

Dept. of Urban Horticulture and Design



*Figure 1 urban horticulture and design
logo 2020*

Document updated in May 2020 by Professor Stevie Famulari, Gds. If there are any additional documents or formats wanted, please contact xyr at 934.420.2302 or stevie.famulari@farmingdale.edu

The Robert F. Ench Teaching Gardens

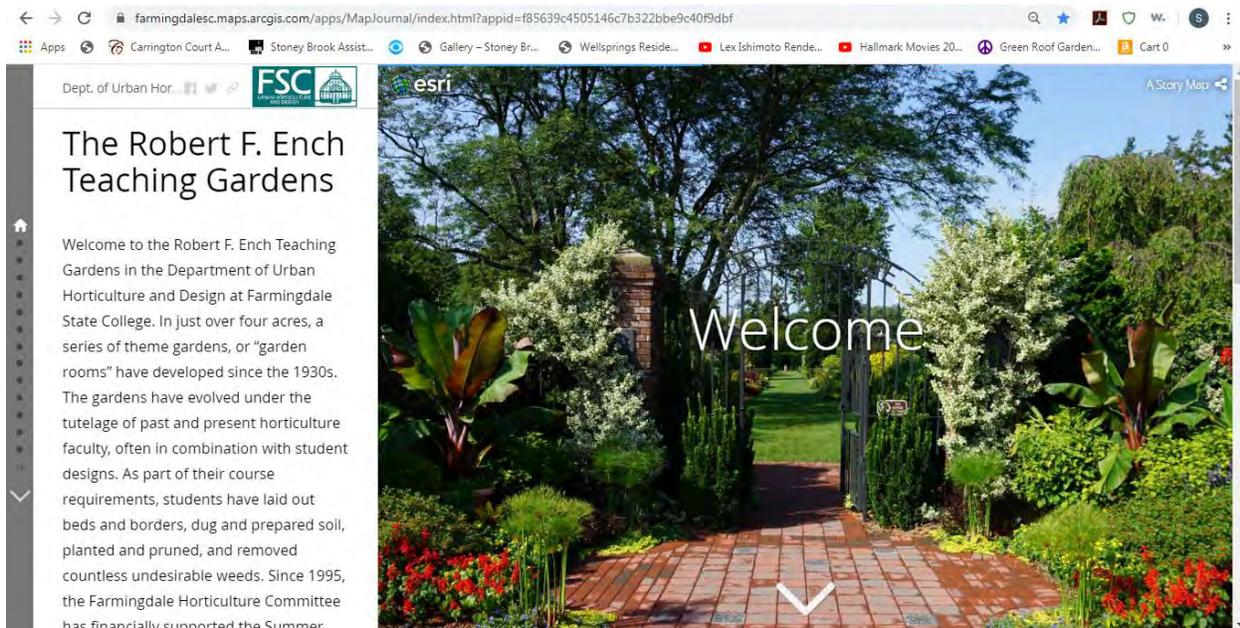


Figure 2 welcome page with garden gate tab

Welcome to the Robert F. Ench Teaching Gardens in the Department of Urban Horticulture and Design at Farmingdale State College. In just over four acres, a series of theme gardens, or “garden rooms” have developed since the 1930s. The gardens have evolved under the tutelage of past and present horticulture faculty, often in combination with student designs. As part of their course requirements, students have laid out beds and borders, dug and prepared soil, planted and pruned, and removed countless undesirable weeds. Since 1995, the Farmingdale Horticulture Committee has financially supported the Summer Garden Internship Program to help maintain the garden.

If there are any questions or issues concerning accessibility, please contact:
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WELCOME!

This database celebrates and documents the gardens, designers, itstory, plants, and stories of the many gardens of the Robert F. Ench Teaching Gardens, for the Department of Urban Horticulture and Design of Farmingdale State College. It has been created by the faculty of the Urban Horticulture and Design Department to help students, faculty, administration, and community members learn and celebrate the many facets of the gardens. This is a multi-phased project, so feel free to check back frequently for updates and newly loaded information.

We welcome all questions, comments or thoughts.

Please feel free to contact:

Professor Stevie Famulari at stevie.famulari@farmingdale.edu or 934.420.2302.

Dr. Garrett Beier at garrett.beier@farmingdale.edu or 934-420-6513.

Garden Guide

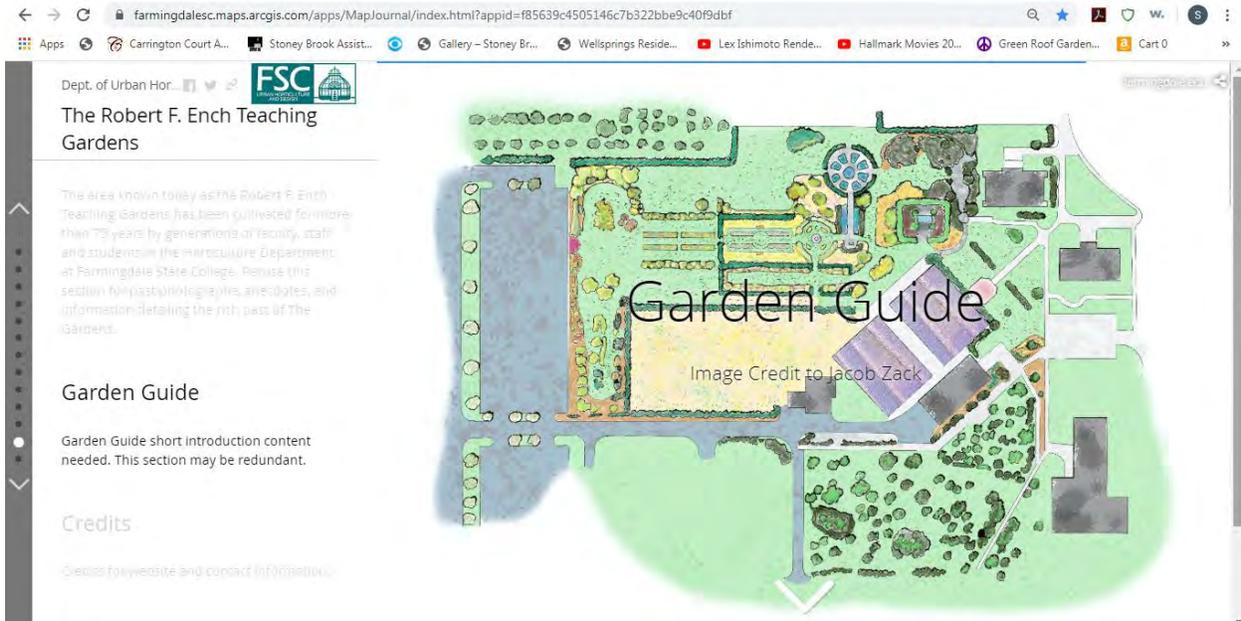


Figure 3 Image of Garden Guide plan in garden guide tab

This garden guide is a map of the current gardens located within the Robert F. Ench Teaching Gardens. Each garden, as well as structures, and other features, has a linked page to enjoy images and stories about the garden.

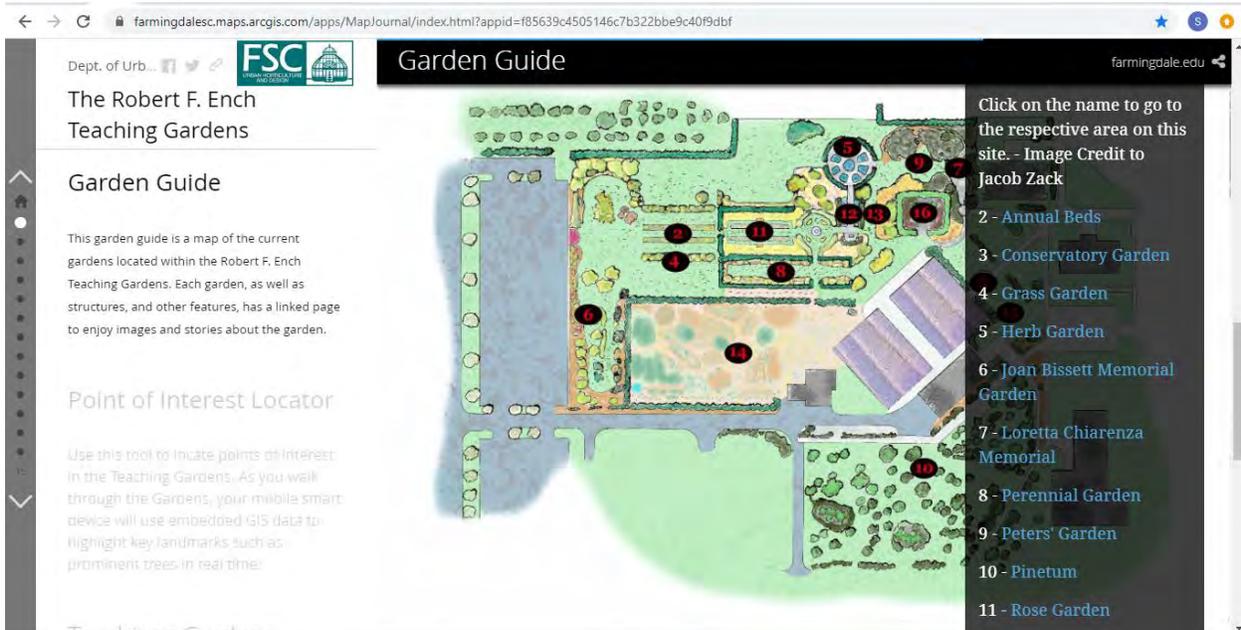


Figure 4 Image of Garden Plan with garden list in garden guide section

Point of Interest Locator

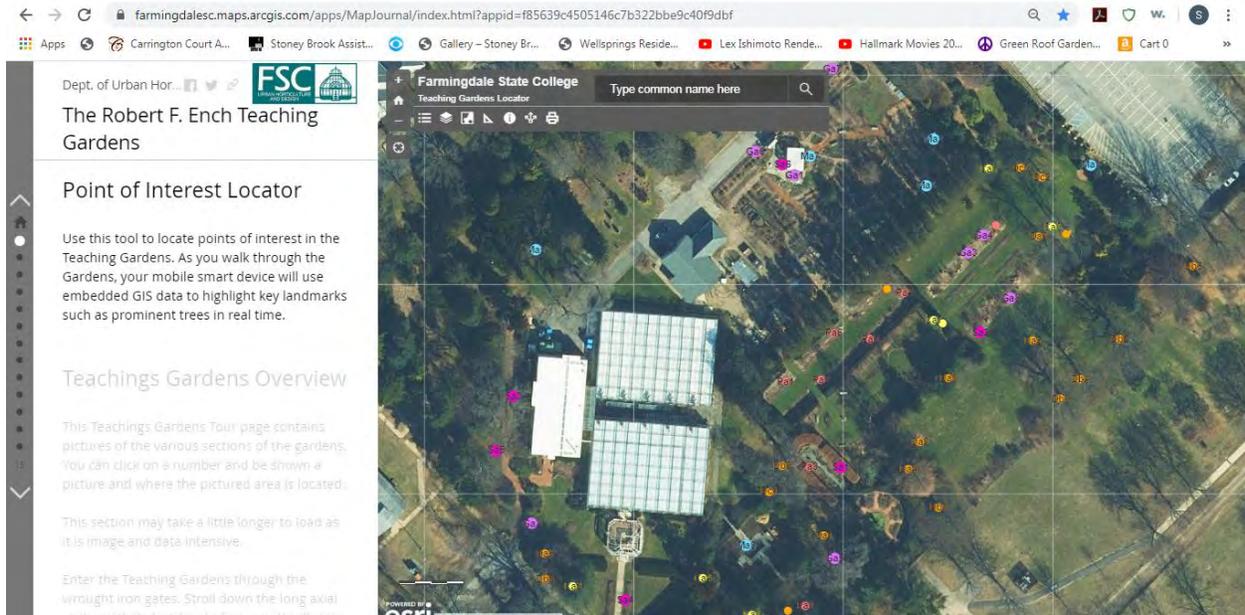


Figure 5 point of interest locator map

Use this tool to locate points of interest in the Teaching Gardens. As you walk through the Gardens, your mobile smart device will use embedded GIS data to highlight key landmarks such as prominent trees in real time.

Teachings Gardens Overview

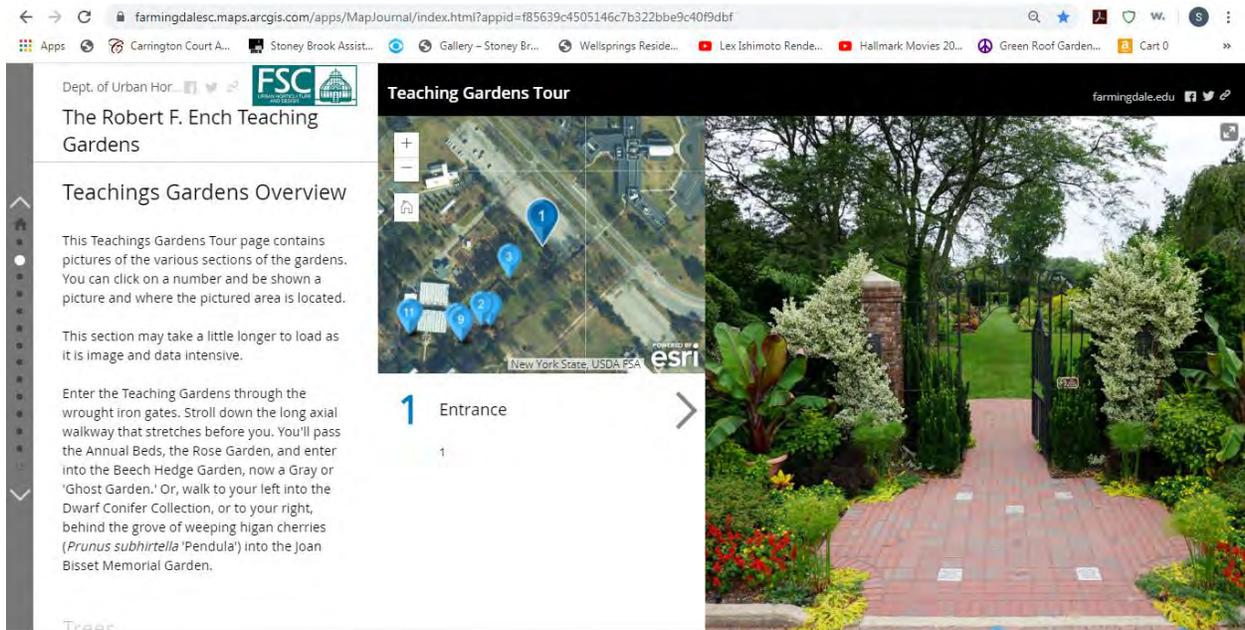


Figure 6 teaching garden overview and tour tab

This Teachings Gardens Tour page contains pictures of the various sections of the gardens. You can click on a number and be shown a picture and where the pictured area is located.

This section may take a little longer to load as it is image and data intensive.

Enter the Teaching Gardens through the wrought iron gates. Stroll down the long axial walkway that stretches before you. You'll pass the Annual Beds, the Rose Garden, and enter into the Beech Hedge Garden, now a Gray or 'Ghost Garden.' Or, walk to your left into the Dwarf Conifer Collection, or to your right, behind the grove of weeping higan cherries (*Prunus subhirtella* 'Pendula') into the Joan Bisset Memorial Garden.

Trees

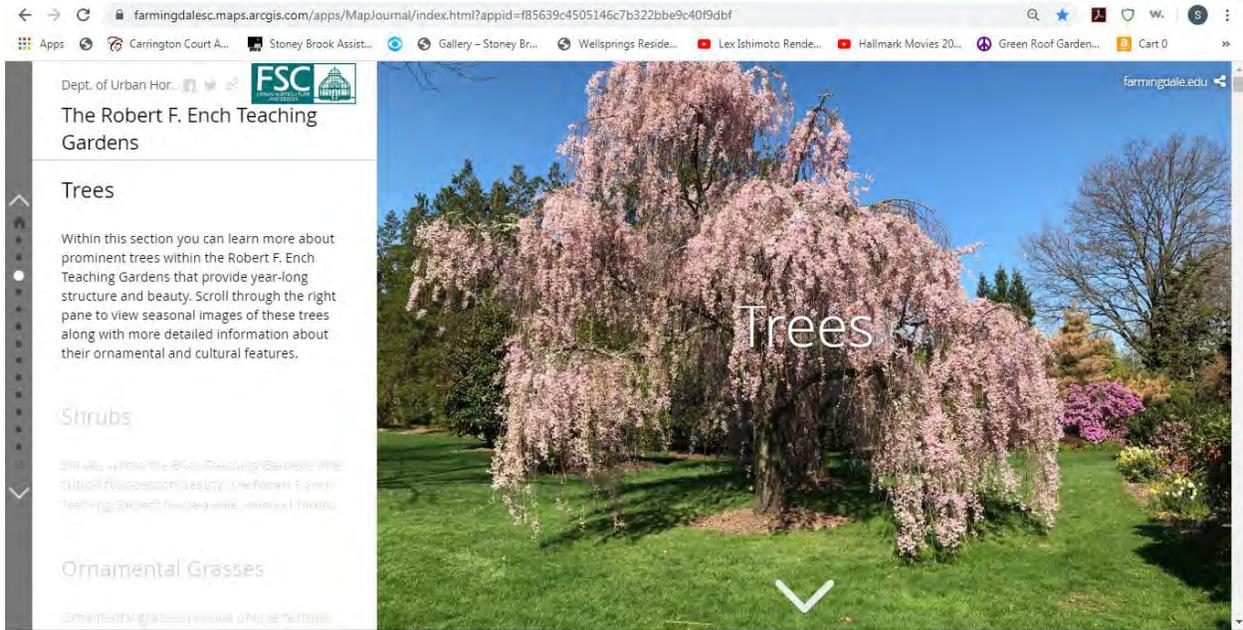


Figure 7 image of tree for the tree information section

Within this section you can learn more about prominent trees within the Robert F. Ench Teaching Gardens that provide year-long structure and beauty. Scroll through the right pane to view seasonal images of these trees along with more detailed information about their ornamental and cultural features.

