About Us

There are four seasons of education and growth at Old Westbury Gardens.

Guided, hands-on Garden programs are designed in conjunction with NYS Curriculum Standards & are led by seasoned environmental educators. Lessons allow the over 200 acre property to act as an extension of a teacher's classroom creating concrete counterparts to traditional academics—Natural Science, Art, Social Science, English & History.

Directions

Old Westbury Gardens is located in Old Westbury on Long Island, between the LI Expressway (I-495) & Jericho Turnpike (NY Route 25), approximately 20 miles east of New York City. All buses and trucks must enter at 60 Post Road.

From New York City:
LI Expressway east to exit 39—Glen Cove Road. Continue east on the service road. At the fourth light, turn right onto Post Road. The bus/service entrance is approximately 1/2 mile on the right side (60 Post Road).

From Eastern Long Island:
LI Expressway west to exit 40W—Jericho Turnpike, Rte. 25. Continue west on Jericho Turnpike for approximately 2 miles. Turn right at Westbury High School onto Post Road. The bus/service entrance is approximately 1/2 mile on the left side (60 Post Road).

Education programs funded in part by www.oldwestburygardens.org
Education Programs

Education programs can be tailored to fit the needs of current class lesson plans upon request.

Plant Adaptations
Learn the language of plant communication while discovering hundreds of plant species found in the Gardens. Students explore techniques employed by horticulturists to insure their gardens remain protected from pests, disease and unfavorable weather conditions. Get an inside look at plant physiology through a hands-on flower dissection.

NYS Learning Standard:
LS 4 The Living Environment Key Ideas 1-6

A Bird’s Eye View
Unleash your inner ornithologist as you test your bird identification skills in the Gardens. Learn how birds play a vital role in our environment through pest control and seed scattering. Discuss the differences between native and non-native species and how they interact in the habitat. Conclude the program with a hands-on craft celebrating birds.

NYS Learning Standard:
LS 4 The Physical Setting Key Idea 3, LS4 The Living Environment Key Ideas 1, 3, 5-7

Cycles in Nature
Nothing goes to waste in nature. Explore the different types of energy cycles that are in constant motion and how people’s role in environmental sustainability affects these cycles. “Upcycled” materials will help create unique student art pieces that reflect the wonder of nature’s recycling capabilities.

NYS Learning Standard:
LS 4 The Physical Setting Key Ideas 1-7

Citizen Science—Entomology
Citizen scientists unite to study backyard bugs at the Gardens. Learn the basics of insect identification, life cycles and behavioral effects of beneficial and invasive species. Take part in an on-site count, collecting, comparing and analyzing seasonal data. A bee buzzer craft completes the lesson.

NYS Learning Standard:
LS 4 The Living Environment Key Ideas 1, 3, 5-6

History, Hot of the Press!
Time travel to 1900s Westbury Gardens to investigate fact and fiction of Phipps family life. Student journalists get their hands on history interpreting primary and secondary Gold Coast era sources. Follow the paper trail of photos & articles to determine the truth behind the Phipps’ notable lifestyle. A modern media team activity merges past and present.

NYS Learning Standard:
LS 1 US and NY History Key Ideas 1-4

General Information

All group tours and education programs must be booked in advance. An outdoor public picnic area is available for lunch directly following programs, weather permitting.

Fees
$9 Students and Chaperones
Teachers and Aides are free
$125 program minimum to book
Double program discount available

Contact
Contact Lisa Reichenberger, Director of Environmental Education, at 516.333.0048, x 338 or lreichenberger@oldwestburygardens.org to schedule a visit.