



Santa Barbara
Botanic Garden

100 YEARS
Together
100 YEARS
Together
100 YEARS



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Explore the Garden

Centennial Route Markers



1. Pre-Garden: 'Utapi'qtse

Location: Mission Dam

Before Santa Barbara Botanic Garden was established, this area was known to some Chumash as 'Utapi'qtse, meaning "where the brodiaea bulbs were burned." The name recalls a story in which Coyote rewarded children who shared food and punished those who did not. The Mission Dam, built in 1806 by Chumash people conscripted by Franciscan Friars, created a reservoir that stretched for a half mile (.8 kilometers).



2. 1926: Blaksley Boulder

Location: Bottom of the Meadow

This massive stone is a remnant of the Pleistocene debris flows that deposited boulder fields throughout Mission Canyon. Its name honors our founding supporter, Anna Dorinda Blaksley Bliss, and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's original name mark of Blaksley Botanic Garden. Since opening in 1926, the Garden has showcased California's native plants as beautiful, drought-tolerant options for local landscapes.



3. 1927: Desert Section

Location: Near Entrance

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden was planted as eight native plant communities, including the desert. The jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*) and desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*) growing here are some of our earliest plantings. The Desert Section's designer, Ervanna Bowen Bissell, once said desert gardens were "a fad which will die out after a while." Time proved otherwise.



4. 1930s: Redwood Section

Location: Redwood Section

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's first coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) were likely planted here in 1927, though records show additional seeds arrived in the 1930s and 1940s from Northern California's "Redwood Empire." Early plantings may have struggled in Santa Barbara's drier climate, but later efforts took hold, creating the shady grove visitors enjoy today.

5. 1934: Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Location: Lower Manzanita Section

One of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's oldest documented living accessions, this towering Douglas fir has thrived here since 1934, nearly as long as the Garden itself. The seedling was collected from Mount Wilson in the San Gabriel Mountains.



6. 1942: Blaksley Library

Location: Near Nursery

The Blaksley Library was built to provide more information and resources for the conservation and horticultural use of native plants. By the end of the decade, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden was 50 acres (20 hectares).

7. 1956: Yellow Pond-lily (*Nuphar polysepala*)

Location: Arroyo

Collected from a central coast wetland later lost to development, this pond-lily now survives mostly in protected or restored habitats like this one. Its waxy, floating leaves allow it to breathe through tiny pores on the upper surface — a clever adaptation to life on the water. Its glossy green leaves and bright yellow blossoms make it one of the Arroyo Section's most striking plants.

8. 1966: Island Oak (*Quercus tomentella*)

Location: Backcountry

Collected on Santa Cruz Island in 1966, this "champion tree" is the largest known island oak on the mainland. The area, now known as the Backcountry Section, was once the Island Section — a home to plants collected from California's Channel Islands. Today, island plants can be found in the Island View Section, located on the east side of Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.



9. 1970s: Lath House

Location: Nursery

Originally built decades earlier, the Lath House became a hub of

native plant breeding in the 1970s and 1980s. Here, former Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Director Ralph Philbrick, Ph.D., and former Horticulturist and Plant Breeder Dara E. Emery developed many of the Garden's signature introductions, including Canyon Gray sagebrush (*Artemisia californica* 'Canyon Gray') and Canyon Snow iris (*Iris* 'Canyon Snow'). Their pioneering work helped continue California's budding native plant nursery movement.

10. 1986: Manzanita Section

Location: South Garden

Nearly all 105 known species and subspecies of manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*) are found only in California. This terrace once displayed the Garden's ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.) collection, but when those plants were moved, it was transformed into a showcase of more than 50 manzanita species and cultivars, including California's newly named state shrub, bigberry manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*). Designed by former Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Director of Horticulture Carol Bornstein, the display is a classic example of a taxonomic garden, arranged to highlight the diversity within a single plant group.

