



# Oregon Ridge Native Plant Woodland Garden

## About the Garden

The Oregon Ridge woodland garden will be a protected space within the park where guests will be able to observe the natural beauty of Maryland native plants. There will be labels and descriptions of each plant as well as information on the ecological benefits of keeping native plants. The Garden will have several entrance points, a meandering path, and locations where guests may sit and enjoy the wildlife within the garden.



Golden Ragwort (*Packera aurea*)



Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)



Violet Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis violacea*)



Sweatroot (*Polemonium reptans*)

The wildflowers pictured above are just some of the many gorgeous plants that will grow within the dappled shade of the woodland garden. The garden will also be home to beautiful ferns, shrubs, and grasses native to the region.



The Garden will be located within the Miner's Quarry Loop trail just a short walk north of the Nature Center. This area is highlighted in yellow on the map to the right.

## Wildlife Exclusion

Unfortunately not all woodland dwellers are conducive to flourishing native gardens. White-tailed deer pose a particular threat to these gardens as they voraciously consume understory vegetation. Their eating habits negatively affect other animals within the ecosystem by removing important sources of food and shelter, for this reason the garden will be enclosed by a tall fence so that it may flourish unfettered by the grazing of white-tailed deer.



Deer Browse Line by Andy Jones

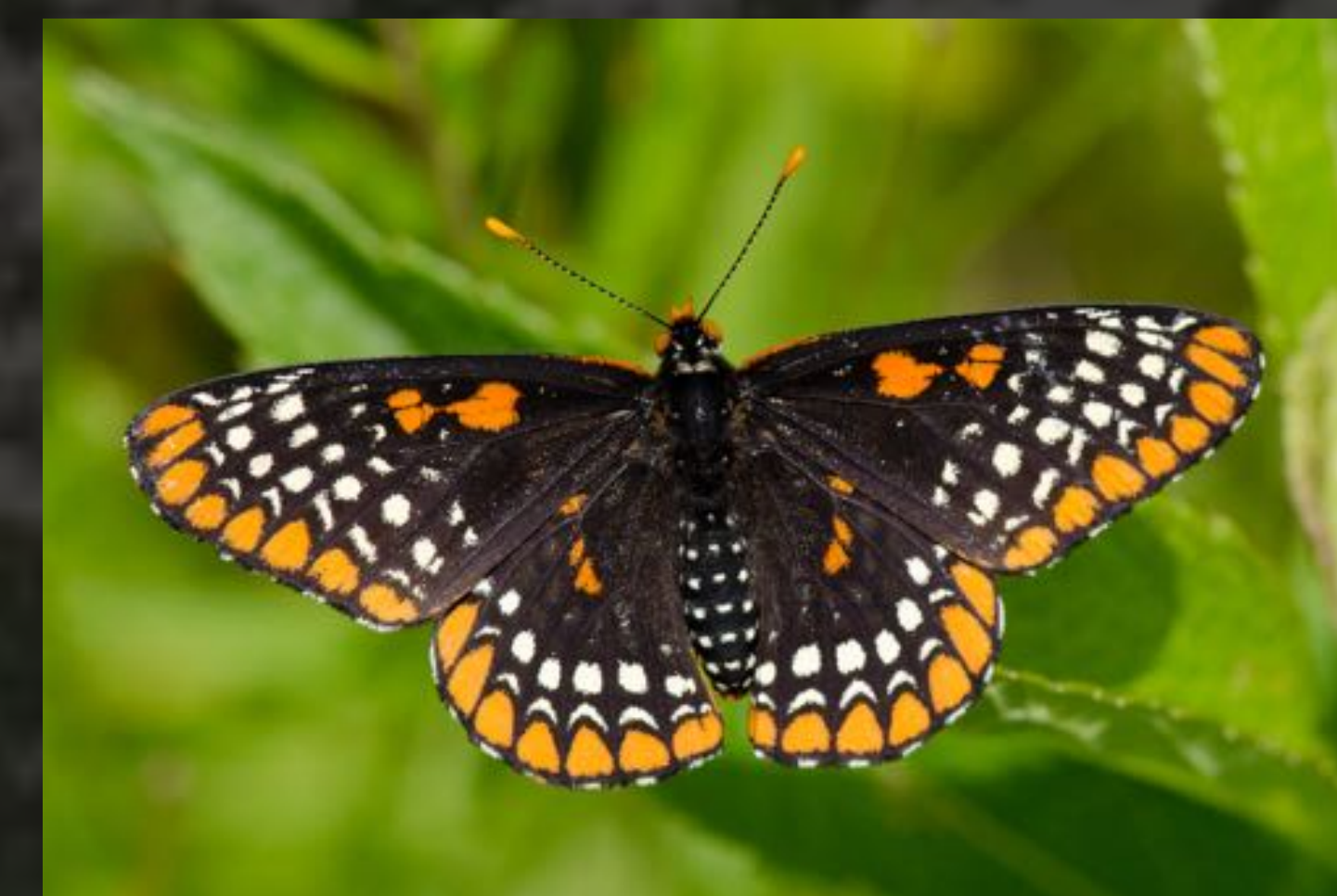
The forest in the photo to the left has had its understory vegetation cleared due to the white-tailed deer in the area.



White-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) grazing from a tree

## Benefits of Native Gardens

Native plants are specially adapted to survive within our local climate. These species provide nectar, pollen, seeds and habitats attracting native fauna such as butterflies, bees, birds and other animals. Non-native plants may not provide such numerous benefits to local wildlife. Such an environment creates a beautiful scenic area with increased biodiversity and helps to preserve our natural heritage.



Baltimore Checkerspot (*Euphydryas phateon*) by Twan Leenders



Sweat Bee (*Augochlorella aurata*) by John S. Archer