

AHS National Display Gardens

At the 1980 AHS Convention, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Chanhassen, Minnesota, marking the establishment of the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Hosta Glade as the first official AHS Display Garden. At the time, the Hosta Glade was without equal. It was one of the few public gardens anywhere focusing on the use of hostas in a landscape, and it had one of the largest and best hosta collections in the world. It remained the sole AHS Display Garden for over a decade.

Since then, other dynamic hosta societies have established public hosta gardens that have met the criteria required for designation as an AHS Display Garden: an educational mission, a significantly large and appropriately labeled collection, and a commitment to maintain the garden.

The idea behind this program is to encourage local societies to support public gardens. We firmly believe that the more people that see hostas, the more they will like them, potentially increasing membership in The American Hosta Society (which is international in scope) and in local societies. The AHS has established criteria to assure a certain level of quality in its official display gardens. It is our hope that every local society will help sponsor at least one public garden, and perhaps even multiple gardens.

Idaho

University of Idaho Arboretum and Botanical Garden

[AHS Display Garden](#)

Address: 1200 West Palouse River Drive, Moscow, ID 83844

Phone: (208) 885-5978

Website: www.uidaho.edu/arboretum

Established: 2006 **Number of Varieties:** 260+ **Looks Best:** May - September

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2013

The Beth Bowler Memorial Hosta Walk was established to demonstrate the amazing diversity within the genus and how to use Hostas in the landscape. With over 600 plants representing 264 cultivars, the collection includes a significant number of miniature cultivars, contrasting with a number of the largest cultivars donated by the family of Beth Bowler. The walk is about half an acre within the Asian section of the Arboretum.

Illinois

The Hosta Garden at Cantigny Park

AHS Display Garden

Address: 1S151 Winfield Road, Wheaton, Illinois 60189

Phone: (630) 668-5161

Website: <http://www.cantigny.org/gardens/hosta-garden>

Established: 1967

Number of Varieties: 200+

Looks Best: May-August

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2016

The Hosta Garden is located within a 30 acre lush horticultural masterpiece. Cantigny Park which is one of the largest display gardens in the Midwest with more that 160,000 annuals, perennials, ground covers and flowering shrubs and trees rendering exceptional beauty in all seasons. The Hosta Garden displays hostas as specimens and in clusters, borders, raised areas, among rocks, and (yet to come) in containers. An extensive variety of companion plants enhances the collection.

Illinois Central College Arboretum

AHS Display Garden

Address: 1 College Drive; East Peoria, IL 61635

Phone: (309) 694-5422

Website: www.icc.edu/ait/horticulture/arboretum.asp

Established: 1980

Number of Varieties: 325

Looks Best: May – September

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2005

The Illinois Central College Arboretum is a living classroom. Featured plant collections encompass crabapples, birches, oaks, dwarf and unusual conifers, small maples, hydrangeas, and extensive shade perennial beds boasting over 325 varieties of hosta. These are arranged in related groups, such as a species bed, *sieboldiana* bed, 'Fortunei' bed, and *montana* bed. Since 1981, the arboretum has been a display garden for the All-American Selections of flowers and vegetables. Over 200 varieties of annuals are showcased each summer, mainly in the display beds north of the arboretum, but also dispersed throughout the garden. These are highlighted on the first Saturday after Labor Day, when ICC hosts its annual Landscape and Garden Day, annually attracting over 1500 gardening enthusiasts.

University of Illinois Arboretum

[AHS Display Garden](#)

Address: 1800 South Lincoln Avenue; Urbana, IL 61802

Phone: (217) 3337579

Website: arboretum.illinois.edu or IllinoisPrairieHostaSociety.com

Established: 2010

Number of Varieties: 123+

Looks Best: Late April – Early July

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2013

In 2010 the Illinois Prairie Hosta Society and U of I Arboretum joined together to create a garden for Hostas and Companion Plants that the community could enjoy. We are continuing to collaborate on design and new additions regularly. This is a garden that will continue to evolve as time passes. The garden is located at the Arboretum on Lincoln Avenue in Champaign. It is North of the Japan House and South of the North entrance to the Arboretum along the Kari Walkway. The current garden contains around 160 total hosta cultivars and over one hundred companion plants. Many of the hosta located in the Hosta Garden at the Arboretum came from the originator stock of IPHS members. Companion plants were donated both by the Arboretum, and by IPHS members.

