

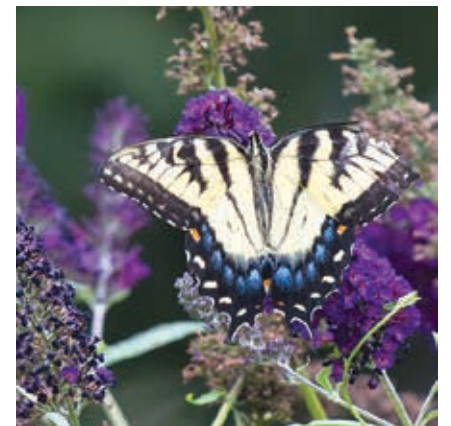
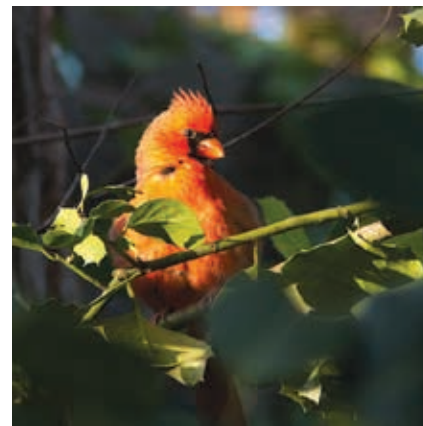


ONE OF MANHATTAN'S BEST KEPT SECRETS

The Heather Garden in Fort Tryon Park is among New York's most diverse four-season gardens and features one of the largest heath and heather collections on the East Coast. The largest public garden with unrestricted access in New York City, the Garden's three acres are home to more than 500 different varieties of trees, shrubs, and perennials, including dozens of varieties of heaths and heathers, all providing color, texture, and interest in every season. Changing selections of colorful annuals add to the Garden's romantic exuberance.

Originally designed by the Olmsted Brothers in 1935 for John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and renovated twice since then, this historic garden boasts year-round horticultural and scenic interest, with spectacular views of the Hudson River and the Palisades.

Over the decades, the Greenacre Foundation has continuously funded additional horticultural staff, supplies, equipment, and plants to complement the resources of NYC Parks and the Fort Tryon Park Trust. Through its successful public-private partnership, NYC Parks and the Trust are working together to maintain and sustain Fort Tryon Park for another 75 years and beyond.



The botanical diversity of the Heather Garden attracts birds, butterflies, and other beneficial wildlife and insects.

HISTORY

A GIFT TO THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Fort Tryon Park is a city, state, and federal scenic landmark gifted to the City in 1935 by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., who believed that no place in Manhattan offered as much natural beauty as the 67 acres that today comprise Fort Tryon Park. Rockefeller acquired the property to develop as a public park, purchased the land across the river (the New Jersey Palisades) to protect the views, and engaged the Olmsted Brothers—whose father designed Central Park—to design the park and gardens. In 2010, on the 75th anniversary of the Park's opening, David Rockefeller renewed his father's generous legacy with a \$1 million gift to the Fort Tryon Park Trust, NYC Parks' non-profit partner for the park.

RESTORATIONS & REINVIGORATION

After several decades of splendor, park maintenance declined precipitously during the fiscal crisis of the 1970s. In 1983, the Greenacre Foundation funded the Landscape Restoration Plan that brought Fort Tryon Park back to life. Executed by NYC Parks and the landscape architectural firm Quennell Rothschild & Partners, working closely with horticulturist Timothy Steinhoff, the restoration adhered to the Olmsted Brothers' 1935 plan, which still guides the work of the horticultural staff today.

In 2009, prior to the Park's 75th anniversary, the Fort Tryon Park Trust engaged public garden designers Lynden B. Miller and Ronda M. Brands to reinvigorate the planting design and develop a Framework Plan for enhancing and sustaining the Heather Garden for the long term. Miller and Brands built upon the unique horticultural, historic, and scenic assets of the Heather Garden while preserving the spirit of the original plan.



(Top) View of the Heather Garden, Hudson River and Palisades, courtesy Olmsted Archives, 1937. (Bottom) 1980s restoration of the Heather Garden by NYC Parks, the Greenacre Foundation and Quennell Rothschild & Partners

A GARDEN FOR EVERY SEASON

The Garden's reinvention emphasizes bold plant groupings by recreating many large, cohesive swaths of perennials, set among a structural landscape of shrubs and small trees. While flowers bloom year-round in the garden, vibrant foliage colors and textures provide contrast and additional interest in every season.

