

Invercargill Parks and Gardens





Our Parks and Gardens



Invercargill is a city of water and light...

City of abundant green reserves and the people's parks and gardens.

The southernmost city in New Zealand is well-known for its parks and gardens, with Invercargill's forefathers' wisdom in the setting aside of large reserves for everyone to enjoy.

Queens Park, the 81 hectare jewel in the centre of the city, is one of New Zealand's gardens of national significance, and the reasons are not hard to see.

Glorious foliage colours the city - from deep green with bursts of colour in the summer to golden red in the autumn, giving an escape from the grey of the season. There's always a place for solitude, or a place to play within the parks of Invercargill and they're all within a few minutes of wherever you are in the city.



Queens Park

Several hours need to be put aside to explore the expanse of Queens Park, recognised rightly as one of the most important parks in New Zealand and certainly a popular retreat for Invercargill residents.

Once through the stately Feldwick Gates, the main entrance to the park, the rest of the world is shut out and relaxation is the key. The wide expansive path goes through a stunning walkway of English Beech and Silver Birch trees. Known as Coronation Avenue, it is the axis from which all parts of the park can be found and history and nature merge along the way. The avenue goes past the Band Rotunda,

the central focal point of the park and then carries on to Herbert Street.

Feldwick Gates were named after John Feldwick who bequeathed money to develop the park in 1913. They feature Invercargill's original Coat of Arms, which incorporates a plough, a sheaf of grain and a bale of wool, along with a ship.

In 1928 construction was started on the Band Rotunda in memory of Invercargill bandsmen who were killed in World War One. It was finally completed when the roof was put on in 1954. The rotunda is a popular venue for weddings



and often features in musical and theatrical performances in the park.

A bronze Peter Pan statue adds to the fantasy of the pathway leading to the popular duck pond where both the park's ducks and wild birds are pampered by visitors with their leftover bread.

A white pyramid glimpsed between the trees pulls people to one of the park's major attractions, the Southland Museum and Art Gallery. The museum is located to the west of the Feldwick Gates and the glass home of the tuataras is a popular spot for families trying to spot a living

relic of the dinosaur era. An experience not to be missed is the museum's exhibition on the sub-Antarctic Islands – a rolling boat and a roaring seal give a unique glimpse of the rugged islands south of Stewart Island.

The museum also houses the Invercargill Visitor Information Centre and a café. It is open weekdays from 9am to 5pm and weekends and public holidays from 10am to 5pm.

Those interested in things outside this world can visit the Observatory, found beside the museum. It is open to the public from April to end of September, on Wednesdays from 7pm to 9pm.



Queens Park



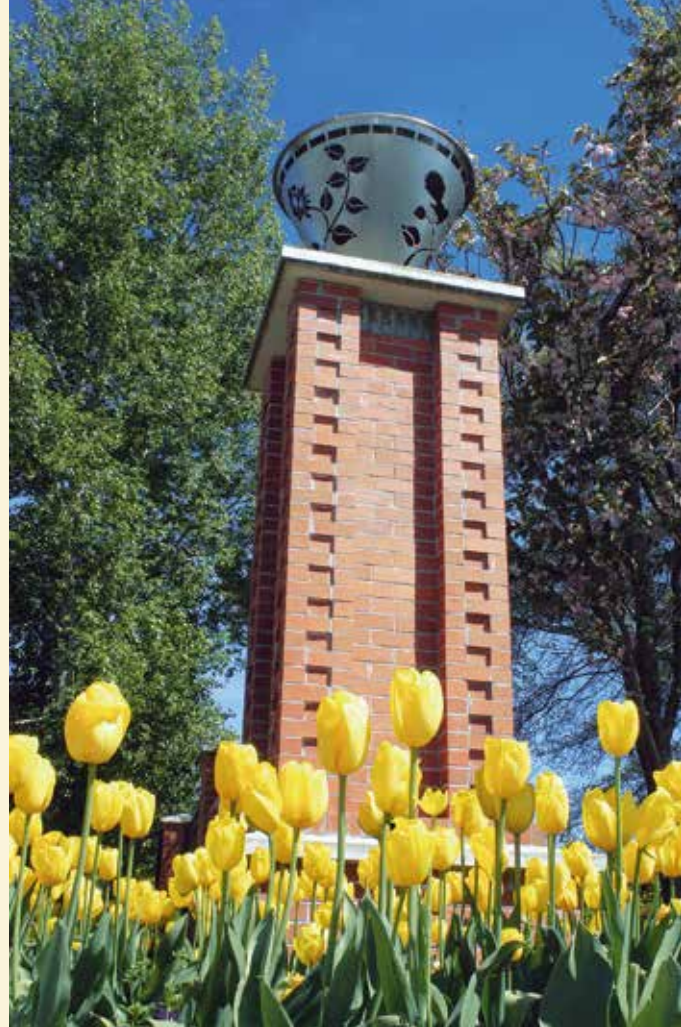
New Zealand's unique bird life can be observed at close quarters in the Queens Park Aviary, a modern and innovative municipal facility which opened in 1998. A variety of species, including doves, budgerigars, canaries and cockatiels fly freely in the large open dome where visitors can walk among them and watch them interact.

