

Outdoor plantings are showcased in Bartholdi Park, a home landscape demonstration area. Each of the displays is sized and scaled for suitability in an urban or suburban house site. The gardens display ornamental plants that perform well in this region arrayed in a variety of styles and themes. Also located in this park is Bartholdi Fountain, created by Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi (1834–1904), sculptor of the Statue of Liberty.

The Botanic Garden makes available many rare and interesting botanical specimens for study to students, botanists, and floriculturists. In addition to educational programs and special exhibits, a horticultural hotline is available to answer questions from the public.

The U.S. Botanic Garden was founded in 1820 under the auspices of the Columbian Institute for the Promotion of Arts and Sciences, an organization that was the outgrowth of an association known as the Metropolitan Society and that received its charter from Congress on April 20, 1818. The Garden continued under the direction of this Institute until 1837, when the Institute ceased to exist as an active organization.

The Botanic Garden remained abandoned until 1842, when it became necessary for the Government to provide accommodations for the botanical collections brought to Washington, DC, from the South Seas by the U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1838–42, under

the leadership of Capt. Charles Wilkes. The collections were placed temporarily on exhibition at the Patent Office upon return of the expedition in June 1842. The first greenhouse for this purpose was constructed in 1842 on a lot behind the Patent Office Building under the direction and control of the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library, from funds appropriated by Congress.

The act of May 15, 1850 (9 Stat. 427), provided for the relocation of the Botanic Garden under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library. The site selected was on The Mall at the west end of the Capitol Grounds, practically the same site the Garden occupied during the period it functioned under the Columbia Institute. This site was later enlarged, and the main area continued to serve as the principal Botanic Garden site from 1850 to 1933, when the Garden was relocated to its present site.

Although the Botanic Garden began functioning as a Government-owned institution in 1842, the records indicate that it was not until 1856 that the maintenance of the Garden was specifically placed under the direction of the Joint Committee on the Library and a regular, annual appropriation was provided by Congress (11 Stat. 104).

At the present time the Joint Committee exercises its supervision through the Architect of the Capitol, who has been serving as Acting Director since 1934.

**For further information concerning the United States Botanic Garden, contact the Public Programs Division, 245 First Street SW., Washington, DC 20024. Phone, 202–225–8333. Horticulture Hotline, 202–563–1222. Internet, [www.aoc.gov](http://www.aoc.gov).**

## GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE

441 G Street NW., Washington, DC 20548  
 Phone, 202–512–3000. Internet, [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov).

Comptroller General of the United States  
 Deputy Comptroller General of the United States  
 Chief Operating Officer

DAVID M. WALKER  
 (VACANCY)  
 GENE L. DODARO

Chief Mission Support Officer/Chief Financial Officer	SALLYANNE HARPER
General Counsel	TONY GAMBOA
Managing Director, Office of Special Investigations	BOB HAST

*Teams:*

Managing Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management	JACK BROCK
Managing Director, Applied Research and Methods	NANCY KINGSBURY
Director	DONNA HEIVILIN
Chief Accountant	PHIL CALDER
Chief Economist	(VACANCY)
Chief Statistician	ROBERT PARKER
Chief Technologist	KEITH RHODES
Senior Actuary	JOSEPH APPLEBAUM
Managing Director, Defense Capabilities and Management	BUTCH HINTON
Managing Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security	CINDY FAGNONI
Managing Director, Financial Management and Assurance	JEFF STEINHOFF
Managing Director, Financial Markets and Community Investments	TOM MCCOOL
Managing Director, Health Care	BILL SCANLON
Managing Director, International Affairs and Trade	SUSAN WESTIN
Managing Director, Information Technology	JOEL WILLEMSEN
Managing Director, Natural Resources and Environment	BOB ROBINSON
Managing Director, Physical Infrastructure	JOHN ANDERSON
Managing Director, Strategic Issues	VIC REZENDES
Managing Director, Federal Budget and Intergovernmental Relations	PAUL POSNER
Managing Director, Tax Administration and Justice	NORM RABKIN

