

Video: Gardens and Greenery of Cornell University

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Dan Schied, Director of Cornell Grounds, is the speaker

Welcome my name is Dan Schied, Grounds Director at Cornell University. I've been blessed with the opportunity to work here since two thousand fifteen with an incredible staff that maintains the beautiful gardens you are about to experience. For our alumni welcome back. For our friends, staff, and visitors welcome to a tour that I hope you will find intriguing and enjoyable over the next few minutes.

We are going to start our tour today at the A D White gardens. These gardens have been maintained by gardener Kim Klein for many years and you'll see, as we pan through the gardens, the floral tapestry she has created each year. And I'm sure many of you would have experienced as you've walked through the space or potentially may have gotten married here. *(Sound of people walking on gravel as people walk in a garden)*

Secret gardens abound on the Cornell campus including this quite reflectful spot on the southeast corner of the AD White gardens. You can enter or exit the AD White gardens on the east side through the Mary Rockwell azalea garden.

Other hidden and secluded spaces on the Cornell campus include this area on the west side of Malott Hall. Entering the AD White gardens from the west you walk by this refreshing and restful waterfall and up the woodland stairs to come into the beautiful gardens.

As we leave, the northeast corner of AD White gardens, we'll walk along the Big Red Barn through Bailey Plaza and into the newly redesigned and landscaped Agricultural Quad. The newly repaved and re-landscaped Agricultural Quad includes the same plantings, and many new ones, that are used in the Plant Science Department plant identification program. Movable furniture and outdoor gathering spaces allows for informal opportunities for groups, families, to eat and study together.

Bio detention ponds, or rain gardens, are popping up all over campus as we look for best practice in our management of stormwater.

The Deans garden, behind Mann Library, is another favorite spot for people to visit. This green thread leaf maple provides a wonderful focal point in the back corner of the Dean's garden.

Tucked into the northeast corner of Mann Library is the Centennial garden which features pieces of the old Roberts Hall. On the north side of Mann Library Cornell Botanic Gardens and their natural areas adjoin the campus providing a wonderful respite for friends, visitors, staff and students.

Fondly known as the 'rice bowls' this bio retention rain garden area was planted by the Urban Eden Program. Urban Eden is a program, or class, taught in the Plant Science Department. Students design programs in the fall and in concert with the Grounds Department work to get them all planted in the spring.

Another Urban Eden Project is this bio swale along Tower Road. Students planted this as a way of managing stormwater keeping it on campus. Water infiltrates the bio swale through cuts in the curb, is filtered through the growing medium and returned to the ground water. (*Muted sound of cars going by in background*) The Tower Road bioswale is one of many stops on the Cornell University sustainability trail.

This Urban Eden planting, from two thousand sixteen, embodies the importance of the scoop and dump method embraced by Professor Nina Bassuk. And these projects prior to planting 6 inches of compost, from the Cornell University farms, is spread over the soil. The Grounds Department brings a backhoe and scoops and dumps the existing soil and the compost mixing them together, after which the student's plant, and as you can see the plants thrive.

Another annual event on campus when students create a sod sofa on various portions of the campus designed for rest and relaxation.

This secret garden is on the north east corner of the conservatory. But keep it quiet because it's a secret!

Another favorite, outside the Plant Science Building, is Minns Garden. All the gardens around the Agricultural Quad are living laboratories. Where plants are planted for identification purposes. Other plants are propagated, planted, cultivated, and enjoyed by all and a learning experience for students.

The microclimate created in the interior courtyard of ILR provides an opportunity for plants from hardiness zones seven to both survive and thrive.

As we finish our walking tour today it's important to remember the Cornell has many wonderful spaces to visit. A stroll through Wee Stinky Glen in the spring or a visit and exploration of Willard Straight Rock Garden. Keeping in mind that Cornell is a wonderful place to visit in the all seasons. (*Instrumental music in background during various pictures of Cornell garden spaces in all seasons*)