Members of the parrot family jostle for attention and native birds, such as the South Island Kaka and the cheeky Kea, are on display in separate enclosures. The aviary is also home to rare species such as the Campbell Island Teal and the Antipodes Island Parakeet.

The aviary is near the Queens Drive entrance to the park, and also the Winter Gardens, one of the highlights of the park and an often forgotten gem.

The Winter Gardens was made possible by bequests from John Baker and I A Steans and was opened in 1957. It contains an extensive collection of tropical and sub-tropical plants, including a small display of carnivorous plants which have ingenious ways of attracting and digesting insects and small animals.

The warmth takes the visitor straight to the tropics and the entrance foyer, with its pool of goldfish and abundant foliage, encourages that feeling. The west and John Baker



wings contain massed displays of flowering plants, including cyclamen, begonia and other exotic flowers in season. A separate area houses the cacti, including several of the larger varieties.

But this gem is not the only attraction for horticulturalists. In fact, Queens Park is a mecca for those who enjoy the natural and the planned. Its numerous botanical attractions provide vibrant displays whatever the season, from the rhododendron dell, planted in 1962, to the formal bog garden and the azalea section. There is also a significant New Zealand Plant section, first started in 1937 and renamed the Ron Petrie Garden in 1982 in recognition of the contribution Mr Petrie made while he was Parks and Recreation Director.

In 2007-2008 the garden was updated and renamed the Ron Petrie NZ Native Garden.

The sub-Antarctic Islands garden features plants found on the remote southern islands. The garden is a rare opportunity for the public to see plants not normally found in New Zealand and includes features to simulate the windy conditions and provide the necessary microclimate. This garden is situated beside the Southland Museum and Art Gallery. The park is always developing and new gardens include displays adjoining the Jessie Calder area and the stumpery near the Blind Centre. The development of a Chinese Garden is proposed for the future.

