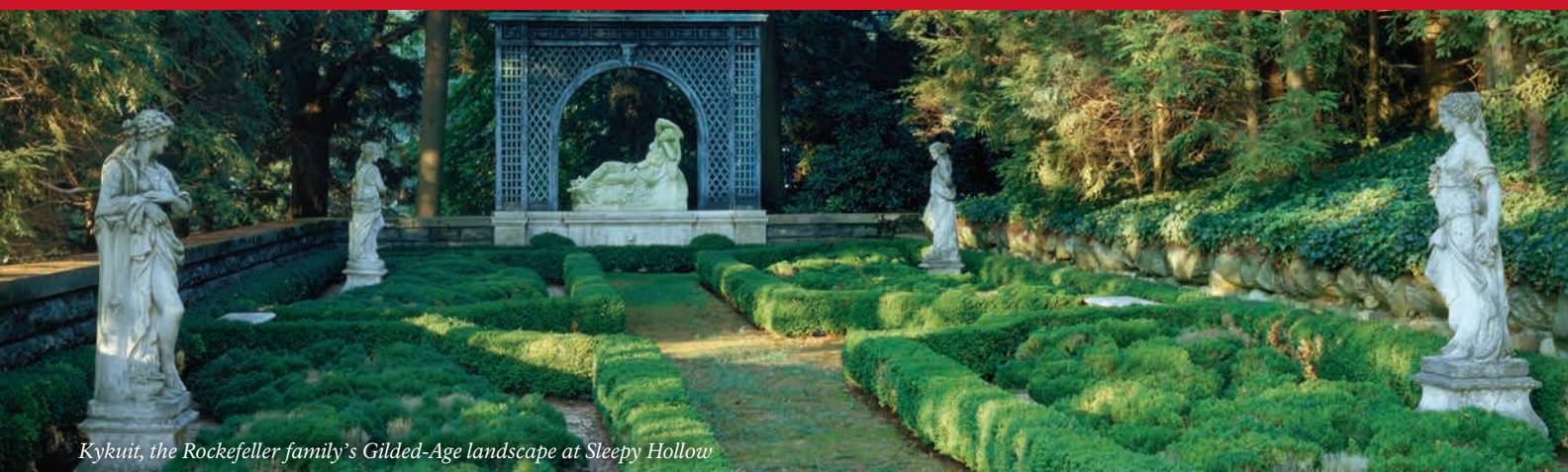


Landscapes and Gardens in the Hudson River Valley



Hudson River Valley
National Heritage Area, New York
hudsonrivervalley.com



Kykuit, the Rockefeller family's Gilded-Age landscape at Sleepy Hollow

The spirit of the Hudson River Valley lives not only in art and legend but also in the delicate balance of natural and human forces that have shaped the land. Together they create a special place where gardens and landscapes are both inspired and inspiring. Here you will find the views and vision that stimulated a national artistic movement, a model for land conservation practices, and historic gardens that shaped the American landscape design profession.

Garden and landscape photos by Mick Hales unless otherwise credited

The Natural Environment

Millions of years of dynamic geologic forces have stimulated human encounters with the landscape. The mountains, valleys, ridges, and plateaus framing the Hudson River create one of the most spectacular landscape settings in the world.

