

The International Rose Test Garden *in Washington Park*

*Roses are in bloom from late May through October, and
best viewed from dawn to dusk.*



Honey Nectar™ (Grandiflora)



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION SM

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland



Before the roses in 1918

History

Jesse A. Currey, a former Rose Society president, chose the current site in Washington Park (known at the time as City Park), and convinced city leaders in 1917 to inaugurate a rose test garden with the support of the American Rose Society. At that time, Portland had 200 miles of *Madame Caroline Testout* (pronounced 'test-oo') rose-bordered streets—a strategy to draw attention to the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial celebration. As a result, Portland was dubbed the *City of Roses*.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the Garden is to serve as a testing ground for new rose varieties. In the beginning, while World War I was raging, hybridists sent roses from around the world to Portland's garden for testing.

More than 10,000 individual rose bushes bloom in the Garden from late May through October, representing over 610 different rose varieties. The majority of roses in the Garden are commercially available. About 10 to 20 varieties are replaced each year with some of the best new roses released onto the market.



Frank Beach Memorial Fountain by Lee Kelley

About Washington Park

The International Rose Test Garden sits within Portland Parks & Recreation's (PP&R's) Washington Park, one of the oldest and most-visited parks in the region. Within the park's nearly 410 acres, you'll find the Portland Japanese Garden, Oregon Zoo, Hoyt Arboretum, Portland Children's Museum, and World Forestry Center, in addition to various memorials, trails, and statues.

About the Garden

- The Garden is home to a variety of formal rose evaluation programs in designated test beds between sections B and C. The remaining parts of the Garden feature roses that are historically significant or can be sourced commercially.
- Rose companies send potential variety introductions for evaluation. How each variety performs will determine if it makes it onto the market, ready to plant in your garden.
- The kiosk on the upper-level promenade includes an alphabetical listing of all the roses in the Garden along with a key to locate specific roses.
- The Garden is one of five testing sites in the United States for David Austin® roses. They are located along the tennis courts and receive no fungicides or insecticides.
- Every fall, PP&R staff and volunteers prune the roses to 36-48" in height to protect from wind and rain. In early spring, roses are pruned to 18-24" in height for shape and vitality.



International Rose Test Garden Amphitheatre

Leave No Trace

Portland City Code 20.12.100 (\$500 fine)

Please help us preserve the Garden by not picking or removing roses or rose plants.

Special Event Rentals

Hold your wedding, picnic, concert, or other private events in Washington Park. Call 503-823-PLAY (7529) or book online at portlandoregon.gov/parks/permits.

Garden Tours

Free public tours are offered at 1:00pm daily from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Tour guests should gather at the Rose Garden Store approximately 10 minutes prior. Guided tours for groups of 11 or more are available for a nominal fee per person. Call 503-823-3664 to make arrangements.

Support the Garden

Admission to the International Rose Test Garden is free. You can support the Garden by visiting a donation kiosk along the promenade or volunteering.

Volunteer tasks include deadheading, planting, pruning, sign painting, and improvement projects. Non-garden tasks include strategic planning, fundraising, updating educational materials, leading garden tours, maintaining inventory records, and coordinating volunteer efforts.

Contact the Garden at 503-823-3636 or PP&R volunteer services at 503-823-5121.



Violet's Pride™ (Floribunda)

Rose Garden Store

850 SW Rose Garden Way, Portland, Oregon 97205

503-227-7033 | rosefestival.org/buy/rose-garden-store

Operated by the Portland Rose Festival Foundation and classified as a nonprofit museum store—proceeds from sales help support Portland Parks & Recreation's general fund. The Rose Garden Store is open daily during seasonal hours below. The store is closed during January and February.

Spring 10:00am–5:00pm

Summer 9:00am–7:00pm

Fall and Winter 10:00am–4:00pm

Portland Rose Society

503-777-4311 | portlandrosesociety.org



Founded in 1889, the Portland Rose Society is a nonprofit organization offering educational programs on rose culture and encouraging the use of roses in the landscape.

