



OUR MISSION

The mission of The Water Conservation Garden is to educate and inspire through excellent exhibits and programs that promote water conservation and the sustainable use of related natural resources.

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InBloom Production

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WaterConservationGarden



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message from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUMMER IS HERE, AND "MAY GRAY" AND "JUNE GLOOM" ARE A THING OF THE PAST.

Bring on the sun. During San Diego's hottest days, The Water Conservation Garden still holds more beauty and inspiration in its lowwater-use plants, landscapes, and education. We are here for you!

The Garden exists to educate our community on the conservation of water and other natural resources. Inspiring exhibits that keep up with innovative and modern ways to conserve water can help you make small behavior changes that create a big impact on your daily life. Saving water is easier than you might think. More than half of residential water use is for landscape



irrigation, and The Garden offers greywater and landscape design consultations at your home and on Zoom.

Garden wellness is a resource for your continued well-being, as well, and we are here for your health and wellness needs in the summer. At The Garden, you can cool down in an evening yoga class, heat up in a morning fitness class, or chill out with a friend with a cold drink and good conversation in one of the many shady spots found at The Garden. Check out our schedule and be inspired by The Garden.

Jennifer Pillsbury

Executive Director/CEO

"There is nothing I like better at the end of a hot summer's day than taking a short walk around the garden. You can smell the heat coming up from the earth to meet the cooler night air." — Peter Mayle

Interested in joining a Non-profit Board of Directors?

We are actively recruiting new members (active business professionals and retirees) who are connected in the community with board experience and passionate about philanthropy. Visit TheGarden.org/board for more information.

The following are agencies that constitute the Joint Powers of Authority (JPA) that owns The Garden and provides major funding:













The Garden is managed by The Friends of The Water Conservation Garden, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, tax ID no. 20-4395919.

THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN

Open 9:00am-4:00pm, six days a week Closed MONDAYS

Open late THURSDAYS 6:00pm

The Garden is FREE and opened to the public the 2nd Friday of every month!

ADMISSIONS

Last admission to The Garden is 3:15pm Thursdays last admission is 5:15pm

HOLIDAYS AT THE GARDEN Please note The Garden will be closed:

New Year's Eve (Closes at 12 noon) New Year's Day **Easter Sunday** Memorial Day Juneteenth

Independence Day Labor Day Thanksgiving Day Christmas Eve

Christmas Day



Writer: Paul Redeker • Photographers: Paul Redeker & Lauren Magnuson



All those who wander will find that adventure awaits at The Garden. Let's explore! Stroll through the gates, and then veer right towards the Dorcas E. Utter Butterfly Pavilion - here you will discover a secret passage to the Children's Discovery Trail - also known as the Children's Garden. This trail is sure to delight both adults and children with hidden gems, natural beauty and flora that will capture all who enter the jungle-like atmosphere.

The Children's Discovery Trail is surrounded by a primeval forest filled with draped netting and plants replicating what might have existed thousands of years ago. Here, children can play next to dinosaurs' relics, in a park ranger's playhouse, drive through the dense forest in an all-terrain Jeep, excavate the sandpit dig site, and explore the melody of larger-than-life Garden delights.

Plant life plays a key role in the wonderment of the trail. One genus of plants that existed thousands of years ago is a group of Cycads. The first and most common Cycad is the Sago Palm, Cycas revoluta. This lush

green Japanese Cycad is a dark green perennial and has become a favorite addition to many tropical landscapes. The second is the large Giant Dioon,

Dioon spinulosum from Mexico that will grow up to 12' here, 50' in native habitats. The third and lighter in color Cycad is the Chestnut Dioon, Dioon edule, which is native to deciduous oak forests and dry rocky slopes of eastern Mexico. Continue on the trail and the listen for the sound of the melodic notes from the xylophone – here you will find this rare Cycad next to the playhouse.

Next, discover a plant inspired by animation, the Mickey Mouse plant, Ochna serrulate. The black fruit and red sepals emulate the ears and trousers of this well-known Disney character. The Mickey Mouse plant is indigenous to South Africa and can reach 8' as a semi-evergreen shrub or small tree.

Finally, a selection of Bromeliads layers the trail with a continued tropical vibe. These very low-maintenance plants can tolerate occasional watering, and come in many shapes, sizes, and colors. From air plants to pineapples, the intrigue starts with the many leaf colors and textures and ends with

a spectacular flower unique to each individual species.



Every layer of beauty that surrounds the Children's Discovery Trail takes a team effort. Thank you to The Garden's dedicated and talented team of volunteers that put their unique touches to make this space one-of-a-kind. Your adventure awaits through The Garden's Children's Discover Trail for you to find something new with each visit. We hope to see you soon!







The Children's Discovery Trail and Tales

Writer: Pam Meisner • Photographers: Garden Staff

Make your way to the Children's Discovery Trail where you will see a welcoming Ms. Smarty-Plants™ sign giving passage to a secret pathway that waits for those who wish to see The Garden's magical world of wonder! This magical space was designed with children and the young-at-heart in mind with its winding trails and surprises that wait around every bend. Here you could spy a special figure hidden in a tree, a stone tortoise popping his head out of his burrow, or a flying pig. It seems that dinosaurs liked to visit The Garden a long time ago, too, because, if you look closely, you will find a dinosaur's footprint where you can place your own foot within. You never know what you will find with each step on the trail.

Inside this space of discovery, you can dig for fossils in the sandpit or take a John Deere Jeep on an imaginary spin to your next adventure. Come and play with oversized games, a xylophone (thank you, Bonnie Scott) to compose your next opera, and sit and rule your kingdom in an oversized chair (thank you, Stu Scott and the El Cajon Rotary Club). Maybe, you will even find a pot o' gold or a leprechaun at the end of a rainbow. On the trail and beyond, you can keep the adventure going by picking up a good book at the Little Free Library (thank you, Boys & Girls Foundation). What ever magical journey you want to take, all you need to bring is your imagination and a smile, and let the Children's Discovery Trail do the rest.

