

more than just a favorite hangout,
GARDENS
 provide perfect **PARTY** venue

→ Referred to colloquially as the Sunken Gardens, but officially known as the Sunken Garden, the stretch of grass running from the Wren Building to the Crim Dell Meadow served as a center of activity for students. Functionally similar to a university quad-angle, the Sunken Garden was the heart of Old Campus, and, in many ways, the heart of the College.

The Sunken Garden was first designed by College Architect Charles M. Robinson in 1919 based off of the work by Sir Christopher Wren at the Chelsea Hospital in London, England. In 1923, the plans were first discussed in a correspondence between J.A.C. Chandler and Charles F. Gillette. The plan was abandoned for some time afterwards, though, due to financial constraints. Finally, the Garden was constructed in 1935, possibly with the help of the Civilian Conservation Corps created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt as part of his New Deal economic recovery plan.

All history aside however, the Sunken Gardens (as it is called by students) remained a relevant and very integral part of the campus

through the years. A site of much memory-making, the Sunken Gardens served as the location or starting point for such notable events as the King and Queen's Ball, Kappa Delta's popular philanthropy Campus Golf, and the Blowout festivities. In a similar vein, the Sunken Gardens also hosted awareness events. For instance, Steer Clear placed thousands of American flags across the Gardens to spread awareness of the dangers of drunk driving.

However, beyond all the popular events, the Sunken Gardens was often remembered as just being the perfect reading spot, Ultimate Frisbee field, and festivity locale. "The Sunken Gardens is one of the best places to hang out on campus because its pretty and its relaxing," sophomore Erica Shifflett said. "There's always something to watch on the Gardens, or you can just sit and relax with your friends." Whether it was just a place to hangout or somewhere to hold a College-wide function, the importance of the Sunken Gardens could not be underestimated.

→Meredith Howard



On an unusual 70 degree February day, students flock to the sunny Sunken Gardens to soak up some vitamin D, escape the stuffy indoors, and spend some time outdoors with friends. The unseasonably warm days of the past year encouraged students to use the Sunken Gardens as a playground, a tanning booth, and for the especially dedicated, as a reading spot.



→ The Indonesian Gamelan Ensemble's final concert plays for an audience gathered in the Sunken Gardens. Both the beginner and intermediate classes, which fulfilled GER 6, held the free concert. Weather permitting, free concerts supported by classes and organizations of campus often held their events on the Sunken Gardens.

← Thousands of American flags representing the number of deaths due to alcohol-related car crashes cover the Sunken Gardens. Steer Clear, the safe-ride program run by students for students, was just one of the many awareness organizations which used the Sunken Gardens as a stage to educate the student body.