The Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA), a registered charitable organization, is the joint operating partner of VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory along with the City of Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation.

The VBGA is responsible for Education, Library, Membership, and Volunteer programs, and raises funds to support programming and Garden projects.

Our immersive education programs are designed to facilitate inquiry, discovery, and appreciation of the importance of plants to all life on earth. We create opportunities for learners of all ages to experience the natural world through field trips, camps, teacher professional development, library events, and adult education programs. With over 12,000 program participants annually, we are dedicated to our goal of connecting people to plants.

VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory are situated on unceded, traditional, and ancestral xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), and səl̓ílwətaʔɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) territories.
We offer a variety of field trip programs that immerse students in discovery at both the Garden and the Conservatory. Ranging from self-guided programs that utilize our customized online curriculum to 45 and 90 minute guided programs led by engaging interpreters, our programs encourage students to connect with the natural world.

Using inquiry-based activities in alignment with the BC curriculum, students explore plants, animals, soil, and water through hands-on experiences. Visit our website for full details about our programs’ curriculum connections.

Financial support is available!
We’re pleased to offer limited assistance for teachers and students in support of field trips and professional development. Contact the School Programs Manager for more information or to apply.

**VBGA offers:**
- Bus bursaries for up to $300 to cover transportation costs for underserved schools
- Free programs to underserved schools and community groups through our Connecting Urban Youth to Nature program
- Free classes for teachers in botany, ecology, and gardening. Visit our website to fill out an application

**Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation offers:**
- Go Grants cover transportation, project materials, or program fees. Visit [https://hctfeducation.ca/go-grants](https://hctfeducation.ca/go-grants)

### 90 minute guided programs at Bloedel Conservatory

**New! Tour of the Tropics (PreK - 4)**
Under the dome of the Conservatory, students experience the lush tropics and the plants and animals that call the rainforest home. Starting with a scavenger hunt, students journey around the tropics with a guide to learn about adaptations, meet amazing birds, and discover the ways humans use plants from the tropics in their everyday lives.
A Glimpse of the Garden (K - 7)
Students journey along the water’s edge, between volcanic walls, and among forest groves where they meet iconic native and exotic species. These budding naturalists connect with the environment, use their senses to develop observational skills, understand the role of humans in ecosystems, and participate in storytelling and interactive games – including important First Peoples’ perspectives.

Natural Heritage Walk (8 - 10)
While exploring the Garden to meet iconic trees and ancient plants, students think about how our interaction with the land changes over time, space, and culture – including the important perspectives of First Peoples. Students make sense of their place in this world through observation, storytelling, and collaborative learning as they gain historical context for the local environment.

New! Strategizing Sustainability (8 - 12)
In a city striving to be the greenest in the world, students analyze and apply sustainability theories through a variety of activities, such as debating, budgeting, or waste auditing. This program presents contemporary environmental issues to students and challenges them to strategize solutions - including how they can become agents of change.
A Sense of Nature (K - 1)
Foster the young biologists in your students by encouraging them to explore nature through focused observation, playful learning games, and collaborative outdoor activities. As they explore seasonal highlights in the Garden, students identify key parts and functions of plants, play the maple leaf match-up, make earth art, and more!

Ecosystem Explorers (3 - 6)
Within the tranquil beauty of VanDusen exists a complex and intimately-connected ecosystem. Students investigate how native plants interact with other organisms in BC’s environment - exploring interdependence with focused observation and basic tools. Students unearth the vital role decomposers play through a soil search and collaborate to construct a food web.

Fantastic Flowers (K - 4)
As students enjoy the beauty and fragrance of flowers throughout VanDusen, they investigate the parts of a flower, its role in pollination, and how pollination fits in the life cycle of flowering plants. Students search for pollinators in action - including a visit to our active beehives - while exploring the connections between pollinators, plants, and food production.

Pond Peering (1 - 4)
Hidden beneath the surface of VanDusen’s ponds and streams is a diverse world of beautiful and strange life. Students explore the aquatic environment, use nets to dip below the surface, and identify the creatures they find. Students also seek out the plants and animals that make their homes along the pond’s edge.

Seed Secrets (K - 4)
Seeds fly, float, hitchhike – even travel through the stomachs of birds – to spread to new places and grow. Students explore the Garden, delighting in the beauty of fall colour while they search for seeds with parachutes, hooks, or fleshy fruit surrounding them. Students dissect seeds and make “seed babies” to take home.
Use our menu of self-guided tours, lesson plans, and scavenger hunts to design the perfect day for your students at the Garden. Self-guided programs allow for customized tours with ample time for a visit to VanDusen’s Elizabethan Maze.

VBGA Education staff work with teachers to identify the best resources for their classes. We welcome groups upon arrival to review the Code of Conduct before exploring the Garden.

Visit our website to download a diversity of resources offering variety in complexity and depth of programming.

**Nouveau! Maintenant disponible en français**

- L’art dans le jardin (3 - 7)
- Les détectives de la biodiversité (2 - 7)
- L’exploration de l’adaptation (2 - 7)
- Le printemps au jardin (K - 3)
- Visite autoguidée autour du lac (K - 7)

**Lesson Plans & Activities**

- A Sense of Spring (K - 3)
- Adaptation Exploration (2 - 7)
- Art in the Garden (3 - 7)
- Biodiversity Detectives (2 - 7)

**Quick Tours & Guides for All Ages**

- Kids’ Picks Tour
- Lake Loop Tour
- Common Birds in the Garden
- Bird Watch Bingo
- How Do Birds Use Plants?
- Scavenger Hunts
A buzz-worthy field trip festival for students to learn about pollinators and the environments that support them.

