



PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS & STUDENTS

Sep 2018 - Aug 2019



Artwork by Ian, grade 2

ABOUT US

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.



Education programs for teachers and schools would not possible without the support of our generous donors, including:

McGrane-Pearson Endowment Fund

Christopher Foundation

Vancouver Master Gardeners

Grayross Fund

Grace McInnes

The Estate of Carla Ann Poppen

The Estate of Patricia Mary Nikolsky Jachontoff

Optimist Club

ECO Canada

VBGA EDUCATION

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, and adult continuing education programs. With over 7,000 program participants annually, we realize our goal of connecting people to plants.

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 Field Trip Coordinator for more information or to apply.

VBGA offers:

- Free classes for teachers in botany, ecology and gardening. Visit our website for a list of available courses.
- Free admission to under-served schools and community groups through our Connecting Urban Youth to Nature program.
- Bus bursaries for up to \$300 to cover transportation costs for under-served schools.

Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation offers:

- Go Grants cover transportation, project materials, or program fees. Visit <https://hctfeducation.ca/go-grants>



FIELD TRIPS

We offer a variety of field trip programs that immerse students in discovery throughout VanDusen's beautiful 22 hectares. Ranging from self-guided programs utilizing our customized online curriculum to 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 outdoors. Visit our website for full details about our programs' curriculum connections.

Have you heard about social stories? With help from the Canucks Autism Network, we've developed visual schedules for our guided programs to help all students prepare for more engaged learning.

45 MINUTE GUIDED PROGRAMS



A Glimpse of the Garden (K - 7)

Students journey along the water's edge, between volcanic rock walls, and among forest groves where they meet iconic native and exotic species. These budding naturalists will connect with their environment, use their senses to develop observational skills, understand the role of humans - including First Peoples - in ecosystems, and participate in storytelling and interactive games.



New! Natural Heritage Walk (8 - 10)

While touring the Garden to meet the iconic trees of Canada, students will explore the ways in which humans - including First Peoples - are connected to plants. Through observation, storytelling, and collaborative learning, they will gain historical context for the local environment and the role of people in shaping it.

90 MINUTE GUIDED PROGRAMS



A Sense of Nature (K - 1)

Foster the young biologists in your students, 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. Investigate how native plants interact with other organisms in BC's environment, exploring interdependence hands-on with focused observation and basic tools. Students unearth the vital role decomposers play during a soil search, as well as 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, their role in pollination, and how pollination fits in the life cycle of flowering plants. Students will 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 learn about and explore the aquatic environment, use nets to dip below the surface and identify the creatures they find. Students will 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 will dissect seeds and make “seed babies” to take home.

SELF-GUIDED PROGRAMS

Use our menu of self-guided tours, lesson plans, guides 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 will work with teachers before their visit to identify the best resources for their classes. We will greet the group upon arrival for a short orientation and review of the Code of Conduct before you explore the Garden.

Visit our website to download a variety of resources suitable for learners with diverse backgrounds and interests.

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

- Kids' Picks Tour
- Lake Loop Tour
- Common Birds in the Garden
- Bird Watch Bingo



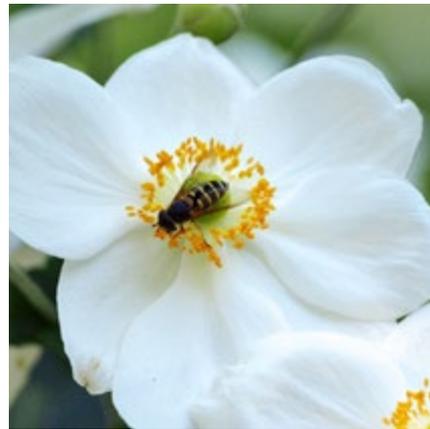
"Our day was a bit cold and rainy, however, this did not stop the children from raving about the experience. We look forward to coming again next year."

- Teacher, grade 2/3

POLLINATOR DAYS

A buzz-worthy field trip experience 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 three days in June, our facilitators will 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 Environmental Youth Alliance and other community partners for this exceptional three day event. Contact the Community Outreach Coordinator for more information.

BOOKING A FIELD TRIP

Spots fill quickly! Once you have chosen the program best suited to your class, reserve your spot online.

