Welcome to the UC Davis Arboretum!

The Arboretum is home to over 20 different gardens featuring plants from California and places with similar summer-dry climates across the globe, including Australia, South Africa and the Mediterranean region. Some are demonstration gardens where visitors can learn about best practices in sustainable horticulture, and others feature world-class scientific collections of a single plant group, such as the Peter J. Shields Oak Grove.

The main path around the Arboretum Waterway is 3.5 miles, but there is so much to see here that we have suggested three walking tours. Each loop is approximately 1 mile and will introduce you to the work we do to inspire human potential to help people and environments thrive. The average visit per loop is 45 minutes on foot.

Environmental GATEway Loop

Discover the diversity of habitats in the Arboretum and gather ideas for your home landscape in our valley-wise demonstration gardens.

Arboretum GATEway Loop

Enjoy our newly-renovated Arboretum Waterway and explore native plant gardens that celebrate our local natural and cultural heritage.

UC Davis GATEway Loop

Explore the diverse academic work of UC Davis in our GATEway gardens. These landscapes were co-created with faculty and students in multiple campus departments.
Welcome to the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden!

As the map below indicates, the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden spans the campus’s 5300-plus acres and includes the historic Arboretum—a 100-plus acre living museum comprised of demonstration gardens and scientific collections—as well as the Putah Creek Riparian Reserve—a rare stream and grassland ecosystem managed for teaching, research, wildlife and habitat protection.

Our gardens and outdoor exhibits are free and open to the public every day of the year. As you wander the Arboretum (see map on reverse), keep in mind that each location has a story—hundreds of community volunteers and nearly 100 student interns are involved in every aspect of the creation, care and maintenance of our space. You can find students participating in our innovative Learning by Leading™ program converting lawn to sustainable landscapes, testing water quality, running education events and more.

What makes this place different?
- We inspire human potential to help people and environments thrive!
- We engage the public and showcase the academic richness of UC Davis through our landscapes.
- We collaborate with environmental agencies, faculty and scientists locally and internationally on research and teaching.
- We demonstrate and share best practices in sustainable horticulture with the public.

Get Involved

Become a member
Join the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, the organization that has supported us since 1971. Membership benefits vary and can include plant sale discounts and free entry at museums nationwide. Learn more and become a member at arboretum.ucdavis.edu/member.

Join a volunteer team
The Arboretum and Public Garden would not be the destination it is today without the support of our volunteers who donate more than 15,000 hours of service each year. Join a gardening team, staff a plant sale, assist with education events, or mentor students. Go to arboretum.ucdavis.edu/volunteer for more information.

Like the plants? Take them home!
Several times each year, the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden invite the public to shop our plant sale fundraisers for an incredible selection of the same attractive, low-water, easy-care, regionally appropriate plants you find in our gardens. Visit arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant-sales to learn more.

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Support your passion
Share your dedication to the environment by becoming a donor. Your donation becomes a lasting gift to the entire community and ensures that the Arboretum and Public Garden continues to thrive as an exceptional place of beauty, learning and environmental stewardship. Go to arboretum.ucdavis.edu/support to learn more.

Lead the way
UC Davis students, visit arboretum.ucdavis.edu/learning-by-leading to find out more about our Learning by Leading™ program and view recruitment schedules. We offer environmental stewardship and education internships.

More Information
(530) 752-4880
arboretum.ucdavis.edu