

HERSHEY GARDENS

History of Hershey Gardens

- June 1936** Plans are drawn up and construction of Hershey Rose Garden begins.
- November 1936** The first rose bushes are planted under the direction of Harry Erdman, the horticulturist for Milton S. Hershey.
- June 1937** Hershey Rose Garden opens to the public.
- May 1938** Hershey Rose Garden adds a new section of terraced roses below the original beds.
- September 15, 1938** Hershey Rose Garden is formally dedicated by the American Rose Society during the organization's annual meeting, held this year at The Hotel Hershey.
- May 1939** Additional sections of roses are added, increasing the size of the Garden to more than 6 acres.
- September 13, 1940** The American Rose Society names a new rose in honor of Mr. Hershey's commitment to horticulture and roses. The M.S. Hershey Rose is dedicated on Mr. Hershey's 83rd birthday.
- March 1942** Eleven acres are added to the Hershey Rose Garden and are developed as the Hershey Botanical Garden, which opens in May 1944.
- April 6, 1947** The Hershey Ministerium sponsors its first Easter Sunrise Service at the Garden.
- February 1979** The gardens are formally named Hershey Gardens.

- June 16, 1979** Six themed gardens are introduced, including the Colonial Garden, English Formal Garden, Fountain Garden, Italian Garden, Japanese Garden and Rock Garden.
- January 1, 1989** Hershey Gardens is placed under the ownership and operation of The M.S. Hershey Foundation.
- June 20, 1998** The Butterfly House opens.
- June 1, 2003** Hershey Gardens opens The Children's Garden, a 1½-acre area with 25 themed gardens.
- June 2012** In recognition of the Gardens' 75th anniversary, the M.S. Hershey Tribute Garden opens and showcases the newly revitalized M.S. Hershey Rose.
- April 30, 2015** Ground is broken for the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory.
- July 1, 2016** The Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory opens to the public.