

Maudslay in Bloom

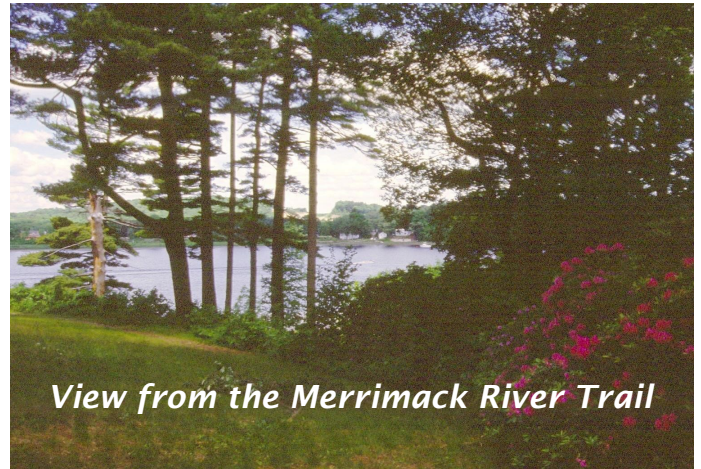
Maudslay State Park



SELF-GUIDED INTERPRETIVE BROCHURE

Welcome!

The 480-acre state park in Newburyport, formerly the Moseley Estate, features nineteenth-century gardens and plantings, rolling meadows, towering pine forests, and one of the largest naturally-occurring stands of mountain laurel in eastern Massachusetts. Acquired in 1985, the park is a unique addition to the Massachusetts state park system.



View from the Merrimack River Trail

The Maudslay Landscape

Maudslay's laurels have covered the banks of the Merrimack River for centuries. From 1849 to 1870, Mr. and Mrs. William Ashby of Newburyport hosted annual literary parties at the Laurel Grounds called the "Feast of Flowers." Guests included such famous figures as John Greenleaf Whittier, who composed several poems about the site.

***Sing soft, sing low, our lowland river,
Under thy banks of Laurel-bloom
Softly and sweet as the hour becometh,
Sing us the songs of peace and home.***

More than a century later, the spectacular mountain laurels still grace the riverbank at Maudslay, attracting countless visitors during the June bloom.



Mountain Laurel

In 1805, the Moseleys, one of the wealthiest families in New England, settled in Newburyport. Seeking to protect this beautiful place, Edward Moseley began acquiring portions of the Laurel Grounds in the 1860's, then bequeathed it to his son Frederick. The family continued to acquire surrounding lands and by 1900 had assembled a substantial estate, which they named Maudesleigh (later known as Maudslay), after the family's ancestral home in England.

On the east side of Laurel Hill stood "Moulton's Castle," a twenty-two room wooden gothic home built by Captain Henry Moulton. The "castle" was purchased by Charles Moseley and razed in 1900, then later inherited by Charles' brother Frederick. As

sole owners of the estate Mr. & Mrs. Moseley bought the last parcel of land on the west side of Castle (or Laurel) Hill in the 1920's from Katherine Tingley, who had staged outdoor Shakespearean performances on the site.



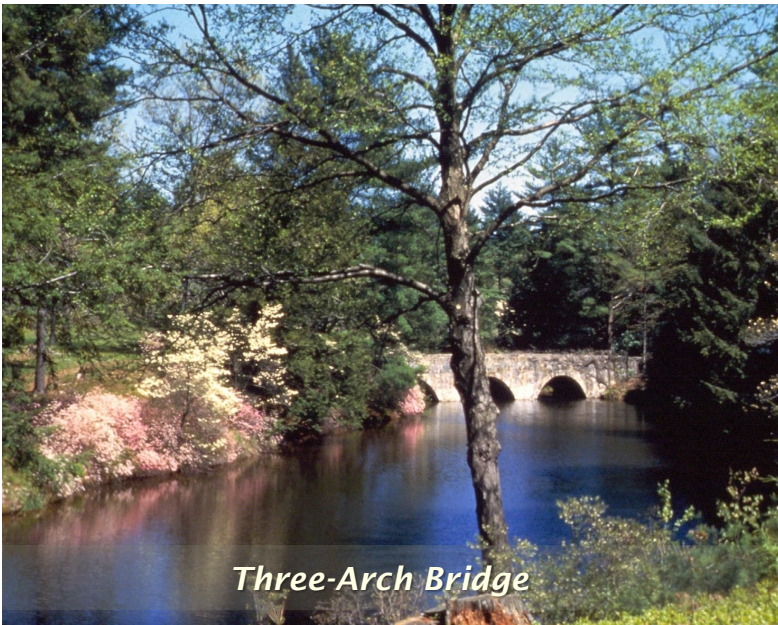
Frederick Moseley

In 1895, Frederick Moseley began converting a small farmhouse overlooking the river into a magnificent spring and fall residence with more than forty rooms. Between 1939 and 1941, the Moseley's second daughter Helen built a large colonial style house on another river site, which she named Maudslay Hedges. Neither structure remains today. The main house was demolished in 1955 after the deaths of Frederick and his wife Helen. Fire destroyed Helen's house in 1979.

