

A Guide to the Gardens

BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN

1. Barbara Euston Visitor Center and Shop

Start and end your visit here. Purchase your admission tickets and browse the Shop. We have a great assortment of garden tools, books, gifts and accessories, BBG Herb Associate products, and refreshments on offer.

2. The Tree of Forty Fruit

Created through the process of grafting over several years, this single tree, when completed, will grow up to 40 different varieties of heirloom and rare stone fruit such as apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches, and plums. *Design and grafting by Sam Van Aken, 2018-present.*

3. Carol Tatkon Entry Garden

A mixed border garden of spring bulbs, annuals, and perennials that provide a riot of color in summer. Shrubs and trees add year-round structure and interest. *Designed by Cudnohufsky Associates, 2002.*

4. Ash-on-the-Rock

Long ago, a tiny green ash seed germinated in a crack in this boulder. Amazingly, its roots were able to find sufficient nutrients and water to grow into a mature shade tree. The destructive emerald ash borer, now firmly established in this area, could become a challenge for the tree, so we are closely monitoring its health.

5. Children's Discovery Garden

A special place for children of all ages to get their hands dirty and wet while exercising their imaginations and learning about food crops and flowers. A colorful playhouse structure was designed by local artist Allen Timmons.

6. Rain Garden

This garden is a vegetated buffer, a "living filter" through which sediment carried by surface water runoff from our parking lot is removed. The captured water slowly percolates through the soil into the ground water. We have planted shrubs that don't mind "wet feet" and provide a healthy habitat and food for many birds. *Designed by Craig Okerstrom-Lang and Dorthe Hviid, 2002.*

7. Fitzpatrick Conservatory

This historic curved glass conservatory is home to a containerized collection of succulents and tropical plants and is open to the public year-round. Our annual Bulb Show fills the house with blooms in March.

8. Edible Gardens

The raised beds in these two plots are laid out in tidy grids, each highlighting one type of vegetable or fruit. Raised beds can be planted earlier in spring as their soil warms up faster than lower ground. This is a benefit in our short growing season. *Designed by Jack Staub, 2009.*

9. Native Border

Our collection of native North American plants demonstrates the effective use of such shrubs and ground covers for a home garden setting. Native plants can often provide better food sources for native insects and birds while still offering ornamental value.

10. Education Center

Originally constructed in 1973, with a classroom addition added in 2011 through the generous support of the Lenox Garden Club, this building hosts many of the Garden's year-round education programs, community groups and BBG fundraising events.

11. Mother Earth Lodge

The heart of BBG's popular Farm in the Garden Camp, the Lodge was assembled using old world post-and-beam construction and many notable innovative engineering and design elements, including gorgeous, painstakingly engineered and arranged trusses. It opened in 2023, on Roy Boutard Day. *Built by Adam Miller, Scott Brockway and A.J. Schnopp Jr., Construction Inc.*

12. Children's Vegetable Garden

Many children get their first taste of vegetable gardening here while attending The Farm in the Garden Camp, which takes over our grounds each July and August. Explore this hidden garden to see what's growing in these raised beds.

13. Forest Walk

Shrubs, wildflowers and ferns thrive beneath a canopy of mixed hardwood and conifer trees. A small vernal pond provides seasonal habitat for wetland plants and animals. Migratory songbirds abound each May.

14. The Williams Family Amphitheater

Providing a charming and mysterious outdoor event space for children's programming, performances, presentations, and weddings, the Amphitheater was created out of locally quarried marble salvaged from an old stone wall. *Built by Ingersoll Land Care, 2023.*

15. Lexan Greenhouse

Thousands of annuals and vegetable plants are grown here each year from seeds, cuttings and plugs for our display gardens and plant sales. Take a look inside and see what we have growing.

16. Passive Solar Greenhouse

This unique structure demonstrates how solar energy can be harnessed to provide heat even in the coldest Berkshire winters. Built into a hillside, the greenhouse is insulated from arctic winds on the north side. Inside, water in rows of black plastic barrels is heated by the sun during the day, and heat is slowly released at night, keeping the greenhouse warm enough to overwinter plants hardy to 32 degrees Fahrenheit. No other heat source is needed.

17. Center House Entry Garden

Designed by a team of landscape architecture students from the University of Tennessee, this garden has a contemporary sensibility. The plant selection and naturalistic layout framing a fountain and fire feature evoke a feeling of serenity and simplicity. It is a favorite stop for many visitors.

