



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 Texas Hill Country. The similarity was the basis for the generous gesture of friendship by the people of Alsace, A garden of Roots.

The City of Castroville set aside an area in our Castroville 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 Professor Paul Dulin, they laid out the perimeter of the Garden in the shape 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.

In July 2002, a devastating flood destroyed most of the trees and shrubs in the Garden. It was replanted by an AmeriCorps team in March of 2003. The kiosk was replaced by Tim Barrow in 2014.

*Dedicated in 1997
Restored in 2003
Updated in 2024*



City of Castroville
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JARDIN de RACINES



★ denotes sister city



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