However, the combination of variable terrain and Riverside’s subtropical climate happily results in consistent blooming in the Gardens.

The Gardens are also a wildlife sanctuary. Almost 200 bird species have been observed. In addition, children and adults alike delight in the natural pond filled with colorful koi, charming small turtles, and a variety of water-loving plants.

**Primavera in the Gardens**

Fun, food, and friends! Riverside’s premier wine and food tasting affair takes place each spring when the Gardens are at their most enchanting. The popular and lively fund raising event is hosted by the Board of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens.

Delectable wines are provided by over a dozen local wineries while delicious appetizers are catered by an equal number of Riverside’s favorite restaurants. Live music by several talented groups adds to the excitement of the experience.

**DIRECTIONS AND PARKING**

Exit the Interstate 215/State Highway 60 Freeway at Martin Luther King Bl. Make a right onto campus at MLK and Canyon Crest Drive. Make a second right onto Campus Drive. Follow Campus Drive to Parking Lot 13. Follow the signs to the cedar-lined road to the Garden’s parking area. Parking permits can be purchased for a nominal fee from the dispenser just inside the Garden’s entry. Alternate routes are also indicated on map.

**HOURS**

The UCR Botanic Gardens are open daily from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., excepting the following holidays: New Year’s Day; Independence Day; Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day.

**INFORMATION**

Admission to the Gardens is free although a small contribution for upkeep and maintenance is suggested. (Checks can be made payable to UCR Foundation/Friends of UCRBG.)

Wheelchair accessible routes are indicated on the map. Gardens’ literature is available at the entrance. Group tours can be arranged.

**Contact the Curator by mail, email, or telephone:** Botanic Gardens, University of California, Riverside, California 92521-0124; or call 951.784.6962.

[www.gardens.ucr.edu - ucrbg@ucr.edu](http://www.gardens.ucr.edu - ucrbg@ucr.edu)

Enjoy the relaxing atmosphere of the UCR Botanic Garden. Nestled in the Box Springs Mountains, the Gardens cover nearly 40 hilly acres, overlooking the campus. Wander over four miles of trails or just relax on a bench and bask in nature’s sights, scents, and sounds. A gently sloping wheelchair walkway is also provided.

Literally a living museum, the Gardens contain over 3,500 species of plants from all over the world. The terrain and climate of the Gardens predominate that the greatest numbers of plants come from Australia, southern Africa, and California. Coming from all parts of the state, California natives represent most plants and topographies from the deserts to the mountains and the inland valleys to the Pacific.

The first plantings were made in 1963 with additional plantings completed annually. Of course, the largest display of flowers is found in the spring (particularly April).
Highlights of the Gardens

Rose Garden: Always a favorite, there are over 300 old and new rose selections, blooming from spring onward.

Alder Canyon: The best known area of the Gardens, this cool and shady park-like locale is filled with azaleas, camellias, and ferns.

Iris Garden: This popular garden features over 150 named cultivars.

Cactus and Succulent Garden: Here one finds hundreds of plants with curious forms and beautiful blossoms.

Herb Garden: Complemented by a charming design, this traditional garden is filled with aromatic, culinary, and medicinal plants.

Grotto Dome Lathhouse: This commemorative redwood lathe dome is home to a special collection of shade plants and palms.

Subtropical Fruit Orchard: This experimental orchard is found at the northern boundary of the Gardens above the cactus, and contains a number of domestic and exotic trees.

Botanic Gardens Area Map

For Your Safety: ! No bicycles, skateboards, or rollerblades. ! No smoking. ! No pets. ! Stay on the trails. ! Alcohol and firearms are prohibited. ! Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult. ! Do not disturb plantings or wildlife.

Graphic design and photographs courtesy of Brady Wilks www.bradywilks.com

Annual Plant Sales

Each year, the Botanic Gardens produces two remarkable plant sales. Coming in April and October, these single weekend sales are the largest botanic garden events of their kind in the Inland Empire, and are attended by hundreds of people. The plant sales are famous for their numerous native plants, unusual specimens, gorgeous orchids, and unique succulents and cacti. The opportunity to select from a wide variety of wild flower seeds is also popular.

Dozens of volunteers produce the sales. From beginning to end, they groom and label the plants during the many weeks of “plant prep”. They set up the sale, work during the sale, and tend to the Monday breakdown.

Friends of the Botanic Gardens have the privilege of making their selections during the first 3 hours of the first day. Consider joining the Friends. See the Friends’ brochure (titled “You’re Invited....”) at the entry.