



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Changes Coming at the Park of Roses:  
A Garden for All Seasons**

**Columbus, Ohio, January 26, 2015** The Columbus Park of Roses Foundation, with the support of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, is pleased to announce some changes in the many ways that people enjoy the park. This year, the Foundation is concentrating efforts on our key mission: to increase public awareness of the Park of Roses and also the number of donors and volunteers. The decision has been made to discontinue the one day “Stop and Smell the Roses” event and instead promote the garden as a place to visit throughout the year.

Part of the decision was based on the fact that rosarians, breeders and gardeners from across the country will be gathering in Columbus this June for the National Rose Convention. The park is a featured destination stop. The Foundation, volunteers and garden staff will be preparing the gardens to look their best for our visitors.

Our theme for 2015 is “A Garden for All Seasons.” Many people don’t know there are beautiful sights in the garden all year round. A month by month update on what’s blooming, what to look for and other interesting facts will be posted to the soon to be updated web site, [www.parkofroses.org](http://www.parkofroses.org). We encourage visitors to return again and again, not just in June.

We remind people that the Park of Roses is a great place to walk, any time of the year. Wide, paved paths make it stroller and wheelchair accessible. A complete circuit from the shelter house up through the Heritage Garden and back through the Earthkind Garden is approximately one mile, although there are shorter strolls with plenty to see. Some people come almost every day to walk in all kinds of weather.

Here is an outline of seasonal happenings in the Park of Roses:

***Spring (March - May)***

***Late March:*** Current volunteers and the public are invited to help with the annual Spring Pruning of 12,500 roses in preparation for summer bloom.

***Late May:*** The Heritage Rose Garden is in full bloom. Most of these fragrant “old garden roses” only bloom once a year, so don’t miss them! There are varieties in our garden that date back to the Roman Empire.

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After an early start, the Perennial Garden is coming into full bloom. The garden is made up of 8 large beds containing a mix of about 100 varieties of flowers, shrubs and decorative grasses, 80 of which are labeled.

Ornamental trees throughout the gardens start flowering, creating a fragrant and colorful picture frame around the 13 acre park. Always a favorite with visitors, the water fountain and its circle of jet sprays, is turned on for the season.

### ***Summer (June - August)***

The Formal Rose Garden reaches peak bloom in mid-June. Depending on weather, the roses may continue in colorful waves straight through late summer, or come back after a green lull.

By now the Herb Garden looks like a charming cottage garden, with over 200 varieties of plants. Beds are organized by usage, such as culinary, medicinal, fragrant, tea, native American, dye and edible. The Bird, Bee and Butterfly bed attracts those creatures to its blooms.

In the Perennial Garden there are different bursts of color as the summer unfolds. Come back to see what's in bloom. Check the changing information about the perennial garden and perennial gardening in the kiosk by the Earth Kind Garden.

### ***Fall (September - November)***

The plants in the Formal Rose Garden always put on a second peak bloom show as the weather starts to cool. Deadheading of blossoms stops in mid September to prevent the roses from creating new, tender growth that would be harmed by frost. In November the public is invited to help with the annual Fall Cutback, the last pruning for the year.

The Perennial Garden winds down for the season. Volunteers prepare the beds for winter, demonstrating an approach to gardening that provides food for birds, cover for wildlife, and a nursery for insect eggs.

Over in the Herb Garden, some plants are just reaching full maturity. Volunteers leave a variety of interesting seed pods as winter food for the birds.

Trees throughout the park take on their vibrant fall colors, providing a backdrop to the roses and other plants.

### ***Winter (December - February)***

Winter is a good time to see the park in a different light. Rose hips provide winter food for birds and small creatures and bird feeders are kept filled throughout the season. A snowfall or frost shows off the trees as beautiful silhouettes. The Foundation and staff confer on which new roses to order for spring. And then another year starts in the park.