The Moseley family shaped and preserved the natural landscape of Maudslay. They planted ornamental trees and masses of azaleas and rhododendrons and created formal gardens, a pond bordered by flowering shrubs, carriage roads and trails, and several stone bridges, for the enjoyment of park visitors.



Dogwoods and Azaleas off Hedge Drive



Three-Arch Bridge

The Park Today

Although no mansions remain, these grounds retain much of the beauty that graced the estate in the Moseley's day. Trees and shrubs flower through spring and summer and in the fall the landscape is ablaze with colorful foliage. The open meadows and fields offer long scenic views, while the towering pines and the mountain laurel provide areas of quiet seclusion.

Today, the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is working to ensure the preservation of Maudslay's historic and scenic landscape. Plans are underway to improve existing features and restore many

of the gardens and specimen plantings that give Maudslay its unique character.

The park offers a wide range of passive recreation: hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding. Special use permits are available for weddings, family reunions, and school groups. Picnickers are welcome.

Programs and Events

Interpretive programs, such as guided walks and talks are available in season. As part of DCR's artists-in-residence program at Maudslay, the Theater-in-the-Open offers performances, workshops, and special events to the public. In addition, the barn in the Farm Complex area is used for seasonal concerts and rentals.





Pine Plantation

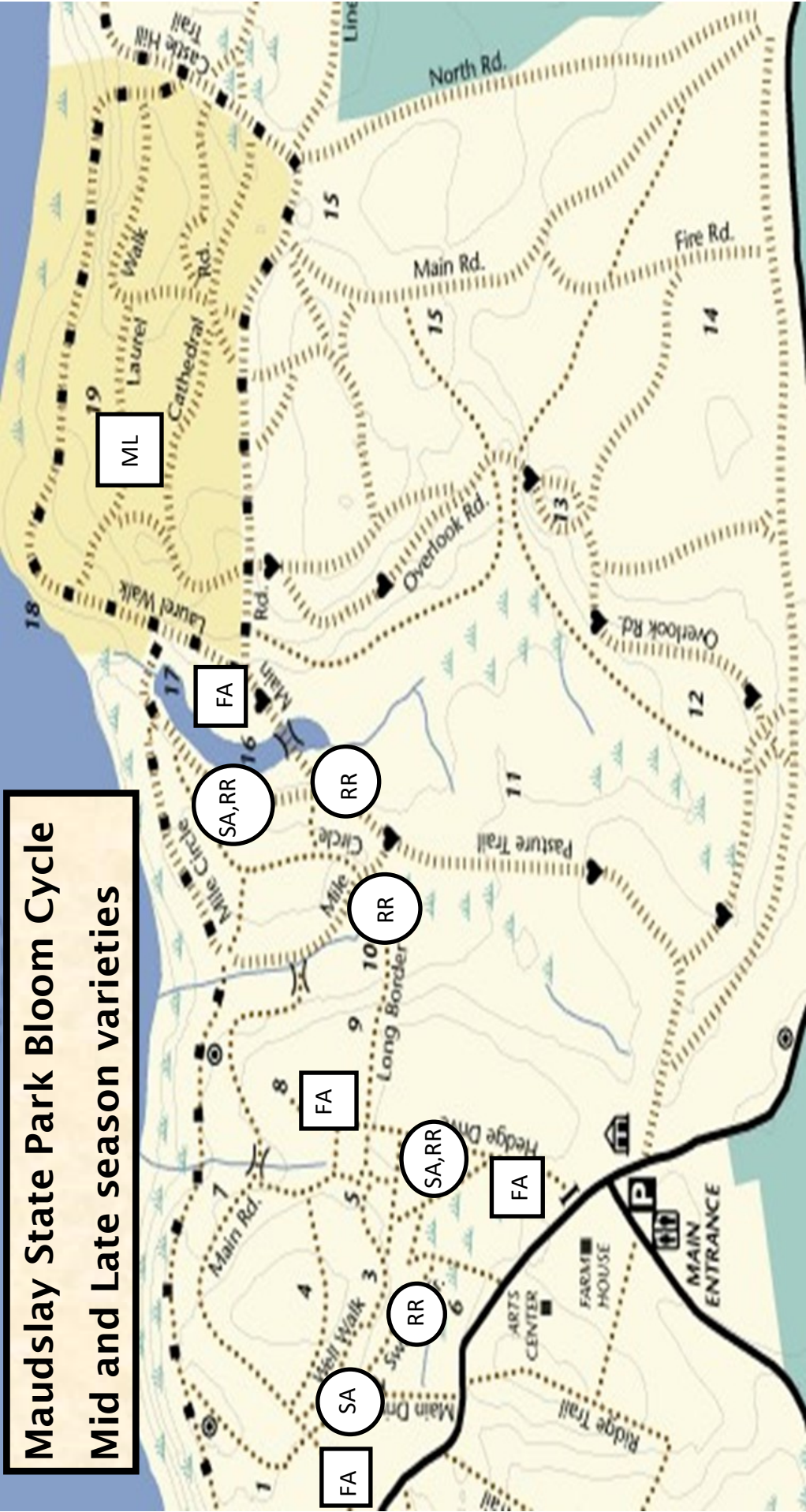
Maudslay State Park Bloom Cycle
Early and Mid season varieties

