



# Garden Trail

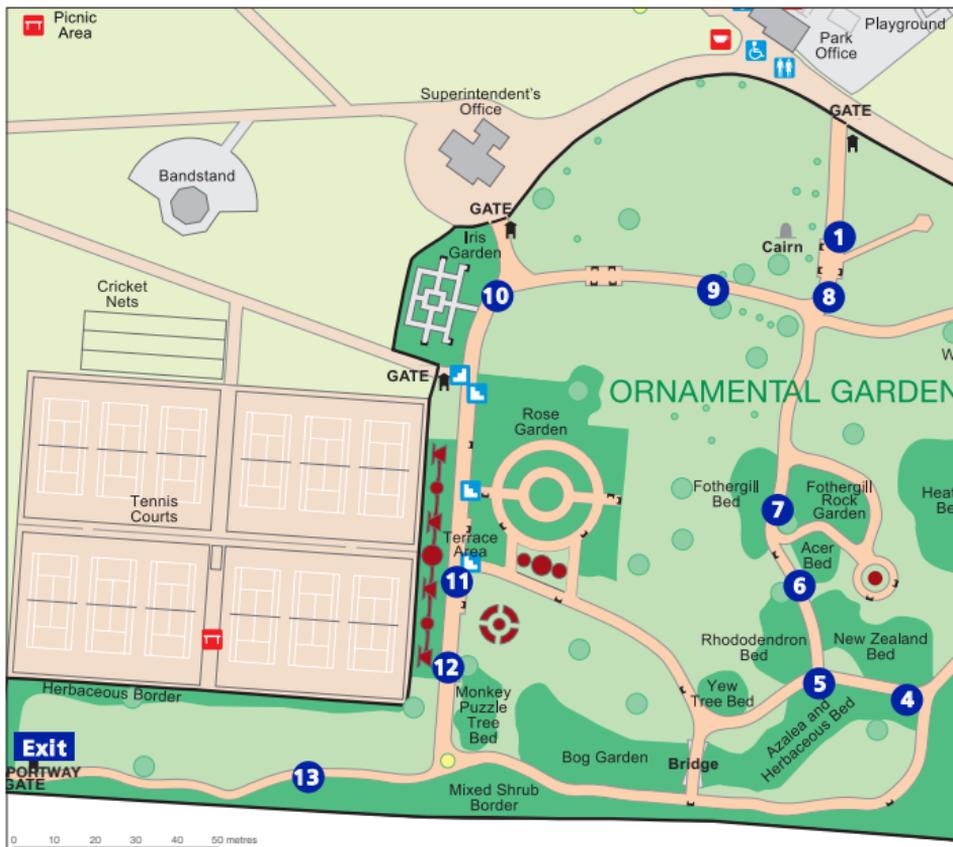
WEST HAM PARK WALKS



# Garden Trail

West Ham Park has long been a place of horticultural interest. The site was acquired by the keen botanist Doctor John Fothergill in 1762 who, over time, built up an extensive collection of plants. Today we aim to follow his legacy of an unusual plant collection.

Follow this guide through the Gardens and discover colourful bedding displays, plants of botanic interest and many interesting features within our Ornamental Gardens.



Please note that this trail is suitable for wheelchair users



The Cairn

We begin at the **Cairn 1**, a historical structure built from the cornerstones of the old ruins of Doctor Fothergill's house. Pass the benches, turn left and follow the pathway towards the Walled Garden.

**The Walled Garden 2** contributes greatly to the Ornamental Garden's seasonal bedding displays. Curved stone terraces around the pond are an ideal setting to show off sweeps of colour and structural planting. Every year, the vibrant bedding schemes



The Walled Garden



contrast with the cooler shades of the surrounding spring flower bed and mixed shrub border.

As we are becoming more conscious of climate change, and the need to use water wisely, we now opt for more drought tolerant plants such as *Geraniums* and *Marigolds* throughout the summer months to give bedding displays longevity and to ease maintenance.

Proceed along the path around the perimeter of the Gardens until you reach the **Heather Bed 3** on the right. This area has been planted with a variety of heathers and junipers which intertwine to create a mosaic effect. Set amongst the heathers are Silver Birch, (*Betula pendula*) and three

Mahogany Trees, (*Prunus serrula*), one of which was planted in celebration of a visit by the City of London Lady Mayoress in 2005. Notice their striking red, flaky bark.

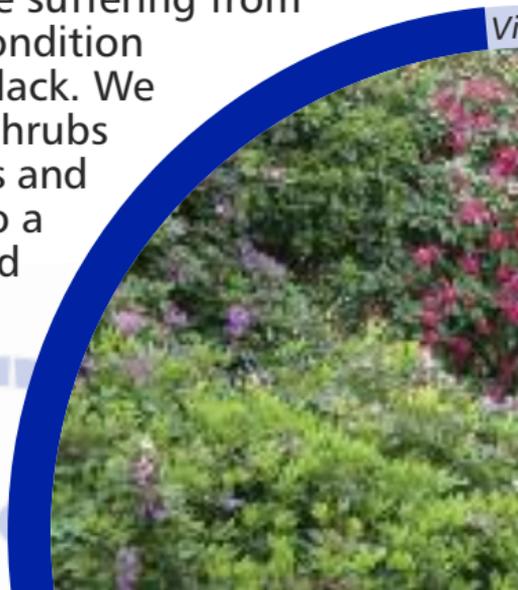


Heather Bed

**Continue on the path** and follow it round to the right and you will come to the **New Zealand Bed 4** on the right.

In keeping with Fothergill's legacy of an unusual plant collection, this bed is home to some unique plants from the other side of the world. In particular the *Chordospartium muritai* is a rare and endangered species. There are only 28 left in nature due to them growing on an eroding cliff in New Zealand, so we are lucky to have it growing here in the Park.

