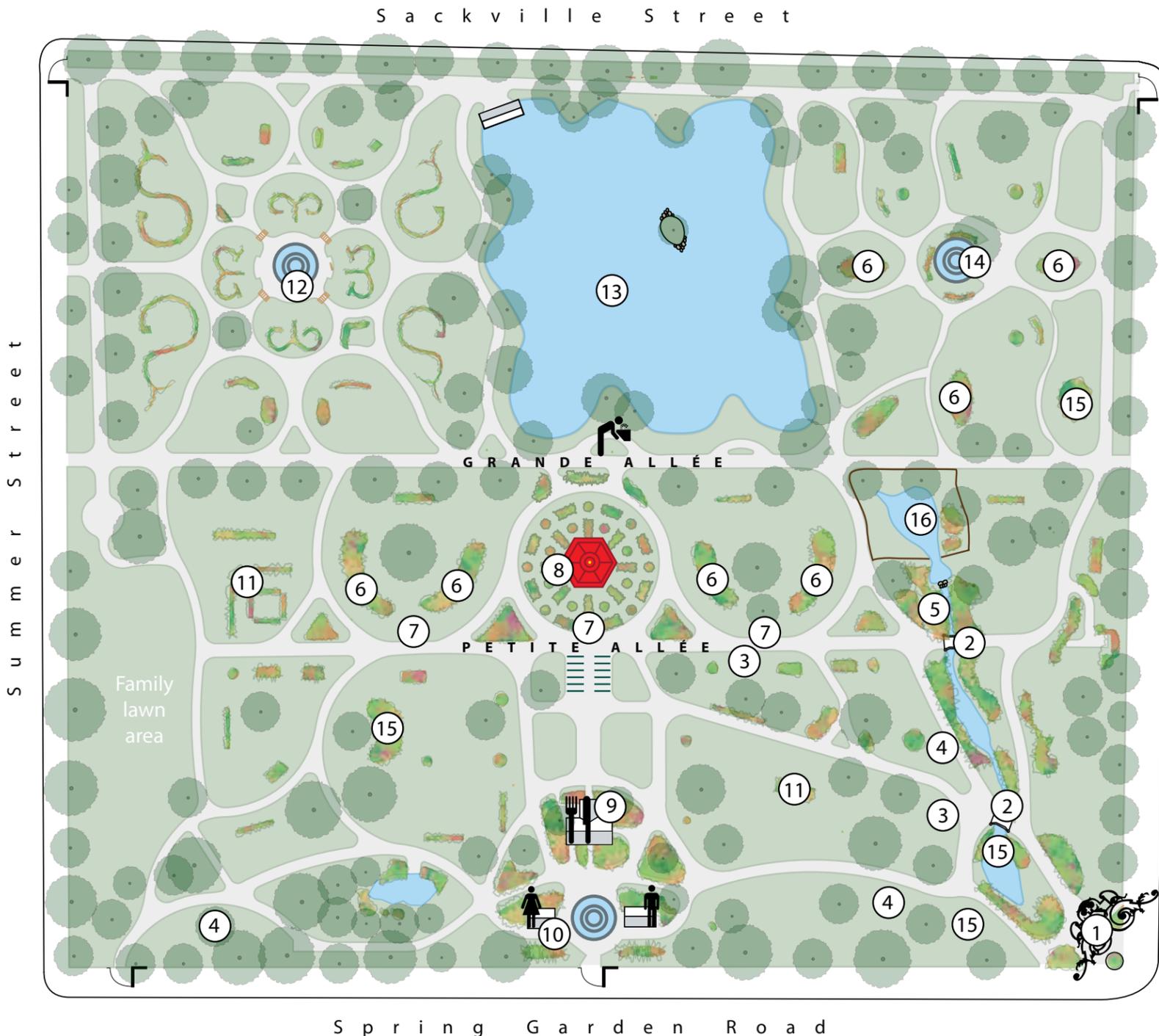


PUBLIC GARDENS

Garden Features



1. The Main Entrance Gates

The ornate cast-iron gates were built in Scotland in 1890 and originally stood on South Park Street. In 1907 they were moved to their present location when the Gardens cast iron perimeter fence was erected. The main entrance gates were restored in 2003.

