



FACT SHEET

Through our education programs, outstanding collections and natural areas, University of Washington Botanic Gardens strives to inspire and enrich the lives of students and the public.

SCOPE

Background: Since opening more than 80 years ago, UW Botanic Gardens has become one of the region's most respected centers of horticultural research and conservation, recognized internationally for our work. Our two sites include the 90-acre Center for Urban Horticulture and the 230-acre Washington Park Arboretum, both of which are uniquely situated in the middle of an urban environment. The gardens are open 365 days a year.

Mission: Sustaining managed to natural ecosystems and the human spirit through plant research, education and display.

Audience: In 2017, attendance for both sites reached approximately 600,000.

Staffing: 41 permanent, 28 seasonal employees; 84 volunteers; 14 persons on the Advisory Committee.

Self-sustaining: The Botanic Gardens is a non-profit entity of the University of Washington. Approximately 25% of our annual budget comes from state funds.

Four-Season Destination - Things to Do:

Collections: View and learn about trees and other plants from around the world.

Grounds: Visitors can explore 16 miles of hiking trails plus nine miles of paved areas roads for strollers, walking or bicycling.

Group Tours: Get a guided tour on an open-air tram ride or take guided walks.

Visitors Center: Maps and directions available, home to the Arboretum Gift Shop.

Annual Attractions: Visitors come to UW Botanic Gardens to experience the spring flowers of Azalea Way, the spectacular changing of the leaves in autumn, the fragrance and beauty of the Witt Winter Garden as well as annual special events open to the public including Earth Day, Miller Library Book Sale, Arbor Day, BioBlitz and Winter Solstice events.

Venue Rental: Eight indoor and outdoor venue spaces, in beautiful garden settings, are available to rent year-round for groups ranging in size from 10 to 300 guests.

Hours:

Grounds: Dawn to dusk

Washington Park Arboretum Visitor Center: 9am - 5pm, with the exception of major holidays

Center for Urban Horticulture Merrill Hall: Monday: 9am - 8pm; Tuesday - Saturday: 9am - 5pm, Sunday: 10am - 3pm

Miller Library: Monday: 9am - 8pm; Tuesday - Friday 9am - 5pm; Saturday 9am - 3pm (Closed Saturdays in July and August as well as every Sunday.)

Admission Fees:

Free entry to the grounds; classes are fee-based; walking and tram tours are fee-based (with the exception of First Thursdays and Free Weekend Walks).

PROGRAMS

Plant Collections: Our plant collections include over 14,500 accessioned specimens in the collections; over 4,000 different types of trees, shrubs and other plants native to 98 countries, which serve as vital resources for scientific study. Plant collection categories include horticultural (landscaping and gardening), geographic (place of origin), taxonomic (related plant groups), special habitat (modified soils/sites), evaluation groups, and endangered plants. In total over 40,000 plants are found throughout our 320 combined acres at the UW Botanic Gardens.

Science and Conservation: UW Botanic Gardens associated faculty work with students on research related to climate impact on plants, conservation and ecological restoration within the School of Environmental and Forest Sciences. Our Washington Rare Plant Care & Conservation program builds partnerships with federal, state and local agencies to provide critical information needed in the conservation and recovery of our state's native rare species

Public Education: The Education Program combines formal and informal learning opportunities to cultivate an appreciation of plants and the environment in children, families, students, visitors, and professionals. Our adult programs include classes, workshops, and tours for the public plus professional trainings and conferences. We also deliver school fieldtrips, family programs, summer camps, and the Fiddleheads Forest School, an all weather nature preschool.

Elisabeth C. Miller Library: The Library holds the most extensive horticulture literature collection in the Pacific Northwest; featuring more than 15,000 volumes on botany, horticulture, garden design and native floras from around the world, in addition to a special collection of rare books. The public may register to borrow books.

The Plant Answer Line: The Miller Library staff provides quick answers to plant & gardening questions for thousands of people every year.

Otis Douglas Hyde Herbarium: The Herbarium collects and houses pressed plant specimens of accessioned plants in the UW Botanic Gardens, as well as specimens that reflect the research of students, staff and faculty. Plant identification is provided for free to the public.

UW Farm: The UW Farm is a 1.5 acre, student-powered, urban vegetable market garden located on three sites at the University of Washington's Seattle Campus.

UW Botanic Garden Sites:

botanicgardens.uw.edu

Washington Park Arboretum Visitor Center: 2300 Arboretum Drive E, Seattle, WA 98112

Center for Urban Horticulture: 3501 NE 41st Street E, Seattle, WA 98105

CONTACT INFORMATION

Miller Library:

Box 354115, 3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle, WA 98195 | 206-543-0415

Plant Answer Line:

206-897-5268 (UW-PLANT) | hortlib@uw.edu

Volunteer Opportunities:

<http://bit.ly/uwbgvolunteer>

Adult Education Classes:

206-685-8033 | urbhort@uw.edu

Family Classes, Camps and Field Trips:

206-685-8033 | uwbgeduc@uw.edu

UW Farm:

3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle, WA 98195 | theuwfarm@gmail.com

Herbarium:

3501 NE 41st Street, Seattle, WA 98195 | hydeherb@uw.edu

Venue Rentals:

(Both sites) 206-616-9113 | uwbgfac@uw.edu