

About Us

Located two miles east of downtown Boise, the Garden grows native and regionally appropriate plants. Our cultivated plant collections located on the former Old Penitentiary grounds offer a unique way to connect with Idaho's history and natural landscapes.

Professional Staff

The Garden is dedicated to cultivating plants that naturally thrive in Idaho's landscape and facilitating learning opportunities for learners of all ages to connect with nature.

Educational Programming

Every year over 15,000 youth experience the Garden through general visitation and facilitated experiences such as field trips and camps.



Join today!

Garden membership has many benefits including free admission, event pre-sales, discounts and much more. Join today and use your admission towards your membership.

Private Rentals

Select gardens are available for weddings, parties, memorials, life celebrations, meetings and corporate gatherings. For more information visit info@idahobotanicalgarden.org

Volunteer

Volunteers are an integral part of the Garden's continued growth and success in the community. Call 208-343-8649 to become part of our dynamic team.

Download our audio tour at idahobotanicalgarden.org



The Idaho Botanical Garden is an independent non-profit organization that receives no state or local tax funding—support from program fees, special events, donations, and memberships make our work possible. Thank you for your support!

Idaho Botanical Garden



idahobotanicalgarden.org



Garden Offerings

IBG's living museum features over 10 unique gardens that highlight the ecology of the Intermountain West. We grow our community by connecting people, plants, and nature.



Information Station/Gift Shop

Have a question about the Garden? Craving a snack or drink? Stop by and chat with one of our amazing volunteers.

Events and Exhibitions

The ultimate community gathering space, the Garden hosts a variety of signature activities and events all year long including a summer concert series, a winter light show, and a family focused Bug Day.



The original Boise Valley people, including the Shoshone, Bannock, and Paiute Tribes frequent this land for ceremony and celebration. From 1872-1973 the land was part of the Idaho State Penitentiary.

The Idaho Botanical Garden was created in 1984 on land leased from the State. Currently the 15 cultivated acres include:

1. Outlaw Field

In the 1900's local baseball and football teams played the penitentiary "Outlaws" teams here. Today it is our largest community gathering space and concert venue.

2. English Garden

Designed by English landscape architect John Brookes, this garden features more than 1,300 perennials and a traditional stone summerhouse.

3. Rose Garden

See and smell heirloom varieties that date back 100+ years. To experience the heaviest blooms, visit the first half of June.

4. Meditation Garden

In the 1960's, inmates operating a tree nursery for the Old Pen planted the arborvitae creating this garden's "forest." The back border rock wall contains sandstone quarried from Table Rock by the inmates.

5. Lewis and Clark Native Plant Garden

Travel through four habitats—Canyon, Prairie, Mountain, and Wetland—to see examples of plants that Lewis collected during his travels between Great Falls, Montana and The Dalles, Oregon.

6. Children's Garden

Young explorers can experience our living willow tunnel, a new perspective from the treehouse, and view a variety of carnivorous plants.

7. Idaho Native Plant Garden

This garden was originally planted by the Idaho Native Plant Society. It features plants from many Idaho regions. The petrified log came from the Owyhee mountains.

Nationally Recognized Penstemon Collection

Idaho is home to 43 different species of the largest genus of flowering plants found only to North America, penstemon. In 2014, we received recognition for our nationally accredited penstemon collection from the American Public Garden Association.

Only a select portion of the penstemon planted in the garden are part of this prestigious collection. Each year we add new species and individual plants, working together with the Plant Collection Network to expand our collection.



8. Dry Garden

Once established the plants in this garden, including cacti and succulents, can survive on the natural 11 inches of precipitation Boise receives.

9. Vegetable Garden

This garden changes every year with a new theme and new plants on display as an educational tool for the community. We share our harvests with local foodbanks in the area.

Firewise Garden

View fire-resistant plants, planting techniques, and designs to protect properties from wildfire damage. 300+ species maintained by Idaho Firewise and students from the College of Western Idaho's horticulture program.