

# Our Lady of the Snows School and Parish, Chicago, Illinois, USA Seeds of Hope Garden at Our Lady of the Snows

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Lorena Lopez<sup>2</sup>, Fred Riebel<sup>3</sup>, and Boy Scout Troop 810<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Our Lady of the Snows School and Parish, <sup>2</sup>Field Museum, and <sup>3</sup>Boy Scouts of America

Photos: Iza Redlinski [iredlinski@fieldmuseum.org], Laura Milkert, J&J Balaban, Susan Kirt, John Hilty, Jolanta Rehfeldt, and Juanita Ayala. Produced by: Alicia Diaz, Field Museum. Acknowledgements: Community members who were involved in the planning, installing, and maintenance of the garden.



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**The Seeds of Hope Garden** is the outdoor space of Our Lady of the Snows School and Church which provides a green oasis to both humans in need of physical, mental and spiritual revival as well as pollinators and other wildlife. In the spirit of Laudato Si' and Care for Our Common Home, the garden predominantly uses native plants present in our local natural areas and was co-designed with the community, incorporating their ideas and reflecting local cultural connections and values.

**El Jardín Semillas de Esperanza** es el espacio al aire libre de la escuela y la iglesia Nuestra Señora de las Nieves, que proporciona un oasis verde a los seres humanos que necesitan un avivamiento físico, mental y espiritual, así como polinizadores y otros animales silvestres. En el espíritu de Laudato Si' y el Cuidado de Nuestro Hogar Común, el jardín utiliza principalmente plantas nativas presentes en nuestras áreas naturales locales y fue co-diseñado con la comunidad, incorporando sus ideas y reflejando las conexiones y valores culturales locales.

**Ogród Ziarna Nadziei** to przestrzeń zewnętrzna szkoły i kościoła Matki Bożej Śnieżnej, zapewniająca zieloną oazę zarówno ludziom potrzebującym fizycznego, psychicznego i duchowego odrodzenia, jak i zapylaczom i innym dzikim zwierzętom. W duchu Laudato Si' i Troski o nasz wspólny dom ogród wykorzystuje głównie rodzime rośliny obecne na naszych lokalnych obszarach przyrodniczych oraz został zaprojektowany wspólnie ze społecznością, uwzględniając ich pomysły i odzwierciedlając lokalne powiązania i wartości kulturowe.

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1 **Serviceberry**  
*Amelanchier*



2 **Whorled Milkweed**  
*Asclepias verticillata*



3 **Rattlesnake Master**  
*Eryngium yuccifolium*



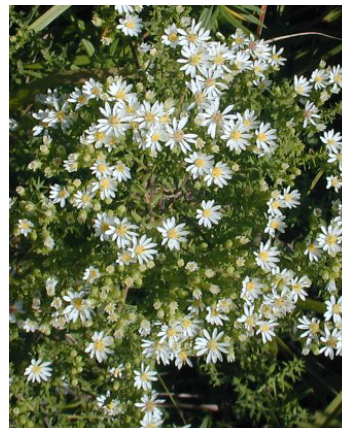
4 **Wild Quinine**  
*Parthenium integrifolium*



5 **Foxglove Beardtongue**  
*Penstemon digitalis*



6 **Slender Mountain Mint**  
*Pycnantunum teufolium*



7 **Heath Aster**  
*Symphotrichum ericoides*



8 **Culver's Root**  
*Veronicastrum virginicum*



## What can you do in the Seeds of Hope Garden?

### Prayer and meditation

Venturing out to "the desert," a quiet place away from daily worries, for prayer and contemplation has a long and rich history in many cultures. Although the Seeds of Hope Garden is buzzing with life it can become your refuge to take a moment away from daily worries, admire the surroundings and give thanks for all the things around you, including Creation. Just take a seat at the bench, close your eyes, take some deep breaths and pray or meditate.

### Rest

Whether you work with your hands and need to rest your muscles, or you work in front of a screen and need to rest your eyes, the garden is just the place. Fitted with benches as well as greenery it will help you rest and rejuvenate. As you continue to come during different times of the day or year, pay attention to what is different, how the plants change and what insects visit them.

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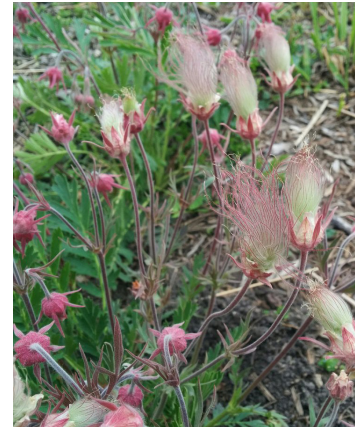
9 **Lead Plant Bushes**  
*Amorpha canescens*



10 **Rose/Swamp Milkweed**  
*Asclepias incarnata*



11 **Purple Prairie Clover**  
*Dalea purpurea*



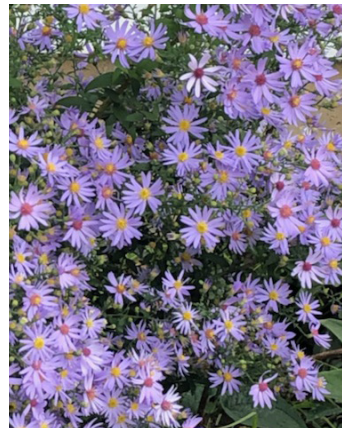
12 **Prairie Smoke**  
*Geum triflorum*



13 **Blazing Stars**  
*Liatris spicata*



14 **Wild Bergamont**  
*Monarda fistulosa*



15 **Short's Aster**  
*Symphyotrichum shortii*



16 **Ohio Spiderwort**  
*Tradescantia ohiensis*



## What can you do in the Seeds of Hope Garden?

### Nature watching and learning

So much can be learned from nature - how different organisms depend on each other, how they change over time, what they need to thrive, whom they support. Observing butterflies landing on perfectly geometric patterns of a flower can put us both in awe and teach us about plant and insect preferences and interactions. The students at Our Lady of the Snows use these gardens to incorporate them into learning science, but also for inspiration for art, writing and other projects.

### Art creation and inspiration

Bright colors, compositions, the way the plants sway in the wind - all this wonder in the garden can inspire adults and children to tap into their creative selves and put their feeling into action, expressing it through art like drawing and painting but also writing.

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17 **Butterfly Weed**  
*Asclepias tuberosa*



18 **False Sunflower**  
*Heliopsis helianthoides*



19 **Stiff Goldenrod**  
*Solidago rigida*



20 **Golden Alexanders**  
*Zizia aurea*



21 **Side Oats Gama**  
*Bouteloua curtipendula*



22 **Heavy Sedge**  
*Carex Gravida*



23 **June Grass**  
*Koeleria macrantha*



24 **Northern Dropseed**  
*Sporobolus*



## What can you do in the Seeds of Hope Garden?

### Gardening

Maintaining the garden for its beauty is a job but can also be a source of joy and a way to exercise. Like in any traditional garden with mainly horticultural plants, a native plant garden needs periodical weeding, pruning, culling, and otherwise maintenance that ensure the garden is presentable. These are activities performed by the school and parish community, the neighbors and local Boy Scouts Troop.

### Seed collecting and sharing

How do you spread the joy the Seeds of Hope Garden gives the community? Careful seed collection, cleaning and then sharing is a great way to spread the wealth of the garden to others, and create more green oasis around the neighborhood, ones that would help both people and nature.