



Photo credit: https://patricetodisco.files.wordpress.com/2012/06/img_7716_2.jpg

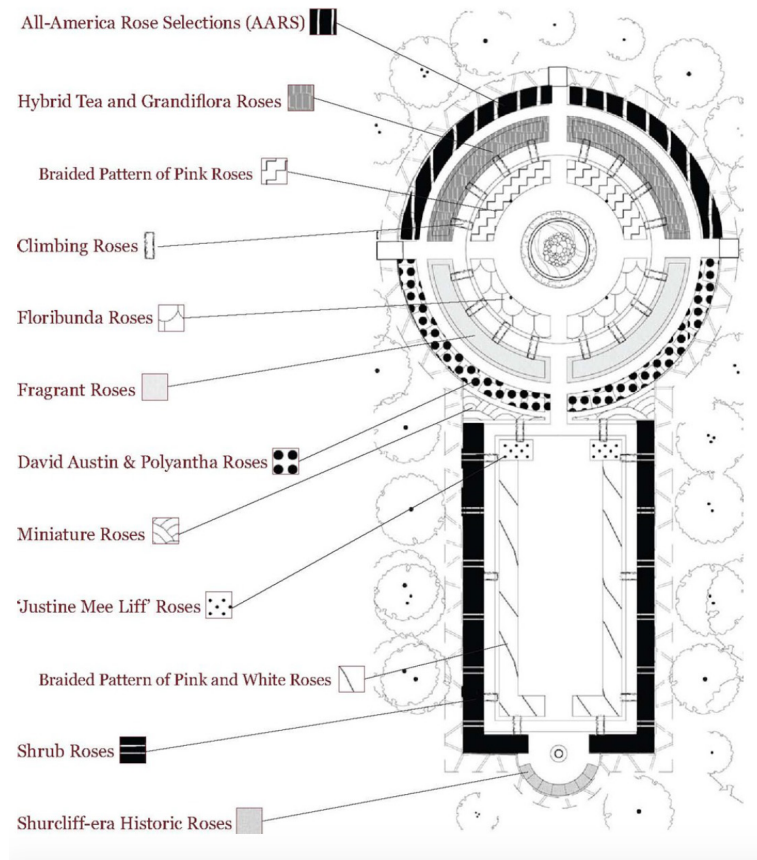


Photo Credit: <http://www.emeraldnecklace.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/KRGweb-page082614-op.pdf>

Kelleher Rose Garden

Location: Back Bay Fens
Emerald Necklace
Boston, MA
Founded in the 1930's
Designer:
Landscape Architect
Arthur Shurcliff
Size: 15,000 ft²

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Photo credit: <http://fenwaycivic.org/2012/07/>

