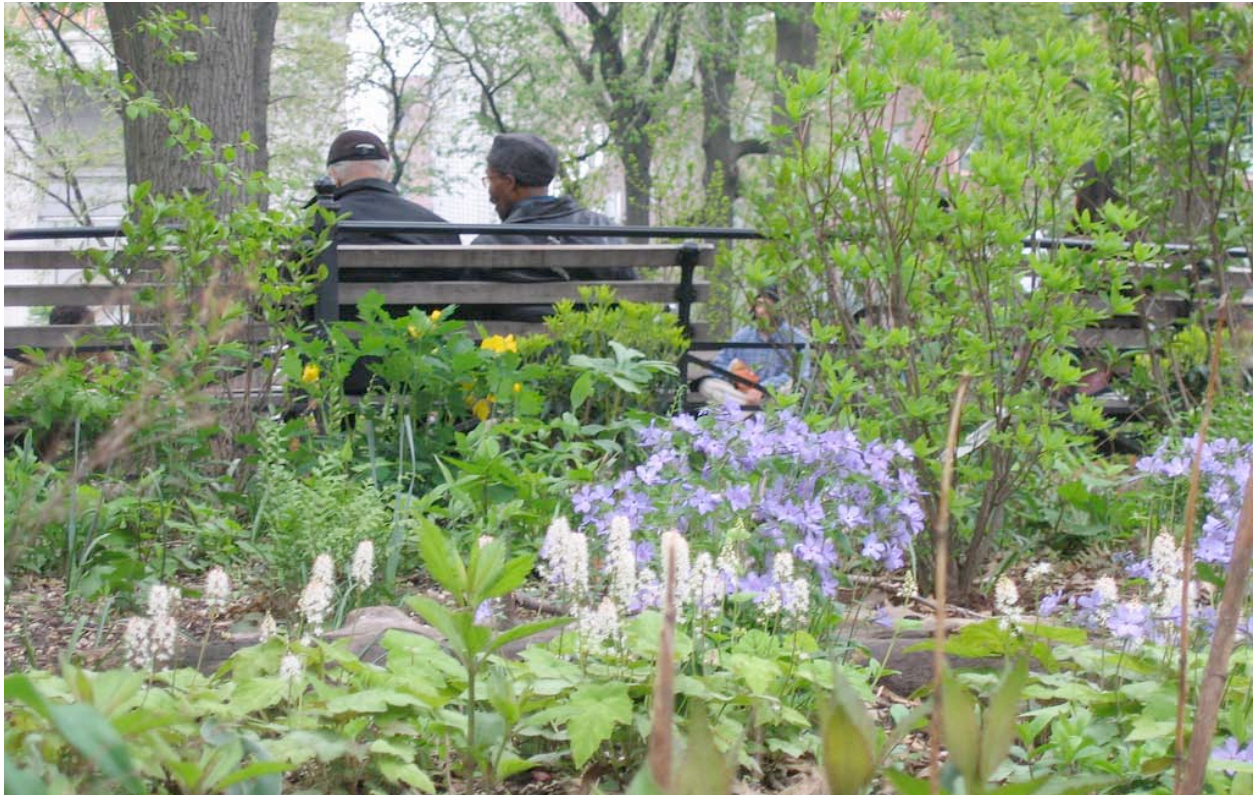


**Native Plant Garden  
Union Square Park, New York City**



**BACKGROUND & INITIATIVES**

The Native Plant Garden at East 15th Street and Union Square West features plants native to the New York City area. Inspired by regional plant communities, it serves as a woodland retreat in the heart of Manhattan.

The garden supports diverse initiatives, including:

*Demonstration Home Garden* - Inspiring New Yorkers to grow wildflowers. Home garden centers encourage environmentally unsound practices – use of gas powered tools, addition of fertilizers, soil loss, excessive water needs, planting of annuals, etc. By contrast, the Native Plant Garden is cultivated naturally and invites wildlife through low impact, earth friendly strategies for greening the garden. These are easily replicated at home at smaller scales – even a in a window box!

*Model Public Landscape* – Demonstrating thoughtful, sustainable design in a public park. Consideration was given to ecological relationships, floristic compatibility, and seasonal interest, as well as beauty and user-friendliness. The landscape emphasizes perennials. In one of the most intensively used areas of the city, the garden also provides a unique opportunity for New Yorkers to meet their foliar neighbors, a reminder of their biophilic connection to the natural heritage of the Big Apple.