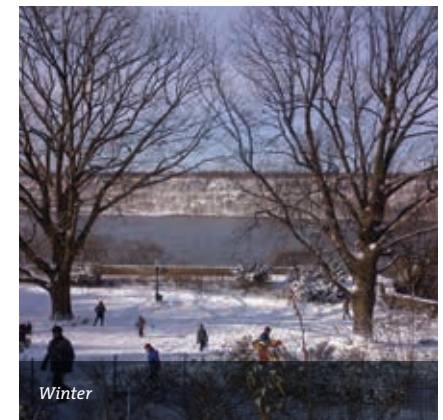
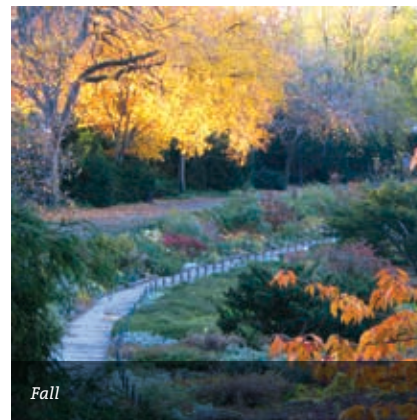
Companion plants have been added to complement the Garden's extensive collections of rhododendrons, azaleas, heaths, and heathers. The Garden's collage of interesting plant combinations is knit together by the repetition of key "signature plants" for every season, providing unity throughout the Garden and helping to enhance the relationship among the perennial border, the heather bed, and the surrounding borders.

ABOUT THE HEATHS AND HEATHERS

Heaths (*Erica* species and cultivars) and heathers (*Calluna vulgaris* cultivars), native in their wild forms to Scotland and Ireland, require careful cultivation to flourish as they do here. NYC Parks gardeners, in cooperation with the Northeast Heather Society, have sustained heaths and heathers in Fort Tryon Park for more than three-quarters of a century with careful attention to soil cultivation, pruning, and ongoing planting. With evergreen foliage in greens, yellows, and reds throughout the year, some varieties turn silver, copper, red, or chocolate in winter. Heaths generally flower from mid-winter to early spring, while heathers take over the bloom sequence beginning in mid-summer.

CONTACT

For more information, including a monthly "What's in Bloom" list, historic photos and plant photos, visit us at www.FortTryonParkTrust.org. To arrange a horticultural tour for your group, please contact Info@FortTryonParkTrust.org or call 212-795-1388 x 300.



THE HEATHER GARDEN

Plant Guide

Alive with color year-round, the Garden is home to nearly 500 varieties of plants that attract butterflies, bees, birds, and other beneficial wildlife to the city.

This guide highlights several signature plants in each season. Detailed plant lists and bloom times can be found at www.FortTryonParkTrust.org.

LEGEND

The map shows approximate locations for several plant groupings in the Perennial and Heather Beds. Bulbs are planted throughout the garden and are not identified by number. Enjoy looking for new plants each season!

1 2 3 4 = color corresponds to season and number to location on map
 P=perennial S=shrub B=bulb V=vine A=annual
 spp.=multiple species cvs.=cultivated varieties

