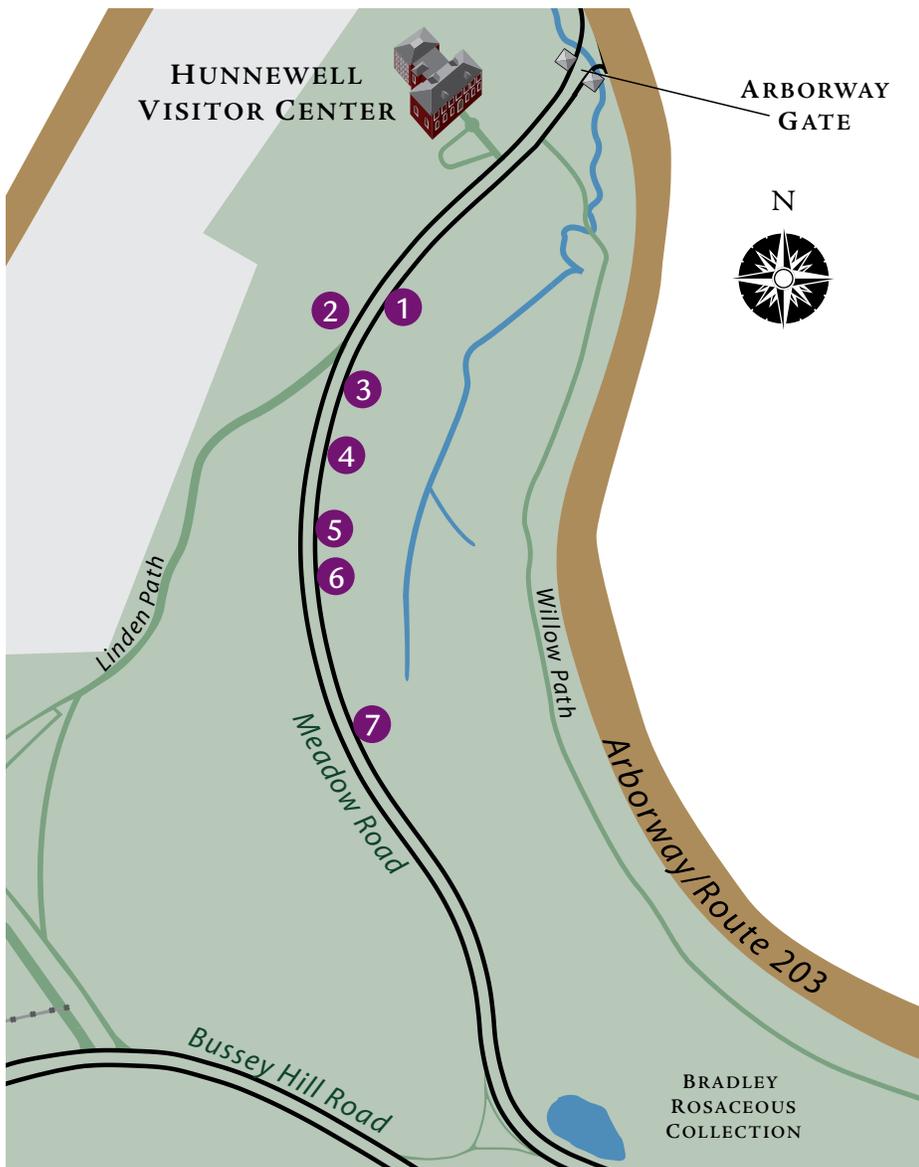


# Azalea Border

Initially designed by noted landscape architect Beatrix Farrand and installed in 1946, this collection of *Rhododendron* and other members of the heath family (Ericaceae) featured masses of shrubs grown mainly for their ornamental merit. Each bed within Azalea Border tends to have a prominent backbone species or genus (e.g., *Rhododendron arborescens*, *Enkianthus*), with ancillary species and cultivars mixed in. The mid-sized serviceberries (*Amelanchier* spp.) are understory species grown in many of the beds; they serve as a thread tying the beds together, particularly when they are all in bloom.



- 1 Korean rhododendron (*Rhododendron mucronulatum*)
- 2 Katsura tree (*Cercidiphyllum* spp.)
- 3 Coast azalea (*R. atlanticum*)
- 4 Maleberry (*Lyonia ligustrina*)
- 5 Ghent azalea hybrids (*R. × gandavense*)
- 6 Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)
- 7 Enkianthus (*Enkianthus* spp.)

1 Korean rhododendron (*Rhododendron mucronulatum*) is an early-blooming species and is usually the first rhododendron in Azalea Border to bloom each spring. It bears bright lavender-pink flowers that open before the foliage emerges.



Autumn along Azalea Border is also a treat once the 2 katsura trees (*Cercidiphyllum* spp.) begin to senesce and their leaves change color to yellow and light orange—at this stage the leaves have a pleasant fragrance often compared to the aroma of baking bread and caramelized sugar.

3 Coast azalea (*R. atlanticum*) has especially fragrant white to light pink flowers and bluish green foliage. Coast azalea is native in the mid-Atlantic and southeastern coastal states where it grows as a twiggy, low-growing shrub in forest understories.



4 *Lyonia*: This genus of understory shrubs is native to the eastern and south central states. In the Azalea Border the genus is represented by maleberry (*L. ligustrina*), a large shrub that is often found in damp sites but also tolerates drier soil conditions.



The 5 Ghent azalea hybrids (*R. × gandavense*) bloom in May, displaying a patchwork of flower color among its cultivars and unnamed hybrids. This hybrid group has multiple *Rhododendron* species in its parentage and originated from plant breeders in Belgium in the early nineteenth century.



6 *Vaccinium*: This genus includes blueberries and related fruiting shrubs. Look for several cultivars of highbush blueberry (*V. corymbosum*), noted for their tasty midsummer fruit and outstanding fall foliage color.



7 *Enkianthus*: These handsome large shrubs or small trees bear dangling clusters of small bell-shaped flowers in spring. They are also showy in autumn when their foliage turns bright shades of red, orange, and yellow.