Queens Park



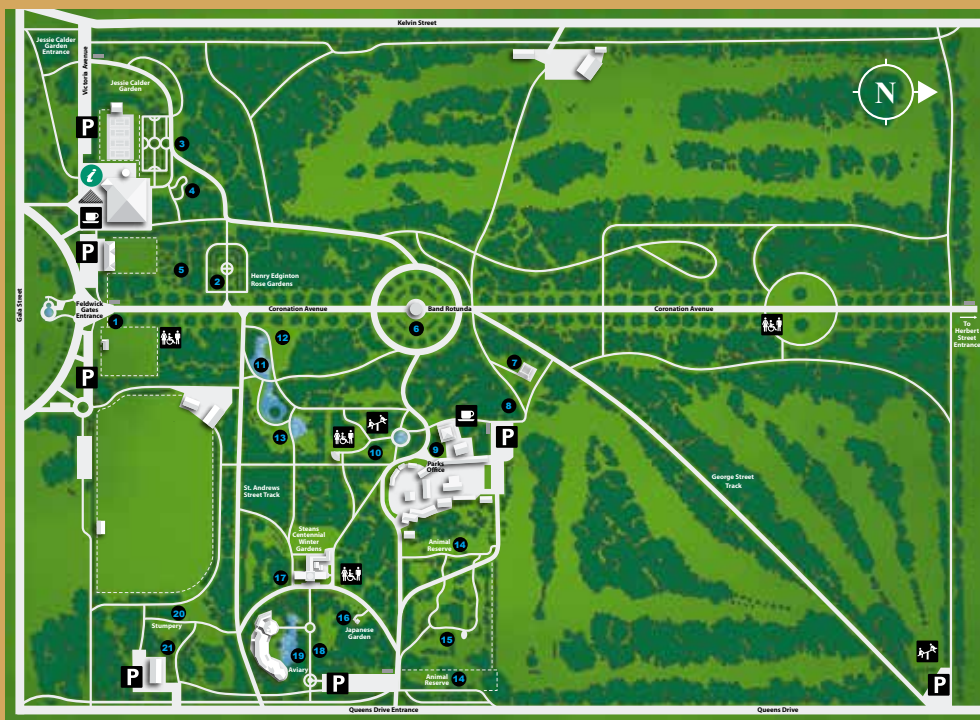
Invercargill's sister city relationship with Japanese city Kumagaya is celebrated in Queens Park with its Japanese Garden, built from plans prepared by Kumagaya Landscape Institute president Yoshio Miyashita in 1997. The garden is a classical Japanese design, consisting of a Japanese lantern, dry waterfall, river of pebbles, garden stream and mountain range, along with a Tea House at the entrance to the site.

It's a kids' wonderland at Queens Park. There's plenty of space for running around, lots of places to explore or disappear in a game of hide and seek and that's all before reaching the popular playground and waterpark. It's fun for all ages, with brightly coloured adventure playgrounds for the "littlies" and high slides and fast merry-go-rounds for the not so small children and those still childlike at heart. The waterplay park has hands-on activities as well as a paddling pool and even the nearby Thomson Statuary, with its watery moat, beckons paddlers of all ages, particularly on a hot day.

Adjacent to the playground is the Wonderland Castle, with turrets that turn out to be slides and stairs leading to the

battlements. It just takes a little imagination and the castle is host to knights and ladies, with even the occasional dragon flying past. All of this play makes for thirsty kids and the nearby Queens Park kiosk has drinks, food and ice creams to quench that need.

Queens Park does not forget its heritage either. Once a grazing block for cattle and the site of the Southland Agricultural and Pastoral Association's shows in the 1880s, the park now contains an animal enclosure, which provides both a recreational and educational role as a farmyard corner. Deer wander among the trees, while rabbits, guinea pigs, domestic fowl and guinea fowl all relax in their enclosures. More exotic animals, such as wallaby, alpaca and ostrich, attract lots of visitors.



Other popular areas in the park are the rose gardens, with the Jessie Calder Garden the largest and most comprehensive collection of roses of its type on public display in New Zealand. The garden behind the museum was planted in 1987 after a generous bequest from Jessie Watson Calder, of Winton, and contains more than 900 roses and in excess of 400 varieties.

The Henry Edginton Rose Garden, just off Coronation Avenue, is much older, planted out between 1914 and 1917 by Henry Edginton, who was responsible for much of the development in Queens Park during that time. The garden's layout is virtually unaltered, except for planting of new roses. These roses are modern roses.

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|------------------------------|--|
| 1 Feldwick Gates | 12 Rock Garden |
| 2 Henry Edginton Rose Garden | 13 Bog Garden |
| 3 Jessie Calder Garden | 14 Animal Reserve |
| 4 Sub-Antarctic Garden | 15 NZ Garden |
| 5 Azalea Garden | 16 Japanese Garden |
| 6 Band Rotunda | 17 Steans Centennial Winter Gardens |
| 7 Wonderland Castle | 18 Herbaceous Border |
| 8 Rhododendron Dell | 19 Aviary |
| 9 Parks Office | 20 Stumpery and Nature Space |
| 10 Playground | 21 Herb Garden (Blind Foundation Office) |
| 11 Duck Pond | |
- Map
 Invercargill i-SITE Visitor Centre
 The Southland Museum and Art Gallery



Queens Park



Queens Park is rich in history, dating back to the city's beginning. In 1857, John Turnbull Thomson, the chief surveyor for the province of Otago, began laying out the new town of Invercargill. He set aside 81 hectares of land for the park, with the area originally covered in native forest. The first formal planting did not occur until the late 1870s, using *Pinus radiata* and *Cupressus macrocarpa* sent to Invercargill from the Wellington Botanical Garden.

