

Welcome to the Colorado Plateau. Our gardens are nestled inside the largest unbroken stand of Ponderosa Pine in the world. You're at 7,150 feet elevation, and about to walk through gardens that feature over 750 species of plants native to the high elevation ecosystems of the Southwest. Our mission is to increase the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of these plants.

This beautiful 200-acre property was once the home of our founder Frances McAllister. Today, the grounds consist of historic buildings, gardens, greenhouses, and woodland trails that are family and pet friendly.

Also visit us at:
thearb.org



KEY

- Visitor Center & Gift Shop
- Restroom
- Water Station
- Picnic Area
- Kid's Play Area
- Parking Lot
- Stage
- Ramada
- Retail Nursery



Please Return Map to
Visitor Center

1 Entrance Garden

This garden showcases plants that thrive in different conditions of home landscapes. Many of the species are native to Northern Arizona.

2 Walter Reichardt Courtyard Garden

Established in 1987, this garden illustrates landscape design that uses natural hardscape materials with native and adapted plants to create a tranquil setting.

3 Frances McAllister Garden

This portion of the Courtyard Garden is dedicated to the Arboretum's founder, Frances McAllister. Many of the planting were made by Frances when she lived on the property from the 1960's to the 1980's.

4 Caretaker's Cottage

This cottage was the home of the caretaker in the days when the property was a working ranch. Today, the home is a private residence.

5 Woodlands and Seasonal Mushroom Garden

This garden highlights tree species that grow in the upper elevations of the Colorado Plateau. Many species of mushrooms seasonally appear with monsoonal rains.

6 Willow Pond

This pond is a former livestock tank from the days when the property was a working ranch. It has since been widened and replanted to provide riparian habitat for wildlife.

7 Rare Species Refugia

This area displays rare and endangered species of the Colorado Plateau the Arboretum works to conserve. Due to the rarity of these plants, this garden is likely the only place the general public can see these species growing.

8 Constructed Wetlands

This feature was built as an ecological alternative to sewage treatment facilities. Micro-organisms in the plant's roots break down contaminants as the water filters through the shallow ponds constructed with gravel.

9 Karen Haskins Herb Garden

The herbs in this garden include species with medicinal, culinary, and ornamental value. This garden was installed as Frances McAllister's kitchen garden, and was dedicated in 2016 to Karen Haskins, a longtime Arboretum docent.

10 Retail Nursery

Plants in this greenhouse are grown by the Arboretum and are for sale to the public. Please take your purchases to the gift shop.

11 Produce Garden and Seed Increase Beds

This garden demonstrates the techniques, crop varieties, and composting systems used to grow food in high-elevation gardens. Additional beds are used to grow native plants for seed conservation purposes.

12 Native Wildflower Meadow

Largely uncultivated, this area contains many of the native grasses and wildflowers that can be found in the meadow beyond our property.

13 Turf Demonstration Garden

This area highlights low-maintenance native grass species for home lawns that require less water and fertilizer than non-native species.

14 The Horticulture Center

This building features a passive solar heating system used to grow seedlings for our grounds, conservation, restoration, and nursery programs. When these seedlings are ready, they will be moved to the Research Greenhouse to continue growing.

15 Colorado Plateau Garden

This garden displays plants that are both attractive in home landscapes and adapted to our region's intense sun, high winds, and soil conditions. Many of the plant species are native to the Colorado Plateau.

16 The Arboretum Compost Site

These piles consist of materials from our gardens and greenhouses that would otherwise end up in the landfill. The finished compost is used to improve the soil throughout our grounds.

17 Aspen Grove

Aspen trees create groves through sprouts from their root systems. In the fall, their leaves turn a golden-yellow color.

18 Wetlands Trail and Willow Wash

This area is a restored riparian habitat containing an ephemeral stream and wetland. Visitors can experience a variety of wildlife that frequent the area.

19 Historic Log Cabin

The log cabin was built by our founder Frances McAllister and her husband in the 1930's as a summer retreat from Los Angeles. Originally located along Route 66, the cabin was moved to the Arboretum in the 1990's. Today, the home is a private residence.

20 The Peaks Photo Frame

Take a memorable photo with the iconic San Francisco Peaks as a backdrop.

21 Solar Panels

Originally constructed to test different kinds of solar technology, these panels continue to absorb the sun's rays to produce electricity for our Horticultural Center.

22 Livestock Tank and Chute Viewpoint

Tanks like these were made by early ranches to hold water for livestock. They are constructed by mounding earth along waterways. Today, this tank provides water to wildlife including elk and pronghorn. The wooden chute was once used for loading livestock in the days when the property was a working ranch.

23 NOAA Weather Station

The Arboretum collects data for the National Weather Service using this station. We record precipitation and temperatures throughout the year.

24 NAU Research Plots

This area is used by Northern Arizona University to conduct research projects related to the ecological and evolutionary sciences.

25 Research Greenhouse

This working greenhouse showcases plant propagation in action. These plants are being grown for our conservation, restoration, and nursery programs.

26 Inner and Outer Loop Trails

These trails provide a scenic walk through the ponderosa forest and meadows that are characteristic of the Colorado Plateau. Interpretive signage and photo ops occur throughout the trails. The Inner Loop Trail is 0.6 miles, the Outer Loop Trail is 1.2 miles. **Inner and Outer Loop Trails are shown not to scale.**

27 Firewise Kiosk

This kiosk presents information about the role fire plays in forest ecosystems and the need for proper fire management in the future.

28 Event Tent

This tent is used for wedding rentals and special events at the Arboretum.

29 Outdoor Art Exhibition

This space changes each year with local artists' works that creatively combine the themes of plants, ecology and conservation. Enjoy the view of the San Francisco Peaks as you observe the exhibition.

30 Lathe House

The lathe house is used to acclimate plants after being started in the the Horticulture Center. During our plant sales, the area is filled with plants grown by the Arboretum.

31 Pollinator Garden

Constructed in the shape of a butterfly, this garden displays plants that attract pollinators by producing nectar and pollen and/or serve as larval food plants.

32 Shade Garden

The Shade Garden demonstrates native and adapted plants which grow in cool, deep shade to dappled sunlight, require low-moderate water and provide interest with their flowers and foliage.

33 Water Conservation Garden

This garden showcases how home gardeners can create rockeries of drought-tolerant plants that thrive in different microclimates.