



CAPE FEAR BOTANICAL GARDEN
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Cape Fear Botanical Receives Support from Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc.

[Fayetteville, NC] - Cape Fear Botanical Garden is pleased to announce a \$3,970 grant from the Community Grants Program 2026 and the Cape Fear River Basin Environmental Fund of Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc. The grant funds assisted with printing the final report publication of the Cape Fear Botanical Garden Programming and Management Study.

Cape Fear Botanical Garden (CFBG) welcomed representatives from Coastal Dynamics Design Lab (CDDL) at North Carolina State University during the Annual Member Meeting to present findings from a 9-month comprehensive study and assessment.

The study's results bring together ecological research, community input, and design ideas to help CFBG grow while protecting the natural resources that make this place so special. The study highlights the ecological value of the region, the Cape Fear River, and its floodplain, and aims to increase environmental awareness and balance preservation through education and public participation. The study was funded by an anonymous donor.

The work builds on CFBG's longstanding strengths in horticulture and education and guides the evolution as a regional leader in environmental conservation, stewardship, and education while remaining firmly rooted in our botanical garden heritage.

The report provides an important foundation for CFBG's future. It's a practical roadmap and will transform the recommendations into an implementation plan focusing on several immediate areas, including improved wayfinding and educational signage, and strengthening wildlife and invasive species management. These initiatives will enhance the visitor experience while supporting the long-term health, resilience, and ecological value of the Garden," said Chris Hoffman, CEO, Cape Fear Botanical Garden.

"The final report publication from NC State University's CDDL team will be an important tool as we plan for the future," said Vincent Garza, Director of Horticulture, Cape Fear Botanical Garden. "Their work will help us better understand the Garden's environmental assets and make informed decisions that support ecological health, resilience, and responsible growth."

About Cumberland Community Foundation:

Cumberland Community Foundation is a charitable organization that helps thousands of donors make life better in our community. Since 1980, they have provided grant awards for programs that support the arts and cultural infrastructure, prepare children for success in school, develop community opportunities, improve the environment, help people meet their basic human needs, and enhance community prosperity.

About Cape Fear Botanical Garden:

The mission of Cape Fear Botanical Garden is to transform people's relationship with plants and the natural world. The Garden is a living laboratory and aims to be the region's premier destination for people to connect with nature and expand their horizons through educational and cultural programs.