

NYBG

SOCIAL GUIDE

A TRIP TO
THE NEW YORK
BOTANICAL GARDEN

An introduction to the Garden for
visitors with developmental disabilities
and their families and friends

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Introduction

We are going to The New York Botanical Garden. This story will tell us all about visiting the Garden. At the Garden, we will see a lot of plants across 250 acres with names and labels like collections in a museum. In fact, the Garden is a museum of plants! Just like an indoor museum, sometimes the Garden also exhibits paintings or science displays inside a gallery or sculptures outdoors.

Some other things we will learn about in this story are:

- How to get to the Garden
- Places and things we might see and do during our visit
- Who we can ask for help during our visit

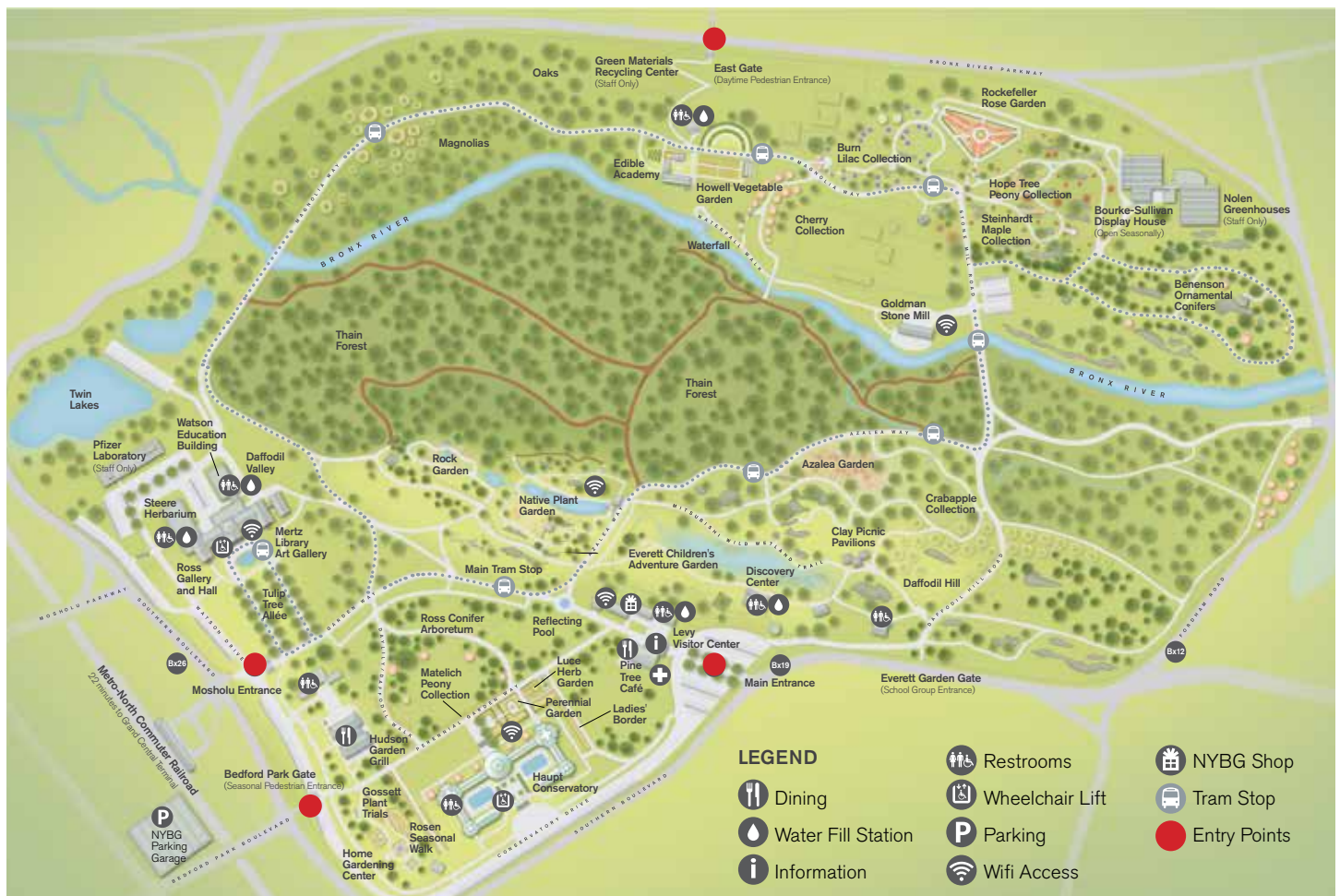


Getting to the Garden

Some visitors drive to the Garden. Some visitors take the Metro-North Railroad or other public transportation. Some visitors ride their bikes! Depending on how we come, we might enter through one of four entry points:

- Main Entrance
- Mosholu Entrance
- Bedford Park Gate
- East Gate

We can visit nybg.org/directions on the web or call 718.817.8700 to choose the best travel option for our visit.



Ticketing

Once we arrive at the Garden, we will see ticket windows. This is where we purchase tickets or show our Membership card. There might be many people waiting in lines to enter. We will wait patiently for our turn to talk to the Visitor Attendant.



Helpful People and Garden Staff

There are many friendly people working at the Garden. Some of their jobs are to help us if we need it. When we have questions or need help, we can ask a Visitor Attendant, a Security Guard, or a Garden Volunteer. They will be happy to meet us and help find answers to our Garden questions.

