

# MEREDITH COLLEGE ARBORETUM AND GARDENS

## MEREDITH COLLEGE CAMPUS

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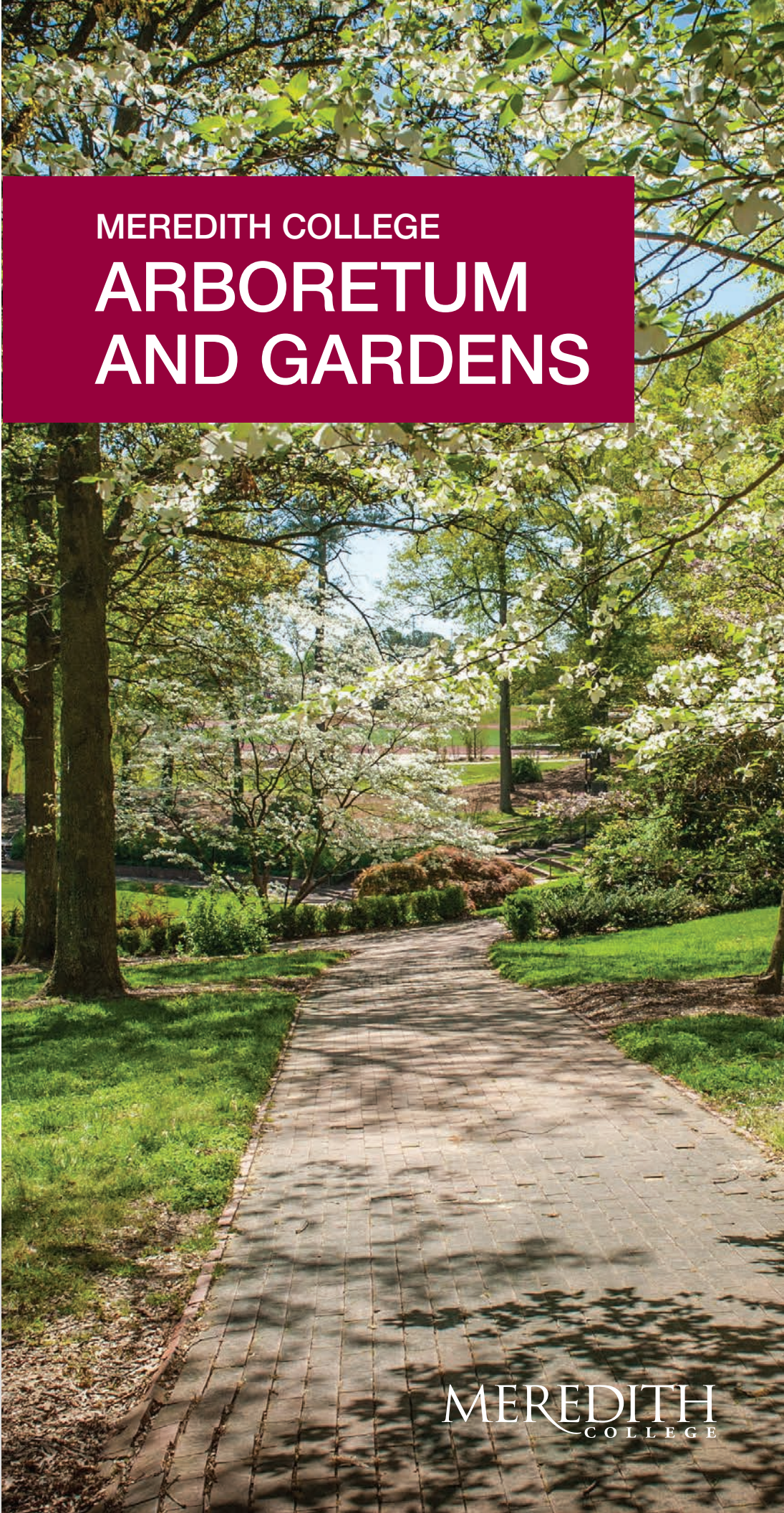
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## VISITORS

Visitors are welcome to Meredith College year-round to visit the Arboretum and Gardens. Campus is open daily from dawn to dusk. Admission is free, but visitors may donate funds to [meredith.edu/giving](http://meredith.edu/giving) to support the ongoing maintenance and future growth of the campus landscape.

## GARDEN AND GROUNDS ENDOWMENT FUND

Over the years, donors have helped to create some of Meredith's most striking gardens. For example, Ruby McSwain, '54, provided funds to create The Ruby McSwain Magnolia Collection, and the Class of 1962 funded the landscape renovation of Johnson Hall Courtyard. Efforts are underway to establish a Garden and Grounds Endowment Fund. If you are interested in supporting grounds beautification, please contact Billie Jo Cockman, '79, at (919) 760-8371 or [cockmanb@meredith.edu](mailto:cockmanb@meredith.edu).







## MEREDITH COLLEGE ARBORETUM AND GARDENS

Visitors to the Meredith College Arboretum and Gardens are greeted upon arrival by a blend of beauty and tradition. Located in the heart of Raleigh, the campus is an oasis of lovely lawns, eye-catching gardens, and majestic trees, all of which provide a beautiful backdrop for campus activities and community events.