The beds have been organized by the IPHS with an educational and aesthetics theme. The goal is to show the public how a hosta garden can be put together to give visual appeal as well as educate the public about Hostas. The Hosta of the Year plants are spread around the garden to give the public an idea of some Hostas that are easy to grow as well as available in garden centers. Botanically correct signage and labels lists the cultivar name along with if a Hosta of the Year.

Iowa

Bickelhaupt Arboretum Hosta Glade

[AHS Display Garden](#)

Address: 340 South 14th Street; Clinton, IA 52732

Phone: (563) 242-4771

Website: www.bickelhaupt.org

Established: 1970

Number of Varieties: 200

Looks Best: May – October

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2004

The Bickelhaupt Arboretum is a 14 acre outdoor museum of select labeled trees, shrubs, groundcovers, perennials and annuals. It is home of the heartland Collection of Dwarf and Rare Conifers, which is one of the top public garden conifer collections with over 600 cultivars. The Hosta Glade displays more than 200 cultivars of hosta and other shade loving plants that are all well labeled and displayed.

Dubuque Arboretum

[AHS Display Garden](#)

Address: 3800 Arboretum Drive; Dubuque, IA 52001

Phone: (563) 556-2100

Website: www.dubuquearboretum.com

Established: 1981

Number of Varieties: 900

Looks Best: May – September

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2004

15 acres of botanical gardens with 13,000 hostas. Walk area through Hosta Glade. Award winning rose garden and rare conifer display. Rides available for the handicapped - call ahead.

Vander Veer Botanical Park Hosta Glade

[AHS Display Garden](#)

Address: 215 W. Central Park Avenue; Davenport, IA 52803

Phone: (563) 326-7818

Website: www.cityofdavenportiowa.com/departments/division.php?fDD=21-223

Established: 1996

Number of Varieties: 350

Looks Best: May – September

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2003

The Hosta Glade is in Vander Veer Botanical Park, which is a historic public park in the center of Davenport. The Hosta Glade now has 8 large hosta beds interspersed with companion plants. Included in this Glade is a hosta collection from hybridizer Eunice Fisher and a garden of Bob Solberg's introductions. Also included is a memorial garden for DeEtta Montgomery which has hostas and conifers from her garden. The Mississippi Valley Hosta Society helps maintain this Glade. This city park also has a rose garden, conservatory, a restored fountain, an allee with 20 perennial beds and is a test garden for All-American annual selections.

Kansas

Ward Meade Botanical Gardens AHS Display Garden

Address: 124 NW Fillmore St., Topeka, KS 66606

Phone: (785) 251-2991

Website: <http://parks.snco.us/Facilities/Facility/Details/28>
<https://www.facebook.com/OldPrairieTown>

Established: 1964

Number of Varieties: 120+

Looks Best: May – September

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2015

The Ward Meade Botanical Garden is part of a historic site which includes an Old Prairie Town. The Botanical Garden is a woodland setting of labeled trees, shrubs, and perennials that grow well in the region. The hosta area includes an area of sports, grouped together and so labeled to educate how various hostas cultivars are related; an area for "Hosta of the Year"; and hostas placed in landscape to provide various planting examples.

