Gardens of Bard
Walking Tour

LANDSCAPE AND ARBORETUM
BARD COLLEGE
Landscape & Arboretum at Bard College
P.O. Box 5000
Annandale-on-Hudson, New York 12504
http://inside.bard.edu/horticulture/
1. Urban Meadow
   Center for the Performing Arts Lot
A dry-laid stonewall accents this beautiful drought-tolerant planting of wildflowers, trees and shrubs in the back parking lot of the Fisher Center for Performing Arts. In a sense, this planting extends the beauty of the meadow and brings it up close for visitors to enjoy. This garden puts on its best show during the spring and fall seasons. The island planting includes: Russian Sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*), Daylilies (*Hemerocallis 'Happy Returns'*), Perennial Sunflower (*Helianthus x multiflorus*), Arkansas Blue Star (*Amsonia hubrichtii*), Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), Leopardsbane (*Doronicum orientale*).

2. Woodland Garden
   Fisher Center for Performing Arts
The majestic oaks that sit in front of the Fisher Center for Performing Arts were saved during the building's construction, and a groundcover of hay-scented ferns (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) and hellebores (*Helleborus orientalis*) were planted. In an attempt to fill out the planting, over 8000 plugs of a more rapidly spreading groundcover were recently planted including: Creeping phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*), Foamflower (*Tiarella cordata*) and Ostrich Ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*).

3. Chinese Garden Honorarium
   Robbins Dormitory
There is a small circular Chinese Garden that was recently recovered upon the completion of the Robbins Dorm Expansion in 2006. It was planted in honor of the Physical Plant from Tamar Kandel in 1993. The garden displays a large Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*), Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Plantain Lily (*Hosta sp.*) and Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*).
4. Native Garden
Village Dormitory
The Village Dorms were built under the premise of being ecologically friendly, therefore it follows suit that the gardens located just beyond their doorsteps would consist of native flowers, trees and shrubs. One native shrub that dominates the landscape is the Cranberry Viburnum (*Viburnum trilobum*). It is a spring-bloomer with white-clustered flowers and red drupe berries in the fall.

5. Tennis Court Planting
Village Dormitory Parking Lot
A naturalistic border divides the tennis courts from the parking area along its south and west sides. In a frequently wet environment, many trees and shrubs thrive in what otherwise might be considered a utilitarian ditch. Such plants include: River Birch (*Betula nigra*), French Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*), Red Twig Dogwood ‘Cardinal’ (*Cornus sericea*), Yellow Twig Dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ‘Flaviramea’), Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis spp.*) and Viburnum spp.

Main Campus

6. Entrance Garden
Warden’s Hall
This is a relatively new garden that replaced several overgrown Yews (*Taxus cuspidata*) during the building’s underground renovation. It is packed full of bulbs, perennials and shrubs that have 4 seasons of interest. In early spring, Tulip ‘Kingsblood’ dapples the garden and one notable shrub, Hydrangea 'Endless Summer', blooms constantly from spring to the end of the summer.
7. Wall Garden
Old Gym
A seated wall garden sits across from the Security Office and in front of Olin Humanities. It brims over with bulbs, perennials and flowering trees each season. Some notable plants include: Sea Holly (*Eryngium x tripartitum*), Shadblow (*Amelanchier canadensis*), Catmint (*Nepeta faassenii* ‘Dropmore Blue’).

8. Elizabethan Knot Garden
Chapel of Holy Innocents
This small square garden has a brick path and four stone benches surrounding it. Small bulbs, succulents, lavenders and herbs overflow the edges during spring, summer and fall. This garden maintains a very contemplative atmosphere, despite its location in the middle of campus. Located south of the Chapel of Holy Innocents, the Elizabethan Knot Garden was planted to honor Professor of English Elizabeth Stambler, Bard Faculty Member, 1959-1988.

