

Rancho Santa Clara del Norte

Rancho Santa Clara del Norte has been in the hands of the Lloyd-Butler family since the mid 1860s. Its history dates back 10,000 years to the thriving Chumash settlement of Saticoy Springs. The past and present stewards of this land have recognized its important connection to its environment for generations. Current agricultural practices encourage biodiversity, both above the ground and deep within its soils. The story of this great ranch and its gardens continues for its 7th generation and we invite you to be a part of it as you tour these grounds and gardens.



1. The Big House
2. Palm Circle
3. The Bothy Garden
4. The White Garden
5. Shade Garden
6. The Prada
7. Rose Garden
8. White Pergola
9. Insectary Garden
10. Ash Tree Garden
11. Camellia Garden
12. The Dry Garden
13. The Bosquet
14. The Walnut Drier
15. The Palmetum
16. The Stumpery Arch
17. Stumpery Garden
18. The Cycad Allé
19. The Office
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24. The Office
25. The Native Plant Garden
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27. The Terra Cotta Parterre



RANCHO SANTA CLARA DEL NORTE GARDENS AND GROUNDS

By Thomas Lloyd-Butler

Rancho Santa Clara del Norte is the historic name for what is now known as The Lloyd-Butler Ranch. Its orchards, fields, historic Main Post and gardens are a living testament to generations of connection to and respect for the land.

For thousands of years, this land was stewarded by the Chumash, as part of the thriving settlement of Sa'aqtik'oy, home to over 15,000 people. The property began its colonial history as a Mexican Land Grant in 1837 and passed into the ancestors of the Lloyd-Butler family in 1864. Today, the Ranch is 1,250 acres of biodiverse property, including pasture land at the foot of South Mountain, riparian areas of the Santa Clara River basin, orchards, field crops, and the Main Post with over six acres of landscaped gardens.

The Main Post remains the heart of the property. It is anchored by a stately 200-year old Edwardian house, adorned with Corinthian columns, a deep wrap around

porch, and Greek-revival porticos, all supported by river stones and hand-made adobe walls. Outbuildings include two 19th century cottages. One is now the ranch office but was originally home to the ranch cook, a now serving as a guest house and ranch office. There is also an octagonal Victorian-era pavilion that was purposed as a Roman catholic chapel in 1926. To the west is The Camp, a settlement consisting of worker housing, barns, sheds and a stable.

The gardens range from the late Victorian period to the present, and are characterized by mature specimen trees, unusual collections of palms, flowering plants, cacti and cycads. They are arranged thematically, and are named The Main Garden, The Habitat Garden, The Palmetum, The Stumpery, The Chapel Variegated Garden, and The Parterre.

Within the gardens are over 456 trees and thousands of flowering plants. The collection includes over 100 palms from 35 species, 50 cycads from 30 species, varieties of miniature Conifers, Ginkho, Begonia and Camellia. There's a group of over 30 epiphytes, which are plants that symbiotically cling to trees, and other groups of variegated plants and trees. The collection also includes the Wollemi Pine and Dawn Redwood, both of which are recently discovered living fossils.

Aside from the depth and breadth of the plant collections, the gardens are biodiverse. The garden supports 27 avian species and 126 species of pollinators. There are families of barn owls and several Least Bell's Vireo songbirds, cutter bees and hover flies. We support endangered plants too, with over 47 endangered and threatened trees and plants thriving in our care.

Self Guided Garden Tour:

Beginning on the front porch, you are looking across the **Main Garden**, punctuated by a stunning planting of Phoenix canariensis and lined by an English flower garden and collections of Camelia and Cacti. Proceed north to the Cottage, passing through the **Habitat Garden**, with 50 species of native plants. Beyond the Kentia Walk is the **Palmetum**, with 65 rare palms and cycads. The final surprise is the **Stumpery**, where collections of Ferns, Begonia, Acers and miniature Conifers nestle amongst ambling pathways lined with hundreds of massive Eucalyptus stumps. At the end of your tour, please enjoy a glass of ranch lemonade and participate in our raffle on the **East Parterre**.

