

Rancho Los Alamitos Historic Ranch and Gardens

Rancho Los Alamitos
6400 Bixby Hill Road
Long Beach, California 90815
www.rancholosalamitos.org
(562) 431-3541

April 10, 2011

For Immediate Release

Contact: Pamela Seager
pamela@rancholosalamitos.org
(562) 431-3541

April is National Garden Month at Rancho Los Alamitos



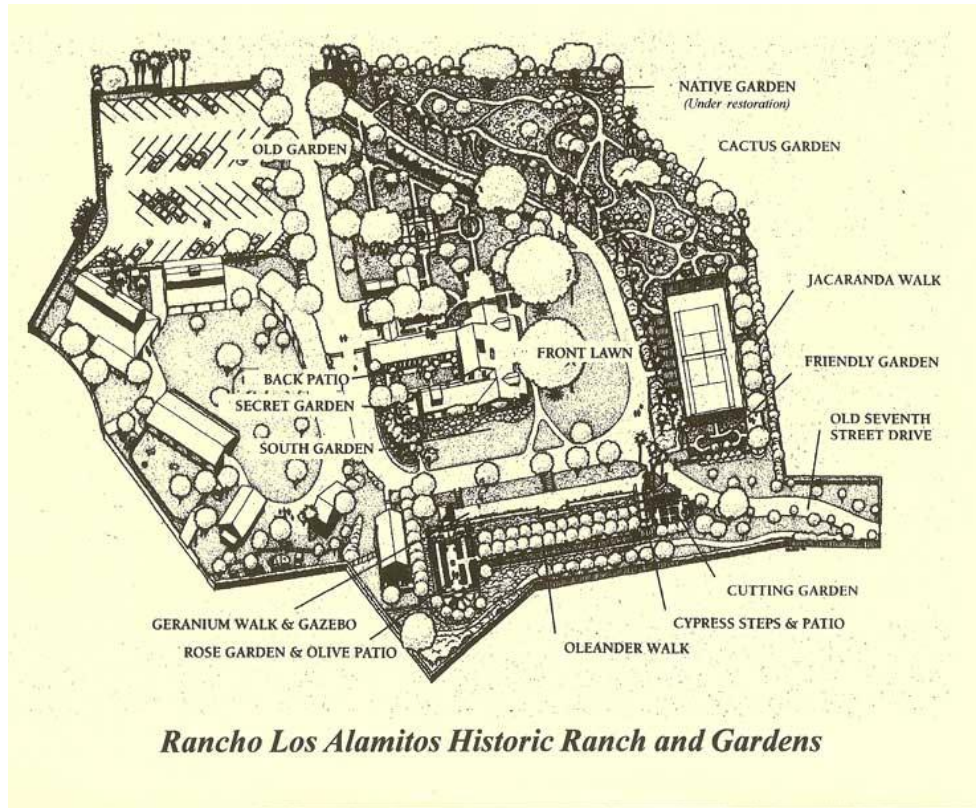
The Cutting Garden at Rancho Los Alamitos

Photo by Jim Farley

Across the nation, April is being recognized as National Garden Month by the American Gardening Association. It is the month that we celebrate Earth Day (April 22) and National Arbor Day (April 29) and the time that warmer weather draws us out of our apartments and houses and into the outdoors. The gardeners among us are motivated to be outside - planning, preparing, and planting our gardens. Whether we are growing plants and vegetables in the sunniest window in an apartment or contemplating cultivation of drought-resistant California native plants in the front flower bed, gardening is a healthy endeavor that relieves stress and is good for one's outlook.

April is also a great time to enjoy the inspiring gardens around us, including the historic gardens at Rancho Los Alamitos. The four acres of gardens at Rancho Los Alamitos are traditional California gardens of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The gardens were developed by Florence Bixby with the assistance of prominent landscape designers of the time including the Olmsted Brothers Firm, Florence Yoch, and Paul Howard. Mrs. Bixby's gardens served to soften the area around the adobe ranch house and separate it from the stark surrounding landscape and ranch activity.

Though built in an era when gardens were often used to express conspicuous wealth and extravagance, Florence Bixby's gardens reflect her reserved aesthetic and restrained style. There are eight distinct garden areas: the Secret Garden, South Lawn Garden, Rose Garden, Cutting Garden, Friendly Garden, Cactus Garden, Native Garden, and Old Garden and which are connected by beautifully planted paths and walkways that invite visitors from one garden area to the next.



Garden Map

Gardens at Rancho Los Alamitos range in character from the very formal European-inspired Cypress Patio to the homey flowers of the Cutting Garden, and from the Cactus Garden of monumental and strange succulents to the cool and subdued Native Garden. The Rose Garden boasts many historic roses (now in bloom), some of which are contained by low hedges of manicured Japanese Boxwood. Bordering the Rose Garden, the thornless "Lady Banks" rose, climbs spectacularly up twenty feet then cascades its yellow blossoms over its supporting wall and onto the Geranium Walk. Everywhere you turn in the gardens there is another breath-taking vista.

A visit to the Rancho is a retreat from the bustle of the surrounding city. The site is open for tours Wednesday through Sunday from 1-5 p.m. School tours and Children's Native American Cultural Workshops are scheduled weekday mornings. Admission is free and free parking is available on site. Enter though Bixby Hill residential security gate at Anaheim and Palo Verde.

Rancho Los Alamitos is owned by the City of Long Beach and operated by Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation as a public/private cooperative venture under the auspices of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. For information about the site, tours, or special events and programs, please go to www.rancholosalamitos.org.

- end -