



Master Plan for Mepkin Abbey Botanical Garden

“The monks of Mepkin Abbey, through their botanical garden, give voice to the generations of people who have lived along the Cooper River so that visitors may cultivate in themselves an inward and outward care for the land” -- Mepkin Abbey Mission Statement

This ‘New American Botanical Garden’ will encourage humans and natural systems to experience a positive interaction while demonstrating both historic and cutting-edge approaches to sustainable landscape and agriculture practices. It also highlights the site’s landscape management history, tracing those who have lived, worked and been buried here: Native Americans, Henry Laurens, the first president of the Continental Congress, African Americans who worked the plantation rice fields; and Clare Boothe and Henry Luce, who in 1936

commissioned famed landscape architect Loutrrell Briggs to create the Mepkin Gardens.

Much of the 3200-acre parcel was put into preserve. The remainder of the master plan explores and celebrates native habitats, cultivated gardens, and meadows evocative of the South Carolina Low Country, demonstrate sustainable agriculture, and reestablish those plant species which could have grown here throughout its rich botanical history.

Location: Moncks Corner, South Carolina

Client: Mepkin Abbey

Size: 3200 acres

Cost: \$2.5 million

Status: Completed 2004