*Habitat Haven for Wildlife* - Creating habitat havens for birds, bees, butterflies and other critters. Not only are native plants critical sources of food and lodging for wildlife, in some cases they are essential to their very existence. Most of our bird species feed their young exclusively insects, which are sustained by the tender leaves of native plants.

*Place-based Nature Education in Local Schools* - Collaborating with local schools to engage students in the outdoor classroom. Numerous studies underscore the benefits of nature to children. We are partnering with schools city-wide to teach them about the nature that's around them. We are also developing a curriculum for teachers to use the garden as an ecological lab.

The garden is also prominently featured during NYC Wildflower Week celebrated annually in May: <http://nycwildflowerweek.org>

## NOT-FOR-PROFIT PROJECT

Designed and administered by Marielle Anzelone, the Native Plant Garden is a not-for-profit project, operating under the fiscal sponsorship of Open Space Institute, Inc., based in New York City, as part of its Citizen Action Program. In 2008 the garden received its first grant from Hudson River Foundation's NYC Environmental Fund. Since 2006, the garden has received over \$21,000 towards garden materials and education and outreach programs through grants, public partnerships, and private donations.

## PLANTS FOUND IN THE GARDEN

### Shrubs

Juneberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)  
 Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)  
 Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)  
 Sweet fern (*Comptonia peregrina*)  
 Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*)  
 Black huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*)  
 Witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)  
 Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginiana*)  
 Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)  
 Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*)

Staggerbush (*Lyonia mariana*)  
 Flame azalea (*Rhododendron calendulaceum*)  
 Pinkster azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*)  
 Pasture rose (*Rosa carolina*)  
 Possum haw (*Viburnum nudum*)  
 Early lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*)  
 Highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)  
 Maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*)

Wildflowers (forbs)

Doll's eyes (*Actaea pachypoda*)  
 Black cohosh (*Actaea racemosa*)  
 White snakeroot (*Ageratina altissima*)  
 Yellow giant hyssop (*Agastache nepetoides*)  
 Purple giant hyssop (*Agastache scrophulariifolia*)  
 Blue star 'Blue Ice' (*Amsonia tabernaemontana*)  
 Canada anemone (*Anemone canadensis*)  
 Rue anemone (*Anemonella thalictroides*)  
 Wild columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)  
 Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*)  
 Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*)  
 Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)  
 Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)  
 Blue false indigo (*Baptisia australis*)  
 Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*)  
 Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)  
 American harebell (*Campanulastrum americanum*)  
 Blue cohosh (*Caulophyllum thalictroides*)  
 Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)  
 Mistflower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)  
 Hyssop-leaved thoroughwort (*Eupatorium hyssopifolium*)  
 Spotted joe-pye weed 'Gateway' (*Eupatoriadelphus maculatus*)  
 White wood aster (*Eurybia divaricata*)  
 Wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)  
 Bowman's root (*Gillenia trifoliata*)  
 Woodland sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*)  
 Alumroot (*Heuchera americana*)  
 Crested iris (*Iris cristata*)  
 Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)  
 Great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)  
 Seedbox (*Ludwigia alternifolia*)  
 Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)  
 Prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa*)  
 Stiff goldenrod (*Oligoneuron rigidum*)  
 Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*)  
 Creeping phlox 'Sherwood Purple' (*Phlox stolonifera*)  
 Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*)

Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)  
 Big-leaved mountainmint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)  
 Wild pink (*Silene caroliniana*)  
 Blue-stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*)  
 Celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*)  
 Heart-leaved aster (*Symphotrichum cordifolium*)  
 Blue-leaved aster and cv 'Bluebird' (*Symphotrichum laeve*)  
 Aromatic aster (*Symphotrichum oblongifolium*)  
 Foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)  
 Large-leaved trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)  
 Culvers root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*)  
 Canada violet (*Viola canadensis*)  
 Labrador violet (*Viola labradorica*)  
 Golden alexanders (*Zizia aurea*)

Graminoids (grasses/sedges/rushes)

Blue wood sedge (*Carex flaccosperma*)  
 Appalachian sedge (*Carex appalachica*)  
 Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pennsylvanica*)  
 Eastern bottlebrush grass (*Elymus hystrix*)  
 Common wood rush (*Luzula multiflora*)  
 Switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*)  
 Little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*)

Ferns

Maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)  
 Lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*)  
 Leatherleaf woodfern (*Dryopteris marginalis*)  
 Ostrich fern (*Matteucia struthiopteris*)  
 Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)  
 Cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*)  
 Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

Vines

Dutchman's pipe (*Aristolochia macrophylla*)  
 Virgin's bower (*Clematis virginiana*)  
 Trumpetvine (*Lonicera sempervirens*)