2. Bridges

In 1911 two small concrete bridges were built to span the watercourse in the Southeast corner of the Gardens. The upper bridge commemorates Francis J. Fitzgerald, a member of the North West Mounted who lost his life in the Yukon. The bridges are very popular spots for photographs.

3. Carpet Beds

These beds are planted with a variety of compact, slow growing plant material and are carefully trimmed to create logos, patterns and letters. These two beds are sponsored each year to commemorate a special event or community organization.

4. American Chestnut Tree

A native of the Eastern United States, this commercially important species was almost destroyed by blight in the early 1900's.

5. Tropical Bed

Victorian explorers started the garden trend of collecting and cultivating exotic tropical plants from around the world. The collection includes cactus, palms, agaves, dracaenas, aloes and bird of paradise. The tropical and exotic plants in this bed are stored in the greenhouse during the winter for replanting each summer.

6. Herbaceous Beds

These beds are made up of perennial plants that survive through the winter, coming back to life each spring. Examples include phlox, foxglove, poppy, globe thistles and delphiniums.

7. Statues and Vases

In 1887 Chief Justice Sir William Young bequeathed the three Roman Goddess statues along the Petite Allée and the six vases surrounding the Band Stand. The statues are Ceres Goddess of Agriculture, Diana Goddess of The Hunt, and Flora Goddess of Flowers.

8. The Bandstand & Bandstand Beds

Architect Henry Busch designed the Bandstand in 1887 in honour of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Its compact geometric shape, ornate gingerbread decoration and use of bright primary colours are quintessential qualities of High Victorian design. There are thirty two floating beds around the bandstand, providing spring bulb colour and a bright contrasting show of annuals.

9. Horticultural Hall

Built in 1847, Horticultural Hall is a simple classical design. It was erected by the Halifax Horticultural Society to serve as the meeting room and the building's cellar was used to store winter vegetables. Horticultural Hall has been restored since Hurricane Juan. Light Refreshments and Ice Cream are available here.

10. Horticultural Hall Plaza

This new entrance from Spring Garden Road was built with money raised by the Public Gardens Foundation. It features beautiful gates, a landscaped plaza, a new fountain and washrooms.

11. Dahlia Beds

These beds include a collection of show dahlias from pompom to large cactus types.

12. Diamond Jubilee Fountain & Serpentine and Scroll Beds

The Jubilee Fountain was installed in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. This bronze fountain, in High Victorian style, includes classical water babies, sea serpents and the nymph Egeria. Surrounding the Jubilee Fountain are the intricate and balanced scroll and serpentine beds.

13. Griffin's Pond and Titanic Model

The largest of the Gardens ponds, it was redefined in 1878-79 from a square to its present more natural shape. The Titanic model was built and donated by the Maritime Ship Modellers Guild. Griffin's Pond has floated various models from small sailboats to a replica of the Queen Mary I.

14. Boer War Memorial Fountain

Erected in 1903, the statue is of a Canadian Mounted Rifleman built to commemorate the service of Canadian soldiers in the South African campaign. The wide, relatively short weeping trees surrounding the fountain are Weeping Camperdown Elm. This unique tree is produced by grafting weeping branches onto a standard trunk. The dramatically majestic Weeping Beech by the Boer War Memorial Fountain is a favourite shade spot in the Public Gardens.

15. Rhododendron Beds

The Gardens are fortunate to have a collection of rhododendrons. The largest of these are mature Iron Clad Rhododendrons.

16. Swan Enclosure

The Public Gardens has a history of keeping swans since 1926 when King George the 5th donated a pair of swans to the Public Gardens.

