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## TO LEARN MORE

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Van Sweden, James. *Gardening with Water*. New York: Random House, 1995.

### LENHARDT LIBRARY

For these and other titles, visit the Lenhardt Library of the Chicago Botanic Garden from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. [www.chicagobotanic.org/library](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/library)

### JOSEPH REGENSTEIN, JR. SCHOOL OF THE CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

The Joseph Regenstein, Jr. School of the Chicago Botanic Garden offers classes and seminars in gardening, landscape design, botanical arts and more.

For a course catalog, please call (847) 835-8261 or visit [www.chicagobotanic.org/school](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/school).

### PLANT INFORMATION SERVICE

Let our experts answer your gardening questions.

Stop by the Plant Information desk, located in the Visitor Center, or call the

Plant Information hotline at (847) 835-0972.

April – October: Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
November – March: Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

[www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/plantinfo)



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

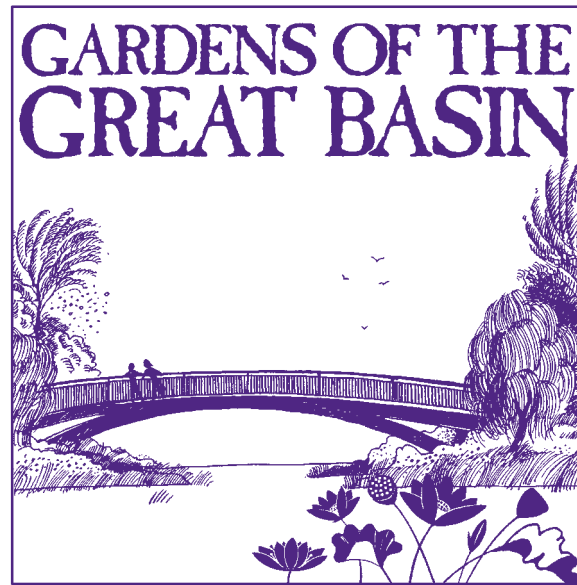
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*The Chicago Botanic Garden is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.*



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN



Experience the scenic walkways, beautiful gardens and breathtaking views that encircle the Chicago Botanic Garden's central lake.

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## GARDENS OF THE GREAT BASIN

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The Gardens of the Great Basin—the Water Gardens, Lakeside Gardens and Evening Island—encircle the Chicago Botanic Garden's central lake and extend into the water. They are linked by scenic pathways and distinctive bridges, and graced with terraces, overlooks and seating areas where one can linger and take in amazing views of the lake and surrounding gardens.

Together, the Gardens of the Great Basin create an extraordinary sensory experience—one that changes with the seasons, the hours of the day and each step along the path. Each visit provides an opportunity to see the Garden from new perspectives.

### A Place of Beauty, Science and Education

True to their mission, the Gardens of the Great Basin provide new destinations of beauty and enjoyment for visitors to the Garden. They also serve as examples of new trends in garden design and as demonstrations of environmentally sensitive horticulture and lake management.

### Innovative Design

Designed by influential landscape architects Oehme, van Sweden and Associates of Washington, D.C., the Gardens of the Great Basin are an important example of the New American Garden style of landscape design.

Pioneered by Wolfgang Oehme and James van Sweden, this style takes its inspiration from the relaxed beauty of the American meadow and the Midwestern prairie. The design is characterized by masses of perennials and ornamental grasses combined and layered to form dramatic tapestries of color, texture and movement that change through the seasons.

### A Gift to Chicago

The Gardens of the Great Basin were made possible by the generosity and vision of private donors and government agencies charged with maintaining the region's natural resources.

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## FASCINATING FACTS

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- The Gardens of the Great Basin are designed so that visitors experience a series of distinct views as they travel along the paths—grand, intimate, sunny, shady, formal, naturalistic, close-up, panoramic, open and hidden.
- The Gardens of the Great Basin showcase more than 100,000 perennials, 13,000 ornamental grasses, 50,000 aquatic plants, 2,166 trees and shrubs, and 250,000 spring-blooming bulbs.
- The plants that fill the Gardens of the Great Basin were chosen for their individual features—color, height, texture—but also for their collective impact.
- Most of the plants in the Gardens of the Great Basin, especially the perennials and ornamental grasses, require little maintenance.
- Native aquatic plant species that can withstand the movement of waves and fluctuation of water levels help keep shoreline soil from eroding.
- The Great Basin was drained of its 16 million gallons of water and then resculpted to resemble a more natural lake environment.
- The Great Basin itself spans 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> acres.
- The shorelines of the Great Basin are not only beautiful, but also provide an example of various ways to restore and protect shorelines in retention ponds and lakes.

## GARDENS OF THE GREAT BASIN HIGHLIGHTS

### A Lakeside Gardens

Curving along the northeast and west edges of the Great Basin, the Lakeside Gardens reflect the surrounding gardens in their plantings and color schemes while retaining a relaxed style.

To the west, nearest the Serpentine bridge, a grove of alder trees creates a shady pathway lined with inspiring combinations of shade-loving perennials, ground covers and grasses in cool colors.

The entire Great Basin is encircled with 300 crab apples that bloom in shades of white and pink each May and are reflected in the waters below—an event not to be missed.

### B Lakeside Terrace

Just off the main path, this sunny destination extends out over the lake and invites you to enjoy aquatic plants up-close and to delight in panoramic views from water level.

### C The Serpentine

This curved bridge made of cedar and steel rests low, near the surface of the water, and provides broad views of the surrounding gardens. It connects Evening Island to the west Lakeside Garden.

