

Welcome

The NSAC Rock Garden has become one of the university's most valued features on campus and is arguably the largest and most diverse rock garden in the Maritimes. Extending over a half-acre (0.2 hectares) of hillside, it brings a unique sense of bio-diversity to the campus grounds and a natural green space that can be enjoyed by all.

Naturalist and conservationist Bernard Jackson and the dedicated volunteer group Friends of the Garden, have spent countless hours developing and shaping this distinctive creation. The Garden is designed to combine native and exotic plants into an expression of natural beauty and ecologically functional plant habitats.

The Garden continues to develop through the help of the Friends of the Garden and donations from alumni and other interested groups. Two new areas under development this year are the primula rhododendron dell and the saxifrage collection. Visit the Rock Garden often to experience all the wonders it has to offer.



If you would like to contribute to the ongoing development of the NSAC Rock Garden, donations can be left in the donation box at either entrance to the gardens, or by contacting the Development & External Relations Office, Cumming Hall, 893.6721. development@nsac.ca

nsac.ca

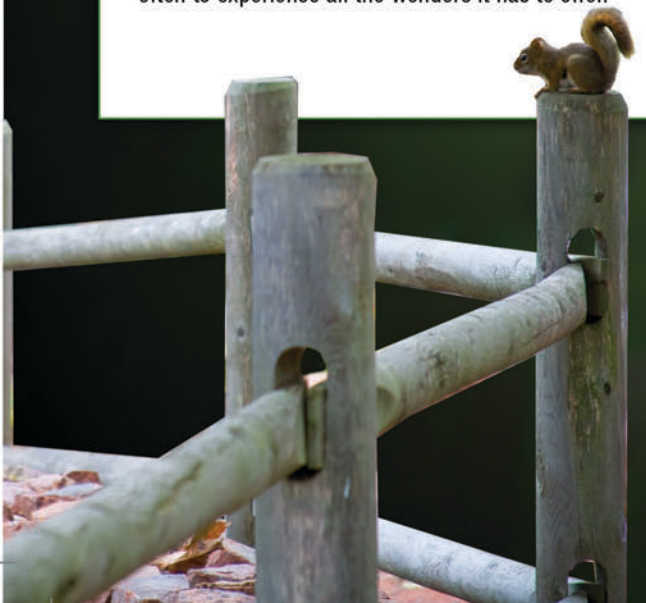


NSAC Rock Garden *Self-Guided Tour*



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2 The handcarved troughs were created from reclaimed local sandstone building blocks and are planted with some of the best and most unique alpine species from around the world. Enclosing the courtyard is a slate wall fully planted with species requiring both shaded and dry conditions. This space also contains two crevice gardens on opposite corners, featuring plants that require protection from the wind and deep well drained root zones.

Traveling along the foot path from the courtyard you experience a small woodland garden complete with ferns, herbaceous plants and shrubs. Directly ahead of the path is an area surrounded by dwarf conifers, typical of a mountain top. In a few short steps you find yourself in the scree garden. This area represents the base of a mountain, containing plants that can thrive in the three feet of gravel in this root zone.

1 The Rock Garden contains an assortment of features including a variety of plants, garden structures and stonework. Your garden adventure begins upon entering the limestone courtyard through the pergola, one of the many wooden creations built by NSAC's woodworking class and supplied by Friends of the Garden. The limestone paver courtyard, developed with a generous grant from the North American Rock Garden Society, showcases old world style garden troughs and a series of unique plant habitats representing alpine conditions.



3 Continuing on the path, you journey across one of two bridges, constructed by the woodworking class, that span the dry stream bed. The dry bed – a natural feature in many arid climates – allows for drainage in the garden and traps soil and moisture at one end, producing a fertile environment for plants to grow.

4 Your journey is now coming to an end. As you travel across the last bridge and past the cacti that have braved the Nova Scotia winters, you climb up the stone steps to the balcony.

One of the unique features of a rock garden is the variety of plant environments it offers. The Rock Garden at NSAC is meant to represent a variety of naturally occurring plant habitat. Many different ecological and environmental conditions have been recreated in the garden areas. This allows for diverse groups of plants to be represented throughout the Rock Garden. The garden also serves as a unique hands-on learning tool for NSAC students, especially those enrolled in the Environmental Horticulture Program. Many of the plants bear their true scientific name and allow the student or passer-by to take a bit of knowledge with them as they stroll through the garden.

5 Standing on the balcony overlooking the garden, you get a bird's eye view that captures the garden's unique beauty. From here you can see just how much work has gone into the Rock Garden and the value it brings to campus. Thank you for taking this little trip and we hope you have enjoyed your experience.