A

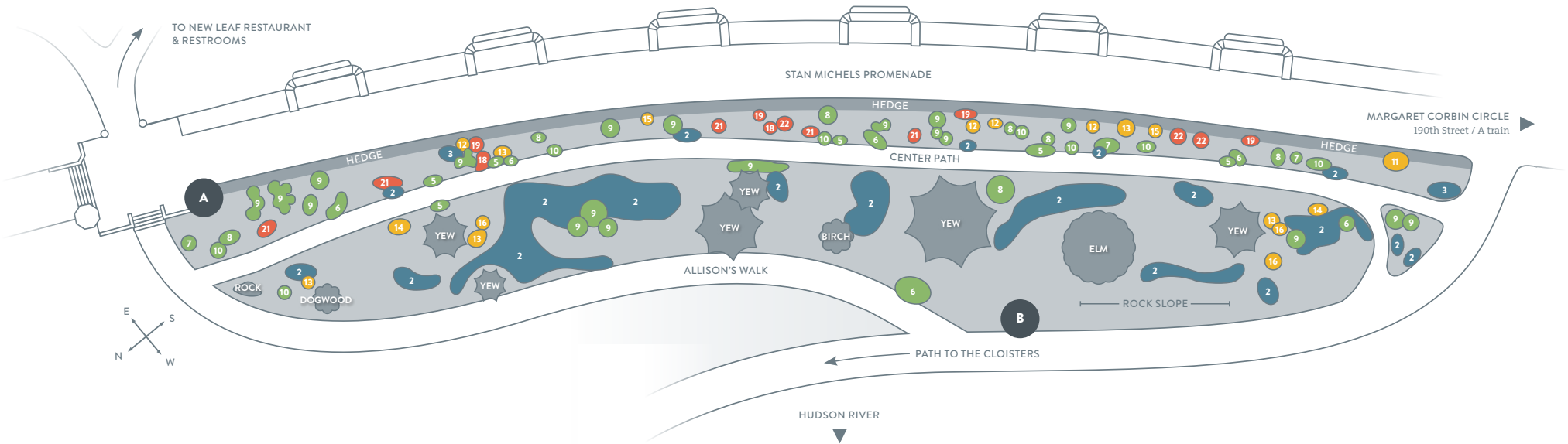
THE PERENNIAL BORDER

Located along the eastern side of the Garden, just below the Stan Michels Promenade and its stately American elms, the 600-foot-long Perennial Border features hundreds of varieties of shrubs, small trees, and herbaceous perennials. Old-world roses, historic azaleas, and many types of hydrangeas are among the flowering shrubs that provide year-round structure for the ever-changing tapestry of perennials.

B

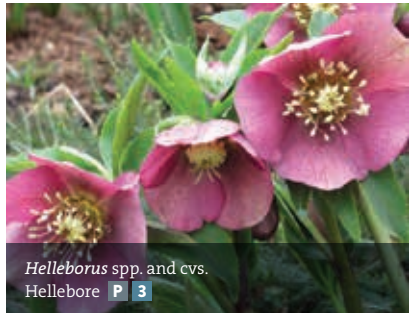
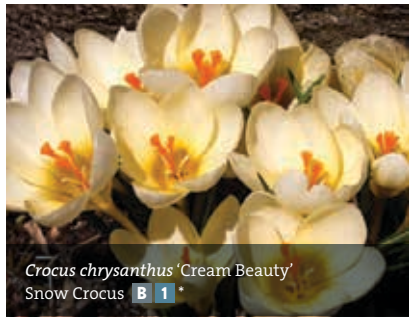
THE HEATHER BED

Anchored by several historic yews and a massive Siberian elm at its center, this large bed features over forty varieties of heaths and heathers set amidst companion plantings of perennials, shrubs, and small trees, including two unusual Franklinsias. The topography and plantings vary from sweeps of meadow-style plantings attractive to butterflies to rocky slopes hosting delicate alpine plants ablaze in color during early spring.



WINTER

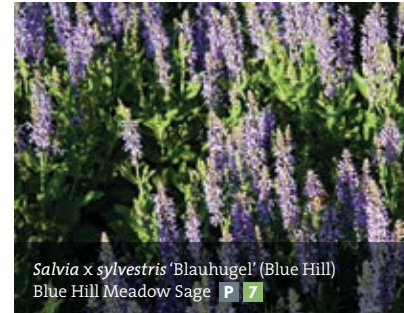
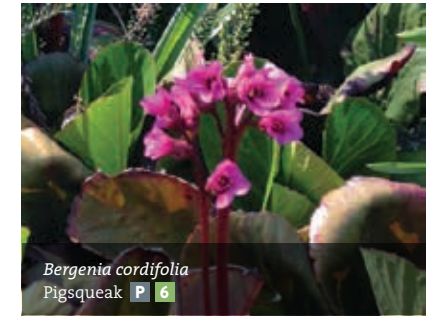
While many of fall's flowers, berries, and colorful leaves persist into the winter months, Winter Heath steals the show, turning the Heather Bed into an undulating wave of pink and white from mid-winter through early spring. Red Cotoneaster berries and Rose hips give way to the delicate flowers of Hellebores, delightful companions for late winter bulbs like Crocus, Snowdrops, and Daffodils.



*Bulbs 1, 4 and 17 are planted throughout the garden and are not identified by number on the map.

SPRING

Masses of Spanish Bluebells carpet the garden amidst the vibrant colors of Azaleas and Rhododendrons, as perennials from Candytuft and Catmint to Solomon's Seal and Sage awaken and bloom. Scotch Broom, Lilacs, Flowering Quince, Daphne, and Peonies perfume the air, and the rock garden slope is ablaze with spring color.



SUMMER

Old-world Roses, Hydrangeas, and Spireas reach their peak, as colors shift from the soft whites of Buttonbush, Mock Orange, and Giant Fleeceflower to the deep purples and vibrant yellows of False Indigo, Butterfly Bushes, and Yarrow. Tropical-looking Hardy Hibiscus and showy Clematis vines mix with the hot colors of Butterfly Weed, Red Hot Poker, and Montbretia. Drought-tolerant plants thrive as Heathers begin to flower.

