

GARDEN ETIQUETTE

GET INVOLVED

Visitor Guide

Admission:
FREE ADMISSION
Donations are greatly appreciated.

Garden Hours:
South Parking (from Hwy. 51/6th St.)
Open daily dawn to dusk

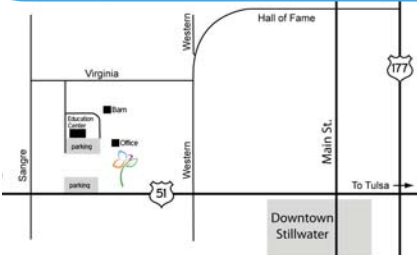
North Parking (from Virginia Ave.)
Open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
and during events.

Open House:
1st and 3rd Saturdays,
March - October, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

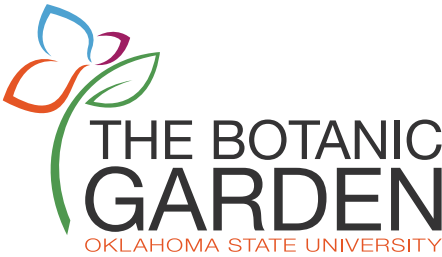
Contact Us:
358 Agricultural Hall, Stillwater, OK 74078
botanicgarden@okstate.edu
(405) 744-5404



Thank You for Visiting!



3300 W. 6th St. • Stillwater, OK
botanicgarden.okstate.edu



discover • explore • learn

VISITOR SERVICES

PROGRAMS

Welcome...

Established as an arboretum in 1935, the gardens and grounds of The Botanic Garden at Oklahoma State University have been primarily designed and built by OSU students, staff, faculty and volunteers. Today the gardens serve as an educational and recreational resource to students, professionals and the public. We invite you to join us on our journey to

discover • explore • learn



Mission

To support interdisciplinary research and provide educational programming and experiences that foster an understanding and appreciation for the flora, fauna and environmental systems comprising the natural and man-made landscape of Oklahoma, thereby inspiring visitors to explore their relationship with the land.

Sustainability

The Botanic Garden is committed to advancing environmental research and education. Our gardens and grounds span natural and built environments, bridging the gap between man and nature. Research and education address resource conservation, sustainable design and environmental stewardship.

- Water Conservation
- Native Plant Communities
- Ecological Design
- Stormwater Management
- Green Building Techniques
- Nutrient Management
- Low Impact Development
- Stream Restoration
- Integrated Pest Management
- Energy Efficiency

Human | LANDSCAPE | Nature

The Botanic Garden is the home of ...



Tune in every week
Saturdays 11 a.m.
Sundays 3:30 p.m.
on OTA stations



Educational Programs: Education is a priority for The Botanic Garden. Adult programs include workshops and demonstrations in gardening, landscape, sustainability and the environment, as well as Master Gardener training. Children enjoy a variety of hands-on programs, story time in the garden and participation in summer camp.

Events: The Botanic Garden hosts two main events each year. In spring, May Day Kids Fest offers learning and fun as we kick off our summer children's program. Every fall, GardenFest features demonstrations, music and garden vendors. In addition, our staff provides a variety of recreation and entertainment opportunities to promote healthy living and celebrate community.

For current events and educational programs visit botanicgarden.okstate.edu or call (405) 744-4531.

Information: Pick up program information and garden brochures at the Horticulture Resource Center. Our friendly garden staff and volunteers are here to assist you and answer your gardening questions.

Tours: Docent-led tours may be scheduled for groups of eight or more. All groups are asked to make arrangements at least two weeks prior to visiting by calling (405) 744-5404. There is no charge for tours; however, contributions to offset program costs are greatly appreciated.

Open Houses: The first and third Saturday, March through October from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The north parking lot and restrooms are open during Open Houses.

Restrooms: Located in the Educational Center, they are available 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and during scheduled events. We apologize for any inconvenience during offer hours and weekend visits to the garden.

Give and Grow Plant Adoption Center: Adopt a plant to take home to your own garden while supporting the collections at The Botanic Garden. Plants are marked with a suggested donation; selections change throughout the year.

Garden Gifts: The Botanic Garden merchandise is available for purchase at the Horticulture Resource Center.

Photography: Professional photographers and videographers must purchase a permit. Please call (405) 744-5404, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for information.

Important Numbers
(405) 744-5404
General Information
(405) 744-5404
Volunteer Coordinator
(405) 744-4531
Tour Scheduling
(405) 744-5404
Events and Education
(405) 744-4531

- Please stay on the path and respect the gardens. This is a teaching, extension and research facility.
- Do not take plant samples from the gardens. Pets are not allowed, except service animals.
- Please supervise your children at all times for their safety and for the welfare of our plants and displays.
- Please refrain from standing or sitting children on the rocks around the water garden or climbing upright rocks throughout the gardens.
- Please use the trash and blue recycling receptacles.
- Bicycling, skating, skateboarding and rollerblading are not allowed.
- Smoking is prohibited. OSU is a smoke free environment.
- Photographs are welcomed, but please do not move benches or labels, stage subjects in trees or plantings, or block pathways with equipment. Professional photographers require a permit.
- Firearms prohibited.