Registration

Visit our website at www.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
- Check your email for confirmation and pre-trip package

Program Fees & Payment

90 Minute Guided*	10:00 AM Tue - Fri	12:30 PM Tue - Thu
	Fees: \$100 + \$5 per student	
45 Minute Guided*	9:30, 10:30, 11:30 AM Mon- Sat	
	Fees: \$75 + \$5 per student	
Self-guided	9:30, 10:30, 11:30 AM Mon - Sat	
	Fees: \$25 deposit, \$5 per student	
Pollinator Days	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, June 12-14	
	Fees: \$100 deposit, \$10 per student	

- * Minimum fees are due upon booking and are based on 18 students; maximum 30 students
- Teachers, assistants, and 1 chaperone per 10 students free; additional adults pay student fee
- VBGA accepts Mastercard, VISA, cheque or cash
- Payment due before or upon arrival; invoicing subject to \$25 fee



Program Availability

	Grade	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
A Sense of Nature	K-1		o	o	
Ecosystem Explorers	3-6		o	o	
Seed Secrets	K-4		o	o	
A Glimpse of the Garden	K-7	o	o	o	
Self-guided	K-12	o	o	o	o

	Grade	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
A Sense of Nature	K-1				o
Ecosystem Explorers	3-6				o
Fantastic Flowers	K-4				o
A Glimpse of the Garden	K-7			o	o
Natural Heritage Walk	8-10			o	o
Self-guided	K-12	o	o	o	o

	Grade	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
A Sense of Nature	K-1	o	o		
Ecosystem Explorers	3-6	o	o		
Fantastic Flowers	K-4	o	o		
Pond Peering	1-4	o	o		
A Glimpse of the Garden	K-7	o	o	o	o
Natural Heritage Walk	8-10	o	o	o	o
Self-guided	K-12	o	o	o	o
Pollinator Days	K-7		o		

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS FOR TEACHERS

Learn with us, and develop your gardening skills, ecology knowledge, and ability to teach your students in the great outdoors. We frequently add new Pro-D workshops throughout the year, as well as horticultural classes in our Adult Education program. Stay informed on upcoming opportunities by signing up for our monthly Education News via our website.

New! Experiential Education - In and Out of the Classroom

Bring the whole teaching team! Build capacity and confidence to deliver outdoor environmental education and effectively engage students in their surroundings - both in and out of the classroom. During our workshops, teachers will:

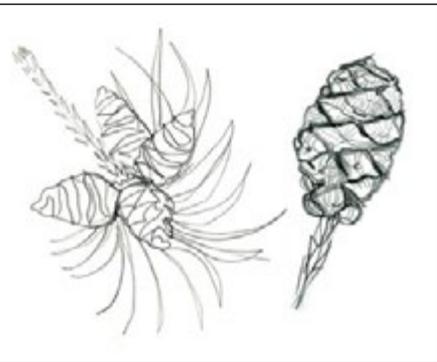
- Participate in a diversity of outdoor nature-based activities designed with adaptability and replication in mind.
- Explore how BC curriculum themes are linked into VBGA field trip programs and how to use the variety of self-guided resources available through our website.
- Enhance interdisciplinary and collaborative planning in your school by working with colleagues to identify opportunities at your school and in local green spaces.

"I loved the hands-on activities. Easy to adapt and use in any grade level and in any green space."

- Teacher, grade 1



Teacher Pro-D is generously subsidized by the Vancouver Master Gardeners. Contact the Community Outreach Coordinator for more information or to register. Full program details including pricing and hours are available on our website at vandusengarden.org/register under Adult Education - Teacher Professional Development.



New! The Garden Classroom Series (K - 7)

Sep 19, Oct 24, Mar 6, Apr 10, May 8 & Jun 5

This six part professional learning series is designed to build confidence in normalizing the use of your school garden as a classroom. Gain practical gardening skills as well as curriculum-linked opportunities to engage students in scientific inquiry, mathematical thinking, creative storytelling - and more!

Inspire Environmental Awareness in Your Students (K - 12)

Oct 19

With curriculum connections such as valuing diversity and relationships, understanding cycles, and appreciating our interconnection with nature, teachers will explore fun ways to use the environment as an integrating context with activities in and out of the classroom.

Drawing Nature for Teachers (K - 7)

Feb 15

Participants will learn how to develop and teach illustration skills while learning techniques to improve their ability to capture the beauty and detail of nature through drawing. Teachers will identify how focused, nature-based discovery addresses BC curricular and core competencies.

School Garden Ecology Workshop (K - 12)

Feb 22

This workshop is designed for teachers who are enthusiastic about gardening, ecology, and cultivating a healthy and ecologically-friendly garden ecosystem at their school.

CONTACT US

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www.VanDusenGarden.org