*Support Functions:*

Managing Director, Congressional Relations	HELEN HSING
Managing Director, External Liaison	GLORIA JARMON
Managing Director, Field Offices	THOMAS BREW
Inspector General	FRANCES GARCIA

*Mission Support Offices:*

Chief Information Officer	ANTHONY CICCO
Controller/Chief Administrative Officer	RICHARD BROWN
Customer Relations	GREG McDONALD
Human Capital Officer	JESSE HOSKINS
Knowledge Services Officer	CATHERINE TETI
Managing Director, Professional Development Program	MARK GEBICKE
Managing Director, Opportunity and Inclusiveness	RON STROMAN
Chair, Personnel Appeals Board	MICHAEL WOLF
Managing Director, Product and Process Improvement	KEITH FULTZ
Managing Director, Public Affairs	JEFF NELLIGAN
Managing Director, Quality and Risk Management	RICH HEMBRA

---

*The General Accounting Office is the investigative arm of the Congress and is charged with examining all matters relating to the receipt and disbursement of public funds.*

The General Accounting Office (GAO) was established by the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 (31 U.S.C. 702), to independently audit Government agencies. Over the years, the Congress has expanded GAO's audit authority, added new responsibilities and duties, and strengthened GAO's ability to perform independently.

The Office is under the control and direction of the Comptroller General of the United States, who is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate for a term of 15 years.

**Activities**

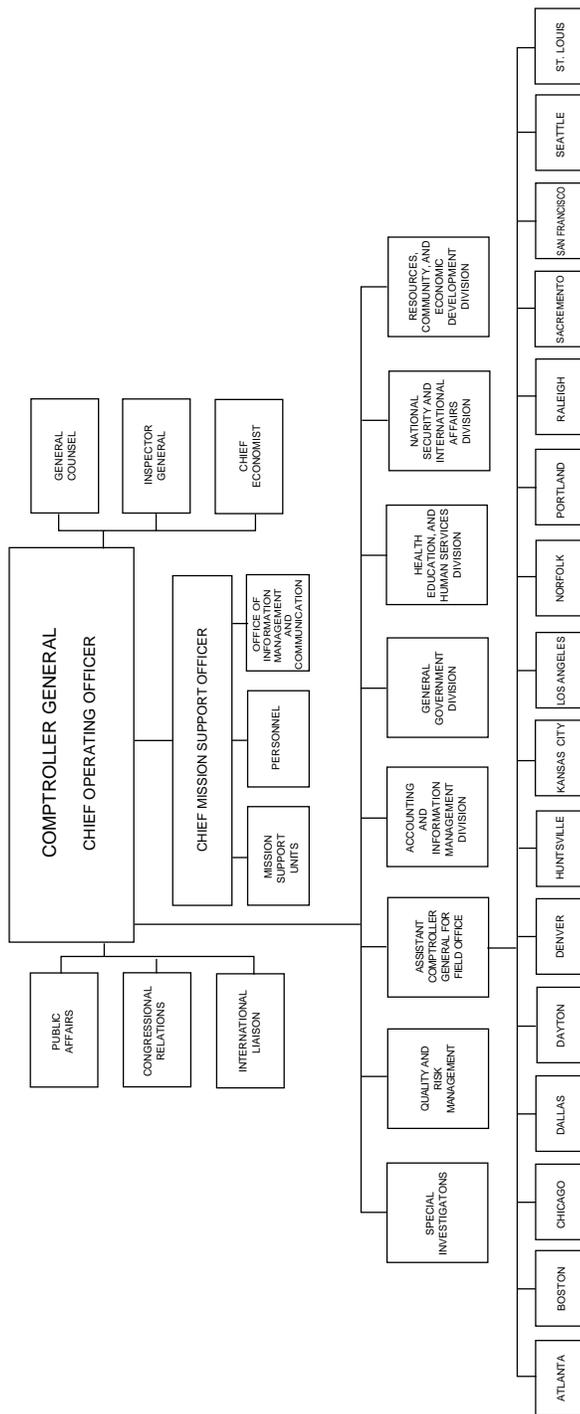
**Audits and Evaluations** Supporting the Congress is GAO's fundamental responsibility. In meeting this objective, GAO performs a variety of services, the most prominent of which are audits and evaluations of Government programs and activities. The majority of these reviews are made in response to specific congressional requests. The Office is required to perform work requested by committee chairpersons and, as a matter of policy, assigns equal status to requests

