

Sarah P. Duke Gardens ^[1]

Sarah P. Duke Gardens



by Robert F. Durden, 2006Duke Gardens. Image courtesy of Flickr user Joanna8555.

^[2]

See also: [Duke University](#) ^[3]

The [Sarah P. Duke Gardens](#) ^[4] occupy 55 acres close to the center of [Duke University's West Campus](#) ^[5]. They were begun in 1934 when [Frederic M. Hanes](#) ^[6], an avid gardener and iris lover as well as important figure in Duke's medical center, persuaded Benjamin N. Duke's widow, Sarah P. Duke ^[7], to pay \$20,000 for a garden featuring irises. Hanes then hired a well-known landscape architect, [Ellen B. Shipman](#) ^[8], to design a terraced garden, the gift of Mary Duke Biddle as a memorial to her mother, Sarah P. Duke. Opened to the public in 1939, this portion of Duke Gardens, with a rock garden on the opposite hillside, is the oldest and best-known feature. In subsequent years the [Hugo L. Blomquist Garden of Native Plants](#) ^[9]-containing several thousand specimens indigenous to the Southeast-the [Doris Duke Center Garden](#) ^[10], and the extensive [Culberson Asiatic Arboretum](#) ^[11], dedicated to plants of eastern Asia, were developed. The Sarah P. Duke Gardens are open to the public every day of the year without charge and each year attract over 300,000 visitors.

Reference:

Marcus Embry, "Watching the Gardens Grow," *Duke: A Magazine for Alumni and Friends* (July-August 1989).

Additional Resources:

Duke Gardens: <http://www.hr.duke.edu/dukegardens/> ^[4]

Duke Gardens History: <http://www.hr.duke.edu/dukegardens/history.htm> ^[6]

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Subjects:

[Great Depression \(1929-1941\)](#) ^[12]

[Places](#) ^[13]

Authors:

[Durden, Robert F.](#) ^[14]

Origin - location:

[Durham](#) ^[15]

[Duke University](#) ^[16]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[17]

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Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/sarah-p-duke-gardens> [2] <https://www.flickr.com/photos/joanna8555/3923331662/> [3] <https://ncpedia.org/duke-university> [4] <http://www.hr.duke.edu/dukegardens/> [5] <http://maps.duke.edu/map/index.php?id=21> [6] <http://www.hr.duke.edu/dukegardens/history.htm> [7] <http://library.duke.edu/lilly/about/lillyartproj/sarah-p-duke.html> [8] <http://tclf.org/pioneer/ellen-shipman> [9] <http://library.duke.edu/exhibits/gardens/blomquist.html> [10] http://www.hr.duke.edu/dukegardens/doris_duke_center.htm [11] http://www.hr.duke.edu/dukegardens/culberson_asiatric_arboretum.htm [12] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/great-depression-> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/places> [14] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/durden-robert-f> [15] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont-8> [16] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmon-34> [17] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->