Display Gardens

Allen Education Center
- Auditorium
- Visitor Information & Exhibits
  - Garden Shop
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  - Classrooms

Gardens
1. Entrance Garden
2. Children’s Wonder Garden
3. Courtyard Gardens
4. Piedmont Habitat
5. Sandhills Habitat
6. Coastal Plain Habitat
7. Mountain Habitat
8. Perennial Circle
9. Water Gardens
10. Carnivorous Plant Collection
11. Plant Family Garden
12. Totten Oak Garden
13. Herb Garden
14. Poisonous Plants Garden
15. Native American Garden

Landmarks
A. Bird Blind
B. Cattail Gate
C. Turtle Pond
D. Salamander Pool
E. Storytellers’ Chair
F. Paul Green Cabin
G. Rare Plant Chess Set
H. Gathering Circle
I. Herb House
J. Rose Arbor
K. Gazebo

HOW TO READ A PLANT LABEL

1. **Piedmont Habitat** – Discover wildflower and grass species native to the southeastern Piedmont as you walk along the gently curving path. This collection displays natural plant communities of rural roadsides, meadows, and other sunny locales, as well as more contrived horticultural scenes, complete with vintage agricultural implements. The iconic Cattail Gate will lead you deeper into the Garden.

2. **Sandhills Habitat** – Experience the rolling sandhills of eastern North Carolina and see if you can spot our state tree, the longleaf pine, which boasts the longest needle leaves of any eastern pine – up to 18 inches long! Each year, Garden staff conduct prescribed burns to stimulate the natural fires that are characteristic of and required by longleaf-wiregrass ecosystems.

3. **Coastal Plain Habitat** – Cross the bridge over Turtle Pond and meander along the boardwalk into the open savannas and tangled pocosins typical of the southeastern coastal plain. In our bald cypress grove, you will find the seasonally wet Salamander Pool, which is a breeding ground for local amphibians like the spotted salamander and upland chorus frog.

4. **Mountain Habitat** – Venture into the mountains where rich soil supports the growth of tall trees. In their shade, you will encounter native ferns and an understory of flowering shrubs like azaleas and rhododendrons. Every spring, trilliums and other early wildflowers herald the change of season. While here, relax in the Storyteller’s Chair or step into the Paul Green Cabin, the writing retreat of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Green.

5. **Perennial Circle** – Each month provides a different display of our showiest native perennials and woody plants. In summer, this garden space is a riot of changing color alive with pollinators, human visitors, and even wedding ceremonies. Winter interest is in discovering the architecture of stems and seeds left for their beauty and as habitat for birds and insects.

6. **Water Gardens** – The elegant and fascinating aquatic plants found in these raised beds are all native plants that were used for medicine, ceremonies, and everyday living by Native Americans of the southeastern United States. A feature of some of the plants are often limited to a particular plant part, such as the fruit or leaves, and their harmful effects are based on the type of exposure (touched, eaten, or inhaled). Some poisonous plants even have medicinal uses. Stroll this garden to learn more about plant chemistry.

7. **Carnivorous Plant Collection** – Venture into the mountains where rich soil supports the growth of tall trees. In their shade, you will encounter native ferns and an understory of flowering shrubs like azaleas and rhododendrons. Every spring, trilliums and other early wildflowers herald the change of season. While here, relax in the Storyteller’s Chair or step into the Paul Green Cabin, the writing retreat of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Paul Green.

8. **Totten Oak Garden** – This display features a variety of native plants that do well in low-maintenance situations. Drought-tolerant plants, ferns that do well in sunny locations, evergreen groundcovers, and flowering perennials that require little attention are alternatives to the modern grass lawn. Visit our giant Rare Plant Chess Set and take it all in from the Ken Moore Gathering Circle.

9. **Herb Garden** – Explore 500 species, cultivars, and varieties of plants grouped according to their culinary, medicinal, and economic or industrial significance. The Herb Garden also features a national collection of rosemary cultivars, a wooden cottage known as the Herb House, and a Rose Arbor.

10. **Poisonous Plants Garden** – Plants can’t move to escape browsers, and many have evolved toxic chemical compounds to defend themselves. Toxins are often limited to a particular plant part, such as the fruit or leaves, and their harmful effects are based on the type of exposure (touched, eaten, or inhaled). Some poisonous plants even have medicinal uses. Stroll this garden to learn more about plant chemistry.

11. **Native American Garden** – Learn about plants that were used for medicine, ceremonies, and everyday living by Native Americans of the southeastern US. You can also experience an ATi, a replica of an Occoneechee hut, and pause to enjoy the soothing sounds of the stream.