Friends of International Rose Test Garden

waparkrosefriends.org



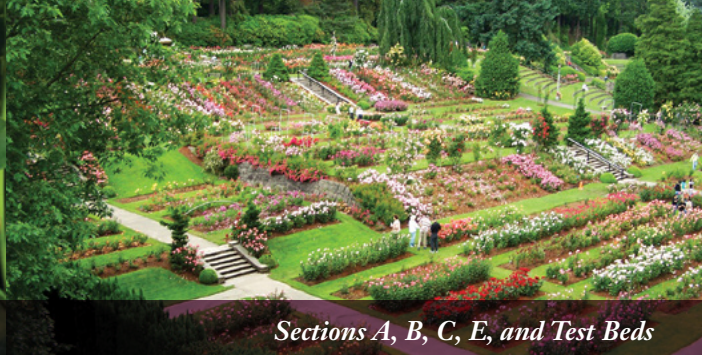
The Friends of International Rose Test Garden is a nonprofit, whose mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the Garden. In partnership with PP&R, the Friends support efforts to maintain and improve the garden through increasing public awareness and recruiting of hundreds of volunteers who contribute their time and expertise.



Queen's Walk in section D

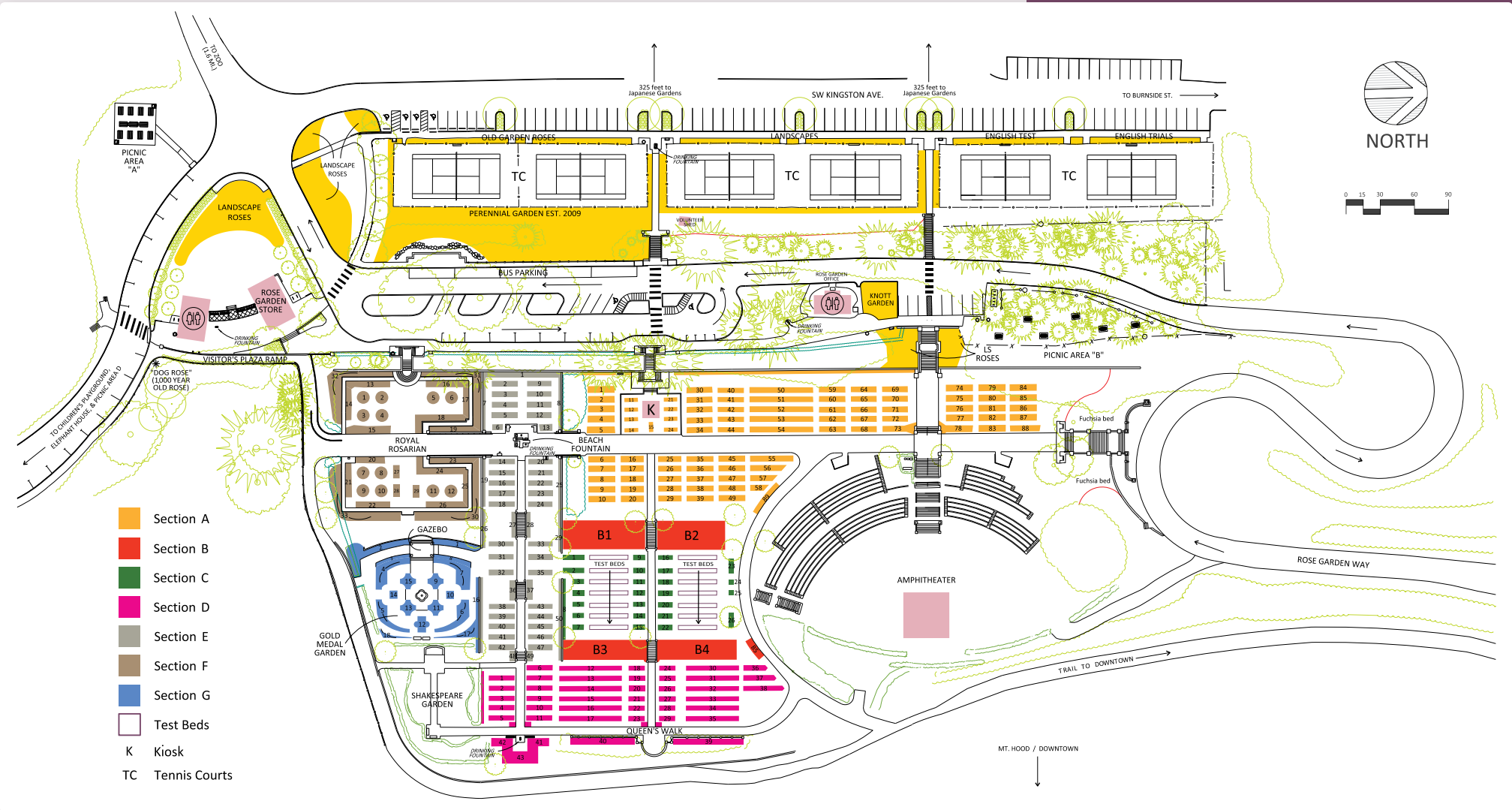


Thomas à Becket™ (English)



Sections A, B, C, E, and Test Beds

Garden Sections and Features



Rose Type Definitions

Climbing Roses

This class of rose is dominated by its habit to grow long arching canes that are perfect to train and tie up to fences, walls, and sturdy trellis. Climbing roses offer a wide range of flower forms, shapes, and colors.