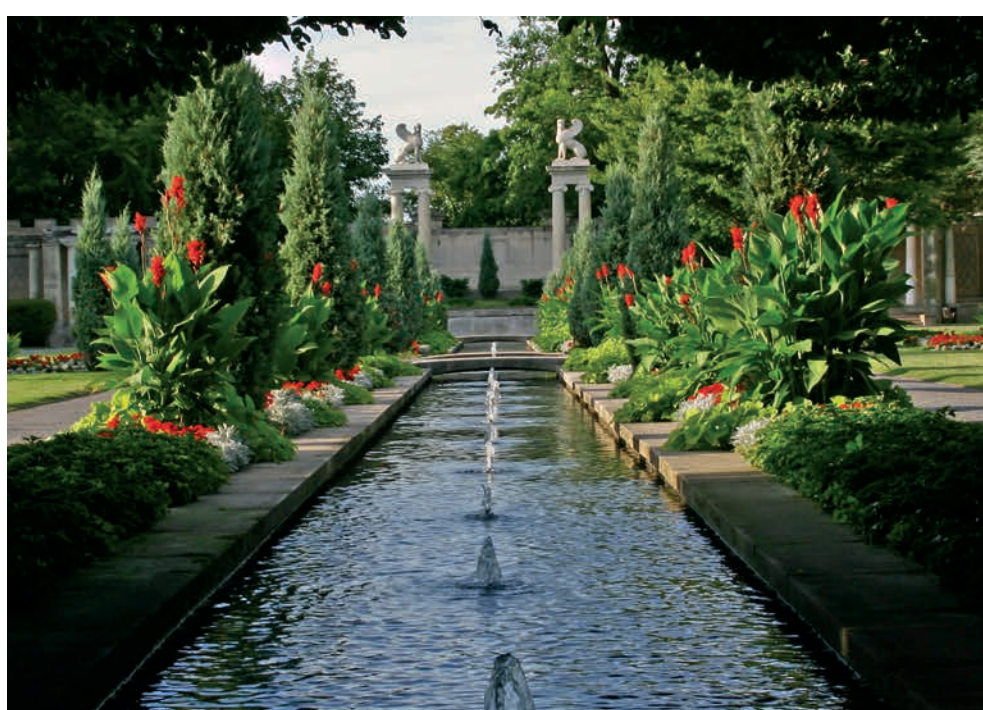
Since the beginning of its exploration, the valley environment has cast its spell upon those who ventured here. Henry Hudson arrived in 1609 seeking a northern passage to Asia but found instead "a pleasant Land to see." Two centuries later, Washington Irving described a walk along the Hudson as "a continual reverie."

Others could not escape the Hudson River Valley's bewitching effect. The published journals of European travelers following the American Grand Tour drew

countless visitors to the valley's natural wonders. English social reformer Harriet Martineau gazed upon the Hudson in



transcendental delight: "I experienced a sensation which I have often heard of, but never quite believed in; the certainty that one has awakened in another world." These mystic qualities in the natural environment remain today at the heart of the region's distinctive landscapes and gardens.



Working Landscapes

Early land-use patterns shaped landscape gardening practices in the Hudson River Valley. The same land that the American Indians cleared for cultivation would one day become open space features of the region's foreground vistas.



Poets' Walk (above), a picturesque landscape at Barrytown
Montgomery Place (far left), a Romantic landscaped view of the Hudson River, Annandale-on-Hudson
Untermeyer Gardens (left)

Settlement patterns followed early agricultural developments and natural landforms. In the 1700s, roads were laid down, buildings constructed, and forests substantially cleared for agriculture and timber. These early developments established the spatial organization and circulation patterns that helped shape landscape gardening in the 1800s.

Fieldstone walls crisscrossing the landscape, acres of orchards like those marking the entrance to Montgomery Place in Annandale-on-Hudson, and large farming fields now preserved as open space recall the valley's rich agricultural heritage and how it shapes the way we experience the land.



Manitoga, a celebration of nature restored, Garrison



Boscobel, a Romantic and classically inspired landscape in Garrison Charles Lyle



Mohonk Mountain House, formal gardens in a natural setting, New Paltz



Vanderbilt Mansion, a country place era landscape in Hyde Park



Innisfree, a blending of graceful Asian art forms, Millbrook



Albany Rural Cemetery, an example of a 19th-century picturesque cemetery, Menands

Romanticism and A.J. Downing

Inspired by the valley's natural scenery, artists, writers, poets, and landscape gardeners of the 19th century developed an American version of Romanticism. They favored simplicity, naturalism, and emotion over 18th-century preferences for classicism, order, and rationale.