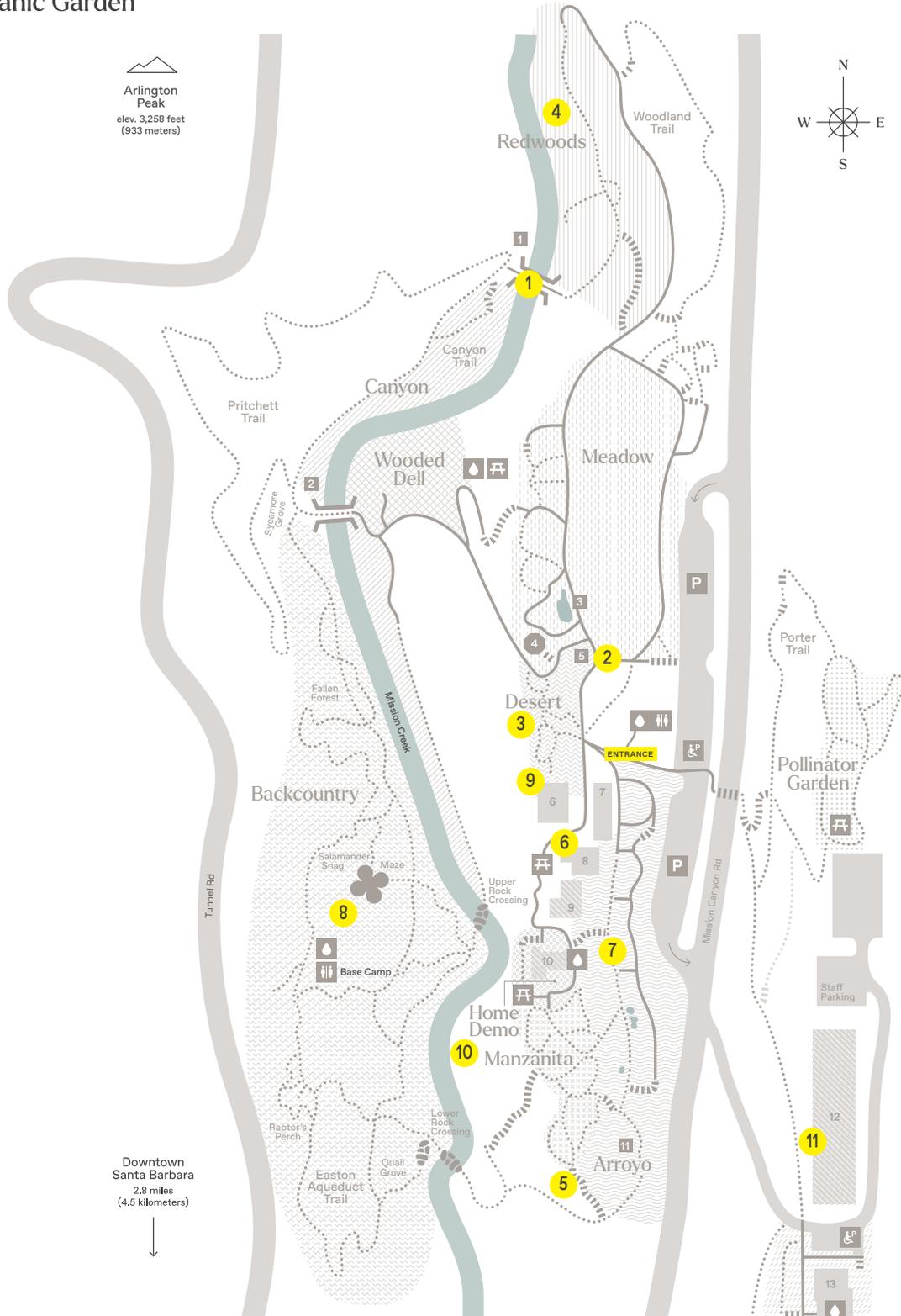
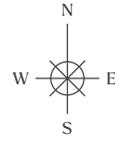
11. 2009: Burn Scar & Pritzlaff Conservation Center

Location: Southwest Trail (near the large oak)

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden has burned twice in its history, first in the 1964 Coyote Fire, which destroyed more than 1,500 plants, and again in the 2009 Jesusita Fire, which burned 80% of the grounds. Each fire reshaped the landscape and inspired new approaches to restoration and resilience. The LEED-certified Pritzlaff Conservation Center, built after the 2009 fire, stands as a symbol of the enduring resilience of the Garden's and California's native plants.