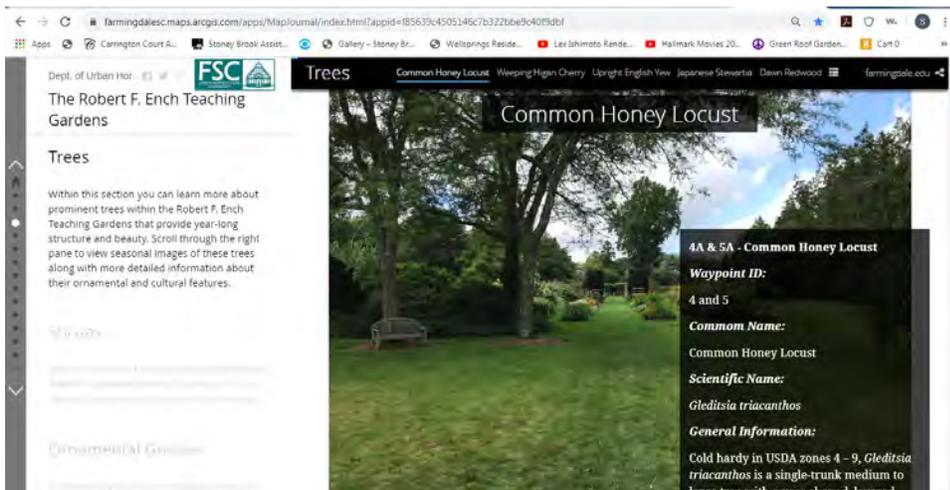


Figure 8 Common Honey Locust in tree information tab

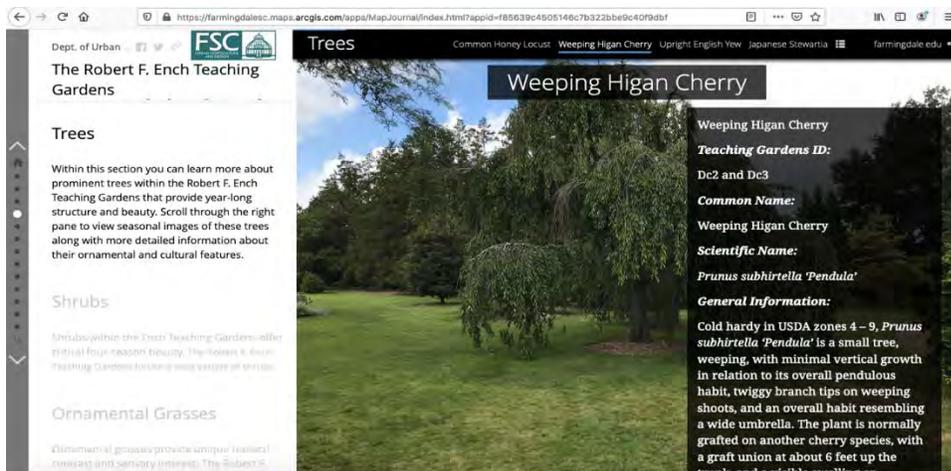


Figure 9 Weeping Higan Cherry in tree information tab

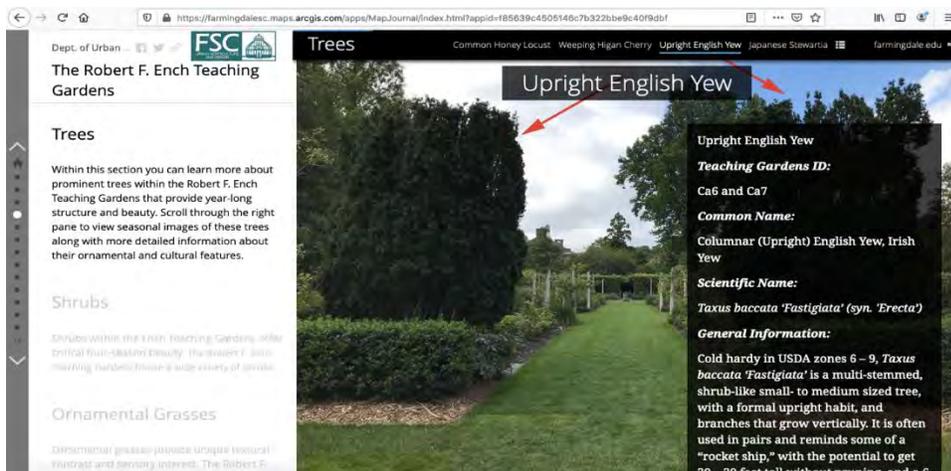


Figure 10 Upright English Yew in tree information tab

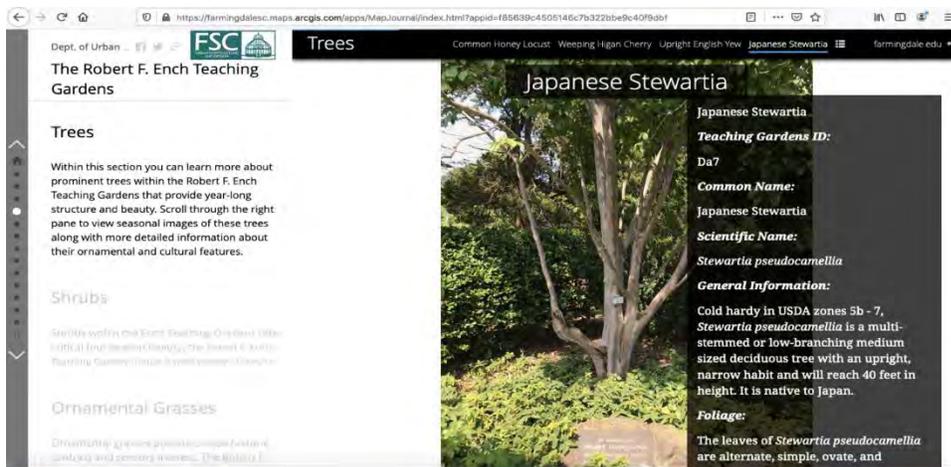


Figure 11 Japanese Stewartia in tree information tab

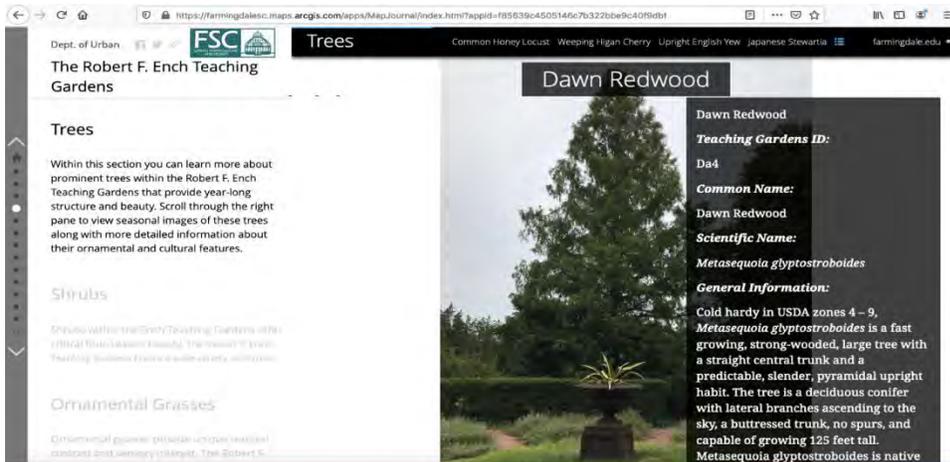


Figure 12 Dawn Redwood in tree information tab

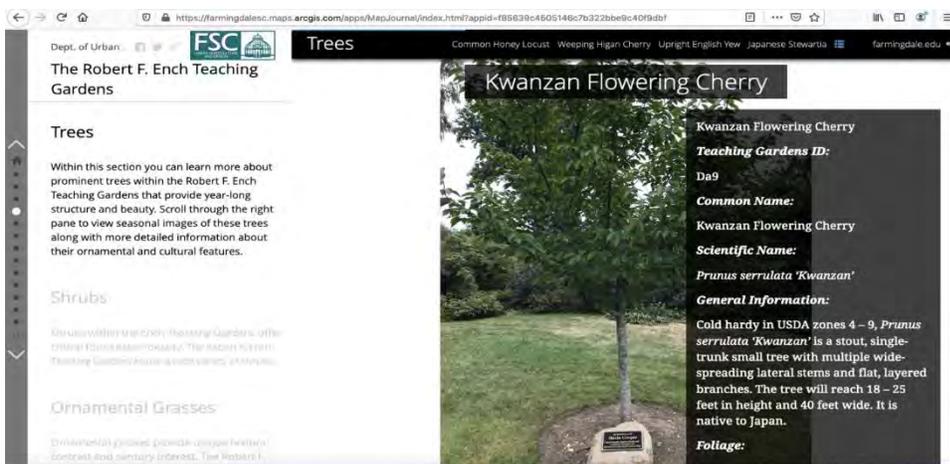


Figure 13 Kwanzan Flowering Cherry in tree information tab

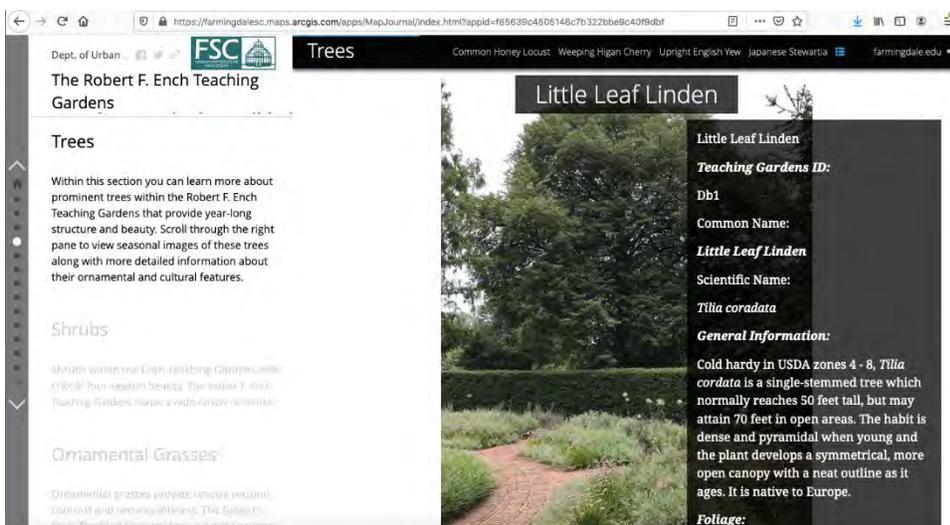


Figure 14 Little Leaf Linden in tree information tab

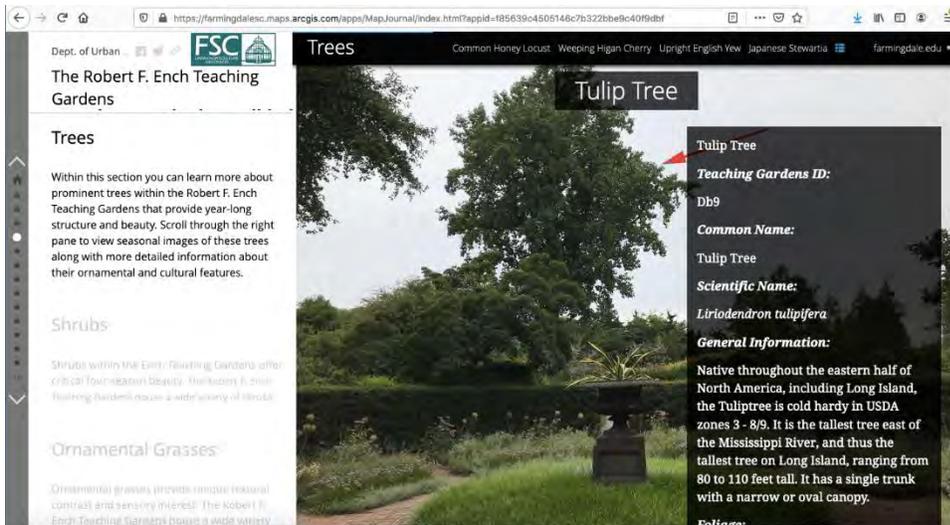


Figure 15 Tulip Tree in tree information tab

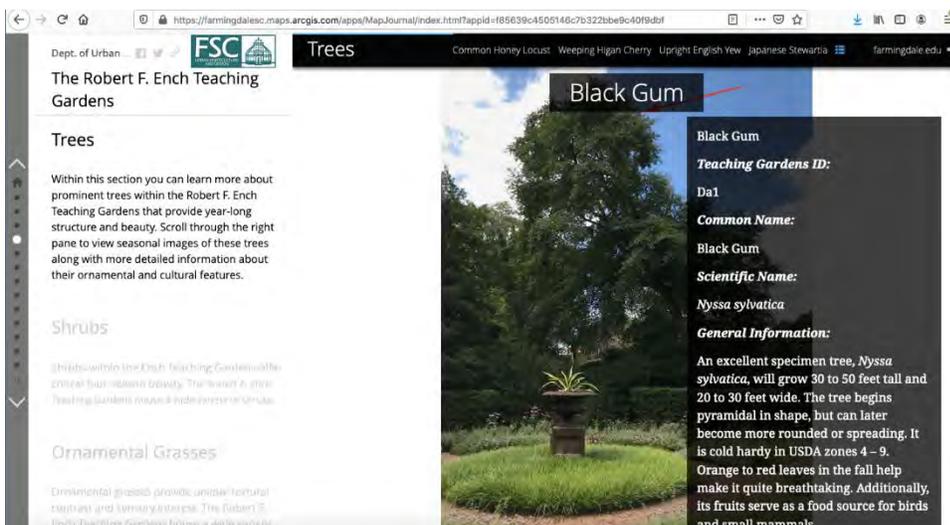


Figure 16 Black Gum in tree information tab

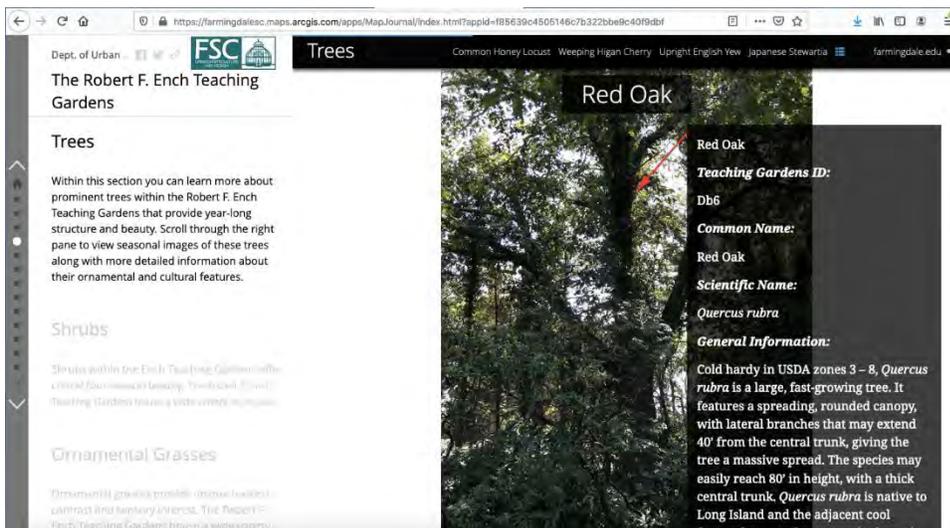


Figure 17 Red Oak in tree information tab

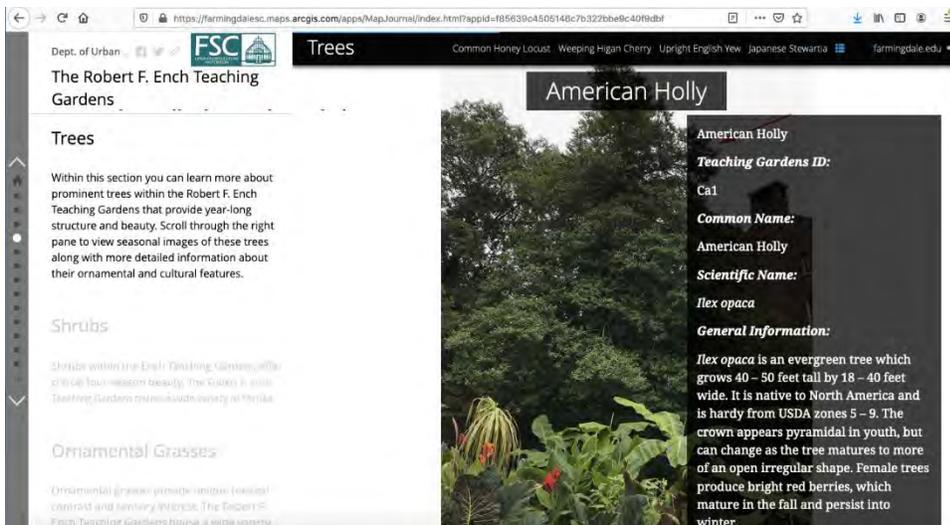


Figure 18 American Holly in tree information tab

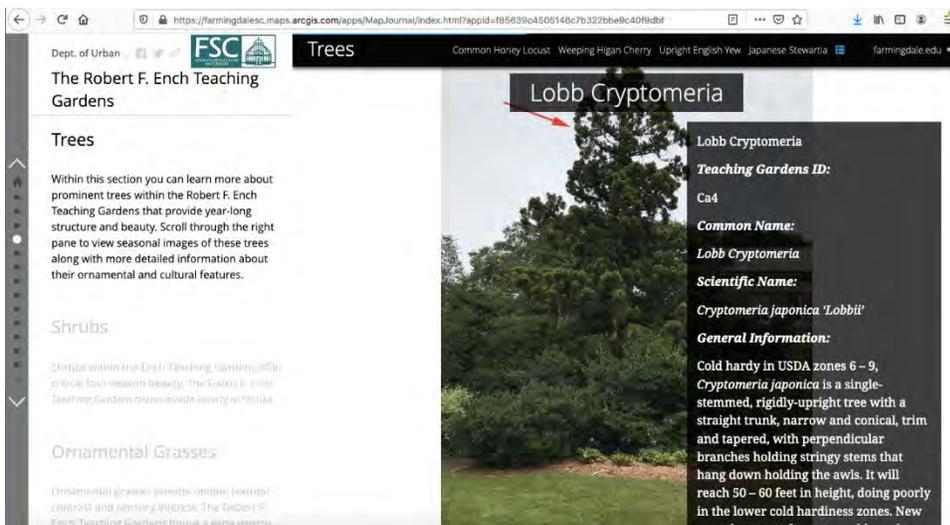


Figure 19 Lobb Cryptomeria in tree information tab

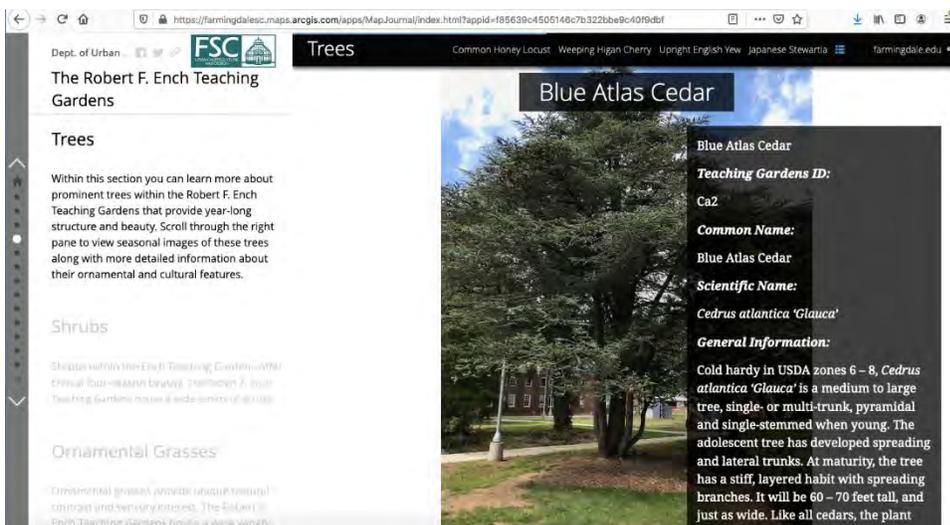


Figure 20 Blue Atlas Cedar in tree information tab

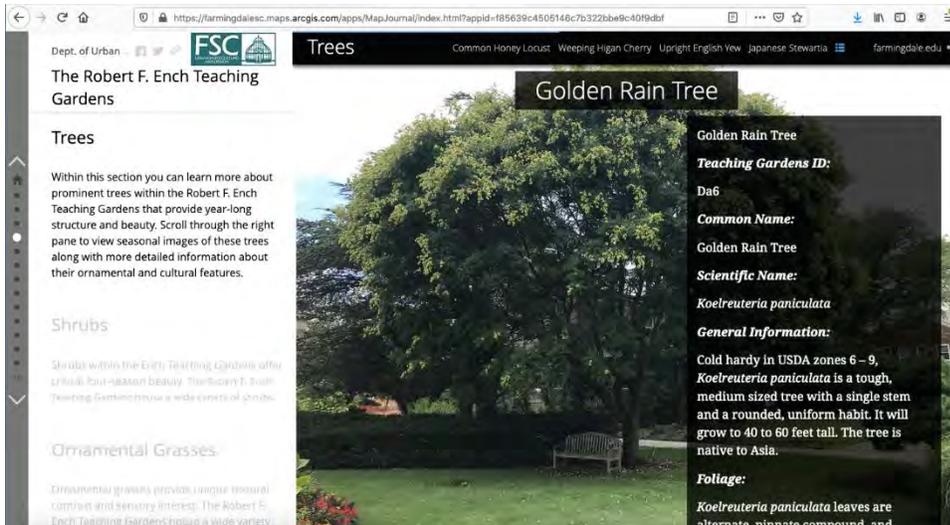


Figure 21 Golden Rain Tree in tree information tab

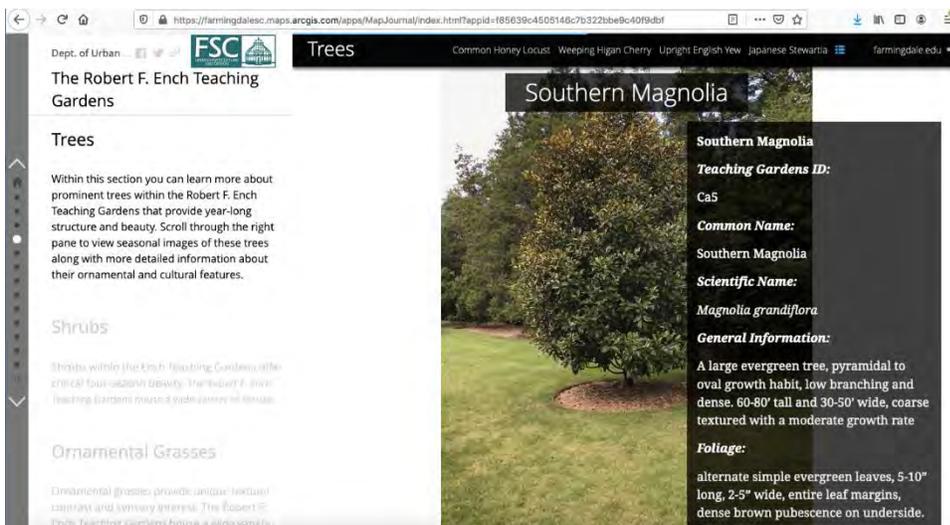


Figure 22 Southern Magnolia in tree information tab

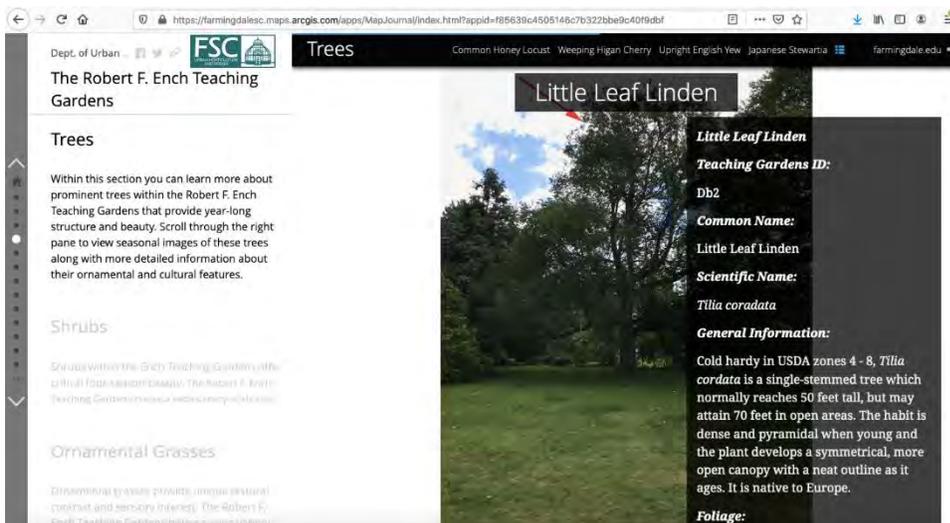


Figure 23 Little Leaf Linden in tree information tab

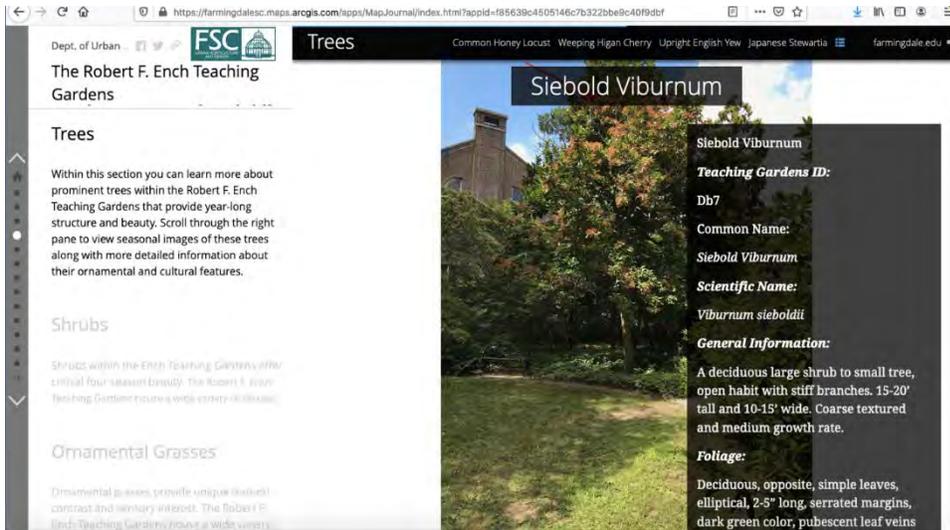


Figure 24 Siebold Viburnum in tree information tab

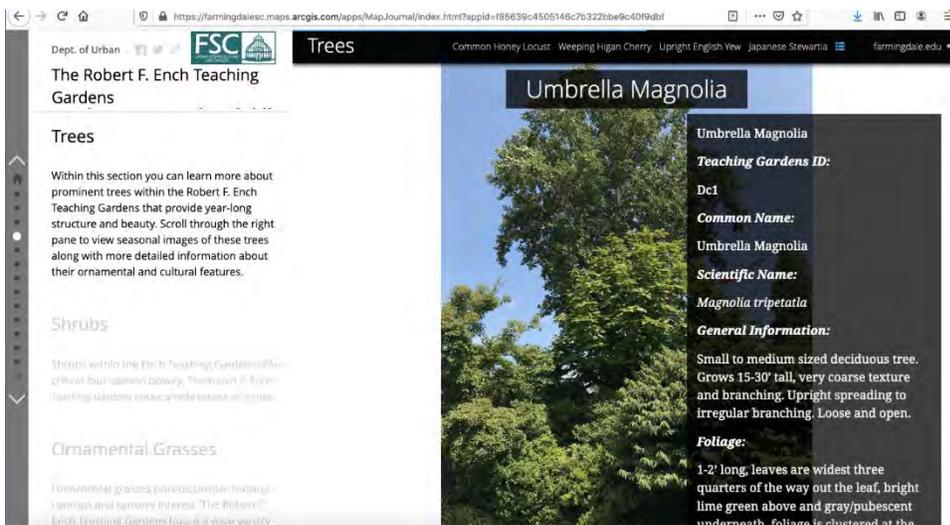


Figure 25 Umbrella Magnolia in tree information tab

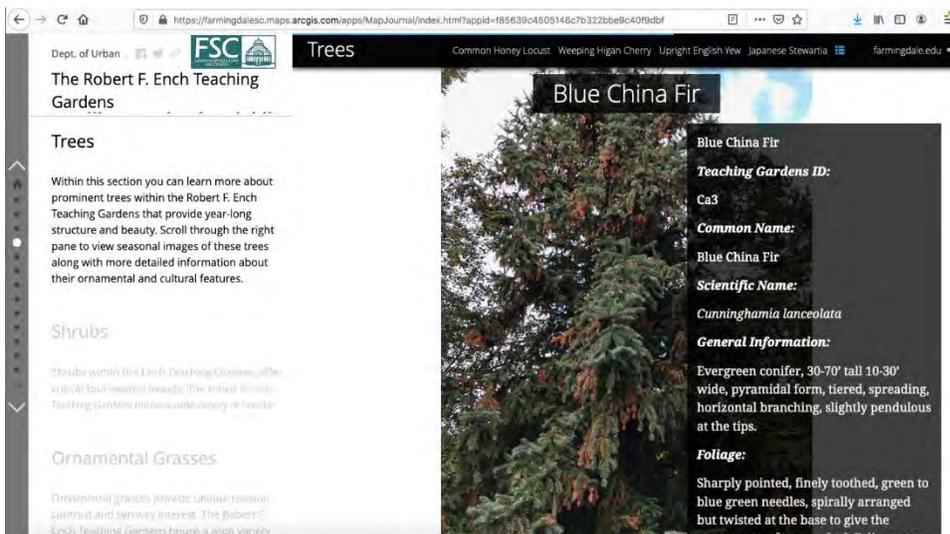


Figure 26 Blue China Fir in tree information tab

Shrubs

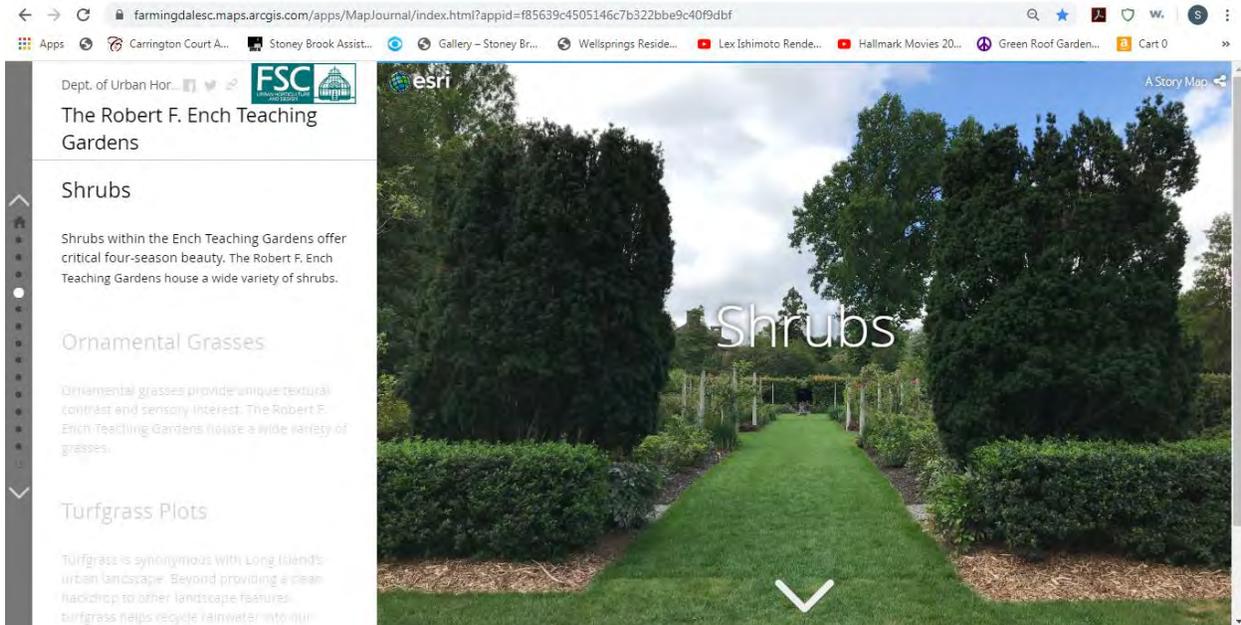


Figure 27 Image of shrub for shrub information section

Shrubs within the Ench Teaching Gardens offer critical four-season beauty. The Robert F. Ench Teaching Gardens house a wide variety of shrubs.