If we cannot find family members or friends we came with, we should tell the first Security Guard we see. They will help us locate people we know.



In the Garden

The Garden is a big place and there are many places to go once we are inside. We will choose the places we most want to see in one day! We can pick up a “WHAT’S ON” handout from one of the Visitor Attendants. The handout includes a Garden Map, a list of things to do, and tips for our visit.

We will remember to follow these rules while in the Garden:

1. We will stay with our family or friends.
2. We will stay on the paths.
3. We will not touch the plants.
4. We will not feed or approach birds or other animals.
5. We will visit the Clay Family Picnic Pavilions to eat food we bring from home.

Now, we can visit all the things we want to see! We can walk to many areas of the Garden, and we can also take a Garden Tram tour!



Riding the Garden Tram

The Garden Tram is a great way to get around the Garden's 250 acres. The trip begins at the Main Tram Stop across from the Reflecting Pool. We can stay on and listen to the 20-minute narrated tour or get off when the tram stops at one of eight locations. We can see the tram stops on the map in the "WHAT'S ON" handout.

We will only get on and off the tram when it has come to a complete stop. We will need to remember to stay seated and keep our arms and legs inside the tram while it is in motion.



In the Everett Children's Adventure Garden

We can see and explore plants and nature both indoors and out in the Adventure Garden! We can run through a maze, climb through boulders, and play musical instruments as loud as we want! We can also investigate plants—touching them, planting them, or even picking up some take-home projects.



In the Edible Academy

In the Edible Academy, we can roll up our sleeves and help tend the vegetable gardens. We can dig in the soil, water the seedlings, and harvest plants that are ready to eat. Edible Academy staff and volunteers will guide us as we help and play in the garden.



In the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory

We can see lots of different kinds of plants in the Conservatory, which is a big glasshouse. Each “house” of the Conservatory features a different biome with conditions—warm or cool, dry or moist, bright or shady—perfectly designed for plants that grow there. We can discover plants from tropical rain forests and cactus-filled deserts, palms from across the globe, aquatic plants (that grow in water) and carnivorous plants (that eat insects), and much more.



In the LuEsther T. Mertz Library and Art Gallery

We can explore inside the Library Building, too! We can find books about plants for all ages, and even see dried plants in exhibition cases. If it is open, we can visit the Art Gallery to see paintings, drawings, books, and sculptures.



Break Time

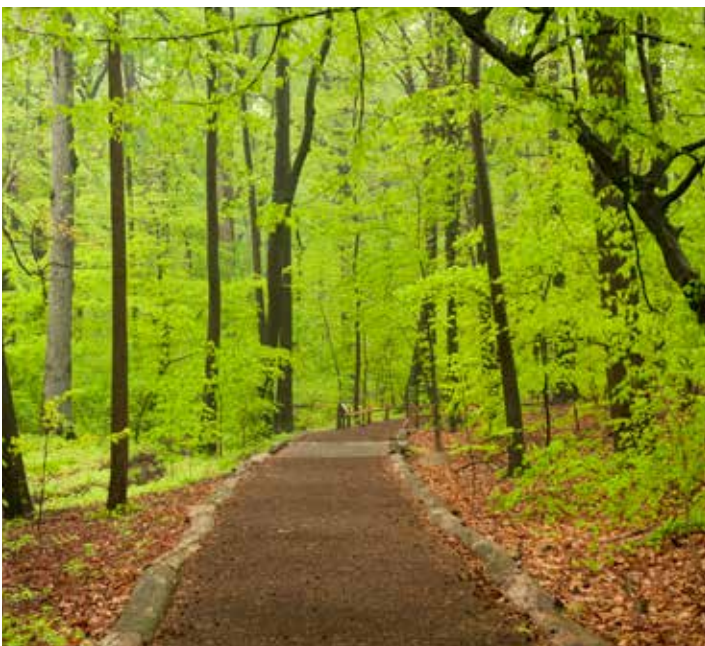
We can purchase and enjoy a meal or snack at the Pine Tree Café in the Leon Levy Visitor Center. The menu ranges from sandwiches, pizza, and salads to sweet treats and other snacks. We can also sit down to eat at the Hudson Garden Grill restaurant. We may need reservations if we eat there.

Restrooms are located throughout the Garden. We can check the map in the “WHAT’S ON” handout to find out where the closest restroom is to us.



Quiet Spaces

There are many quiet spaces in the Garden that we can visit to refresh. The Home Gardening Center next to the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, the Native Plant Garden, and Thain Family Forest are good places to visit that are usually less crowded with other visitors. If we need a quiet space, we can ask a Visitor Attendant to direct us.



Leaving the Garden

When we are ready to leave, we will go back to the same entrance we used to enter the Garden. We hope we can visit The New York Botanical Garden again to have fun and learn more about plants!



More Information

For more information about accessibility at NYBG, please visit [**nybg.org/visit/access**](https://nybg.org/visit/access)

Find more information about children's programming and family visits at [**nybg.org/visit/families**](https://nybg.org/visit/families)

Grounds-Only Pass is available to NYC residents only and includes access to outdoor gardens and collections, including the Everett Children's Adventure Garden. *All-Garden Pass* includes Special Exhibitions, Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Rock Garden, and Tram Tour. For more information about admission, please visit [**nybg.org/visit/admission**](https://nybg.org/visit/admission)