



A MIDSIZE IDEA

The Portland Botanical Gardens

Portland already hosts the Hoyt Arboretum, the Japanese Garden, and the Lan Su Chinese Garden. "But we don't have a garden for research, demonstration, and community gathering," says Sean Hogan, chief horticulturist of Portland Botanical Gardens, a four-year-old nonprofit seeking a 50-acre parcel near downtown, easily accessible to public transport. "We want to have incredible research, an herbarium, and also be the best gardening school in the country. That's not saying much, because in the US they're not so great."

The state's only native-plant botanical garden would display regional ecosystems, so that visitors can "traverse" the Northwest, from the Redwoods to the Rockies, in a few hundred yards. For education, the plan incorporates a major botanical sciences program (the nearest are at the University of Washington and the University of California, Berkeley), with K-12 programs, community education, and multilingual vocational training for gardeners and landscape maintenance workers, many of whom are immigrants from Mexico or Central America. A "botanical speakeasy" of international plants would round out the garden. Compared to the price tags of other plans, says Hogan, "it's low-hanging fruit."

Get Involved: portlandbg.org

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