

# UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden

Hummingbirds, Botanicals, Landscapes, Lighthouses and Sunset

March 16, 2022

*Compiled & researched by Sonia Dunning. Any questions, call or text her at 510-388-0381*

**MEET at 9 AM** Please make your own car-pooling arrangements. Drive straight up from the arboretum gate to the parking lot. Meet at beginning of walkway to Australian Garden (left side of parking lot). Self-pay kiosk located here. From there, it is a short stroll to one of the concentrations of hummingbirds. **(See map)**

**If you are planning to arrive later** - call Sonia (see above) or Jeanette, 510-918-6404 to find out where we are gathered.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### LOCATION:

Address of Arboretum cannot be used by car GPS. Use **1490 High Street, Santa Cruz**. Entrance is less than 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile further on the right

### WEBSITES (worth checking out before your visit):

[UCSC Arboretum & Botanic Garden](#) (main page linking to extensive information)

[UCSC Hummingbird Information](#) (direct link to UCSC hummingbird info & photos)

### PARKING & ADMISSION:

**Open:** 9 am to 5 pm - Free parking

Entrance Fee: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors 65+, \$5 youth 6-17, children under 6 are free

**CASH or CHECK** only (NO CHARGE CARDS) – Honor system

**OR**

**Pay in advance** online at [shopucscarboretum.com](http://shopucscarboretum.com)

(NOTE: Map is from 2019 with fee as \$5. It has not been updated to reflect rate increases)

**BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH** – Close to the hummingbird concentration is a lovely picnic grove with tables. **(See map)**

## About Hummingbirds

### PHOTOGRAPHING HUMMERS - PRE-TRIP SUGGESTED VIEWING:

The well-respected, Canadian bird Photographer, **Stefano Ianiro**, has an excellent primer on [How to Photograph Hummingbirds](#) on his YouTube channel. With this knowledge and patience, you can maximize your chances of capturing these feathered jewels.

### UCSC ARBORETUM HUMMINGBIRD INFORMATION

Hummingbird concentrations can be found in both the Australian and South African Garden areas. The Australian area has been particularly active with convenient benches placed in front of their favorite flowering bushes.

In addition to its highly regarded horticultural reputation, the **UC Santa Cruz Arboretum & Botanic Garden** is known as a migration stopover for two species of hummingbirds, the [Rufous-sided Hummingbird](#) and the [Allen's Hummingbird](#), with a year-round resident, the [Anna's Hummingbird](#). Allen's (common) and Rufous-sided (rare) Hummingbirds are impossible to distinguish one from the other unless they are captured and examined in hand. If you photograph a rust-colored bird here, you can safely say it is an Allen's.

Hummingbird viewing opportunities extend from February into October or later, but the peak for numbers with all three species being present is now.

In 2016, a leucistic (non-pigmented feathers) hummingbird was photographed in the gardens. Unfortunately, such birds have a lower expectation of survival and, therefore, reproduction (see: Audubon article, [Rare White Hummingbird Steals the Spotlight at California Garden](#)).

## Side Trips and Dining

For those who want to spend only part of the day at the gardens, here are a few suggestions for nearby places you could fit into this one-day trip, or for future exploration, along with a helpful app specific to the area.

### **Mobile Ranger**

An app for your smartphone or tablet providing self-guided tours of Santa Cruz sights and adjacent areas, including the Lime Works (see below)

[Mobile Ranger - iPhone](#)

[Mobile Ranger - iPad](#)

[Mobile Ranger - Android](#)

**Santa Cruz Boardwalk** - 400 Beach Street, less than 4 miles away from Arboretum

**Sunset Location** (Sunrise - 7:18 AM , Sunset - 7:17 PM)

[Natural Bridges State Beach](#), 2531 W Cliff Drive

### **Lighthouses –**

[Santa Cruz Surf shop and Lighthouse](#) - 701 W Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz

[Breakwater \(Walton\) Lighthouse](#) - East Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz

**Historic District** - there are three registered, historic districts; the two most recommended are:

[Mission Hill Historic District](#)

[Cowell Lime Works](#) (may warrant a field trip of its own)

[Cowell Lime Works Brochure](#)

Located at the main entrance to UC Santa Cruz at High & Bay Streets

30 acres, includes four lime kilns, the cook house, cooperage, hay barn, Cardiff House, worker cabins, and many other buildings and structures from the 19th century. In 2007 the district was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