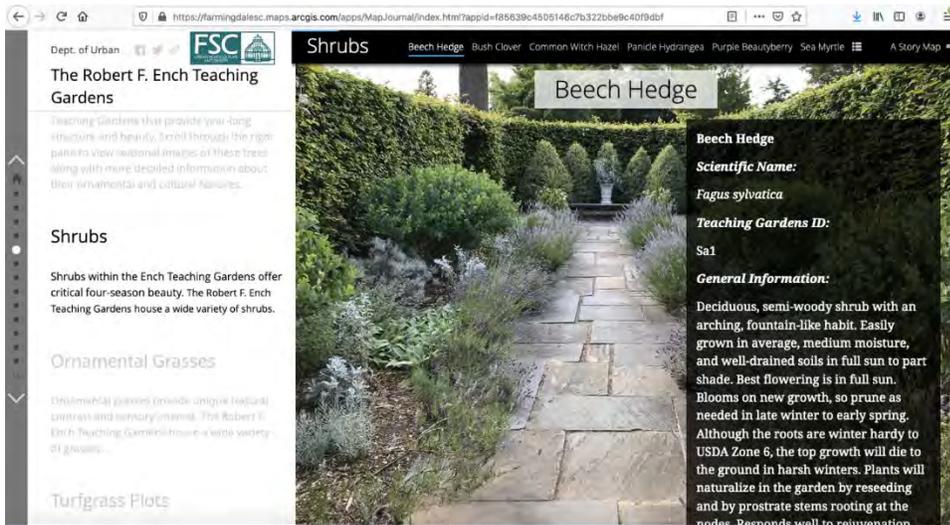


Figure 28 Blue Hedge in shrub information tab

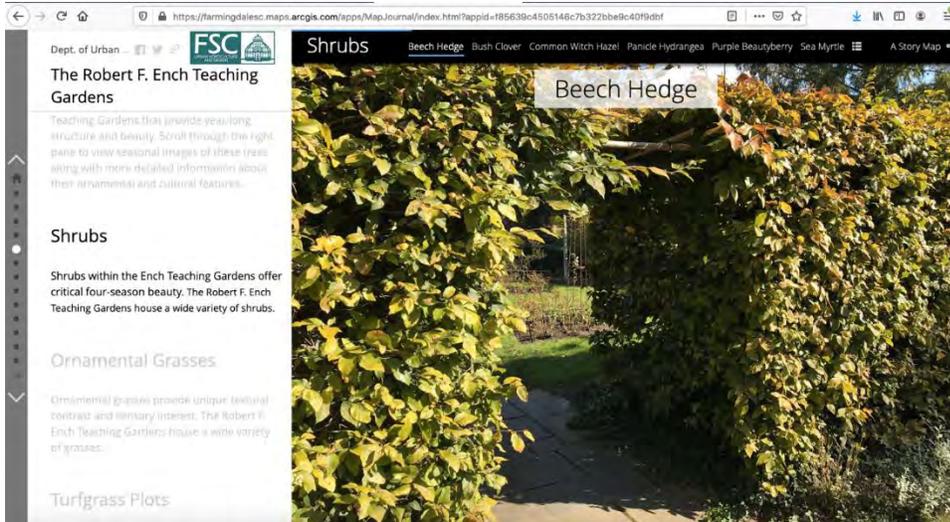


Figure 29 Beech Hedge in shrub information tab

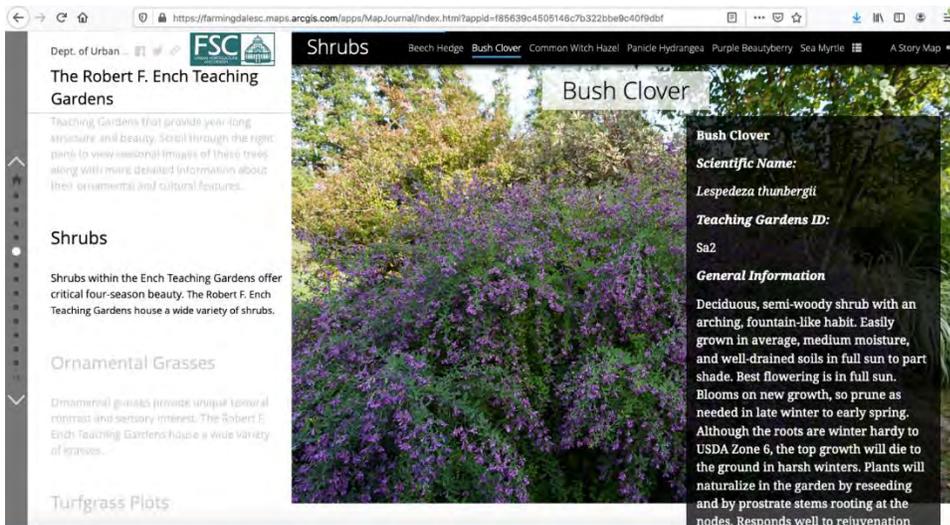


Figure 30 Bush Clover in shrub information tab

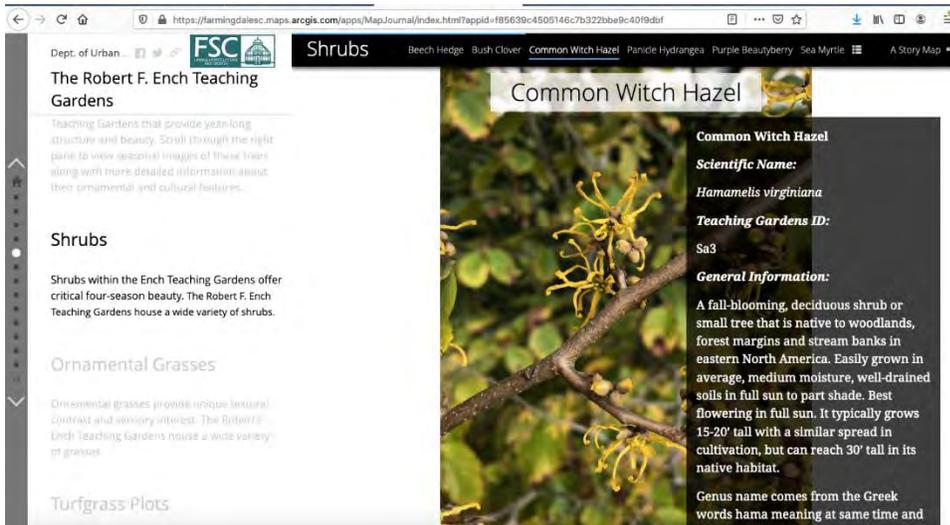


Figure 31 Common Witch Hazel in shrub information tab

Ornamental Grasses

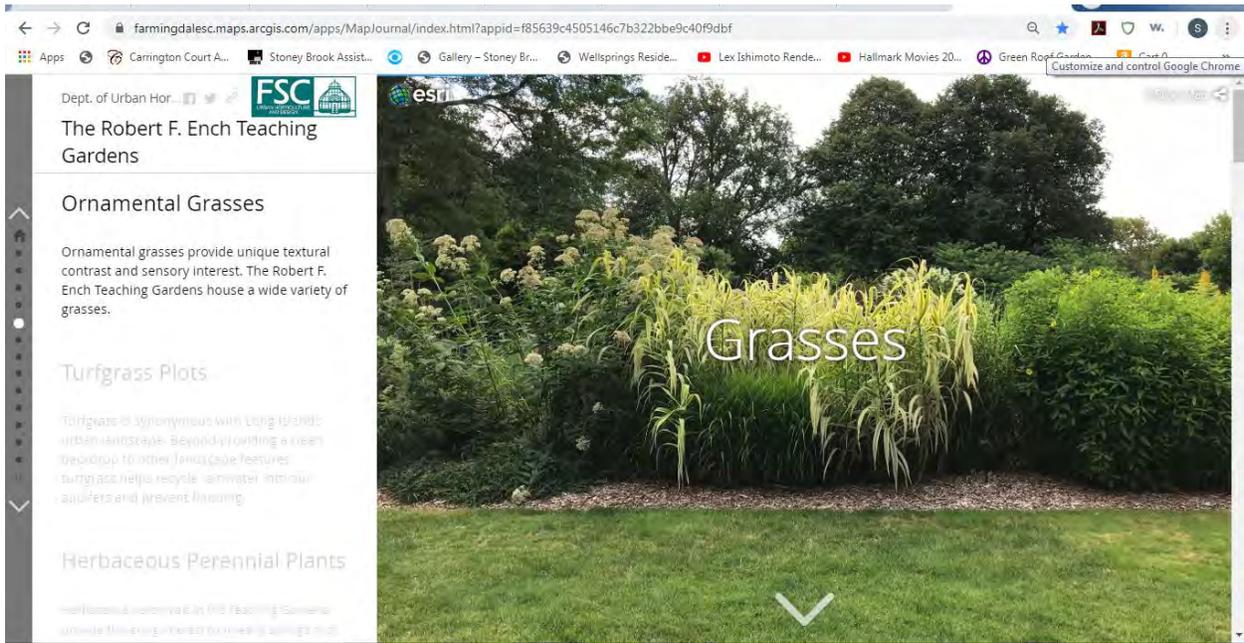


Figure 35 Image of ornamental grass for ornamental grass section

Ornamental grasses provide unique textural contrast and sensory interest. The Robert F. Ench Teaching Gardens house a wide variety of grasses.

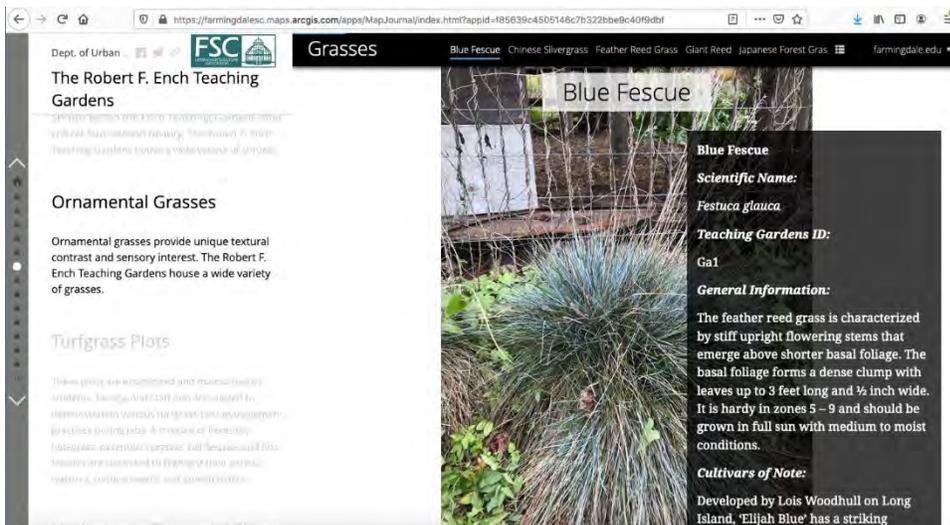


Figure 36 Blue Fescue in ornamental grasses information tab



Figure 37 Chinese Silvergrass in ornamental grasses information tab

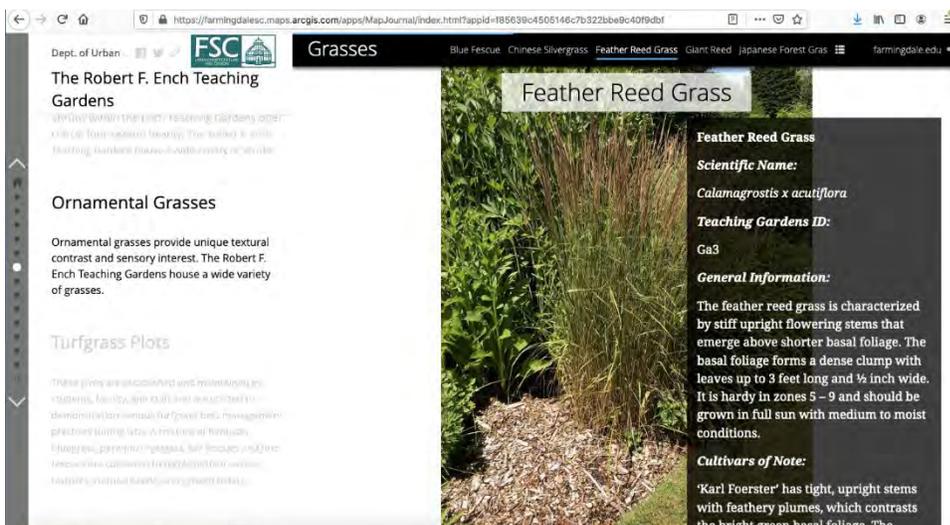


Figure 38 Feather Reed Grass in ornamental grasses information tab

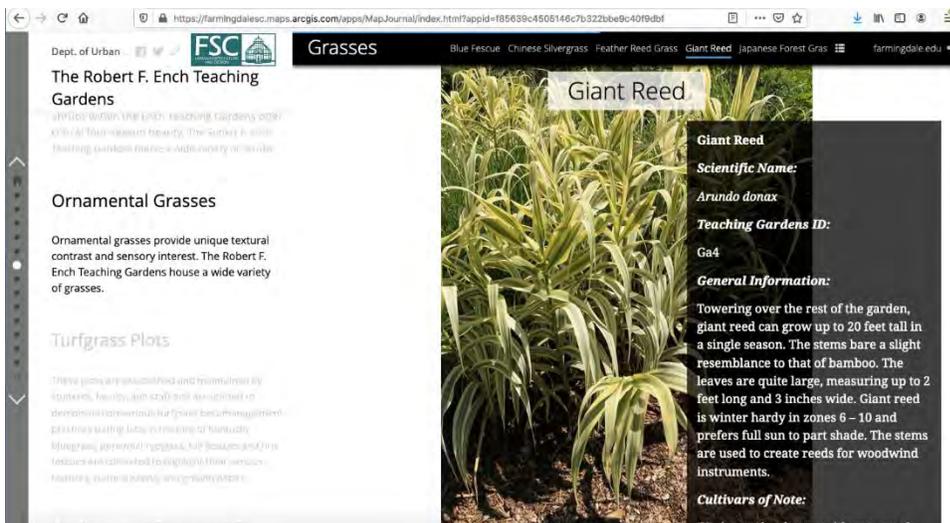


Figure 39 Giant Reed in ornamental grasses information tab

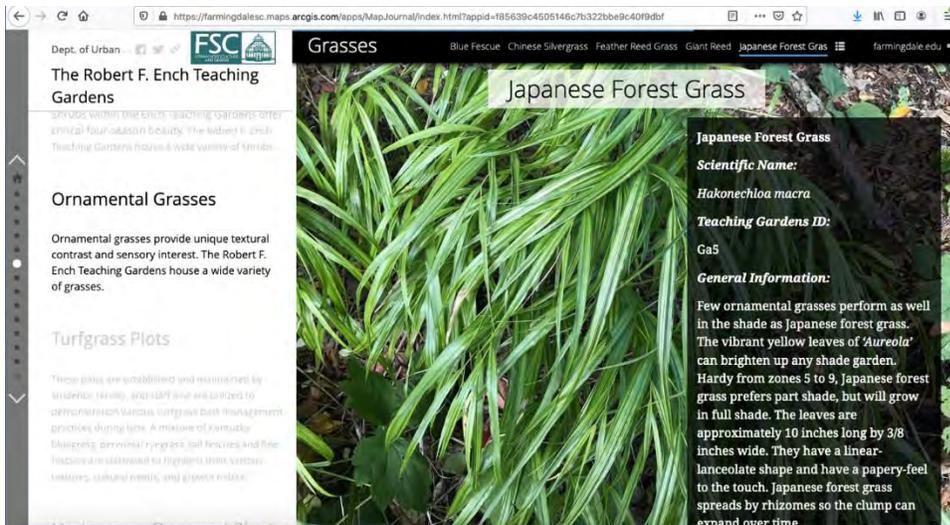


Figure 40 Chinese Forest Grass in ornamental grasses information tab

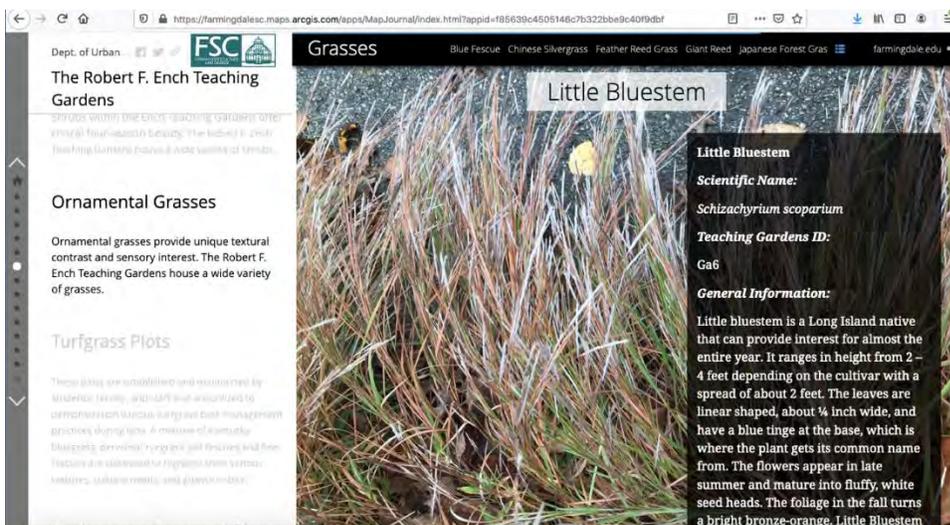


Figure 41 Little Bluestem in ornamental grasses information tab

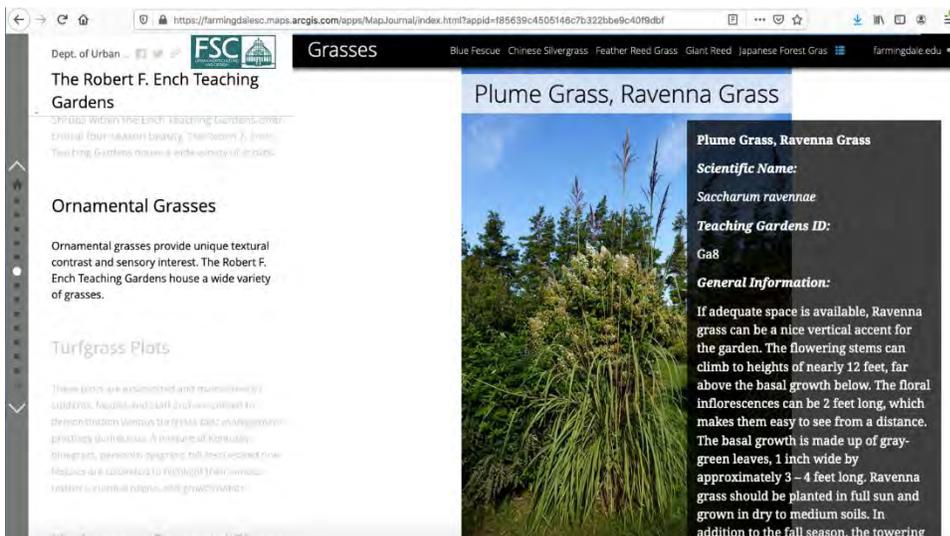


Figure 42 Plume Grass, Ravenna Grass in ornamental grasses information tab

Turfgrass Plots

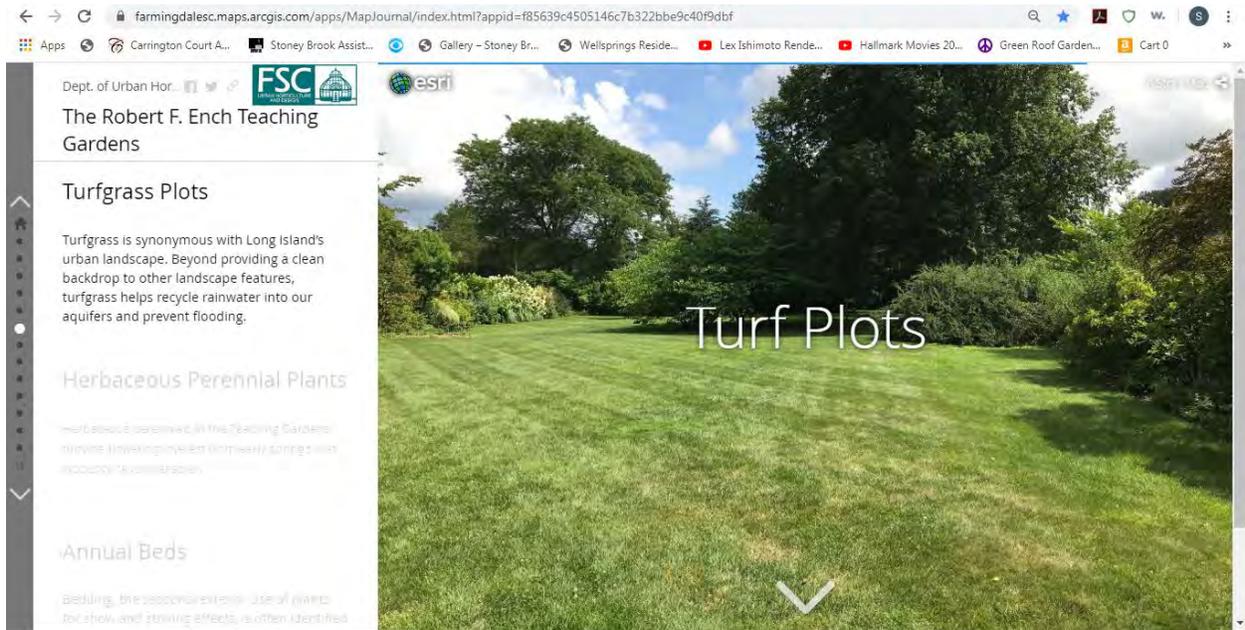


Figure 43 Image of turf plots in turf plot section

Turfgrass is synonymous with Long Island's urban landscape. Beyond providing a clean backdrop to other landscape features, turfgrass helps recycle rainwater into our aquifers and prevent flooding.

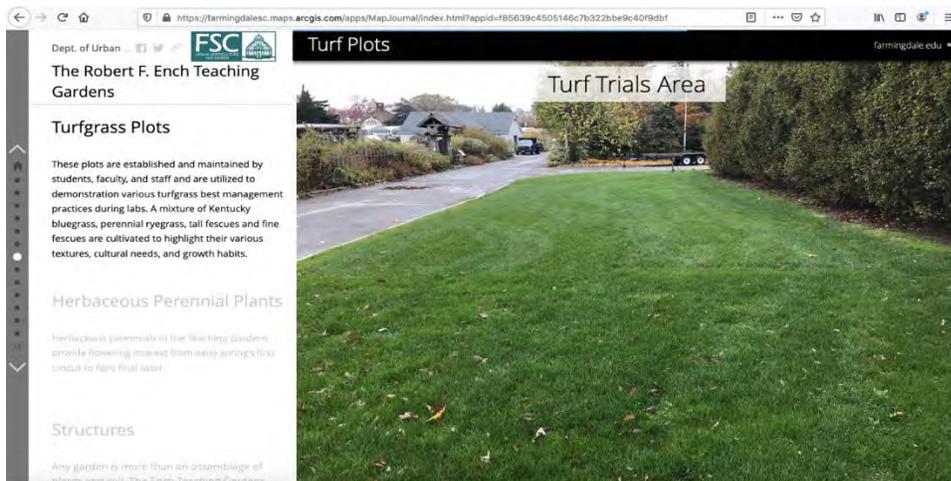


Figure 44 Turf Trials Area in turf plots information tab

Herbaceous Perennial Plants

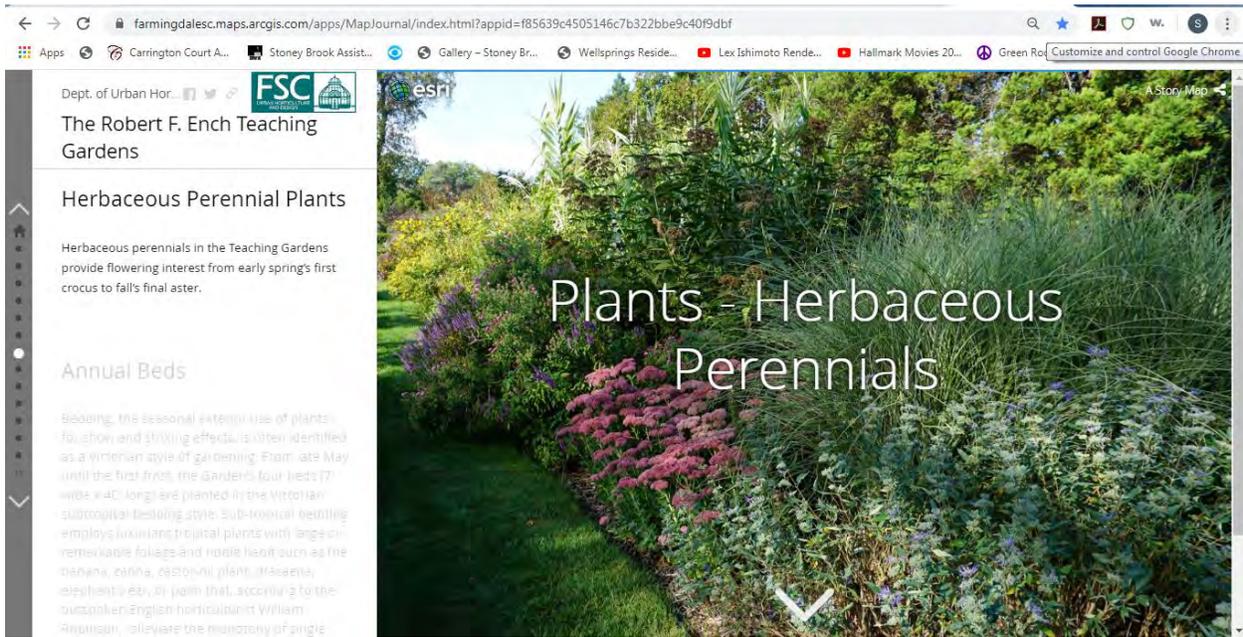


Figure 45 Image of Herbaceous Perennial Plants in herbaceous perennial plants section

Herbaceous perennials in the Teaching Gardens provide flowering interest from early spring's first crocus to fall's final aster.

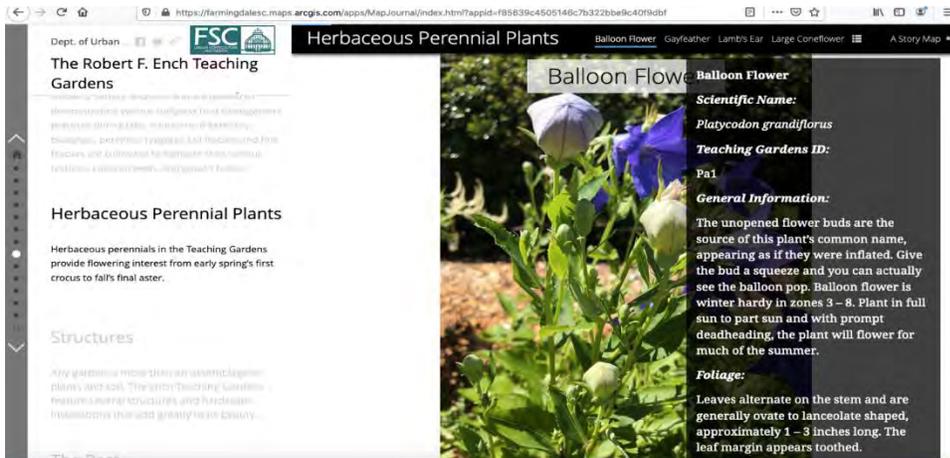


Figure 46 Balloon Flower in herbaceous plants information tab



Figure 47 Gayfeather in herbaceous plants information tab

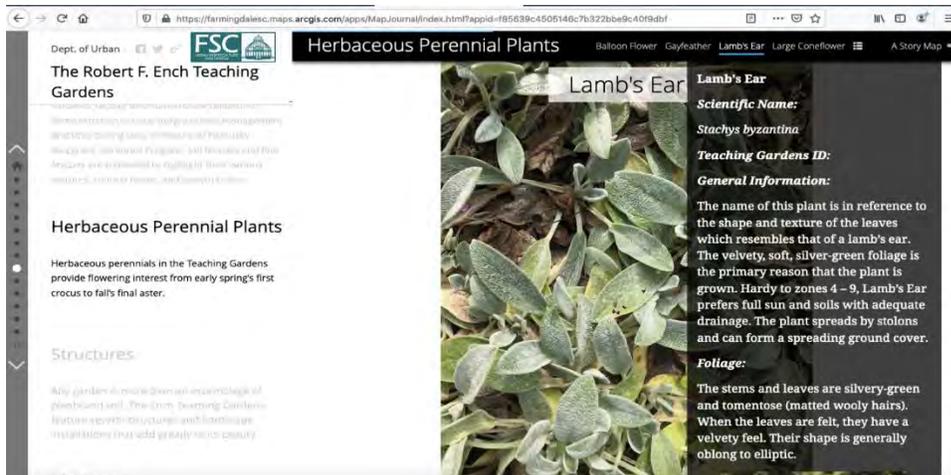


Figure 48 Lamb's Ear in herbaceous plants information tab



Figure 49 Large Coneflower in herbaceous plants information tab

Structures

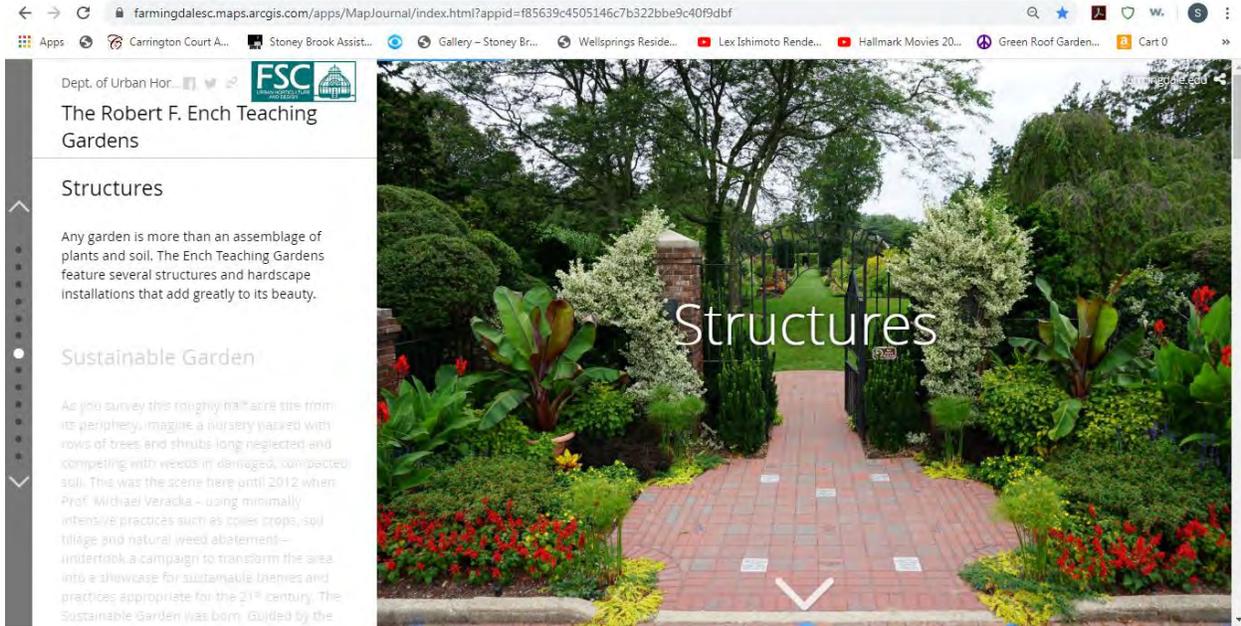


Figure 50 Image of gate structure in structures section

Any garden is more than an assemblage of plants and soil. The Ench Teaching Gardens feature several structures and hardscape installations that add greatly to its beauty.

