in Culture emphasizes how plants enrich human life through interactive displays.

Conservatory

Sights, smells, sounds and textures abound in the Conservatory. From jungle to desert to primeval plants, the Conservatory highlights the diversity of plants worldwide.

National Garden

The National Garden features a large Mid-Atlantic native plant garden, an organic Rose Garden, the First Ladies Water Garden, amphitheater and the Butterfly Garden.

Bartholdi Park

Bartholdi Park showcases a tapestry of theme gardens surrounding the historic Bartholdi Fountain. The gardens highlight interesting plants and designs at a scale suitable for the home landscape.

General Information

Hours: The Garden is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., every day of the year.

Public Transportation: Metrorail on the Blue or Orange line to the Federal Center SW station. Metrobuses #32, 34 and 36 stop behind the Conservatory on Independence Avenue.

Accessibility: Wheelchairs may be reserved in advance.

Interpretive services can be provided with a pre-visit request. Call (202) 225-8333 for more information.

Plant Hotline: Ask plant questions at (202) 226-4785 or usbg@aoc.gov.

Photography: Photographs for personal use are permitted. Commercial use of photographs is prohibited. Easels, tripods or art materials containing solvents require permission and a permit. Inquire at the Visitor Information Desk or call (202) 225-8333.

The facilities are not available for private functions.

Address: 100 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, D.C.

20001

Contact: (202) 225-8333, usbg@aac.gov

Exhibits & Education: The Garden offers a variety of exhibits and programming for visitors of all ages on the role of plants in supporting Earth's diverse ecosystems and enriching human life. Visit www.usbg.gov for more information.

Tours: Please check at the Visitor Information Desk. To arrange a reserved group tour, call (202) 226-2055 at least four weeks in advance.

