



## GARDENS REOPENED

The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens is proud to announce the full reopening of its historic gardens, which sustained extensive damage from Hurricane Irma in 2017.

The \$1.3 million reconstruction initiative started in December 2018 upon completion of a thorough remediation of the lower tier of the English Garden, Italian Garden and Olmsted Garden. The project was completed in June 2019. Historic records from the Cummer family archives, including plant logs, photographs, and invoices, served as the basis for the project's plans in order to preserve the original intent and historic character of the riverfront gardens, which were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2010.

Funds for the reconstruction came from private donations and grants, including the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA), the State of Florida, the Garden Conservancy, and the Garden Club of America's Restoration Initiative.

WLA Studio, an award-winning landscape architecture and planning firm based in Athens, Ga., led the reconstruction. The firm's experience in both historic landscape preservation and environmental design was critical to the Museum's goal of preserving the atmospheric intent of the original gardens, while making necessary adjustments to reflect modern-day climate and soil conditions. A comprehensive project team managed by Danis worked alongside WLA Studio.

In 2019 when Hurricane Dorian approached, the Museum installed an inflatable temporary seawall along the St. Johns River. It was designed to prevent the kind of flooding that ruined much of our gardens during Hurricane Irma.