THE MAIN GARDEN

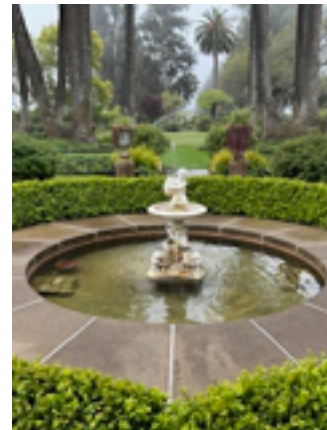
Purpose: The original purpose of this garden was simply for pleasure. Early photos from the 1920s show Ida Ross Lloyd-Butler and her family enjoying the sun, having picnics and playing lawn games. In the last few years, the purpose of this garden has evolved. It is now an important habitat to interesting and unusual collections of plants and trees. It is home to over 27 species of birds which help the ranch keep its insect and rodent populations in balance.

Form: The main garden was laid out in 1890, in the then-popular Italian style, which was characterized by an axial design, water features and informally planted flower beds. The Italian garden, with its informality and plant diversity greatly contrasts formally planted, clipped and tightly controlled French-style gardens. In our garden, a central axis extends from the main drive, The Avenida, through the garden, terminating at the Chapel, behind the Big House. There's a secondary axis, extending east to west, which follows the Springville Canal. Water features include ponds and fountains, and the canal which divides the Main Garden. Finally, there are informally structured flower beds, where plants were organized in contrasting colors, forms and textures.

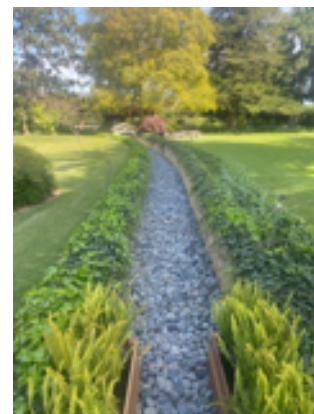
Plant Collections: There are specimen trees, including a circular planting of *Phoenix canariensis*, a White Ash, a Norfolk Pine, and several Cedars. Starting in the northeast corner, there's a humble Bothy garden, a white garden, a shade garden and a rose garden. To the west are Camellia and Cacti.

Main Garden – East Points of Interest

1. Fountain: The fountain, added 2 years ago and made by Handyside Foundry, England, in 1880, resembles an original piece that was lost in the 1970s



2. The Springville Canal: One of two water conveyances of Ida Lloyd-Butler's Santa Clara Clara Del Norte Water and Irrigating Company, this canal conveyed water east toward Camarillo, while the main canal down the Avenida

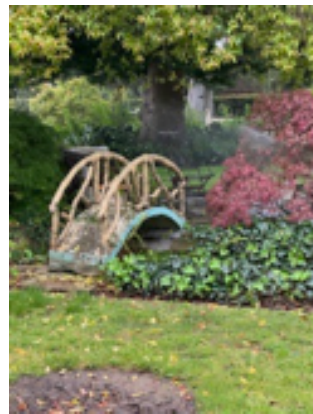


moved water toward Oxnard and Pt. Hueneme.

3. Garden Bothy: The Bothy was built in 1950s for storage and is now used as a summer house for reading and napping. Tiles are from the 1837 Sanchez Adobe. A French campaign bed is used for naps and reading on hot summer days.



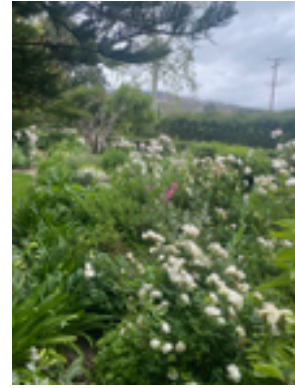
4. Faux Bois Bridge: A second, smaller crossing made of French faux bois (fake wood) brought from England in 2020, forms a child's bridge over the Springville Canal.



5. White Garden East side: Inspired by Sissinghurst's famed White Garden, Cynthia planted her own in the 1980s, filling it with White lilies, shrubs, roses, euphorbia, and several dwarf



trees including an Edgeworthia corymbosa, Cornus alba (Dogwood), and a Davidia involucreta (Handkerchief Tree).

