The Gardens of the Arts and Senses:

- Strawbale Home and Garden: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Horticulture Maintenance Center: Sustainability at scale, from annual and perennial plantings to the entire site
- Celebration Pavilion: Sustainable building and outdoor systems, including parking systems, contextual architecture, signature events, and diversity in programming

Edible, Pollination and Cottage Gardens: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Edible Garden: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Pollination Garden: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Cottage Garden: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

Cultural and Natural History Museum, Native American Village, Barnsdale Homestead, and Plant Exploration Collection:
- Native American Village: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Barnsdale Homestead: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Plant Exploration Collection: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

Sculpture Garden, Sensory Garden, Rock Garden & Waterfall, Event Pavilion:
- Sculpture Garden: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Sensory Garden: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Rock Garden: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Waterfall: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Event Pavilion: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

Rotary Garden, Mickelson Grove, Rosenfield Garden, Labyrinth:
- Rotary Garden: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Mickelson Grove: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Rosenfield Garden: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Labyrinth: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

Strawbale Home and Gardens:
- Strawbale Home: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Modern Greenhouse: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Strawbale: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

Heritage Gardens:
- Native American, Barndale, Barnsdale Discovery Gardens:
- Native American: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Barndale: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Barnsdale: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Garden's Edge:
- Entrance Drive: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Coteau des Prairies: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Gathering:
- Event Pavilion, Amphitheatre, Bur Oak Highlands:
- Event Pavilion: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Amphitheatre: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Bur Oak Highlands: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

Cottonwood Creek:
- Cottonwood Creek: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Rest and Relax, artful stone: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Bridge: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Lumber: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Stream: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

Education and Visitor Center:
- Center, Event Pavilion, Rest, Barnsdale, Art: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Celebration Gardens:
- Sheet Linn, Celebration Pavilion, and The Woodlands:
- Sheet Linn: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Celebration Pavilion: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Woodlands: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Visitor Center:
- Visitors Center: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Sculpture Garden:
- Sculpture Garden: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Labyrinth:
- Labyrinth: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Cultural and Natural History Museum:
- Cultural and Natural History Museum: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Pollination Garden:
- Pollination Garden: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Barnsdale Homestead:
- Barnsdale Homestead: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Educational Gardens:
- Educational Gardens: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Native American Village:
- Native American Village: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Barnsdale Homestead:
- Barnsdale Homestead: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Garden's Edge:
- Entrance Drive: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
- Coteau des Prairies: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Visitor Center:
- Visitors Center: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Labyrinth:
- Labyrinth: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Cultural and Natural History Museum:
- Cultural and Natural History Museum: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Pollination Garden:
- Pollination Garden: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale

The Barnsdale Homestead:
- Barnsdale Homestead: Sustainable building and living exemplified at a homeowner's scale
This two-acre destination garden serves to answer the need to welcome and engage families at McCrory Gardens so that children can re-connect with their green roots. Maples Family Garden inspires parents, teachers, and community leaders to create simple, naturalized environments in a child’s home, school and neighborhood park so that he or she can be immersed daily in the never-ending wonders of the outdoors.

The Garden targets a young audience, pre-school through third grade, encouraging them to explore a delightful menu of contextual outdoor garden and ecosystem exhibits with their parents, grandparents, caregivers and friends. As children grow with the Garden, its location adjacent to Cottonwood Creek and the South Dakota State Arboretum allows older youth to graduate and explore the ‘real’ world of plants beyond the Maples Family Garden gate.

The Garden provides relevant pre- and post-teacher training opportunities to encourage teachers to venture beyond the four walls of a classroom.

South Dakota educational goals are met through field trips to Maples Family Garden specifically and McCrory Gardens generally.

Maples Family Garden adds a missing jewel to the growing necklace of quality family cultural destinations in the Brookings and Sioux Falls region.

Maples Family Garden is located beneath the shade of a grove of maple trees. Interactive exhibits are themed to tell the story of the trees and the critters that are connected to them. Contextual architecture and literature complete the message.

Visitors appreciate the Garden’s proximity to parking at the McCrory Gardens Education and Visitor Center. Within the Maples Family Garden fence, they are also happy to learn that refreshments, family-style restroom, and ample seating in the shade are offered. The Garden is fenced to re-assure caregivers that their young charges stay within view.

Map Key:
- A. What’s for Dinner?
- B. The Heartwood
- C. Gampy Hill
- D. Mistletoe & Treasure Truffl
- E. The Forest Floor
- F. The Wilds
- G. Center Circle
- H. The Cottage
- I. Swirling Samaras, Saplings, Syrup & Such
- J. Pollen-makers & Pollen-movers
- K. “Now Playing”

Map Key:
1. Native American Garden
2. Settlers’ Garden
3. Hansen Garden of Exploration
4. Plants for Thought
5. Straw Bale Home & Garden
6. Contemplative Gardens
7. Cottonwood Gardens
8. Education and Visitor Center
9. Traditional Gardens
10. Celebration Gardens
11. Gardens of the Arts & Senses
12. Maples Family Garden

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Family Garden Moments:

A. What’s for Dinner?
This is the first stop at Maples Family Garden. Visitors explore bean teepees and edible vine tunnels, taste edible flowers and other crops harvested that day, and feed whimsical livestock sculpture their favorite plants. Kids play a matching game to link real plants with their grocery store version. Tiny colorful insect sculptures are hidden throughout to teach the important role insects play in growing our food. Through play, visitors learn that all food comes from plants.

