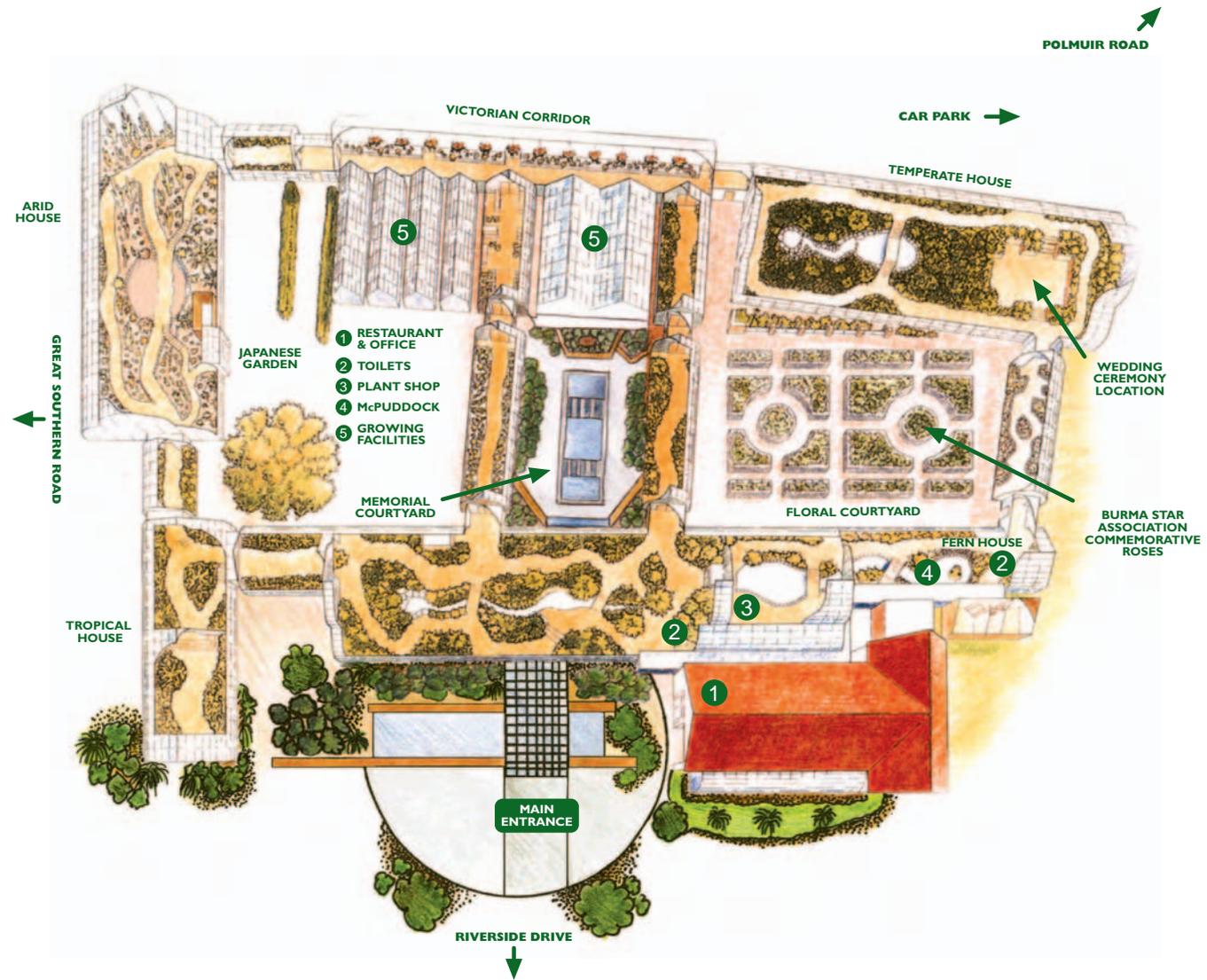


THE DAVID WELCH WINTER GARDENS



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Additional Information

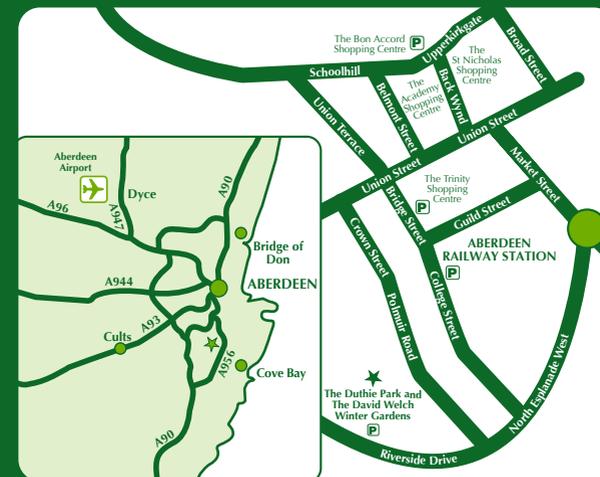
Today the David Welch Winter Gardens are the third most visited gardens in Scotland. The shop has a large and varied selection of houseplants and gifts and is located in the Fern House.

Weddings and photography can take place in the gardens with prior booking. The restaurant is situated close to the entrance.

Duthie Park is located in the Ferryhill area of the city and is accessible from Riverside Drive, Polmuir Road and Great Southern Road.

The David Welch Winter Gardens are open from: 9.30am, 7 days a week, 363 days a year - closing only on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Admission is free but donations are welcome. Conducted tours by arrangement. Staff are on hand to answer queries.

