

MAP DESCRIPTIONS FOR ARBORETUM

Administration Building and Visitor Center

- Information on exhibits and events at the Arboretum
- Bathrooms to accommodate large groups
- Aquatic plants and a Koi Garden
- Tables and chairs for lunch (groups up to 30)
- A garden with paved pathways that are wheelchair and stroller friendly

Asian Collection

- A great day hike for older students. You can walk down to the Anacostia River. It's an opportunity to discuss water quality issues that affect our rivers and streams.
- This collection showcases Asian plants and their ornamental use in gardens.

Azalea Garden

- Benches, shade and a fish pond provide a place to talk about your visit
- Use spring flowers to teach preschoolers colors
- Learn about bald eagles

Caution: don't stand on the stones in the back of the fishpond.

National Bonsai and Penjing Museum

- See a bonsai that survived bombing of Hiroshima
- Learn about Chinese and Japanese culture
- Learn how trees that grow quite large in nature are put "in training" to stay small as they age
- Wheelchair and stroller friendly

Caution: You can't touch the trees. They are fragile.

National Boxwood Collection

- Largest collection of boxwood trees in the United States
- Boxwood trees are unique in that their wood doesn't float in water like other trees. This made some people in colonial America believe the tree had magical properties.

National Capitol Columns

- These columns once graced the U.S. Capitol.
- They represent Corinthian architecture.
- Read information about the Columns' history.
- Students can run, play and stretch their legs.
- Wheelchair and stroller friendly

Dogwood Collection

- In spring, compare the flowers these trees use to reproduce with pine cones seen in the conifer collection.
- In winter, compare how these two types of trees adapt to seasonal change.
- Evergreens and deciduous trees differ in strategies.

Fern Valley

- Teach about ferns, the pre-historic plants that dinosaurs would have seen
- Tell how those pre-historic ferns gave us electric power through coal
- Explain the difference between seeds and spores

Caution: stay on the path in this garden! Native plants are very delicate.

The Friendship Garden

- See gardens that promote water conservation and preserve water quality.
- A garden experience that is wheelchair accessible.
- An opportunity to see many types of plants in a short time.
- This is a great place to see a wide variety of pollinators, particularly in autumn field trips.

The Gotelli Conifer Collection

- A chance to see the geometry and planning of classical landscape design
- Observe that these trees have an interesting strategy for maximizing cross pollination with female cones on upper branches and male cones on lower branches. That way pollen from one tree is not as likely to end up on female cones of the same tree which promotes genetic diversity.
- Ask about the Gotelli Collection mini-tour!

National Grove of State Trees

- Picnic facilities for large groups
- Allow students to be active
- Find your state's tree
- Talk about weather differences among the states and how that affects tree choices.

National Herb Garden

- Plants used for medicine, industry, perfumes and flavoring
- food and beverages throughout history
- Ask class why plants develop traits that people value. Do some traits play a role in a plant's survival?
- Talk about the relationship between humans and plants.
- Are people always right about a plant's healing properties?
- Wheelchair and stroller friendly

Caution: don't pick or eat the plants—some are poisonous.

The Holly and Magnolia Collections

- Collection is an introduction to the role science plays in breeding ornamental plants. Arboretum scientists have developed many of the varieties on display.
- A chance to see how plant life changes during the seasons
- A great opportunity for art students. This collection has striking color all year.

The Perennial Collection

- A collection of daffodils, peonies, and award-winning daylilies
- An opportunity to discuss the impact plant breeding has on the U.S. Agricultural economy
- Bring up the economic history of bulbs. Discuss the Tulip Mania of 1636-37.

Washington Youth Garden

- Science Programs Reaching OUT (SPROUT) offers field trips for schools on plants, water conservation, pollinators, nutrition and gardening
- The WYG also provides summer programs and family gardening that teach about growing food, conservation and nutrition
- WYG also supports school garden programs.