

Education programs at VanDusen Botanical Garden are presented by the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association (VBGA), and are designed to foster inquiry, discovery, understanding and appreciation for nature and the importance of plants in our lives. We create fun opportunities for learners of all ages to get out into the natural world, through field trips, camps, teacher Pro-D workshops, and adult continuing education in gardening, ecology, art, and wellness.



A Sense of Nature: K - Grade 2 (Oct - Nov & Apr - June)

Foster the young biologists in your students, encouraging them to explore nature through focussed observation, playful learning games, and collaborative outdoor education activities. As they walk through seasonal highlights in the Garden, students identify key parts of plants and how these parts help plants to meet their needs for growth, play the Maple Leaf Match-up, make earth art, and more!



Ecosystem Explorers: Grades 3 - 4 (Oct - Nov, & Mar - June)

Within the tranquil beauty of VanDusen exists a complex and intimately-connected ecosystem. Investigate how different BC native plants interact with organisms in their environment, exploring interdependence within ecosystems with focused observation and basic tools. Students will unearth the vital role decomposers play in ecosystems during a soil search, and collaborate to construct a food web.



Seed Secrets: K - Grade 3 (Oct - Nov)

Seeds fly, float, hitchhike – and even travel through the stomachs of birds – all in order 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.



Fantastic Flowers: Grades 1 - 3 (Apr - June)

As students enjoy the beauty and fragrance of flowers throughout VanDusen, they investigate the parts of a flower, their role in pollination, and how pollination fits in the life cycle of flowering plants. Students will search for pollinators in action, explore the interdependence between pollinators and plants, and their role in food production. A visit to the beehives is included.



Pond Peering: Grades 1 - 4 (May - June)

Hidden beneath the surface of VanDusen’s ponds and lakes is a diverse world of beautiful and strange life. Students explore and learn about the pond environment, use nets to dip into a pond and identify the creatures they find. Students will also seek out plants and birds that live along the pond edge.



Teacher-Led Field Trips: PreK - Gr. 7 (Year-round)

Use our menu of *new* self-guided tours, lessons and nature guides to customize the perfect day of learning for your students at VanDusen Botanical Garden. Available year-round, the duration of your visit is entirely up to you. Be sure to visit the Maze! [Visit our website](#) to browse our materials and booking availability. Teachers are entitled to one free entry into the Garden to plan their experience before their field trip.



Connecting to Nature - Guided Tour (Year-round)

Jumpstart your field trip experience with a 45 minute guided tour designed to prepare students for a successful day of learning and adventure in the Garden. A VanDusen Educator will lead students along a lake, between volcanic rocks walls, and amongst conifer trees where they will discover cool, weird, and wacky plants and animals. Students will make connections with the natural world and identify two iconic native trees through interactive games, stories and an introduction to the Tree of Life.



Self-guided (Year-round) at Bloedel Conservatory

The Conservatory is home to gorgeous tropical plants, parrots and hundreds of other free-flying birds. Conduct your own visit at the Conservatory with the scavenger hunts and bird identification guides available to borrow upon arrival. **Call the Conservatory for group admission rates: 604.257.8584.**

Fees

90 min. guided program: \$8/student (max. 30 students)
Teacher-led Field Trips (VanDusen): \$5/student (no max.)
45 min Connecting to Nature guided tour add-on: \$50/class (max. 30 students)

Booking and Information

vandusengarden.org/learn/school-program
 604.257.8423 | ngray@vandusen.org



Transportation bursaries

Under-served schools may be eligible to receive up to \$300 towards the cost of their bus transportation to the Gardens. Call 604.257.8423 for information.

The Nature Express is a donor-funded program of the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association.