

# BOTANIC GARDENS

## AND THEIR VALUABLE ROLE IN CONSERVING PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES

Botanic gardens and arboreta mobilize scientific, collaborative, and strategic approaches to conserve valuable **plant genetic resources (PGR)**—the wide range of wild and cultivated plants.

### Botanic gardens maintain PGR in a variety of forms:



Living collections



Seed collections



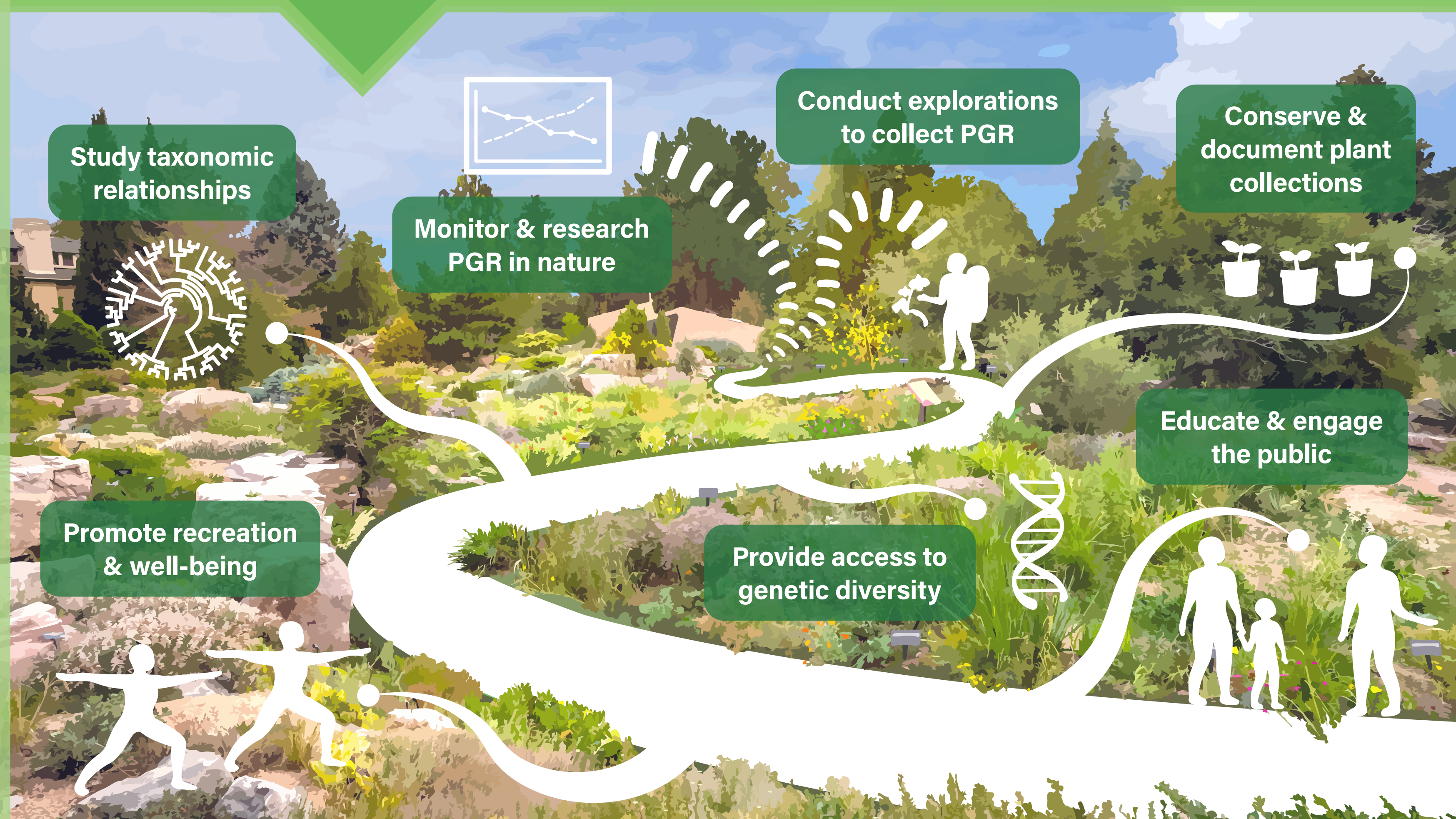
Plant records



Herbarium collections

### Functions of botanic gardens

The role of botanic gardens continually evolves. Rapid decline of biodiversity has increased the need for action. Botanic gardens use diverse strategies to advance local and global conservation efforts.



### Regional and global networks coordinate conservation efforts


Botanic gardens and agricultural genebanks are the leading **conservation repositories**—facilities that conserve PGR as collections.


- ◆ Agricultural genebanks typically preserve PGR for food and agriculture at locations suited to each crop. North America has **1** international (CIMMYT, Mexico) and **33** national genebanking facilities
- Botanic gardens vary in scope and resources, but tend to conserve diverse PGR with cultural and ecological value. North America has **>1,030** botanic gardens



BGCI GardenSearch (Canada, Mexico, US & US territories), Esri, HERE, May 2021

  
There are at least  
**3,038**  
botanic gardens  
worldwide  
BGCI GardenSearch, May 2021

  
Botanic gardens  
collectively manage  
**>107,000**  
species in their living  
plant collections  
this is equal to  
approximately  
**31%**  
of all vascular plants  
State of the World's Plants and Fungi 2020

  
Botanic gardens  
attract an estimated  
**500 million**  
visitors each year  
BGCI.org, May 2021

For additional resources on botanic gardens, visit [bgci.org](http://bgci.org) and [publicgardens.org](http://publicgardens.org)

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