A native of the Hudson River Valley, Andrew Jackson Downing was the most influential landscape gardening expert in 19th-century America. He wrote dozens of articles for horticultural magazines and in 1841 published his first book, *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening*, a rejection of the



A.J. Downing
By Calvert Vaux,
Century Association

well-ordered European-style gardens in favor of picturesque gardens. Gracefully written and handsomely illustrated, this book became an immediate success, and Downing's principles established a national style for landscapes and gardens in harmony with nature.

Downing had a profound influence on Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, designers of Central Park in New York City as well as other important parks across the country. As a tribute to their mentor, Olmsted and Vaux created a park in Downing's name for Newburgh.



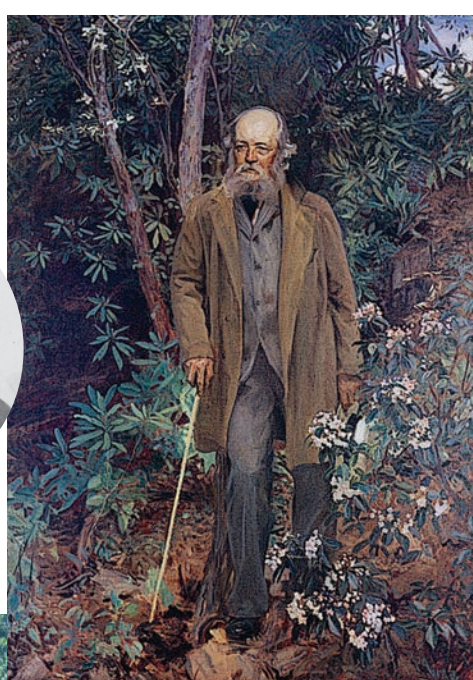
Washington Irving's Sunnyside,
a Romantic landscape at Tarrytown.
Historic Hudson Valley

Romantic landscapes are still a prominent feature of the region's character. They exist in the wisteria vine-clad walls of Irving's cottage at Sunnyside, the vistas to water's edge from the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park, and the views crafted from the landscape by artist Frederic E. Church at Olana in Hudson. "I can make more and better landscapes in this way," Church said, "than by tampering with canvas and paint in the studio."



Calvert Vaux
New-York Historical Society

Frederick Law Olmsted
John Singer Sargent, Biltmore Estate, Asheville



The Country Place Era

Rising industrial fortunes during the decades following the Civil War paved the way for new patterns of landscape gardening rooted in country and resort life. Family names like Rockefeller, Vanderbilt, and Astor were behind the second celebration of landscape gardening in the Hudson River Valley.

While landscapes essentially maintained their Romantic character, gardens built between 1890 and 1940 were more structured to complement palatial houses built by American millionaires. Terracing and axial arrangements are typical features among gardens associated with the strict symmetry of the era's formal architecture.

The architectural relationship between house and garden is brilliantly demonstrated by Francis Hoppin's terraced garden for Blithewood at Annandale-on-Hudson and Beatrix Farrand's walled garden at Bellefield in Hyde Park. The garden at Wethersfield in Amenia is a modern example of this strict adherence

to order and symmetry. The clipped arborvitae walls, reflecting pools, marble ornament, and statuary are trademark features of country place gardening design.



