

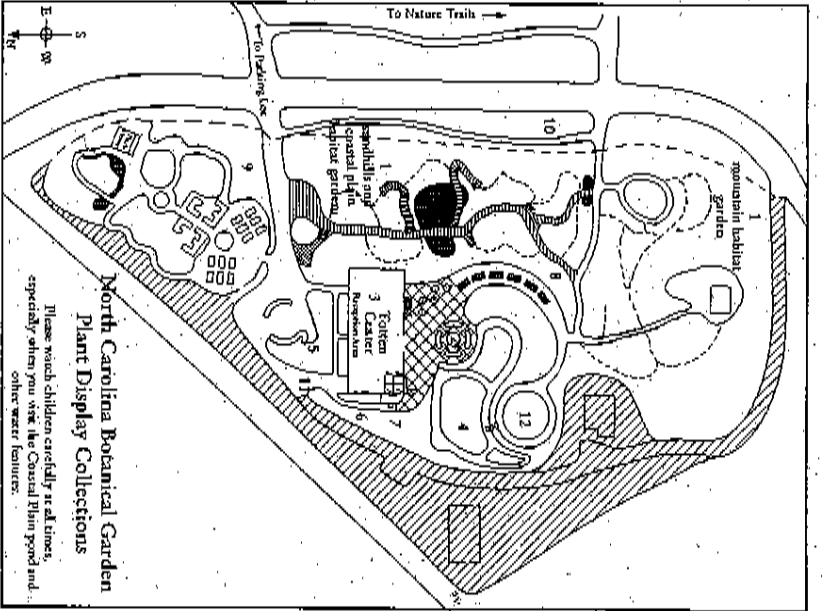
**Ecological Sustainability**

NCBG strives for sustainable practices in everyday activities and in all new construction. The Visitor Education Center (construction beginning in 2007) was designed as the first LEED Platinum rated building in North Carolina. Our recycling, pre-cycling, and composting programs are extensive. For more information on sustainable practices at NCBG, please refer to our website.



The above-discussed eight themes represent a portion of the North Carolina Botanical Garden's efforts to participate in and promote the conservation of biological diversity. We recognize that many conflicts face those seeking a more sustainable lifestyle: we too struggle with these same conflicts. But we hope to demonstrate, through a more intimate understanding of nature and a greater appreciation of natural processes, that there is value in all life and that humans are but one component.

*We hope you enjoy your visit to our conservation garden! Ask for brochures about our other properties—Battle Park, Coker Arboretum, and Masson Farm Biological Reserve—in our reception area. You may also inquire there*



*about educational programs, tours, and public service hours. Please consider supporting us through membership in and donations to our nonprofit support organization, the Botanical Garden Foundation.*

<http://ncbgunc.edu>

Illustrations by Doe Wilber-Brooker & Sandra Brooker-Matthews  
July 2007

**Additional Demonstration Areas and Interpretive Stations**

There are a number of demonstration areas and interpretive stations within the display gardens that describe specific conservation activities. Please refer to the map at left and to the signs posted among the plant displays for locations of these areas.

- 1 **Natural Habitat Gardens**  
Sandhills, Coastal Plain, and Mountains
- 2 **Carnivorous Plant Collection**
- 3 **Seed Program**  
Information available in reception area
- 4 **Beneficial insect habitat creation and preservation**
- 5 **Ecological landscape design**
- 6 **Composting**
- 7 **Recycling**
- 8 **Environmentally friendly gardening**
- 9 **Mercer Reeves Hubbard Herb Garden**
- 10 **Wildflower border**
- 11 **Rare plant chess set**
- 12 **Native Perennial and Rare Plant Border**

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**A Conservation Garden**



**NORTH CAROLINA BOTANICAL GARDEN**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

# A botanical

garden may appear to be only a venue for the display of plant collections. However, we hope that our conservation garden proclamation will encourage visitors to discover that botanical gardens in general—and ours in particular—are much more.