**Follow this pathway along**, turn right and take the path which leads through the **Rhododendron Beds 5**. During the months of May and June this corner of the Gardens is awash with vivid magentas, mauves and crimson reds creating an eye catching display of colour. Our extensive collections of Rhododendrons are well established but unfortunately some are suffering from 'Bud Burst'. This is a condition where the bud turns black. We aim to manage these shrubs by opening dense areas and pruning back shrubs to a manageable height and introducing new Rhododendrons over time.



Proceed ahead on the pathway which leads through the middle of the Rhododendron Beds to the **Acer Bed 6** which can be viewed on the right. This collection of *Japanese Acers* and *Hostas* provide a vibrant contrasting display. Enjoy the vivid red and purple leaves of the *Acer palmatum* on a bright sunny day, and the beautiful variety of autumn colour in October.

Continue along this path to **Fothergill's Rock Garden 7**. It is thought that Fothergill introduced one of the first Rock Gardens to the UK in 1766 and it is believed that the garden you see today is in the same position as the original. The plants in this area are mainly Alpine and grasses such as Lilyturf, *Ophiopogon nigrescens* and a collection of *Aquilegias*, *Sedums* and various bulbs planted under the shade of a beautiful Magnolia Tree, *Magnolia grandiflora*.



Fothergill's Rock Garden

Stroll along the path back towards the direction of the Cairn until you reach a cross path and turn left. At this point you can appreciate our National Collection of **Sweet Gums, Liquidambars 8**.

Established in 1994, the collection currently consists of over 25 specimens planted in the lawn areas. To enable the collection to mature, they will be moved into the Parkland over

vid display of Rhododendrons



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the next five years. Look out for an incredible display of colour throughout the autumn months.

Follow the pathway and you will pass the **Ginkgo biloba** ⑨ on the right. This tree was planted by Doctor Fothergill in 1763 and is thought to be one of the oldest of its kind in Great Britain. Fothergill planted the tree adjacent to the house to keep it sheltered; this can be seen today as one side of the trunk appears flatter. Follow the path until it leads around to the left. Ahead, you can view the **Iris Garden** ⑩.



*Ginkgo biloba*

The Iris Garden was re-designed in winter 2005 and was completed in April 2006 and is now beginning to mature into a popular area of the Gardens. New plants have been introduced to provide year round colour and interest. Look out for a selection of herbs in the central quadrants and the *Santonlina* rings which are filled with *Iris*es, mixed with *Kniphofia*, *Alliums* and *Delphiniums*.



*Iris Garden*

On the left you can see the **Rose Garden and Historic Rose Project** ⑪. The Rose Garden is now showing the benefits of its restoration in 2003 which included the replacement of all 1,200 roses. The garden is largely made up of a selection of traditional *Climbers*, *Hybrid Teas* and *Floribundas* making this area a real favourite with Park users as this corner of the Park offers a peaceful area to sit and relax. The Rose Garden has been extended along the Terrace where a special bed has been dedicated to a



Rose Garden

Historical Rose Project which was planted in association with the Historic Roses Group. This interesting display features roses dating back to Pre 1550 up to the 1950's.

Continue on the pathway along the Terrace to appreciate the **Ribbon and 'Three' and 'Five' Beds** 12, these areas display traditional bedding designs, consisting of a mixture of bedding plants, bulbs and dot plants. The planting is changed twice a year during May and October to provide all-year round colour and interest.



Colourful Beds

Did you know that the Park's and other City of London's bedding requirements including all tubs, hanging baskets and bedding displays are grown at our on-site Nursery? The Nursery uses Peat-free compost as well as biological methods of pest control to reduce our impact on the environment.

### **Tennis Courts Herbaceous Border** 13.

Proceed to follow this pathway and you will see our tennis courts on the right. At the end of the pathway you will find a tree sculpture inspired by the Ornamental Gardens, designed and created by the sculptor Paul Sivell in 2007. Turn right at the sculpture and follow the pathway towards Portway Gate. On the right, a mixed herbaceous border is home to a variety of *Irises*, *Camellias* and a selection of herbaceous perennials. This border is particularly striking in spring and early summer.

**Exit at Portway Gate.  
End of Garden Trail.**



## WEST HAM PARK

West Ham Park is one of a number of parks, gardens and open spaces around London owned and managed by the City of London as part of its commitment to sustaining a world class city. Each open space is a unique resource managed for the use and enjoyment of the public and for the conservation of wildlife and historic landscape. A full list of sites and visitor information can be found on our website at: [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/openspaces](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/openspaces) or by contacting the City Corporation's Open Spaces on **020 7332 3505** for **general enquiries**.



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Would you like to be more involved with the Park, go to our "Friends of West Ham Park" website [fwhp.co.uk](http://fwhp.co.uk)

Whilst in the Park, do not hesitate to approach any of our staff, who will be happy to assist you.

If you require this leaflet in another format please contact  
**020 8472 3584**



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