

VISIT OUR ST. AUGUSTINE AUDUBON NATIVE PLANT GARDEN May 2025

The St. Augustine Audubon Native Plant Garden is located in downtown historic St. Augustine adjacent to the City's Visitor Information Center at 10 S. Castillo Drive.

Led by Plants for Birds Director Laurie Gilmore, the SJRA spent two years designing and obtaining the necessary approvals for the garden. Installation finally took place in the Spring of 2024.

The purpose of this meadow-style garden is to show residents and visitors to the City that it is possible to have a beautiful native plant garden in a coastal area that is subject to flooding.



Construction of the garden required the SJRA to bring in new topsoil to ensure that no plantings disturbed more than 3 inches (depth) of the pre-existing topsoil. We were required to have the City Archeologist or her representative present for the installation of trees and shrubs that would disturb more than 3 inches of existing soil. Consequently, we brought in good quality topsoil to form a wide, shallow mound surrounded by a native coquina rock retaining wall to hold the new soil in place. This allowed us to properly plant over 25 native species without breaking more than 3 inches of ground. Outside the coquina retaining wall, sunshine mimosa was installed as ground cover for its durability because the garden is located in a much-visited area.

The SJRA also installed an interpretive sign for the garden and installed individual plant identification signs with QR codes for the specific species we installed.

A subsequent grant in 2025 from Florida Power & Light Company under its Plants for Birds program allowed us to replace several plants and purchase additional interpretive signs for the new plant species.

For a list of plants used in the garden and their care requirements, please go to the [spreadsheet pdf that Garden Team Volunteer Debrah Carlson](#) maintains.