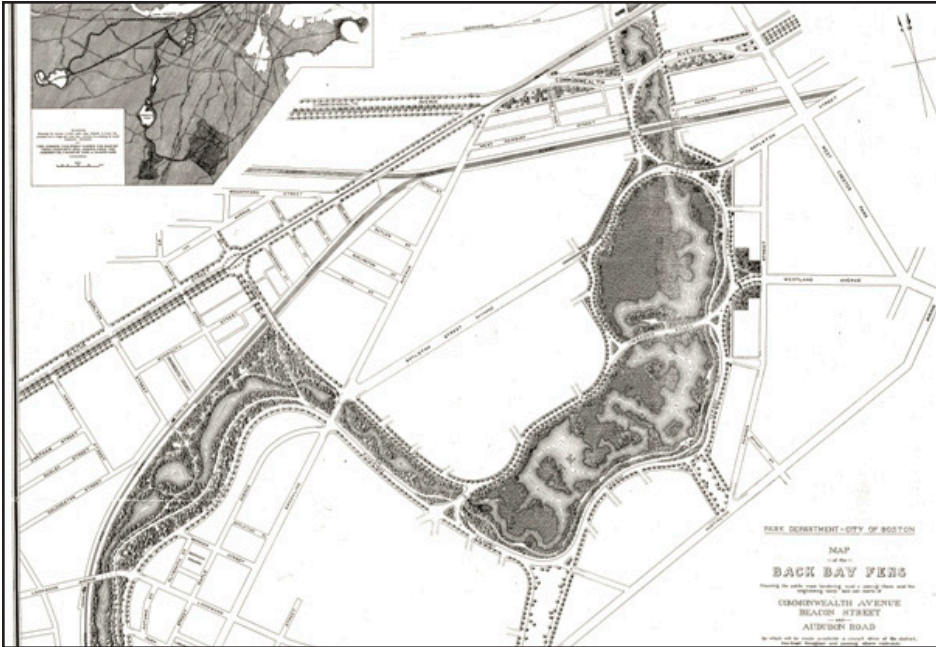


Photo Credit: <http://www.raydunetz.com/news/2012/6/29/rdla-set-to-begin-work-on-renovation-of-the-kelleher-rose-ga.html>jpgjpg

History of The Fens

In 1820 land reclamation began to take place, in 1882 Back Bay was filled in, and by 1900 the Fenway district was filled. A portion of the marsh was left untouched which was later to become The Fens. Olmsted led the way in redesigning the marshy lands. With state of the art engineering, Olmsted transformed the smelly swampy creek into a place for surrounding communities to enjoy and use.

In 1910 with the damming of the Charles Bridge, the Fens underwent an ecological shift from a salt-water marsh to a freshwater lagoon. This event changed the plant life, animals and atmosphere of the Fens.

A protégé of Olmsted, Arthur Shurcliff, took over the project in 1920 and began to make alterations to the landscape due to the change in the ecology of the area.



Photo Credit: <http://www.raydunetz.com/news/2012/6/29/rdla-set-to-begin-work-on-renovation-of-the-kelleher-rose-ga.html>

History of The Rose Garden

In 1930 Arthur Shurcliff designed the Rose Garden. The garden is located across the street from the Museum of Fine Arts, where it is easily accessible for tourists visiting the museum as well as for public enjoyment.

The garden started out as being circular in form with a central fountain. Then in 1933, before construction had started, the plan was expanded with an addition of a rectangular section. This is the form we see today. In 1975 the garden was named after James P. Kelleher, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department's Superintendent of Horticulture. The statue in the rose garden is a replica of the famous El Desconsol (Spanish, "Sorrow") by Josep Llimona, a marble sculpture influenced by the symbolism movement. The statue represents a female figure bowed down in grief. It was a gift to the city of Boston from Barcelona, Spain in 1986. It is located at the south end of the rectangular portion of the garden.



Photo Credit: http://farm7.static.flickr.com/6149/5963479107_f5ed5fd1e5.jpg

Revitalization

The Garden began to decline in popularity and appearance by the late 20th century and was in need of restoration. In 2001 a new master plan was put into action for revitalization. The master plan included recutting of paths and planting beds, rejuvenation of the soil and new turf. The plan also included the installation of an irrigation system along with hundreds of roses and new signage.

Renovation continued in 2013 with the reconstruction of the fountain to the original design by Arthur Shurcliff. His design was a simple 14" deep reflection pool with bluestone-capped edges. The height of the fountain spray is determined by an anemometer, which measures wind speed. The Emerald Necklace Conservancy, in cooperation with Boston Parks and Recreation, convened landscape architects, horticulturists and rosarians to design the Master plan. The goal was to restore, educate, and bring visitors back to the Rose Garden.

Present Day

Today, there are over ten classes and 200 varieties of roses, including climbing roses, miniature roses, shrub roses and floribunda roses. There are almost 1,500 plants in total on this 15,00 square foot plot. Evergreen hedges around the garden create an oasis and block out the view and noise of Boston.

Today many events take place within the Rose Garden such as weddings and the Rose Garden Party, which is a fundraiser for the Boston Parks and Recreation Department. Volunteer work takes place every Tuesday evening to keep the garden clean and weeded.