Arlington Peak
elev. 3,258 feet
(993 meters)



Downtown Santa Barbara
2.8 miles
(4.5 kilometers)

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|--|---------------|----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------|
| | Restrooms | | Paved Trails | 1 | Mission Dam & Aqueduct | 7 | Shop |
| | Water | | Dirt Trails | 2 | Campbell Bridge | 8 | Blaksley Library (Appt. Only) |
| | Picnic Area | | Crosswalk | 3 | Meadow Pond | 9 | Education Office (Staff Only) |
| | Reserved Parking | | Stairs | 4 | Information Kiosk | 10 | Caretaker's Cottage (Staff Only) |
| | Parking | | Rock Crossing | 5 | Blaksley Boulder | 11 | Ceremonial Teahouse |
| | | | | 6 | Nursery | 12 | Living Collection Nursery (Staff Only) |
| | | | | | | 13 | Pritzlaff Conservation Center & Gallery |

0 100 feet
(30.5 meters)

More Adventures Await

Route 1: Short & Scenic



Distance: 0.5 mile
Elevation Gain: 83 feet
Approximate time (moderate pace): 15 minutes

If you have limited time, but want to walk a quick loop, this route takes you around the meadow, through the historic courtyard, and into the Manzanita section. From there, drop into the Arroyo section and return to the Garden entrance. Most of this section is either on pavers or hard-packed, stable surfaces. If you travel this route, you will encounter oak woodland, seasonal flower displays, chaparral, and seasonal waterways. Still want more? Step into our Information Kiosk to learn more about our mission to conserve native plants and habitats.

Route 2: The Route Less Traveled

Distance: 1.10 miles
Elevation Gain: 241 feet
Approximate time (moderate pace): 30 minutes

If you have a little more time and ambition, this route takes you on some of our less-traveled trails, including the Woodland and Pritchett Trail. You'll encounter narrow, loose surfaces, so be prepared to walk on slightly more challenging terrain. This is the fastest way to see a diverse cross-section of the Garden's living collection and topography. You'll journey through oak woodland, chaparral, under the canopy of redwoods, through the Manzanita section, and up through the Arroyo.



Route 3: Ring-a-round the Garden

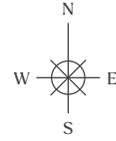


Distance: 1.83 miles
Elevation Gain: 317 feet
Approximate time (moderate pace): 45 minutes