Beatrix Farrand
University of California, Berkeley

Masters and Masterworks

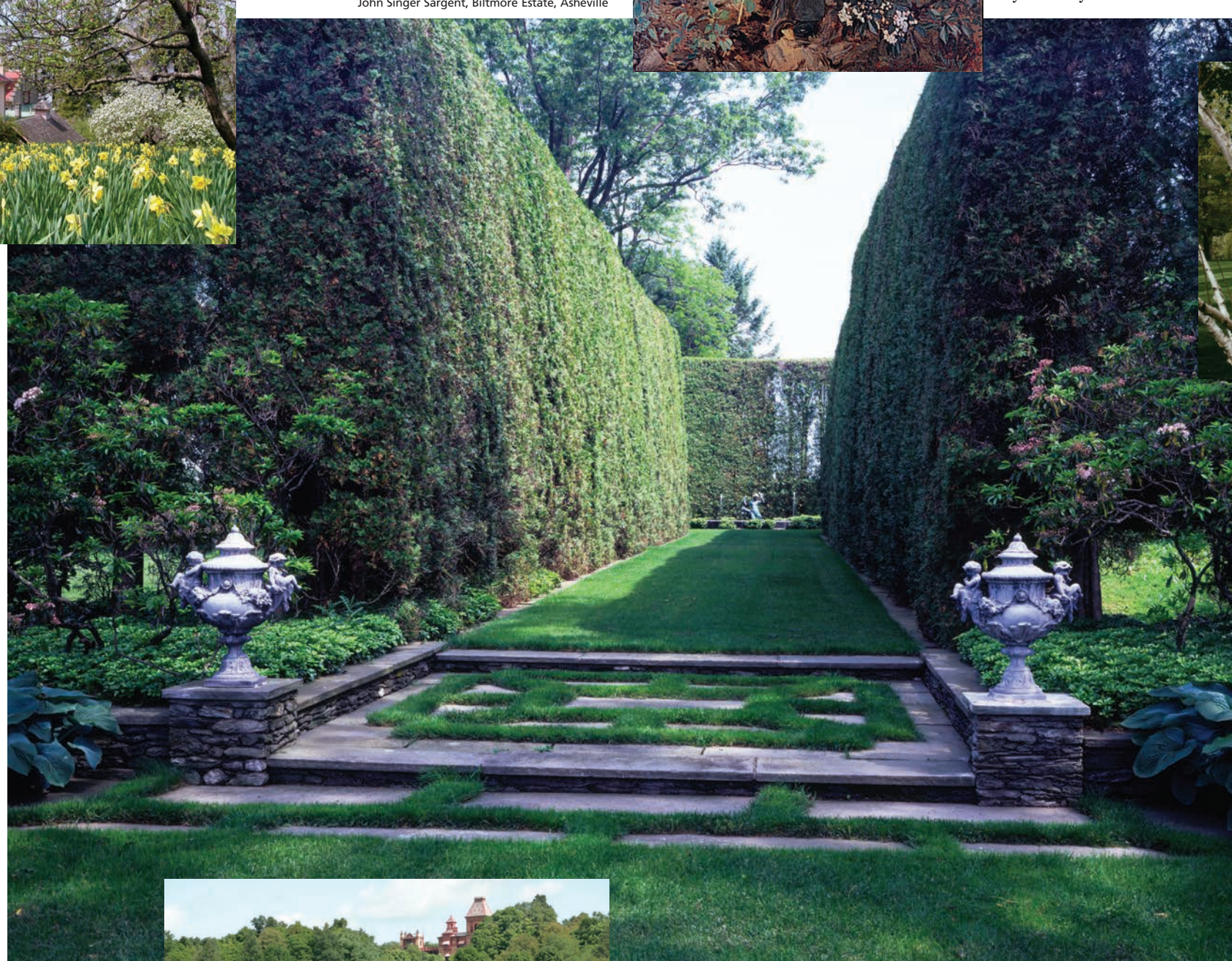
The Hudson River Valley possesses garden and landscape styles that represent changes in American tastes over a 200-year period. The valley is a treasury of pioneering gardening design for the region and the nation.

Downing's influence was preceded by that of André Parmentier, one of the first professional designers working in the United States. The pleasure grounds he designed for Dr. David Hosack at Hyde Park survive largely intact at Vanderbilt Mansion.

The 20th century heralded an era of innovation and changing attitudes in landscape gardening concepts. Industrial designer Russel Wright purchased an 80-acre tract of land that had been laid nearly bare by decades of logging and quarrying. For 30 years he cultivated this barren land, diverted a stream to fill the old quarry and create a pond, and built a house. Manitoga is a model of ecological design, he said, a celebration of nature restored "to help people experience the wonder of nature in a new and intensely personal way."

English garden designer Russell Page combined horticulture, landscape architecture, and modern sculpture into the Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Gardens at PepsiCo headquarters in Purchase. This world-class garden features more than 40 works by major international sculptors ranging from Auguste Rodin to Alexander Calder in an integrated setting of ever-changing plant colors and fragrances.

