



Naples Historical Society
Norris Gardens at Palm Cottage
 137 12th Ave. S.
 Naples, FL 34102

Organization Profile:

- 501(c)3 Nonprofit
- 2,100 Collier County students visit annually

Garden Profile:

- 10 years in operation
- 4th and 5th graders visit garden
- Paid Museum staff are available for garden tours
- 3-5 volunteers assist in garden maintenance and several docents give the tour

General Garden Information:

The Norris Garden at Palm Cottage is a lovely oasis in Old Naples. Its various themed gardens demonstrate what was grown before irrigation arrived (Pioneer Garden) and a variety of exotic plants that can be successfully grown in South Florida's subtropical environment. The Edible Garden teaches all visitors, students, and tourists alike, that cultivating a garden was an integral part of life for Naples' earliest residents.

The Norris Garden occupies about half an acre of land beside Palm Cottage. It has a traditional Victorian design with a large oval lawn in the center and pergolas at each end. The lawn is bordered by several themed pocket gardens, including the Edible Garden, which is 95% edible plants. Within the Edible Garden, there are four 4' x 4' raised beds, some pots planted with pollinator-attracting flowers, and fruit trees planted in the perimeter space. The Edible Garden demonstrates that the early settlers in Naples grew their own fruits and vegetables to supplement their diet – no Publix in the early days.

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Naples
Botanical
Garden

General Garden Information, continued:

A large Chickee pavilion with benches next to the Edible Garden serves as a cool, protected space for teaching. Many events take place in the garden. A Chickee Chat series of lectures takes place each season and is open to the public. Musical performances take place in the garden and it is used for member mixers and volunteer appreciation events.

Student Involvement & Education:

“Pupils at Palm Cottage” has received a matching grant from one of the members to help underwrite the program for next year. The Historical Society covers all costs for the students’ visit to Palm Cottage, transportation being the largest expenditure.

Garden Product:

The produce in the garden is used to show students what an early settler’s garden may have looked like. All mature fruit, vegetables, and herbs are available to staff and volunteers.

Goals:

We would like to give the students a more in-depth lesson about growing plants in South Florida and possibly allow them to plant a seed to take home. The students could consider what they might like to grow in a garden of their own and learn the soil, water, and sun conditions they would need for their preferred plant.

Contact:

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