

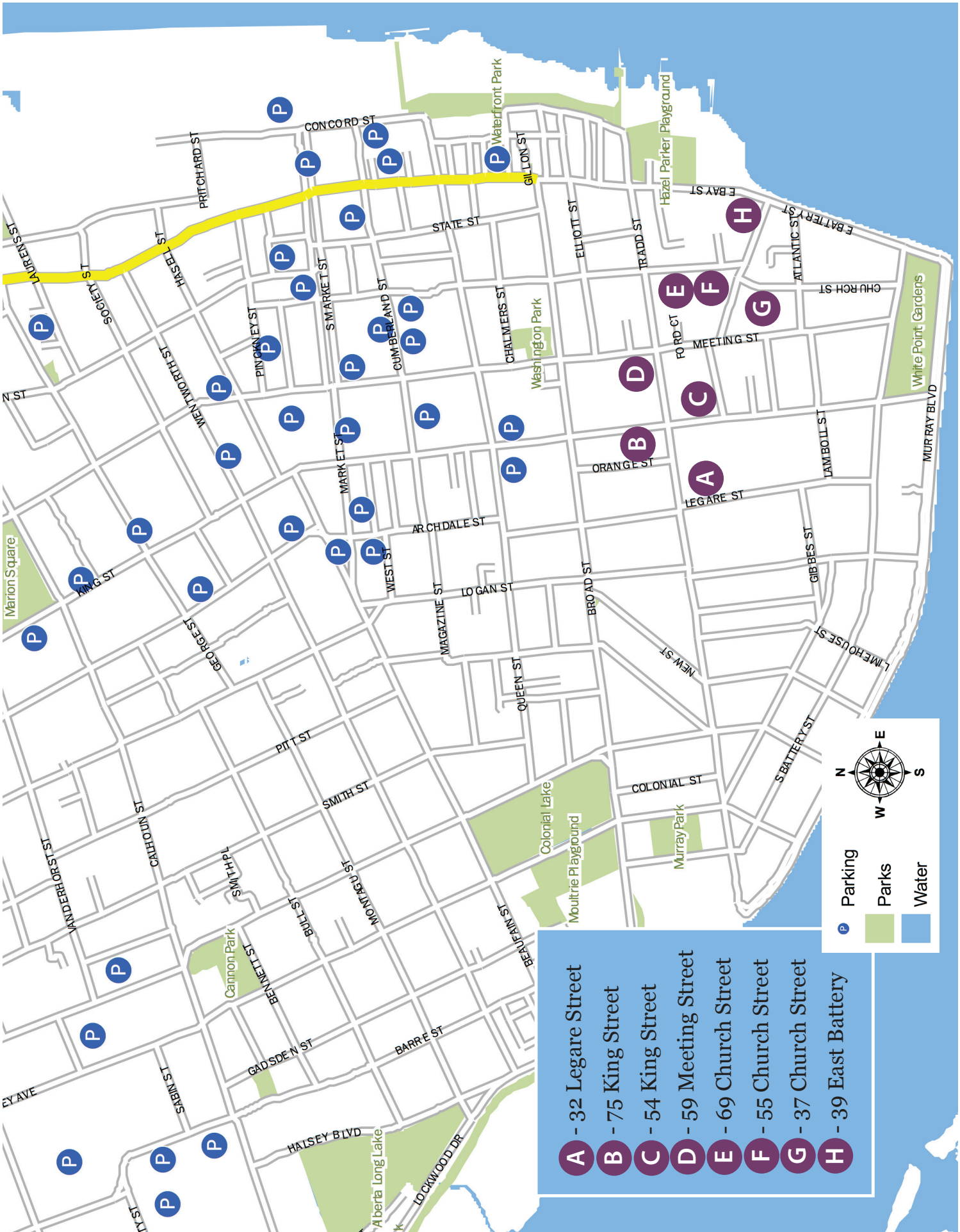
pleasure to the guest area with its rustling palms and fountain. A charming bench at the entrance to the secret garden gives a tranquil water view.

This east-west axis is completed by an urn planted in white azaleas. The garage to the left, a real treasure in Charleston, has a large bed of sasanqua and japonica camellias, and a bronze deer, a copy of an Etruscan sculpture, stands here.