9. Anna Jones Memorial Meditation Garden
Chapel of Holy Innocents
Located directly west of the Elizabethan Knot Garden, the Anna Jones Memorial Meditation Garden is a sacred space where the Bard Community can go to relax, read, think and reflect while snuggled inside a hedge of Canadian hemlocks (*Tsuga canadensis*). The garden also features custom curvilinear benches, large boulders with engraved poems, a bronze fire pit and large meditative gravel beds. Paul Marienthal, Trustee Leader Scholar Program Director, brought the conception of this garden to fruition.
10. Karen Wilcox Garden
Admission Office, Hopson Cottage
The Admissions Building bursts into bloom each spring with tulips (*Tulipa 'Kingsblood'* and daffodils (*Narcissus* sp.). The Karen Wilcox Garden, planted in loving memory of Karen Wilcox, Dean of Admissions and with Bard College for over 25 years is a small garden located at the entrance to the Admissions building and features Lenten Rose (*Helleborus orientalis*), one of Karen’s favorite plants.

11. Xeriscape Garden
Campus Center Parking Lot
An unexpected xeriscape (*drought-tolerant*) demonstration garden is found in the traffic island located in the Campus Center parking lot. Definitely stop by in the fall, the Maiden grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) display is spectacular and was featured in a photograph in Landscape Architecture magazine (February 2007). Purple and white coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea and E. 'White Swan*), Veronica, Butterfly weed (*Asclepia tuberosa*), Yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Bachelor button (*Centurea montana*), Bayberry (*Myrica pennsylvanica*), Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*), White oak (*Quercus alba*), and Japanese lilac tree (*Syringa reticulata*).

12. Catmint Border
Alumni II Dormitories
A purple ribbon of Catmint (*Nepeta faassenii*) sweeps its way across the front of the Alumni II Dormitory entrances, blooming just in time for Commencement (end of May). It continues to bloom throughout the season, especially if cut back after its first flush of flowers finish.
13. Ludlow Circle

Ludlow Entrance
A stunning floral combination greets visitors at the entrance of the Ludlow Administrative Building each spring. It consists of Japanese Kerria (*Kerria japonica*) and tulips (*Tulipa 'Kingsblood').

14. Grass Garden

Henderson Computer Center Lab II
A collection of various ornamental grasses including Ravenna grass (*Erianthus ravennae*) and Feather Reed Grass (*Calamagrostis x acutiflora 'Karl Foerster*) fill out the foundation planting around the building. Fall is the best time to enjoy this garden.

South Campus

15. Shade Garden

Blithewood Gatehouse
Nestled on the corner of Annandale and Blithewood Road, this lovely, virtually maintenance-free shade garden sits under the canopy of large hemlock and pine trees. Plantings include: Serbian Spruce (*Microbiota decussata*), Rosebay Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*), Drooping Leucothoe (*Leucothoe fontanesiana 'Girard’s Rainbow’), *Hosta ‘Blue Angel’, Hosta ‘Royal Standard’, Oakleaf Hydrangea(*Hydrangea quercifolia*), False Spirea (*Astilbe ‘Hennie Graafland’).
16. Bard Community Garden  
Along Blithewood Road, across from Tewksbury Dormitory  
Since 1997 the Bard College Community Garden has been a haven for agricultural enthusiasts from Bard and beyond. People gather in the garden for weekly potlucks and work parties during the growing season and help to sustainably maintain its fruits, vegetables and abundant flowers. (Flower cutting is encouraged).

17. Blithewood Garden  
Levy Economics Institute  
Possibly the most beautiful spot on campus, Blithewood Garden is located on the west axis of the Levy Institute. It is a formal Italian garden, designed by Francis Hoppin, an alumnus of the architectural firm of McKim, Mead & White. In the 1835, Robert Donaldson, Esq., of North Carolina, acquired the property and hired Andrew Jackson Downing, one of the foremost landscape architects of the day, to improve the grounds. Today, Blithewood Garden still maintains the breath-taking beauty it once did including the awe-inspiring backdrop of the Catskill Mountains and the Hudson River.
Map - Gardens of Bard

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