B. The Heartwood
At the core of the Garden, this multi-purpose funky shelter is constructed of repurposed lumber and other salvaged and recycled materials. It houses a multi-purpose room for classes and events, family-style restrooms, concession area and staff offices. An outdoor amphitheatre, picnic grove, group orientation deck and kid’s message board surrounds The Heartwood.

C. Canopy Walk
What better way to introduce children to a tree than to immerse them in the treetops? This unique perspective for both children and adults enables everyone to get up close and personal with the tree flowers, buds, leaves and bark. The center exhibit, Home Sweet Home, encourages children to search for the critters that live in the canopy. A swing bridge carries visitors from the hardwoods to the conifer edge.
The Hansen Garden of Exploration tells a complex and amazing story that begins with the life adventures of a great American plant scientist, N.E. Hansen. Through a carefully choreographed series of spatial experiences, visitors learn about Hansen’s hair-raising feats as he traveled the globe during war and famine, circa 1910-1940, to bring back plants that would enhance agricultural practices on the Great Northern Plains.

Visitors approach the Garden of Exploration along the Hansen Welcome Walk, scored in the cadence of railway tracks, a nod to his journey on the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Etched quotations in the walls and structures of the Hansen Gallery illustrate his spunk and devotion during his explorations.

The Hansen Garden of Exploration ends with a special changing display of new aspects of the plant research of SDSU.

Beautifully-arranged plantings of forage crops, grasses, fruit trees, vine fruits, vegetables and ornamental shrubs immerse visitors into a spectacular display of the body of Hansen’s life and work. A backdrop of native grapes, plums, cherries, and apples surround the exhibit; these were introduced to Hansen by the Native American gardeners, and he used them as foundation stock in his research.

A Hall of Fame features the “flora stars of the show.” Adjacent planted courtyards and teaching areas continue to reveal the tale of South Dakota State University’s on-going contribution to the world’s knowledge of agricultural plants. The Garden of Exploration ends with a special changing display of new aspects of the plant research of SDSU.

The Heritage Gardens

This garden trio tells the story of the relationship between plants and the people of the Northern Great Plains. It is a snapshot of three peoples at three points in time; the American tribes at around 1840, the settlers who staked claims, grew cash crops and home gardens around 1890, and modern-day scientists such as N.E. Hansen, whose work as a pioneering plantman demonstrates how plant varieties have been found, chosen, or developed to support our way of life in a challenging climate.

We tell the story of the Heritage Gardens as a poem rather than a textbook. Built in this manner, the Heritage Gardens fit seamlessly into the fabric of the surrounding McCrory Gardens and entice visitors to whet their appetite for a greater depth of understanding.
The Heritage Gardens
McCrory Gardens
South Dakota State University
One of the reasons that Native American peoples were able to survive, and even thrive, in the harsh climate of the Great Northwest Plains stems from a clear understanding of the role plants played in their lives. The Native American Garden narrates the abridged story of the emotional, physical and spiritual bond between plants and people from birth to death.

As soon as visitors exit through the Herb Garden, they are met with a riot of color and exquisite horticulture. This is the first garden room in the Native American Garden: the Garden of Life. A dark reflecting pool, fed by a shallow basin carved in an overhanging rock, symbolizes life.

The Grower’s Garden is the next display garden along the path. Here, visitors are introduced to the heritage agricultural plants of the plains, arrayed to honor the land’s contours and to capture precious rainwater. A sculptural shade arbor is at this Garden’s core. Tools or utensils that a child would have used in the harvesting or preparation of these foods are displayed in an artful way.

Native American people not only grew their food, but depended heavily on that which they could gather from the surrounding grasslands and trees. The Garden of Gathering is designed to capture the essence of what was gathered from the natural world, and how plant varieties have been found, chosen, or developed to support our way of life in a challenging climate.

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The Heritage Gardens
McCrory Gardens
South Dakota State University
Early folk who came to the Dakotas to farm discovered that the seeds they brought with them from the moderate climate of the east did not thrive in the scorching summers and frequent droughts of the Great Northern Plains. As they struggled to bring in a cash crop, settlers often relied on kitchen gardens to provide reliable and nourishing food that could be stored through the winter. Time and resources permitting, settlers raised plants for household and medicinal use. Some brought cuttings of prized roses and shrubs to bring a 'touch of home' to a raw place.

There are many ways that plants helped settlers survive. This garden celebrates the gathering of seed, growing, storing, and tasting of cultivated edible plants which were prevalent in the late 19th century. It features plants that fed the settlers in a literal sense. Plants grown for beauty and fragrance, which were lovingly brought west from home, are also important to the story, for they nourished the heart and soul.

In contrast to the way in which crops were grown in the Native American Garden, settler's aligned crops and homes to the compass grid. They also planted windbreaks to protect dwellings from persistent northwesterly winds.

Visitors stroll through a remnant prairie and enter the Settlers' Garden beneath the magnificent canopy of a weeping willow. The Orchard, alive with the welcoming buzz of honey bees, springs from a drift of native wildflowers. Visitors come upon the Kitchen Garden and Vineyard, and they explore the heritage plants which are thriving there. Only a portion of the walls, roof, and fireplace of the dwelling remains, offering shade and respite from the wind and weather. Here, at the Hearth, visitors enjoy tasting the day's harvest or perhaps even attend a heritage cooking demonstration. Visitors rest beneath the dappled shade of the grapevine arbor, or step down into the coolness of the adjacent Root Cellar. Period gardening and culinary tools are creatively displayed through the garden as sculpture and interpretive cues.