The gardens feature an inspired and diverse assortment of landscape plants that thrive in the piedmont region of North Carolina. Many mature large canopy trees including characteristic oaks, pines, and magnolias frame the campus, creating an inviting atmosphere for both students and visitors.

Plantings on campus are designed thoughtfully with educational benefits, ornamental characteristics, ease of maintenance, and adaptability in mind. The gardens are created with the intention of connecting students and visitors to the cycles, patterns, and structures found in the natural world. By fostering this connection to nature, the gardens help to reduce stress and contribute to a greater sense of wellbeing on campus.

The Arboretum and Gardens showcase sustainability principles in practice with a focused organic approach to landscape health. Much attention is given to proper plant selection and cultivating healthy growing conditions. Soil health is promoted through the recycling of organic materials in the form of leaves, wood chips, composted food waste, and grass clippings. This sustainable approach improves landscape health, which results in a healthy campus environment where plant life thrives.

### MEREDITH HUES IRIS GARDEN

The official flower of the College – the Meredith Hues Iris – is a hybrid variety developed and named by Loleta Kenan Powell, '41, of Princeton, N.C. When in bloom, the flower displays the College's colors of burgundy and white. The flowers typically bloom in early May to coincide with commencement activities. The irises are planted to surround the Shaw Fountain in front of iconic Johnson Hall.



### MCIVER AMPHITHEATER

Built in 1964, the McIver Amphitheater, which is tucked in to the hillside overlooking Meredith Lake, provides a picturesque setting used for many outdoor events and College traditions. Plantings in the amphitheater feature large groupings of finely textured ostrich fern and native shrubs such as oakleaf hydrangeas and Carolina sweetshrub. The Parents' Fund supported the landscape renovations to the Amphitheater in 2007. The renovation of the Ellen Amanda Rumley Gazebo provided additional landscape design, featuring an interesting palette of plants including native beautyberry, ginger lilies, fairy magnolia shrubs, and venus dogwoods.



### RUBY MCSWAIN MAGNOLIA COLLECTION

The Ruby McSwain Magnolia Collection is a gift from Ruby McSwain, '54, intended to bring additional beauty to Meredith's campus throughout the year. The collection features an expansive assortment of native and exotic magnolias, comprising both evergreen and deciduous varieties. The collection's magnolias range in size from small shrubs to large trees and flowering magnolias can be seen on campus in every season.



### NORMA ROSE GARDEN

The Norma Rose Garden, named for former Professor Emerita of English Norma Rose, features hybrid tea roses situated in a dynamic setting maintained for the benefit of the Department of English. The garden is found outside of Harris Hall and includes a sitting area near Joyner Hall. The plantings include a combination of flowers, herbs, and grasses with a bountiful fig tree at its center.



### JANICE SWAB NATIVE PLANT GARDEN

The Janice Swab Native Plant Garden, named for Professor Emerita of Biology Janice Swab, includes many grasses and flowering plants native to the piedmont region of N.C. The garden is located between the Science and Mathematics Building and Ledford Hall.



### GADDY-HAMRICK PLANTINGS

The Gaddy-Hamrick Plantings, located adjacent to the Gaddy-Hamrick Art Center, includes a wide variety of diverse perennials with artistic forms and textures. The plantings provide a long season of floral interest, intended to spur creativity in art students and faculty, and also attract many environmentally beneficial pollinating insects.



### HERITAGE TREES

The largest trees on campus are located adjacent to Johnson Hall, the main administrative building, and in the Johnson Hall and Carlyle Campbell Library courtyards. Heritage trees are labeled and preserved throughout campus, and include many oaks, southern magnolias, ginkgos, and deodar cedars.



### JOHNSON HALL COURTYARD PLANTINGS

Plantings in the Johnson Hall courtyard feature a dynamic mix of plants and flowers, with peak interest occurring around commencement. Plant life found in the courtyard includes star jasmine, rare magnolias, oakleaf hydrangeas, edgeworthia, and calla lilies. The Class of 1962 generously sponsored renovations to the landscape.



### FANNIE E.S. HECK FOUNTAIN

The Fannie E.S. Heck Fountain is located in the center of the Johnson Hall courtyard. In 2006, The Parents' Fund supported renovations to the landscape surrounding the fountain, which includes varieties of perennials that attract butterflies and hummingbirds, as well as evergreens that provide visual interest throughout the year. Students and visitors alike take advantage of the inviting patio and its built-in seating.



### THREE SISTERS COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Three Sisters Community Garden is a joint project between the grounds staff and the food and nutrition program. The garden provides a space for teaching and learning about every aspect of the gardening process by growing produce, herbs, accentuating flowers, and fruit trees. Produce from the garden is used by food and nutrition undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as Campus Kitchens at Meredith College. Sustainability features include a food waste composting pilot project, which converts food waste from the dining hall into organic soil, and an in ground cistern that provides water for the garden's drip irrigation system.

