

Embra Wooded Places of Interest 3:

Spiral Glade Park

An extensive Park on the northwestern side of the River Clack, containing a great number of larger and smaller spirals of trees and lower vegetation, with meandering, curving paths set among them, many floral glades and carpets of flowers among the grass. The trees lose their patterning into the denser, general woodland beyond the map's extents, for all some seem as if they should continue there too. It is very easy to become agreeably lost for days here, wandering among the floral delights and sweet scents. The spiral lines of vegetation, while not impassable, are difficult to squeeze through for any but smaller creatures across the mapped Park. Traversing any of the named spirals completely by a wanderer taking their time often results in some fresh insight into a pressing difficulty, mystery or puzzle (GM's option). The larger the spiral, the greater the insight can be.

Notes on the labelled map features follow. First though, some more general points.

The misty edge to the mapped area is because, like all the Embra Places maps, Spiral Glade Park does not link directly to any other specific location in the city. Instead when leaving the mapped zone (or sometimes only when passing some form of threshold within it - GM's choice), the party can return either to the Wooded Places map, or the Embra Official Guide map, from where the GM can select a new location for the players to visit.

While scales are provided alongside the map, accurate to the features as drawn, and directions in these notes refer to the standard pattern of north being towards the map's top as viewed, east to its right-hand edge, and so on, none of these elements need be considered strongly fixed. Such things in the Faerie Realm can be quite fluid, to fit whatever the GM may prefer.

It is intended the featured text also beside the map should be used to enhance the experience of players in Spiral Glade, various elements of which are depicted on the map. The text reads: "A sleeping Fey woman in white samite lies atop a hill. Her golden hair flows in spirals over the hilltop and down its sides. She is surrounded by lotus blooms, like a lake of flowers. Her pillow is a pair of silver swords set with emeralds. On her breast lies a golden dagger set with rubies. A triangular silver fillet round her brows has a great central sapphire. White doves in the trees guard her. Those approaching closely fall asleep too. All who see her have portentous dreams the next night."

For greater clarity, note that the FCW file has a toggle to allow the on-map labels to be turned-off, if desired.

Aspects of Spiral Glade Park

* **Ash Spiral:** A tight, medium-sized tree spiral set with purple flowers, in the southwestern map corner.

* **Beech Spiral:** A small tree spiral with purple flowers growing throughout too, by the northeastern map edge.

* **Birch Spiral:** A large, increasingly tightly-wound tree spiral on the mid-western edge of the map, at the southwestern end of Floral Walk. It has purple flowers in its centre. Its northern edge links into Rowan Spiral.

* **Buttercup Fountain:** The large freshwater fountain just southeast of the southern part of Birch Spiral, and south of the southern end of the oval borders of Floral Walk. It is surrounded by a carpet of low-growing, blooming buttercups, like a pond of gold. The water is very (magically) refreshing.

* **Elm Spiral:** Bright blue flowers are scattered liberally within this rather loose tree spiral by the north-centre of the map, just east of Floral Walk. It is hard for walkers to tell when this spiral has been fully explored.

* **Emerald Wood:** The extensive, dense woodlands on the far side of the Clack from the Park, similar in character to the off-map woodlands that surround the Park on all other sides too.

* **Floral Walk:** The earthen pathways surrounding a large, elongated oval or rounded rectangle filled with great banks of many blossoming plants. The scent here on warm days can be almost overpowering. Paths run off from each end of the large floral area to the northern and western map edges, and these are the more likely routes by which visitors approach the Park.

* **Great Oak Spiral:** By far the largest spiral of trees in the Park, on its northwestern top edge. It has red flowers in its centre, and white ones along the way in. Its southeastern edge encompasses Poppy Fountain, and the northern tip of Floral Walk. Its southern edge curves off into Rowan Spiral. Although its outer spiral line runs off the north map edge, it is very difficult and incomplete there, so getting into its centre - following the spiral north from Poppy Fountain, for example - is not a simple matter. Consequently, the rewards for successfully traversing it should be the greater, because of this.

* **Holly Spiral:** A neat tree spiral full of red flowers just north of Sleeping Lotus Hill and northwest of Beech Spiral. Painful for most humanoids to enter, due to the spiny hollies almost blocking the entry path from the south.

* **Old Yew Spiral:** A meandering pair of loose, semi-spirals, filled with blue and red flowers. There is just a single yew tree here. It is very ancient, and forms the entirety of both these spirals, although much of it seems as if it really is composed of many separate trees. Both parts of the spiral must be completed to try to gain any insight here, in a process when time-dilation means the journey takes twice as long as normal anyway. The rewards are always magically greater however, especially when considering matters from long ago - the more ancient, the better.

* **Poppy Fountain:** A similarly large freshwater fountain to Buttercup Fountain, off the north end of Floral Walk, surrounded by many red poppies. A grassy pathway leads north from here into the outermost part of Great Oak Spiral. The water acts as a magical soporific, which restores fatigue quickly and promotes faster healing than ordinary rest,

albeit the drinker falls asleep on the spot while this happens, and cannot be woken until complete (in D&D terms, halve the time for such normal recuperation during the period asleep).

* **River Clack:** The Clack often appears variable in size and nature from the different Places maps on which it features, but it is always the same river that names the vale in which Embra lies. Here it is apparently of moderate width, and can usually be considered as flowing from the central-eastern map edge to a little west of its mid-southern one, right to left when viewing the map.

* **Rowan Spiral:** A smaller, oval, tree spiral between the southern end of Great Oak Spiral and the northern part of Birch Spiral, just west of the west-central part of Floral Walk in the map's northwestern quarter. It is set with many blue flowers.

* **Sleeping Lotus Hill:** This is where the sleeping Fey woman of the featured text lies. Sketches show her position, head to the west, some representative strands of her golden hair curls, which with many more run down to the foot of the hill, and the sea of lotus blossoms surrounding her. There are hummocks almost completely hidden by the lotuses, that are the decayed bodies of sleepers who tried to approach too closely, and never woke again. Those who pass within the illustrated area of the white lotus flowers on the map can be considered to have fallen under this power, an approximate distance of between 30 to 35 feet (9 to 10.5 metres) of the sleeper herself.