



Public Garden

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WALLED GARDEN AT UNTERMAYER PARK AND GARDENS RESTORED

Described as the “greatest Persian garden in the Western Hemisphere” and inspired by the biblical Garden of Eden, the Walled Garden is the first garden within Untermyer Park and Gardens to undergo restoration. Four quadrants, created by two intersecting water channels whose four legs represent Eden’s rivers, feature lush plantings and extensive mosaics. Perched high atop Greek columns, magnificent sphinx sculptures survey the scene below.

Samuel Untermyer, a prominent lawyer, purchased the Yonkers, New York, property on the banks of the Hudson River in 1899. In 1916, he hired renowned École-des-Beaux-Arts-trained architect William Welles Bosworth to design formal gardens resembling some of the ancient world’s most beautiful gardens. In its heyday, Untermyer Gardens, which drew some 30,000 visitors on a single day in 1939, was called “America’s Most Spectacular Garden.”



After Untermyer's death in 1940, family conveyed sixteen acres to the City of Yonkers for a public park. Due to inadequate funding, the estate slowly declined, although in the mid-1990s the city acquired an additional twenty-seven acres. New restoration efforts began in earnest in 2011 when the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy was formed.

Today, restoration continues through the partnership of the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy and the City and with horticultural guidance provided by Marco Polo Stufano. For more information, visit www.untermyergardens.org.

Submitted by Stephen Byrns, Chairman of the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy