



TURTLE BAY

EXPLORATION PARK™

Human. Nature.



McConnell Arboretum & Gardens

The **McConnell Arboretum & Gardens** of Turtle Bay Exploration Park is located on the northern section of the Park's grounds. **The garden is comprised of 20 acres** of mediterranean-climate display gardens, a children's garden, a medicinal garden, and two beautiful and unique water features. **The arboretum covers more than 200 acres** with direct links to the award-winning Sacramento River Trail. The Gardens build on Turtle Bay's message of sustainability and educational mission to explore the relationship between nature and human activities.

History

The McConnell Arboretum & Gardens is the fourth phase of Turtle Bay Exploration Park. One of four organizations that merged to create Turtle Bay Exploration Park, the Redding Arboretum supporters initially drove the development of a series of gardens on the arboretum site. Turtle Bay inherited and embraced the plan to develop the site as seen today.

Overview of the McConnell Arboretum

The 200 acres of undeveloped arboretum riparian forest and oak savannah are in the process of restoration. **Non- native species were eliminated and native species were planted** for wildlife habitat. The arboretum is accessible by a system of footpaths and bike paths just north of the Gardens and Sundial Bridge. The arboretum paths connect with the Sacramento River Trail, allowing further exploration and recreation for Turtle Bay Exploration Park visitors.

Garden themes

The Gardens contains a wide variety of plants, many of which give a sampling of the world's **mediterranean climate zones**, similar to the Redding climate. These include the California, South African, Pacific Rim, Chilean, and Australian gardens. The Fitzpatrick Celebration Garden is a graceful location for weddings, corporate events, parties and receptions. The Gardens use a **water-wise method** that focuses on working with nature, choosing appropriate plants and properly preparing soil, in an effort to use less water from the local supply. There are 13 gardens in all, with exploration opportunities for both the young - the Children's Garden - and the young at heart - the Butterfly Garden.

About Turtle Bay Exploration Park

Spanning the Sacramento River in Redding and connected by the Sundial Bridge at Turtle Bay, designed by Santiago Calatrava, Turtle Bay Exploration Park is a 300-acre campus containing educational and entertaining activities that interpret the relationship between humans and nature. The Park tells the stories of the region and its people through a museum, art gallery, wildlife exhibits, forest camp, a summer butterfly house, amphitheater, and an arboretum and gardens.

McConnell Arboretum & Gardens at Turtle Bay Exploration Park