In addition to featuring plant collections, the North Carolina Botanical Garden (NCBG) emphasizes education, research, instruction, public service, and conservation. The conservation objective, however, runs through each and every element of our mission:

*To inspire understanding, appreciation, and conservation of plants in gardens and natural areas and to advance a sustainable relationship between people and nature.*



The above mission statement is deceptively comprehensive. This brochure should help you to discover many of the ways that we strive to be a conservation garden.

Sustainability has been defined as...  
 "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

—World Commission of Environment and Development

## Founding and Ongoing Conservation Efforts

### Conservation through Propagation

Over 35 years ago, NCBG introduced the concept of conservation through propagation. At that time, wild-collecting of native plants was standard procedure for many botanical gardens and the native plant industry. NCBG forced a reevaluation of this practice by promoting the propagation of plants from seed and cuttings rather than wild collecting. This tradition continues with the aid of our Plant Propagation Volunteers. NCBG-propagated plants are available for purchase daily, April through October, and at our annual "Fall is for Planting" plant sale. Native plant seeds are available year-round in our gift shop.

### Plant Rescue

NCBG also pioneered the practice of plant rescue. Garden staff, in countless forays, engaged the help of volunteers, schoolchildren, and other to help save plants in imminent peril from development. Many areas of the Garden contain species from plant rescue efforts. We believe, however, that land conservation is the best way to save plants.

### Center for Plant Conservation and Rare Plant Research

In 1984, the Garden was a founding Participating Institution of the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC), the only national organization dedicated solely to preserving *ex situ* (off site) the germplasm (seeds/whole plants) of the nation's most imperiled plants. This preserved germplasm is known as the National Collection of Endangered Species. As part of CPC, we collect and hold

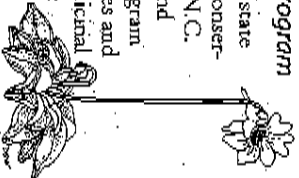
germplasm of species from the southeastern United States. A number of these species can be found growing in the Native Perennial and Rare Plant Border (#12 on map). In addition, NCBG is engaged in monitoring of rare plant populations and conducts reintroduction experiments for rare species. We also serve as an important seed bank for the more common plants native to our region.

### Wildflower of the Year

Since 1982, in cooperation with the Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., NCBG has promoted an annual native *Wildflower of the Year* (WFOY). Each year, staff distribute thousands of educational brochures with WFOY seed packets attached (available in our reception area). In an effort to reduce the chance of our southeastern natives causing biological pollution outside of their natural range, our seed distribution policy restricts mailings of seeds to the southeastern United States.

### N. C. Plant Conservation Program

The Garden helped write the state law that founded the Plant Conservation Program (PCP) of the N. C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. This program helps protect rare plant species and monitors wild-harvested medicinal plants such as ginseng (*Panax ginseng/ohiensis*) and goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*).



"Designing for sustainability requires awareness of the full short- and long-term consequences of any transformation of the environment. Sustainable design is the conception and realization of ecologically, economically and ethically responsible expression as a part of the evolving matrix of nature."

—William McDonough  
 The Hannover Principles of Design for Sustainability

### Invasive Exotic Plants

NCBG was the first botanical garden in the country—and one of the first in the world—to adopt an exotic plant holdings policy. This policy and our seed distribution policy seek to prevent the spread of invasive exotic species into natural areas—one of the most serious threats to worldwide biodiversity. (Please see our website for more on these policies.) NCBG also led in the establishment of the North Carolina Chapter of the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council. And our *Chapel Hill Thesis* challenges other botanical gardens to consider plant collections ethics. (As you walk the Garden, look for a *Paulownia* post on which this *Thesis*, in the spirit of Martin Luther, is nailed!)

### Conservation Lands

The Garden protects nearly 900 acres of conservation land and holds conservation easements on an additional 130 acres. The Orange County "Inventory of Natural Areas & Wildlife Habitats" (2005) recognized several NCBG properties as possessing some of the greatest ecological significance in the region. Many of these lands are exceptional natural areas that support unique plant communities, old-growth forests, and champion big trees. Barle Park and the Piedmont Nature Trails are the most easily accessed Garden natural areas with miles of trails through nearly 200 woodland acres.