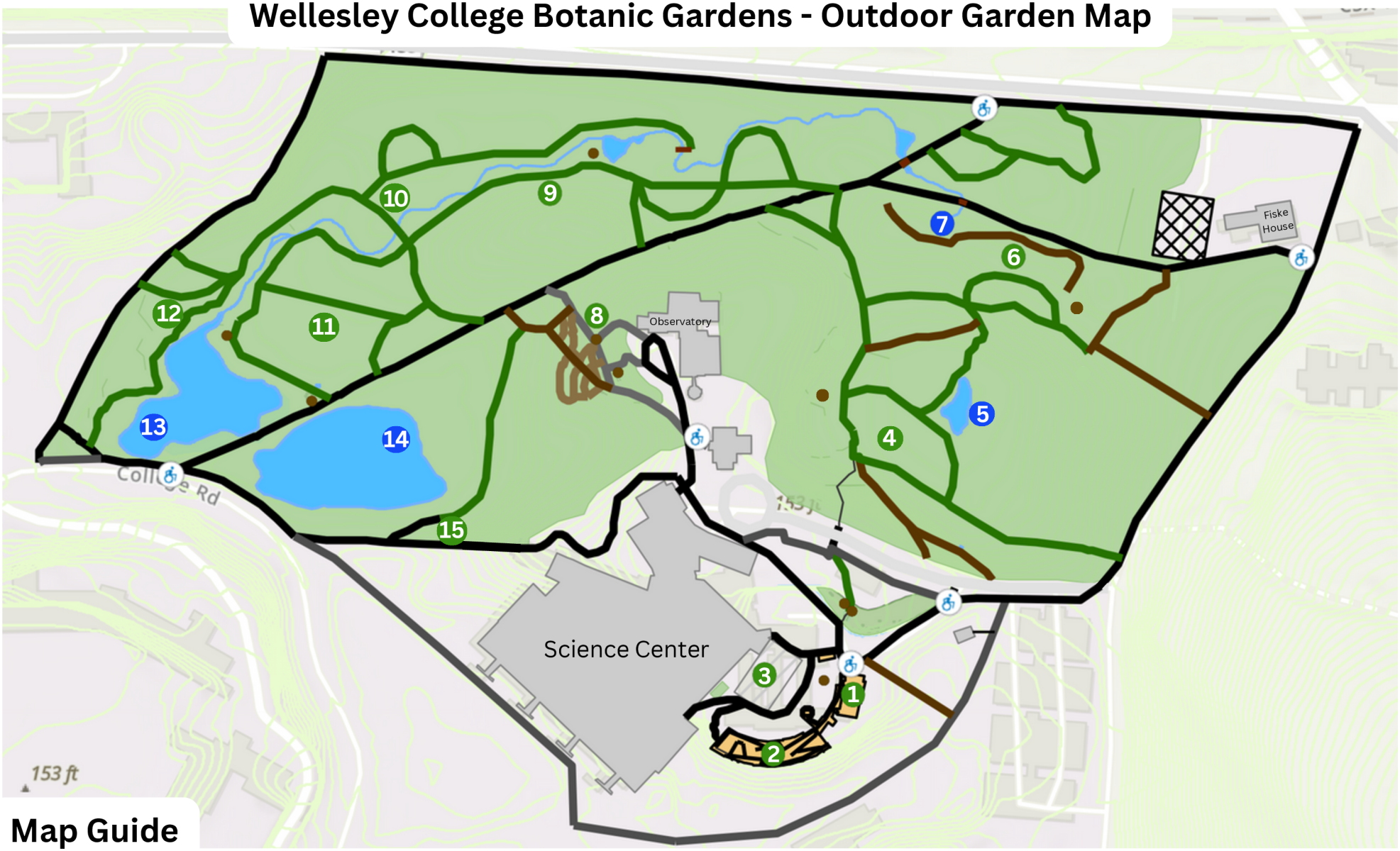
Wellesley College Botanic Gardens - Outdoor Garden Map



Map Guide

1. Visitor Center
2. Global Flora
3. Teaching and Research Greenhouses & Kitchen Garden
4. The Kettle
5. Ephemeral Pool
6. Azalea Hill
7. Silver Thread - Waterfall
8. Edible Ecosystem Teaching Garden
9. Pine Knoll
10. Ancestor Oak Circle
11. Meandering Meadow
12. Wet Meadow
13. Paramecium Pond
14. Maple Swamp
15. Green Roof

- Bench
- Handicap entrance
- Paved trail
- Mulched trail
- Mown trail

Wellesley College Botanic Gardens

1 VISITOR CENTER

This building is the heart of the Wellesley Botanic gardens. Featuring artwork, activities for children, bathrooms and our collection of books, this space is a one-stop shop to ask questions and learn more about our programs.

2 GLOBAL FLORA

Built in 2018, Global Flora Conservatory stands on the spot of our previous greenhouses. Experience a breathtaking array of indoor plants, attend a scheduled tour, witness the Durant Camellia tree or sit captivated by our two fish tanks.

3 TEACHING AND RESEARCH GREENHOUSES & KITCHEN GARDEN

While closed to the public, the teaching greenhouses host horticulture classes and experiments. Peer into the Kitchen Garden to see what summer produce our students are growing.

4 THE KETTLE

Enjoy this peaceful clearing from the bench, on a picnic blanket, or by the Ephemeral Pool. Enter from the road via a flight of stairs or through the mown trail.

5 EPHEMERAL POOL

Home to amphibians and other wildlife, this site is a known spot for students monitoring trail cameras for wildlife.

6 AZALEA HILL

This tranquil site features a striking array of lilacs and rhododendrons. Visit for a peaceful walk and enjoy stunning springtime blooms.

7 SILVER THREAD - WATERFALL

This site marks one of the highest points on campus. A quiet spot, this is the source of the Silver Thread that has fed our outdoors collection plants for 100 years.

8 EDIBLE ECOSYSTEM TEACHING GARDEN

This hillside was transformed in 2013 from an undeveloped slope to a food forest. A space for foraging with an outdoor classroom, this garden is designed to carry many beds of edible plants and requires minimal maintenance.

9 PINE KNOLL

This secluded spot lies on a hilltop 20 feet up from the Ancestor Oak circle. Sit amidst a grove of Eastern White Pines and watch the squirrels play in the fallen branches.

10 ANCESTOR OAK CIRCLE

A favourite of the Wellesley childcare center, this space can be accessed across a simple plank bridge. The tree rounds provide seating for quiet reflection or a site for avid exploration.

11 MEANDERING MEADOW

Bordered by the Silver Thread and Paramecium Pond, this site features wildlife, pollinators, and a diversity of native plant life. Visit for a walk along mown paths and enjoy its striking views.

12 WET MEADOW

Experience a vibrant habitat filled with grasses and wildflowers. This area supports pollinators, amphibians, and wetland birds – keep an eye out for its seasonal changes alongside shifting water levels.

13 PARAMECIUM POND

Constructed in the 1920s, this water body offers beautiful views in all seasons, an ideal point for observing the plant and animal life of the Botanic Gardens. Pause and watch out for muskrats, bird life, turtles, and stunning foliage.

14 MAPLE SWAMP

A wooded wetland dominated by red and silver maple trees, water levels fluctuate depending on rainfall in this dynamic ecosystem. Keep an eye out for wood ducks, mallards, and amphibians.

15 GREEN ROOF

Glimpse this unique rooftop site, featuring a diverse array of native plants that have formed a self-sustaining roof garden.