The public is welcome in the garden. Please sign the guest book in the lobby of the Clara McLean Hospitality House before entering. You may then begin your self-guided tour by walking through the rose-covered moon gate.

The Healing Garden at Clara McLean Hospitality House

Where flowers bloom, so does hope...

Lady Bird Johnson

Love of nature and a desire to share its benefits with others, as well as the personal experience of caring for a loved one in a hospital setting, led us to design the Healing Garden on the grounds of the Clara McLean Hospitality House. As you tour the garden, meandering paths will lead you to a series of garden rooms, each with its own character, history, and purpose. Please know that the Healing Garden is a place of respite, a sanctuary for quiet contemplation, prayer, conversation, or just admiring nature’s beauty in its purest form.

1. **The Cottage Garden.** Bordered by billowing mop head hydrangeas and espaliered apple trees, the Cottage Garden boasts all manner of old fashioned perennials. A Lutyen’s bench faces a copper-roofed birdhouse and affords a sunny place for visitors to rest.
2. **The Kitchen Garden.** By providing fresh herbs and vegetables for the guests of Clara’s House, this small potager imparts a feeling of home. A sun-warmed tomato, a handful of thyme, or a crisp pepper might make the distance from one’s own garden seem less.

3. **The Children’s Garden.** Separated from the Cottage Garden by an upright holly hedge, the Children’s Garden is replete with fanciful features for our young and young-at-heart visitors. One can climb the boulder stairs to a fairy village, play a game of giant checkers, say hello to our boxwood topiary bear, have a tea party on Toadstool Terrace, or sample some edibles growing in the “food court”.

4. **The Morning Garden.** Just across the patio from the Children’s Garden, the Morning Garden receives gentle eastern exposure and is planted in subtle colors. A curly-leafed ligustrum flanks one side of the door and provides a backdrop for a mixture of old-fashioned perennials.

5. **The Liberty Live Oak.** On September 26, 2011 the Healing Garden’s first plant was installed. That morning, the "Big Tree Movers" arrived with their enormous tree spade to dig the hole. The crew then traveled to Liberty, North Carolina, unearthed the tree with their tree spade, strapped its branches for its journey down Route 1, and returned to the Healing Garden, where they gently
placed it in its new home. The truck got stuck in the mud and had to be towed a total of three times throughout the daylong process. Following its arrival, the tree was lovingly festooned with Spanish moss which was handpicked on Pawleys Island, South Carolina.

Behind the live oak are layers of plantings—Blueberry Muffin viburnum give way to white Bridal Wreath spirea. Grey Owl junipers provide a winter backdrop while Carolina dogwoods and sugar maples lend mid- and upper-story color.

6. **The Dovecote and Serpentine Wall.** Styled after a 15th-century dovecote country house hotel located outside Oxford, England, the dovecote serves as the visual and functional centerpiece of the Healing Garden. Once traditional farm buildings, European dovecotes housed doves, which were valued for their eggs and meat, as well as for their dung, which was used as fertilizer. In the Healing Garden, the dovecote serves as a potting shed for the many volunteers who maintain the garden. See if you can locate the “Dovecote Wizard” watching you from near the doorway!

7. **The Serpentine Wall.** Like the dovecote, the serpentine wall is built of rough-cut Tennessee fieldstone, giving it a color and quality very similar to the honey-colored Cotswold stone of England. The plantings along the wall include many tree-form varieties which lend a touch of formality to this space,
and a colorful border of heirloom perennials might evoke memories of daisy chains and tussy-mussies. Near the wall, the life-sized chess set holds court, awaiting visitors who are brawny enough to play a match!

8. **The Wildlife Garden.** As you turn toward the house, you’ll notice wildlife feeders among the plants. This border is planted with tasty treats for the birds, butterflies, and toads and is situated near the dining area of Clara’s House so that guests can watch the critters as they enjoy their meals. A vitex provides shade, cover, and edible seedheads for the birds, a Harry Lauder’s walking stick or contorted filbert lends summer cover and winter interest, and a snow cream paper plant is covered with fragrant blooms in late winter.

9. **The Library Garden.** A bronze cherub, given to the garden by Clara McLean’s longtime friend and caregiver, Yvonne Snead, graces the circular bed of this space. The flowers here change seasonally and the curved bench is a great spot from which to enjoy the vista.

Follow the concrete path past the Zeon Zoysia lawn and Snowbell tree and then cross the Garden Terrace.

10. **The Rose Garden.** Designed, donated, installed, and cared for by William Shore, the “rose guru” of North Carolina, this garden contains trouble-free rose varieties which do not require spraying, an important consideration since the Healing Garden is visited by many people with medical conditions. On
the far right side of the rose bed, notice the pale pink blooms and delightful scent of “Quietness”, a Griffiths Buck rose that was propagated by Mr. Shore for our garden.

11. **The Cutting Garden.** Continue through the “doorway” in the camellia hedge and into the Cutting Garden. This space supplies fresh flowers and greenery for the interior of the house. Here, the planting beds are in a constant state of change, with new seedlings replacing tired plants. Hence, the Sasanqua camellia “Cleopatra” and Green Giant arborvitae hedges shield this working garden from view.

12. **The Rose Walk.** Rose hoops like those found in Monet’s Garden in Giverny are covered by New Dawn climbing roses and grace a walkway that leads to two destinations.

13. **The Woodland Garden.** A secluded water feature, landscaped in cool blues, greens, whites, and purples, offers a shady place to “sit a spell”. The feature includes two streams, replete with waterfalls, which converge on a pondless area. White-blooming Chinoides rhododendron line the periphery of the space.

14. **LaBreeza’s Bower.** A shady room graced by plants of various hues and textures is home to “La Breeza”, a sculpture of an exuberant young girl from
Miss McLean’s own collection. La Breeza graced the east wing of the Pinehurst Hotel for 20 years before moving to “Shadowlawn”, the Old Towne estate that Clara purchased at age 98. With akebia and evergreen clematis growing atop her pergola, La Breeza is lit from above, illuminating her joyous and welcoming countenance which embodies the spirit of the Healing Garden.

15. **The Secret Garden.** As you climb the stairs from La Breeza’s Bower, you’ll enter The Secret Garden, a space defined on all sides by greenery and hardscape. On the left, notice “The Apple Picker”, a statue donated by Miss McLean’s estate. A mature apple tree was relocated from a nearby farm so that the boys could reach for a real apple. The knot garden, a staple of any English garden, boasts a Stokes holly filigree pattern and central tree-form Amethyst Falls wisteria. The serpentine wall is bounded by a traditional herbaceous border replete with old-time favorites. At the end of the Secret Garden, a future door amidst the scented osmanthus hedge will add to the feeling of privacy within the space. Say hello to Rebecca, the “dovecat” who guards the Secret Garden from atop the wall!

As you leave the garden, we wish to thank you for visiting and remind you that, like any natural space, the Healing Garden will change with the seasons, so please return often!

The Healing Garden is financially separate from the Clara McLean Hospitality House and is completely reliant on donations from the community. Please consider making a
monetary gift to the Healing Garden which will enable us to maintain this amazing space for future generations.

Gratefully,

Lynda Acker and Cassie Willis

Co-founders, The Healing Garden at Clara McLean Hospitality House