The Botanical Garden at Palo Alto College includes over 90 varieties of plants, flowers, and trees native to South Texas and San Antonio. A Butterfly Garden and Insectary are designed to attract pollinators to sustain the garden plantings, serving as an outside classroom where students can observe the life cycles of insects. At the center of the garden, the Acequia structure and associated paving and vegetation are intended to demonstrate and educate about the historic agriculture practices of the San Antonio Mission area. Landscape design incorporates a rain garden, bioswale, and water-collecting devices for water conservation as well as plants for biofiltration and runoff water purification. These projects were funded by the U.S. Department of Education through the CAARE Project.

Showcasing indigenous plantings, this trail meanders through a variety of trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses. Hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to blooming vines on trellises and arbors.

The Palo Alto College Butterfly Garden is designed to attract and sustain pollinators by using a diverse range of plants native to the Texas Hill Country. An insectary and butterfly spring help increase the number of butterfly species in the area, allowing students to investigate the life cycles of these insects.

Throughout their history, acequias have been critical and culturally significant to the community and commerce in and throughout the southwestern United States. Palo Alto College’s Acequia is ecologically pertinent to energy, soil, and water conservation efforts, while being sensitive to the natural environment.

A custom-designed 16’ lighted aluminum structure reflects imagery of the Botanical Garden – the spikes along the base of the sculpture incorporate the agave plant and similar landscape native to South Texas.