Michigan

Hidden Lake Gardens AHS Display Garden

Address: 6214 Monroe Road; Tipton, MI 49287

Phone: (517) 431-2060

Website: www.hiddenlakegardens.msu.edu

Established: 1945

Number of Varieties: 800+

Looks Best: Spring – Fall

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 1995

755 acre botanical garden and arboretum in the scenic Irish Hills of southeast Michigan operated by Michigan State University. Featured collections include the Hosta Hillside collection, dwarf and rare conifers, bonsai, conservatory with tropical, arid and temperate houses, arboretum of flowering trees and shrubs, perennial and annual gardens. The Hosta Hillside features a significant collection of hosta donated and planted by the Michigan Hosta Society. More than 800 different cultivars are attractively arranged on a shaded hillside next to the lake. A cascading stream meanders through the garden and spills into a dark reflecting pool below. Dedicated as the Ralph H. (Herb) and Dorothy Benedict Hosta Hillside. Natural areas accessed by hiking trails. Bicycling and cross country skiing allowed.

Minnesota Hosta Society Display Garden at Eden Prairie
[AHS National Display Garden](#)

Address: Smith Coffee and Cafe/Smith-Douglas-More House
8107 Eden Prairie Road, Eden Prairie, MN 55347

Phone: (612) 817-6421 or (612)805-3795

Website: www.mnhosta.org

Established: 2018

Number of Varieties: 450

Looks Best: June to mid-July

In 2013, a creative, dedicated group of MHS members formed a committee to pursue the creation of a new MHS Display Garden. The City of Eden Prairie granted permission to create our garden at one of the city parks. This park is also the site of the restored, historic Smith-Douglas-More House (built in 1877) that now houses the Smith Coffee and Café.

With an agreement between Eden Prairie, the Historic Society, MHS and Smith Coffee Café signed in 2013, the MHS Display Garden was started from scratch. MHS wished to introduce the general public to the beauty of hostas and to give information on their origin, history, the types of cultivars and how best to grow them.

Generous donations of hostas from both members and vendors have allowed creation of a garden that has grown to include 450 hosta varieties that include:

- All Hostas chosen as '**Hosta of the Year**' (starting in 1996)
- Top 20 Hostas of the annual '**AHS Popularity Poll**'
- Hostas chosen by the winners of the annual '**Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award**'
- Hostas chosen as 'Distinguished Merit Hosta' by winners of the annual '**Eunice Fisher Distinguished Hybridizer Award**'
- Hosta winners of the annual '**Benedict Garden Performance Medal**'
- All Hostas chosen for the '**Benedict Garden Performance Award of Merit**'

UMN Landscape Arboretum Hosta Glade
[AHS Display Garden](#)

Address: 3675 Arboretum Drive; Chaska, MN 55318

Phone: (952) 443-1400

Website: www.arboretum.umn.edu

Established: 1958

Number of Varieties: 300+

Looks Best: May – September

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 1980

The MacMillan Hosta Glade is one of the finest public displays of hosta in the upper Midwest. There are over 300 varieties of hosta displayed. It includes sections which have hosta with blue colored leaves, fragrant flowers and miniatures and species, along with beds of classic hosta and a "landscape bed" of hosta mixed with other perennials. In 1980 the American Hosta Society designated the Hosta Glade as its first national display garden. It is also one of the coolest places at the Arboretum on a hot summer day!

Missouri

Missouri Botanical Garden

[AHS Display Garden](#)

Address: 4344 Shaw Blvd; St. Louis, MO 63110

Phone: (314) 577-5100

Website: www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

Established: 1859

Number of Varieties: 400+

Looks Best: May – September

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2011

Founded in 1859, the Missouri Botanical Garden is the nation's oldest botanical garden in continuous operation and is a National Historic Landmark. For years, the 79-acre garden has been an oasis in the city of St. Louis, a place of beauty and family fun --- and also a center for education, science and conservation. The Hosta Glade consisting of 7 large beds is located along one of the major walkways in the Garden. There are over 400 cultivars that can be viewed and enjoyed along with many shade perennials. You can find all the Benedict Garden Performance Award Hostas, all the American Hosta Growers Hosta of the Year, and a collection of most of the species hostas. The Garden continues to add new cultivars and to educate the public on the Genus Hosta.