*Thank you for your understanding
and cooperation.
We hope you enjoy exploring
The Botanic Garden at OSU.*

A. Arboretum

Collections represent trees and shrubs available from nurseries in the United States, emphasizing species suitable for, but underutilized in the home landscape.

B. Turfgrass Research

One of the premiere turfgrass research facilities in the nation, the Turfgrass Research Center includes a multi-disciplinary team studying improved turf varieties, nutrient and water management and insect and disease control. *No public access - please respect the research in this area.*

C. Educational Center

Indoor facilities are used for academic classes, extension and outreach workshops and youth programs. The kitchen area serves as the indoor studio for producing cooking segments for *Oklahoma Gardening*.



D. Cow Creek Restoration

Like many waterways in Oklahoma, Cow Creek was suffering from extreme erosion and streambank failure. Several techniques have been implemented to stabilize the streambanks, improve water quality, reduce potential for down-stream flooding and provide habitat for aquatic organisms. Interpretive signs guide visitors through the site.

E. Cow Creek Wetlands

Wetlands are often described as "nature's kidneys," providing filtration of stormwater flowing through the wetland. The wetland at this site receives runoff water from the OSU Agronomy farm before being released into Cow Creek. Within the wetland, plants, soils and microorganisms aid in water quality improvement. The wetland also provides habitat for native fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals.

F. Trial Gardens

The bedding plant trial gardens allow visitors to become acquainted with up-and-coming plant cultivars and see for themselves how these plants perform in Oklahoma. Monthly evaluations are made to rate overall plant performance. Information from this year's trial as well as past year evaluations can be viewed on our website.

G. Studio Gardens

A series of themed garden beds and demonstration areas serve as the outdoor production studio for *Oklahoma Gardening*. A wide variety of garden styles showcase an ever-changing collection of plants suitable for Oklahoma gardens. See the detailed inset map for individual bed descriptions.

H. Prairie Restoration and Trail

Prairies once defined much of Oklahoma's landscape. The rehabilitated native vegetation along the prairie walking trail provides visitors the opportunity to experience two distinct plant communities: tallgrass and shortgrass prairies. The trail meanders in and out of the forest edge habitat to the east where wildlife is abundant.

I. The Outcrop

This outdoor gathering space is composed of nine native sandstone slabs that bisect the pedestrian trail beneath the shady pin oak canopy. The outcrop is designed to serve as a formal outdoor classroom or a casual place for a small group to relax.

J. Cow Creek Overlook

A prime location for bird-watching, the overlook allows a view into the creek bed below. Notice water pooling up even when other sections of the creek are dry. Underwater structures in the streambed channel water away from unstable banks and augment the formation of pools that improve aquatic habitat.

K. Stormwater Management

The south garden entrance showcases two common applications to manage stormwater: bioretention and pervious paving. Both techniques are used in home landscapes as well as commercial or community settings to reduce runoff and improve water quality in our streams and rivers.



Horticulture Resource Center and Garden Offices

An information and resource center housing offices for the garden manager and volunteer coordinator. It is also stocked with information about The Botanic Garden's demonstrations, gardens and programs.

1. Give and Grow Plant Adoption Center

Visitors can take home their favorite plants while supporting The Botanic Garden's collections. While you are picking out plants, be sure to admire the beautiful arbor built by the Landscape Construction class.

2. Oklahoma Proven

Oklahoma is a tough place to garden. The plants in this bed are all selections from the Oklahoma Proven program which promotes well-adapted plants for use across the state.

3. Native Splendor

Oklahoma has a magnificent diversity of native plants, many of which look right at home in the landscape. In the bridge garden, native annuals and perennials add color and texture, while grasses wave in the wind. Native shrubs add year-round beauty and sprawling vines conquer heights and soften the hard lines of the bridge.

4. Graceful Grasses

This garden celebrates the diversity of grasses and grass-like plants, bringing a vast selection together in one striking display. Grasses grace a landscape with movement and texture. With the wide variety of forms and sizes available, grasses can fit any landscape.

5. Sunny Border

In design terms a border is a long planting bed placed along the property boundary. It often includes a backdrop and is viewed from only one side. This border garden incorporates unique tree and shrub selections along with herbaceous plants providing year-long color.

6. Quad Gardens

This series of four symmetrical garden beds is set in a formal radial pattern around a central opening. Diagonal cross axes allow visitors close viewing of the themed plant materials in each bed.

7. Patio Garden

What can make a small space spectacular? Bold forms, waves of color and high contrast! Simple design techniques and the use of vertical space add depth and dimension to these small garden beds.

8. Japanese Garden

Designed to inspire a sense of tranquility and harmony with nature, these gardens represent a natural scene on a very small scale. A gravel ocean surrounds islands with mountains of shrubs and a narrow walking path. Outside the western gate is a Zen garden perfect for meditation and contemplation.

