

THE HISTORY OF HART'S BROOK PARK

In 1932 Henry Gaisman, who had made his fortune as a founder of Gillette Safety Razor Company, purchased 135 acres of land from George Christiancy, a former United States minister to Peru. The property ran from the south side of Ridge Road and Hillcrest Avenue to Maple Avenue in Hartsdale. The Gaismans lived on the property for many years and in 1957 Gaisman passed the title to the land to the New York Archdiocese with the understanding that he and his wife, Catherine, could live on the property as long as they so desired. Mr Gaisman lived here until 1974 until he died at the age of 104. Catherine continued to live here until 1995. The property was subsequently taken over by the Archdiocese, which leased the land to Marian Woods Convent, as a headquarters and future retirement home for aging nuns.

In 1999, through efforts of the Committee to Save the Gaisman Property, 124 acres were purchased jointly by New York State, Westchester County and the Town of Greenburgh. Eleven acres in the middle of the property were retained by Marian Woods Convent.

The park is administered by the Town of Greenburgh. The Master Gardener Demonstration Garden at Hart's Brook Park was created in 2000 and has continued to grow every year. We thank the Town of Greenburgh for their continued support of this program.

DIRECTIONS TO HART'S BROOK

BRONX RIVER PARKWAY NORTHBOUND:

Take the **HARTSDALE EXIT** and **TURN LEFT** at the stop sign at the end of the ramp onto **East Hartsdale Avenue**. Continue following the directions below.

BRONX RIVER PARKWAY SOUTHBOUND:

Take the **HARTSDALE EXIT** and **TURN LEFT** at the stop sign at the end of the ramp. **TURN RIGHT** at the traffic light onto **Fox Meadow Rd**. Proceed to the traffic light and **TURN RIGHT** onto **Hartsdale Avenue**. Continue using the directions below.

Proceed through the village of Hartsdale, crossing over **Central Avenue (Rte. 100)**, then take the third **LEFT** off **East Hartsdale Avenue** onto **Hillcrest Avenue**. Travel up Hillcrest Avenue to the stop sign, then bear **LEFT** onto **Ridge Road**. Proceed 0.1 mile to the entrance to **HART'S BROOK PARK & PRESERVE** on your **LEFT**.

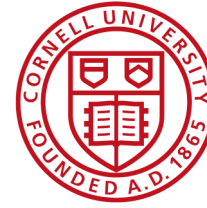
SPRAIN BROOK PARKWAY NORTH/SOUTHBOUND:

Take the **GREENBURGH/ROUTE 100B (DOBBS FERRY ROAD)** exit. **TURN LEFT** at the end of the off ramp onto **Dobbs Ferry Road**. **TURN RIGHT** at the traffic light onto **West Hartsdale Avenue**. Proceed approximately 0.8 miles to **Ridge Road**, just past the Fire Station. **TURN RIGHT** onto **Ridge Road** and follow it to the stop sign. **BEAR RIGHT** after the stop sign. Proceed approximately 0.1 miles to the entrance to **HART'S BROOK PARK & PRESERVE** on your left.

AFTER ENTERING HART'S BROOK:

Once through the entrance, make an immediate **RIGHT** to the parking area. If the parking area is full, you can park on the grass along the road inside the property. **DO NOT** attempt to park on Ridge Road!

CARPPOOLING IS SUGGESTED



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HORTICULTURE INFORMATION LINE

Find answers to your horticultural questions with a staff member.

(914) 285-4640, 9:00 am – noon, weekdays.
or email us at westchester@cornell.edu

WALK-IN DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC and DROP-OFF DIAGNOSTICS

By appointment. Bring your plant, insect, or plant disease questions for identification and advice. Samples may be dropped off at our office or mailed in at your convenience. Call our morning hotline for specifics on collecting, packaging samples, and staff availability.
\$20 per sample.

