

# Plants at DeKorte Park get their own ID cards

This spring, when you visit Lyndhurst's DeKorte Park, you won't have to be a master gardener to identify all the beautiful



**RAYMOND  
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FROM THE  
GROUND UP

plantings. The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission has created signs to go with the plants.

Newly labeled flowers, shrubs and trees at DeKorte include bleeding hearts, coreopsis, double file viburnum

and red oak (the New Jersey state tree). The labels, which include the common and the botanical name for each plant, were created with the help of the Bergen County Department of Parks sign shop.

The 110-acre DeKorte Park is home to the NJMC headquarters, the Meadowlands Environment Center, the William D. McDowell Observatory and the LEED-platinum Center for Environmental and Scientific Education.

Perennials and annuals aren't the only things gardeners are planting this time of year.

People are planting – and plunking down big bucks on – bigger flora: shrubs and trees.

Before you dig a hole and put



Bleeding hearts at DeKorte Park, whose plants are identified by new signs this spring.

out the cash, arborist Patrick Burke, who is certified by the International Society of Arboriculture and is a Bartlett arborist representative from Waldwick, offers some questions homeowners should ask their nursery or landscape professional about

any new shrub or tree.

■ Will it fit the site (sun or shade, growth rate versus maximum size, growth characteristics – upright or broad)?

■ Is the root ball big enough for this size plant? Can you see the root flare at the top of the

ball? If not, this may lead to future problems, like girdling roots.

■ Will it produce flowers and fruit?

■ Does the lower trunk have a nice taper? Has there been any damage to the bark or the lower limbs?

■ Will it attract insects and birds?

■ Do the size and number of branches fit for the diameter of the trunk (crown/trunk ratio)? Does it seem top-heavy or asymmetrical?

■ Is it single- or multi-stemmed? If it is supposed to

have a single central leader, does it? Does it have co-dominant leaders with tight V-crotches that may break in the future? Does it have many crossing and rubbing or conflicting limbs?

Information: 201-444-0002 or Bartlett.com.

City Green Inc., a non-profit community garden organization, is recruiting volunteers to help with its gardening and education efforts in Paterson.

The group, in its fifth season, has developed and installed more than 12 gardens in the city, including the new learning garden at Eastside Park.

Volunteer opportunities include: educators at the learning garden to partner with the staff on morning programming for young people from June through August; gardeners to plant, weed, water and do general maintenance; auxiliary volunteers for fund-raising and outreach; researchers for the garden resource center; and guest lecturers and gardening experts willing to share a few hours educating potential gardeners.

At 10 a.m. on May 30, City Green will host "Backyard Gardeners" and "Green Your Block!" workshops at the group's learning garden, Eastside Park, 800 Broadway. Registration fee is \$5.

Information: 201-444-7514 or citygreenonline.org.

**COMPOSTINGS:** Don Torino will host a "Using Native Plants in Your Landscape" seminar 10 a.m. May 30 at Wild Birds Unlimited, 189 Route 17 south, Paramus. Torino will teach participants which shrubs and perennials are good additions to the yard. He'll also discuss substi-

## PHOTO-SYNTHESIS

What's growing in your corner of North Jersey?

Are you head over heels over your hosta? Love your lilacs? Totally blown away by your 3-pound Ramapo tomato?

We'd like to see what you've been growing in your garden. We want to share the pictures and tips with our readers. Write 50 words about the plant. Make sure to identify the plant or people shown; also include your name, address, phone number and e-mail address.

### SUBMIT

**Web:** Upload photos at [northjersey.com/ftgu](http://northjersey.com/ftgu)

**E-mail:** [features@northjersey.com](mailto:features@northjersey.com) ("photo-synthesis" in subject field)

**ONLINE GALLERY AT**  
[NORTHJERSEY.COM/FTGU](http://NORTHJERSEY.COM/FTGU)

tutes for invasive plants. Information: 201-599-0099. ... The house and garden of Drumthwacket, the official residence of the New Jersey governor, will be open to the public 1 to 4 p.m. June 7. Mercer County master gardeners will be on hand to lead garden tours, and the house is open for viewing as well. The residence is at 354 Stockton St., Princeton. Reservations required. \$5. Information: 609-683-0057 or [drumthwacket.org](http://drumthwacket.org).

E-mail: [edel@northjersey.com](mailto:edel@northjersey.com). For the latest in gardening news, head to Ray's garden blog at [northjersey.com/compostings](http://northjersey.com/compostings).