2016 marked the 10th anniversary of the National Garden at the United States Botanic Garden. After five years of construction, the National Garden opened to the public on October 1, 2006. It provides "living laboratories" for environmental, horticultural and botanical education in a contemplative setting.

The National Garden is the result of a successful collaboration among the U.S. Congress, the Joint Committee on the Library, the National Fund for the U.S. Botanic Garden, the U.S. Botanic Garden and the Architect of the Capitol.

Not only is the National Garden a wonderful oasis on Capitol Hill, this feature of the U.S. Botanic Garden will also be a national treasure for generations to come.

**National Garden Anniversary Related Programs [archive]**

- May 20 and 21 - Tour the USBG Rose Garden
- June 10 - Lecture: Milkweeds and Orchids: Survival of the Most Efficient
- June 14 - Tour: Perim-a-Tour of the National Garden
- June 24 - Special Event: Pollinator Party
- June 24 - Lecture: Perfect Plant Hosts for Pollinators
- August 18 and 25 - Tour: Celebrating 10 Years of Trees in the National Garden
- September 8 - Tour: Nature in Motion
On May 11, 1994, six of the seven living first ladies attended a gala celebrating their efforts to create a new outdoor garden -- the National Garden at the US Botanic Garden. The garden would be a living tribute to the accomplishments of the nation's first ladies.

The event was hosted by Merv Griffin and Phyllis George, and Representative Robert H. Michel sang the National Anthem. Following addresses by then-President Bill and Hillary Clinton, Johnny Mathis entertained the audience.

If your browser does not load the video, click here to load an external player.
Six First Ladies at a gala celebrating their work to create the National Garden at the United States Botanic Garden

Behind-the-Scenes: Six First Ladies waiting to go onstage at a gala celebrating their work to create the National Garden at the United States Botanic Garden (1994; photo courtesy Clinton Foundation Library)