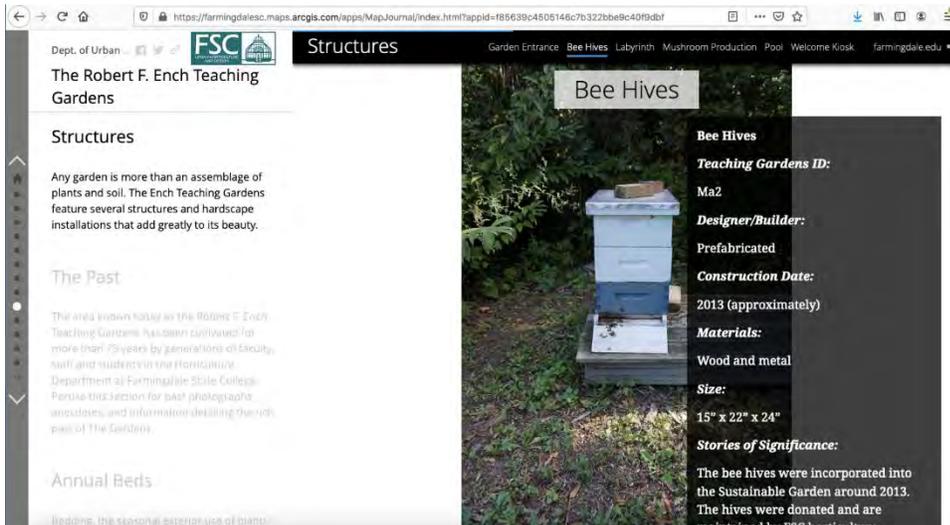


Figure 51 Bee Hives in structures tab

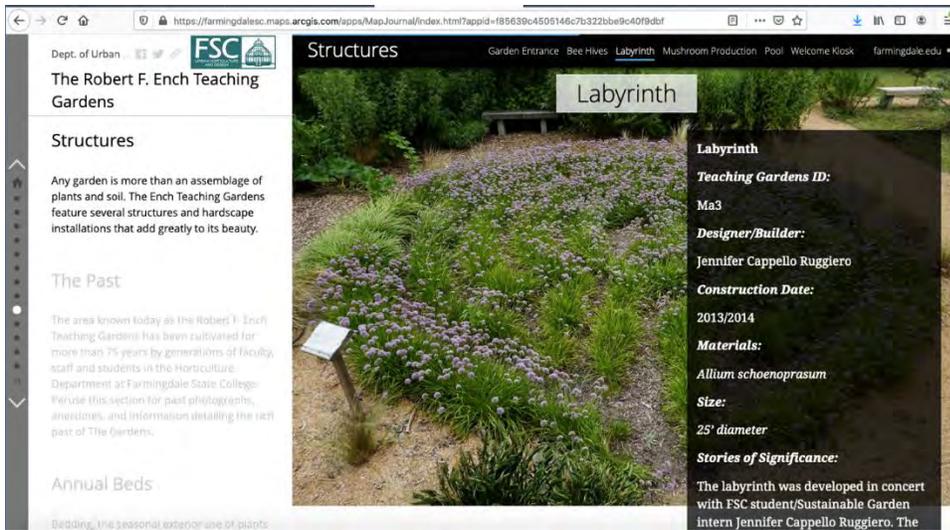


Figure 52 Labyrinth in structures tab

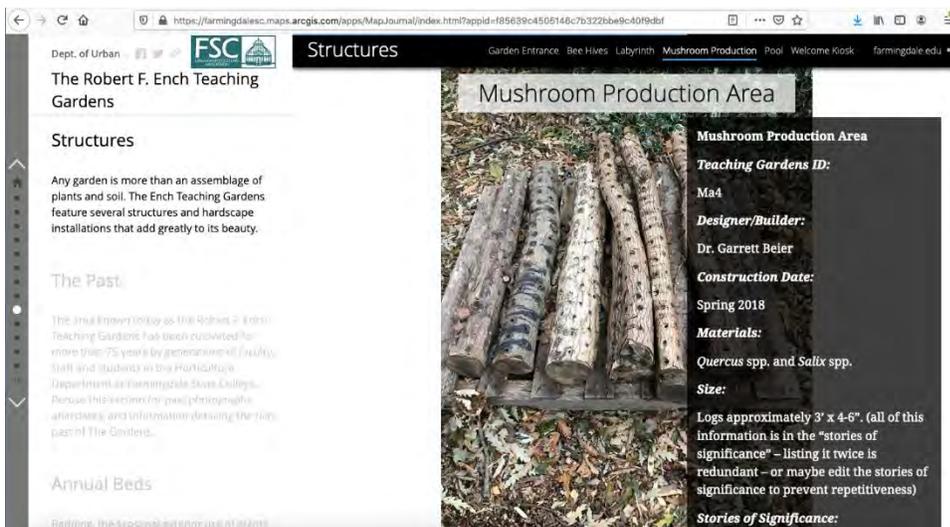


Figure 53 Mushroom Production Area in structures tab

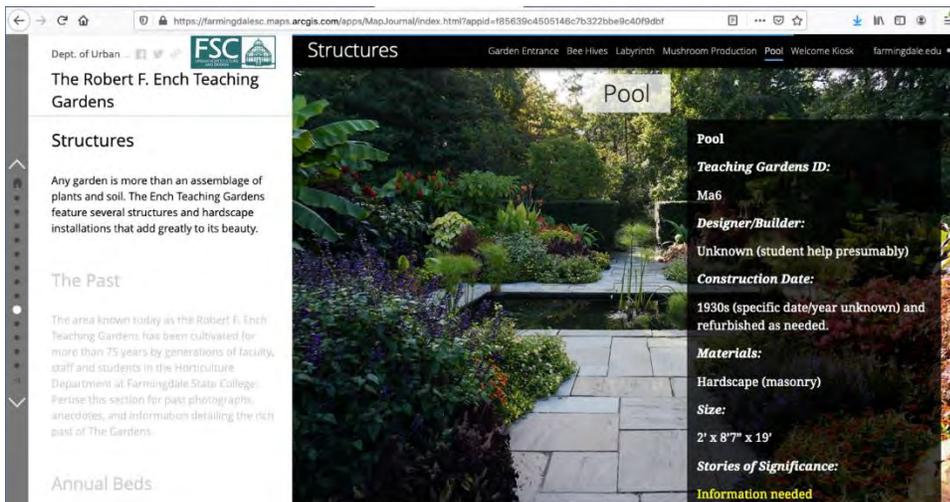


Figure 54 Pool in structures tab

The Past

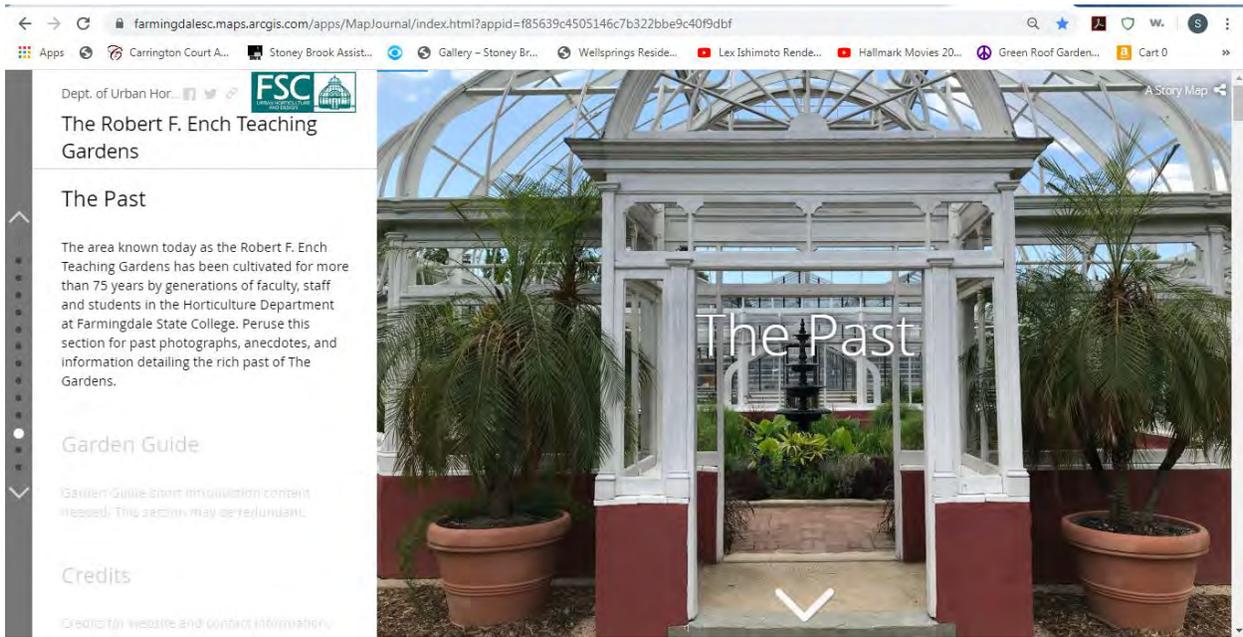


Figure 55 Image of Teaching Gardens in the past section

The area known today as the Robert F. Ench Teaching Gardens has been cultivated for more than 75 years by generations of faculty, staff and students in the Horticulture Department at Farmingdale State College. Peruse this section for past photographs, anecdotes, and information detailing the rich past of The Gardens.

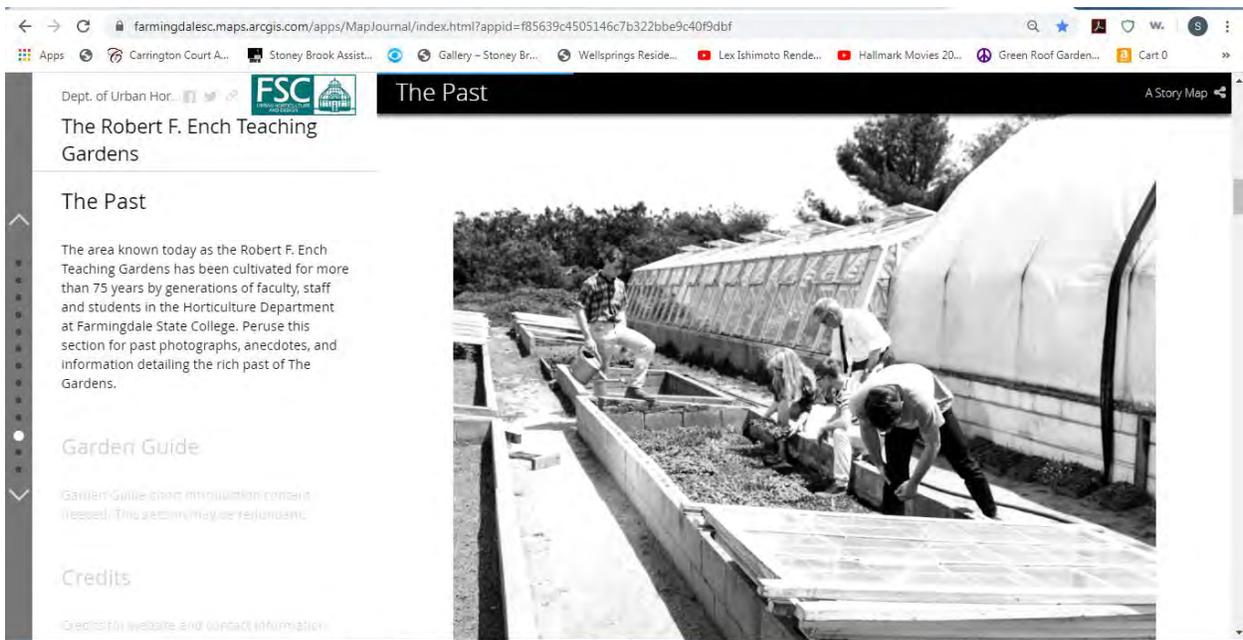


Figure 56 Building the teaching gardens

Annual Beds

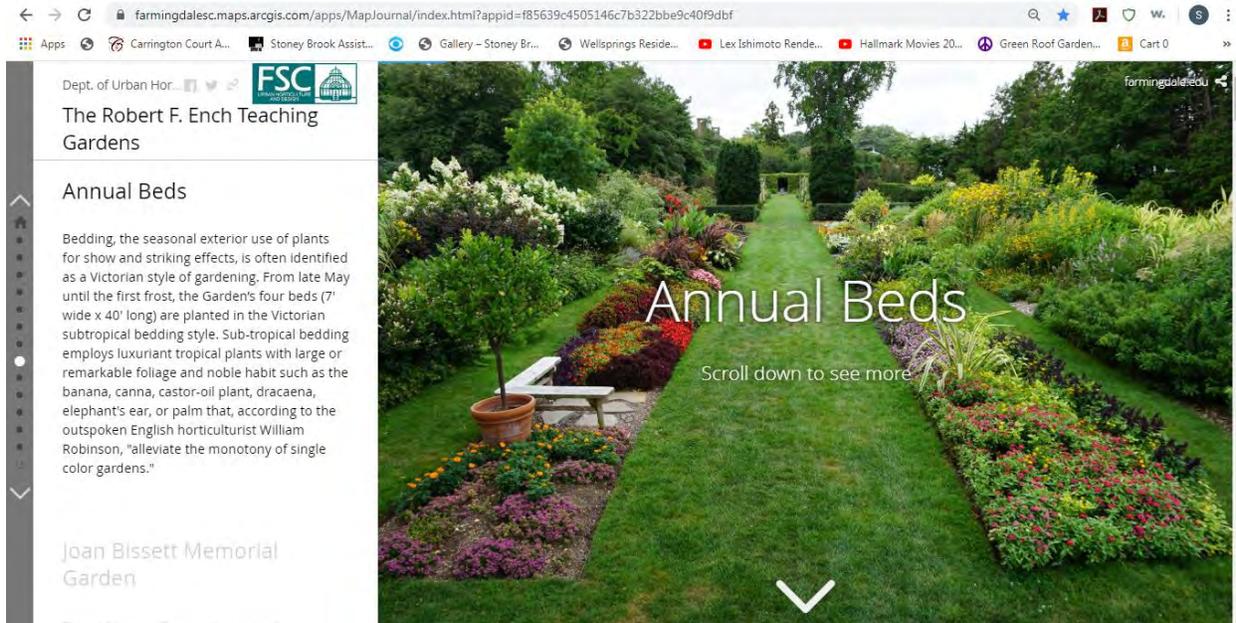


Figure 57 Image of the Annual Beds Garden in the annual gardens section

Bedding, the seasonal exterior use of plants for show and striking effects, is often identified as a Victorian style of gardening. From late May until the first frost, the Garden's four beds (7' wide x 40' long) are planted in the Victorian subtropical bedding style. Sub-tropical bedding employs luxuriant tropical plants with large or remarkable foliage and noble habit such as the banana, canna, castor-oil plant, dracaena, elephant's ear, or palm that, according to the outspoken English horticulturist William Robinson, "alleviate the monotony of single color gardens."

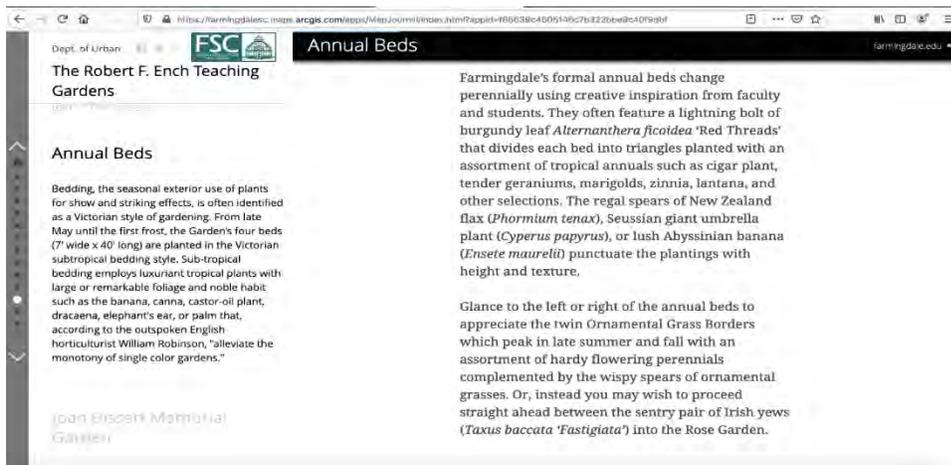


Figure 58 Image from the annual garden tab

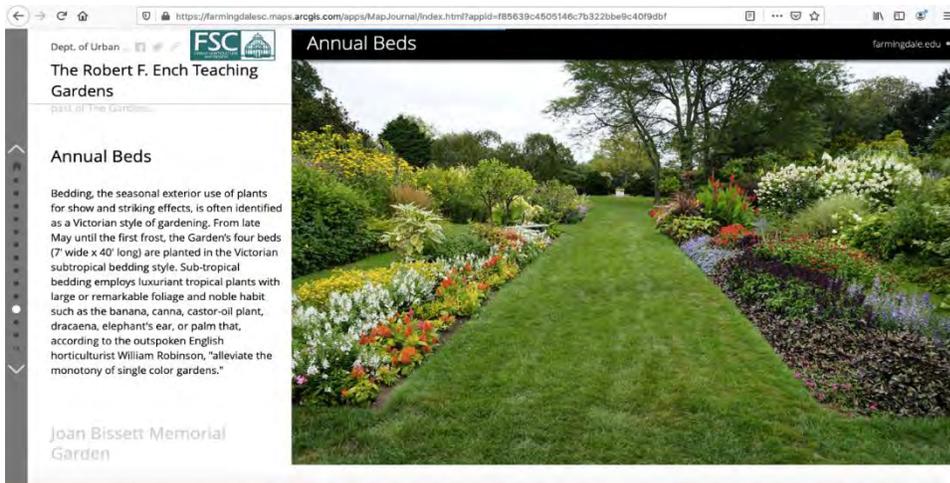


Figure 59 Image of the annual garden from the gate entrance

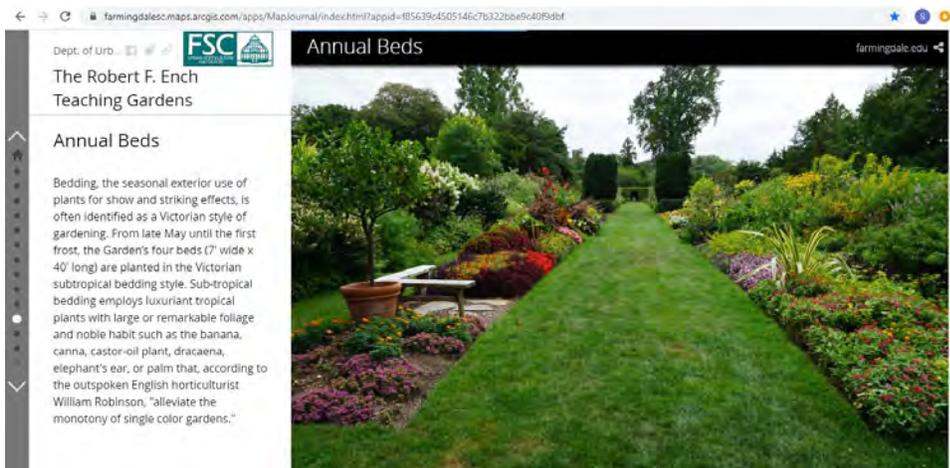


Figure 60 Image of the annual garden from the rose garden

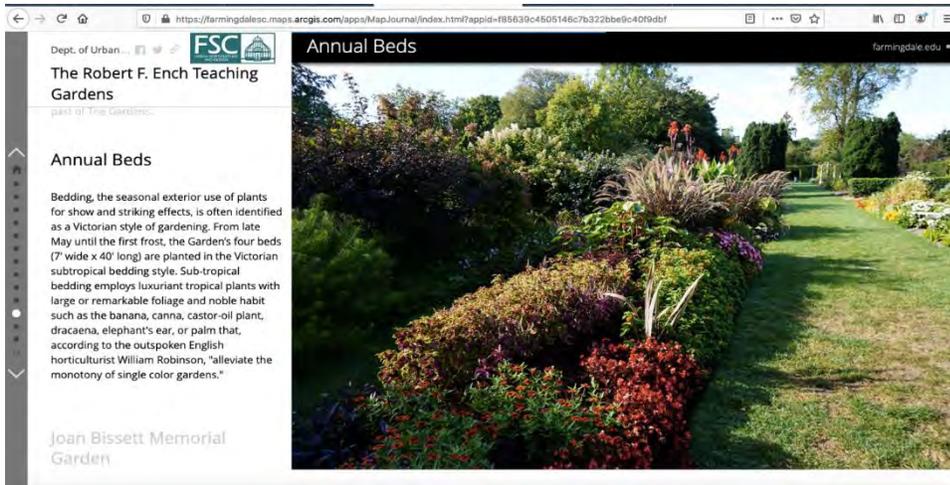


Figure 61 Image of the annual beds from the past

Joan Bissett Memorial Garden

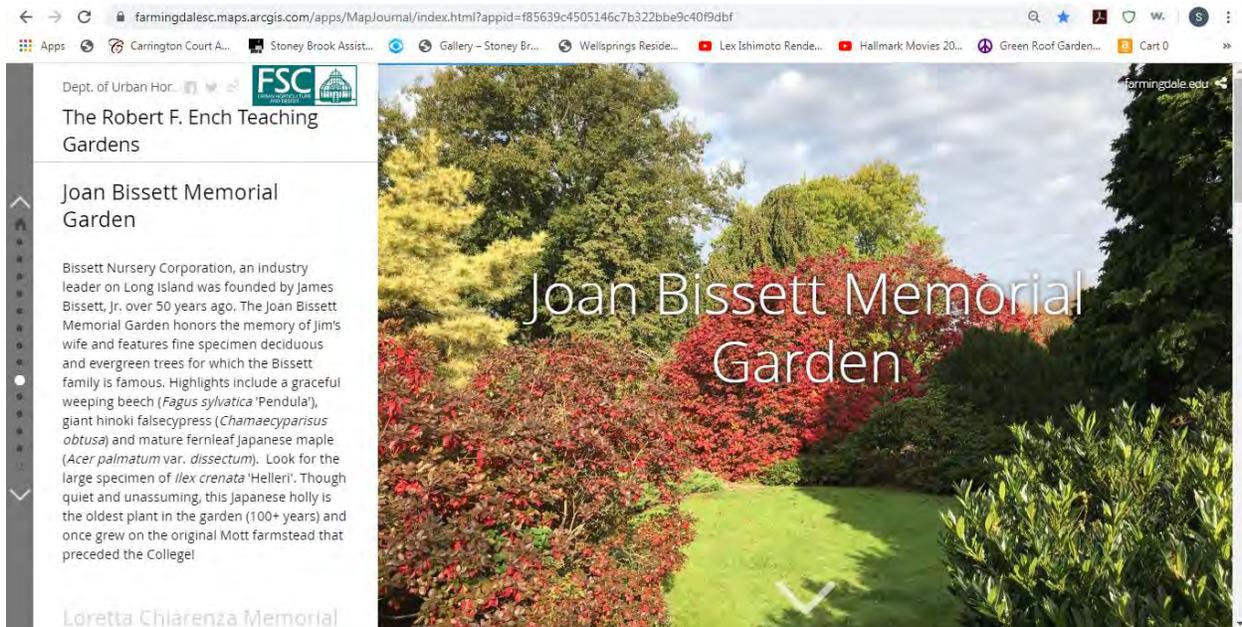


Figure 62 Image of the Joan Bissett Memorial garden from the Joan Bissett Memorial tab

Bissett Nursery Corporation, an industry leader on Long Island was founded by James Bissett, Jr. over 50 years ago. The Joan Bissett Memorial Garden honors the memory of Jim's wife and features fine specimen deciduous and evergreen trees for which the Bissett family is famous. Highlights include a graceful weeping beech (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula'), giant hinoki falsecypress (*Chamaecyparis obtusa*) and mature fernleaf Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum*). Look for the large specimen of *Ilex crenata* 'Helleri'. Though quiet and unassuming, this Japanese holly is the oldest plant in the garden (100+ years) and once grew on the original Mott farmstead that preceded the College!

