The Peter and Patti McGee Memorial Garden

342 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29403

A Living Tribute to Community Service

Charleston Parks Conservancy and the City of Charleston's 2024 renovation of Wragg Square was inspired by a family's commitment to this city and made possible through a significant public-private partnership.

The renovations honor Joseph H. (Peter) and Evelyn M. (Patti) McGee, a couple whose love of Charleston, dedication to community service, and passion for gardening inspired their family and friends to celebrate their legacy in this manner. Beverly Rivers, a renowned Charleston garden designer who worked closely with Patti, proposed the project when Patti died in 2022. The completion of the renovations was celebrated in April 2024, just weeks before Peter died.

Their mother's love of horticulture and their father's loyalty to Second Church inspired Patti and Peter McGee's daughters to partner with the Conservancy. The months-long project began with pruning storm-damaged oaks that had endured multiple hurricanes and removing trees at the end of their expected life cycle. New live oaks and palmettos were installed to frame the view of the recently renovated Second Presbyterian Church.

Garden beds along Meeting Street were extended and redesigned to include Patti's favorite plants and highlight the Square's historic wrought-iron fence. The beds near the Church were also renovated and enlarged. The lawns, paths, lighting, irrigation, and hardscape were also restored. City Parks Department and Conservancy staff and dozens of volunteers planted and transplanted hundreds of plants.

These improvements build upon a 2016 renovation also spearheaded by the Conservancy in conjunction with the Garden District Neighborhood Association. By labeling the plants and installing paths so visitors can wander through the beds, this space within Wragg Square allows Patti's gardening spirit to continue to inspire others, sharing her love for nature, plants, and garden design.

While the renovation is a significant milestone, ongoing maintenance is essential to preserving the park's beauty and functionality. The family has established the Peter & Patti McGee Memorial Garden Maintenance Fund, and the Conservancy is committed to securing additional resources to support Wragg Square's care and programming.

Patti and Peter opened their home, garden, and hearts to everyone. The family hopes the revitalized Wragg Square feels just as welcoming.

CHARLESTON PARKS CONSERVANCY™

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PLANT CATALOG

Botanical Name	Common Name
Acanthus mollis	Bear's Breech
Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood'	Japanese Maple
Adiantum pedatum	Northern Maidenhair Fern
Adiantum capillus-veneris	Southern Maidenhair Fern
Agapanthus africanus	Lily of the Nile
Ajuga reptans 'Catlins Giant'	Ajuga
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Milkweed
Asclepias incarnata	Swamp Milkweed
Aspidistra elatior	Cast Iron Plant
Aspidistra elatior 'Variegata'	Variegated Cast Iron Plant
Baptisia australis	False Indigo
Buxus microphylla var. japonica	Boxwood
Callicarpa americana	Beautyberry
Camellia japonica	Japanese Camellia
Camellia sasanqua	Sasanqua Camellia
Canna 'Cleopatra'	Canna Lily
Chionanthus retusus	Chinese Fringe Tree
Cyrtomium falcatum	Holly Fern
Cuphea 'Vermillionaire'	Cuphea
Dichondra 'Silver Falls'	Dichondra
Dryopteris erythrosora	Autumn Fern
Echinacea purpurea	Purple Coneflower

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Edgeworthia chrysantha	Paperbush
Eucomis comosa	Pineapple Lily
Eutrochium purpureum	Joe Pye Weed
Farfugium japonicum 'Crispatum'	Crested Leopard Plant
Farfugium japonicum 'Giganteum'	Giant Leopard Plant
Farfugium japonicum 'Aureomaculatum'	Leopard Plant
Farfugium japonicum 'Argenteum'	White Edged Leopard Plant
Fatsia japonica	Fatsia
Foeniculum vulgare	Fennel
Gardenia jasminoides 'August Beauty'	Gardenia
Hamelia patens	Firebush
Helleborus foetidus	Stinking Hellebore
Helleborus x hybridus	Lenten Rose
Hibiscus coccineus	Swamp Hibiscus
Hibiscus moscheutos	Swamp Rosemallow
Hydrangea arborescens	Wild Hydrangea
Hydrangea macrophylla 'Ayesha'	Big Leaf Hyrdrangea
Hydrangea macrophylla 'Nikko Blue'	Nikko Blue Hydrangea
Hydrangea paniculata 'Little Lime'	Panicle Hydrangea
Hydrangea quercifolia 'Snowflake'	Oak Leaf Hydrangea
Hemerocallis sp.	Daylily
Hymenocallis sp.	Swamp or Spider Lily
Illicium parviflorum 'Florida Sunshine'	Florida Sunshine Anise

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Botanical Name	Common Name
Mahonia x media 'Marvel'	Mahonia
Mahonia eurybracteata 'Soft Caress'	Soft Caress Mahonia
Odontonema strictum	Firespike
Osmanthus x fortunei	Tea Olive
Persicaria sp.	Knotweed
Pieris japonica 'Temple Bells'	Lily of the Valley Shrub
Polystichum polyblepharum	Tassel Fern
Pteris cretica 'Albolineata'	Variegated Brake Fern
Quercus virginiana	Live Oak Tree
Rhododendron indicum	Japanese Azalea
Rhododendron aromi 'Pat Ryan'	Native Azalea
Rosa noisette	Noisette Rose
Rudbeckia triloba	Brown-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia maxima	Great Coneflower
Rudbeckia fulgida 'Goldsturm'	Goldsturm Black-eyed Susan
Rudbeckia hirta 'Indian Summer'	Indian Summer Black-eyed Susan
Sabal palmetto	Palmetto Tree
Salvia leucantha	Mexican Bush Sage
Salvia 'Mystic Spires'	Indigo Spires Salvia
Salvia madrensis	Forsythia Sage
Sedum 'Ogon'	Sedum
Stokesia laevis 'Peachies Pick'	Stokes Aster
Verbena bonariensis	Tall Vervain