SOIL pH TESTS

We perform pH tests at our office (\$18). Please see sampling information at westchester.cce.cornell.edu

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MASTER GARDENER DEMONSTRATION GARDENS AT HART'S BROOK PARK



Hart's Brook
Park & Preserve
156 Ridge Road
Hartsdale
NY 10530



Cornell Cooperative Extension
Westchester County

Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens at Hart's Brook

Welcome to the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Westchester County Master Gardener Demonstration Gardens at Hart's Brook Park and Preserve! Our demonstration gardens began in 2000 with the vegetable garden and have expanded throughout the years. A perennial border near the parking area greets visitors, and other installations include small fruits, edible flowers, herbs, dahlias, ornamental grasses, and a family garden. All of the gardens are created and maintained by Westchester County Master Gardener volunteers for public education and enjoyment. During the growing season, ask a Master Gardener volunteer on site, or refer to the signs next to the gardens or for more information on the gardening techniques demonstrated here.

VEGETABLE GARDEN

The vegetable garden includes a variety of crops that are well-adapted to the growing conditions in Westchester County. As the season progresses, mature crops are harvested and new crops are planted to maximize production in a small space. As an aspect of best cultural practices, the vegetables are rotated each year from bed to bed, including fallow plots. These fallow pots contain cover crops and plants that support pollinators, suppress weeds, and improve the soil.

The crops grown here are donated to food pantries in Westchester County. Please do not harvest vegetables from this garden.

SMALL FRUITS AND BERRIES

Our fruit and berry beds are scattered across the property. You will find a blueberry cage, raspberry trellises. The fruit small produced here is donated to food pantries.

DAHLIAS

Dahlias, which are tuberous plants that are not reliably hardy in our area, are planted along the fence in the vegetable garden. Please visit our gardens in August and September when the dahlias are at their peak. The tuberous roots will be lifted after a few hard frosts and stored for use the following year.

EDIBLE FLOWERS

Nothing brightens up a salad like edible flowers! The flowers of all of the plants in this garden, such as pansy, daylilies, and nasturtiums can be eaten.

FAMILY GARDEN

The Family garden was built through a generous grant from Master Gardener Pat Lanza in memory of her husband, Frank. The mission of this garden is to teach children about where their food comes from and to engage them in gardening. The family garden consists of fourteen raised beds where children, along with their parent(s) or adult sponsor can learn how to grow vegetables under the tutelage of a Master Gardener mentor.

HERBS

The herb bed features many plants traditionally grown for flavor, scent and healing. Among the popular herbs grown are mint, rosemary, lavender, sage, thyme, basil, fennel and tansy along with many lesser-known species.

LYDIA DALLIS MEMORIAL GARDEN

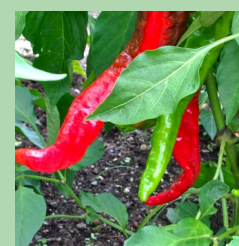
Lydia Dallis was a Master Gardener who lovingly tended the perennials in front of the family garden for more than ten years. Always willing to try a new plant, she believed in using perennials that needed no staking, frequent division or other labor-intensive measures in order to demonstrate their beauty. The garden was dedicated in Lydia's memory by Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Town of Greenburgh in 2011. This garden is under renovation in 2024.

ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Grasses add texture and year-round interest to any garden. Ornamental grasses are easy to care for and suffer from few pests and diseases.

PERENNIAL BORDER

Master Gardeners have restored and now maintain a colorful three-season border of perennials, including spring bulbs (and some self-seeding annuals) that starts at the parking area and sweeps in an arc toward the historic barn/maintenance building. The garden includes deer resistant and native plants that support pollinators and local wildlife.



Photos by Kathy Hagendorf

Vegetables, small fruits and flowers are fixtures at the Hart's Brook Preserve demonstration gardens. There are perennial and mixed flower borders, a rose demonstration, herb border and more. We welcome members of the public to see the gardens whenever the park is open and volunteers will answer your questions when they are present. Signage is in place during the growing season at the gardens and individual beds, so even if a Master Gardener is not on site, your visit will still be worthwhile.