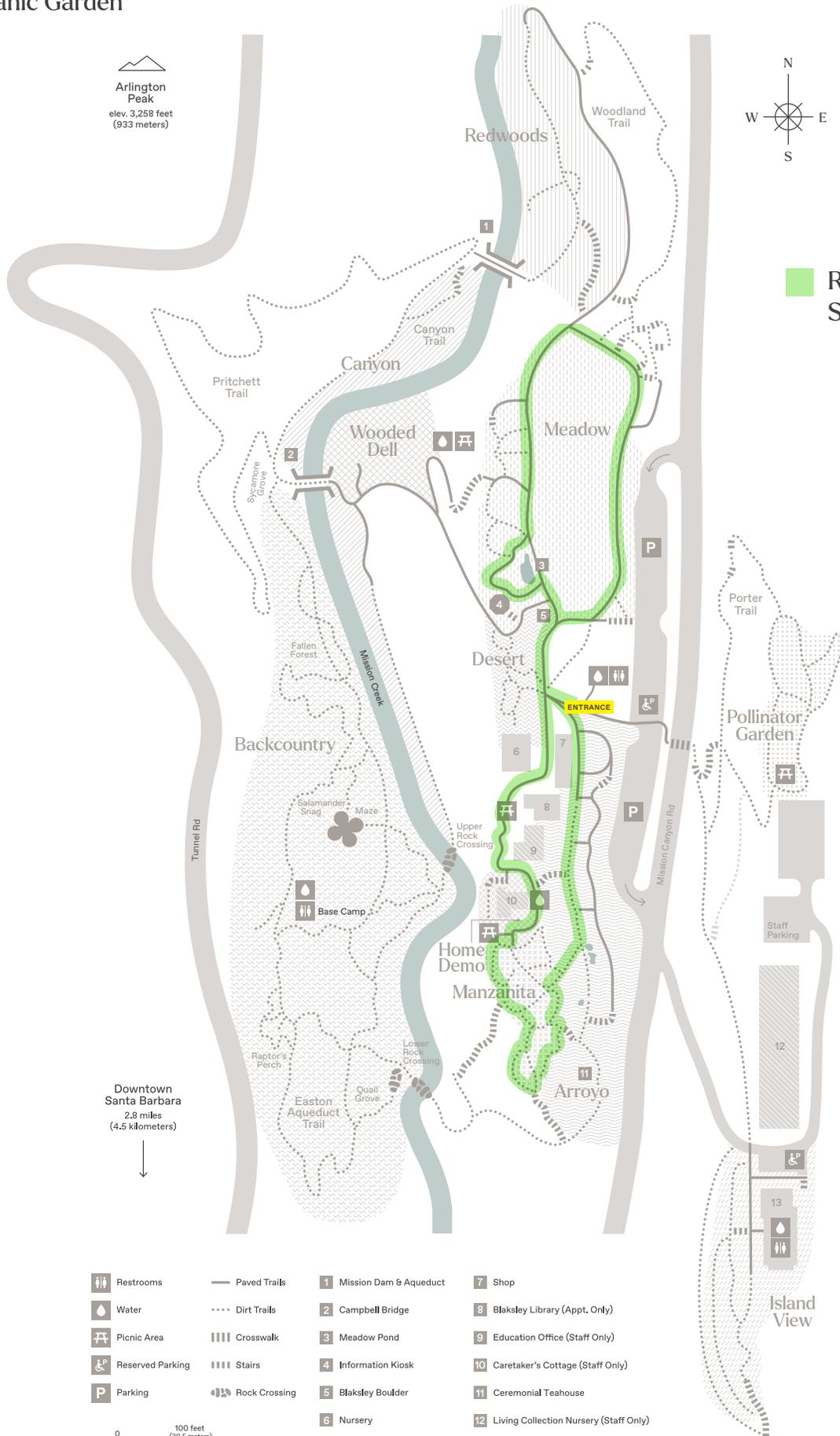
If you have time, and are looking to get your heart rate up, this is the hike for you! In addition to taking you through nine distinct ecosystems, covering California's diverse flora from Baja to the redwoods, this route also provides access to sweeping views of the Channel Islands. Since you'll be covering a lot of ground with limited canopy, bring extra water and sun protection to ensure a great visit. Want to elevate your experience? Pack your picnic basket with treats to enjoy on our native lawn at the close of your hike.



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**Route 1:
Short & Scenic**



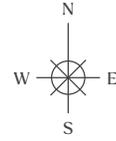
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Santa Barbara
2.8 miles
(4.5 kilometers)

