Surrounded by the botanically diverse Southern Appalachian Mountains, The North Carolina Arboretum is nestled in one of the most beautiful natural garden settings in America. A center for education, research, conservation, economic development and garden demonstration, the Arboretum offers a wide range of activities for visitors of all ages.

Stop by the Information Desk at the Baker Exhibit Center or the Education Center to pick up brochures describing programs, tours, garden demonstrations and member benefits (free parking, discounts, newsletters and more). While visiting the Arboretum, plan to stop by the Savory Thyme Café and Connections Gallery gift shop.

GARDENS ARE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
Wheelchairs are available for loan in the Education Center and Baker Exhibit Center.

SAFETY & ETIQUETTE
To ensure a safe and enjoyable visit, please follow these guidelines:
- Pets must be kept on leashes. Only service animals are allowed in buildings and the Bonsai Exhibition Garden. Please clean up after pets.
- Stay on trails and garden paths; watch your step on uneven terrain. Do not climb trees, structures or water features. Do not disturb or remove any plants, flowers, rocks or landscape elements.
- You are in a natural setting and may encounter a variety of plants and animals. Report any sightings of bears, snakes or any unusual animal behavior to Campus Police. Seek shelter when lightning or thunderstorms threaten.
- Bicycles are only permitted on designated roads and trails; speed limits limit 8 MPH. Bicyclists and bicycle passengers under the age of 16 must wear protective safety helmets N.C.G.S. §20-171.7(b)
- Smoking and vaping are not permitted in buildings or within 15 feet of buildings and are not permitted within the Bonsai Exhibition Garden. Please dispose of cigarette butts in designated bins.
- No hunting, fishing or weapons allowed on Arboretum property.
- No outside alcoholic beverages are allowed on property.

Please report any unsafe conditions to Arboretum personnel. Campus Police direct line is (828) 779-8622.

ABOUT OUR GARDEN AREAS
Baker Landscape — The Baker Exhibit Center Landscape features a large central lawn surrounded by sweeps of perennial and seasonal annual plantings. Topiary plants and metalwork accent the garden plantings. The Gardener’s Green Shed features a moss green roof and other examples of natural resources management.
Blue Ridge Court — A central point of the Grand Garden Promenade, this court contains a central water feature and the first standing sculpture of Frederick Law Olmsted, the father of American landscape architecture.
Bonsai Exhibition Garden — This garden presents the Arboretum’s extensive bonsai collection in an aesthetically unique landscape.
Forest Meadow — Designed with a special emphasis on autumn foliage color, this collection offers an opportunity to explore botanical diversity of trees, company shrubs and herbaceous groundcover plantings.
Entrance Plaza at the Education Center — Colorful gardens and containers of seasonal plantings surround three water features representing pools, cascades and waterfalls of Southern Appalachian streams.
Heritage Garden — The chimney, stone foundations and water spring recall features of old homestead sites. The garden includes plants used in the region’s medicinal herb and craft industries.
Holly Garden — This exhibit shows the variety of plants in the holly genus that can be grown in this region, as well as companion plants.
Outdoor Events Center — An amphitheater that provides space for outdoor lectures, demonstrations and various cultural events and performances.
Plants of Promise Garden — This garden at wood’s edge features promising landscape plants appropriate for the Southern Appalachian region, as well as ways to use stone in the garden.
Quilt Garden — A floral representation of a traditional quilt pattern. Visitors can get a bird’s-eye view of this garden from the stone overlook.
Stream Garden — Planted primarily with native plants, this garden represents a western North Carolina mountain stream and the plant communities of stream sites.
OTHER CULTIVATED AREAS OF INTEREST
Perennial Border at the Production Greenhouse — A gardener’s ultimate full sun perennial border, this border provides beauty and interest throughout the growing season with a special fall emphasis.
National Native Azalea Collection — This garden was established to help preserve and protect native azaleas. Sixteen of the 17 species native to the United States, as well as hybrids and cultivated varieties can be found here.
Rocky Cove Railroad — Located below the Grand Garden Promenade, this G-scale (garden scale) model train represents the coming of trains to western North Carolina at the turn of the 20th century. The train operates Saturdays and Sundays from noon until 4 p.m. (April - October).

