



Vancouver
Botanical
Gardens
Association

Welcome to the Garden Respite Fund, a new program giving free, unlimited access to VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory to support mental wellbeing in our community.

There is no disputing the science – time in nature has a substantial ability to improve mental health outcomes. But for many Vancouverites, getting out into nature is not that simple. High quality, safe, and accessible green spaces are limited for many, and entirely out of reach for others.

This is why the Garden Respite Fund was established; Time in nature improves mental wellbeing, and VanDusen Botanical Garden is ideally suited to support nature-based mental health recovery in our community.

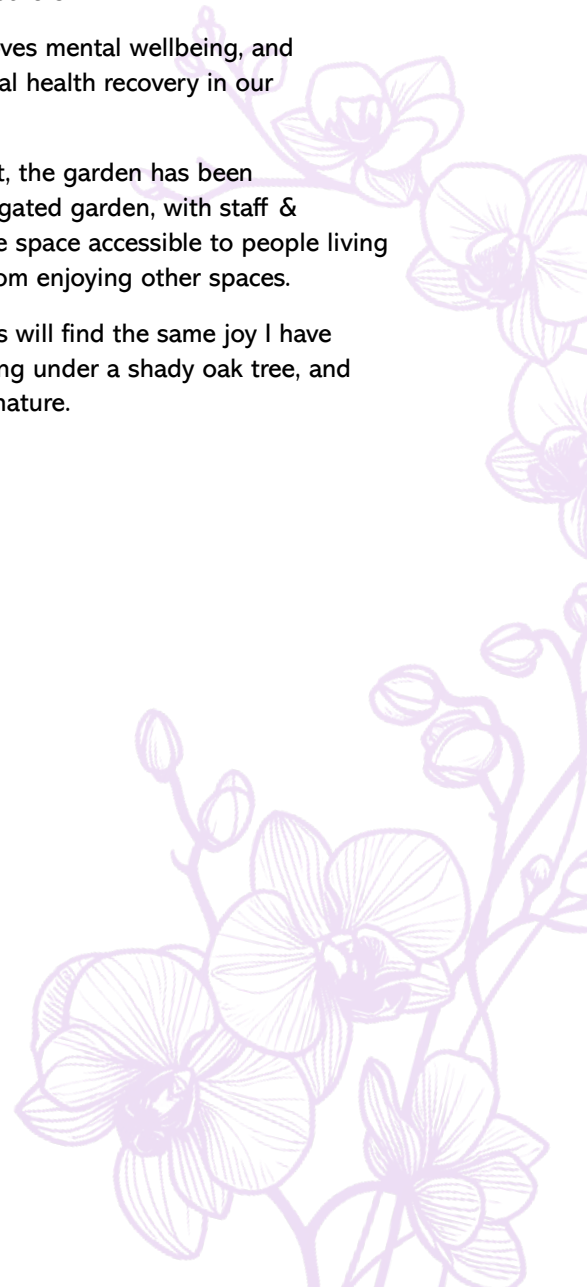
Located in the heart of Vancouver and easily accessible by public transport, the garden has been internationally recognized for its beauty and botanical interest. It is a safe, gated garden, with staff & volunteers on hand to help. Many adaptations have been made to make the space accessible to people living with physical, neurological, or social conditions which may prevent them from enjoying other spaces.

The garden has been there for me when I needed it. I hope that your clients will find the same joy I have found at discovering a new hidden path, the same peace I have found resting under a shady oak tree, and the same respite I have found by simply taking in the incredible beauty of nature.

I hope to see you in the garden,

Milo Dron

Philanthropy Director, Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association
5251 Oak St., Vancouver V6M 4H1
250.397.0390
mdron@vandusen.org





HOW DOES IT WORK?

The passes you will receive include a unique code which can be redeemed for a one-year full membership to the Gardens. **This must be redeemed by the date on the form** and will grant membership for 12 months starting from the day that it is redeemed. How these are distributed within your organization is entirely up to you – we want the decision-making process to be in the hands of the experts.

To activate a membership, take a form into VanDusen Botanical Garden (located at 5151 Oak St, Vancouver). Inside the main area of the main entrance building, head to the **Discovery Room** where a member of staff will issue a membership card. Once they have their membership card, they can freely enter VanDusen Botanical Garden or Bloedel Conservatory year-round and are entitled to all of the regular membership benefits.

We will contact you at least once per year to check in and see whether the number of passes issued is enough to fulfil your needs. **Should you run out before that time, you can contact me any time** to have more sent, as long as we have the funding available to do so.

Please note:

- These memberships are indistinguishable from regular memberships and your clients cannot be identified by our staff as being a part of this program.
- There is no cost to you or your clients. Neither you, nor your clients will ever be asked to provide payment information.
- When 12 months have passed, you may choose to issue your client with a new code to begin a new year of membership. Clients who are no longer in need of your services may purchase a membership at the standard rate.
- Should they be a core part of their mental health recovery, you may choose to issue multiple codes to cover family/caregivers. We ask that you prioritize the individuals you are working with and request additional memberships are purchased when possible, but understand that recovery often involves a wider circle of care.
- We will never ask that your clients disclose any information related to their involvement with your organization, nor will we ask them for their feedback on this program (although they are welcome to share it should they choose).

