

Summer Interns Help Create New Attraction at Untermyer Gardens



Yonkers high school students who spent this summer interning outdoors at Untermyer Gardens Conservancy.

The Untermyer Gardens Conservancy is midway through a major summer project called the Rhododendron Walk. This new garden is located near the new Ruin Garden, close to the Old Croton Aqueduct gate, and will re-imagine the collection of rhododendrons once cultivated by Samuel Untermyer, once one of the finest in

America.

Working under the leadership of Liz Dreeben, a conservancy gardener, a crew of seven Yonkers public high school students has been transforming this area. About an acre of land was cleared of brush and invasive plants. Next,

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the land will be contoured, and soil will be tilled and enriched with compost.

New stairs will be built to help climb the grade and lastly, the whole area will be planted with hundreds of rhododendrons, other related

shrubs, and woodland herbaceous plants.

It is hoped that this intern program will become a model for an annual program involving Yonkers youth, giving them valuable workplace and landscaping skills.

The Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy will host a "Jazz in Paradise" concert with the Victor La Gamma Quartet on Aug. 11. More on that event next week.