Gardens and Greens

Georgia Tech Gardens and Greens
A guide to Georgia Tech’s green spaces and garden facts.

The Hill
1. Tech Tower Lawn
   This area served as a parade ground for the military in the early 1900s. The large white oak (Quercus alba) near Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans Stairs can be seen in images taken around 1888.

   FUN FACT
   There was once a sundial in the center of the space.

2. Harrison Square
   Harrison Square was named after Edwin Davies Harrison, the sixth president of Georgia Tech (1957-1969). It is home of the Corliss Pump from the Worthington Pump and Machinery Corporation, a company formed on April 20, 1916. The pump was used in the Coon Building on campus.

3. Paul Mayer Memorial Gardens
   This garden is named after Paul G. Mayer, who started as a civil engineering professor in 1959, became a Regents Professor in 1974, and retired from Georgia Tech in 1985. The garden contains a variety of ornamental trees and shrubs typically found in Japanese gardens.

4. Skiles Courtyard
   The grove of Japanese snowbell (Styrax japonicus) trees provides a comfortable courtyard with its golden leaves every fall. The grove of Japanese snowbell (Styrax japonicus) trees provides a comfortable shaded seating area.

East Campus
9. Architecture (East) Courtyard
10. Rain Garden at Klaus
11. Noonan Courtyard
12. Biotech Quad/Courtyard
13. Cisco Amphitheater
14. Fred L. “Bud” Suddath Courtyard
15. Ecker Family Courtyard

Eco-Commons
16. GTR Eco-Commons Glade Overlook
17. Urban Forest Pilot Project
18. Eco-Commons

West Campus
19. IC Lawn/Community Garden
20. Couch Park

Tech Square
21. Johnny Gresham Plaza Bridge
22. Acuity Brands Plaza
Tech Green

5. Tech Green
The design for this space is based on the concept of a theater with a mezzanine, loge, orchestra, and stage. Under the green is a 1.4-gallon-gallon cistern harvesting storm and condensate water for flushing Clough Commons toilets, for irrigation, and for makeup water in the Kessler Campanile fountain.

8. Class of 1970 Rooftop Garden
The planting palette for Clough Commons, the rooftop garden includes 39 drought-tolerant native species. The irrigation for the garden is provided from the cistern in Tech Green.

East Campus

9. Architecture (East) Courtyard
Currently under renovation.

10. Rain Garden at Klaus
This unique landscape includes a collection of perennials, capable of surviving wet and dry conditions. This fall image shows river oats (Chasmanthium latifolium). In the spring, ragwort (Senecio aureus) blankets the area.

11. Noonan Courtyard
Verina Baxter’s Big Red Tumpkin was placed in the courtyard as part of the 2013 Engineered Art Exhibit. The diverse native plant palette along the eastern edge includes two varieties of buckeye: bottle brush (Anacardiaceae) and Georgia buckeye (A. virginiana). FUN FACT Portions of the 2013 film The Internship were filmed here.

14. Fred L. “Bud” Suddath Courtyard
Bud Suddath was a faculty member at Georgia Tech from 1985 to 1992 and served as vice president for Information Technology, as well as executive assistant to the Institute’s president. This space contains Tech’s only windmill palm (Trachycarpus fortunei).

15. Ecker Family Courtyard
Completed in 2013, this courtyard overlooks 10 tennis courts as part of the Ken Byers Tennis Complex and is adjacent to McCamish Pavilion, which was also renovated in 2012.

Eco-Commons

16. Class of 1957 Eco-Commons Glade Overlook
From approximately 55 feet above the glade, the overlook provides a dramatic view through the trees to the soon-to-be-completed Eco-Commons pond. The large white oak (Quercus alba) near the overlook has a 42.5-inch-caliper trunk.

FUN FACT
The USS Constitution is made of white oak.

17. Urban Forest Pilot Project
In 2004, this hill was a lawn requiring irrigation and regular mowing. As a pilot project, Georgia Tech planted 795 saplings to see how long it would take to achieve a dense forest.

18. Eco-Commons
With portions currently under construction, these conceptual images portray the vision for the Eco-Commons. The design includes a network of open space, rain gardens, cisterns, and infiltration areas that will provide opportunities for capturing storm water and condensate for irrigation and reuse in future buildings. A unique palette of plant materials has been developed to include hydric, mesic, and xeric plant communities.

West Campus

19. IC Lawn/Community Garden
A favorite for tailgating, this area also includes a community garden maintained by Students Organizing for Sustainability (SOS). SOS participants gather to tend the garden about once a week. It’s home to more than a dozen crops – all grown without chemical fertilizers – giving gardeners an array of healthy take-home options.

West Campus

20. Couch Park
This city-owned park is maintained and operated by Georgia Tech. Formerly known as the “Burger Bowl,” it is used for rugby, baseball, soccer, frisbee, and summer camps.

Tech Square

21. Johnny Gresham Plaza Bridge
Also known as Fifth Street Bridge, this bridge features a trellis covered with Carolina jasmine (Gelsemium sempervirens), providing shade as students traverse the I-75/85 corridor. This unique green space is used for food festivals, outdoor movies, and the occasional tailgating party.

22. Acuity Brands Plaza
As a primary Midtown entrance to Tech, this plaza features a bosque of ‘Princeton’ American elms (Ulmus americana ‘Princeton’), known to be resistant to Dutch elm disease in North America.