

Garden State Gardens Consortium Mission Statement

To increase public awareness of and appreciation for New Jersey's public gardens by promoting their horticultural, educational, historic and artistic value and to facilitate the collaboration of allied professionals in order to promote public garden visitation, stewardship and support.

Quick Facts

Incorporated in 2008, Garden State Gardens Consortium, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit organization. A 1 hour long PowerPoint presentation about New Jersey's public gardens and arboreta can be scheduled for groups by contacting the webmaster at gardenstategardens.org

Membership criteria includes:

Collections are labeled or curated

Non-profit status

Be open to the public

Horticulture is central to the organization's mission

Members of the Garden State Gardens Consortium are on public lands and historic properties and university grounds. 2017 Membership is comprised of 25 gardens and arboreta in 12 of New Jersey's counties.

Bamboo Brook Outdoor Education Center, Far Hills
Lewis W. Barton Arboretum at Medford Leas, Medford
Deep Cut Gardens, Middletown
Leonard J. Buck Garden, Far Hills
Sister Mary Grace Burns Arboretum, Lakewood
Colonial Park Gardens, Millstone
Richard W. DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst
Cora Hartshorn Arboretum, Short Hills
Durrand-Hedden House & Garden, Maplewood
The Frelinghuysen Arboretum, Morristown
Greater Newark Conservancy, Newark
Greenwood Gardens, Short Hills
Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton Township
Laurelwood Arboretum, Wayne
Linwood Arboretum, Linwood
Marquand Park & Arboretum, Princeton
Macculloch Hall Historical Museum, Morristown
Morven Museum and Garden, Princeton
New Jersey State Botanical Garden, Ringwood
Presby Iris Gardens, Montclair
Reeves-Reed Arboretum, Summit
Rutgers Gardens, New Brunswick
Van Vleck House and Garden, Montclair
Willowwood Arboretum, Far Hills, NJ
The Robert A. Winters Arboretum of Meadow Lakes, East Windsor

Garden State Gardens Consortium History

In Autumn, 2005 a small group of New Jersey public garden and media professionals met to discuss how to better promote the beautiful public gardens and arboreta of New Jersey. They were: Jim Avens, Manager of Horticulture at the Somerset County Park Commission; Tom Castronovo, Garden writer; Bruce Crawford, Director of the Rutgers Gardens at Rutgers University; and Lesley Parness, Superintendent of Horticultural Education at the Morris County Park Commission.

In the spring of 2006, representatives from many of New Jersey's public gardens and arboreta attended a meeting at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morristown. This initial meeting, held on May 19, 2006, generated many ideas and sparked the interest of the numerous attendees. The group continued to meet and the name "Garden State Gardens Consortium" was chosen. Funds from a successful grant proposal, written by Ms. Parness in 2007 to the New Jersey Committee of the Garden Club of America, and sponsored by the Garden Club of Morristown, were used to incorporate the organization. In 2008, the Garden State Gardens Consortium received its non-profit, tax exempt status.

On the occasion of their 5th Anniversary, Garden State Gardens Consortium received recognition from the New Jersey Senate and the New Jersey Assembly. New Jersey Senator Christopher "Kip" Bateman, (R - Somerset, Hunterdon, Mercer and Middlesex) presented a joint Resolution from the New Jersey Senate and the New Jersey Assembly on Wednesday, October 16 to the members of the Garden State Gardens Consortium at The Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris Township.

Consortium members participate as a group at numerous gardening, garden industry and environmental shows, maintain a website (www.gardenstategardens.org) and a Facebook page.