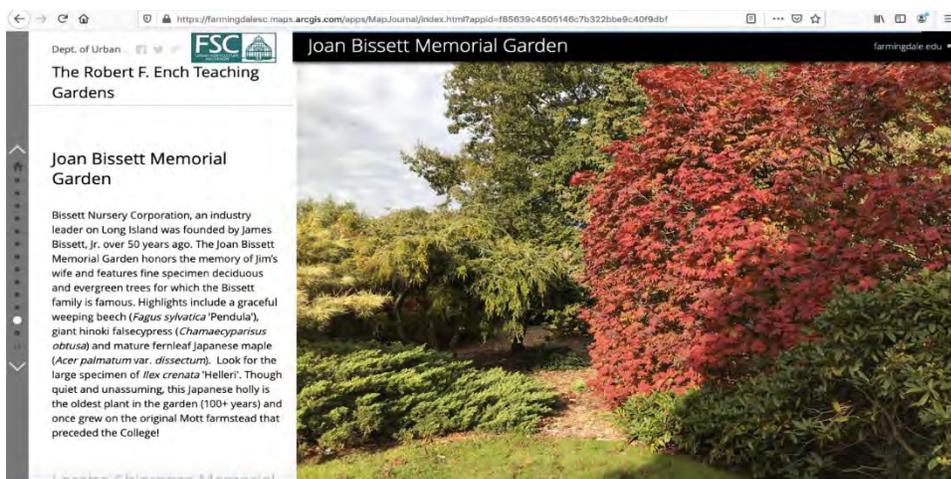


Figure 63 Image of the Joan Bissett Memorial Garden in autumn

Loretta Chiarenza Memorial

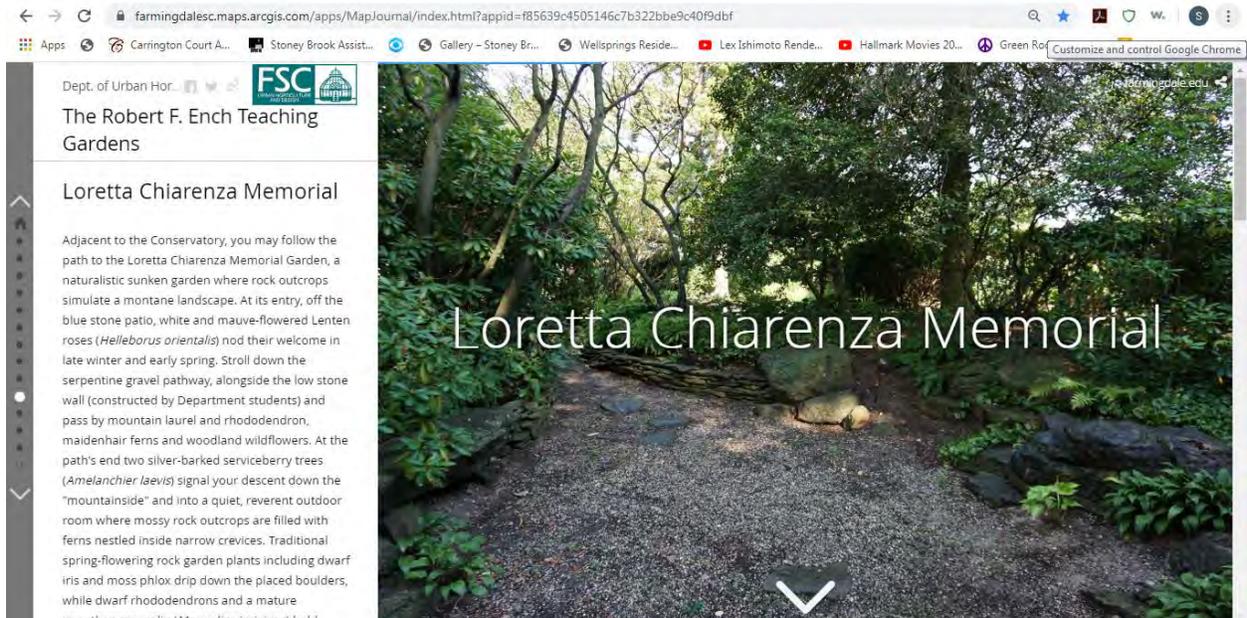


Figure 64 Image of the Loretta Chiarenza Memorial from the Loretta Chiarenza Memorial tab

Adjacent to the Conservatory, you may follow the path to the Loretta Chiarenza Memorial Garden, a naturalistic sunken garden where rock outcrops simulate a montane landscape. At its entry, off the blue stone patio, white and mauve-flowered Lenten roses (*Helleborus orientalis*) nod their welcome in late winter and early spring. Stroll down the serpentine gravel pathway, alongside the low stone wall (constructed by Department students) and pass by mountain laurel and rhododendron, maidenhair ferns and woodland wildflowers. At the path's end two silver-barked serviceberry trees (*Amelanchier laevis*) signal your descent down the "mountainside" and into a quiet, reverent outdoor room where mossy rock outcrops are filled with ferns nestled inside narrow crevices. Traditional spring-flowering rock garden plants including dwarf iris and moss phlox drip down the placed boulders, while dwarf rhododendrons and a mature sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) hold court overhead. When you are ready to leave the Loretta Chiarenza Memorial Garden, "hike" up the rocky steps into the Peter's Garden grassy clearing by passing through a tunnel of splendid *Enkianthus campanulatus* and Japanese clethra (*Clethra barbinervis*) specimens.

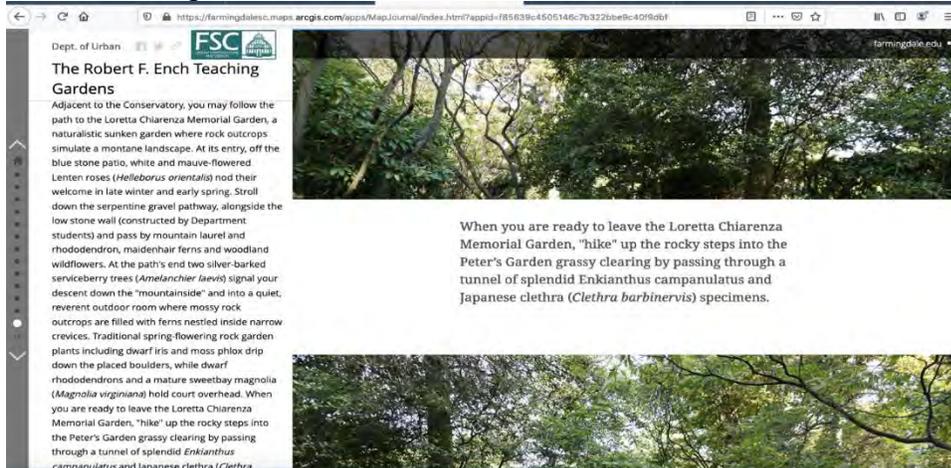


Figure 65 Image of the Loretta Chiarenza Memorial Garden

Conservatory Garden

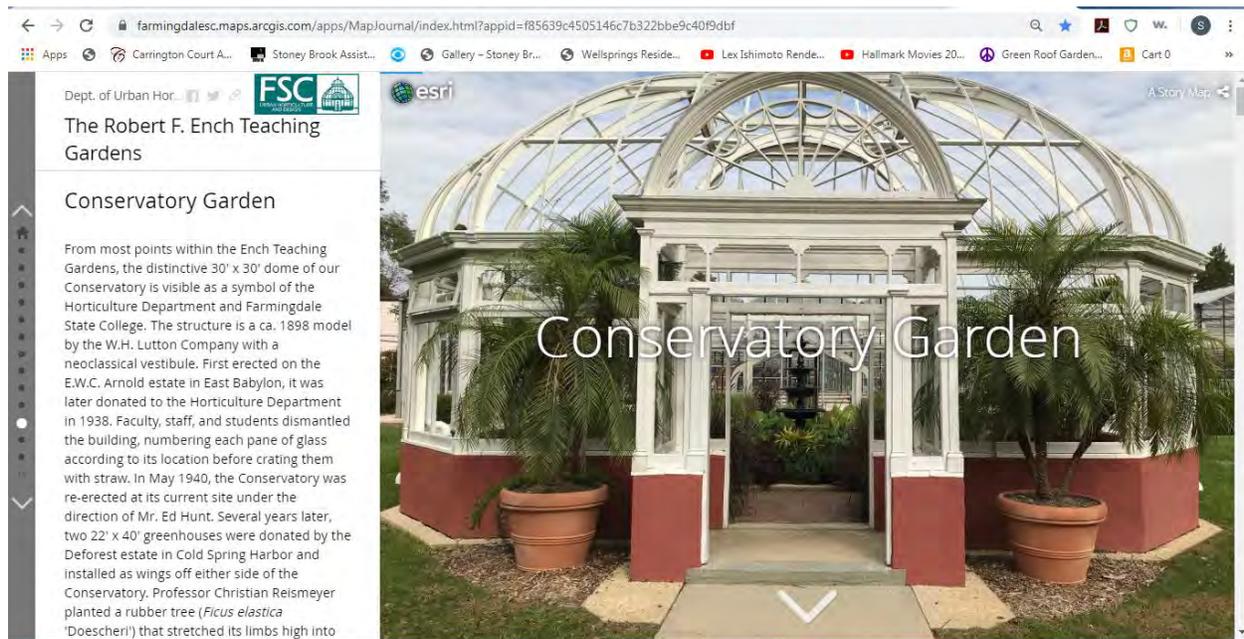


Figure 66 Image of the Conservatory Garden from the Conservatory section

From most points within the Ench Teaching Gardens, the distinctive 30' x 30' dome of our Conservatory is visible as a symbol of the Horticulture Department and Farmingdale State College. The structure is a ca. 1898 model by the W.H. Lutton Company with a neoclassical vestibule. First erected on the E.W.C. Arnold estate in East Babylon, it was later donated to the Horticulture Department in 1938. Faculty, staff, and students dismantled the building, numbering each pane of glass according to its location before crating them with straw. In May 1940, the Conservatory was re-erected at its current site under the direction of Mr. Ed Hunt. Several years later, two 22' x 40' greenhouses were donated by the Deforest estate in Cold Spring Harbor and installed as wings off either side of the Conservatory. Professor Christian Reismeyer planted a rubber tree (*Ficus elastica* 'Doescheri') that stretched its limbs high into the central dome and provided habitat for numerous tropical plants. The east wing housed an orchid collection; bromeliads and other house plants grew in the west wing. Today, only the center Conservatory dome remains as its wings were removed in 1979 when a new greenhouse range was erected nearby.

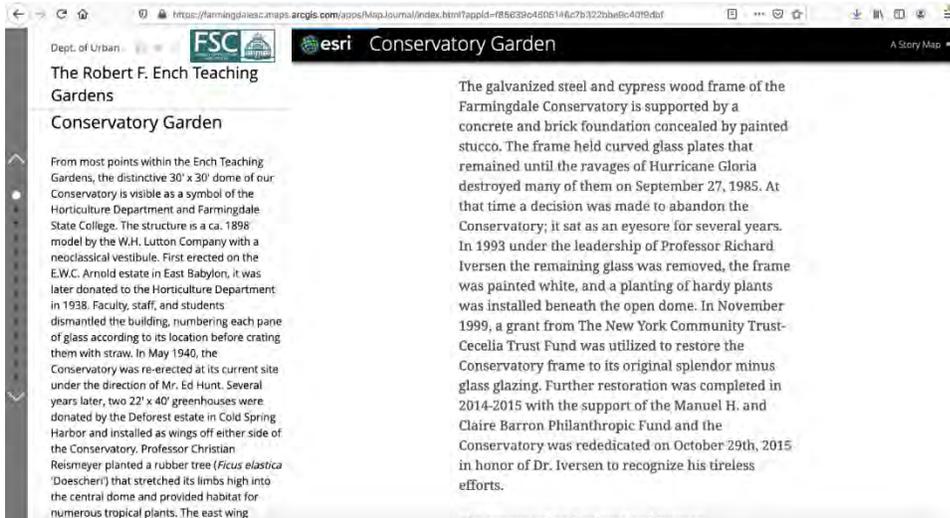


Figure 67 Image from the Conservatory Garden tab

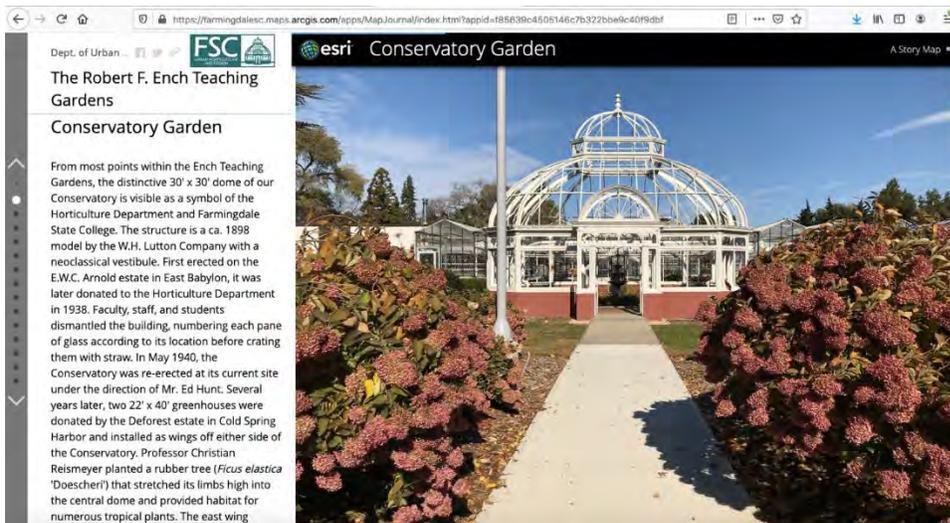


Figure 68 Image from the Conservatory Garden tab

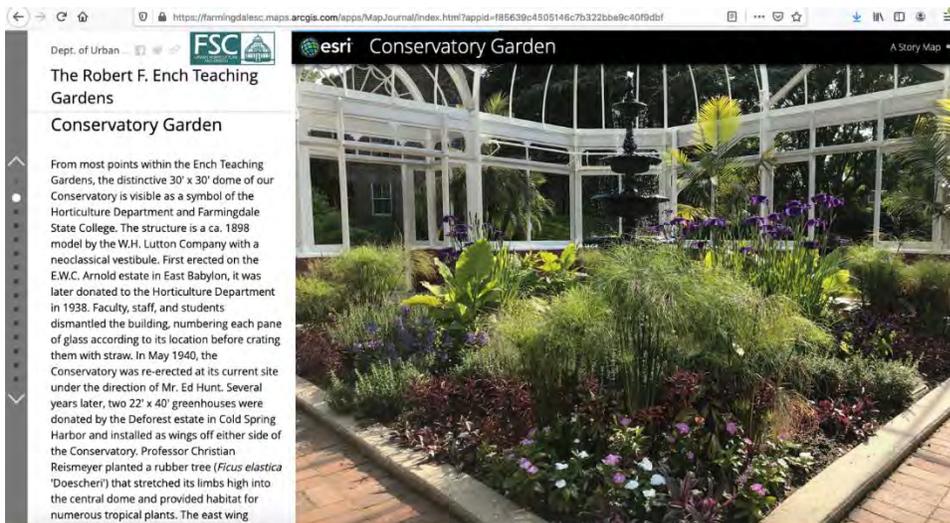


Figure 69 Image from the Conservatory Garden tab

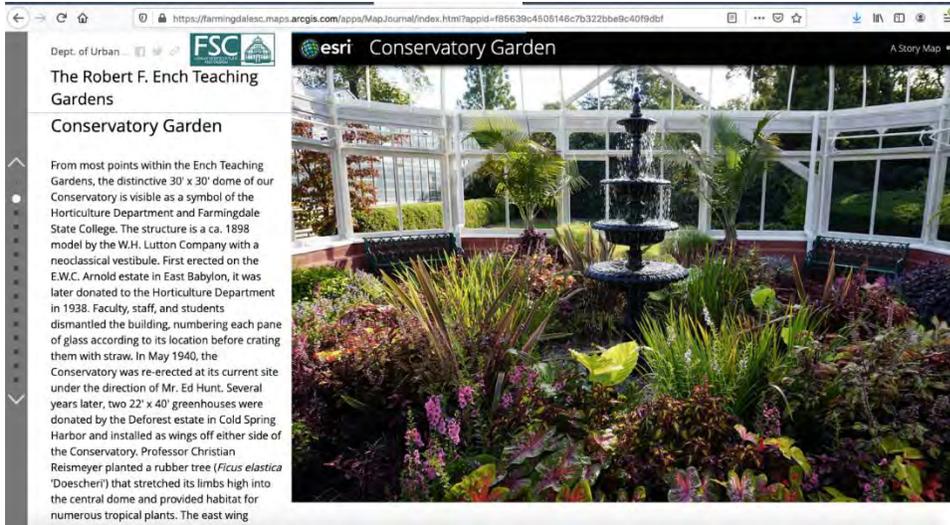


Figure 70 Image from the Conservatory Garden tab

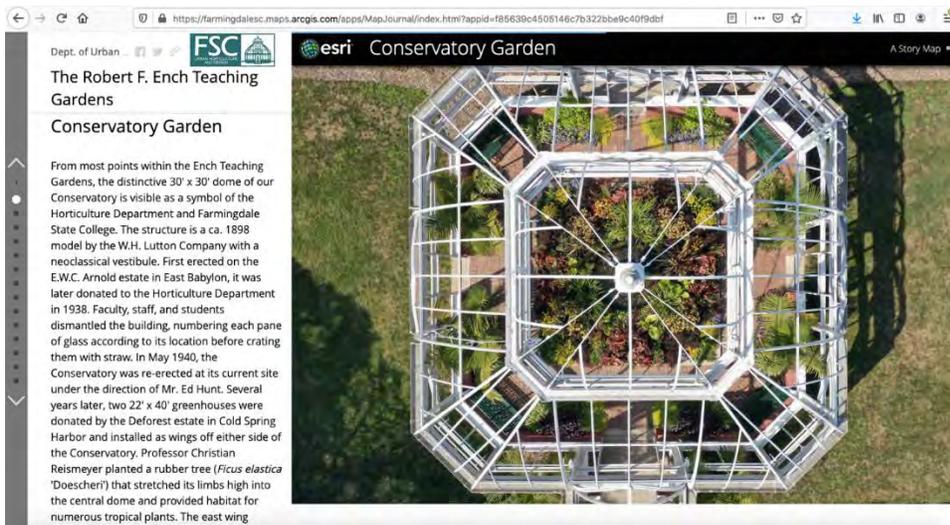


Figure 71 Image from the Conservatory Garden tab



Figure 72 Image from the Conservatory Garden tab

Grass Garden

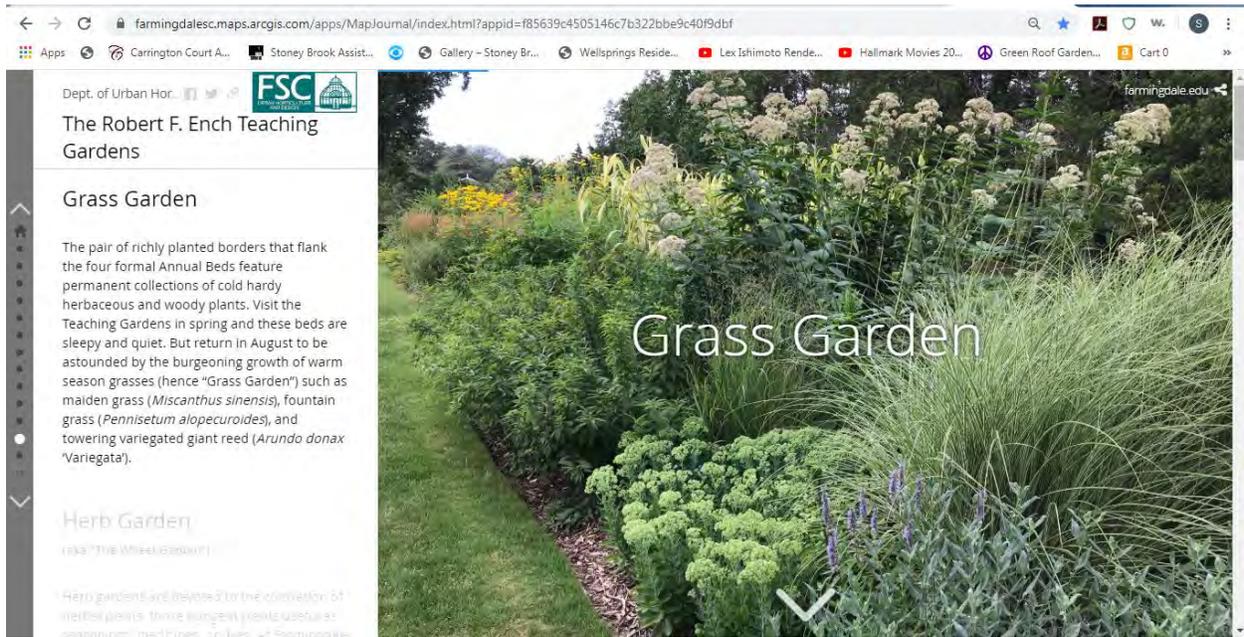


Figure 73 Image of the Grass Garden from the grass garden section

The pair of richly planted borders that flank the four formal Annual Beds feature permanent collections of cold hardy herbaceous and woody plants. Visit the Teaching Gardens in spring and these beds are sleepy and quiet. But return in August to be astounded by the burgeoning growth of warm season grasses (hence “Grass Garden”) such as maiden grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*), fountain grass (*Pennisetum alopecuroides*), and towering variegated giant reed (*Arundo donax* ‘Variegata’).

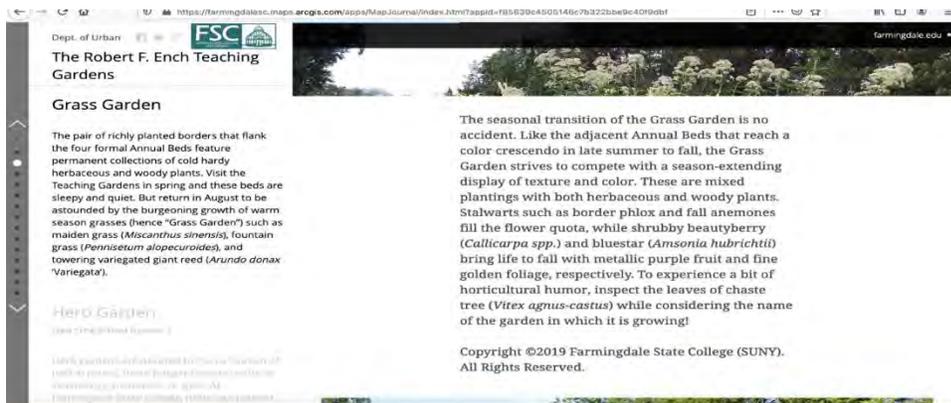


Figure 74 Image from the Grass Garden tab

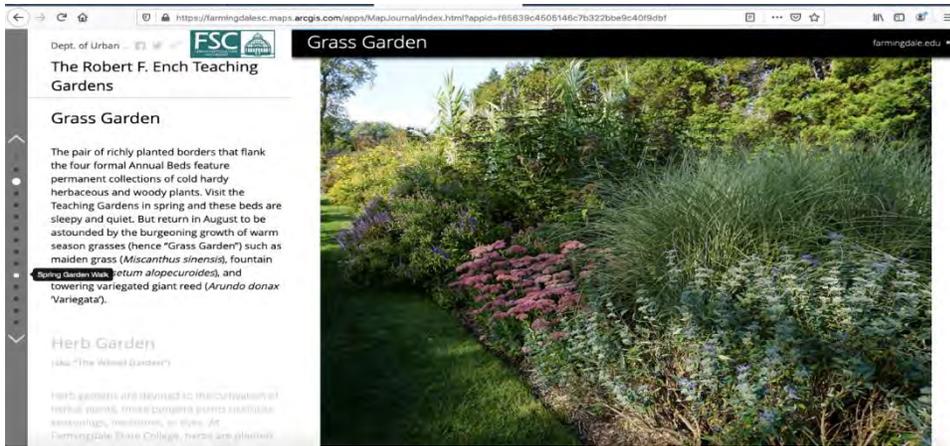


Figure 75 Image from the Grass Garden tab

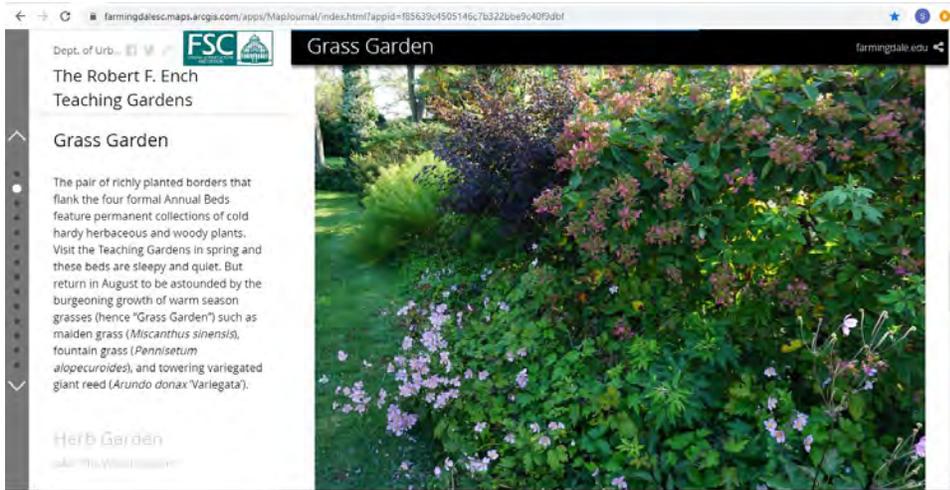


Figure 76 Image from the Grass Garden tab

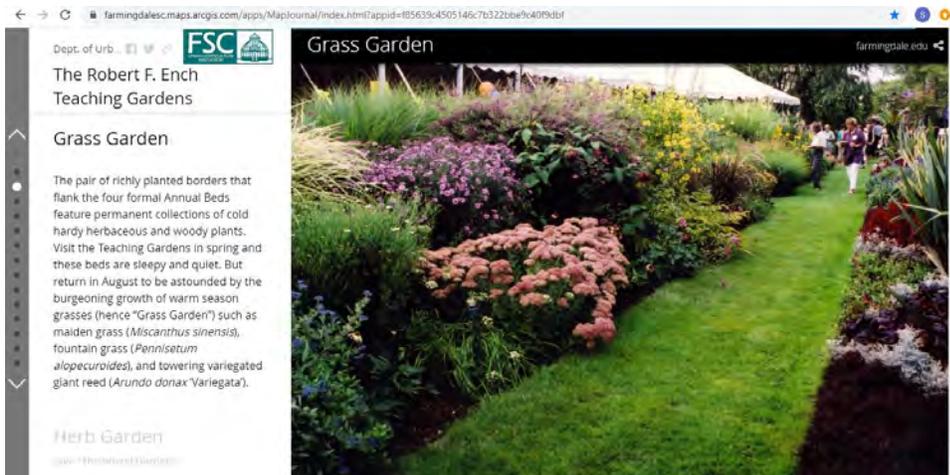


Figure 77 Image from the Grass Garden tab

Herb Garden (aka “The Wheel Garden”)

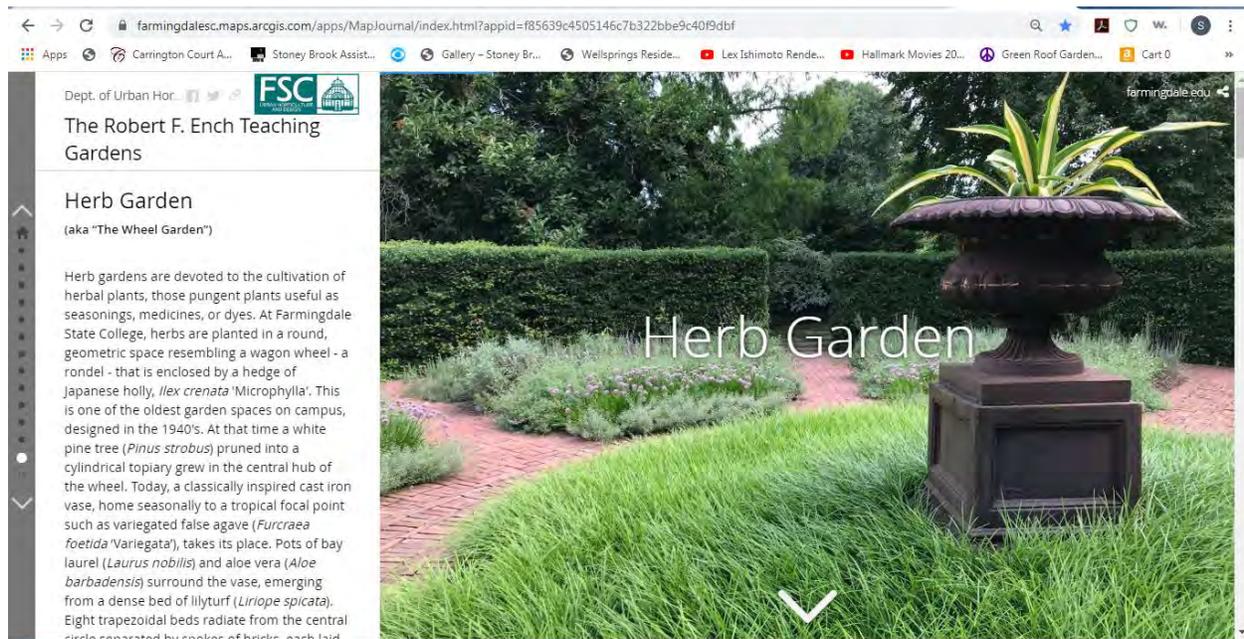


Figure 78 Image of the Herb Garden from the herb garden section

Herb gardens are devoted to the cultivation of herbal plants, those pungent plants useful as seasonings, medicines, or dyes. At Farmingdale State College, herbs are planted in a round, geometric space resembling a wagon wheel - a rondel - that is enclosed by a hedge of Japanese holly, *Ilex crenata* 'Microphylla'. This is one of the oldest garden spaces on campus, designed in the 1940's. At that time a white pine tree (*Pinus strobus*) pruned into a cylindrical topiary grew in the central hub of the wheel. Today, a classically inspired cast iron vase, home seasonally to a tropical focal point such as variegated false agave (*Furcraea foetida* 'Variegata'), takes its place. Pots of bay laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) and aloe vera (*Aloe barbadensis*) surround the vase, emerging from a dense bed of lilyturf (*Liriope spicata*). Eight trapezoidal beds radiate from the central circle separated by spokes of bricks, each laid by landscape construction students in a different bond. Since the 1980's herbs have been the primary occupants of this garden. To accentuate the rondel, neat-looking herbal plants are arranged in rings. Look for German chives, thyme, germander, southernwood, sage, and rosemary. Touch them and smell their fragrant foliage. If you are lucky to be visiting in late spring, dozens of tall ornamental onions (*Allium* spp.) erupt above the plantings to briefly flaunt large purple globes to the delight of bees and children.