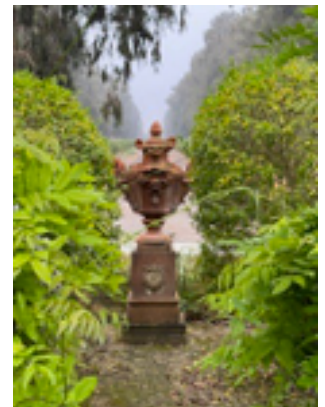


6. Shade Garden: This space is planted with Ajuga chocolate chip, 8 species of Abutilon, Hellibore, Geranium maderense.



Main Garden – West Points of Interest

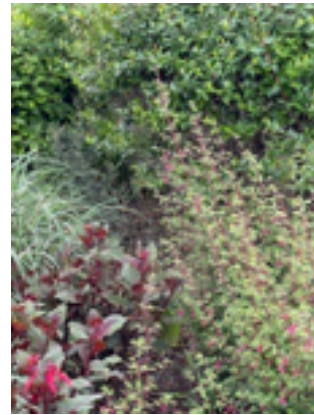
1. Urns: There is a pair of mid-century terra cotta urns, with a third, similar one, at the opening of the arbor.



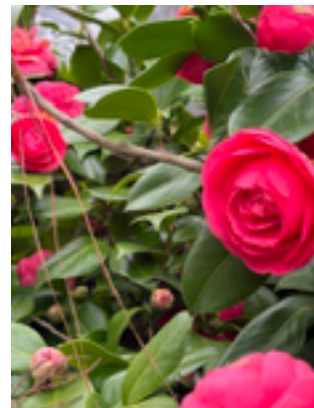
2. Staddle Stones: These stone objects, which look like stone mushrooms, were used in England as foundation stones for granaries.



3. Fuchsia Garden: Cynthia loved Fuchsia, many varieties are too delicate for our climate with the exception of a few tougher 'native-adjacent' cultivars including: Fuchsia thymifolia, Fuchsia 'Gardenmeister Bonstedt', Fuchsia microphyllia.

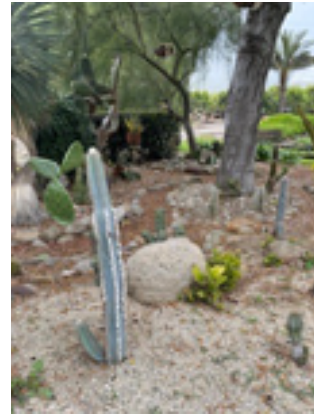


4. Camellia: 60 trees, were planted in the 1930s-1950s and many with 8-10" trunks. The trees are shaded by an 'estate made' arbor temporarily replaces a beautiful wooden structure that Jim Lloyd-Butler hastily



removed a few years ago.

5. Cacti: The Dry Garden was added in 2010. We update it with new plants such as the *Pilocereus azurus* (Blue Torch Cactus) and the hanging *Cleistocactus colademononis* (Monkey Tail Cactus).



6. Trees: Cynthia Lloyd-Butler, whose great interest in plants led her to acquire the small Cedar of Lebanon, with the blue tree-seat surrounding its trunk, as a seedling, while visiting Kent, England. Jim Lloyd-Butler, who was a systems-conscious farmer, would not allow her to bring it into the California ag zone. Undeterred, Cynthia brought it anyway, wearing it in her shirt for the duration of the



transatlantic flight in the 1980s.

7. Wollemi Pines: The Wollemi is species with a 150 year-old fossil record, having survived 5 mass extinctions, just discovered in 1998.



THE HABITAT GARDEN AND LEMON TÚNEL

These gardens are about the essential connection between farming and gardening.

Purpose: The habitat garden was planted in 2021, to help learn which plants are most attractive to pollinators that support our avocado and lemon groves.

Form and Structure: Large, lanky native plants are structured in a formal axial setting which evokes the axial and formal structural elements of the main garden. This garden has been replicated throughout our ranch in verges, hedge rows, and pollinator borders, which support over 126

species of native pollinators. In the Túnel, Meyer and Eureka lemons are grown in a eucalyptus shade arbor, similar to the way they are grown in Italy, creating a magical space that combines with a productive lemon grove.

Plant collections: The plant collection consists of 70 species and over 300 trees, shrubs and grasses, mostly native species. Four Arbutus 'Marina' trees, related to the Manzanita, punctuate the four quadrants of the garden. They are surrounded by tufts of grasses, and mounds of Bidens 'ganna walska'. With vibrant purple and yellow flowers, it's one of our best bee plants. There are 5 varieties of Ceonothus, 10 Salvias, California native Roses and Iris, Mallow and Giant Coreopsis, one of Cynthia Lloyd-Butler's favorite plants.