As flowers bloom around VanDusen, bring your class to explore the special relationships between plants, pollinators, and people. Over May 27-29, our facilitators promote curiosity and stewardship through fun, hands-on activities at stations throughout the Garden.

Our diverse activities encourage new discoveries while aligning with the BC curriculum, and include:

- Observing pollinator biodiversity up close with microscopes
- Tasting different types of honey and visiting active beehives
- Learning about bee life cycles and pollen collection
- Finding nectar like bees with art using glowing paint and black lights
- Identifying and monitoring native species as citizen scientists
- Snapping away in a photo booth with plenty of pollinator props
- Plus other exciting games!

Groups receive a map outlining activity stations and may explore at their own pace during the day. Join us, alongside our community partners, for this exceptional event.
Spots fill quickly! Once you have chosen the program best suited to your class, reserve your spot online.

Registration
Visit our website at vandusengarden.org/register
- Select program type, date, and time
- Register or log-in to Amilia, our database. Creating an account is fast, easy, and secure
- Input your information
- Pay for program fee or deposit
- Look for email confirmation and field trip pre-visit package following your booking

Program Fees & Payment

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<tr>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Schedule</th>
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<tr>
<td>90 minute guided program</td>
<td>$250 per group</td>
<td>10:00 AM, 12:30 PM Mon 10:00 AM Tue-Fri; 12:30 PM Tue-Thur</td>
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<td>At Bloedel</td>
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<td>At Vandusen</td>
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<td>45 minute guided program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pollinator Days</td>
<td>$300 per group</td>
<td>10:00-2:00 May 27-29</td>
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<td>Self-guided program</td>
<td>$5 per participant,</td>
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Group size: Maximum 30 participants for guided programs (24 students and 6 adults). Contact School Programs Manager if number of adult participants exceeds maximum; additional adults pay $5 each. Payment is due within 4 weeks of booking.

Cancellations within 4 weeks of booking receive full refund, less a $15 administrative fee. Cancellations prior to 4 weeks of program receive 50% refund. No refund for cancellations within 4 weeks of program date. VBGGA accepts Visa, Mastercard, cheque or cash.

Programs offered in 2020 may be subject to change
# Program Availability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
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<tr>
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Learn with us, and develop your gardening skills, ecology knowledge, and ability to teach your students in the great outdoors. Check our website for additional workshops on February 14 and May 15.

K-12 teachers are eligible for free Gardening, Botany, and Ecology courses in our Adult Education program. Contact the Adult Education Coordinator for information or to register.

School Garden Ecology Workshop (K - 7)
September 23
This workshop, led by Lea Elliott, is designed for teachers who are enthusiastic about cultivating a healthy and ecologically-friendly learning garden. See how a school food garden can be a living demonstration of animal and plant life cycles, sustainable practices, and the value of diversity and relationships.  
Member $36 | Non-member $40 | Limit: 20

Inspire Environmental Awareness in Your Students (K - 7)
October 25
With curriculum connections such as valuing diversity and relationships, understanding cycles, and appreciating our interconnection with nature, teachers explore fun ways to use the environment as an integrating context with activities in and out of the classroom. This workshop is taught by Lea Elliott.  
Member $36 | Non-member $40 | Limit: 25

Growing and Learning in School Gardens (K - 7)
November 8
This workshop, taught by Megan Zeni, is designed for teachers with existing gardens to explore ways to expand and deepen meaningful academic learning in the garden classroom. Bring your ideas and enthusiasm for a day of collaborative and engaging learning!  
Member $36 | Non-member $40 | Limit: 20
Working Towards a Practice of Reciprocity: Building Relationship to Place (K - 12)
November 8
Explore interdisciplinary methods of integrating Indigenous principles of learning into the classroom. Learn to model a practice of reciprocity, while gaining practical ideas and guiding principles, for teaching and learning in nature. Led by Indigenous herbalist and educator Lori Snyder and natural artist and elementary teacher Dana Mulder, this workshop includes art, science, and storytelling.  
Member $36 | Non-member $40 | Limit: 20

The Classroom Garden Series (K - 7)
September 18, October 9, November 6
March 4, April 22 & May 20
Led by Megan Zeni, this six part professional learning series is designed to build confidence and capacity in using your school garden as a classroom. The Garden Classroom Series weaves practical gardening skills with meaningful opportunities to engage students in scientific inquiry, mathematical thinking, creative storytelling - and more!  
Member $90 | Non-member $100 | Limit: 30

Teacher Pro-D is generously subsidized by the Vancouver Master Gardeners. Contact the Community Outreach Coordinator for more information or to register.
Education programs for teachers and students would not be possible without the support of our generous donors, including:

**Estate of Carla Ann Poppen**  
**McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund**  
**Christopher Foundation**  
**ECO Canada**  
**Master Gardeners Association of BC**  
**Christine McCaffrey**

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**Marina Princz**  
Librarian | library@vandusen.org | 604-257-8668

**Chantal Martin**  
Assistant Director of Education | cmartin@vandusen.org | 604-257-8443

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The VBGA offers a variety of educational opportunities including adult education, kids’ camps, and programming in our library. Sign up for our monthly Education News and browse our programs at vandusengarden.org/learn.