Leave the formality of the Herb Garden through a pair of common boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*) and either turn immediately to your right through the Spring Walk or walk straight and enter the curvilinear Peter's Garden.



Figure 79 Image from the Heb Garden tab

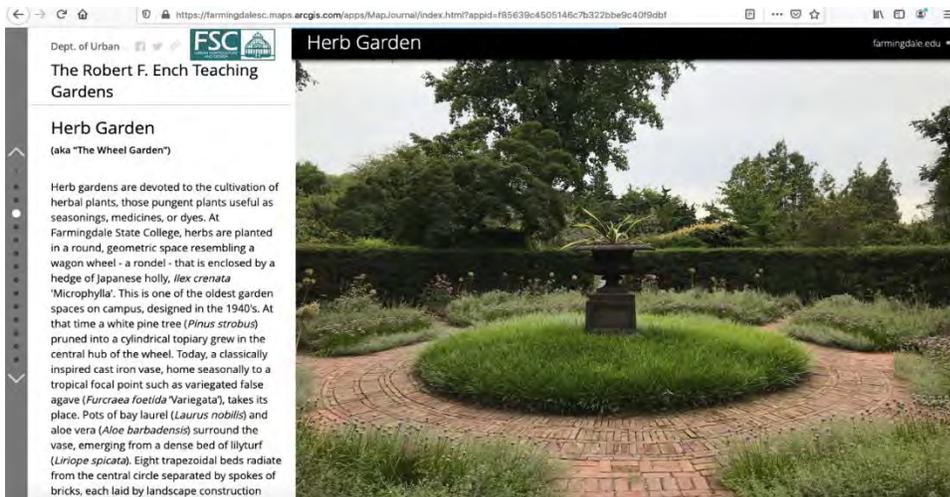


Figure 80 Image from the Heb Garden tab

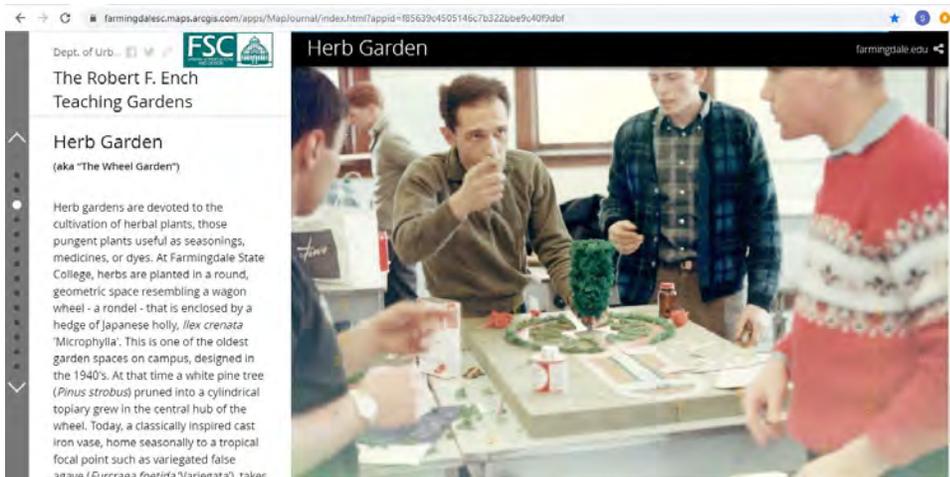


Figure 81 Image from the Heb Garden tab

Miscellaneous Features

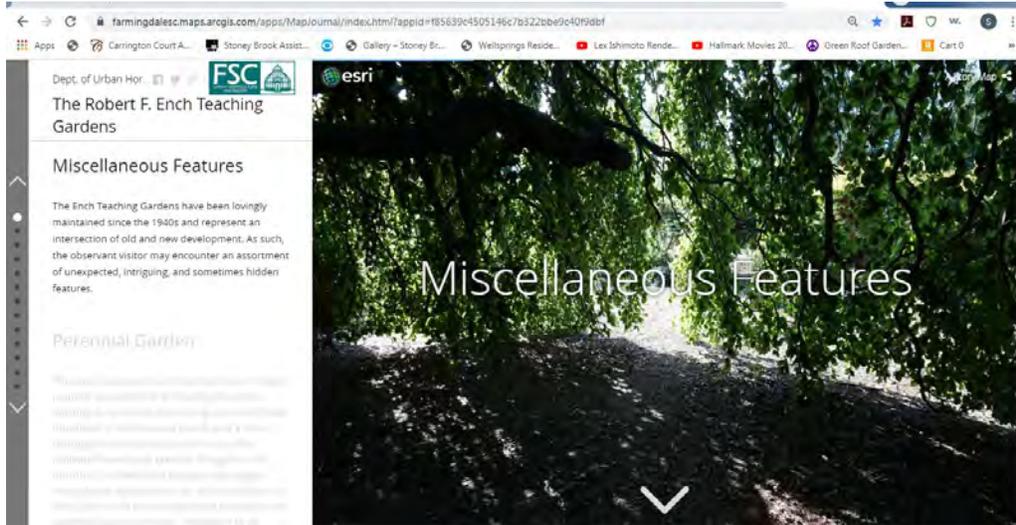


Figure 82 Image from the Miscellaneous features section

The Ench Teaching Gardens have been lovingly maintained since the 1940s and represent an intersection of old and new development. As such, the observant visitor may encounter an assortment of unexpected, intriguing, and sometimes hidden features.



Figure 83 Great Lawn in the miscellaneous features tab

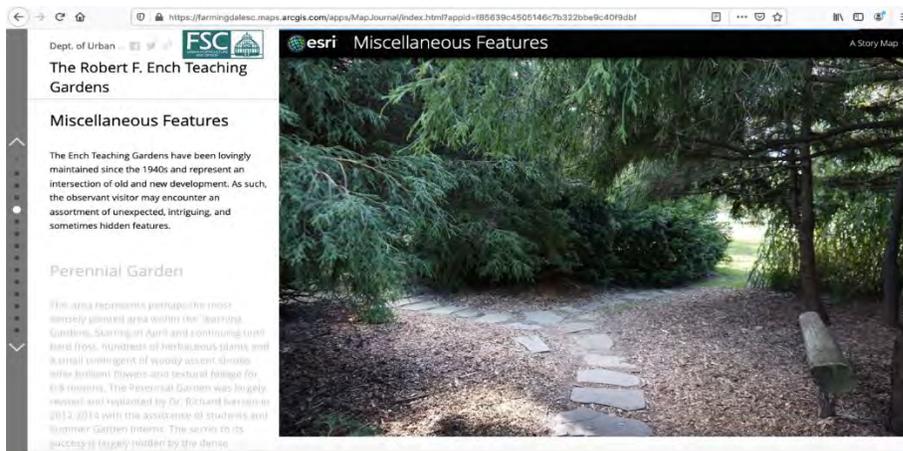


Figure 84 Walkway in miscellaneous features tab

Perennial Garden

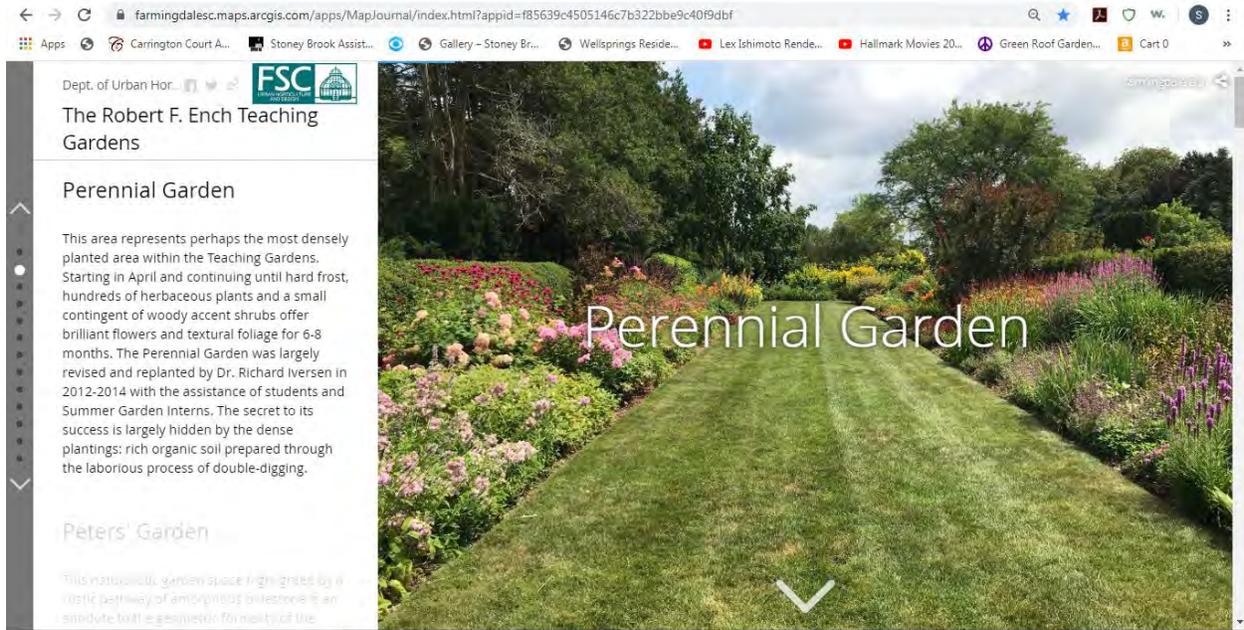


Figure 85 Image of the Perennial Garden in the perennial garden section

This area represents perhaps the most densely planted area within the Teaching Gardens. Starting in April and continuing until hard frost, hundreds of herbaceous plants and a small contingent of woody accent shrubs offer brilliant flowers and textural foliage for 6-8 months. The Perennial Garden was largely revised and replanted by Dr. Richard Iversen in 2012-2014 with the assistance of students and Summer Garden Interns. The secret to its success is largely hidden by the dense plantings: rich organic soil prepared through the laborious process of double-digging.

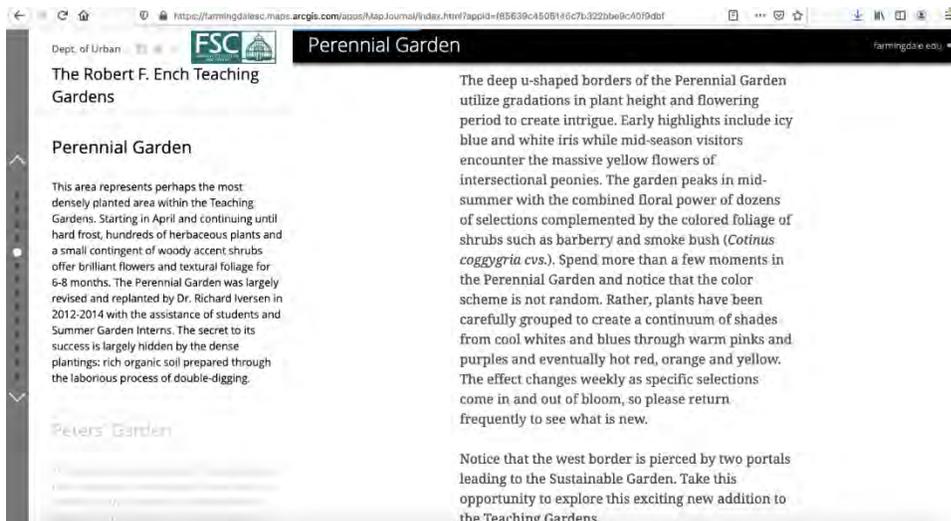


Figure 86 Image from the perennial garden tab

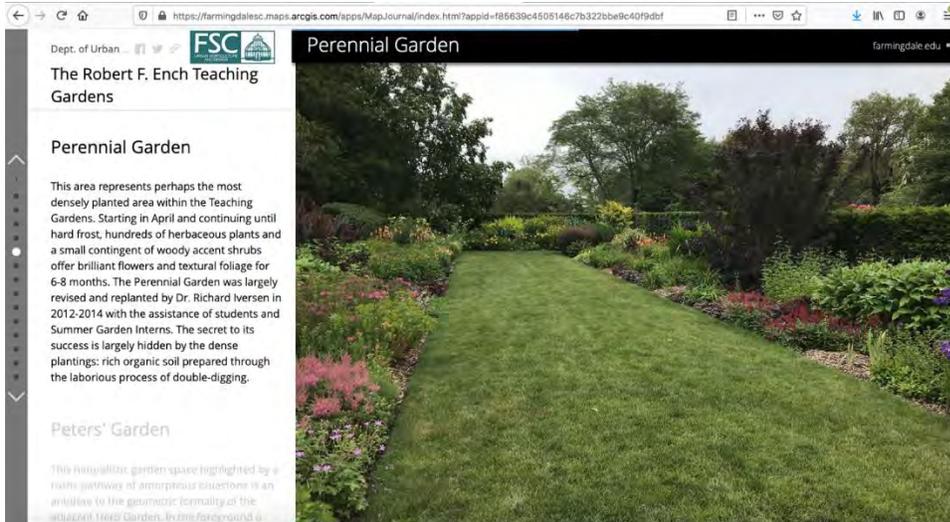


Figure 87 Image from the perennial garden tab

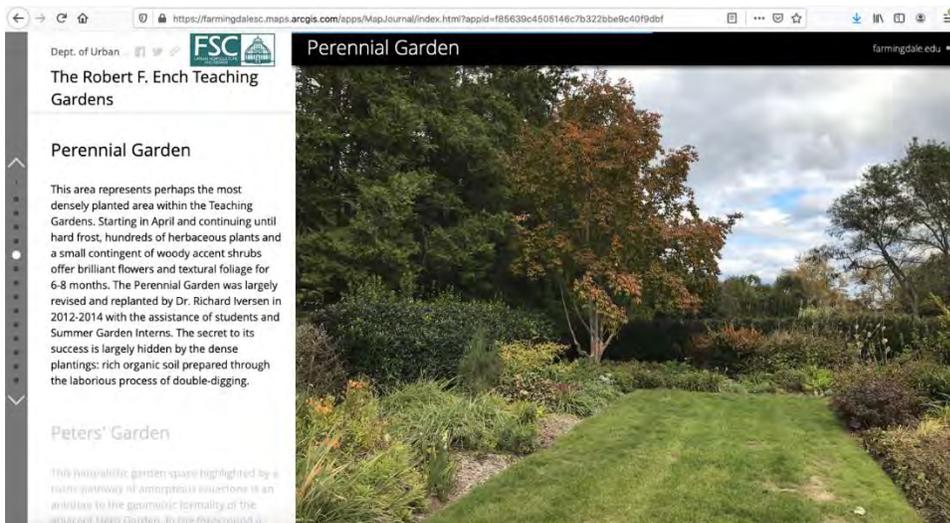


Figure 88 Image from the perennial garden tab

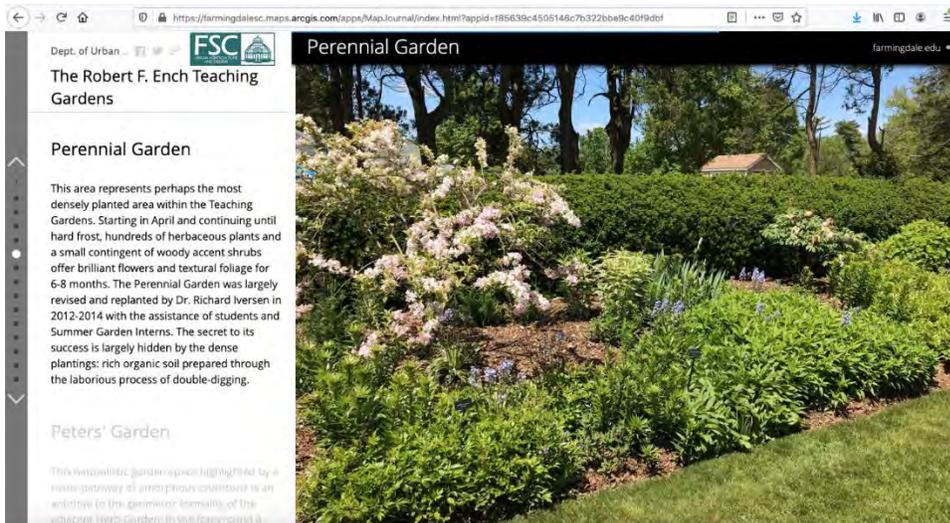


Figure 89 Image from the perennial garden tab

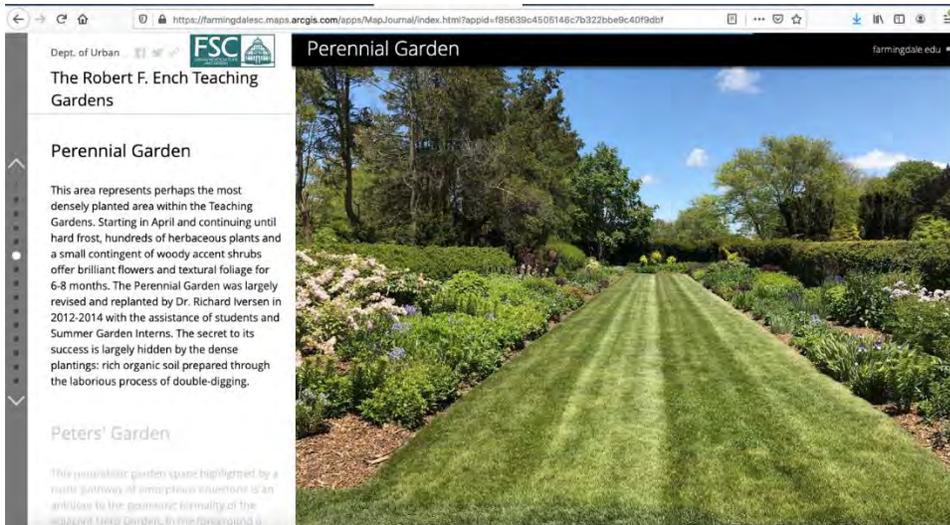


Figure 90 Image from the perennial garden tab



Figure 91 Image from the perennial garden tab

Peters' Garden

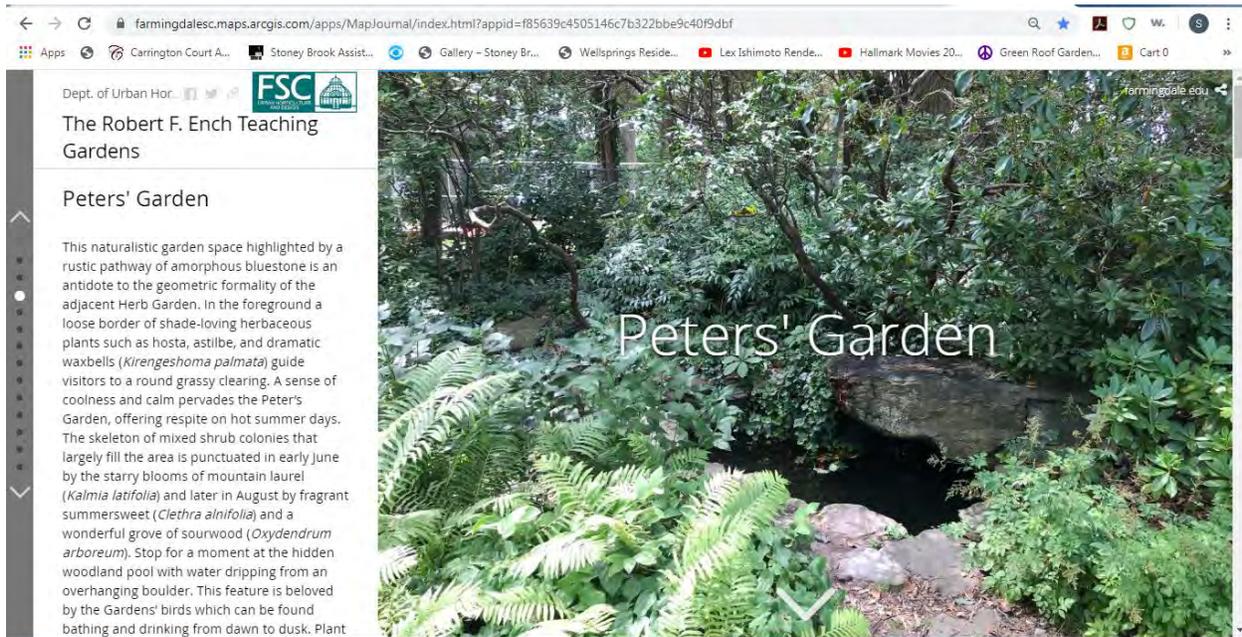


Figure 92 Image of Peter's Garden from Peter's Garden section

This naturalistic garden space highlighted by a rustic pathway of amorphous bluestone is an antidote to the geometric formality of the adjacent Herb Garden. In the foreground a loose border of shade-loving herbaceous plants such as hosta, astilbe, and dramatic waxbells (*Kirengeshoma palmata*) guide visitors to a round grassy clearing. A sense of coolness and calm pervades the Peter's Garden, offering respite on hot summer days. The skeleton of mixed shrub colonies that largely fill the area is punctuated in early June by the starry blooms of mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) and later in August by fragrant summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*) and a wonderful grove of sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*). Stop for a moment at the hidden woodland pool with water dripping from an overhanging boulder. This feature is beloved by the Gardens' birds which can be found bathing and drinking from dawn to dusk. Plant lovers can appreciate its cool surroundings replete with moisture-loving ostrich ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*), sensitive ferns (*Onoclea sensibilis*), variegated solomon's seal (*Polygonatum odoratum* 'Variegatum') turtle head (*Chelone obliqua*), barrenwort (*Epimedium x rubrum*), and astilbe.