A major feat of modern landscape engineering, and a most rewarding experience, may be enjoyed in a drive along the Taconic State Parkway as you tour the valley's landscapes and gardens. This highly acclaimed parkway is both a sophisticated interpretation of highway design and a celebration of the region's natural beauty and agricultural heritage.



Wethersfield (above), a formal classical garden in Amenia
Sculpture by Richard Erdman at Kendall Sculpture Gardens at PepsiCo (above right), Purchase
Olana (left), August view across the Lake, photo by Melanie Hasbrook 2014
Sculpture by Alexander Calder at Storm King Art Center (right), Mountainville

Beauty in the Balance

The arts and garden design continue to flourish in the Hudson River Valley. Its paintings, gardens, and landscapes are important representations of our national cultural heritage. Yet its most significant contribution may be the spirit of living in harmony with the land—a tradition exemplified by the writings of naturalist John Burroughs and the grass-roots effort to save Storm King Mountain and the Hudson Highlands.

The Hudson River Valley's landscapes and gardens survive because individuals and communities have worked to balance man-made gardens and landscapes with the beauty of the waters and ridges. If Washington Irving were alive today, he would still witness the charisma of the valley "undergoing a thousand mutations under the magical effects of atmosphere."



Wethersfield (above), a formal classical garden in Amenia
Sculpture by Richard Erdman at Kendall Sculpture Gardens at PepsiCo (above right), Purchase
Olana (left), August view across the Lake, photo by Melanie Hasbrook 2014
Sculpture by Alexander Calder at Storm King Art Center (right), Mountainville



Landscapes and Gardens in the Hudson River Valley



Kykuit, a blending of classical landscape architectural practices at Sleepy Hollow



Bellefield, a country place era garden in Hyde Park

Sites reflecting the region's landscapes and gardening traditions are shown on this map of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. For more information, use the websites listed with the site descriptions to the right of the map. For information about other sites and hospitality in the valley, use this website: hudsonrivervalley.com

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area
The Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area is a federally funded program created by Congress in 1996. The mission of the Heritage Area is to recognize, preserve, protect, and interpret the nationally significant cultural and natural resources of the Hudson River Valley for the benefit of the nation. The Heritage Area and the National Park Service funded the production of this map and guide. Please send your comments or map revisions to Hudson River Valley Greenway, 625 Broadway, 4th Floor, Albany, NY 12207; call 518-473-3835; or email hrv@gudsonsgreenway.ny.gov. hudsonrivervalley.com

Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area boundary

Appalachian Trail

Long Path

North

0 1 5 10 Kilometers

0 1 5 10 Miles

Upper Hudson

Washington Park, three blocks west of Empire State Plaza, Albany, washington-parkconservancy.org—Graveled walks wind through knolls and swales in Albany's "Central Park" designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. The park includes specimen trees, a six-acre lake, and gardenesque-style beds planted with 50,000 tulips each spring to highlight Albany's annual Tulip Festival.

Albany Rural Cemetery, Cemetery Ave., Menands, albanyruralcemetery.org—More than 460 acres of landscaped grounds and monuments mark the burial sites of many distinguished national figures.

Mid-Hudson

Olana, 5720 Route 9G south of Rip Van Winkle Bridge, Hudson, olana.org—Sculpting the landscape as if he were creating one of his magnificent paintings, Frederic E. Church developed Olana's grounds with a Romantic's eye to composition, balance, and fidelity to nature.

Opus 40, 50 Fite Rd., Saugerties, opus40.org—Sculptor Harvey Fite worked for 37 years to create this six-acre masterpiece of stone paths, ramps, terraces, and fountains in an abandoned bluestone quarry.

Blithewood, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, inside.bard.edu/arboretum/gardens/—Blithewood's terraced garden, designed in the Italianate style by Francis Hoppin about 1900, is a classic example of country place era design featuring ordered perennial beds, terraced garden rooms, and a pergola with views of the Hudson and distant Catskills. A.J. Downing designed the garden's Romantic surroundings for a previous owner.