Springfield Botanical Center
AHS Display Garden
Address: 2400 S. Scenic; Springfield, MO 65807

Phone: (417) 891-1515

Website: www.parkboard.org/botanical

Established: 2001

Number of Varieties: 300+

Looks Best: Late April – Early July

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2013

The Greater Ozarks Hosta Society has created and maintains one of the most beautiful gardens at the Springfield Botanical Center. Focused on educating the public on the creative use of hostas in their own gardens, visitors will find hundreds of hostas and very few companion plants. Plantings are displayed in families of hostas that the home gardener can easily duplicate. For example, beds of Hosta 'June' with 'Halcyon'; 'Krossa Regal' with 'Regal Splendor', 'Stained Glass' with 'Guacamole'. Hostas are used to edge a walk, frame an entrance, serve as a focal point, planted in drifts as a ground cover, and as large container plantings. There is a small collection of minis and a large bed called the "Land of the Giants."

Nebraska

Lauritzen Gardens
AHS Display Garden
Address: 100 Bancroft Street; Omaha, NE 68108

Phone: (402) 346-4002

Website: www.LauritzenGardens.org

Established: 2003

Number of Varieties: 250

Looks Best: May – September

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2006

The Founders Garden is a place where one can pause for solitude or reflection. It was the first garden at Lauritzen Gardens, established in 1993 in collaboration with the Shady Choice Hosta Society. It is made up of hundreds of beautiful hosta representing nearly 50 varieties including one of the largest leaf varieties, H. 'Sum and Substance', a garden gazebo and many different flowers and plants. The Garden in the Glen has 250 varieties of hosta originated in Omaha by Landmark Gardens. The garden totals more than 1000 hosta clumps. The gardens include many varieties of astilbe, dicentra, heuchera and ferns as well.

Ohio

Hosta Garden at The 577 Foundation

AHS Display Garden

Address: 577 East Front Street; Perrysburg, OH 43551

Phone: (419) 874-4174

Website: www.577Foundation.org

Established: 2002

Number of Varieties: 250

Looks Best: Anytime

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2005

A collection of popular and rare hostas with an accent on dwarf, mini and small varieties, grown under organic guidelines. Garden has an Oriental influence. It is located on the grounds of the 577 Foundation, which is the country estate of the late Virginia Secor Stranahan. The garden is maintained by the 577 Foundation staff and volunteers from the Black Swamp Hosta and Daylily Society

Hosta Glen at the Simpson Garden Park

AHS Display Garden

Address: 1291 Conneaut Ave, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402

Phone: (419) 354-6223

Website: www.bgohio.org/departments/parks-and-recreation/simpson-garden-park

Established: 2008 **Number of Varieties:** 1300+ **Looks Best:** May - September

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2014

The Simpson Garden Park is in the middle of a small town college community with daily access from dawn until dark at no cost. The garden park displays plants that grow well in the area and educates the public in the role plants play in the web of life. The Hosta Glen located within the park offers a collection of over 300 registered hosta with many informational signs about the history, use and care of hostas.

Toledo Botanical Garden

AHS Display Garden

Address: 5403 Elmer Drive; Toledo, OH 43615

Phone: (419) 536-5566

Website: www.ToledoGarden.org

Established: 1987

Number of Varieties: 500

Looks Best: Mid May – August

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2002

The Hosta Garden at the Toledo Botanical Garden features several themed gardens with educational motifs. These include "America's Favorites," presenting in one spot the most popular varieties in the country; the "Blue-Gold Walk," saluting the achievements of Eric Smith; the "Blue-Green Walk," featuring design philosophies created by Karl Foerester; the "East-Meets-West Walk," mixing old Asian varieties with newer European cultivars; the "New Cultivars Garden," which has many beds of sport families; and the "Ohio Garden," which showcases varieties from Ohio. There is also a large "idea garden" area.