A special thank you to The Garden's many wonderful donors and our Children's Discovery Trail team who keep the magic going!

For more information about Ms. Smarty Plants™ or to donate to The Garden's education programs, visit MsSmartyPlants.org



Earth Heros
Call to Action!

SUMMER

Read under the trees!

Ms. Smarty-Plants™ loves to read outside!
While our popular Lil' Sprouts Storytime is on a summer break, bring your favorite book(s) or choose one from our Little Free Libraries, and then find your favorite spot at The Garden to sit and read in nature. In July and August, pay general admission and get one child's entry free per visit.

#MSPEarthHeroes #EarthHero



JOKE OF THE DAY!

Why don't oysters share their pearls?

Because they're shellfish!

Fun Internships at The Garden!

Do you love nature and the outdoors? Become an intern at The Garden, and volunteer with our Youth or Adult education programs.

Visit www.MsSmartyPlants.org for more info!



Starting July 1, 2023, the Ms. Smarty-Plants™ Field Trips will incur a minor price increase to support our amazing programs. Thank you for all your support!"



Saturday, October 21

Batty will be Better and Battier than ever! Visit TheGarden.org this fall for more info.

SEASONAL CALENDAR

Online Seasonal Calendar



Scan code!

July, August, September 2023



Free Day Friday Tour 2nd Fridays, 9am July 14, August 11, September 8 FREE

Walk the Garden trails with a Docent Tour Guide and see beautiful water saving landscapes. Approx 1 hour tour. Arrive early, limited space, first 15 people.



More Beauty, Less Water July 29, 9:30-11am ERFF

With 58% of residential water consumption statewide going to landscapes, we can each do our part to reduce water use. Learn redesign tips that beautify neighborhoods and save water with Eric Saline, owner of Wild Made Design. Sponsored by the County of San Diego.



How to Hire a Landscape Designer Saturday, September 16, 10-11:30am FREE

Pam Meisner, Director of Education Programs & Outreach gives an informative, common-sense approach to hiring a landscape professional. You'll learn which questions to ask, how to properly plan, and receive money-saving tips too! Sponsored by the County of San Diego.

LANDSCAPE & GREYWATER CONSULTATIONS

\$70 MEMBERS / \$85 General The Garden.org/consultations



Landscape Design Consultations

Professional advice for water-efficient landscape projects. *Photo credit: SDCWA*



Greywater Consultations

Professional advice for saving water and money with a laundry to landscape system.



CLASSES July August, September 2023









Mind & Body Master Classes promote physical, emotional, and mental health within a compassionate community. These classes will explore ways to develop a deeper relationship with our wellbeing and others through engaging conversations, experiential practices, and learning practical tools for daily life. Led by an inspiring community of teachers, coaches, and speakers.

FREE Wellness Members | \$15 Garden Member | \$20 General Admission

WELLNESS MEMBERSHIP PERKS

Free weekly Wellness Classes • Exclusive access to Mind & Body Master Classes
Discounted Garden Yoga Retreats • Direct messages for class updates



Gentle Flow Yoga
Workout Wednesday
Garden Yoga
Chair Yoga
Gentle Garden Yoga
Evening Flow Yoga
Fitness Friday
Chi Yoga
Garden Tours

NEW Mindfulness Tuesdays, 9am (Jul 11 - Aug 30)

Embracing the attitudinal foundations of Mindfulness with Laurie Hallihan, certified teacher trained at UCSD's Center for Mindfulness. This class is a great starting point for beginning a regular mindfulness practice. Laurie will provide an experiential, safe environment to practice powerful tools that can help with reducing stress, depression, anxiety, and many other chronic conditions.

www.mindingthewaves.com

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HOST YOUR EVENT IN THE GARDEN







The Water Conservation Garden is an award-winning, memorable, and breathtakingly unique site for your event; whether, it is a wedding ceremony or reception, birthday party, corporate event or meeting, celebration of life, or a private event.





DONOR RECOGNITION





JOINT POWERS OF AUTHORITY













DONORS

March 2023 - May 2023

\$2,500+

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\$100-\$500

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California American Water

California Natural Resource Agency

County of San Diego

County of San Diego - Department of Public Works

Dr. Seuss Foundation

Grossmont Healthcare District

Hunter Industries

Hunter Nursery

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

Rotary of El Cajon

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Contact us to learn more about becoming a corporate partner: development@thegarden.org 619-660-0614 x11



Wheelhouse Credit Union



NEW MEMBERS

March 2023 - May 2023

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Alana & Juliet Zimmer



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The Garden.org

Garden Members - Join or renew your membership today! Visit TheGarden.org/membership.

The Water Conservation Garden Honor & Tribute Giving W Memory
arden Become a part of The Garden's legacy and sustainable future by participating in our Honor & Tribute Giving program. In key areas throughout The Garden you may have your name or the names of your loved ones inscribed on specially designed pavers and/or benches. This program is open to both private parties and our

friends in the business community.



THE FOLLOWING NURSERIES PARTICIPATE IN OUR MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT PROGRAM.

- ★ Cuyamaca College Depart. of Ornamental Horticulture Nursery ★
 - # El Platio & Landscaping # Hunter's Nursery #

 - ★ Kniffling's Discount Nursery ★ The Madd Potter ★
 - * Mission Hills Nursery * Rancho Valhalla Nursery *

Learn more about The Garden's great member benefits: www.TheGarden.org