GARDENS & TRAILS

1. Library & South Terraces
2. Italian Garden
3. Shrub Garden
4. Spring Garden
5. Walled Garden
6. Rose Garden
7. Conservatory
8. Azalea Garden
9. Bass Pond & Boat House

One-way vehicular traffic
Paved walking paths
Gravel/chips walking trails

Conservatory Café
A Gardener’s Place

TO BILTMORE HOUSE
LIBRARY & SOUTH TERRACES
The terraces provided the Vanderbilts and their guests a convenient setting near the house for relaxation and fresh air. Originally designed with a bowling green, the South Terrace provides spectacular views while the Library Terrace is shaded by an arbor of wisteria and trumpet creeper vines.

ITALIAN GARDEN
The Italian Garden features classical statuary and three formal water gardens. Designed for quiet moments of reflection, this area also hosted tennis and croquet matches on the lawn near the house. In warm weather, koi and goldfish swim in the pools among giant water lilies, lotus, and papyrus.

SHRUB GARDEN
A path leads you through the Shrub Garden, notable for two N.C. State Champion Trees: the golden rain tree and river birch. Olmsted’s design included more than 500 different varieties of ornamental shrubs, trees, and other plants that were popular in the 1890s. Other prominent trees include notable specimens of Japanese cutleaf maples and a purple leaf European beech.

SPRING GARDEN
This sheltered valley is surrounded by a grove of white pines and hemlocks. It is filled with an array of spring blooming shrubs including forsythia, spirea, deutzia, and mock orange.

WALLED GARDEN
This four-acre formal garden features flowerbeds planted in the “bedding out” style popular in the late 1800s. Two arbors totaling 236 feet serve as its spine. The central beds feature thousands of tulips in the spring, vivid summer annuals, and a kaleidoscope of mums in the fall. Themed areas include a Victorian border, winter border, scented border, butterfly garden, and white border.

ROSE GARDEN
This garden features heirloom roses and historically inspired rose displays, plus a selection of varieties that are undergoing trial. Each two-year trial includes up to 40 varieties which are judged on length of bloom, fragrance, disease resistance, and landscape versatility.

CONSERVATORY
Designed by architect Richard Morris Hunt, this glass-roofed building nurtures exotic orchids, ferns, and palms. During the Vanderbilts’ time, it provided flowers and plants for Biltmore House.

AZALEA GARDEN
This 15-acre garden is the estate’s largest and contains one of the country’s finest selections of native azaleas. It represents 60 years of work by Chauncey Beadle, an avid azalea collector and horticulturist hired at Biltmore in 1890 who later became the estate’s superintendent. Also notable are the evergreen firs: spruces, pines, cedars, and Katsura trees that display brilliant foliage and a distinctive “cotton candy” fragrance in autumn.

BASS POND & BOAT HOUSE
Frederick Law Olmsted created this water feature by greatly enlarging an old creek-fed millpond. A rustic boat house provided rest for the Vanderbilts’ guests enjoying the gardens, and housed rowboats for fishing or exploring the pond. Be sure to notice the many species of birds that abound on nearby trails.