The perpendicular axis of this garden is bordered on the north segment by sago palms and carries the eye through to a Japanese maple. The blank neighboring wall serves as a background for the verdant growth of a large camphor tree. An old wrought ironwork arbor, created from the balustrades of an old building in England, has a white mandevilla climbing over it as it brings the guest to the brick driveway.

NEW

The garden is located on East Battery. Limited parking is available on the street.



The Garden Conservancy's  
Open Days Program



Charleston  
Open Day  
Saturday, May 30, 2015

Visit 8 of Charleston's  
finest private gardens

Visit all 8 gardens for \$65  
Gardens are open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



The Garden Conservancy is proud to partner with  
the following organizations to bring you this Open Day:



- Parts of garden are handicapped accessible
- NEW Gardens opening for first time
- 2014 Most recent year garden was open
- Photographs permitted





# Charleston Open Day Saturday, May 30

## A Sword Gate

32 Legare Street

🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Sword Gate house takes its name from the iron gates at the front entrance. In 1838, Christopher Werner was commissioned to design a set of gates for the Charleston Guard House. For some reason, he made two sets and it was the second set that the owner purchased and had installed in 1849. Since then, the house and garden have gone through countless changes and alterations and subdivisions. When the current owners bought the property their first order of business was to reunite the house and garden to its original size, one of the largest lots in Charleston. While they restored the house, landscape architect Sheila Wertimer began designing a garden that would be worthy of Charleston’s nineteenth-century horticultural heritage. However, instead of restoring the garden to a particular time period in the garden’s history, Sheila Wertimer designed a classical European garden to best complement the existing architecture and large trees scattered around the garden. The garden relies heavily on the green of the shrubs and trees to create walls and garden rooms that are a signature in almost any Charleston garden. The magnificent magnolia in the east garden offers ample shade and is the perfect location for family meals and entertaining. In the west garden, a greenhouse and reflecting pool are the highlights. The greenhouse, a neoclassical design with pediment, was custom designed by local architect Glenn Keyes. In front of the greenhouse, is a large reflecting pool flanked on either side with agapanthus.

2013 | 🗺️ | ♿

➡️ Limited parking is available on Legare Street, Tradd Street and Broad Street. It is located 4 blocks from the gardens on East Bay and Church if one would like to walk.

## B Garden of the William Elliott House

75 King Street

🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The first record of this house’s existence was its appearance on the 1739 “Iconography” of Charles Town. Its first owner apparently was William Elliott, whose 1765 will mentions that the house was being used as a boarding school at the time of his death. The entrance into this garden is through a set of iron gates, a combination of cast and wrought iron. This space serves double duty as both a driveway and patio space that can be used for entertaining. Sheila Wertimer was the landscape architect engaged by the current owner. The garden beds have been carefully executed to create a unified planting plan with great variation. The rhythm of the *Camellia sasan-quas* ties everything together. Note the iron anthemion grills over the crawl space. The front door presents a changeable tableau. Unique containers for plantings are a wagon, watering can, an iron stand, and a pair of urns. At the end of the piazza is a formal parterre, four beds filled with similar and different plants. Each is centered with an urn of sheared boxwood and bordered by box. The repetition of plant material helps to unify the garden. Go through the modern iron gate with its Confederate jasmine. The space is divided into a sitting area by the back extension of the kitchen house, the area near the low fountain and the south herringbone-patterned brick area. By the kitchen house are two bay tree standards in urns with various herbs and annuals. The statue of Pan is on axis with the gate and fountain. The neighbor’s kitchen house has a tile roof, two earthquake bolts and tiny copper awnings over win-

dows. The garden is maintained by the owner with assistance from Garden Elegance Landscaping Services.

2014 | 🗺️ | ♿

➡️ Garden is located south of Broad Street on lower King Street. King Street is one way running north to south. There is limited parking on street.