from Ranking Minority Members. The Office also responds to individual Member requests, as possible. Other assignments are initiated pursuant to standing commitments to congressional committees, and some reviews are specifically required by law. Finally, some assignments are independently undertaken in accordance with GAO's basic legislative responsibilities.

The ability to review practically any Government function requires a multidisciplinary staff able to conduct assignments wherever needed. The Office's staff has expertise in a variety of disciplines, including accounting, law, public and business administration, economics, the social and physical sciences, and others.

The Office is organized so that staff members concentrate on specific subject areas, enabling them to develop a detailed level of knowledge. When an assignment requires specialized experience not available within GAO, outside experts assist the permanent staff. Staff members go wherever necessary on assignments, working onsite to gather data and observe firsthand how

**GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE**



Government programs and activities are carried out.

**Legal Services** The Office provides various legal services to the Congress. In response to inquiries from committees and Members, the Comptroller General provides advice on legal issues involving Government programs and activities. The Office is also available to assist in drafting legislation and reviewing legislative proposals before the Congress. In addition, it reviews and reports to the Congress on proposed rescissions and deferrals of Government funds.

Other legal services include resolving bid protests that challenge Government contract awards and assisting Government agencies in interpreting the laws governing the expenditure of public funds.

**Investigations** GAO's staff of professional investigators conducts special investigations and assists auditors and evaluators when they encounter possible criminal and civil misconduct. When warranted, GAO refers the results of its investigations to the Department of Justice and other law enforcement authorities.

**Auditing and Accounting Policy** GAO issues *Government Auditing Standards* for audits of Government organizations, programs, activities, and functions. These standards pertain to auditors' professional qualifications, the quality of audit effort, and the characteristics of professional and meaningful audit reports.

The Comptroller General, along with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, serves as a principal on the

Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board. The Board considers and recommends issuance of accounting standards and principles and provides interpretations of existing ones.

**Reporting** GAO offers a range of products to communicate the results of its work. The type of product depends on the assignment's objectives and the needs of the intended user. Product types include testimony, oral briefings, and written reports. Virtually all of GAO's reports are available to the public.

A list of GAO reports issued or released during the previous month is furnished monthly to the Congress, its Members, and committees. Copies of GAO reports are also furnished to interested congressional parties; Federal, State, local, and foreign governments; members of the press; college faculty, students, and libraries; and nonprofit organizations.

Copies of unclassified reports are available from the U.S. General Accounting Office, P.O. Box 37050, Washington, DC 20013. Phone, 202-512-6000. The first copy of each report and testimony is free; additional copies are \$2 each. There is a 25-percent discount on orders of 100 or more copies mailed to a single address. Orders should be sent with a check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents. VISA and MasterCard are also accepted.

**Electronic Access** Reports, Comptroller General decisions, and GAO special publications may be obtained on the Internet, at [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov).

For further information, contact the Office of Public Affairs, General Accounting Office, 441 G Street NW., Washington, DC 20548. Phone, 202-512-4800. Internet, [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov).

## GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

732 North Capitol Street NW., Washington, DC 20401  
Phone, 202-512-0000. Internet, [www.gpo.gov](http://www.gpo.gov).

Public Printer  
Deputy Public Printer

MICHAEL F. DIMARIO  
ROBERT T. MANSKER