As you move through the park, use this guide to identify some of the prominent blooms you see around you. Plant locations are listed as different garden areas of The Battery, shown on the map on the next page. Once you locate and read about each plant, check it off in the box provided. Please remember to follow all social distancing guidelines while at The Battery. We hope you enjoy your visit!

**Crocus sativus**
Scientific Name: Crocus sativus  
Common Name: Saffron Crocus  
Location: Bosque Gardens

While most other crocus plants bloom early in spring, *Crocus sativus* blooms in autumn, and is best known for producing the spice saffron from its dried red filaments. *Crocus sativus* isn’t found in the wild, as it cannot produce seeds — instead, it must be divided by hand to reproduce. Ethnobotanists suggest that this plant was bred by humans as many as 3500 years ago.

**Eryngium yuccifolium**
Scientific Name: Eryngium yuccifolium  
Common Name: Rattlesnake Master  
Location: Bosque Gardens, Labyrinth / Forest Farm

This plant’s leaves closely resemble the blade-like leaves of the yucca plant, earning it the species epithet *yuccifolium*. Debates continue about whether or not the plant was used to treat snake bites, but Indigenous tribes in North America have historically used the leaves to weave baskets and shoes.

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Email education@thebattery.org with questions or for list of image sources.
Scientific Name: *Persicaria amplexicaulis*
Common Name: Knotweed, Mountain Fleece, Red Bistort
Location: Bosque Gardens, Bikeway

Native to the mountain regions of the Himalayas, *Persicaria amplexicaulis* is a popular garden plant because of its relatively low maintenance requirements and its long bloom period, all through summer until the first frost. Look for two different cultivars: ‘Firetail’ has red flowers, while ‘Alba’ has white blooms. Both plants attract a range of pollinators.

Scientific Name: *Symphyotrichum oblongifolium ‘October Skies’*
Common Name: Aromatic Aster
Location: Bosque Gardens

The aromatic aster is native to New York and much of the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains. The plant grows well in rocky and sandy soils, so it is often used for habitat restoration projects on disturbed sites. The flowers produce ample nectar for native pollinators, and the leaves are food for a range of herbaceous insects, including butterfly and moth caterpillars.