

Other Significant Gardens and Natural Areas in Southern British Columbia

Vancouver

Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden

Website: <http://vancouverchinesegarden.com/>

Located in Vancouver's Chinatown, the Sun Yat Sen Classical Chinese Garden was completed in 1986 with a mandate to "maintain and enhance the bridge of understanding between Chinese and western cultures, promote Chinese culture generally and be an integral part of the local community". It was the first Chinese "scholars" garden built outside of China and employs "[philosophical](#) principles of [Feng shui](#) and [Taoism](#), striving to achieve harmony and a balance of opposites".

Nitobe Memorial Garden at UBC Botanical Garden

Website: <http://botanicalgarden.ubc.ca/visit/nitobe-memorial-garden/>

A traditional Japanese Tea and Stroll garden located at the University of British Columbia, Nitobe Garden is considered to be the one of the most authentic Japanese gardens in North America and among the top five Japanese gardens outside of Japan. "A place of reflection, where each step reveals a new harmony, the garden is designed to suggest a span of time – a day, a week or a lifetime – with a beginning, choice of paths and ending."

Queen Elizabeth Park & Bloedel Conservatory

Website: <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/queen-elizabeth-park.aspx>

Website: <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/bloedel-conservatory.aspx>

Queen Elizabeth Park, touted as "Vancouver's horticultural jewel", is a major draw for floral display enthusiasts and view-seekers. At 152 metres above sea level, it's the highest point in Vancouver and makes for spectacular views of the park, city, and mountains on the North Shore. The park contains gorgeously landscaped quarry gardens, sculpture and an expansive arboretum of exotic and native trees.

Bloedel Conservatory is a domed lush paradise located within Queen Elizabeth Park. More than 120 free-flying exotic birds, 500 exotic plants and flowers thrive within its temperature-controlled environment. Designated as a heritage building, it is jointly operated by Vancouver Park Board and the Vancouver Botanical Garden Association.

Stanley Park

Website: <https://vancouver.ca/parks-recreation-culture/stanley-park.aspx>

Stanley Park is Vancouver's first and largest urban park. Visitors can explore 400 hectares of natural west coast forest and enjoy scenic views of water, mountains, sky, and majestic trees along Stanley Park's famous seawall. The park is home to Canada's largest aquarium and several significant gardens including the Ted and Mary Greig Rhododendron Garden and a large formal rose garden.

Metro Vancouver

Burns Bog in the City of Delta

Website: <http://www.delta.ca/discover-delta/burns-bog/burns-bog-overview>

Burns Bog, located in Delta, British Columbia, is the largest raised peat bog and undeveloped urban land mass on the West Coast of the Americas. A Ramsar wetland of international significance, Burns Bog provides feeding and roosting for approximately 250,000 migratory and wintering waterfowl, and 1 million shorebirds. The bog is also home to a number of endangered and vulnerable animal species. Only a small portion of Burns Bog, the 148 acre (60 ha) Delta Nature Reserve, is accessible to the public and can be explored via 2.5 km of boardwalk.

Darts Hill Garden

Website: <https://dartshill.ca/>

In 1994 Edwin and Francisca Darts donated their 7.5-acre garden to the City of Surrey and its citizens. Their intention was to give Surrey its own garden to be used as a horticultural centre for the preservation, enhancement, and development of plants. A “plantsman’s garden”, Dartshill contains countless species and varieties of plants collected by Francisca from all over the world. The garden offers a wondrous collection of mature trees, shrubs, and perennials, featuring a particularly significant collection of rhododendrons and magnolias, set out in over 50 beds among winding mossy pathways and open lawns.

Vancouver Island

Milner Gardens and Woodland at Vancouver Island University

Website: <https://www2.viu.ca/milnergardens/>

Located in Qualicum Beach on the east coast of Vancouver Island, this 28 hectare garden was ranked one of the ten best public gardens in Canada by Canadian National Geographic Travel. Visitors can experience the unspoiled natural beauty of an ancient coastal Douglas fir forest perched on the edge of an oceanside bluff and meander through 4 hectares of tranquil woodland gardens lined with rhododendrons, cyclamen and trilliums.

Hatley Park at Royal Rhodes University

Website: <http://hatleypark.ca/>

Hatley Park is an Edwardian estate located on southern Vancouver Island, approximately 25 minutes from downtown Victoria. Hatley Castle, perhaps recognizable as the stand in for Xavier’s School for Gifted Children in the X-men films, acts as the centerpiece for this 565 acre property which includes gorgeous Japanese, Italian and rose formal gardens and an amazing view of the majestic Olympic Mountains in the USA.

Butchart Gardens

Website: <https://www.butchartgardens.com/>

The Butchart Gardens are located in Brentwood Bay on Vancouver Island, a short distance from Victoria and the Shwartz Bay Ferry Terminal. A collection of sumptuous display gardens, renowned worldwide, this Canadian National Heritage Site receives over a million visitors each year.

Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden

Website: <http://coastbotanicalgarden.org/>

The Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden is a young and “budding” garden situated on 40 acres in Sechelt on British Columbia’s beautiful Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast Botanical Garden Society formed in 2002 with the aim “to create a Pacific Northwest Botanical Garden that inspires and engages the community in plant appreciation and acts as a catalyst for learning and research about horticulture, conservation and land stewardship”. Almost entirely the effort of a community of volunteers and donors, construction of the garden began following the purchase of land in 2009.

Okanagan

Summerland Ornamental Gardens

Website: <http://www.summerlandgardens.org/>

The Summerland Ornamental Gardens are situated in the Southern Okanagan Valley of British Columbia. This 15-acre heritage botanical garden, in existence for over 100 years, was designed to help new residents, many from the U.K. and other rainy climates, choose ornamental plants for their gardens that would be suitable for the dry Okanagan climate. Enjoy views of Okanagan Lake as you learn water-wise gardening principles from botanically diverse demonstration gardens.

Other Vancouver Attractions and Select Discounts

Website: <https://www.vancouverattractions.com/apga-plant-collections-symposium>

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Comprehensive list of BC gardens provided by Gardens British Columbia

Website: <https://www.gardensbc.com/gardens/gardens-master-directory/>

Online directory of gardens in British Columbia, covering local, regional, and provincial options for garden exploration with links to select websites