Choose from one of our pre-arranged garden tours, or allow us to tailor a special tour of the Gardens to meet the needs of your group.
Heartland Harvest Garden Tour | One-Hour

The focus of this guided experience is on the edible landscape: its design, herbs and woody plants, and fruit and vegetables on view during varying seasons that are featured in our Heartland Harvest Garden and/or seed-to-plate greenhouses. Learn about this garden’s history, Powell Gardens’ Community Supported Agriculture program, and spend time exploring this edible landscape with one of our Powell Gardens docents (this is not a tasting tour). This tour leaves from the Visitor Center and ends in the Heartland Harvest Garden.

Wetlands, Woodlands and Perennials | 1.5 Hours

This tour experience features a one-way guided walk through three popular garden areas. The tour starts in the Visitor Center, and leads to the Marlese Lowe Gourley Island Garden, the centerpiece of Powell Gardens, featuring scenic views of the lake all season long and showcases various aquatic plants and seasonal displays. A featured focus is the living wall which winds through this garden and showcasing a wide variety of perennial plants that provide interest throughout the year.

The tour continues by crossing the footbridge and walking up a slight slope into the shady David T. Beals III Woodland and Stream Garden to explore shade-loving plantings of native mixed with non-native understory plant material. Seasonal color-themed features include blooming witch hazel, early spring bulbs, blooming redbuds, azaleas, hydrangeas, hostas, ferns and more. This garden offers natural appeal all season long.

This tour ends in the Perennial Garden—filled with beds designed for color. The finale, the daylily bed, features hundreds of unique cultivars.

Best of the Season—What’s On Spotlight | One-Hour

This tour is inspired by what is currently in bloom or offering aesthetic or sensory appeal during any given season and is hand-tailored and planned by your docent. Your tour guide will take special care to select several points of interest to showcase plants, trees and shrubs with beautiful or interesting features. Please share special interests or objectives with us when planning your tour so we might best meet your needs.

Dining Options at Powell Gardens

There are a variety of lunch options available for any size group. In-house dining at Cafe Thyme must be reserved at least two weeks in advance. Group seating for 10 or more requires a reservation and seating is available for up to 60 people. Vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options are available upon request.

Festival of Lights

Self-Guided Walking Tours

Available Thursday-Sunday | 4-8 p.m. | November 23 - January 6

Experience the gardens in a whole new light—at night. Celebrate the holidays and enjoy our gardens in a festive walking experience with lighting designs. Your group can view the gardens from the terrace as well—after partaking of the decorated conservatory and Grand Hall. Groups can have a private party during our festival complete with adult beverages and light catering. Call for details.

Specialized Tours with Horticulture Staff

$15/adult, plus speaking fee honorarium

These private tours are led by Powell Gardens horticulture staff. Engage our director of horticulture, another horticulturist on the team or a senior gardener for your group. A minimum of 15 adults is required. Scheduling is based on the availability of our staff. Contact Bobi Hallak, volunteer and tour programs coordinator at bhallak@powellgardens.org or 816-697-2600 x304 to inquire about booking a horticulture tour at Powell Gardens or inviting our expert staff to speak off-site at your function or gathering.

Group tour pricing for our horticulture experts is $15 per adult plus the following honorarium fees. A speaking engagement off-site requires the fees listed below plus travel costs.

- Director of Horticulture $350
- Horticulturist $200
- Senior Gardener $150
- Gardener $100

Self-Guided Groups may be self-guided. As a courtesy, please complete the online tour form or contact our tour coordinator. There is no capacity limit for self-guided tours. A confirmation reserving your space, listing your scheduled time, cancellation details, lunch options and bus unloading/parking information will be emailed to your group’s contact.

$10/adults, $9/seniors

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