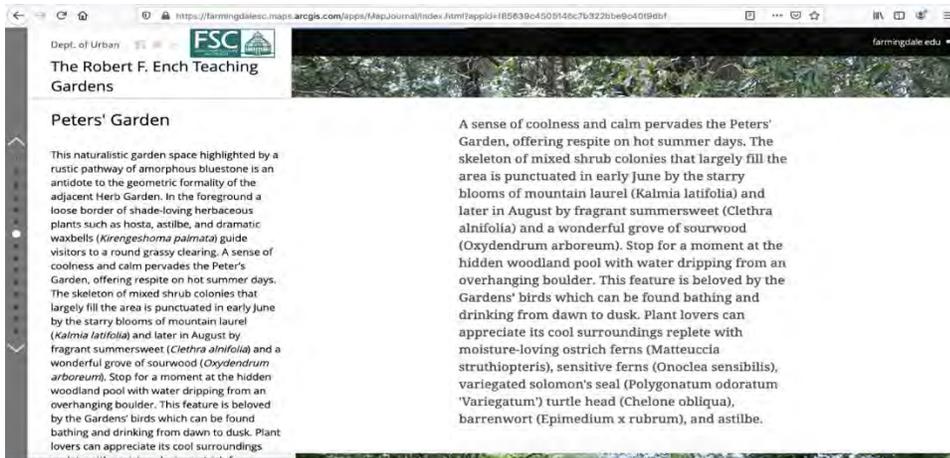


Figure 93 Image from Peter's garden tab

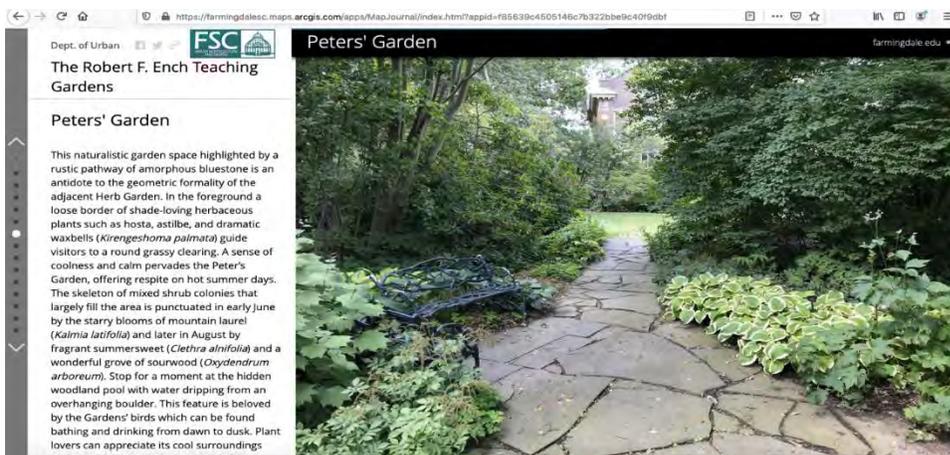


Figure 94 Image from Peter's garden tab

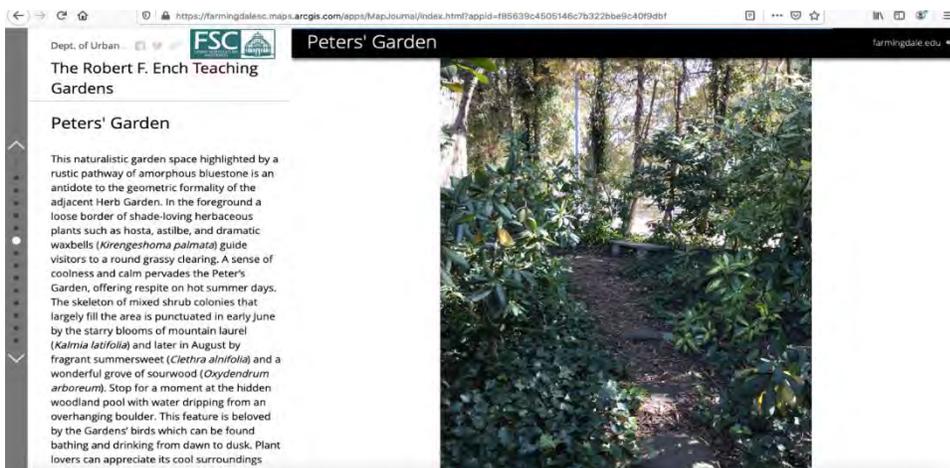


Figure 95 Image from Peter's garden tab

Pinetum

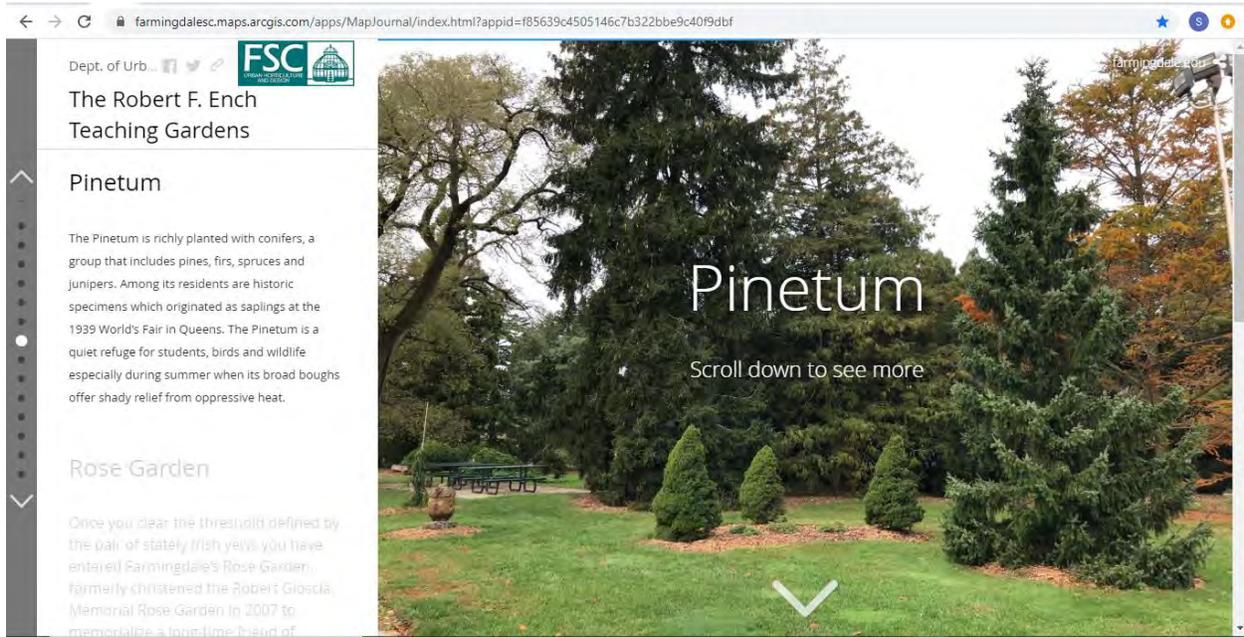


Figure 96 Image from Pinetum Garden from the pinetum garden section

The Pinetum is richly planted with conifers, a group that includes pines, firs, spruces and junipers. Among its residents are historic specimens which originated as saplings at the 1939 World's Fair in Queens. The Pinetum is a quiet refuge for students, birds and wildlife especially during summer when its broad boughs offer shady relief from oppressive heat.

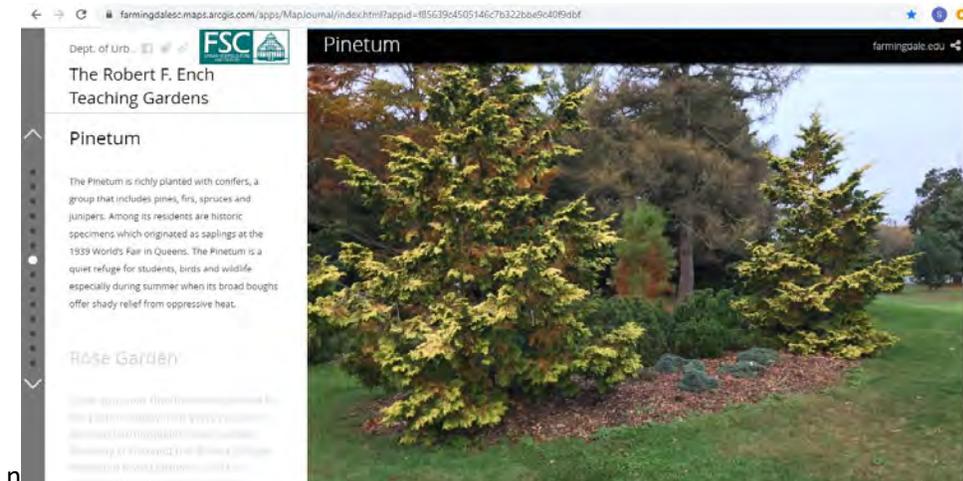


Figure 97 Image from Pinetum Garden tab

Rose Garden

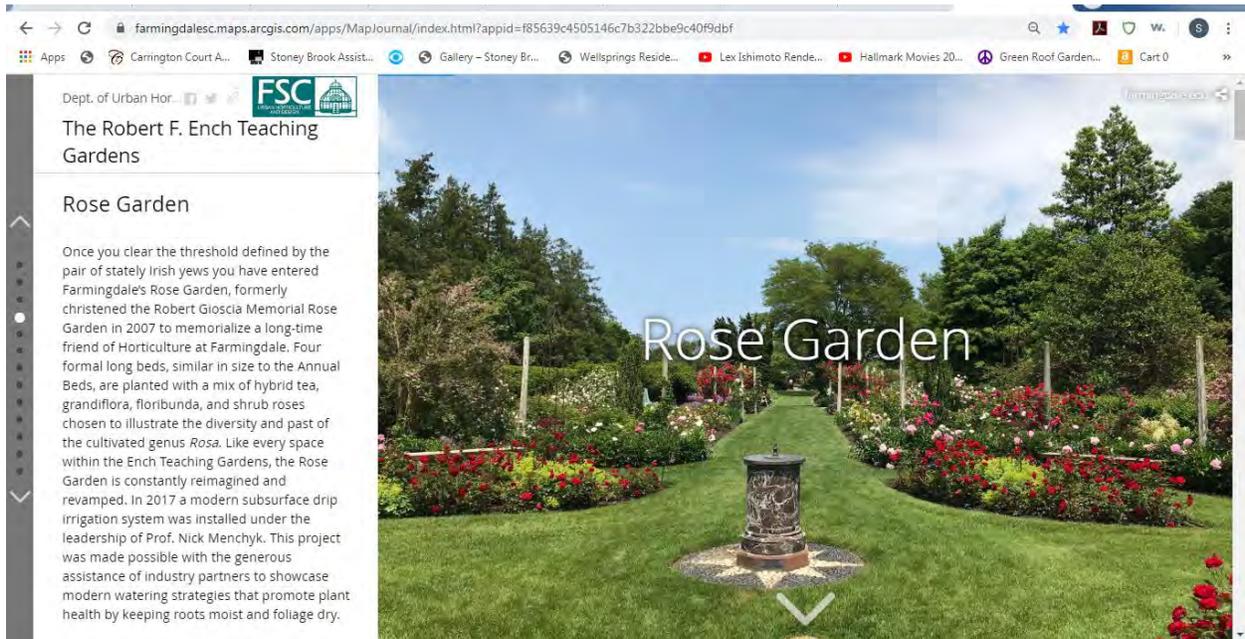


Figure 98 Image of Rose Garden from Rose Garden section

Once you clear the threshold defined by the pair of stately Irish yews you have entered Farmingdale's Rose Garden, formerly christened the Robert Gioscia Memorial Rose Garden in 2007 to memorialize a long-time friend of Horticulture at Farmingdale. Four formal long beds, similar in size to the Annual Beds, are planted with a mix of hybrid tea, grandiflora, floribunda, and shrub roses chosen to illustrate the diversity and past of the cultivated genus *Rosa*. Like every space within the Ench Teaching Gardens, the Rose Garden is constantly reimagined and revamped. In 2017 a modern subsurface drip irrigation system was installed under the leadership of Prof. Nick Menchyk. This project was made possible with the generous assistance of industry partners to showcase modern watering strategies that promote plant health by keeping roots moist and foliage dry.

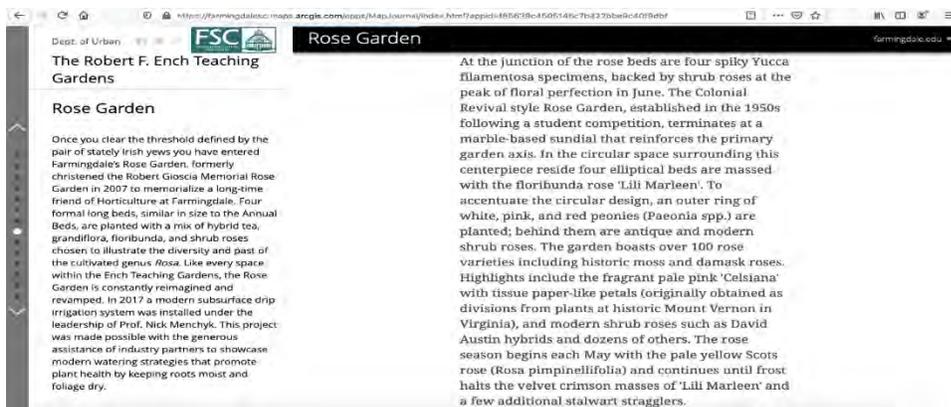


Figure 99 Image from Rose Garden tab

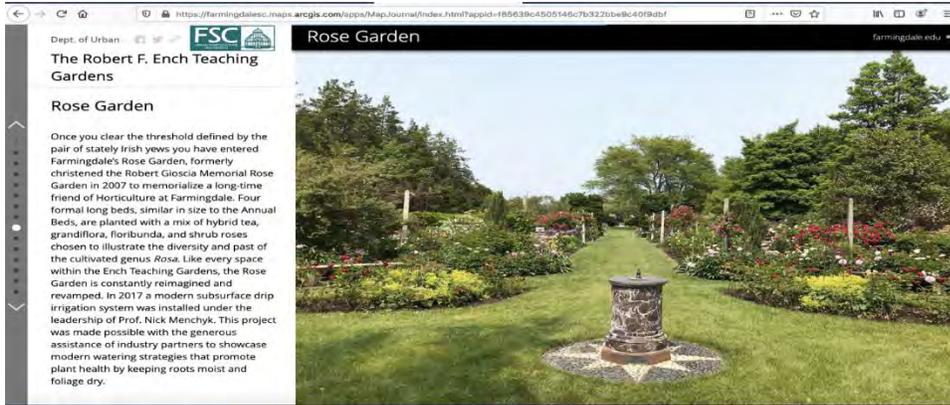


Figure 100 Image from Rose Garden tab



Figure 101 Image from Rose Garden tab



Figure 102 Image from Rose Garden tab

Silver (Ghost) Garden

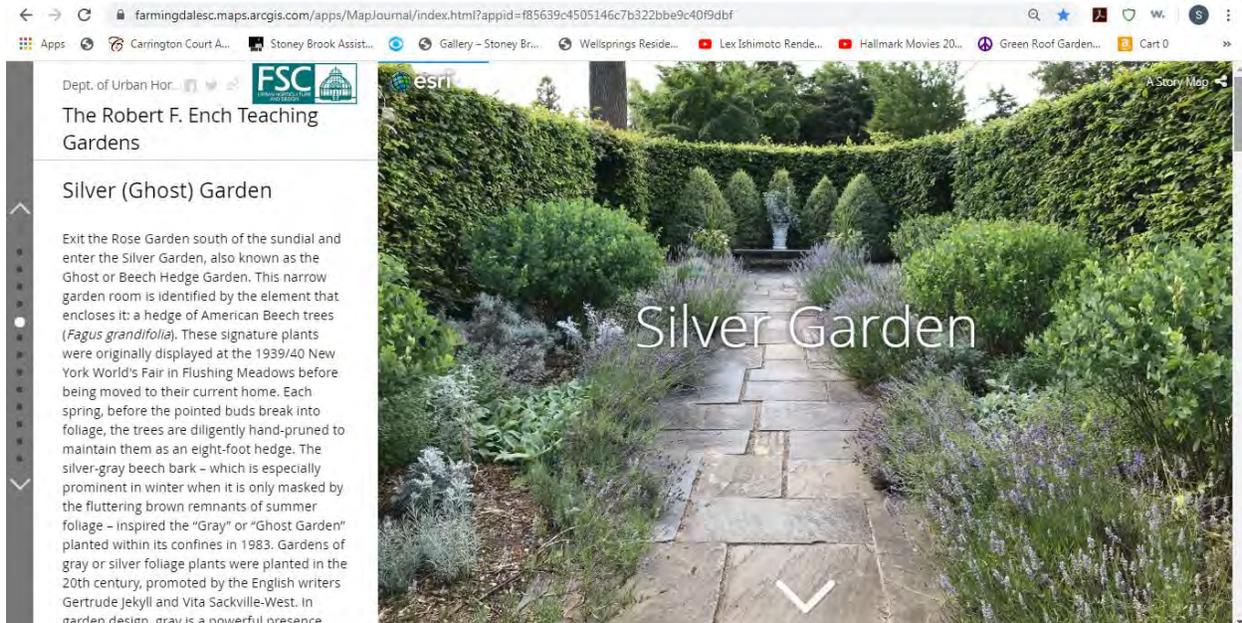


Figure 103 Image from Silver Garden in Silver Garden section

Exit the Rose Garden south of the sundial and enter the Silver Garden, also known as the Ghost or Beech Hedge Garden. This narrow garden room is identified by the element that encloses it: a hedge of American Beech trees (*Fagus grandifolia*). These signature plants were originally displayed at the 1939/40 New York World's Fair in Flushing Meadows before being moved to their current home. Each spring, before the pointed buds break into foliage, the trees are diligently hand-pruned to maintain them as an eight-foot hedge. The silver-gray beech bark – which is especially prominent in winter when it is only masked by the fluttering brown remnants of summer foliage – inspired the “Gray” or “Ghost Garden” planted within its confines in 1983. Gardens of gray or silver foliage plants were planted in the 20th century, promoted by the English writers Gertrude Jekyll and Vita Sackville-West. In garden design, gray is a powerful presence that intensifies the color quality of surrounding flowers and foliage. Here, isolated by itself, it is radiant.

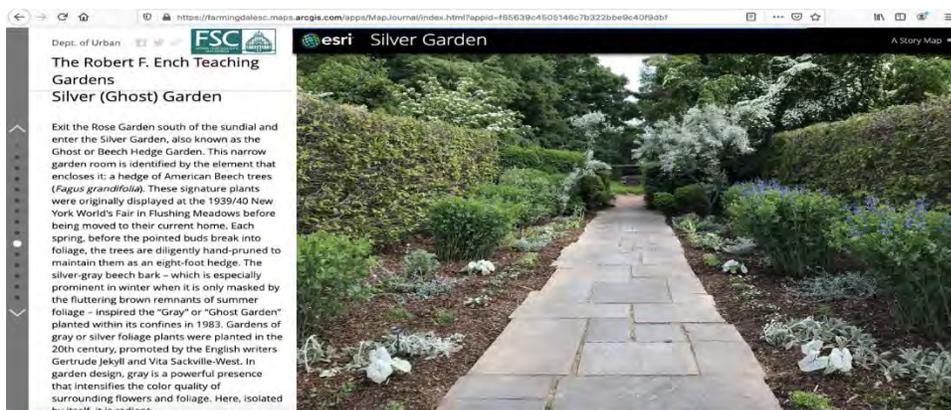


Figure 104 Image from Silver Garden tab

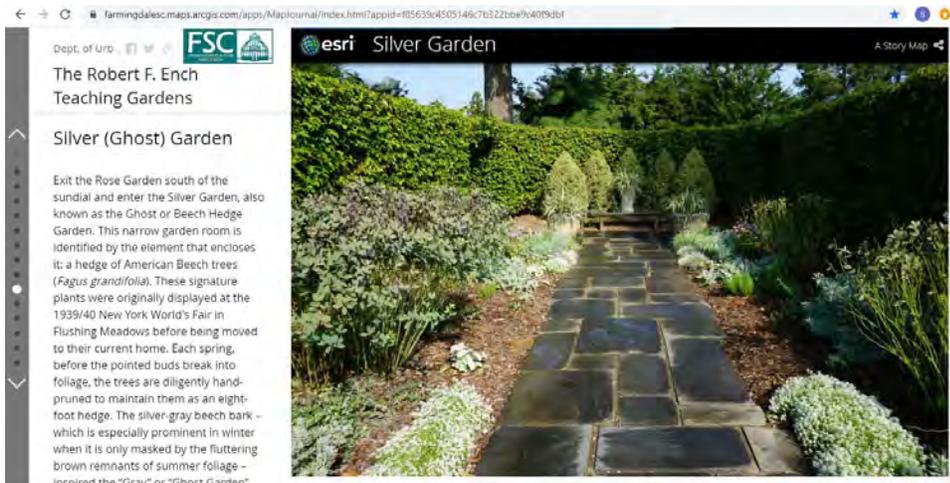


Figure 105 Image from Silver Garden tab

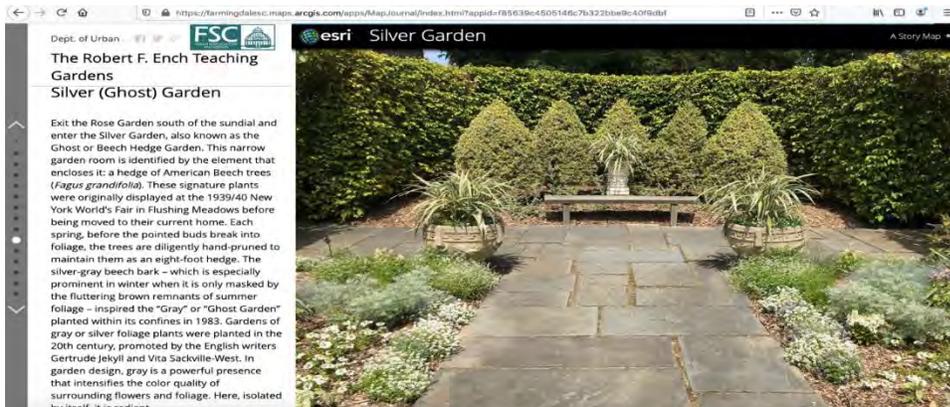


Figure 106 Image from Silver Garden tab

Spring Garden Walk

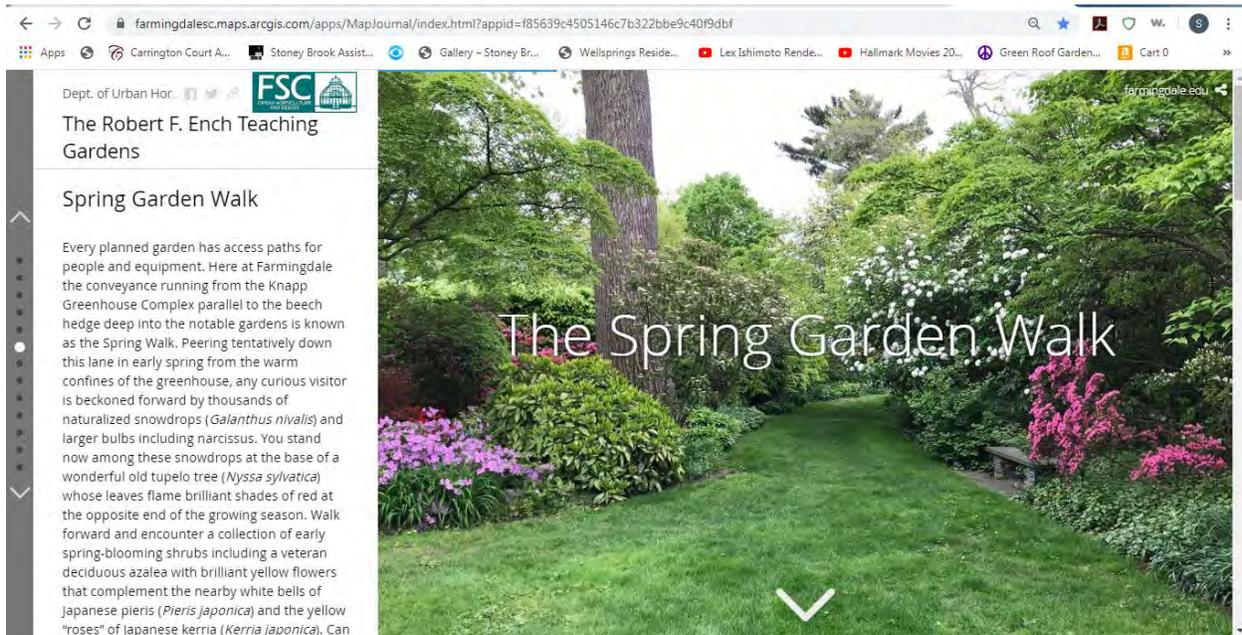


Figure 107 Image from Spring Garden walk in Spring Garden Walk section

Every planned garden has access paths for people and equipment. Here at Farmingdale the conveyance running from the Knapp Greenhouse Complex parallel to the beech hedge deep into the notable gardens is known as the Spring Walk. Peering tentatively down this lane in early spring from the warm confines of the greenhouse, any curious visitor is beckoned forward by thousands of naturalized snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) and larger bulbs including narcissus. You stand now among these snowdrops at the base of a wonderful old tupelo tree (*Nyssa sylvatica*) whose leaves flame brilliant shades of red at the opposite end of the growing season. Walk forward and encounter a collection of early spring-blooming shrubs including a veteran deciduous azalea with brilliant yellow flowers that complement the nearby white bells of Japanese pieris (*Pieris japonica*) and the yellow “roses” of Japanese kerria (*Kerria japonica*). Can you locate nearby one of the Gardens’ most unique plants, a blackhaw viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*) with a curious branch bent perpendicular like an elbow? Regardless you certainly cannot miss the massive tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) that looms above you, its lowest limbs perched dozens of feet in the air.

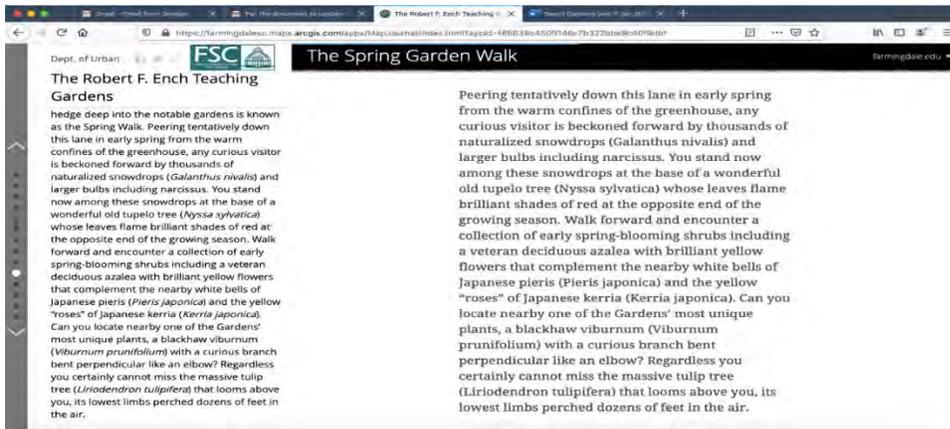


Figure 108 Image from Spring Walk tab



Figure 109 Image from Spring Garden Walk tab

Sustainable Garden

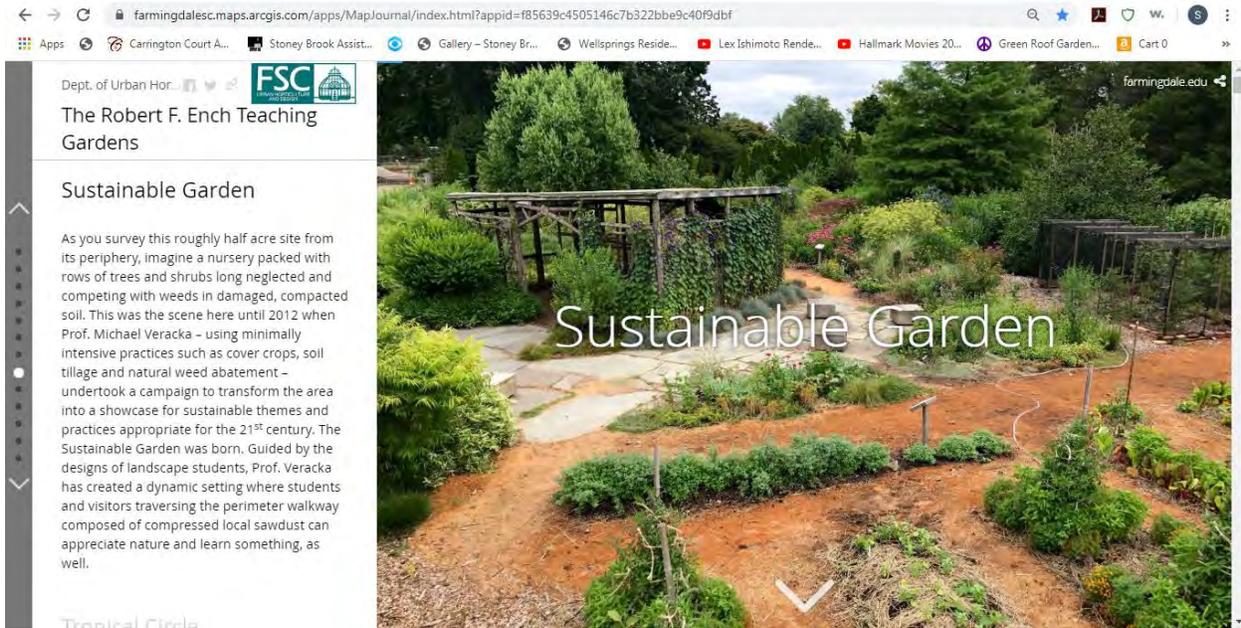


Figure 110 Image from Sustainable Garden in sustainable garden section

As you survey this roughly half acre site from its periphery, imagine a nursery packed with rows of trees and shrubs long neglected and competing with weeds in damaged, compacted soil. This was the scene here until 2012 when Prof. Michael Veracka – using minimally intensive practices such as cover crops, soil tillage and natural weed abatement – undertook a campaign to transform the area into a showcase for sustainable themes and practices appropriate for the 21st century. The Sustainable Garden was born. Guided by the designs of landscape students, Prof. Veracka has created a dynamic setting where students and visitors traversing the perimeter walkway composed of compressed local sawdust can appreciate nature and learn something, as well.

