Queens Botanical Garden History

Queens Botanical Garden is an urban oasis where people, plants, and cultures are celebrated through inspiring gardens, innovative educational programs, and demonstrations of environmental stewardship.

Our Mission

Explore and Discover!

Visitor Guide & Map

Queens Botanical Garden is located on property owned by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Queens Borough President, the New York City Council, State elected officials, the New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, along with corporate, foundation, and individual supporters.

queensbotanical.org
What Makes Us Unique?

Growing on a former ash landfill and taking root from the 1939 World’s Fair, Queens Botanical Garden takes sustainability to new levels, both in our facilities and in our practices!

Our Visitor & Administration Building (#14 on the map) is New York State’s first public green building to be LEED® Platinum certified by the U.S. Green Building Council. Throughout our grounds, you’ll see signs of a careful approach to designing a healthy environment that reimagines lost ecosystems and habitats thriving in harmony with fast-paced urban development.

Located in one of the most diverse counties in the United States, we use our plant collections to create meaningful connections between people and cultures. In the Herb Garden (#20) you’ll find plants that are important in your cuisine, in your cultural traditions, and in your medicine cabinet.

The Garden uses age-old practices of composting and farming in innovative ways to provide the local community with healthy food grown on our own Farm (#30), while reducing the organic waste generated in our neighborhood. See the Farm during Farm Open Hours (info on our website) or see compost in action at our Demonstration Site (#25).

QBGG is a critical part of a green corridor, providing home and shelter for many species of native wildlife. Look closely and you’ll catch sight of our resident birds and a world of butterflies, bees, beetles, and other insects that pollinate our garden and help it to thrive.

Explore and Discover!

There’s much more to experience at Queens Botanical Garden than pretty flowers and trees! And there’s something for you to discover year-round.

Be on the lookout for pollinators! Roaming among our flowers are butterflies, hoverflies, bees, beetles, and other insects that partner with the plants and help them to make seeds.

See all those colors? Flowers come in different colors to attract different pollinators. As you explore our gardens in the spring and summer, try to find flowers that are red, yellow, orange, purple, white, and blue.

Go hunting for shapes. Sometimes we can tell what a plant is just by looking at the shape and size of its leaves. Look for plants with leaves shaped like a heart, a feather, a triangle, even a hand.

Sniff around! Smell not just the flowers, but also the leaves. Gently rub the herb leaves in our Herb Garden (#20 on the map), Fragrance Walk (#2), or Green Roof (#13). Try to find herbs that make your fingers smell like soap, pizza, or gum!

Meet some trees. Each tree has a unique covering on its trunk, called bark, that helps protect the tree. How many different colors and textures of bark can you find? In fall, trees are getting ready for winter. Many of our trees have leaves that change color and then drop from the branches. Other trees, called evergreens, stay green all year. Stroll through our Pinetum (#11) and explore the different sizes and colors of their needle-shaped leaves.

Watch for birds! Many birds make Queens Botanical Garden their home. Look for ducks in our Biotope (#19). Throughout our gardens you might also spot blue jays, robins, cardinals, mourning doves, woodpeckers, pheasants, hawks, and more!

Queens Botanical Garden evolved from the 5-acre “Gardens on Parade” exhibit at the Flushing Meadows World’s Fair in 1933 to a community garden run by the Garden Society. After local residents saved the exhibit and expanded it in 1946, it became the Garden’s Main Street entrance today and an oasis in one of New York City’s most bustling and diverse neighborhoods and is home to the Garden’s Main Street entrance today. Throughout our gardens you might also spot blue jays, robins, cardinals, mourning doves, woodpeckers, pheasants, hawks, and more!