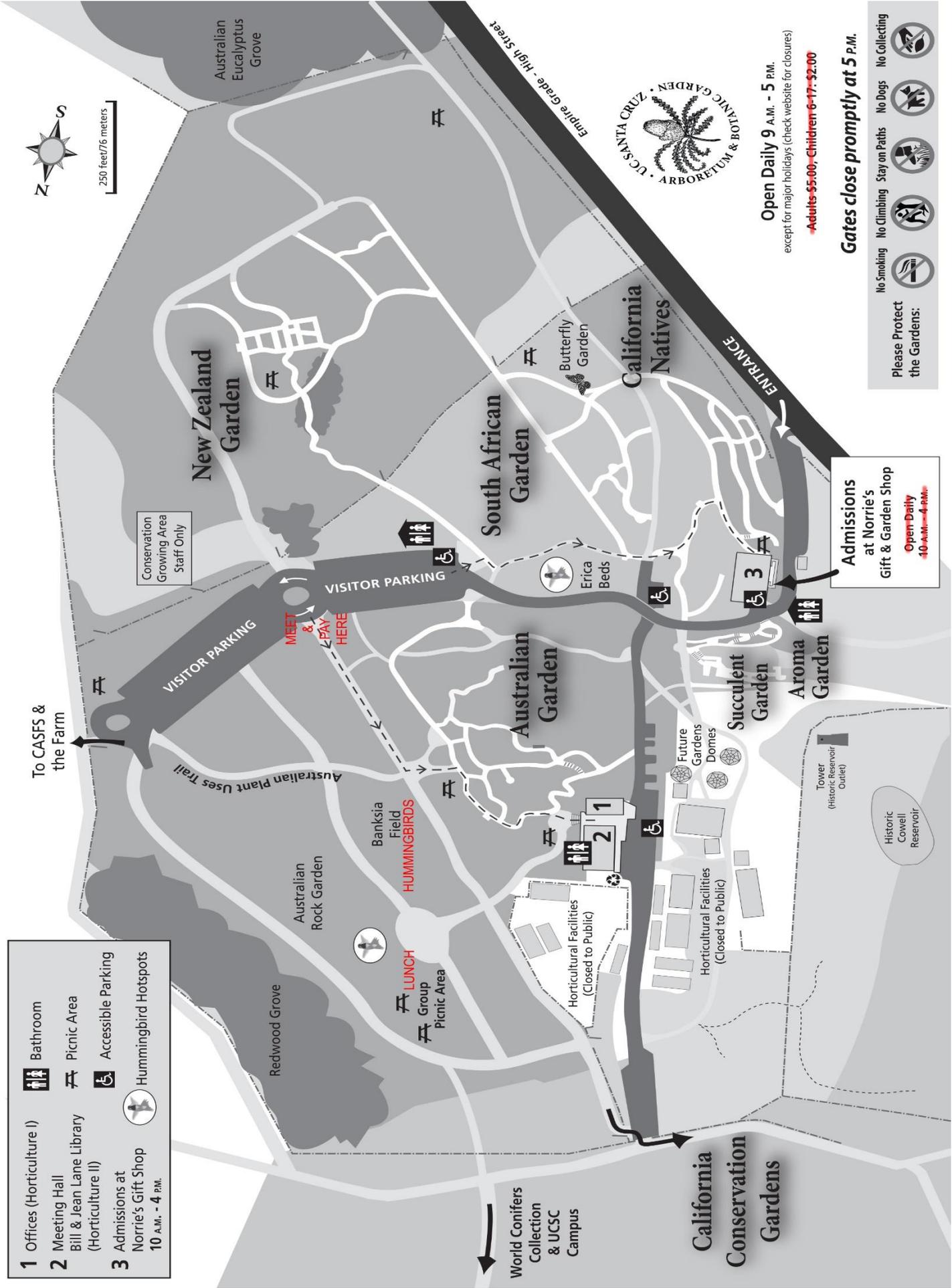
Parking - Obtain a daily parking permit (\$6.00) and campus map at the Main Entry kiosk on Coolidge Dr. Park in the lots on the west side of Coolidge, adjacent to the Barn Theater, Admissions Office and kilns, or near the Granary Childcare Center at High and Coolidge.

### **Dining**

The Santa Cruz/Capitola area has many dining establishments. My favorite is located in a lovely enclave of Spanish-style buildings between Esplanade and Stockton Ave in Capitola. The street has numerous other restaurants to choose from as well as interesting shops.

[Margaritaville Mexican Restaurant](#) – 231 Esplanade, Capitola - Not your typical Mexican restaurant. Upscale, yet laid back. Outdoor seating overlooking a lagoon and beach. Eat in or take out.

- 1** Offices (Horticulture I)  Bathroom
  - 2** Meeting Hall  
Bill & Jean Lane Library (Horticulture II)  Picnic Area
  - 3** Admissions at Norrie's Gift Shop 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.  Accessible Parking
-  Hummingbird Hotspots



**Open Daily 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.**  
except for major holidays (check website for closures)  
**Adults \$5.00 - Children 6-17 - \$2.00**

**Gates close promptly at 5 P.M.**

- Please Protect the Gardens:
-  No Smoking
  -  No Climbing
  -  Stay on Paths
  -  No Dogs
  -  No Collecting

**Admissions at Norrie's Gift & Garden Shop**  
**Open Daily 10 A.M. - 4 P.M.**

World Confiers Collection & UCSC Campus

California Conservation Gardens

To CASFS & the Farm

Conservation Growing Area Staff Only

VISITOR PARKING

HUMMINGBIRDS

Horticultural Facilities (Closed to Public)

Horticultural Facilities (Closed to Public)

Tower (Historic Reservoir Outlet)

Historic Cowell Reservoir

ENTRANCE

South African Garden

New Zealand Garden

Australian Garden

California Natives

Australian Eucalyptus Grove



250 feet/76 meters