

The inspiration for the City Park Rose Garden came in the 1920's from James W. Berry who was a member of the newly formed Kiwanis Club. When the club sought a worthy project, James, as a lover of and authority on roses, suggested the idea of a rose garden. Many club members worked on the garden but Mr. Berry stayed on the job for years by selecting varieties for the plantings and training park personnel in proper care of roses. In 1936, the Manhattan City Commission officially designated the area the James W. Berry Rose Garden.

James Berry was born in Loganton, Pennsylvania in 1858. His family moved to a homestead in Jewell County, Kansas; James attended Kansas State Agricultural College, graduating in 1883. He became a builder and owned the Golden Belt Lumber Company in Manhattan and other businesses. James and his wife, Hattie, resided at 1526 Poyntz. Mr. Berry had won national recognition for his work with roses and garden planning.

During the 1930's people thought that roses could not be successfully grown in Manhattan but the James W. Berry Rose Garden demonstrated otherwise. The garden became a demonstration plot and variety-testing project for Manhattan. In November, 1940 there was a hard freeze that killed or weakened many roses. In February, 1941, Mr. Berry solicited the Kiwanis to share the cost of replacing the roses with the city and 1,100 rose bushes were ordered from Portland, Oregon. James Berry died the next month at the age of 82. Presently 40 cultivars and species comprise the over two hundred roses in the garden. The fountain in the Rose Garden was originally erected in City Park in 1895. It was restored and moved to its current location in the Rose Garden in 1986.

Sources: Manhattan City Park Records. Kiwanis Club, Kiwanis Dinner Bell, 1947. Riley County Historical Museum. News Clippings. Socolofsky, Homer E. "The James W. Berry Rose Garden and the Kiwanis Connection: An Early History." July 1993.

Garden roses are divided into major classes of which the most common are Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Grandifloras, Modern Shrubs, and Old Garden Roses among others. Many of these are represented in the Berry Rose Garden.

Roses may be purchased bare root or in containers for planting. Spread the roots out and settle the soil around just planted roses with water. Roses should get an inch of water a week during the growing season.

General rose care: Fertilize roses three times a year, just before bud break in the spring, once during the flowering season and once in mid-August. Withholding fertilizer after mid-August will help the plant go into dormancy in the fall. Prune roses in the spring just before new growth appears. Prune with a sharp pruner and cut at a 45-degree angle a ¼ inch above a dormant bud, preferably on the outer side of the stem. Prune to remove dead wood. Diseased canes should be trimmed to the base of the plant. Remove weak canes and suckers from the rootstock. Removing faded flowers during the growing season will encourage subsequent flowering.

Hybrid roses are most susceptible to insects and disease problems. Blackspot is a fungus characterized by dark spots surrounded by a yellow halo. Powdery mildew is a fungal condition due to cool night temperatures, humid conditions or periods of rainy weather. Insects that attack roses include aphids and spider mites.

Grafted roses require winter protection in Kansas. After a hard winter frost in which leaves drop; trim long canes to 24" from the ground. Spray canes with a fungicide and mound organic materials such as woodchips to 10" high over the canes. In late March, gently remove the mounding to allow new growth to emerge.

For more information, refer to publications

MF 799, Growing Roses
MF 3488, Japanese Beetle
MF 2974, Rose Rosette Disease

These publications are available at the Riley County Extension Office or by searching for publications from Kansas State University which are available at bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu

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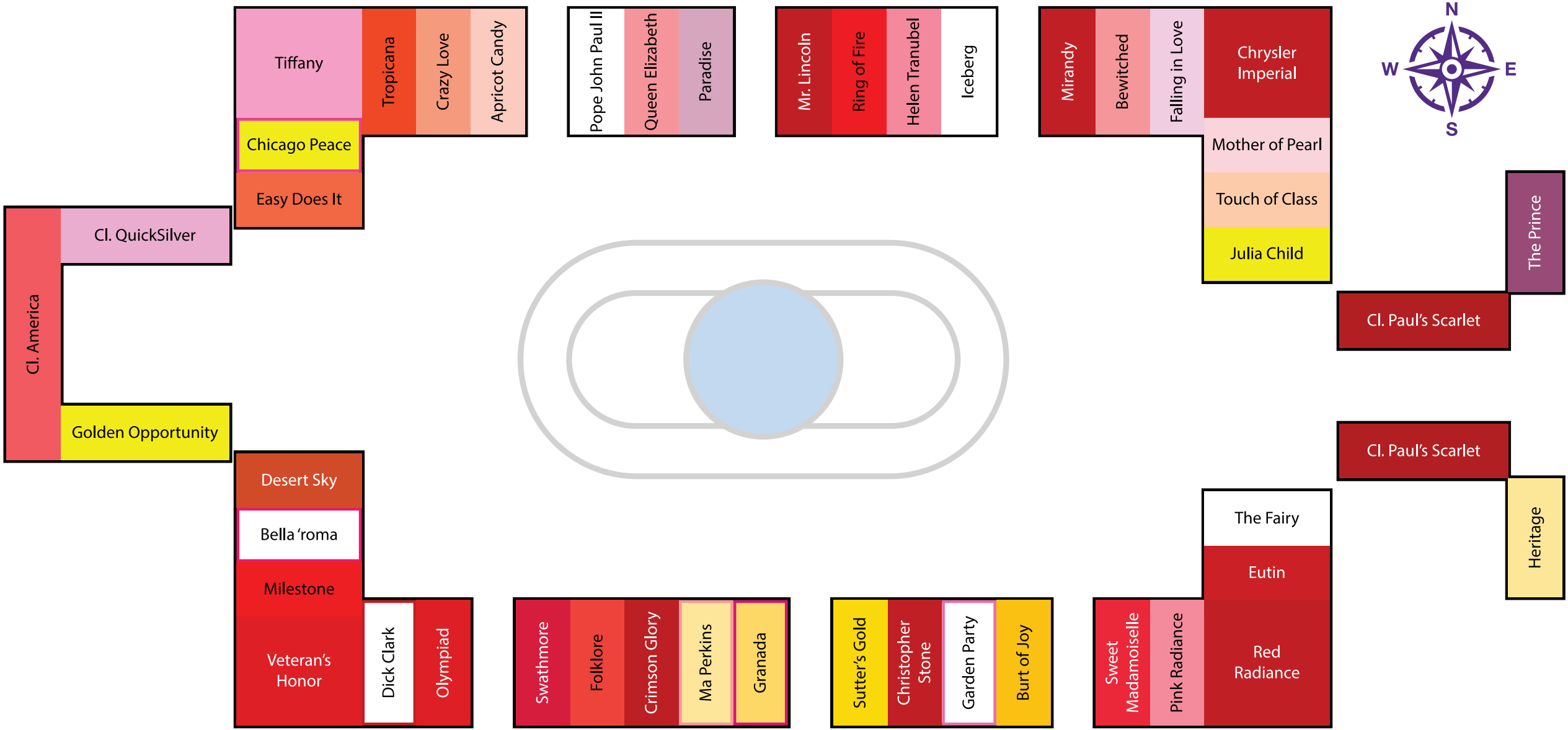
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JAMES W. BERRY ROSE GARDEN

Manhattan City Park 11th & Poyntz



JAMES W. BERRY ROSE GARDEN



Formal rose garden maintained by



Knock Out Roses by benches

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Master Gardener
Riley County