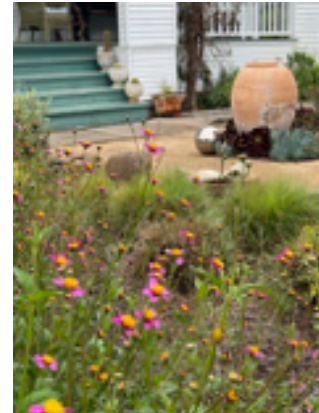
Habitat Garden and Lemon Túnel Points of Interest

1. Species: There are over 60 species of plants bloom at different times creating year-round habitat for pollinators, birds, small mammals.



2. Large plants: 4 Arbutus 'Marina' trees and 5 Arcstophylos manzanita 'Dr. Hurd' (Manzanita Dr. Hurd) anchor four quadrants in the garden.

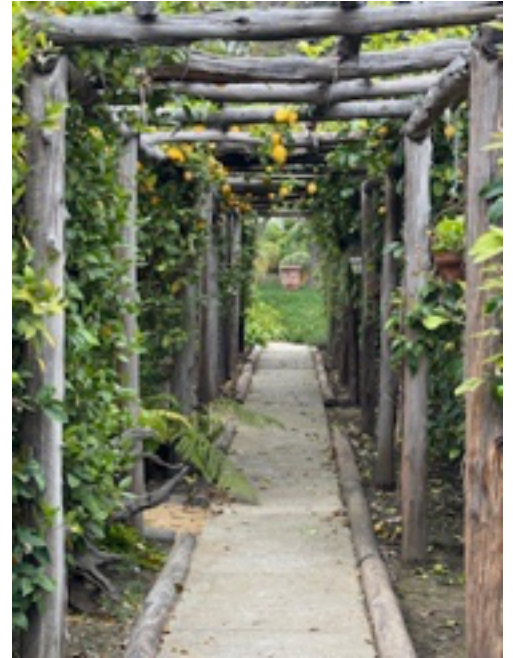
3. 10 Species of salvia: Slavia is a large genus in the sage family consisting of over 1000 species. We have many here, including leucophylla, clevelandii, apiana, coccinea, mexicana, uliginosa, melifera, and the bee's favorite, Bidens 'ganna walska' (right)



4. Pots: There are 3 monumental pots, each broken and cracked, but lovingly repaired with staples and wires. The closest to the Cottage is Spanish, the center, the center one is a biot pot from France which held oil, and the last, an Italian water jar.



5. The Túnel: The Lemon Túnel is made from eucalyptus salvaged from the Maria Fire and was added to a grove of Meyer lemon and Eureka lemons. There's a pergola in its center, and an entrance which leads to The Stumpery.



THE STUMPERY

A Stumpery garden is a unique garden where piles of logs, stumps and branches frame collections of Begonia, Ferns, Conifers and Acers.

Purpose: The concept dates to the Victorian period, when gardens like this were planted to restore wonder and beauty to the felled forests of the Industrial Revolution. On this ranch, monocultural farming of the 1980s left miles of felled Eucalyptus trees, an equally tragic situation. Our Stumpery restores intimacy and surprise to our property and to our garden. There are also environmental and agricultural benefits. The fungi and bacteria which are busily breaking down the trees and logs help revive our soils with micro-nutrients and mycorrhizal connections that enable plants to digest them.

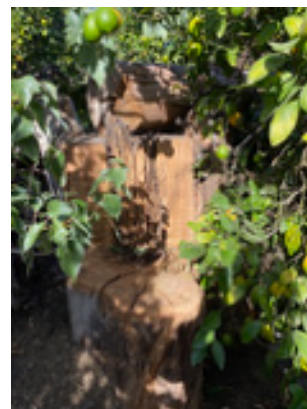
Form: A hidden garden, leading from the middle of the Lemon Túnel, forms the first section of The Stumpery. It's centered by a shallow pond, which is surrounded by Acers, Conifers and Beech. A path leads behind the Chapel to a shady dell, with a collection of unusual ferns, begonia, and epyphites hanging from the trees.

Collection: This garden contains some of the most unusual

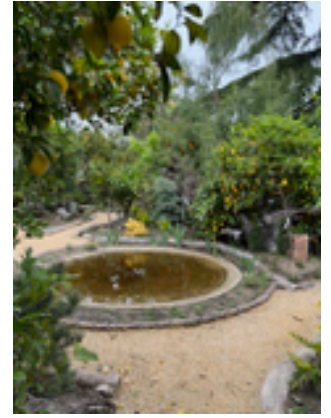
plants on the grounds. There are 15 species of begonia, including the dotted Angel Wing. There are 15 Platycerium (Staghorns) from 5 different species clinging to or hanging from the trees. There are 30 Acers in every color, form and texture and an equal number of miniature Conifers including 7 varieties of Chamaecyparis obtusa, (Hinoki Cypress), characterized by their gently twisted leaves.