9. Shade Perennial Walk

A flagstone path winds beneath the canopy of trees among a diverse collection of shrubs, perennials and understory trees. Exciting foliage colors and textures add interest to the gardens, while bursts of blossoms brighten dark corners throughout the season.

10. Buffalograss Lawn

This lawn generated so much interest it has earned a listing among the ornamental gardens. Buffalograss is a native turf species renowned for its heat and drought tolerance. When cared for properly, it forms a lush, soft carpet.

11. Edible

Ornamental Gardens

Beauty and utility combine to create a colorful, ornamental garden abounding with edibles. Begin by substituting fruit trees and shrubs for ornamental varieties, and fill in with edible flowers, herbs and vegetable crops. Tomatoes no longer need to be hidden in the backyard!

12. Historic Fences

Each fence panel represents an historic design specific to a New England neighborhood. From north to south these are: Old Bethpage Village (Bethpage, NY), Old Sturbridge Village (Sturbridge, MA), Hancock Shaker Village (Hancock, MA) and Colonial Williamsburg (Williamsburg, VA).

13. The GREEN Cottage

Resembling a residential home, the cottage employs alternative energy and resource conservation techniques applicable to the home landscape. Rainwater is harvested and re-used for irrigation. Interpretive signs guide visitors through the demonstration.

14. Xeriscape Garden

Xeriscape refers to creative landscaping practices that save water through careful plant selection, informed design decisions, efficient irrigation, use of mulches and proper maintenance.

15. The Sensory Garden

This fully accessible "garden for everyone" excites the five senses through fragrant foliage, interesting textures, colorful blossoms and interactive elements. The walls of the garden are designed at varying heights to allow access from wheelchairs, create seating and bring gardens closer to the viewer.

16. Wildscape Corridor

Gardeners can attract colorful birds, butterflies and other wildlife by providing the simple necessities: food, water and shelter. Trees and shrubs provide shelter, nesting sites and berries, while flowering plants provide nectar and seeds. Grasses offer a dense shelter at ground level.

17. Water Garden

Relax to the soothing sound of water cascading into the koi pond. Water gardens expand the possibilities of a landscape by supporting a greater variety of plant material, inviting a diversity of life into the gardens.

18. Herb Garden

A series of raised beds encircle a sundial accentuated by a bed of creeping thyme. Each garden contains an array of herbs used for various purposes: culinary, medicinal, aromatic, craft, dyes and infusions.

19. Butterfly Garden

An extension of the Wildscape Corridor, this garden supports an abundance of butterflies with nectar-rich plant material, larval host plants and plenty of sunshine.

20. Hosta Walk

A stepping stone path winds through the deep shade alongside our hosta collection. Supporting plant material includes viburnums, sumac, hellebore and other species tolerant of juglone, a chemical produced in the roots of the overhanging walnut tree.

21. Children's Garden

Designed to stimulate the child's imagination, this garden offers an opportunity for kids to explore the natural world. Structural elements bring many plants up to eye level. Look for plants with animal names throughout the beds.

22. Rock Garden

Designed to simulate an alpine scene, rock gardens excel at managing steep slopes while beautifying the landscape. This style originated in 18th century England and has been adapted to fit our Oklahoma climate.

23. Vegetable Garden

These gardens are managed organically with large sections under a no-till gardening system to protect soils. Integrated pest management practices are employed to combat insect and disease problems.

24. Japanese Tea Ceremony Garden

Designed and built by members of the Landscape Gardeners Cooperative of Kameoka, Japan, this garden is representative of a traditional tea garden originating in the 13th century. The granite water basin (tsukubai) was brought from Japan along with the stone lantern (tōrō).

25. Chicken Moat

Chickens can be integrated into the garden to provide eggs, manage insects and produce nutrient-rich litter. This pen is designed with a central moat where vegetables are raised. The chickens are released into the center periodically to manage insects and weeds.

26. Terrace Gardens

Terracing is an ancient technique used to cultivate sloped land by creating a series of flat platforms. Functionally, terraces stabilize soil; aesthetically, they create dramatic gardens that stair-step up a slope or hillside. These beds showcase sun-loving perennials of every form and size.

27. Orchard

Fruiting trees and shrubs can be grown in a garden of any size. This garden includes traditional orchard plantings, a space-saving high-density tree planting, trellised berries and raised beds filled with common and less familiar fruits.

28. The Side Yard

This long, narrow bed features a cottage style planting design originating from small family vegetable and herb gardens during the English Tudor period. The cottage garden is lush, colorful and whimsical and features a diversity of self-seeding annual flowers, as well as perennial herbs, flowers, vegetables and vines for an explosion of color!

29. Outdoor Classroom

A great place to gather for learning and fun, the outdoor classroom was built by students in the Landscape Construction class. Evergreen shrubs enclose the space and create a private garden room.

30. Native Shrub Walk

Oklahoma is home to an abundant amount of native plant material. During a walk, one will find a variety of native species as well as commercially selected cultivars. A changing tapestry awaits the visitor through changing foliage, flowers and fruit throughout the seasons.