18. Vista Garden

This garden room offers four-season interest with spring bulbs, spring and summer flowering shrubs, and trees with spectacular fall color, all interplanted with evergreens that look great even in winter. *Designed by Cudnohufsky Associates and Dorthe Hviid, 1997.*

19. de Gersdorff Perennial Border

Sun-loving herbaceous perennials and ornamental grasses stand in large drifts against a backdrop of flowering shrubs and trees. The colors keep changing all summer long. *Designed by Lyle L. Blundell, 1954.*

20. Frelinghuysen Shade Border

This border of shade-tolerant perennials is backed by flowering shrubs and shade trees. Many of the perennials provide ornamental value primarily through their foliage. *Designed by Edith Edelman and Douglas Ruhren, 1999.*

21. Daylily Walk

An American Daylily Society Display Garden featuring more than 200 historic and modern cultivars from 120 years of hybridizing. The daylilies are organized chronologically by date of introduction and put on a great show in July and August. *Designed by Dorthe Hviid, 2003.*

22. Arboretum/Pinetum

This area of the Garden features a diverse selection of native and exotic trees including American beech, copper beech, honey locust, little-leaf linden, Ohio buckeye, downy hawthorn, and yellowwood.

23. Foster Rock Garden

This large stone outcropping is home to plants adapted to the high winds, poor soils, harsh winters, and sparse rainfall of mountain habitats around the world.

24. Woodland Garden

Redesigned and expanded in 2023, this shady haven is perfectly suited for our collection of native and non-native herbaceous perennials, including hardy Hosta cultivars, wildflowers and other woodland plants, all framed by a backdrop of ferns. The moist soil make for a happy home for primroses that form a patchwork of color in early- to mid-spring.

25. Pond Garden

This woodland water garden with a trickling waterfall showcases plants that thrive in moist conditions. The garden features native plants with bulbs and spring flowers stealing the show in May. *Designed by Anthony Archer-Wills, 2010.*

26. Lucy's Garden

Our topiary collection showcases the horticultural practice of clipping plants into specific shapes. These living sculptures were created from boxwood, yew and arborvitae and represent animals as well as inanimate objects. A gazebo provides a shady spot. We expanded the hedge in 2023 with several hundred European Hornbeams, planted in the fashion of a labyrinth to elevate the sense of whimsy and to link Lucy's Garden with the expanded Woodland Garden (see 24). *Designed by Matthew Larkin, 2018.*

27. Rose Garden

Our rose garden contains hundreds of shrub roses in an informal setting anchored by a stone mill wheel. In collaboration with David Austin Roses, BBG has trialed a beautiful assortment of new English roses known for their color, perfume and ability to repeat bloom even after their first spectacular show in June. *Designed by Michael Marriott, 2011. Stonework by Mark Mendel.*

28. New Wave Garden

Embracing ecological principles that were popularized by Piet Oudolf and other European designers, this low-maintenance garden contains plants well adapted to its site and soil conditions. Despite its lush growth, the garden requires little weeding and no watering. The vigorous plants form dense plant communities, often self-seeding and spreading naturally. Our horticulturists leave the spent foliage standing all winter. With snow and frost, this creates beautiful scenes and provides food and shelter for wildlife. In early spring, the garden is cut back before new growth starts.

29. Herb Garden

First featured in 1937, this historic garden contains more than 100 varieties of hardy and tender herbs, planted in terraced hillside beds according to their use and ornamental value. The excellent drainage of the steep and sunny site allows us to grow herbs that might otherwise not like our challenging climate. *Design renovated by Page Dickey, 2009.*

30. The Wildflower Meadow

This 2.5-acre ecological showpiece opened to the public in 2023 and includes walking trails and sweeping vistas. Eschewing the use of herbicides, our horticulture team manages weeds by means of scheduled mowings, string trimmers and hand clippers. What you see as a result is a vibrant, densely interwoven array of flora native to the Berkshires and the Northeast. *Designed by Larry Weaver Landscape Associates.*

31. Herb Production Garden

Behind our Center House you will find a sunny garden where BBG's Herb Associate volunteer group grows the culinary herbs used in making products that are sold in the BBG Shop. Crops include annual herbs such as basil and marjoram, perennial herbs like lavender and mint, and even edible flowers. These ingredients are turned into delicious mustards, vinegars and herb mixes.

32. Procter Mixed Border Garden

This old-fashioned mixed border garden includes trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, and bulbs in a predominately pink, blue and purple color scheme. *Designed by E. Gillette Wilcox, 1965.*

33. Center House

The oldest structure on BBG's property, this 18th century farmhouse was renovated and expanded in 2017 to include a botanical art gallery, reference library, teaching kitchen, and classroom. Don't miss our stunning living wall in the entrance foyer!