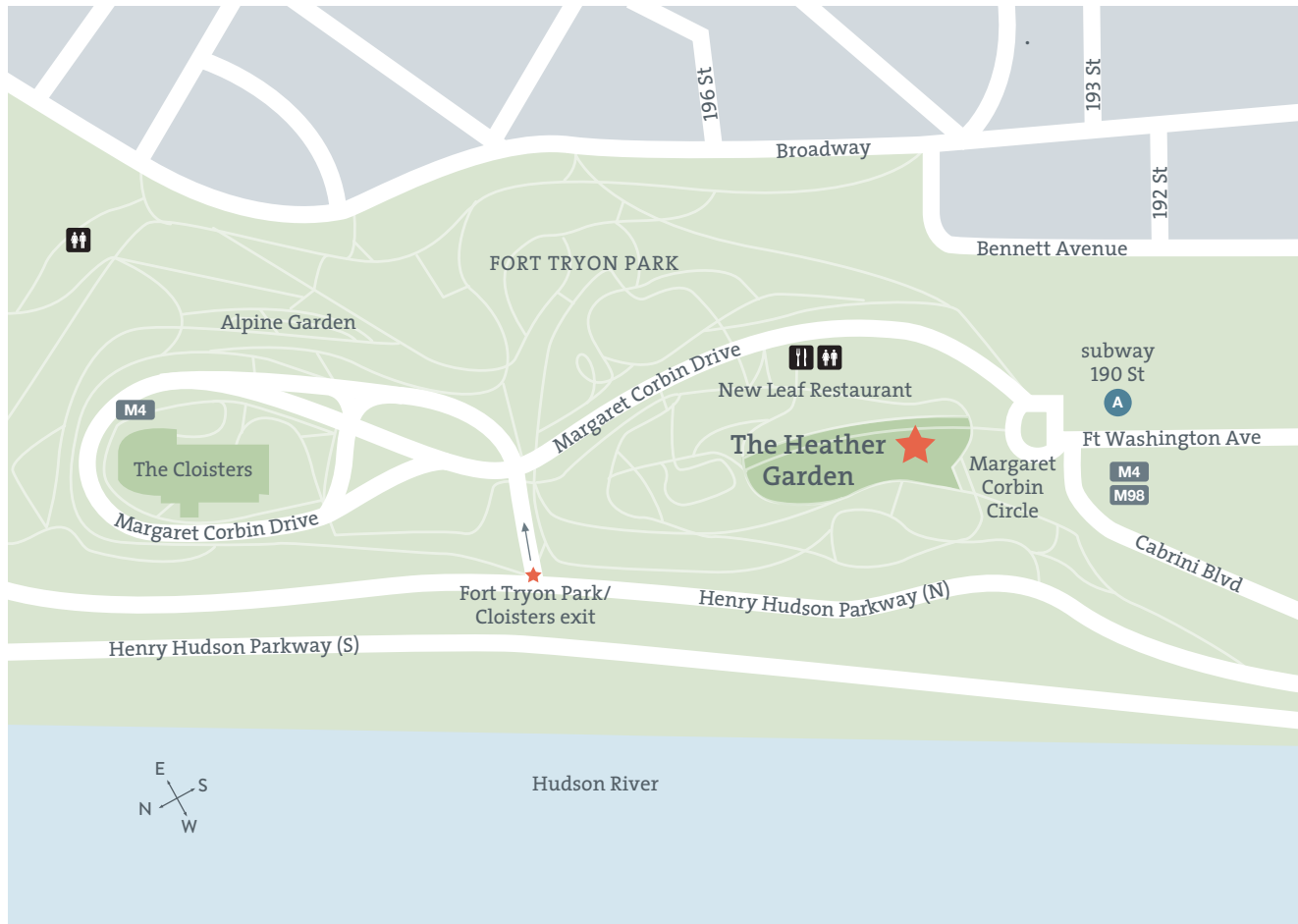


FALL

Garden drama heightens with spectacular fall foliage colors, the glossy purple berries of Beautyberry, and sweeps of dramatic white Japanese Anemone. Violet-red Autumn Crocus, bright orange Lion's Tail, and the spotted orchid-like blooms of Japanese Toad Lily offer surprises among fall stalwarts like Autumn Joy Stonecrop, Asters, and tall annual Sages.



**Number 20 is planted in different spots each year. Approximate location is not indicated on this map.



SUPPORT THE HEATHER GARDEN

Support the Heather Garden by making a gift to the Fort Tryon Park Trust. Your gift helps provide year-round horticultural maintenance and programming, including free tours of the Heather Garden on the first Sunday of every month and environmental education programs for children. Your donation ensures the ongoing care of this historic garden. Make a gift online today at FortTryonParkTrust.org.



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www.FortTryonParkTrust.org

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