To ensure a safe and enjoyable visit, please follow these guidelines:
- Pets must be kept on leashes. Only service animals are allowed in buildings and the Bonsai Exhibition Garden. Please clean up after pets.
- Stay on trails and garden paths; watch your step on uneven terrain. Do not climb trees, structures or water features. Do not disturb or remove any plants, flowers, rocks or landscape elements.
- You are in a natural setting and may encounter a variety of plants and animals. Report any sightings of bears, snakes or any unusual animal behavior to Campus Police. Seek shelter when lightning or thunderstorms threaten.
- Bicycles are only permitted on designated roads and trails; speed limits limit 8 MPH. Bicyclists and bicycle passengers under the age of 16 must wear protective safety helmets N.C.G.S. §20-171.7(b)
- Smoking and vaping are not permitted in buildings or within 15 feet of buildings and are not permitted within the Bonsai Exhibition Garden. Please dispose of cigarette butts in designated bins.
- No hunting, fishing or weapons allowed on Arboretum property.
- No outside alcoholic beverages are allowed on property.

Please report any unsafe conditions to Arboretum personnel. Campus Police direct line is (828) 779-8622.

ABOUT OUR TRAILS
Bent Creek Road — Easy: 1.3 miles in length
Bent Creek Road is the Arboretum’s main corridor shared by pedestrians, pets on leashes and cyclists. Look for many Southern Appalachian wildflowers and ferns.
Bent Creek Trail — Easy: 0.64 miles in length
Bent Creek Trail parallels the road and runs close to Bent Creek, affording pedestrians a shaded path away from cyclist traffic.
Carolina Mountain Trail — Easy to Moderate: 1.2 miles in length
The Carolina Mountain Trail passes through pine, mixed hardwood and ericaceous forest types. A short connector trail runs from a dry stack stone overlook to the Production Greenhouse parking area. Interpretive signs explain insects’ symbiotic relationships with various tree species.
Hard Times Road — Moderate to Difficult: 0.8 miles in length
Hard Times Road connects the Gatehouse Parking Area with Owl Ridge Trail. Off property, the road drops in elevation and connects with Bent Creek Road near Lake Powhatan.
Natural Garden Trail — Easy: 0.75 miles in length
The Natural Garden Trail is gently graded and naturally surfaced. Interpretive signs explain the woodland species. This loop connects the Arboretum’s main visitor facilities, and is overlapped by the Arboretum’s TRACK Trail.
Old Mill Trail — Easy: 0.3 miles in length
This trail winds along Bent Creek and links the Gatehouse Parking Area with Bent Creek Road.
Owl Ridge Trail — Moderate: 0.94 miles in length
The Owl Ridge Trail meanders through a white pine and oak/hickory forest, connecting Hard Times Road to Rocky Cove Road.
Rocky Cove Road — Moderate: 0.5 miles in length
Rocky Cove Road travels through the best example of a Southern Appalachian cove hardwood forest on Arboretum property.
Running Cedar Road — Moderate: 0.5 miles in length
Running Cedar Road allows pedestrian and bicycle access to Bent Creek Road and features dry stack stone walls.
Wesley Branch Trail — Moderate to Difficult: 0.4 miles in length
Wesley Branch Trail links the Natural Garden Trail to Bent Creek Road.
Wolf Branch Road — Easy: 0.3 miles in length
Wolf Branch Road allows easy access to the Carolina Mountain Trail and Bent Creek Road, affording a short, pleasant walk along a cascading stream.

If you need assistance while on the trails, please contact Campus Police at (828) 779-8622.

Property Hours:
April 1 - October 31 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
November 1 - March 31 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Entrance gates close one hour before property closes.
*During the Winter Lights exhibit, the property will close at 5 p.m. Please check website or call for updates on Winter Lights and holiday hours.

Connections Gallery Gift Shop:
April 1 - October 31 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
November 1 - March 31 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Savory Thyme Café (March - October):
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday
Noon - 4 p.m. Sundays
CLOSED Mondays

100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, N.C. 28806
(828) 665-2492 • www.ncarboretum.org

Map for Trails & Gardens