FAQ

*The Pittsburgh Botanic Garden strives to maintain an environment that promotes its mission of “Inspiring People to Grow through immersion in a natural outdoor wonder to nourish mind, body and spirit.” We ask all who visit our garden to be good stewards of the environment and to respect the plants, wildlife and people who share the outdoor experience that the Garden provides. As we endeavor to make each visit a safe and enriching experience, we offer these responses to commonly-asked questions about visiting the Garden.*

**When is the Garden Open?**

The Garden is open Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, 9am-5pm (last ticket sale at 4pm), and Saturday 9am to dusk (last ticket sale 7pm).

The Garden is closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

**How do I gain access to the Garden?**

Visitors arrive in the public parking lot off of Pinkerton Run Road. Visitors pay their admission or show their membership card to the attendant in the visitor reception area that is located in the office building adjacent to the parking lot. They are given a wrist band that serves as an admission pass that is valid for that day. The wrist band must be worn at all times while the visitor is at the Garden. A visitor who leaves the Garden may re-enter that same day without an additional charge, provided that the wrist band is worn.

**Is the Garden ADA accessible?**

The Garden has one mile of ADA-accessible trails with more to be developed. Our trail signs indicate accessibility and our trail map does the same. We strive to meet the needs of each individual so that they are able to enjoy the Garden as much as possible and may be able to give advance-notice tours using a motorized vehicle for those substantially impaired while we continue to construct portions of the ADA trail.

Please note that while medically-necessary wheeled vehicles are permitted, all non-ADA designated trails consist of a mulch type of natural surface that may cause wheeled vehicles to become stuck in the trail surface.

**How will I find my way through the Garden?**

A map is available for download from the Garden’s web site. The visitor reception area has a wall map display and the attendant can answer questions that visitors may have about the Garden layout. Paper maps are also available in the visitor reception area. Signs mark the trails and volunteers are stationed throughout the Garden to assist visitors with directions.

**What are the restrictions on where I can go in the Garden?**

Our basic expectation is that visitors do no harm to the Garden’s landscape or property. Visitors should stay on the public pathways and in the public areas. They should not climb trees, pick flowers or collect plants or plant parts. Swimming and wading in ponds, streams and water displays are not permitted. Visitors are asked not to handle or feed wildlife as it may be harmful to them and to the animals. Because Botanic Gardens are establishment where plants are grown for display to the public and for scientific study, we ask that you enjoy the plants and flowers but please, never pick them.

**How long does it take to view the entire Garden?**

The Garden is open for eight hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Thursdays through Sundays. While visitors are welcome to stay all day, they should plan to take at least two hours for a leisurely stroll through all of the woodland areas for the full botanic garden experience.

**What does the Garden offer for children?**

While the entire botanic garden experience is designed to encourage engender curiosity and encourage exploration in children of all ages, there are special areas of interest for children along the woodland trails. Most of these areas consist of a series of “Family Moments” interactive exhibits, which are displayed on the Garden’s site map.

Adult visitors are reminded that children should be supervised by an adult at all times. At least one adult should accompany every five children.

**What is appropriate to wear at the Garden?**

Visitors are expected to dress appropriately for the rustic outdoor trail topography and respectfully for the benefit of other visitors sharing the botanic garden experience. Shirts and sturdy footwear must be worn at all times. Clothing that is provocative, offensive or excessively revealing is not permitted.

**May pets or injured wild animals be brought to the Garden?**

Dogs are permitted if on a leash. They must be kept on the trails, away from trees and out of landscaped areas, including the pond. Owners must clean up and properly dispose of pet waste by carrying it to their vehicles and removing it from the premises. Visitors should not bring any injured animals to the Garden.

**May I take photographs or make video recordings?**

Visitors are welcome to take photos and video recordings in all of the Garden’s public areas for personal use only. Professional photographers and videographers are required to obtain photo permits. (See Photography Policy.)

**Where are the restroom facilities?**

Port-a-johns are available adjacent to the admissions tent in the parking lot. Only portable restrooms are available until further notice.

**May I bring my own food or drink into the Garden and are there any picnic areas?**

Visitors may bring in “box lunches” or “bagged-lunch style” food, provided that it is stored in their own vehicles until it is consumed in the picnic area next to the public parking lot. Visitors may not bring glass containers, anything that needs to be grilled or cooked, any kind of grill, or any alcohol into the Garden.

Picnicking is only permitted in the designated picnic area. Visitors may only use the picnic area for meal times and may not occupy it for extended periods for entertainment or other socialization purposes.

There are no trash receptacles along the trails or in any other public area – even the picnic area. Visitors are expected to properly dispose of their trash by carrying it to their vehicles and removing it from the premises.

**Can I ride my bike or other wheeled vehicle in the Garden?**

Other than medically-necessary wheelchairs and scooters, all motorized and non-motorized wheeled vehicles and conveyances, are not permitted. Prohibited items include, but are not limited to, motorbikes, ATVs, golf carts, bicycles, skateboards, two-wheeled scooters, tricycles, “wheelie” shoes, roller blades, in-line skates, wagons and children’s riding toys. Strollers are permitted, but they are restricted to the ADA-accessible trails.

Operators of permitted wheeled vehicles should note that all trails consist of a mulch type of natural surface that may not be conducive to convenient movement. Certain types of wheels may tend to become stuck in the trail surface.

**Are there areas for sports activities?**

As the Garden is not a public park, organized sports and games, as well as hunting, fishing and swimming activities, are not permitted:

What is your tobacco and alcohol policy?

Tobacco use and devices are not allowed anywhere on Garden property, including all buildings, grounds, restrooms and parking lots. No alcohol or illegal drugs may be brought into the Garden. Alcohol may only be served at Garden-sponsored events or contracted events.

**Where do I report emergencies?**

Visitors are encouraged to notify the nearest Garden personnel about any incidents requiring First Aid or other medical attention, issues causing safety concerns, and situations involving separated members of a group. While visitors may attempt to phone outside the Garden for an emergency response, please note that cell phone reception is not consistent throughout the site.

**Can my group get together for a meeting at the Garden?**

Formal or informal groups are not allowed to hold meetings, weddings, wedding receptions,  
memorial services or other organized events without advance space rental. Please refer to the “Rentals” web page or contact Garden staff to schedule your special event or meeting in one of our facilities or venues.