Pennsylvania

Barnes Foundation Arboretum

AHS Display Garden

Address: 300 N. Latch's Lane, Merion, PA 19066

Phone: (215) 278-7200

Website: www.barnesfoundation.org

Established: 1922 **Number of Varieties:** 135 **Looks Best:** May-November

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2015

Located in an urban and residential neighborhood, the Arboretum features an exceptional collection of rare trees, shrubs, and perennials from all over the world. In keeping with the Arboretum's mission to promote appreciation of the arts and horticultural science, hostas have been planted along paths and borders where visitors can observe outstanding cultivars. Visitors enter the hosta area through a long meandering stone path with H. 'Liberty' on both sides. Hostas are planted around antique sculpted pillars, an antique fire alarm, and an iron fence between mature native and specimen shrubs. Hostas of different color values and size, distinctive qualities and characteristics create contrast within the beds and borders. Regular college courses in horticulture are taught at Barnes Arboretum and the Hosta garden will be a valuable tool in the school's curriculum.

South Carolina

Charles and Betty Cruickshank Hosta Garden

AHS Display Garden

Address: 102 Garden Trail; Clemson, SC 29634

Phone: (864) 656-2458

Website: www.clemson.edu/public/scbg/sights/gardens/hosta_garden

Established: 1995 **Number of Varieties:** 400 **Looks Best:** May – September

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2003

The Cruickshank Hosta Garden is a 2/3 acre niche garden in the South Carolina Botanical Garden. It is on a shaded hill where a waterfall has been constructed. It features specimen hosta plants, not masses of one or two cultivars. There are collections of Southern hybridizers including Tony Avent, Mary Chastain, and Bob Solberg. Companion plants from China, Japan, and Korea are emphasized. In zone 7, interesting plants can be observed 12 months of the year, and this is also a feature of the hosta garden.

Memphis Botanic Garden Hosta Trail

AHS Display Garden

Address: 750 Cherry Road; Memphis, TN 38117

Phone: (901) 636-4100

Website: www.memphisbotanicgarden.com

Established: 1999

Number of Varieties: 230

Looks Best: April – June

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2006

The Hosta Trail was started in 1999 with the donation of plants by members of the Mid-South Hosta Society (MSHS) and the dedication of an expandable hosta area by Memphis Botanic Garden (MBG). In 2000, a second bed was started with plants purchased by MSHS from local nurseries. Over the years, the hosta society has added many varieties and built a number of beds. Today, the Hosta Trail has 230 hosta varieties, of which there are multiple plants of many varieties. Presently, there are more than 600 hostas, accompanied by many shade companions, such as native azaleas, heucheras, ferns and sedums. In addition to five main beds, there is a stacked-rock raised bed for miniature hostas and an entrance bed with the society's theme plaque. All the beds in the Hosta Trail are connected by a stone pathway. In 2003, MSHS decided to organize the hostas into beds with an educational theme based upon the geographical area where the hosta was developed or discovered. The theme "Hostas From Around the Globe" was selected and a plaque was placed in a small sign bed near the entrance to the Hosta Trail. This was quite an undertaking because it took almost two years to dig up and move the plants to their proper beds. The beds were dedicated and named: Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, International, Species and Miniature. The Hosta Trail continues to evolve with additional specimens and the ongoing care of MSHS members and the MBG horticulture team.

University of Tennessee Gardens 'Tranquility – the Cornelia B. Holland Hosta Garden'

AHS Display Garden

Address: 2518 Jacob Drive, Knoxville TN 37996

Phone: (865) 974-7151

Website: www.utgardens.tennessee.edu

Established: 2014

Number of Varieties: over 500

Looks Best: June

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2015

The UT Gardens are recognized as the State Botanical Garden of Tennessee, a certified Tennessee Arboretum, an All-America Selections (AAS) Test and Display Garden, and an American Conifer Society Reference Garden. From "East to West" is the theme of the garden. Of the 500+ varieties of hostas in the initial planting, 115 are species or Asian cultivars. The garden provides a venue for the public, green industry professionals, and UT faculty and students to learn about the genus *Hosta*.