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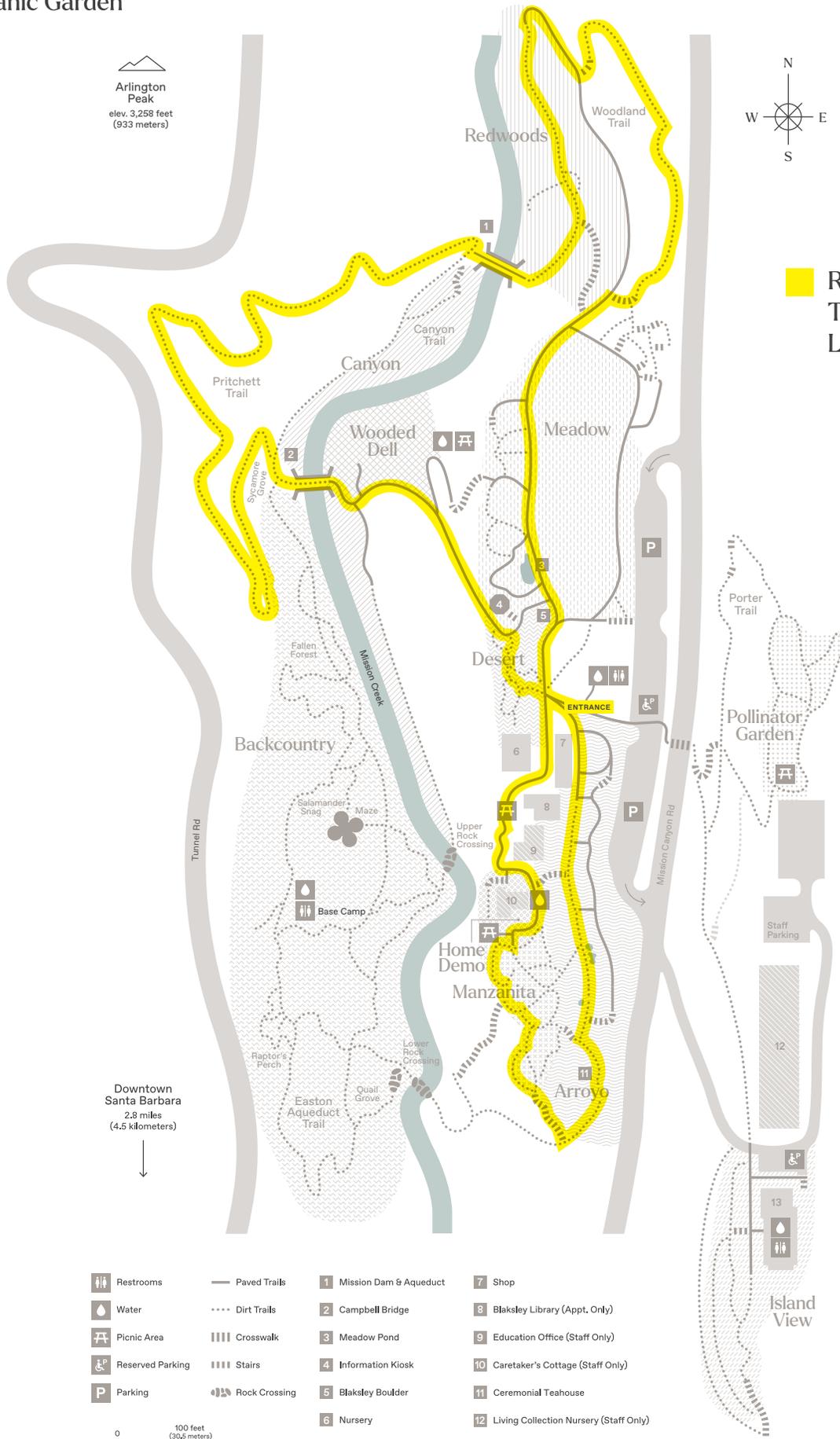
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**Route 2:
The Route
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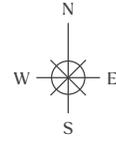
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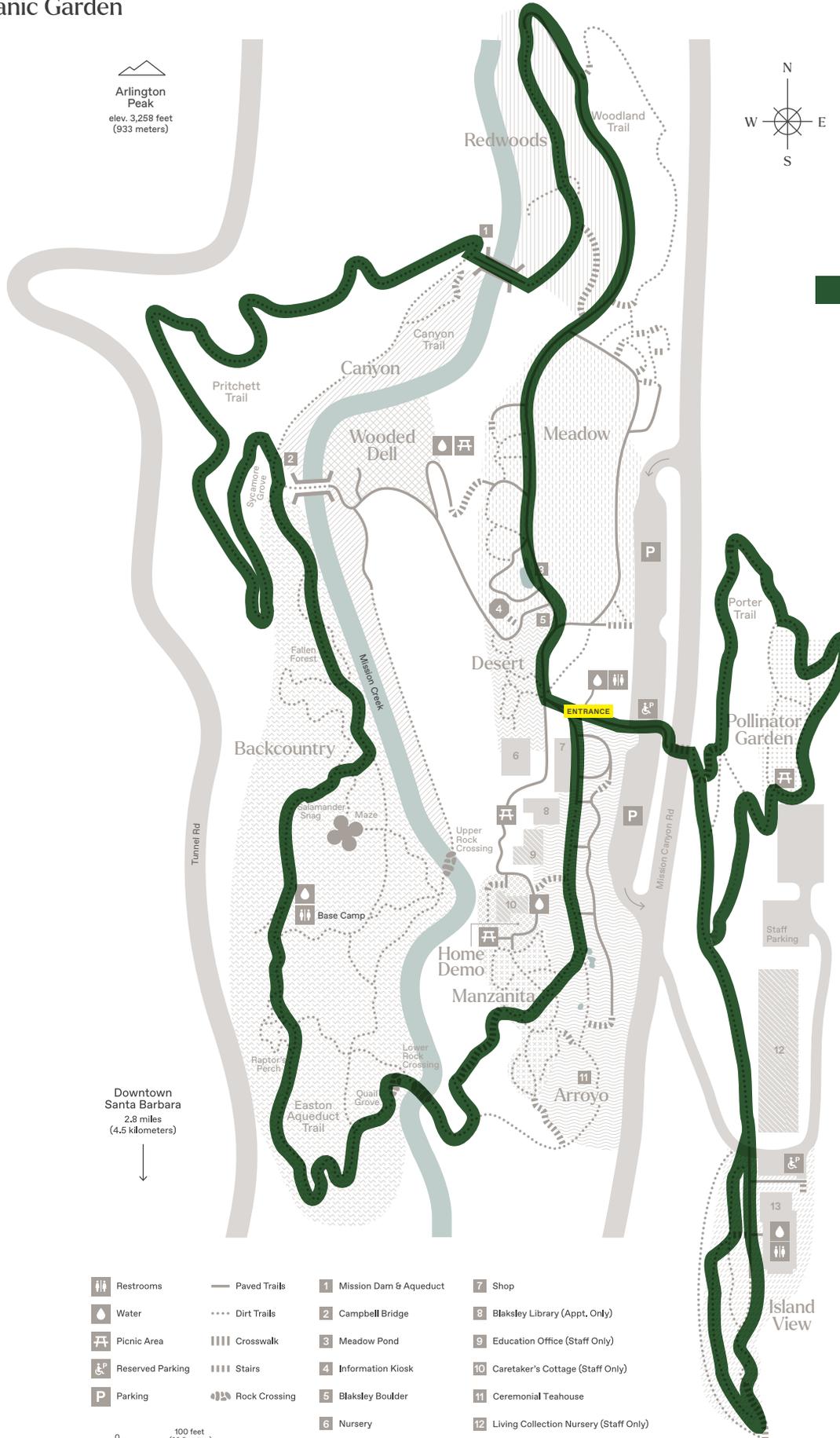
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Make Protecting Your Habitat a Habit.