Montgomery Place, Annandale-on-Hudson, bard.edu—This historic site includes over 400 acres tended and shaped by one family for nearly 200 years. A.J. Downing provided advice on the gardens and landscape and contributed plants from his Newburgh nursery. The early 20th-century gardens are notable and extensive.

Poets' Walk, River Road (County Road 103), 0.6 of a mile north of Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge, Barrytown, scenic-hudson.org, ext. 270—Follow the footsteps of Washington Irving and Fitz-Greene Halleck who took inspiration from this 19th-century picturesque landscape designed in part by Hans Jacob Ehlers. The path winds through wooded dells and open fields with vistas to the river.

Vanderbilt Mansion, 4097 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, nps.gov/vama—A.J. Downing called this country place era site "one of the finest specimens of ... Landscape Gardening in America." Features include a 200-acre setting of pleasure grounds, specimen trees, and an Italianate garden redesigned for Frederick W. Vanderbilt by James Greenleaf, a founder of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Bellefield, 4097 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, 800-FDR-VISIT—Bellefield mansion serves as a National Park Service office, but the walled garden designed in 1912 by Beatrix Farrand is open to the public. The garden is composed of axial lines linking house and landscape but tempered with Farrand's characteristic unimposing symmetry and softness of line. English-style borders feature perennial plants in combinations based on color harmony, bloom sequence, and texture.

Lower Hudson

Downing Park, Carpenter Ave. at 3rd St., Newburgh, cityofnewburgh-ny.gov/downing-park—Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux created this 35-acre urban landscape park to commemorate their mentor, A.J. Downing.

Storm King Art Center, Old Pleasant Hill Rd., Mountainville, stormking.org—America's leading sculpture park features more than 100 works by such masters as Alexander Calder, Mark di Suvero, Andy Goldsworthy, and Louise Nevelson.

Trophy Point, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, —The Hudson bends around Trophy Point and Constitution Island—a picturesque panorama celebrated by artists. Susan and Anna Warner maintained a garden on the island that was the inspiration for Susan's *Gardening by Myself*.

Perkins Drive and Tower, Bear Mountain State Park, nysparks.com—Located within the Palisades Park, Perkins Tower provides stunning views of Hudson River Valley icons, including Bear Mountain Bridge, West Point, Storm King, and Fort Montgomery.

Stonecrop, 81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring, stonecrop.org—Twelve acres of gardens include woodland and water gardens, a grass garden, raised alpine stone beds, cliff rock gardens, an enclosed English-style flower arden, a display Alpine House, and a collection of choice dwarf bulbs.

Boscobel, 1601 Route 9D, Garrison, boscobel.org—The Federal-era home of States and Elizabeth Dyckman was relocated in the 1950s to its present 68-acre site. The classically inspired landscape features rose and herb gardens, a maple allée, a woodland trail, and vistas of the river and Hudson Highlands.

Manitoga, 584 Route 9D, Garrison, visitmanitoga.org—Industrial designer Russel Wright transformed this former quarry and logging site into an ecological gem. It includes Wright's house, studio, 75-acre woodland garden landscaped with native wildflowers, ferns, and mosses, and trails that connect with the Appalachian Trail and Hudson Highlands State Park.

Oakwood Cemetery, 50 101st St., Troy, oakwoodcemetery.org—Oakwood exemplifies 19th-century rural cemeteries: stone monuments, statues, waterfalls, winding roads, ponds, arboretum, mausoleums and chapels, and views of the Hudson River.

Taconic State Parkway, Columbia, Dutchess, Putnam, and Westchester counties—As head of the Taconic State Park Commission, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was instrumental in developing this 105-mile parkway that showcases picturesque scenery and views of farms and mountain ranges.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 4097 Albany Post Rd., Hyde Park, 800-FDR-VISIT nps.gov/hofr—Century-old formal rose and perennial beds enclosed by a wall of clipped hemlock provide the setting for a simple monument marking the burial sites of the President and Eleanor Roosevelt. To understand FDR's appreciation of the natural environment, visit his Top Cottage retreat.

