
best place to stop and smell the flowers

Although it's not the largest park in the boroughs, the 52-acre **BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN** offers more than 12,000 species of plants to cure those inner-city blues. For a \$3 charge you can stroll the gardens on your afternoon off to reconnect with nature and enjoy the wildlife. The Japanese Hill-and-Pond Garden offers a serene overlook of the man-made and natural settings of Japan's rocky coastline—with supple waterfalls, winding paths, a Shinto shrine, an island, and plenty of harmonious asymmetry. Families may want to start out with the Discovery Garden, where children are encouraged to explore nature with hands-on exhibits and fun paths to walk through. Just north of Prospect Park, Brooklyn, on the corner of Washington Avenue and Eastern Parkway, 718-623-7200 DM

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