

## About the Garden

In 1928, while attending a gathering for gardeners in Greenwich, Connecticut, Horticulturist, Dr. Henry Moore conceived the idea of a garden on the international boundary line, "Where the people of two countries could share the glories found in a lovely garden and the pleasure found in warm friendships." And so it was, a garden, its purpose to commemorate and perpetuate the long-standing friendship and pleasant relationship between the people of the United States and Canada, by the establishment, maintenance, and development of a living garden of flowers, shrubs, and trees on the longest unfortified border in the world. A garden, born in the beginning of the Great World Depression, followed by World War II, the International Peace Garden lived through great economic disturbances.

The significance for the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel location of the garden is its almost exact center between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, 30 miles directly south of the Center of North American continent, Rugby North Dakota. The highway, "Main Street of the Americas," extends from a point 200 miles north of the boundary to the Panama Canal - north to Churchill and south to Cape Horn. This longest north and south highway in the world linking nine thousand four hundred miles commences in the Riding Mountains of Northern Manitoba, onward to the International Peace Garden, passing through the center of the continent, Rugby, N, through the states of South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. It enters Mexico at Laredo, where it connects with the Pan American Highway. This virtually links the International Peace Garden with the world famous monument to international good will on the border between Chile and Argentina, "The Christ of the Andes."

Since 1932, nestled in the Turtle Mountains of North Dakota and Manitoba, the International Peace Garden is one of the continent's most symbolic and scenic attractions. Thousand of tourist flocks to this unique tribute to peace and friendship between the people of the United States of America and the people of Canada.

This botanical garden, encompasses 2300 acres of nature's beauty; two pristine fresh water lakes, scenic hiking and driving trails, wildflowers, waterfalls, and a large variety of North American birds and animals. Modern and rustic camping facilities are available, as well as, facilities for hosting weddings, conventions, and reunions. Last, but not least, is the phenomenal Formal Garden. Words can not express the beauty, pride and peace many experience as they gaze over this impressive garden of over 150,000 flowers in displays tucked in the terraces and walkways of the garden. The therapeutic sounds of flowing waters can be heard throughout the garden in various capacities. At the far end of the Garden, a 120 foot Peace Tower immerses symbolizing people from the four corners of the earth coming together. The American and Canadian floral flag displays are the only two floral designs throughout the garden, which remain the same every year. The working 13 foot floral clock displays 2,000 to 2500 flowers, depending on the design. Included in the Formal Garden Board Walk is a Perennial Garden located by one of two gazeboes. In a very serene setting with time silently passing on the sundial, lays the South Gazebo and a wheel of herbs.

Peace rings in the International Peace Garden every inch of its being. Every fifteen minutes and on the hour, the lovely tones of the chimes can be heard from the Carillon Bell Tower. Peace Poles, presented by the Japanese Government, in which, "May Peace Prevail" is written in twenty-eight different languages. The Peace Chapel is the only building straddling the US and Canadian Border. The chapel features dozens of quotes from "People of Peace" etched into beautiful fossil embellished limestone walls. In the truly inspirational Garden's Chapel lies open a book of remembrance, displaying the names of the victims of 9/11. The 9/11 Memorial Site, of twisted girders rescued from the World Trade Center devastation, are at rest in the formal garden, a symbol of peace and democracy.

The flowers are labeled, and a horticulturist is on staff to answer questions. The greenhouses are on location. Often new varieties of seeds are sent to the International Peace Garden to plant before they are on the market. Walking tours are given free of charge. The flowers are at their prime between July 15th and August 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the newly planted 150,000 flowers are perennials, grasses, various shrubs, and trees.

The State of North Dakota donated 888 acres, half farm land and the rest tree covered. The Province of Manitoba provided 1,451.3 acres. The International Peace Garden is recognized as a National Park System affiliated area by virtue of the federal aid and assistance authorized in the Act of October 25, 1949, June 28, 1954, August 28, 1958, and October 26, 1974. It is an affiliate area of the National Park Service, US Department of Interior. As an affiliate area, the National Park Service acts as a conduit between the Peace Garden and the federal government and also provides information on the operation of park aspects of the International Peace Garden.

In April, 1934, the federal government placed the Civilian Conservation Campers: Camp, Company 794, of 200 men in temporary barracks at Dunseith, North Dakota to work in the Peace Garden. They worked into October of that year with the construction of many buildings, roads and bridges as well as planting in the Garden. Between 1939 and 1949 the growth of the garden was reduced to maintenance because of the Second World War.

The International Peace Garden provides education in history, science, horticulture, nature of plants and animals, geography, art, music, drama, athletics and culture. Because of the many organizations in the creation of the garden from its conception to its present the Garden represents people from all faiths and walks of life.