

Blake Garden is the teaching and research garden of the UC Berkeley Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning. The garden is a learning laboratory for students from UC, local colleges, and other area schools. In addition to coursework, students have the opportunity for hands-on learning and to observe the effects of the environment when designing outdoor space.

Until the early 1920's, the Blake family home was located on the site of the UC Memorial Stadium. The university purchased the land from the family in 1922. Harriet Waters Stiles, wife of Charles Thompson Blake, divided a 45-acre parcel she owned in Kensington among her four children. Two siblings sold their property for residential development but Anson and Edwin Blake built homes on their lots, today, Blake Garden and the Carmelite Monastery.

Mabel Symmes, an early student in the Cal landscape architecture program, and her sister, Anita Day Blake, designed the gardens. The design for Formal Garden was inspired by Italian villa gardens and made use of the house both as shelter from the strong winds coming through the Golden Gate and as an axis for the parterres and pool. The Redwood Canyon, planted with cuttings from the Blake's properties in Berkeley and St. Helena, is the site of a year round stream. Symmes' original design included a lake in the Australian Hollow, taking advantage of the high water table in that part of the garden. In 2010, UC students, volunteers, and Blake garden staff restored this area to a California native wetland. This section now provides habitat to a community of Pacific Chorus frogs and area birds.

Other sections of the garden include: the Mediterranean Garden on the western side of the house, which highlights plants from the world's Mediterranean climates; the Cottage Garden, where roses, vegetables, and herbs mingle with flowers for cutting; the Square Garden where Magnolias and low water perennials surround a square pool, and the Event Lawn, used for University functions as well as by picnicking visitors. The 'Create with Nature Zone' is a space for people of all ages to experiment and build using materials collected in the garden.



The garden is home to more than 1000 plant species, over fifty bird species, as well as raccoons, frogs, salamanders, and the occasional fox.

For further information, including volunteer opportunities and tours, please contact Garden Manager, Meghan Ray at meghanray@berkeley.edu or call 510-524-2449. Visit the garden website at <https://blakegarden.ced.berkeley.edu>

Text: Dawn Kooyumijan- 2012
Updated: M. Ray – 2018

BLAKE GARDEN, a 10 1/2 acre landscape laboratory, is used and managed by the UC Berkeley Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department. Temporary and permanent student projects can be seen throughout the garden. Students also study our diverse collection of plants.

Blake Garden is open to the public Monday-Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm.

Tours are available to groups of 10 or more with advance notice.

Dogs are permitted on leash.

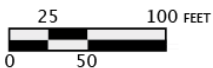
We do not allow climbing of trees and rocks.

No picking of flowers, fruits or vegetables.

Please stay on the paths.

We do have poison oak.

We ask that you take all your trash with you.



DESIGN: P.SUCHECKI 2018

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE & ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING
COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN UC BERKELEY

BLAKE GARDEN

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