Garden History

The Lillie M. Evans Library started developing the library garden with Greenview Nursery during our expansion project in 2000. At that time, walkways were added to the center courtyard and flowers, trees and shrubs were planted to allow library users to enjoy our green spaces. This was then expanded along the west side of the building with a hosta garden. Many thanks to Mary and Jess Arnold for all their hard work to develop and maintain these areas. By providing an outdoor area for the community, the library offers a unique way to connect literacy, learning, and an appreciation for nature as a regular part of the library visit.

Echinacea purpurea art by Hank D

During our 2017 expansion, the library garden was extended all the way around the building. In addition to providing an appreciation of nature and access to a community green space, we wanted the garden to be a sustainable way that incorporates native plants while providing the four basic elements all living creatures (such as birds, butterflies and bees) require: food, water, cover and places to raise young.

Additional Details

Our Young Naturalists group put a lot of time and effort into research for this brochure. Young Naturalists over the course of 2021-2022 included Lucas B., Hank D., Katie K., Noah P., Tanner P., and Ceci P.

An ever-evolving comprehensive list of garden plants can be found at **bit.ly/LME-Garden**.

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"My favorite thing about Young Naturalists is that [it is] about nature and I love nature so this group was perfect for me." - Noah P.

"The hydrangea [Area 1] is my favorite because it is fluffy. I think it smells so good. It smells like spring morning." - Tanner P.

LILLIE M EVANS LIBRARY DISTRICT
PRINCEVILLE, ILLINOIS
www.lmelibrary.org

LME LIBRARY YOUNG Naturalists
WITH PEORIA PARK DISTRICT

LME's Garden

HISTORY & CURRENT GARDEN MAP

Insect art by Noah P.

Garden Map

Area 1

Area 1 is a pollinators' paradise. It is a courtyard, protected on 3 sides by the building. Common milkweed is found in abundance, in addition to Joe Pye Weed and bee balm.

Area 2 & 3

These two areas are the hottest garden areas. Both are next to the brick building, in full sun, with little opportunity for air movement. Area 3 boasts a hibiscus, which prefers a warmer climate. Area 3 is also where our earliest bloomers appear: grape hyacinth, daffodils, crocus, and tulips.

Area 4

Area 4 is our hosta garden. It is a peaceful area. There are a variety of seating options located in the hosta garden. A sun shade has been installed for even more comfortable use at all times of the day.

Area 5

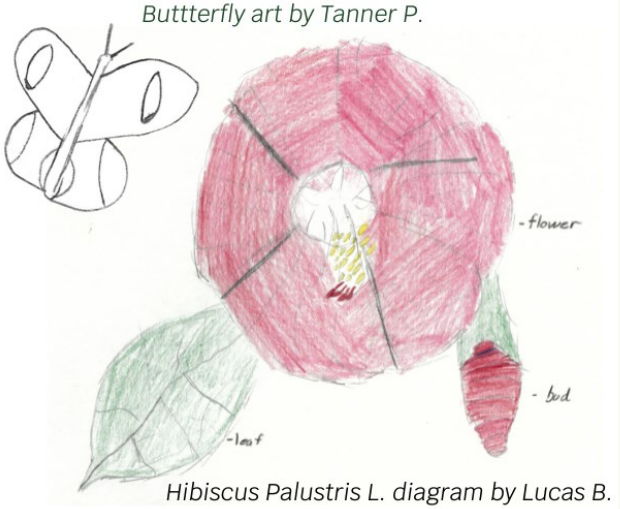
Area 5 is on the north side of the building. It borders the walkway from Area 4 to the meeting room doors and our parking lot. Shade plants, such as hostas, and partial shade plants, coral bells, thrive in this area.

Muscari Armeniacum by Ceci P

"The Lamb's-ear plant [Area 1] is special to me because it looks like it's stuck in a frozen capsule."
- Noah P.

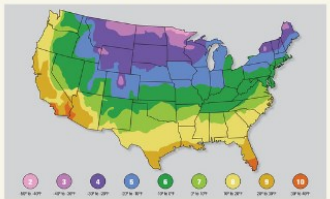
"The (orange) day lily [Area 2] is my favorite because its color is pretty and I love the shape."
- Ceci P.

Buttterfly art by Tanner P.



Hibiscus Palustris L. diagram by Lucas B.

Fun fact: our garden is actually closer to an agricultural Zone 6 than a Zone 5 because much of it is enclosed in a sheltered area and the brick reflects the sun's heat.



Fun fact: The LME garden is a Monarch Waystation. Our garden is the perfect stop after they've traveled 50-100 miles in a day!

Did you know? Area 1, the original garden, started as a memorial garden. There are two memorial trees in this area.

Patron visiting her mother's memorial tree, a Rising Sun Redbud.