Scavenger Hunt!

Please be mindful that because this is a botanical garden, you cannot pick anything. To keep yourself and the plants safe and happy, walk only on the paths.

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After checking in at the admissions window, walk around the booth and you'll see the pollinator garden.

**POLLINATOR GARDEN AND FIRESIDE ARBOR**
The pollinator garden is designed in a prairie style with a mix of perennials and ornamental grasses flanked on the edges by woody shrubs. The variety of plants provides three seasons of food for pollinators: bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and more.

**Fun Fact:** Approximately 48,000 plants were recently added to the garden, 30,000 of which were bulbs. There are 276 unique species.

*Walk along the Pollinator Garden paths at your pleasure, and then find the Fireside Arbor.*

The arbor is made of Kebony wood -- a sustainable softwood product that has undergone an environmentally friendly process to make it a sustainable, long-lasting alternative to tropical hardwoods.

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You'll find the entrance to the AERIAL TREE WALK on the slope side of the arbor. Enter on the right hand side and enjoy the unique perspective.

The Aerial Tree Walk was carefully constructed to accommodate almost all of the existing trees and to provide a unique bird’s eye view of the surrounding garden. It is 36’ high at its highest point.

Midway through the walk, look for this tree

HERITAGE TREE #1: Tall Stewartia, Stewartia monadelpha. The Garden has four Portland Heritage Trees.

Tall Stewartia is known for its orange, peeling bark, lovely camellia-like flowers and vibrant fall color.

Heritage Trees have been formally recognized by the City Council for their unique size, age, and historical or horticultural significance. They are designated with a small plaque and listed in the Heritage Tree database.

Check out [https://www.portland.gov/trees/heritage-trees-portland](https://www.portland.gov/trees/heritage-trees-portland) to find trees in your area.

Turn around and look below from the other side of the walk. You'll see part of the original cobble pathway built by John Leach. Photo on next page.

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These cobbles were deposited by a series of 40-50 floods that occurred between 18,000 and 15,000 years ago. Called the Missoula Floods, they happened when a massive ice dam broke in what is now Montana. It released a 400-600-foot-tall river of water, traveling at 60-80 miles per hour. You can see its path in the map on the left below.

Photo by jv

What it would look like today

When you get to the end of the tree walk, look for this potted tree fern, and just past it, take an immediate right. Walk for a short distance and take the next right onto the gravel path, then the first left at the fork. Walk to the meadow and look for the tall basalt columns at the edge of the woods.

photo by jv

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CONTEMPLATIVE PLACE: In 1996 local artist Michihiro Kosuge designed and installed these carved and shaped stones in the northwest corner of East Portland’s Ed Benedict Park. It is designed to provide a place where visitors could sit and quietly contemplate the relationship between the massive basalt blocks and the points of the compass marked by the tallest stones. It was relocated to Leach Botanical Garden in 2019, where it can more quietly and fully serve its purpose.

THE FAR MEADOW

In most of the garden it’s important to stay on the paths, to walk, and to not pick any part of the plants. This open, grassy area is a great place for children to run and play! And you might see a rabbit or a squirrel!

As you leave the entrance to Contemplative Place, turn right and walk along the gravel path until it dead ends. You’ll see this tree and a living stump.

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WOOD WIDE WEB: The stump to the side was capped over because the neighboring tree still feeds it through a network of fungal mycorrhizae (pronounced my-core-rye-zee). Although we see mushrooms above ground, most of the fungus is below ground. In fact, the world's largest known living thing is the Humongous Fungus that covers almost 4 square miles in the Malheur National Forest in Oregon.

Mycorrhizae have a relationships with about 90% of all plants. They enter the root system and provide water and nutrients to the plant while the plant provides the fungus with carbohydrates that give it energy. Plants can exchange nitrogen and phosphorus with each other by the same mycorrhizal route. In fact, they are interacting with each other, helping each other survive.

Photos on this page by jv

Walk down the hill along the chain link fence, and stop at a place where 5 trails meet. Take the 2nd trail to the right, just past the red huckleberry. Then take the second left hand trail around the two large Douglas fir trees.

Just behind the tree on the left, stop and look for the plant in the photo below.

Camellia sinensis, Chinese camellia
A shrub or small tree native to India and Southeast Asia. This is the source of all kinds of tea – the most widely consumed drink in the world.

It can grow into a tree, but farms keep it at waist height for ease of picking. Only the new shoots, leaf buds and 2-3 surrounding new leaves are picked.

Tea is divided into categories based on how long it's left to dry and oxidize, the longer the process, the darker it gets.

- White tea: wilted and unoxidized
- Yellow tea: unwilted and unoxidized, but allowed to yellow
- Green tea: unwilted and unoxidized
- Oolong: wilted, bruised, and partially oxidized
- Black tea: wilted, sometimes crushed, and fully oxidized; called "red tea" in Chinese tea culture
- Post-fermented, or pu-erh: green tea that has been allowed to ferment/compost called "black tea" in Chinese tea culture

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Enjoy wandering the trails of the **HISTORIC HILLSIDE GARDEN** before returning to where the 5 trails meet along the chain link fence.