## C James Brown House Garden

54 King Street

🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The focus is bi-fold: heritage roses and edibles. There are a number of Noisette roses (the c. 1800 original was in Josephine’s garden at Malmaison, where it was painted by Redoute) and a variety of “edibles,” including herbs, citrus, and fruit trees. There was no archaeological evidence of early gardens on the site, so the design was planned by D. Berryman of Botany Bay Landscaping in 1995 to be compatible with the pre-Revolutionary War house but also to be relatively relaxed. The bricks used were made for the original house construction in 1768. The boxwoods were planted about 1940 and are from the Mt. Vernon nurseries, descended from George Washington’s own plants. The fountain is surrounded by what is thought to be the only puzzle maze on the peninsula. The joggling board and standing screen are traditional Charleston accessories. The iron benches, walkway gate, and accessories were made by Rick Avrett, a local ironsmith.

2014 | 🗺️ | ♿

➡️ The garden is located south of Broad Street on lower King Street. There is limited parking on the street. King Street is one way running north to south.

## D The Garden of the Branford-Horry House

59 Meeting Street

🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The house is a double parlor plan with Greek piazzas. The piazzas were added in the early nineteenth century and are unique in that they cover the sidewalk. The garden was designed by Sheila Wertimer and associates in 2000 and is maintained by Garden Elegance. One enters the garden by passing through a parking area, a prime commodity in the historic district of Charleston.

The garden is divided into numerous garden rooms, most of which are very formal in design but with a casual and tropical plant palette. As you go through the garden, notice how changes in elevation, gates and paving materials gives each garden space its own unique character. The first garden one enters from the parking area is the kitchen or potager garden. It is a four-square parterre with kumquats in the center of each and a Harland’s boxwood border. In the center is a standard laurel bay set in a brick circle. At the edges are small borders for seasonal herbs. The brick garden shed was built in 2000 and may resemble an eighteenth-century kitchen house or outbuilding. It is now a shed for storing garden implements. As you continue through the modified semi-circular gate, one enters the more formal living space. An extension of the beautiful portico, guests can spill out during receptions and cocktail parties into the palm court. Notice the rich patina of the clay tiles in the portico, which echoes the brick paving of the courtyard. This part of the garden is an oasis during the hot months of summer and gives a tropical feel year round. It includes Washingtonia palms; pindo palms, one of which might be the largest pindo on the peninsula; palmettos and numerous sago palms. Other plantings include autumn fern, holly fern, Japanese maple, tea olive, Algerian ivy and fatsias. Toward the north end of the garden are two more garden rooms. This first has a central island of mondo grass surrounded by a brick path. Only recently added, the mondo grass serves as nice

lush lawn that never needs tending. It is anchored by a large pool with water lilies. The last garden has a beautiful marble statue as a focal point and blue stone pavers, making for a pleasant contrast.

NEW | 🗺️ | ♿

➡️ This garden is located south of Broad Street on Meeting Street. There is limited parking on the street.

## E Garden of the Capers-Motte House

69 Church Street

🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This is a four-story Georgian, stucco over brick dwelling with a hipped roof clad in slate shingles. The stucco on the primary elevation is scored to create the appearance of stone. A two-story kitchen dependency, the current kitchen was restored in 1999. Podocarpus yews divide the garden into four separate garden rooms. In the first garden, Becket boxwood outlines a small lawn and seating area. Japanese boxwood defines the fountain, which is surrounded by Gulf Stream nandina. Lining the entrance to the first garden are yaupon hollies, tassel ferns and aspidistra. Mature camellias are the subject of the second garden. The bronze angel on the fountain is a copy of the famous sixteenth-century Italian sculpture by Verrocchio. Azaleas, hydrangeas, ligularia and tassel ferns on the left side of the third garden are balanced on the right side by a rectangular annual and perennial bed. Two original privies and the ruin of a carriage house are reminders of the past. Columns on a pergola duplicate those on the kitchen house. In the fourth garden, large barn doors give onto Ford’s Court and Meeting Street. Brick walls enclose this area making it the perfect protected area for growing citrus. The landscape architect was Jan Frazee of Blowing Rock, North Carolina. Garden Elegance maintains this garden.

NEW | ♿

➡️ This garden is located on lower Church Street, south of Broad. It is one way, running north to south. Limited parking is available on the street.