The Stumpery Points of Interest

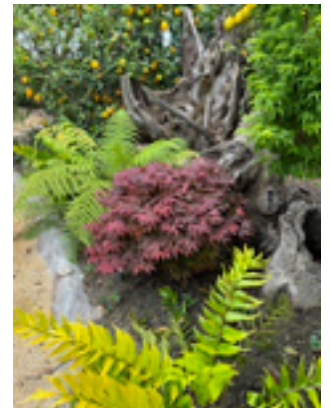
1. Hardscape: Over 250 stumps, roots, logs, many weighing more than 4000 pounds, have been carried, craned and dragged into the garden some where they now provide structure for flowering plants, ferns, unusual trees.



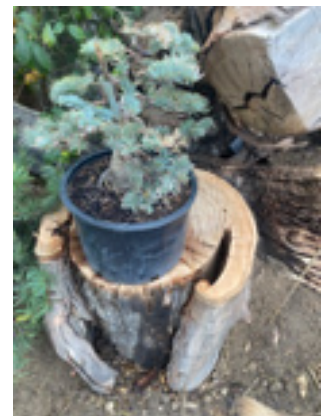
2. Pond: A reflecting pond centers the garden, serving as a shallow birdbath, surrounded by thyme, blue iris and Victorian faux bois terra cotta edging tiles.



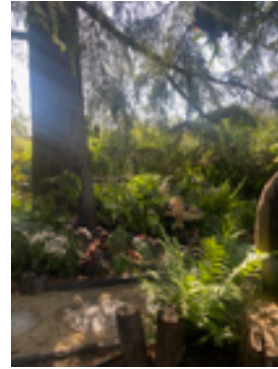
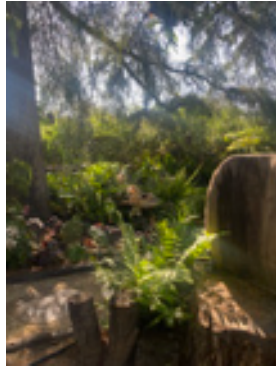
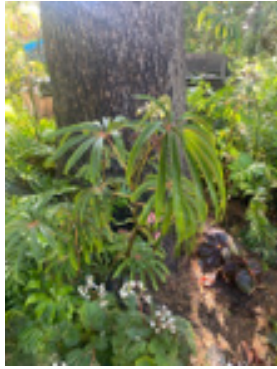
3. Acers: There is a collection of over 30 Japanese Maples, of all different colors, textures and forms.



4. Conifers: including 7 species of contorted, deep green Hinoki cypress, and a Bristlecone pine to the north of the pond.



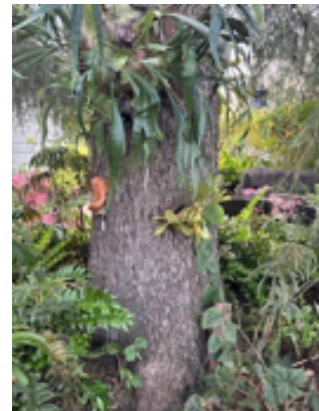
5. Begonia Dell: Under the Deodar Cedar, here are over 15 species of Begonia including unusual spotted Angle Wing Begonia and the 6' tall Begonia 'Luxurians' with its palm-like pinnate leaves. (below left)



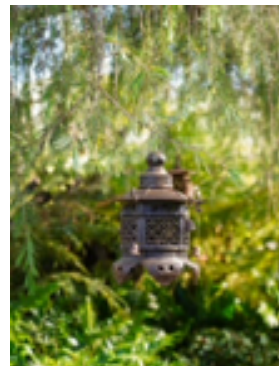
6. Fern: There are 15 species of ferns including Australian and Tasmanian tree ferns, and the massive 4' birds' nest ferns.



7. Epiphytes: These are plants living symbiotically on or in trees, including a collection of staghorn ferns, orchids and monstera.



8. Archway Walk: Created as an entry to this garden, decorated with 19th and 20th c Japanese lanterns



THE PALMETUM

The Palmetum, planted in 2021, contains a collection of young, and maturing palms, cycads and aloes. The garden is about the structural majesty of these trees and their contrasting colors and textures.

