



DESCRIPTIONS OF GARDEN BEDS AND SPECIAL FEATURES

EAST GARDEN: Enter and enjoy the East Gardens. Our focus on plants native to North Carolina and the Southeast provide a showcase for the beauty of the place where we live. Follow our creek bed and split-rail fence, hand built by volunteers, then sit and listen to the birds on the handcrafted locust bench made by a local artisan. Just beyond the bench a tall post holds a lamp that once lighted the grounds of the original Lake Lure School. As you walk through our beautiful antique entrance gates, look overhead to see the arched Lake Lure Flowering Bridge sign created for us by a local iron artist. Look down just inside the gates to see bricks that honor a very special group of people in our Founder's Circle. These were the friends who initially invested in the vision of a Lake Lure Flowering Bridge.

Bridge Garden 1: Herb Garden - A vintage sundial, in true Lake Lure style, invites visitors to slow down time. Soft-touch Holly hedges divide the garden into quadrants that highlight the functions of the herbs; culinary, medicinal, fragrant, and ornamental.

Bridge Garden 2: Lake Lure Classical Academy Garden - The regal Raptor, the school's mascot, rules the garden from his nest atop an 8 foot cedar post. Plants in his garden represent the school colors of blue, yellow, and white. Centered in this garden, a wetland habitat houses the children's chosen carnivorous plants.

Bridge Garden 3: Fragrant Garden - An oversized perfume bottle tilted on its side draws passersby into this scented garden to enjoy the variety of smells. The fragrance from this garden will be intoxicating year-round.

Bridge Gardens 4 and 6 - North Carolina Wildflower of the Year - Beginning in 1982 the NC Botanical Society has selected a native wildflower as Wildflower of the Year. These gardens contain all the past wildflowers and are divided into moist (garden 4) and dry (garden 6) habitats. A bejeweled bird bath invites local fauna to stop in for a drink. A local artisan-crafted plaque is mounted on logs from Lucius Morse's original Chimney Rock cabin.

Bridge Garden 5: The Whimsical Garden - Water magically drips into a large watering can, and piques the curiosity of viewers. The Whimsical garden is full of strange and uncommon plants tended to by gnomes and oversized mushrooms. Harry Lauder's Walking Stick is central, with its mysterious crinkled leaves and twisted branches.

Bridge Gardens 7 and 9: The Tropical Gardens - A parrot oversees this unique group of plants that seem exotic, but can grow happily in your own back yard. A wide spectrum of colorful and fruitful plants range in size from 4 inches to 8 feet tall.

Bridge Garden 8: Songbird, Hummingbird, and Butterfly Garden - Heaven on Earth for small air bound critters, the garden provides baths and watering holes for birds and butterflies, as well as a mirror for their own admiration. The plants in this garden attract many species of birds and butterflies that can be identified with the help of our forthcoming information kiosk.

Bridge Garden 10: Rose Garden - This garden highlights one of the most classic and beautiful flowers, the rose. Many varieties of roses and clematis plants climb Victorian style trellises. Ten feet above, a Victorian bird house adorns the trellis, surrounded by an outer hedge of Soft-touch Holly.

Bridge Garden 11: Prairie Garden - A look back to our nation's history, this garden takes a page from the book of the Wild, Wild West. These dry climate plants surprise with the color and beautiful foliage that they can produce. The antique wagon wheel and animal skull evoke a feeling of nostalgia as the pathway leaves the west end of the garden.

Bridge Garden 12: Rock and Succulent Garden - Gnomes and fairies are the stewards of this dry garden. The rolling hills and dry creek bed provide a rich landscape for the many varieties of cacti and succulents. A spunky gnome sends visitors off the bridge toward the west end gardens.

West Gardens: In development