

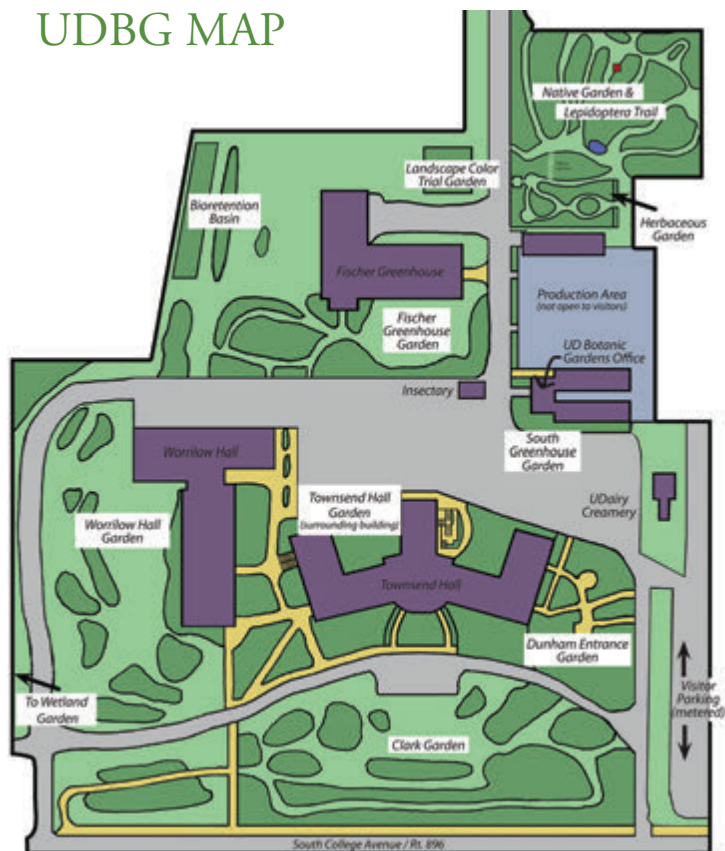


ABOUT THE WETLANDS

The former pasture at the UD Farm was transformed into a wetland complete with two bays, a path, a low berm to capture water, and scattered stumps for structure and habitat. UD landscape design students engineered the planting plan of trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers native to this region. In partnership with Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental control, Professors Chad Nelson and Doug Tallamy led the planting efforts of staff, faculty, students, and volunteers.

While the primary goal of this project is to improve water quality and enhance habitat, the site will also be used for research and teaching related to water quality, soils, ecology, and horticulture.

UDBG MAP



For a selection of plants featured in the Wetlands please visit

<http://ag.udel.edu/udbg/gardens/wetlands.html>

152 Townsend Hall, Newark, DE 19716

<http://ag.udel.edu/udbg>



Botanic Gardens
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCES



Photos by Allison Hess, Chad Nelson and Melinda Zoehrer

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Botanic Gardens WETLANDS

VISITOR GUIDE



*Sustaining UD's
Agro-Ecosystem*



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WHY CREATE A WETLAND?

Previously, this site was a pasture where water ponded and grass was sparse. The choice was made to create a productive wetland, rather than maintain a poorly performing pasture. This Wetland Garden provides students and the public with an example of a created wetland ecosystem demonstrating the impact of this garden on water quality, wildlife habitat, and plant diversity. The garden aims to demonstrate a balance of ecology, design, and value-added agriculture in a wetland setting.



GOALS

Plant Diversity

- Display plants found in and adapted to wetlands.
- Demonstrate plants that support insects, birds, and other wildlife through flowers, fruit, and foliage.
- Control invasive species while maintaining a balance between native and non-native species for the long term health and goals of the garden.

Design Elements

- Create, frame, and preserve specific views through the garden to the greater farm.
- Create defined edges and manage weedy plants to maintain a positive visual impression.
- Select plants with attractive color, form, and texture in multiple seasons.

Water Quality

- Reduce nutrient and sediment runoff.
- Increase retention of storm water to improve flood management.
- Improve quality of Cool Run watershed.

Wildlife Habitat

- Increase plant diversity providing food sources for a broader variety of insects.
- Expand bird diversity by increasing the range of insects available for food.
- Offer habitat for unique wildlife, particularly amphibians which are closely associated with wetlands.

Additional Benefits

- Provide an immersive environment for visitors to experience wetland wildlife.
- Show plants with food value to both people and wildlife.

