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CONTACT

Nancy Walsh, Columbus Park of Roses Foundation
614.645.3391 or rosefoundation@parkofroses.org

Summer is in Full Bloom at Park of Roses

Columbus, Ohio, June 14, 2016: Recent weather patterns aligned to bring the rose gardens within the Park of Roses to peak bloom a bit earlier than usual this year. “We’re one or two weeks ahead of the typical mid-June flush of color.” said Nancy Walsh, development officer for the Park of Roses Foundation, which supports the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department park. “Every year is different, and ‘Colorific’ is the word this year to describe the rose color palette: everything from snow and creamy white, pale and dark pink, red, orange, yellow, green and even lavender.”

There are more than 12,500 roses in the park, with over 460 varieties. Some rebloom throughout the summer and some bloom only once a year. Beside color, an additional sensory experience in the park is fragrance. Some people associate rose scents with their grandmother’s gardens, and are disappointed to find that many modern roses have little to no fragrance.

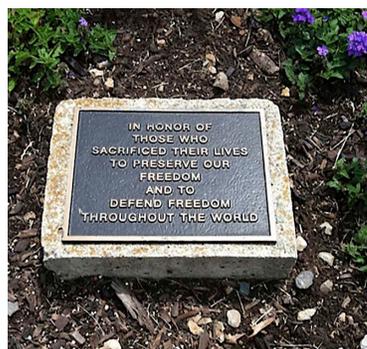
“It’s a genetic thing.” said Tina Bozzuto, volunteer coordinator for the Foundation. “Older roses had wonderful fragrances but they only bloomed once. French Empress [Josephine Bonaparte](#) (1763-1814) assembled the largest rose collection in the world at that time. She encouraged French nurserymen to cross breed old roses with newly available Chinese reblooming tea roses. They selected for the now familiar hybrid tea rose shape, and gradually the fragrance genes were lost. The public clamored for scented roses again, and by the late 20th century, nurseries were developing fragrant, repeat blooming roses, many with heritage style blooms.”

The [herb and perennial gardens](#) are also blooming. The colors and textures will change over the summer as different varieties of plants fade and others start to bloom.

Updates in the park include the addition of four raised containers planted with miniature roses. The roses flank 2 sets of wooden benches. They were selected by Dr. James Hering, past president of the American Rose Society and current board member of the Columbus Park of Roses Foundation. Raising the tiny blooms to seated height lets visitors better see and smell these popular varieties of roses.



The raised bed near the main kiosk is planted with colorful annuals and tropicals every spring. The bed contains a flag pole and is dedicated to veterans. It is center stage for the Clintonville Fourth of July community breakfast, which starts with a flag raising ceremony. This year the color theme is shades of purple and blue, interplanted with pineapple palms. This bed will be in peak bloom from mid to late summer.



Volunteers have been working in the park since early April, and will continue to garden until mid September. In addition to the weekly scheduled work groups, opportunities exist for corporate and community organizations to bring their volunteers for special half day projects. Recently, a group of Northwest Realtor Association volunteers worked with staff gardeners to clean up bed edges and weed rose beds. "It's great to have a group of volunteers dedicated to one task." said Bozzuto. "You can see the progress quickly, and it's gratifying for people to know that they really have made a difference." For more information on volunteering, contact her at volunteers@parkofroses.org.



The Columbus Park of Roses is located at 3901 North High Street. The entrance to the park is on Hollenback Road. It is free, open from dawn to dusk year around and wheelchair and stroller accessible. For general information on the Park of Roses and how to make donations and dedicate rose beds or trees, visit www.parkofroses.org.