Discover the healing power of nature

Explore one of Canada's most stunning green spaces right in the heart of Vancouver

No hidden fees, no extra costs.

We hope that the Gardens help you to find peace, joy, and respite, just as they have done for so many of us.

In addition to a year of unlimited entry to the Gardens, you can enjoy discounts on special event tickets, arts and education, food and drink, and more.

To get started, take this form to the Discovery Room inside the Visitor Centre at VanDusen Botanical Garden.

Access Code

Expiry Date

Get in Touch:

membership@vandusen.org vandusengarden.org
604-257-8875 5151 Oak St., Vancouver

VanDusen Botanical Garden and Bloedel Conservatory are located on the unceded Ancestral shared lands of the s'mmukwəwəem (Musqueam), Sliwaxizmesh (Squamish), and ənd əlkwəwəl Nəstəm.



WHAT IS REQUIRED OF YOU?

By participating in this program, you agree to two conditions: to **distribute these passes only for their intended use**, and to **provide feedback**. If you do not agree to either of these points, please let us know so that we can cancel any further memberships.

The passes are only intended to be used by **people who, in the professional opinion of a qualified practitioner, would have their mental health improved by spending time in nature**. This has been kept intentionally general as we appreciate that mental health is a complex and broad issue, and that *you* are the experts in what defines it – not us.

Your staff are eligible for these passes if they are using them for therapeutic purposes, and we encourage you to join your clients as they visit the garden. Staff may also redeem passes for their own mental health support, as we know the impact that your job can have on your own wellbeing.

These passes may not, under any circumstances, be sold, donated, traded, or otherwise distributed for any reason other than those stated above. In the event that these memberships are being used in breach of this agreement, the Vancouver Botanical Gardens Association reserves the right to immediately terminate all memberships issued to your organization.

Feedback on the effectiveness of this program will allow us to continue funding it into the future, and to improve & expand upon it. **We will reach out to you approximately 9-12 months** after your passes were issued. Feedback should not take more than 15 minutes to complete, although we invite you to meet us in the garden, include any additional information, or speak with us on the phone to provide more comprehensive information, should you have the time.

Any feedback provided may be used publicly to promote this program. This may include reports, social media posts, newsletter articles, fundraising appeals, and more. The name of the individual giving feedback (you or one of your colleagues), as well as the name of your organization, may be included along with your feedback. Whenever possible, we shall attempt to contact you prior to any public communications that include your feedback, and will redact or remove any content you feel does not accurately reflect your comments.





FAQ

What other benefits to membership are there?

Beyond unlimited garden access, membership offers a wide range of benefits and discounts. See: vandusengarden.org/get-involved/membership

Are there therapeutic activities people can access at the garden?

We currently offer a limited number of classes & activities, and are hoping to expand this based on your feedback. Most classes have a cost, but bursaries are available if the fees present a barrier. See: vandusengarden.org/learn

Can I run a therapeutic activity at the garden?

Yes, and we would love to hear what your plans are! While large activities that take up sections of the garden may require prior agreement or the renting of a space, small group activities are welcome. We may be able to support such initiatives, and one day perhaps may even be able to provide funding to facilitate them.

My passes have expired, how can I get more?

Contact me to arrange for more: mdron@vandusen.org / (250) 397 0390, We will reach out to refill them annually, but if you are making good use of them, we would be happy to give you more provided we have available funding.

I/someone I know would like to support this initiative or other programs at the Gardens, what should they do?

As a registered charity who does not receive government funding, the Gardens only exist because of public support. Donations can be made online or at the Discovery Room, information on volunteering can be found on our website or by speaking to one of our staff/volunteers.

I have a great idea of how this program can be improved, what should I do?

We are actively seeking feedback and hope to one day form an advisory committee. We will also be developing volunteer opportunities based on your feedback. Connect with me directly, or complete your annual feedback report.





I know an organization you should get in touch with.

Our ability to run this program is dependent on public support, but we may have the capacity to partner with more organizations. If the organization you have in mind has a direct mandate to support mental health and operates in the Greater Vancouver area, let us know the contact details of the best person to get in touch with.

My client wishes to contact you directly, is this OK?

Absolutely! While we will never reach out to them for anything related to the Garden Respite Fund, they are certainly welcome to share their experiences or to learn more.

I lost some or all of my passes.

This is not a problem, but please let us know so we can invalidate the codes and prevent them from being used.

We no longer intend to participate in this program.

If your organization will no longer be participating in this program, please let us know so that we can avoid costly mailing expenses and staff time. If you are leaving your organization but your organization will continue participating in this program, please let us know who we can contact in your absence.