Wethersfield, 214 Pugsley Hill Rd., Amenia, wethersfieldgarden.org—A splendid example of classical garden design in the United States, Wethersfield's 10-acre garden was designed to draw visitors through room-like enclosures and green corridors to hidden recesses and elevated lookouts with views of the 1,200-acre Wethersfield Farm and surrounding mountain ranges

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, 181 Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook, 845-677-5359—The Institute's 2,000 acre campus features scenic trails, a perennial garden with educational display beds, a native plant garden with activity sheets for children, and a tropical greenhouse with over 1,200 plant species.

Innisfree, 362 Tyrrel Rd., Millbrook, innisfreegarden.org—Inspired by Chinese painting and landscape concepts, Walter and Marion Beck designed something altogether original in this lush 200-acre natural setting of garden experiences. Lester Collins borrowed from Japanese practices to incorporate individual gardens into a graceful art form.

Locust Grove, 2683 South Rd. (U.S. 9), Poughkeepsie, igny.org—Artist-inventor Samuel F.B. Morse created a 150-acre landscape garden here in 1852. This garden has been enhanced by flower gardens designed in the 1890s and a heirloom vegetable garden.

Vassar College Arboretum, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie, vassar.edu—More than 230 tree species comprise the vast arboretum on the 1,000-acre Vassar campus, which includes a Shakespeare garden, a native plant preserve, and an ecological preserve.

Mohonk Mountain House, 1000 Mountain Rest Road, New Paltz, mohonk.com—Founded by the Smiley family in 1869, Mohonk Mountain House boasts a Victorian flowering garden and views of the Catskills and Hudson River Valley.

Minnewaska Carriage Trails, U.S. 44/Route 55 five miles west of Route 299, New Paltz, nysparks.com—This network of 19th-century carriage roads and trails leads day-hikers through a diverse 20,000-acre landscape of cool hemlock groves, rocky outcrops, lakes, and waterfalls in the Shawangunk ridge.

Hammond Japanese Stroll Garden, 28 Deveau Rd., North Salem, hammondmuseum.org—This Japanese-inspired landscape of inner and outer windows is set amid flowering trees, aromatic shrubs, stone sculpture, and waterways.

Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Route 117, Sleepy Hollow, nysparks.com—Carriage roads built by the Rockefellers wind through woodlands, meadows, and fields and past streams, rivers, and lakes. One road passes by an Olmsted-designed landscape with panoramic views of the Hudson.

Kykuit, US 9, Sleepy Hollow, hudsonvalley.org—The terraced beaux arts gardens designed for the Rockefeller family include fountains, ornamental structures, and a collection of contemporary sculpture by Pablo Picasso, Alexander Calder, Henry Moore, and others.

Donald M. Kendall Sculpture Gardens at PepsiCo, Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase, —PepsiCo's headquarters features 168 acres of lush lawns, ponds, fountains, and flower gardens created by English landscape designer Russell Page as a setting for Kendall's collection of modern outdoor sculpture—a tour de force of 20th-century landscape gardening.

Washington Irving's Sunnyside, West Sunnyside Lane at U.S. 9, Tarrytown, hudsonvalley.org—These grounds reflect Irving's view of art, nature, and history and represent one of the best-documented Romantic landscapes in America. Irving arranged the garden paths, trees and shrubs, vistas, and water features to appear natural.

Untermeyer Park and Gardens, Yonkers, untermyergardens.org—The private estate of Samuel Untermeyer from 1899 to 1940. The Walled Garden is the finest example of a Persian garden in the Western Hemisphere. The Vista is ornamented with ancient Roman monolithic columns that are 2000 years old. The Temple of Love is a magnificent rocky garden with multiple waterfalls.

This brochure was produced by writer-curator Frank Futral; editor Bruce Hopkins; Kirilloff Design; and Mapping Specialists, 2007. Updated in 2016