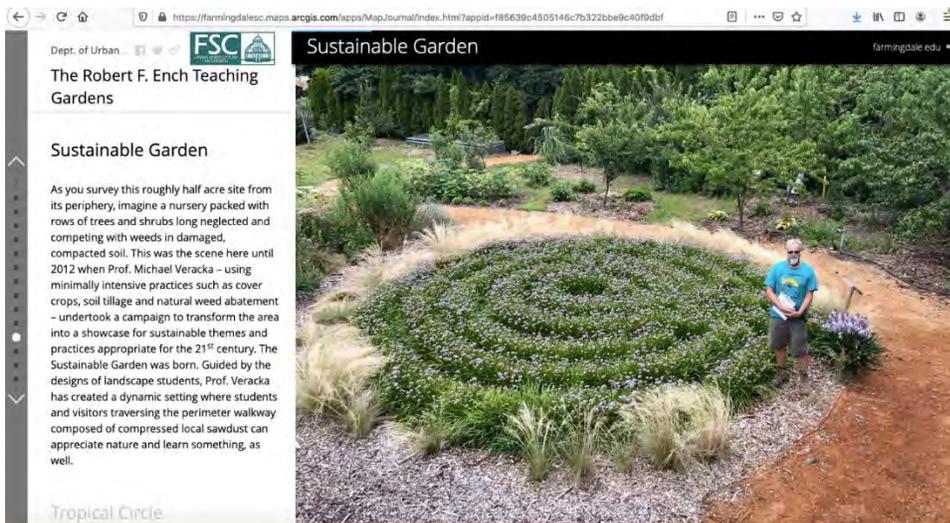


Figure 111 Labyrinth in the Sustainable Garden tab

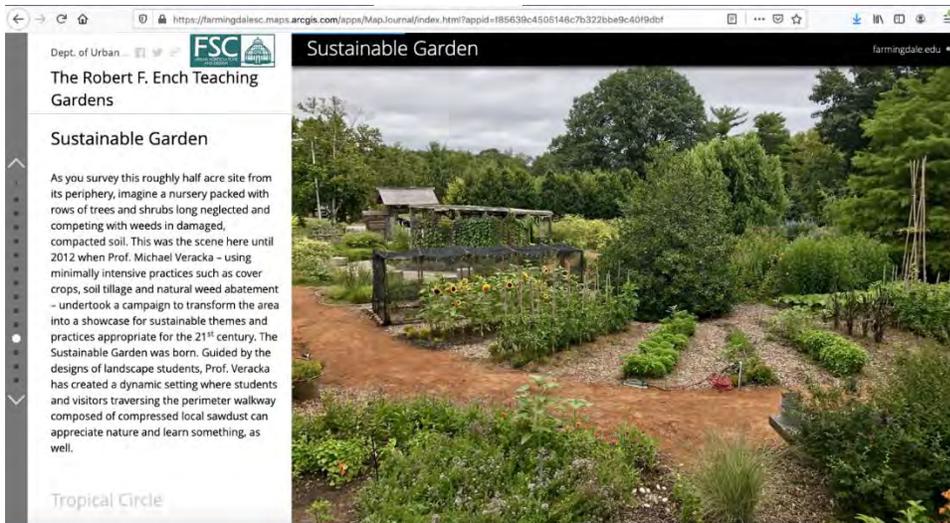


Figure 112 Image from the Sustainable Garden tab

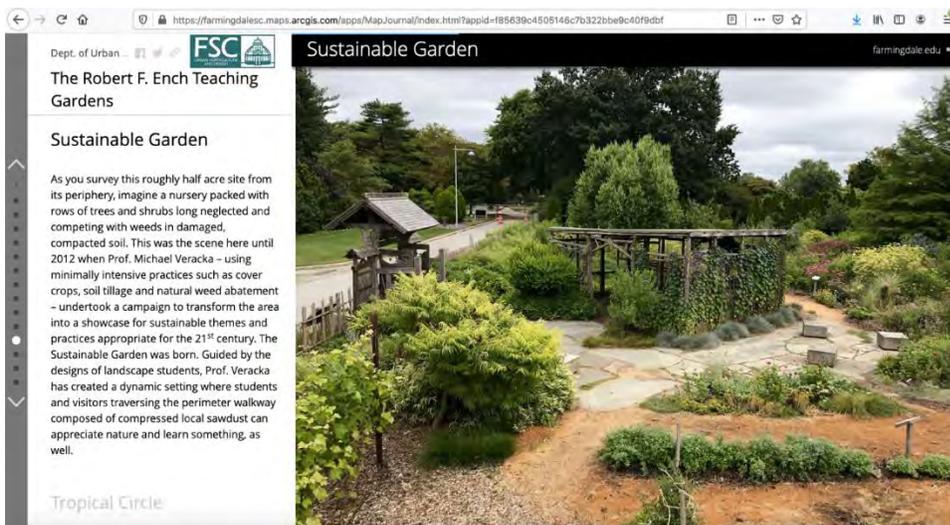


Figure 113 Image from the Sustainable Garden tab

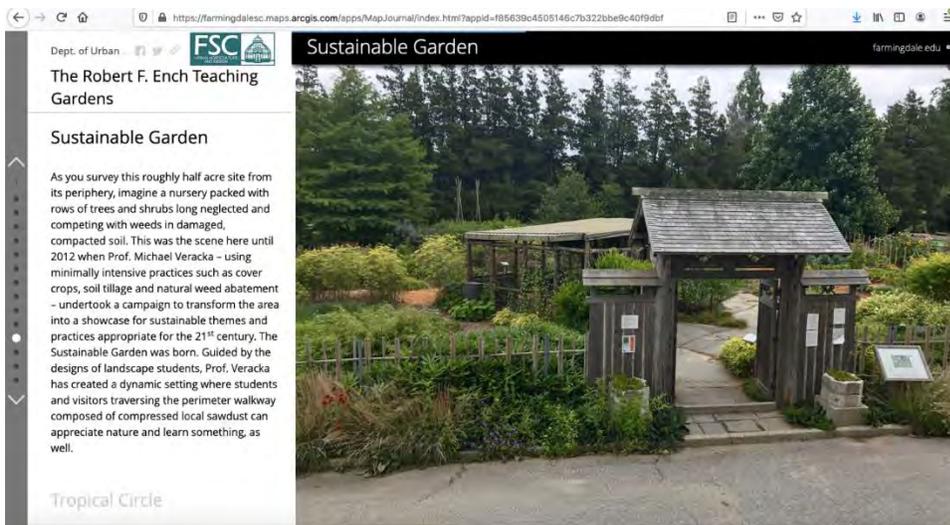


Figure 114 Entry Gate in the Sustainable Garden tab

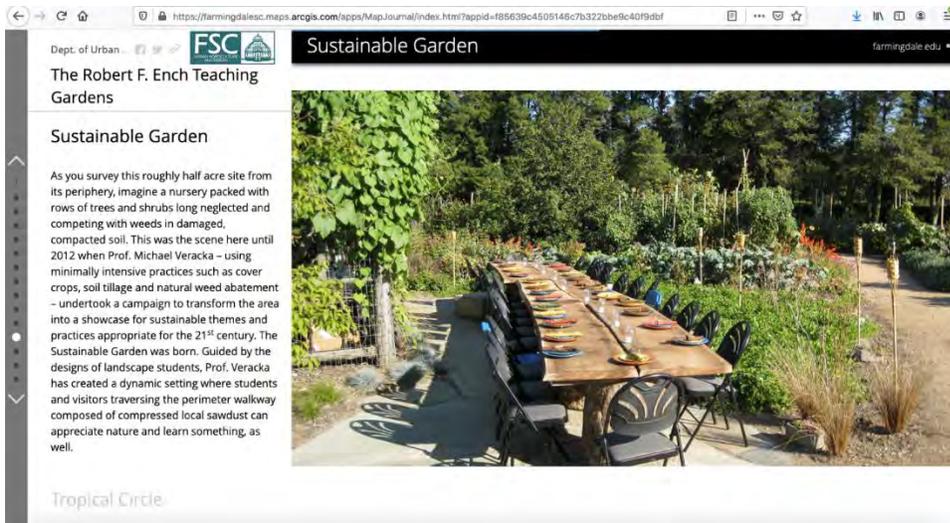


Figure 115 Dinner event in the Sustainable Garden tab



Figure 116 Creating the sustainable garden

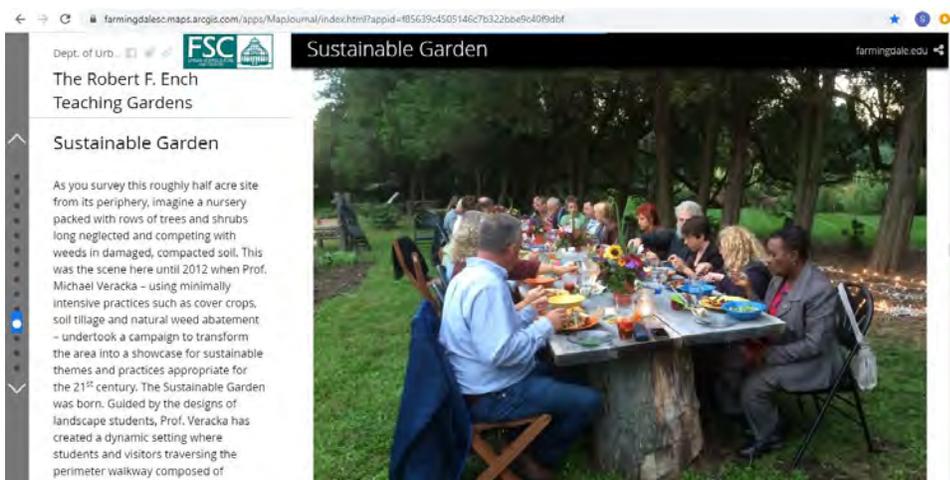


Figure 117 Dinner event in the sustainable garden

Tropical Circle

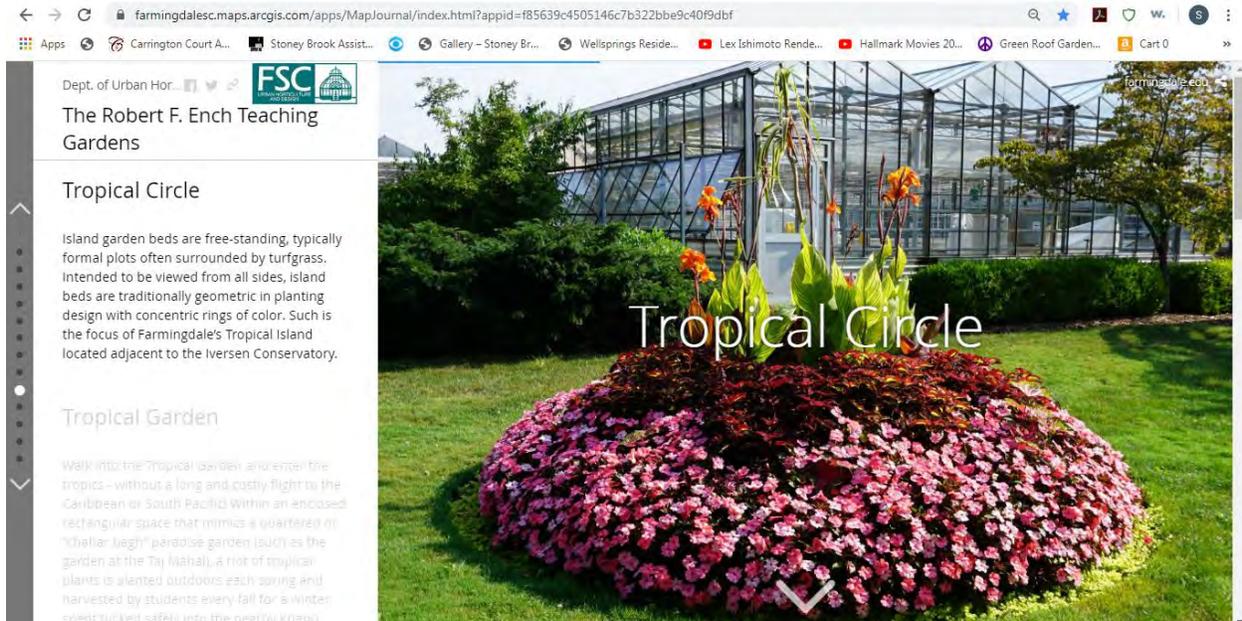


Figure 118 Image of the Tropical Circle for the Tropical Circle section

Island garden beds are free-standing, typically formal plots often surrounded by turfgrass. Intended to be viewed from all sides, island beds are traditionally geometric in planting design with concentric rings of color. Such is the focus of Farmingdale's Tropical Island located adjacent to the Iversen Conservatory.

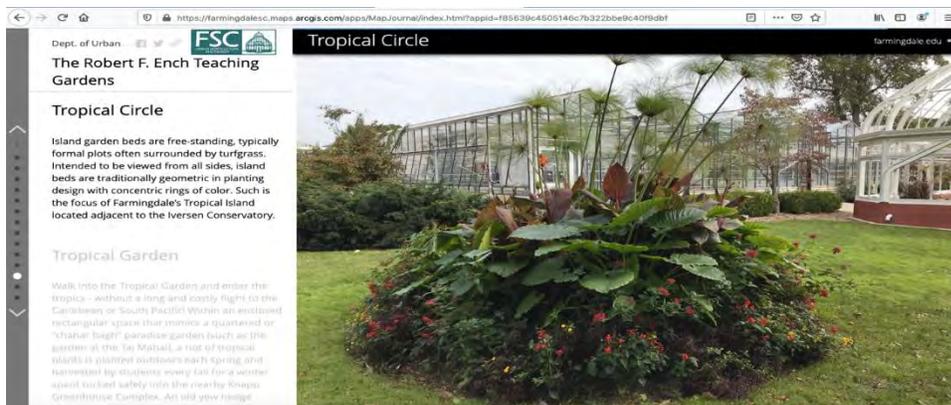


Figure 119 Image of the tropical circle planting

Tropical Garden

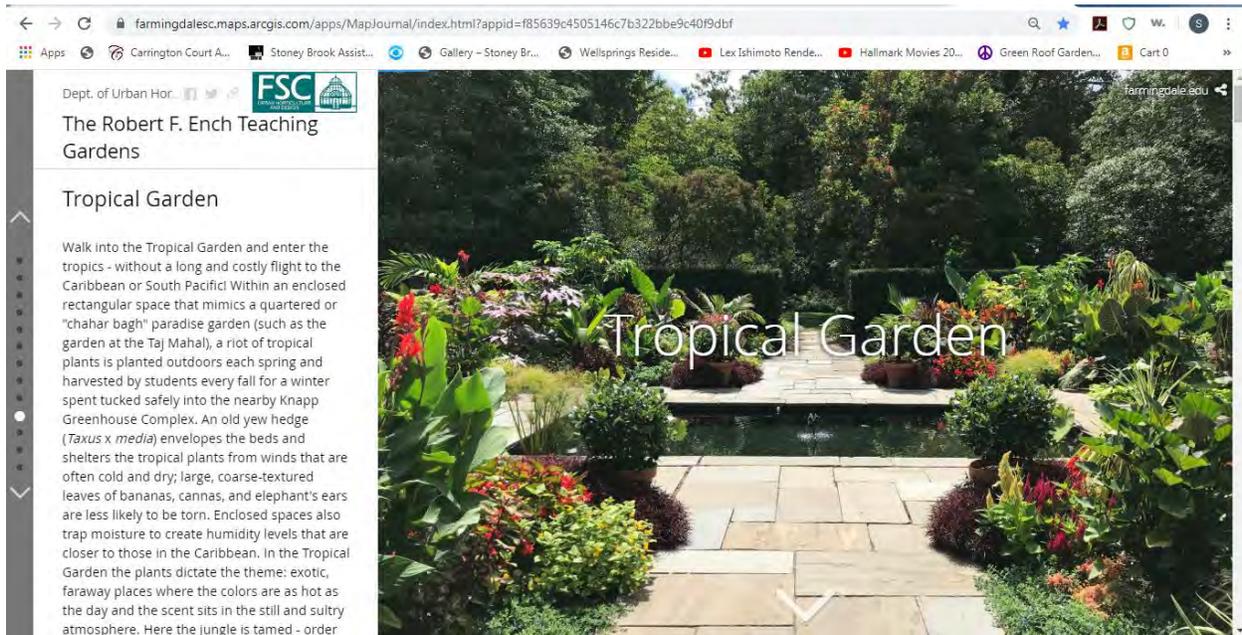


Figure 120 Image of the Tropical Garden in the Tropical Garden section

Walk into the Tropical Garden and enter the tropics - without a long and costly flight to the Caribbean or South Pacific! Within an enclosed rectangular space that mimics a quartered or "chahar bagh" paradise garden (such as the garden at the Taj Mahal), a riot of tropical plants is planted outdoors each spring and harvested by students every fall for a winter spent tucked safely into the nearby Knapp Greenhouse Complex. An old yew hedge (*Taxus x media*) envelopes the beds and shelters the tropical plants from winds that are often cold and dry; large, coarse-textured leaves of bananas, cannas, and elephant's ears are less likely to be torn. Enclosed spaces also trap moisture to create humidity levels that are closer to those in the Caribbean. In the Tropical Garden the plants dictate the theme: exotic, faraway places where the colors are as hot as the day and the scent sits in the still and sultry atmosphere. Here the jungle is tamed - order and management rule. Strong colors harmonize, while bold textures contrast; like uncaged tigers, bananas, cannas, and elephantine-like aroids jump out at you! The foliage and plant forms are as flamboyant as the flowers. Some leaves are larger than umbrellas and others are as stiff as spears. The impressions of rugged beauty and slender gracefulness are intensified by their juxtaposition. Growing in the central pool is a specimen of papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*), used by ancient Egyptians to make paper.

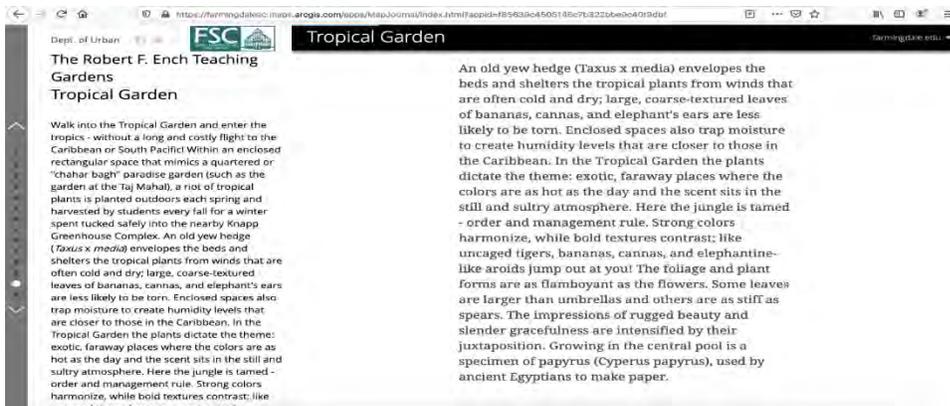


Figure 121 Image from the Tropical Garden tab



Figure 122 Image from the Tropical Garden tab

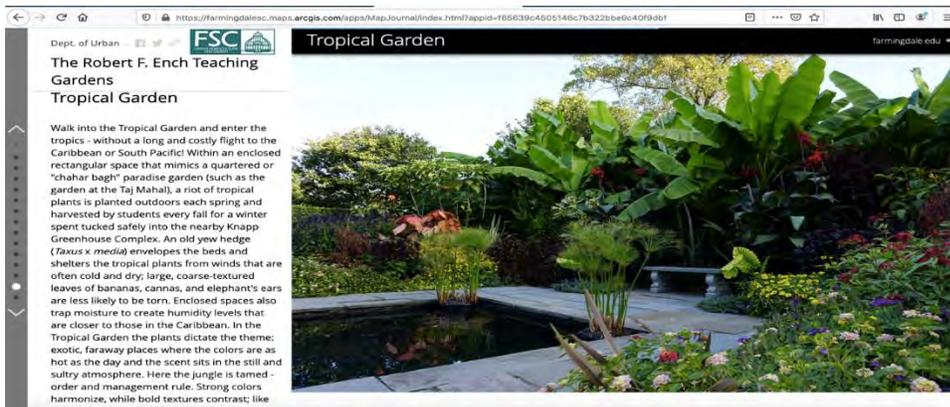


Figure 123 Image from the Tropical Garden tab

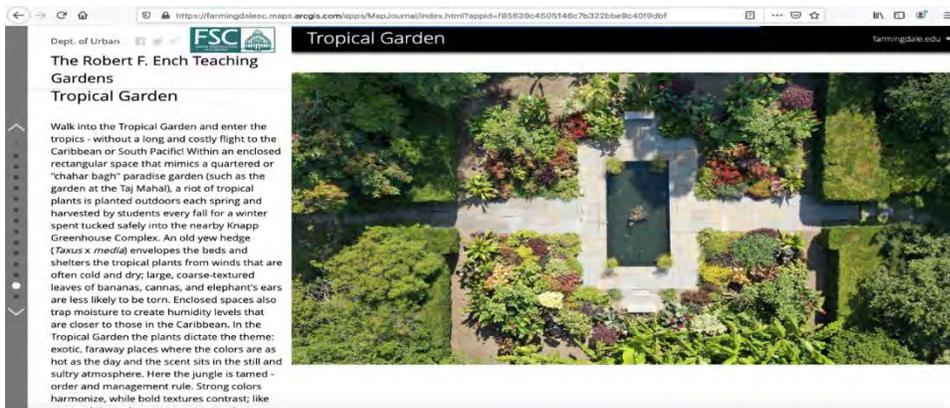


Figure 124 Image from the Tropical Garden tab

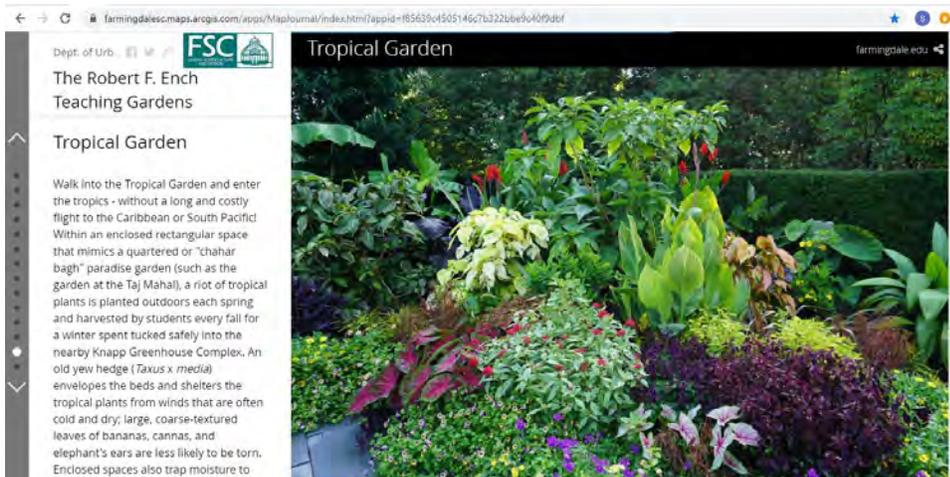


Figure 125 Image from the Tropical Garden tab



Figure 126 Image from the Tropical Garden tab

Credits

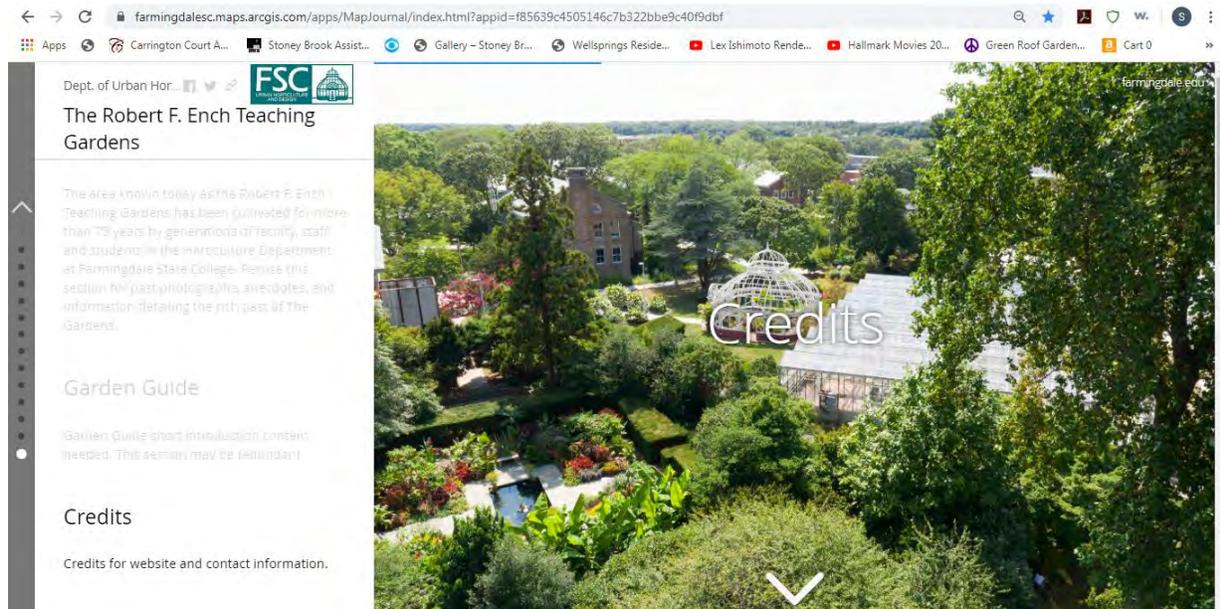


Figure 127 Image from the Credits section

Credits for website and contact information.

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Thank You:

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Michael Naughton, Intern and Site Administrator

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This project is developing in phases and is being updated with more information. Please feel free to contact Professor Stevie Famulari, Gds at 934.420.2302 (office) with any comments and questions.

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