



PLACES OF HORTICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE IN WEST ORANGE COUNTY

There are many destinations in West Orange County of interest to gardeners and those who love the natural environment. The Bloom & Grow Garden Society supports many of these special horticultural places. We encourage you to visit each of them!

- 1 **Apopka Wildlife Drive** - This 11 mile drive is a world class birding location of 20,000 acres of restored native marshland on the north side of Lake Apopka.
- 2 **Butterfly Garden Park** - Dedicated in 2022, this park on Plant St. in Winter Garden features Flora, a 10' monarch butterfly sculpture by artist Don Reynolds. She is surrounded by a pollinator garden.
- 3 **Jessie Brock Recreation Center Park** - This lovely park in the historic district of Winter Garden offers a sidewalk around the lake and features a number of the Winter Garden Heritage rees. Three Pink Trumpet Trees are planted here in honor of PLANT IT PINK.
- 4 **Magnolia Park Eco Education Center** - Located on the east side of Lake Apopka, this education center tells the fascinating story of Lake Apopka. There are raised beds at the entrance planted with pollinator plants.
- 5 **Nehrling Gardens** - The former home and research gardens of American horticulturist and plant breeder Henry Nehrling.
- 6 **Newton Park** - Located on the south shore of Lake Apopka behind Tanner Hall, this tranquil park features many Winter Garden Heritage Trees and is a favorite spot to watch the sunset.
- 7 **Oakland Nature Preserve** - 128 acres of restored sandhill Florida habitat on the shore of Lake Apopka in Oakland. The Education Center offers programs and a museum.
- 8 **Path of Life Garden at Chapin Station** - This beautiful gem of a garden on the West Orange Trail was designed and installed by the Bloom & Grow Garden Society and is maintained by their members.
- 9 **Tibet Butler Preserve** - This 439 acres nature preserve offers access to the many different habitats unique to Central Florida. It is an oasis for wildlife, wildflowers and natural vegetation.
- 10 **Tildenville Elementary School** - One of the oldest schools in West Orange County, this elementary school has a beautiful campus that includes a teaching garden, two huge old oak trees and Pink Trumpet Trees planted as part of PLANT IT PINK.
- 11 **Tucker Ranch** - With just over 200 acres of old Florida, this former ranch is now a conservation park owned and operated by the City of Winter Garden. The Bloom & Grow Garden Society planted "1000 Trees for 1000 Years" at Tucker Ranch.
- 12 **West Orange Trail** - 22 miles of trail for bicycles and walkers through the towns of Oakland, Winter Garden and Apopka. The Pollinator Habitat at the Tildenville Outpost is definitely worth a visit and can be accessed by car.
- 13 **Winter Garden Cemetery** - Established in 1924 as a municipal cemetery, this is a peaceful and well-tended landscape on the southern edge of Winter Garden with beautiful old live oaks and lovely views of the lake. It is a place of peace and solace.
- 14 **Winter Garden Heritage Tree Walk** - Starting at City Hall and following the self-guided map to Lake Apopka and back up to the Winter Garden Heritage Museum, this tree walk takes you on a journey through the historic district while visiting over 50 of Winter Gardens most venerable and beautiful trees. Labels on the Heritage trees have a QR code that tells the history of Winter Garden and its people.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

The Bloom & Grow Garden Society contributes to Winter Garden and West Orange County financially through grants to local organizations and scholarships to college students studying horticulture. Plant sales each year sponsored by the Bloom & Grow Garden Society offer quality plants to members and residents - poinsettias, Queen's Wreath Vine, pollinator plants - while raising funds to encourage monarch butterfly and pollinator habitats. In addition to our major projects, the Bloom & Grow Garden Society provides support to Health Central Park and our local hospitals, the West Orange Trail, the Winter Garden Heritage Foundation and the City of Winter Garden. With over 25 local schools in West Orange County, the Bloom & Grow Garden Society has extended its programs to include tree planting, gifts of books to our Winter Garden Elementary Schools as well as two educational videos on pollinator plants and habitat preservation.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership in the Bloom & Grow Garden Society is open to all. We are affiliated with the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs as well as the National Garden Clubs. There are monthly luncheon meetings in Winter Garden with educational programs. Members are encouraged to attend these luncheons and to participate in the many Bloom & Grow Garden Society projects. Field trips to gardens and nurseries are scheduled throughout the year as well as special events to foster friendship and good will among our members.

If you are interested in joining the Bloom & Grow Garden Society, go to bloomandgrow.club and contact us.



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The **Bloom & Grow Garden Society** has been a force for good in Winter Garden and West Orange County since the club's inception in 1997.

With a focus on the importance of plants and beautiful landscapes, our members embrace projects designed to enhance the quality of life in our community. Working with the City of Winter Garden, its residents, businesses and community organizations, we create events that add beauty, help the natural environment and make us all healthier and happier.

It is the mission of the Bloom & Grow Garden Society "to stimulate a knowledge and love of gardening through promotion and sponsorship of community projects and the protection and sustainability of native habitat...-to promote and sponsor educational horticultural experiences and civic involvement."

For more information:
bloomandgrow.club
or follow us @ Bloom and Grow Garden Society
on Facebook and Instagram.

