



Santa Barbara
Botanic Garden

Grow Native Plants

Our Impact and Vision

100 YEARS
Together
100 YEARS
Together
100 YEARS
Together



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For close to 100 years, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden has been a place of refuge and wonder, a living laboratory, a leader in conservation, and a sanctuary for California's native plants. With the steadfast support of our community, we've expanded our reach, deepened our impact, and remained firmly rooted in our mission: to conserve native plants and habitats for the health and well-being of people and our planet.

That mission has carried us through even the most difficult chapters. When the 2009 Jesusita Fire burned 80% of the Garden, we responded with resilience and vision, rebuilding not just what was lost but creating something even stronger. In the years since, we've made significant improvements across the Garden and emerged as one of Santa Barbara's top-rated destinations, with a 4.6-star rating on Google and consistent recognition on Tripadvisor and Yelp.

This growing impact is reflected in our vibrant community: over 6,200 members, 315 dedicated volunteers who contributed more than 10,000 hours in 2024, and record visitation every year since 2021. Our education programs — spanning school visits, public classes, inclusive family events, and a Summer Camp now serving over 300 children annually — ensure that people of all ages and backgrounds can connect meaningfully with the natural world and become lifelong stewards of California's native plants.



We're making a difference,
one native seed at a time.

800,000⁺ Seeds for Restoration

In just six years, the Garden has bulked more than enough Channel Island seeds to support large-scale restoration efforts.



1,301 Species

More than 20% of California's native taxa have found refuge in our Conservation and Living Collection Seed Banks.



200 Native Trees Planted

We've planted wildfire-resilient coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) on the Garden grounds to study wildfire endurance and habitat restoration strategies.



4 Landscape Transformations

Elings Park, Alice Keck Park Memorial Gardens, Shalawa (Hammond's Meadow), and the Cuyama Valley are transforming through native plantings.

220,000⁺ Specimens

The Herbarium and Lichenarium collections are the starting point for critical research and our understanding of California flora.



100⁺ Grads & Growing

As residents and businesses reimagine landscapes across the central coast, the Garden's California Native Plant Landscaper Certification program graduates are ready to serve.

49 Discoveries & Updates

In the last decade alone, the Garden has broadened scientific records through numerous native plant discoveries and nomenclatural updates.

4-Part Miniseries

The Garden launched a video series in 2024 showcasing the real-world impact of native plant restoration through our Elings Park Landscape Transformation Project.



404 At-Risk Species Protected

With over 3.5 million seeds in our seed bank, we're safeguarding more native plants against extinction than ever.

85,000⁺ Visuals

We've digitized images, artifacts, and archives from our past century, which will soon be publicly available through the Garden's new web-based digital portal.



>10 Million Views

Every year, millions of researchers leverage our data online via herbarium platforms.

325⁺ Citations

The Garden's research is being leveraged by a growing number of scientific publications.

50 Conservation Projects

Since 2010, we've gone from 2 projects to 50 (and counting) across California.



737⁺ Checkouts

Free Garden admission from our public libraries has expanded access to hundreds more in our community.

4.5 acres (2 hectares)

The Backcountry Section opened in May 2022, welcoming all ages to explore and play on acres of the Garden's grounds.



1 New Hiking Trail

The Tipton Trail, our newest trail in 50 years, opened in March 2024.



Far & Wide | Our Impact Across California



Our work focuses on the California central coast and Channel Islands but increasingly takes us farther and farther afield: as far as Mendocino County to the north; Baja California, Mexico, to the south; and the Sierra Nevada to the east.

Our Vision | A Bold Step Forward

Creating lasting change begins with deliberate action. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's vision is built on three pillars that guide our work, expand our impact, and ensure a sustainable future for native

plants and the people who depend on them. Driven by our vision, we'll ensure conditionsⁱ along the central coastⁱⁱ — and beyond — will support future generations to flourish.

1 Grow the Native Plant Movement

We believe in the power of people to drive change. We'll lead a movement to make native plant conservation a shared responsibility and an everyday practice. Here's how:

- **Share Horticultural Know-How**
Inspire and train landscape professionals and enthusiasts to successfully grow native plants
- **Increase the Supply of Native Plants**
Create new sources and distribution channels to more than double the native plant supply
- **Rally a Diverse Community of Advocates in the Garden and Beyond**
Grow an active community of native-plant advocates and reach one-third of central coast residents with our message

2 Regenerate Ecosystem Health

We believe in the power of informed action to restore balance to our landscapes. We'll restore and protect thriving, resilient landscapes — at every scale. Here's how:

- **Build Key Resources for Informed Action**
Transform knowledge into scientific and public resources to support native plants
- **Stop the Loss of Species**
Ensure no native plant species goes extinct on the central coast
- **Make Restoration Happen**
Conduct research and provide tools that will improve restoration and management relevant to the central coast landscape



3 Build a Legacy

We believe lasting change is driven by future leaders who are equipped to protect and promote native plants. We'll inspire and support future advocates, scientists, and stewards to ensure the Garden's mission endures. Here's how:

- **Inspire Future Leaders**
Cultivate and train the coming generation of diverse conservation leaders
- **Demonstrate a Model That Supports Both People and the Planet**
Make the Garden sought out by our peers and organizations for our expertise
- **Champion Policies and Actions That Promote Native Plants**
Influence government and community plans, policies, and guidelines to promote usage and expansion of native plants

[i] These conditions relate to species richness, connecting the populations and extending the range of native species, and increasing the resilience of systems to be able to withstand and respond to disturbances like a changing climate.

[ii] Central coast is here defined as the counties along the California coast from Ventura north to Monterey. From south to north, they include Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Monterey counties.



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