Welcome!

We invite you to explore this unique garden located on three levels of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Complex. It is the only AARS Public Garden to be planted at a jail and maintained by inmate workers. Here you will find over 500 different varieties of Hybrid Tea, Floribunda, Grandiflora, Miniature, Hardy Shrub, Old Garden, Climbing and David Austin English Roses. The collection contains over 2,500 rose plants and nearly 2,500 perennials and shrubs. We hope you will enjoy your visit!

History

In 1993 a Jefferson County Sheriff's Lieutenant had a seed of an idea that blossomed into an AARS Public Rose Garden! His goal was to reduce instances of disruptive behavior, due to inactivity in the jail, by providing labor intensive work outside for low-risk inmate workers (trustees) and thus reduce jail population through earned good time work. A rose garden was the vehicle! Since its inception inmates have helped design, plant and maintain the garden. Thanks to the generosity of local and national growers, most plant material has been donated. All money spent on the garden has come from the inmates themselves from the sale of snacks, sundry commissary items and telephone usage fees. No tax-payer dollars have been used!

In 1994, the Garden was granted All-American Rose Selection Public Garden status, joining 138 other Public Gardens in 43 states.

In 1995 the Colorado Garden & Home Show donated funds for the purchase of Old Garden and English Roses, herbaceous perennials, and architectural elements which greatly enhanced the existing garden. The Garden was the recipient of the prestigious Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado’s 1996 Excellence in Landscape Merit Award.

Hours

The Garden is open to the Public Seven (7) days a week during daylight hours.

Admission: Free

For group tours call the Garden Coordinator at (303) 271-5477.

Public Pruning Demonstrations are held in the Formal Garden each Spring (usually mid-April).

Where are we Located?

Jefferson County Sheriff’s Complex,
200 Jefferson County Parkway, Golden, Colorado

Jefferson County Sheriff's Complex
AARS Public Rose Garden
Golden, Colorado

Visitor Guide