The map displays the following labeled locations and features:

- Trails:** Ridge Trail, Pasture Trail, Long Border Trail, Laurel Walk, Cathedral Rd., Main Rd., Overlook Rd., Fire Rd., Hedge Drive, Main Drive, Swamp Trail, Well Walk, Circle Mile, and Castle Hill Trail.
- Roads:** North Rd., Main Rd., Fire Rd., Overlook Rd., Hedge Drive, Main Drive, and Cathedral Rd.
- Landmarks:** ARTS CENTER, FARM HOUSE, MAIN ENTRANCE, and Castle Hill.
- Plant Variety Labels:** RA,PS, DW, KA, CDR, CR, DW, PSA, DW,PSA, ML, and CDR.
- Trail Numbers:** 1 through 19.

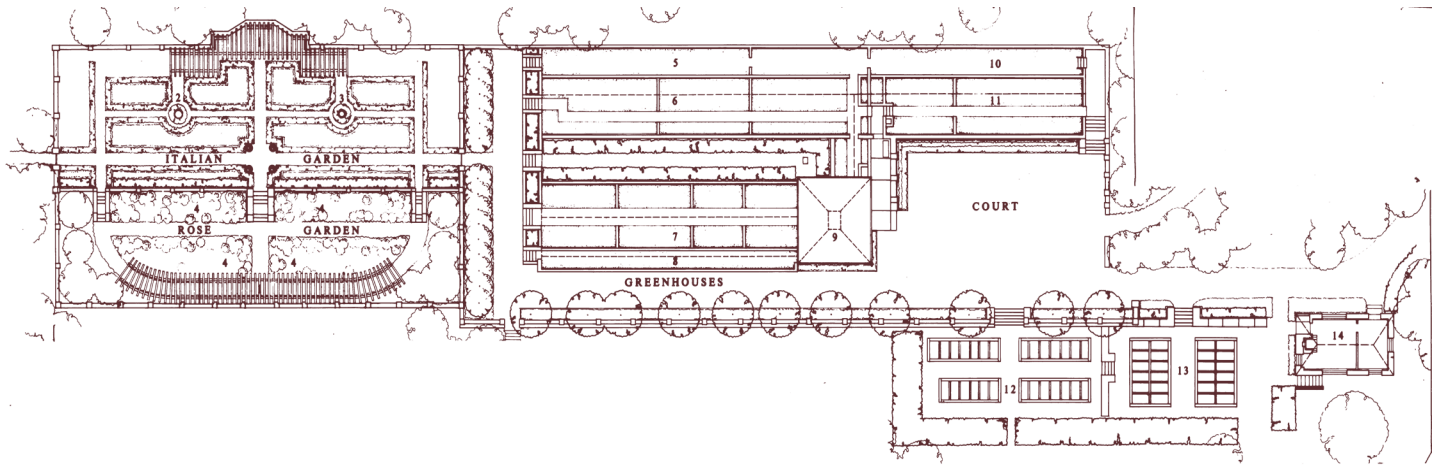
| <div>  Early Season Azalea/Rhododendrons </div> | | <div>  Mid Season Azalea/Rhododendrons </div> | |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| Variety | Bloom (approx.) | Variety | Bloom (approx.) |
| Dogwood (DW) | May-1st week | Kaempferi Azalea (KA) | May-3rd week |
| Royal Azalea (RA) | May-2nd week | Catawba & Dexter Rhododendron (CDR) | May-3rd week |
| Pink Shell Azalea (PSA) | May-3rd week | Flame Azalea (FA) | May-4th week |
| Carolina Rhododendron (CR) | May-3rd week | Mountain Laurel (ML) | June-3rd week |

Maudslay State Park Bloom Cycle Mid and Late season varieties



| <div> <div></div> <div>= Mid Azalea/Rhododendrons</div> </div> <div> <div></div> <div>= Late Azalea/Rhododendrons</div> </div> | | | |
|--|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Variety | Bloom (approx.) | Variety | Bloom (approx.) |
| Flame Azalea (FA) | May-4th week | Swamp Azalea (SA) | June-2nd week |
| | | Mountain Laurel (ML) | June-3rd week |
| | | Rosebay Rhododendron (RR) | June-4th week |

The Formal Gardens



The formal gardens at Maudslay State Park bloom from May through August with a vast array of species and can be enjoyed before or after a wooded trail walk.

Hours: Sunrise to sunset daily. Open year-round.

Please No:

- Motorized vehicles except by special use permit
- Hunting and trapping
- Fishing
- Fires
- Metal detectors
- Alcoholic beverages
- Removal of any park resource

Please:

- Keep your dogs on a leash
- Do not pick flowers or other vegetation
- Ride bicycles and horses on designated trails only

For more information:

Maudslay State Park
74 Curzon Mill Road
Newburyport, MA 01950
(978) 465-7223



The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees over 450,000 acres of state parks, forests, beaches, bike trails, parkways, watershed lands, and dams across the Commonwealth. DCR's mission is to: Protect, promote and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all.