The David Welch Winter Gardens
 Duthie Park
 Polmuir Road
 Aberdeen
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DUTHIE PARK



THE DAVID WELCH WINTER GARDENS



ABERDEEN
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Duthie Park

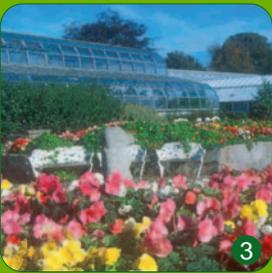
The history of Duthie Park starts on 5 July 1880 when Miss Duthie, a local benefactor stated her intention of presenting Aberdeen with a public park to perpetuate the memory of her uncles and brothers.

Thousands of people including Miss Duthie and the full-town Council attended the ceremony of cutting the first turf on 27 August 1881. The ceremony concluded with a buffet for nearly 300 invited guests in a huge marquee, erected in the park.

The original wheelbarrow used by Miss Duthie and the Earl of Aberdeen during the cutting of the first turf on 27th August 1881, can still be seen within the Winter Gardens. The park was laid out and designed by Mr W R McKelvie of Dundee, who was a surveyor. The park was opened on 27 September 1883 and it had been hoped that the Queen would be able to perform the opening ceremony, but she was recovering from an accident and it was opened by Princess Beatrice who was also in the city to open the Sick Children's Hospital.

Many of the original features of the park at that time still remain almost intact or modified. The park then, as it is now, was a great favourite with the towns people of Aberdeen and it has always been used by individuals, societies, to host events and festivities, one of the most recent large events being the Queen's Golden Jubilee in May 2002.

- 1. Temperate House
- 2, 3. General views of Winter Gardens
- 4. Original view of Flagpole Mound
- 5. Victorian Bandstand
- 6. General views of Duthie Park
- 7. Fern House
- 8. Original Palm House



Whilst Duthie was originally a formal park laid out on Victorian principles with very few activities, use of the park was later extended to include recreational pursuits such as boating, cricket, and tennis.

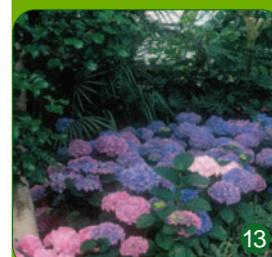
The park contains the famous rose mountain, which was designed on the site of the old flagpole mound and this contains 120,000 roses, which gives an incredibly vibrant display in the summer months.

The Victorian Band Stand is almost perfectly preserved and this has recently been restored with power upgraded to allow modern uses. The park comprises around 44 acres nowadays, and consists of open spaces, ponds, fountains and floral displays in all seasons. The children's play areas are permanently busy and popular, particularly at weekends and during school holidays.

The park is a mass of crocuses and daffodils in the spring followed by roses, which commence in early July through to autumn, mainly in the rose mountain. Climbing to the top of the mountain gives a spectacular view over the roses and much of the park. The park will soon be the subject of a Heritage Lottery Bid under the Urban Parks Programme.

David Welch Winter Gardens

The original Winter Gardens or Palm House was erected in 1899 and was designed by the then city architect, Mr Rust. The building was some 108 feet long by 56 feet wide with a circular central dome measuring 24 feet diameter and rising to a height of 46 feet. The building was constructed using St Petersburg redwood; costing £1,550.



After nearly 70 years of continuous public use the old winter gardens suffered extensive roof damage during a gale and in the interest of public safety was demolished in May 1969. The first stage of the new winter gardens was built on the original site at a cost of almost £56,000. It was opened on 9 April 1970 by Lord Provost R S Lennox, since then many additions have taken place up until 1987, in the last addition the temperate house, corridor of perfumes and the fern house were added.

A Council decision was taken in 2001 following the death of David Welch, one of the most influential Directors of parks in Aberdeen to rename the Winter Gardens as the David Welch Winter Gardens. We have created a memorial courtyard and plaque to David Welch in the internal area of the garden to provide for quiet reflection.

An ambitious restoration and improvement project for the Winter Gardens has commenced and this will be ongoing. Phase I has been completed and was partly funded by Scottish Enterprise Grampian.

The Winter Gardens contain a very wide range of plant material and some important plant collections and is a unique facility within Northern Scotland.

The Tropical House is dominated by a large collection of South American Bromeliads and while some provide a herbaceous ground cover on the forest floor, others are epiphytes, growing on the surfaces of larger plants. Other important plants that can be found in this house are Orchids, Aroids and Gingers.

The Victorian Corridor was reopened in June 1995 after being extended and now measures some forty metres in length. The large spectacular hanging baskets and variety of pot plants are changed throughout the year according to the season with Fuchsias, Pelargoniums, Streptocarpus, Cyclamen, Calceolarias and Cinerarias.

The Temperate House has a developing collection of plants from the temperate regions of Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the Mediterranean and would probably not be hardy enough to survive the winter of Aberdeen. These include Eucalyptus, Acacia, Callistemon, Phormium, Olive, Strelitzia, Protea and Leucadendron.

The Arid House contains one of the largest collections of cacti and succulents in Britain with plants from dry lands throughout the world – from Central and South America, North and Southern Africa, Arabia and Madagascar.

The Japanese Garden was opened in June 1987 and designed by Japanese landscape architect Takashi Sawano and, like many of its kind, attempts to engender thoughts of peace and tranquillity. The garden commemorates the City of Aberdeen's condolence to the Japanese people on the 40th anniversary of Hiroshima. The garden is full of symbolism with the outline of the water representing the Chinese character meaning "heart". The pine tree on the island and the camelia, wisteria and bamboo all speak of endless peace.

- 9, 11, 13, 16. General views of Winter Gardens
- 10, 12. Tropical House
- 14. Temperate House
- 15. Arid House

