

History

The Castroville area is a "Little Alsace", geographically, as well as culturally. Big Alsace, in France, is mostly a flat, fertile plain that is bordered on the east by the Rhine River and on the west by the Voges Mountains. Little Alsace, in Texas, is mostly a flat fertile plain, bordered on the east by the Medina River and on the west by a range of hills. The similarity was the basis of a generous gesture of friendship by the people of Alsace.....a Garden of Roots.

The City of Castroville set aside an area in the Regional Park that contained both level and hilly areas. During a cold and rainy two weeks in the spring of 1997, a team of students and faculty from the Lycee Agricole (Agricultural College) of Rouffach, Alsace, arrived in Castroville and began work on their gift. Under the direction of Prof. Paul Dulin, they laid out the perimeter of the Garden in the shape of a map of Alsace, and planted shrubs along its "border". Next they planted trees for each village, using funds provided by the people of the village. They constructed a "river of rocks" on the east to replicate the Rhine River, and a "patio of flagstones" on the south to represent Switzerland. This "patio" is the official "entrance" to the Jardins des Racine.

In July of 2002, a devastating Flood destroyed most of the trees and shrubs in the Garden. It was replanted and restored by an AmeriCorps team in March of 2003. A 2nd team repaired the Kiosk shown on the cover of this brochure and replaced the original news articles and photos with copies contributed by Christiane Wood.

Be sure to visit the Steinbach
House while you are in
Castroville.
It is just across the river from
Landmark Inn.

Revised 1-12-06

Jardin de Racines (Garden of Roots) in the Castroville Regional Park



**A Living Gift from the
Citizens of Alsace to the
City of Castroville**

**Dedicated in 1997
Restored in 2003**

ALSACE MAP 2003



GARDEN OF ROOTS-CITIES AND TREES

As of April 8, 2005

DANNEMARIE	Juniper
ST. LOUIS	Desert Willow
MULHOUSE	Vine
MAULHIM	Crape Myrtle
MAUNY	Crape Myrtle
WALTBACH	*Big Tooth Maple
WALDIGHOFEN	Live Oak
SOULTZMATT	Crape Myrtle
MUTTELSTADT	Live Oak
GUEBWILLER	Crape Myrtle
SOULE	Live Oak
MOLLAU	Globe Elm
URBES	Cedar Elm
HUSSEREN	Cedar Elm
MUESSACH	Cedar Elm
RELLERING	Cedar Elm
ST. AMARIN	Cedar Elm
ODEREN	*Strawberry Pear
THANN	Live Oak
STORCKENSOHN	Oak
HARTMANNSWILLER	*Strawberry Pear
ROUFFACH	Cedar Elm
KAYSERSBERG	*Mexican Bougainvillea
MEMORY OF KENNEDY	Texas Mountain Laurel
GUNDOLSHHEIM	*Strawberry Pear
ENSISHEIM	Live Oak
NEUF BRISACH	Crape Myrtle
GEISWASSER	Texas Mountain Laurel
OBERSAASHEIM	Texas Mountain Laurel
HARTMANNSWILLER	Crape Myrtle
RIQUEWIHR	Red Pine
NEUF BRISACH	Juniper
ROUFFACH	Crape Myrtle
COLMAR	Oak
DANN	Vine
CHATENOIS	*Red Mulberry
KINTZHEIM	Crape Myrtle
RIQUEWIHR	Crape Myrtle
MUTTELSTADT	Oak
RELLERING	*Red Oak
ODEREN	Crape Myrtle
WASSERBURG	*Desert Willow
MARMOUTIER	Crape Myrtle
STAL	Cedar Elm
GUTTENHEIM	Chinquapin Oak
ITTENHEIM	Red Oak
STRASBOURG	Chinquapin Oak
HAGUENAU	*Chinese Pistache
RELSCHENBERG	*Mexican Plum
WISSEMBOURG	Crape Myrtle
DOUWENHUTH	*Orange Orange
SAVERNE	Live Oak
HOOPTHEIM	Texas Mountain Laurel
LA PETITE PIERRE	*Mexican Plum
SARRE UNION	Crape Myrtle

"River of rocks" replicates the Rhine River.

A walking trail around the perimeter was constructed by an AmeriCorps team and citizen volunteers in 2004.

A sprinkler system was installed in 2005 with funds from a TPWD Small Community Grant.

Official "entrance" to the Garden is here.

* Planted by AmeriCorps "0002 in March, 2004
 ** Donated by Mr. Ludwig. Planted by AmeriCorps in March, 2004.
 *** Planted by AmeriCorps. Planted by AmeriCorps in March, 2004.