*Follow the trail down the hill until you see a sign with a large 5 on it.*

**BACK 5 ACRES COMMUNITY HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT:** 5 acres undergoing a revitalization with nuisance plant removal and extensive replanting with native plants. It’s an educational program designed to engage, educate, and connect people of different cultural backgrounds -- to each other and to the land.

We assess and analyze change by conducting yearly plant, macroinvertebrate and amphibian surveys. We’ve also created a large vernal pond to provide breeding and rearing habitat for amphibians.

Ongoing workshops, including macroinvertebrates, pollinators, traditional ecological knowledge, community science, ornithology, plant identification and propagation, geology, nature journaling and health in nature encourage youth to bring their own curiosity and perspective to the natural world.

Partners include: The Blueprint Foundation, African Youth & Community Organization, David Douglas High School, Wisdom of the Elders and Johnson Creek Watershed Council.

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Keep walking down the path along the fence until you come to the back of the Manor House and the brick and stone terrace. In the middle of the terrace, you’ll see a large hawthorn tree in a garden bed.

HAWTHORN TREE: Crataegus x lavallei, Heritage tree #2. Native to eastern North America, hawthorn is a showy, small tree with clouds of white flowers in spring, followed by vivid fall color, and long-lasting red winter fruits.

Look carefully to find rows and rows of small holes on the trunks. A woodpecker called a red-breasted sapsucker made them with its beak to make sap flow. They lap it up with the tip of their brush-like tongue. Sapsuckers also eat insects. Their tongue actually wraps around their brain as they bang on trees, which protects them from injury. Some sports helmets are modelled after this adaptation. Most trees easily survive the hundreds of tiny holes these birds drill - in the same way maple trees survive tapping for syrup.

Facing the Manor house, walk around it on the left hand/stream side. As soon as you round the corner, you’ll see heritage tree #3.

Gingko Tree: Heritage tree # 3 Ginkgo biloba is a large, deciduous tree that matures to 100' tall and is considered to be a living fossil. It is native to China, and is the only surviving member of a group of ancient plants believed to have inhabited the earth up to 150 million years ago.

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Just behind the gingko tree, you’ll find Black Bamboo, *Phyllostachys nigra*. It’s from China and Eastern Asia.

Bamboo is evergreen and is the fastest growing plant in the world. One species can grow at up to 35 inches per day (0.00002 mph). The tallest ever recorded was 130 feet tall.

Black bamboo can reach 35 feet tall. When it's two years old the stems become black, but may be brown. After it dies, it often turns a pale brown. Can you tell which are the oldest and which are the youngest?

Turn toward the entrance to the Manor House and walk down the steps to your left. At the bottom of the steps, turn right and walk toward the shop. Before getting there, look left to find the sign below. You can read the story and see photos of John and Lilla Leach, who built the Manor house, started the garden and left it to the City of Portland.

After reading the sign, please return to the stone and brick terrace behind the Manor House, and look for the stone stairs near the back corner of the house that lead toward the creek. Take those stairs and turn left at the bottom. At the first fork in the path, take the stairs on the right. Just after the cedar tree, you’ll find...

Devil’s club, *Oplapanax horridus*. This very spiky plant is native to the Pacific Northwest. The genus name, *Oplapanax* is derived from *hoplon*, meaning weapon, and *panakos*, meaning “all-heal,” referring to its many medicinal qualities. The species name, *horridus*, refers to its wicked, spiny looking appearance.

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Find your way to the trail that follows along the creek. Please stay on the path itself. This is a sensitive habitat.

This is JOHNSON CREEK

The floodplain of Johnson Creek is thought to be a remnant of the Missoula floods. It begins in Boring, Oregon and then joins the Willamette river in Milwaukie after traveling 26 miles. It provides habitat for small numbers of chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat trout. There are also native mussels, river lamprey, and lots of crawdads. Beware! Not only are some of these species protected due to their rare and endangered status, they are not safe to eat out of the creek due to heavy metals and other contaminants.

Keep walking on the creek side trail toward the SE 122nd Avenue bridge. Look for this tree on your right:

**Western redcedar, Thuja Plicata,** is native to the Pacific Northwest. It is not a true cedar! It’s the largest tree in the cypress family and can grow 100-200 feet in the wild with girths of 23 feet. They typically reach a height of 50-70 feet with a spread of 15-25 feet and live for hundreds of years, with oldest-known specimens over 1000 years old.

Photo by jv

Keep walking toward the bridge until it turns uphill and you’re at the main gate and driveway. Directly across from you is a very large tree with a light on it.

**Atlas cedar, Cedrus atlantica,** Heritage three # 4 Native to the Atlas Mountains in northern Africa, it was first brought to Europe in the 1840s and then to the US. The specimen at the Garden predates John and Lilla’s purchase of the property.

You have finished the Scavenger Hunt!

Feel free to wander and search for more treasures!

For more information, please contact Leach Garden’s Education Manager, JoAnn Vrilakas, at jvrilakas@leachgarden.org

Photo by jv

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