David Austin® Roses

Also known as English roses, these roses are famed for their fragrance, good health characteristics, shrubby growth, and romantically shaped flowers. English roses originated from a cross of certain old garden roses, hybrid teas, and floribundas.

Floribunda Roses

Floribunda roses resulted from crossing hybrid teas with polyanthas, and are characterized by their ability to bear flowers in large trusses with more than one bloom in flower at any time. This class of rose is hardy, easy to care for, and reliable in wet weather.

Grandiflora Roses

By crossing the hybrid tea rose with the floribunda rose the grandiflora was born. It can be 6-8' in height, and can bear large trusses of blooms. The Queen Elizabeth rose was the first rose to be classified as a grandiflora.

Hybrid Tea Roses

Quite possibly one of the most popular roses, the hybrid tea is characterized for its large shapely blooms that can contain up to 50 petals. The flowers are borne on long, straight stems either singly or with several side buds.

Landscape Shrub Roses

These roses are vigorous and fast growing, tolerant of poor growing conditions, very disease resistant, and winter hardy. They need little or no spraying, pruning, or deadheading.

Miniature Roses

The miniature rose, known for its diminutive size, will reach a height of 15-30". The flower form and foliage is a 'mini' version of the hybrid tea and the floribunda.

Polyantha Roses

These roses are much lower growing than hybrid teas and are great for mass planting. Polyantha roses produce lots of small flowers in clusters all season long. The flowers can be single, semi-double, or double. The bushes usually stay around 2' tall and are hardier than hybrid teas.

Shrub Roses

Shrub roses are known for their hardy upright, sprawling habit. They can grow 3-10' in height and 5-15' in every direction. These roses are hardy and vigorous, and produce large clusters of flowers.

Tree Roses

Tree roses are sometimes called standard roses and can be hybrid teas, floribundas, grandifloras, or miniatures. The top (blooming part) of the rose is grafted onto a sturdy stalk of an understock rose.

Specialty Gardens

The entire Garden encompasses over four acres, including specialty gardens within the Gardens.

Royal Rosarian Garden

This garden honors past Royal Rosarian "prime minister" members with namesake roses. Royal Rosarians play an important role in the history and support of the garden, and serve as goodwill ambassadors for the City of Roses.

Gold Medal Garden

The Gold Medal Garden was established in 1969 as a section to feature all the Gold Medal Award winners. The award itself has been around since 1919. The Portland Rose Society bestows this prestigious honor on roses for their outstanding performance in the Pacific Northwest.

Shakespeare Garden (southeast corner)

Originally intended to include herbs, trees, and flowers mentioned in William Shakespeare's plays, this garden continues to honor the Bard with roses named after characters in his plays.

Test Garden

The testing section holds several concurrent independent trial programs, each one spanning two years.

- American Rose Society Award of Excellence Miniature Trials (AOE)**
Established in 1975, this garden is one of only six testing grounds of miniflora and miniature roses for the American Rose Society (ARS) miniature rose test program.
- American Garden Rose Selection (AGRS)**
This garden is one of 12 sites in the United States used for new rose testing. This national rose evaluation system recognizes roses on several attributes including vigor, foliage proportion, plant habit, flowering effect and bloom abundance, rebloom habit, bloom form, aging quality, fragrance, and weather hardiness. No spraying occurs on these roses.



Information kiosk in section A



Moonlight Romantica® (Hybrid tea)



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Admission is free to all.

Directions

400 SW Kingston Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97205

By car, take US26 to Exit 72 for Oregon Zoo/ Forestry Center, then follow the signs to the Garden.

By transit, take TriMet MAX Light Rail Red or Blue line trains to the Washington Park station. Use the free *Explore Washington Park* seasonal shuttle or TriMet Line 63 to reach the Garden.

By bike or on foot, from the NW 23rd Avenue shopping district use paved pathways into the park that begin at NW 24th Place and W Burnside Street. BIKETOWN bikes can be locked at the hub just below the Garden.

Parking

Parking for cars is very limited in Washington Park, especially during warm, sunny weekends. About 40% of all visitors skip the parking and arrive by rideshare, walking, biking, or riding TriMet. Once you're in the park, use the free seasonal shuttle to explore the park.

For parking and transit options, visit explorewashingtonpark.org.

