

The American Hosta Society Display Garden at Illinois Central College



The origin of the Illinois Central College (ICC) American Hosta Society Display Garden was in 1980, when Glenn Herold began the installation of the Hosta gardens. The Arboretum at Illinois Central College was started in about 1974. Glenn began to plan and plant the Hosta collection in about 1980. Over the years between 1985 and 2005, Professor Herold continued to add to the collection of Hostas.

In 2005, The American Hosta Society (AHS) designated the Arboretum at Illinois Central College as an AHS National Display Garden. This was the first AHS Display Garden in Illinois. The Hosta collection includes over 325 varieties of hostas, along with an extensive collection of companion plants.

In 2000, the Central Illinois Hosta Society (CIHS) sponsored the Classic Hosta Collection. The collection was expanded in 2014 under the joint sponsorship of the CIHS and University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners from Woodford, Peoria, and Tazewell Counties. CIHS and Master Gardener groups provide both financial support and volunteer labor to maintain and upgrade the display garden.



The garden is undergoing a major renovation over the next two years, with the help of the Illinois Central College Arboretum staff, under the direction of Genny Gibbs and the continued support of CIHS and U. of I. Master Gardeners. During 2015, a new miniature hosta collection is being installed. Additionally several new hosta beds will be installed at the entrance to the I.C.C. Arboretum.

Future plans include the establishment of display beds featuring well known hosta hybridizers, and adding many more shade perennial companion plants. Also, many newer cultivars will be added over the next few years. Several educational brochures have been written or updated, and additional educational materials will be developed for public distribution over the CIHS website (cihshostaclub.org).