Virginia

Norfolk Botanical Garden

[AHS Display Garden](#)

Address: 6700 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 23518

Phone: (757)441-5830

Website: www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org

Established: 1938

Number of Varieties: 110

Looks Best: May/June

From its humble beginnings as a WPA project in 1938, to its status as a nationally recognized garden, the Norfolk Botanical Garden is a Virginia Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its 175-acres contains over 60 themed gardens. Hostas are planted throughout Norfolk Botanical Garden, with species grouped in a Japanese Garden, giving the feel of what wild hostas might look like in Japan, to modern cultivars planted in mixed perennial and shrub gardens showing visitors their possibilities in landscape settings.

Wisconsin

Boerner Botanical Gardens

[AHS Display Garden](#)

Address: 9400 Boerner Drive; Hales Corners, WI 53130

Phone: (414) 525-5600

Website: www.boernerbotanicalgardens.org

Established: 1939

Number of Varieties: 237

Looks Best: May – September

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2003

Boerner Botanical Gardens is an intimate collection of formal garden spaces which host a variety of plant collections from ornamental grasses to phenomenal peonies. Rich with history as well as beauty, the gardens and surrounding arboretum offer something for everyone. The formal gardens include perennial, peony, rose, hosta, shrub, annual, daylily, herb, and trial gardens. Also featured is a rain-harvesting site.

Green Bay Botanical Garden

[AHS Display Garden](#)

Address: 2600 Larsen Road; Green Bay, WI 54303

Phone: (920) 490-9457

Website: www.gbbg.org

Established: 1996

Number of Varieties: 366

Looks Best: June – September

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2010

Green Bay Botanical Garden has over 1258 hostas, representing 366 different cultivars. The plants are concentrated in the Green & Gold Hosta Society bed, the newly created King Shade Garden and an area near the Lux Foundation Upper Rose Garden and the Cora Vanderperren Cottage Garden. Visitors will also find hostas scattered throughout other shady areas of the garden including the Larsen Orchard, Memorial Grove and the Birches.

Olbrich Botanical Gardens

[AHS Display Garden](#)

Address: 3330 Atwood Avenue; Madison, WI 53704

Phone: (608) 246-4550

Website: www.olbrich.org

Established: 1952

Number of Varieties: 200

Looks Best: Year round

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2004

The Starkweather Creek Shade Garden is located in a small woodland of river birch nestled along the shoreline of Starkweather Creek and features hundreds of shade-loving perennials, including hostas, epimediums and sedges. The Atrium Shade Garden is a shady oasis created by the framework of a large native downy hawthorn and is home to another fine collection of hostas, ferns and shade-loving perennials.

Rotary Gardens Hosta Hollow

AHS Display Garden

Address: 1455 Palmer Drive; Janesville, WI 53545

Phone: (608) 752-3885

Website: www.rotarybotanicalgardens.org

Established: 1989

Number of Varieties:

Looks Best:

Year Designated AHS Display Garden: 2004

Rotary Botanical Gardens, a 20-acre non-profit botanic garden, is home to many dramatic and themed gardens. Some have an international focus, such as the Japanese, Scottish, French Formal, Italian and English Cottage Gardens. Also included are less formally-structured gardens including one of very few fern and moss gardens recognized by the Hardy Fern Foundation in the United States, as well as shade, prairie and woodland gardens. Also on site is the Cottage Garden Gallery which features the works of local artisans.

Quebec

Montreal Botanical Gardens

AHS Display Garden

Address: 4101, rue Sherbrooke Est; Montreal, Quebec H1X 2B2

Phone: (514) 872-1400

Website: www.espacepurlavie.ca/en/botanical-garden

Established: 1945

Number of Varieties: 400

Looks Best: Summer

This garden is ranked as one of the top five botanical gardens in the world. Anyone can visit the marvelous theme gardens such as one of the nicest Japanese gardens outside Japan, same for the Chinese Garden, an alpine garden, a shade garden, rose garden, and daylily garden. You can visit many perennial gardens, grasses, and landscape designs. If you want to visit the greenhouses, they have all kinds of plants, fern collections, cacti, orchids, etc. Collections of primroses, astilbes, hostas, ferns and other plants that flourish in the shade carpet this garden. A sinuous path and small footbridges spanning the bed of an old stream add to the secluded charm of the Shade Garden.