Purpose: Palms provide a historical connection from past to present, having always been an important element in the ranch's garden. For the Victorians, Palms were exotic plants that conveyed status and design sophistication, just as does the impressive circular planting of *Phoenix canariensis* in the Big Garden. After studying these families of plants, we added to the collection in 2020 and have found that they are excellent habitat for birds, bats and barn owls.

Form: We laid out the garden with informal paths, leading to two focal points, connected by an arc of *Jubea chilensis*, (Peruvian Wine Palms). One of these points is furnished with an unusual curved Regency-period iron bench with paw feet; the other with a turquoise-blue pot, made by Gladding-McBean in the 1930s. The Palmetum is linked to the Habitat Garden via a curving walk paved in brick and lined by Victorian-era terra cotta rope edging. It is lined by a collection of 14 green-trunked *Howea fosteriana* (*Kentia*

Palms).

Collection: The garden consists of 40 palms, 20 cycads, representing almost an equal number of species. Palms are divided into two categories. Palmate trees have leaves shaped like the hand while pinnate trees have leaves shaped like palms. The *Bizmarckia nobilis* is a palmate tree, while the *Jubea chilensis* is pinate. The Cycads (all pinnate leaved), are cultivated primarily from Africa and Mexico.

The Palmetum Points of Interest

1. *Bizmarckia nobilis*: There are 2 blue gray palms at the entrance by the circular fountain, native to Madagascar.



2. *Jubea chilensis*: Seven maturing Chilean Wine Palms, formed in an arc leading from east to west, serving as a backbone for the garden, connecting the



east and west sides, each with its own arc of *Phoenix dactylifera* (date palms).

3. Furniture: There is a 19th century Regency bench, unusually curved with raccoon feet, dates to 1830, England and a 20th Century Gladding McBean glazed blue pot.



4. Cycads: The Palmetum contains the majority of the ranch collection of over 50 cycads and some of the most rare and unusual, including: *Dioon edule* and *Encephalartos aplanatus*.



5. The Kentia Palm Walk.

This handsome brick pathway is populated by 16 beautiful green *Howea fosteriana* Kentia palms. This tree is easily identified by its noteworthy bright, smooth green stripes on its trunk. The brick path is lined with 19th century terra cotta rope edging from England.



THE CHAPEL GARDEN AND PARTERRE

The Chapel garden is largely an open space used for picnics and outdoor games as well as receptions following ceremonies which take place in our chapel. The Parterre is divided into four quadrants, with an octagonal space, sized from the octagonal form of the Chapel.

Purpose: The Chapel garden serves as a space for picnics and outdoor games, and receptions during and after events in the Chapel. The Parterre is a crossroads to the gardens

and pool, and its trees provide much-needed shade for the Big House.

Form: The Chapel, at the garden's west end, anchors the garden. The chapel is housed in an octagonal pavilion that was originally built as a card room. It was made into a chapel by Ida Ross who hired Tom Carroll to add a sacristy, an altar, pews and other details. (Mr. Carroll had some experience with octagonal buildings, having built the band platform in Oxnard's square in 1910.) Documents attest that The Chapel was consecrated in absentia by Pope Innocent XI on December 23, 1926.

Collection: The Chapel garden includes a collection of rare, slow-growing variegated plants at its northern end. There are several different forms of the *Davidia involucrata*, (Handkerchief tree) surrounding a terra cotta urn. The species, discovered in the 1870s in the Tibetan borderlands produces a white bract, resembling a handkerchief. There are variegated hollies, and staghorn ferns, including a monumental one weighing over 800 lb and 6' in diameter.

Chapel Garden and Parterre
Points of Interest

1. Chapel: The building was built mid 19th century, and converted into a chapel in 1926. It was consecrated by Pope Innocent XI, December 23, 1926, in absentia.



2. The Ramada: A green timber picnic ramada dates to the late 19th century.



3. Furniture: Italian Tazza Urn, late 19th century, planted with a *Corylopsis pauciflora*, Winter Hazel shrub is at the center of a collection of variegated plants.



4. Staghorn Ferns: There's a collection of three staghorn ferns, one of monumental size, 6' in diameter, which Tom Lloyd-Butler discovered on Facebook Marketplace, a great source for plants.



5. Parterre: 8 terra cotta urns, and pots stand at entryways to four paths that lead to a Victorian octagonal sun dial in the center of the garden. Designed in 2022, the octagonal space was sized from the dimensions of the Chapel.

