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**Spring is Coming to the Columbus Park of Roses**

**Columbus, Ohio, March 6, 2015** Believe it or not, spring *is* coming. March is an interesting month in the park and visitors who walk there year round will be on the lookout for the first signs of the season. Some of the earliest plants to flower are the hellebores, also known as [Lenten Roses](#) for their bloom time. When the snow melts, flower buds can be seen between evergreen leaves. You can find several varieties in the perennial garden, along with early blooming dwarf daffodils.

Many types of dogwoods are planted throughout the park. The [Cornellian Cherry dogwood](#), a small tree, has early yellow flowers that open before any leaves appear. Red twigged and gold twigged dogwood shrubs have colorful branches that stand out against the late snows.

[Saucer magnolias](#) produce fat, fuzzy buds that open into large pink and white flowers that bloom before the tree leaves out. In central Ohio, there is always a chance the blossoms will be damaged by a late freeze. More early spring color is provided by a variety of [witch hazels](#). Described as either large shrubs or small trees, they flower early in shades of red, yellow or orange.

March is also the beginning of the volunteer season in the park. The public is invited help Columbus Recreation and Parks garden staff and volunteers with the annual Spring Pruning event. Starting at 8:30 am on Saturday, March 28, the group will meet in the volunteer office at the south end of the enclosed shelterhouse. Light refreshments will be served. People are asked to bring garden gloves and hand pruners. "No gardening experience is necessary- we do on the job training." said Tina Bozzuto, volunteer coordinator for the Park of Roses Foundation. "And remember to dress warmly! We will work regardless of the weather." Pruning usually takes several hours.

In April and May, the perennial and herb gardens start to wake up. There are several drifts of naturalized wildflowers in the lawn around those beds. In May, the roses in the heritage garden start to bloom. More flowering trees brighten up the landscape. Rows of [crabapples](#) on the road into the park and along the walkways shower pink and white petals onto the grass. Redbuds, weeping cherries, star and sweetbay magnolias begin to open. There are lots of buckeyes in the park, including the Red and [Ohio buckeye](#) trees and the [bottlebrush buckeye](#) shrub.

The Park of Roses is truly a garden for all seasons. Visit the web site at [www.parkofroses.org](http://www.parkofroses.org) for seasonal updates and home gardening information.

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