Become a member today to support the Garden's mission to conserve native plants and habitats throughout California.

Membership Benefits

- Digital membership card to expedite check-in at the Garden and for reserved parking.
- Two one-time-use guest passes.
- Reciprocal benefits to over 345 gardens and arboreta nationwide.
- Advance registration and reduced fees on classes, field trips, lectures, and special events.
- 10% discount at the Garden Nursery and Shop, as well as at other participating local nurseries.
- Mailed subscription to the Garden's biannual Ironwood magazine and monthly Garden Gazette e-newsletter.

Membership

Individual: \$95

Includes year-round admission for one individual.

Dual: \$125

Includes year-round admission for two adults.

Family: \$155

Includes year-round admission for two adults and up to five named dependent children or grandchildren under 18.

ADD-ONS FOR MEMBERSHIPS

Add Plus One: \$30

Includes admission for one individual (not named) on each visit in addition to named members.

Add Dog Friendly: \$30

Additional donation to support a dog-friendly Garden and includes a branded doggie bandana.

BECOME A GARDEN ADVOCATE

For \$35 a year you can help support the Garden and stay up-to-date on events and research. Includes mailed biannual Ironwood magazine and monthly Garden Gazette e-newsletter. Does not include admission to the Garden or other benefits listed above

Garden Hours

Daily: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Members' Hour: 9 to 10 a.m.

Contact

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Santa Barbara, CA 93105

805.682.4726 | SBBotanicGarden.org