



New England
Botanic Garden
AT TOWER HILL

Press Kit



Mission To create
experiences with plants
that inspire people and
improve the world.

History

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill opened in Boylston, MA, in 1986, but the organization's history dates back much further. The Garden is owned and operated by the Worcester County Horticultural Society (WCHS), one of the oldest active horticultural societies in the country. Established in 1842, WCHS grew to be a cornerstone institution for the region. For decades, from its downtown Worcester headquarters, the society held exhibitions that celebrated Worcester County's thriving agricultural community. By the 1940s, however, the large country estates that supported such shows began to diminish and exhibition entries declined. In response, WCHS set out to cultivate its own gardens. A vision of a permanent botanic garden for the public to enjoy grew.

About the Garden

Discover a world-class garden in the heart of New England. At this living museum, visitors experience the wonder of plants while exploring formal and naturalistic garden spaces, conservatories, walking trails, and more. New England Botanic Garden features shopping and dining opportunities, accessible pathways, and expansive views of the Wachusett Reservoir. The Garden is proud to be a place where everyone belongs, where wandering is always welcome, and where no two visits will ever be the same.

Garden Highlights



The Ramble

A whimsical garden designed for families with interactive play features and hundreds of perennials, shrubs, trees, and a pond of seasonal aquatic plants.



The Court: A Garden Within Reach

A universally accessible garden featuring raised beds, living walls, and plants selected for their multisensory appeal.



Inner Park

A woodland native plant garden that spans more than five acres and features a variety of spring ephemerals and native shrubs.



Vegetable Garden

A garden space featuring sustainably grown heirloom vegetables, fruits, and herbs designed to inspire the home gardener.



Lawn Garden

A large-scale garden with an array of exquisite trees and shrubs, as well as thousands of spring bulbs and summer-blooming perennials.



Orangerie & Limonaia

Subtropical conservatories that house collections of non-hardy plants such as citrus, palms, agave, camellias, orchids, and more.

By The Numbers 2023

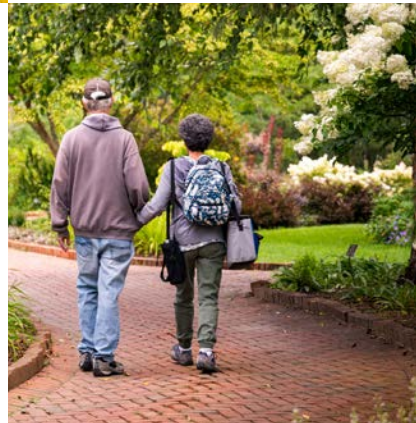
Total area
200 acres



Annual Visitors
200,000+



Members
11,000+



Volunteers
275+



Staff
65

Adult Education
Participants
4,929



Youth Education
Participants
10,414



Unique
Garden Spaces
18



CO2 Emissions
Eliminated
50 tons
(through sustainable
horticulture initiatives)

Garden in Action

New England Botanic Garden is determined to do and be more for the region. Recent years have been marked with many important milestones.

2017

Growing Boldly, \$28M capital campaign launched to support projects that make the Garden more accessible and resilient.

Acquisition of the Lucia Property expands the Garden's footprint by seven acres.

2018

New England Botanic Garden is re-accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.

Acquisition of the Kim Property expands the Garden's footprint by 26 acres.

2019

Restoration of the Frank L. Harrington Sr. Orchard begins, preserving a historic collection of 119 heirloom apple varieties from a plant disease called fire blight.

2021

Universally designed entry way and expanded parking lot construction are completed as part of Growing Boldly.

2022

The Ramble, a garden space designed for the young and young at heart, opens to the public.

The Garden announces its name change from "Tower Hill Botanic Garden" to "New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill."

The Garden becomes the first botanic garden in the nation to be certified a Green Zone by the American Green Zone Alliance for efforts to decarbonize.

2023

The Climate Garden, a hands-on youth-oriented garden focused on sustainable agriculture, opens to the public.

New England Botanic Garden is voted "Top Botanic Garden in the U.S." by TravelAwaits.

Acquisition of the Joslin Lot expands the Garden's footprint by 14 acres.

Sustainability

Public gardens play a vital role in the health and happiness of our collective world. New England Botanic Garden implements sustainable initiatives to help maintain healthy habitats in our private and public spaces, so people, plants, and wildlife thrive on this planet for generations to come.

Some of the Garden's sustainability initiatives include:

- Using ecological approaches to land management
- Adopting electric landscaping equipment
- Incorporating native plants
- Building healthy soils
- Limiting plastic use in the café and Garden Shop
- Educating the community about sustainable gardening practices and plant-based solutions to climate change





Community Outreach

In collaboration with nonprofit and municipal partners, as well as local residents and volunteers, the Garden advances climate-related urban greening initiatives that address issues of environmental justice and create opportunities for people to connect with nature and learn about the essential role plants play in our lives.

New England Botanic Garden's community outreach programs take shape in our gardens and in the community. Some examples include:

- Project Bloom
- Planters for People
- Greening the Gateway Cities Program
- Growing Green

Learn more at nebg.org/community-outreach.

Experiences

Educational Programs

Families, children, and adults find fun and engaging nature-based learning opportunities at New England Botanic Garden year-round. A robust calendar of activities includes visual arts classes, health and wellness workshops, lectures with horticulture experts, home gardening classes, kids arts and crafts, summer drop-off programs for children, and more.



Shopping & Dining

Located in the Visitors Center, the Garden Shop features seasonal houseplants, gardening tools, books for all ages, jewelry, stationary, nature-inspired toys for children, and more. Meanwhile, the Farmer and the Fork Café, open seven days a week for lunch, offers a variety of menu items prepared with fresh, locally sourced ingredients.





Exhibits & Events

Unique events and nature-inspired exhibitions celebrate the wonder of plants and showcase the art and science of horticulture. Some noteworthy featured exhibits and events include :

- Annual Orchid Exhibition
- Music in Bloom
- Thursday Summer Evenings
- Summer & Fall Exhibits
- Gnomevember
- Night Lights



Weddings & Private Events

Each year, over 300 private events, from weddings to children's birthday parties, celebrations of life, professional conferences, retreats, and more, are hosted across New England Botanic Garden grounds.



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