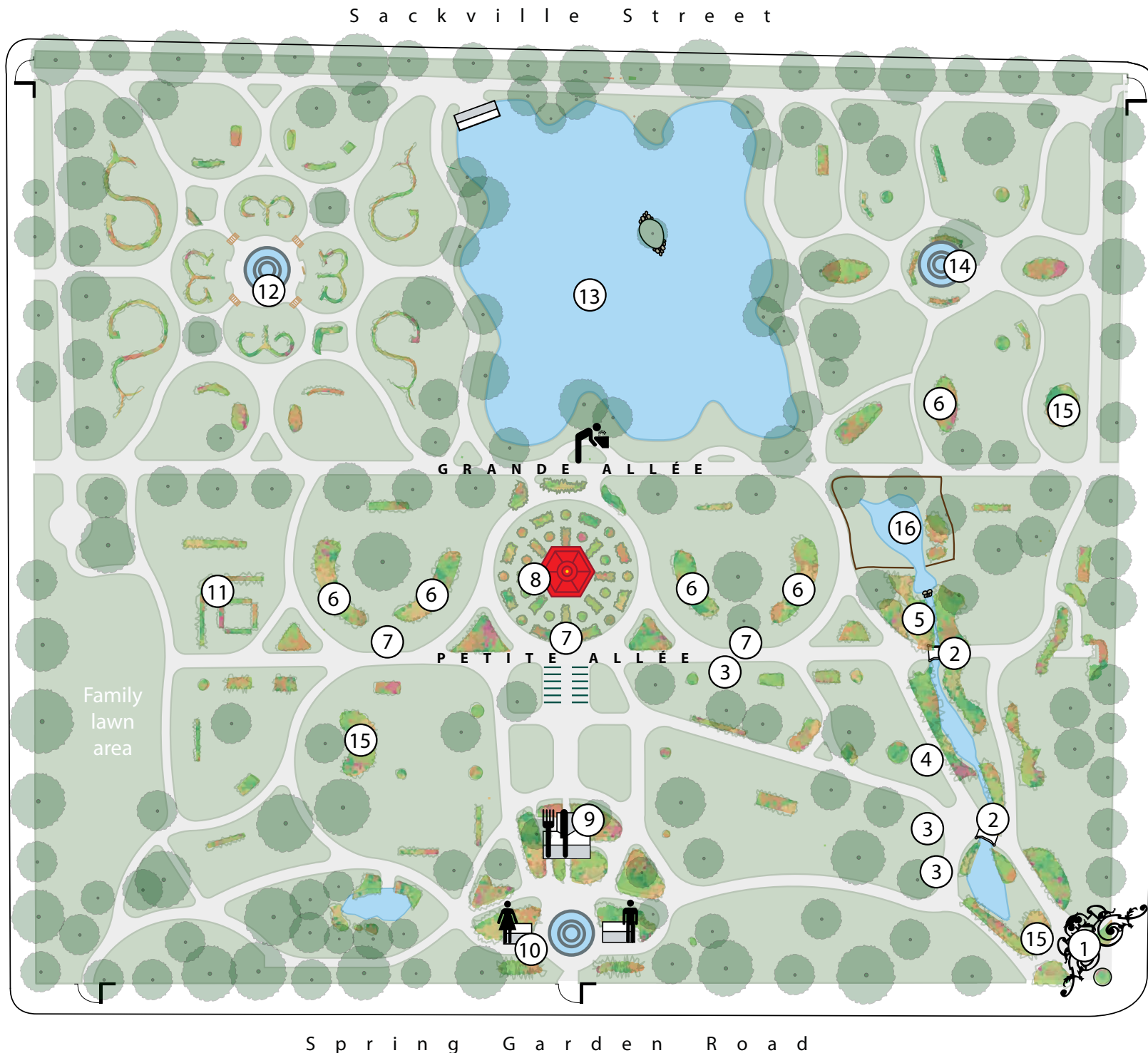


PUBLIC GARDENS

Garden Features



1. The Main Entrance Gates

The ornate cast-iron gates from Scotland originally stood on South Park Street. In 1907 they were moved to their present location when the wrought iron perimeter fence was erected and 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 a community group.

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

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

6. Herbaceous Beds

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

10. Horticultural Hall Plaza

On September 28 2003 the Halifax Regional Municipality was hit by the category two Hurricane Juan. The Public Gardens were extensively damaged and lost many trees. The Public Gardens Foundation raised over a million dollars to restore Horticultural Hall, create a landscaped Plaza featuring a new fountain and new 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 Scroll and Serpentine Beds creating an intricate and balanced garden layout.

13. Griffin's Pond and Titanic Model

The largest of the Gardens ponds, it was reshaped in 1878-79 from a square to its present more natural shape. A model of the Titanic was built and donated by the Maritime Ship Modellers Guild. The Halifax Public Gardens 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 is a unique tree 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.



Family Washrooms



Light Refreshments



Front Gates



Exits and Entrances



Drinking Fountain