## F Garden of the Benjamin Phillips House

55 Church Street

🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Benjamin Phillips House was restored by the current owners in 1987 and at the time, there was no garden, only a paved parking area. Shortly thereafter, Hugh and Mary Palmer Dargan designed the award-winning garden you see today. The design is based on formal patterns found in Charleston in the late eighteenth century. Access to the garden is through a handsome wooden gate that opens into a lovely garden lane. A smaller gate at the end of the lane opens onto a dining and entertainment terrace. The dependency to the right is covered in Confederate jasmine and roses, creating a sense of being in the woods. The custom-made garden furniture feature bas relief acorns designed by the owner and her interior decorator. From the terrace you look into an elegant and symmetrical walled garden. It is made up of four square pattern beds with a central circle. The beds are bordered with old Charleston oversized bricks and edged with Kingsville boxwood. Walks are composed of sand shell which was also used in early gardens. The garden houses in the rear of the property are made to look like old privies. They have antique clay tiles on the roof and provide space for storage and garden supplies. The mature camellias were carefully chosen for their color from older varieties. Nestled between the garden houses are two Hume hollies with a bench to pause and take in the beauty of the garden.

2014 | 🗺️ | ♿

➡️ This garden is located on lower Church Street, south of Broad. It is one way, running north to south. Limited parking is available on the street.

## G Garden at George Mathews House

37 Church Street

🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The owners are garden enthusiasts, and the husband designed the garden rooms surrounding the 1743 house to be compatible with the early Charleston architecture and southern climate. Greeting you is a Colonial-style fence on which climbing Iceberg roses bloom behind which is a small Kingsville boxwood parterre. At the rear of this garden is an old ligustrum which has been pruned to show its oriental derivation below which are two standard gardenias in planters. The driveway area provides the entrance to the rear gardens and is planted with Wintergreen boxwood, single stem loquat trees, and podocarpus. Edging the drive is a line of variegated Aztec grass interspersed with holly ferns.

The next garden room is an early eighteenth century style parterre of Kingsville and Wintergreen boxwood, variegated ivy and oregano globes in the center. The kitchen house is covered with climbing white Iceberg roses, an espaliered magnolia, and a potato vine and a cascading Lady Banks rose on the corners. As one steps up to the second level of the garden, one faces two small rooms—one with white tulips lining the walk to the rose-covered garden house and the other an exotic garden of palms, fatsia, African iris, white ‘Iceberg’ roses, and ginger lilies.

Through a podocarpus hedge shaped as a wall with entry posts and finials one views the last garden room with a formal shrub border of camellias, hollies, azaleas, hydrangeas, tea olives, and four white crepe myrtle standards surrounding a carpet of Diamond zoyisia grass. This Charleston-style garden is enclosed with brick and brown stucco walls and within the garden all the flowers are shades of purple, blue and pink with touches of white. Above the bench is a bower of Lady Banks and Iceberg roses. On either side are English urns filled with seasonal plantings.

2013 | 🗺️ | ♿

➡️ This garden is located on lower Church Street, south of Broad. It is one way, running north to south. Limited parking is available on the street.

## H Garden of the George Chisolm House

39 East Battery Street

🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This large garden on a double lot was designed by Sheila Wertimer, noted Charleston landscape designer. The setback positions of the piazzas and structures on this home allow for the differing placements of unique garden rooms, thus adhering to the traditions of Loutrell Briggs, the original designer many years ago. The present owner contributed many ideas to the design and chose white as the prevailing hue.

The main axis of the garden runs east to west and is created by a brick walk within an allée of ten crape myrtle trees. Continuing on this path, one sees the family gathering place, a small area edged in boxwood and planted in its demilune corners with seasonal white flowers. The circular fountain here is backed by a wall of azaleas. All of these plantings are white, and the dark-colored garden furniture shows well against this pale background.

Moving on through the allée, the visitor sees a curved stone bench set amid the greenery and echoing the almost semi-circular shape of the patio. The varying geometric shapes, circular, semi-circular and square, found in this garden add interest to the simplicity of the large rectangular main parterre. To the right, a tiny, walled secret garden offers intimacy and

