

ENVIRONMENT

AGNES DE BETHUNE



The Garden State is the most densely populated state in the nation, so every square foot of garden is precious. Agnes De Bethune has worked tirelessly with other volunteers to create a park-like environment in a former wasteland of abandoned rail yards, doing everything from pruning in the middle of winter to planting shrubs and flowers in spring.

She brought her professional expertise and love of gardening to make a difference in the environment at Liberty State Park, transforming this heavily-visited venue into a greener and more beautiful place.

In addition to doing heavy earth moving projects, Agnes has helped create new garden beds from nothing. She has also contributed in other ways, using her skills as a designer to create posters, brochures and publicity materials to educate and to encourage the residents of Hudson County to take a real interest in maintaining this wonderful resource.

Agnes used her expertise to research, design, and implement the creation of the park's own Master Garden plot. This particular area was neglected for many years. The Master Gardeners took it over with the blessings of the Park Superintendent, overseeing investigation of the site work, composing and drawing up plans, researching and developing an appropriate plant list consistent with state-mandated guidelines for native species and using a specific color scheme and then planting the garden itself.

Under her leadership, this area was transformed into another beautiful garden plot for park visitors to enjoy.