### D Evening Island

The centerpiece of the Gardens of the Great Basin, Evening Island is a five-acre garden that features winding paths leading through hillside, woodland and meadow gardens filled with broad sweeps of perennials and ornamental grasses.

Inviting seating areas, both grand and intimate, offer breathtaking views of the lakes and surrounding gardens. The garden's belltower, the Carillon, chimes on the hour and rings with the music of concerts on select summer evenings.

### E The Arch

This graceful, 120-foot bridge provides a spectacular view of Evening Island, the Great Basin and surrounding gardens. Constructed of cedar and steel, it is designed to be almost transparent in the landscape. It joins Evening Island to the east Lakeside Garden.

### F The Overlook

True to its name, the Overlook is the perfect vantage point for taking in panoramic views of the lake and its gardens. Designed by English Walled Garden designer John Brookes, this terrace echoes the architecture of the English Walled Garden with its brick pavement and limestone balustrades, and ends the main axis walk from the Visitor Center.

### G The Water Gardens

More than 50,000 aquatic plants grow in the water and along the shorelines of the Great Basin, making a beautiful and lush ecosystem for birds, insects, fish, turtles and other wildlife.

The amazing variety of the Chicago Botanic Garden's world-class aquatic plant collection can be glimpsed in the Water Gardens—from native grasses and sedges that help to prevent erosion to lotuses and waterlilies that provide color and drama during warmer months.

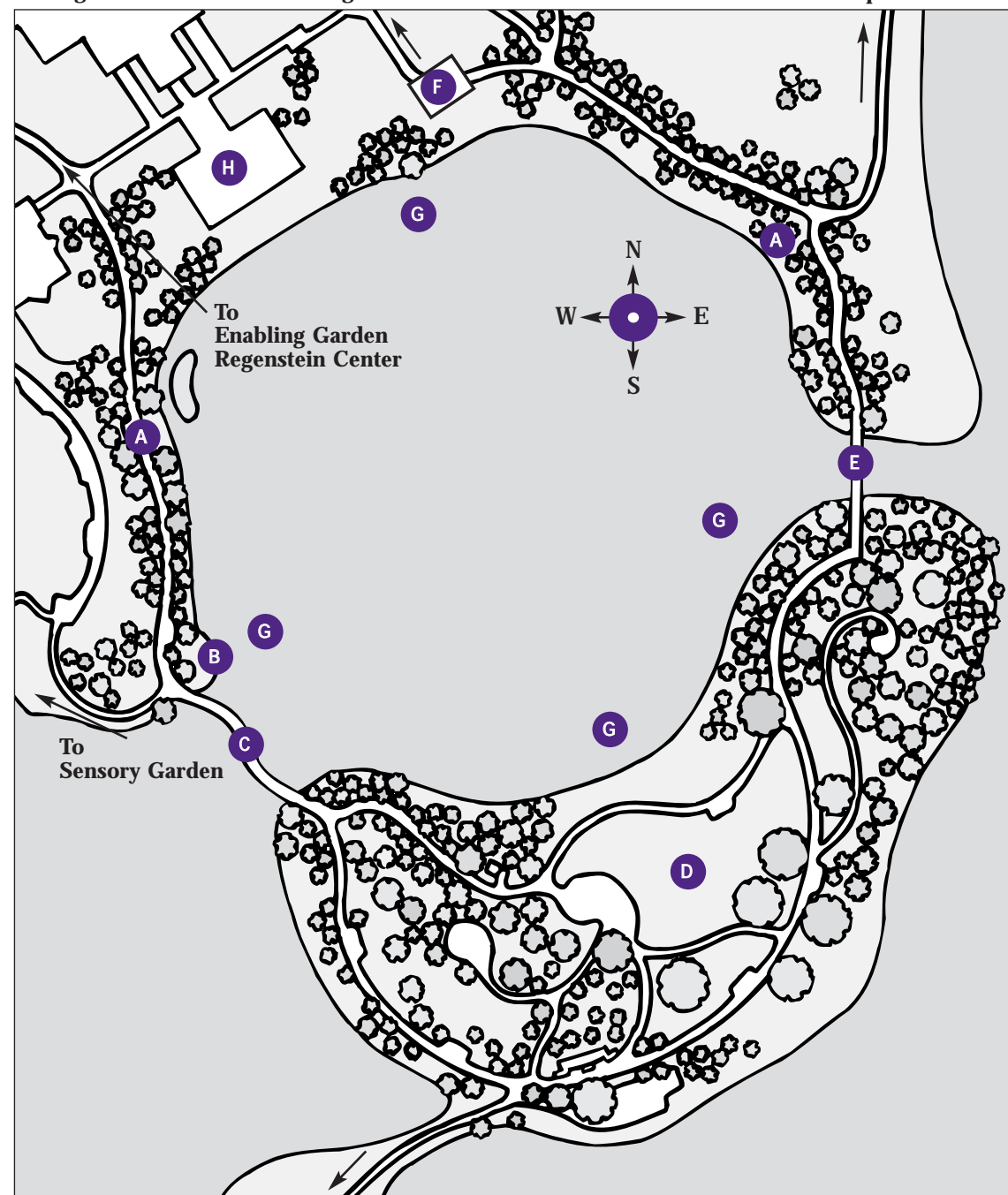
Innovative and environmentally sensitive structures and materials, though hidden from view, help protect and promote the health of the lake, the shoreline, its plants and wildlife.

### H McGinley Pavilion

This lovely tented terrace that looks out over the Great Basin is the site of special events and programs throughout the year. It is also a favorite spot for listening to summer carillon concerts.

To English Walled Garden & Regenstein Center

To Malott Japanese Garden



To Prairie