The oldest trees in the park today are believed to have originated from them.

Queens Park's 81 hectares caters not only to families and the casual visitor but also to sports people and those keen on keeping fit. The 3.4km fitness track which winds its way around the park will test the energetic and encourage others to have some fun. Twenty exercise stations are signposted with directions for appropriate use. Four outdoor equipment pieces are located along the fitness track (between stations four and six) and the range of this equipment may increase depending on demand.



The Queens Park Golf Club boasts an 18-hole course among mature trees and long green fairways, while the Southland Cricket Club's wicket hosts first-class matches throughout the season with croquet and bowls located nearby, nestled among the trees. Tennis courts are located near the Southland Museum and Art Gallery.

A racecourse was laid out in the park and the first race meeting was held in 1885, later it was moved to Racecourse Road. However, apart from shelter plantings, there was no real attempt to beautify the park until 1911. To celebrate the Coronation of King George V, an avenue of trees was planted and from then on there has been a continuing and steady development of the horticultural features of the park.

Queens Park has something for everyone.



Anderson Park

The gracious and elegant Anderson Park is found on the outskirts of Invercargill and is testament to the generous spirit of one of Invercargill's early prominent businessmen.

Sir Robert Anderson bought a rather neglected 300-acre block in 1910, attracted by the 50 acres of native bush on the property. He and his wife had a passion for horticulture and although the property was first a sheep farm, extensive flower gardens were soon developed. Adding to that is the magnificent homestead, which was built in 1925 at a cost of £10,000.

It was designed by the Christchurch architect, Cecil Wood, who specialised in the Georgian style. The roof was clad with slates from Bangor, Wales. In the Dickinson Room (former billiard room) and the Kirkby Room (former library) the fireplaces are Georgian replicas carved from Oamaru stone. The fireplace in the Deaker Room (former drawing room) has green marble from the West Coast built into its surround. On 22 November 1984 the house was registered as a historic place Category 1 with the Historic Places Trust.



It was Sir Robert's wish that on his and his wife's death, the house and grounds, including the block of native bush, be gifted to the city for use as a public park.

The beautiful house has until recently been the home to the Anderson Park Art Gallery Society's splendid collection of New Zealand Art, which began in 1951. This follows on from Sir Robert's second passion, his collection of paintings and etchings. Sir Robert was interested in Maori artefacts and genuine carved pieces from the Ngati Tarawhai tribe in



Rotorua were used to build a replica Maori Whare Whakairo, which still sits behind the main house today.

A well defined walking track leads the visitor through the native bush, which covers most of the park and is typical of what covered much of the Southland plains before the settlers arrived. Walkers on the track can spot kahikatea, rimu, thin-barked totara, matai and miro and the principal canopy tree, the pokaka.

Anderson Park



Anderson Park is located north of the city with its entrance off McIvor Road.

It can be accessed via State Highway 6 or during daylight hours through Donovan Park off Bainfield Road.



The park is coloured by thousands of flowering plants during spring and summer, including rose gardens, and there is an ornamental vege garden. A sculpture was donated as part of the city's 150 year anniversary. The colour and spaciousness means the park is a popular place for weddings and picnics, and a children's playground provides fun for the youngsters.

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|---|-------------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | Native Bush | 6 | Lawn Area |
| 2 | Duck Pond | 7 | Herbaceous Border |
| 3 | Anderson Park House | 8 | Garden of Miniature Roses |
| 4 | Whare Whakairo (Carved House) | 9 | Picnic Area No2 |
| 5 | Picnic Area and Pavilion | 10 | Rose Gardens |
| | | 11 | Bush Walk |





Otepunī Gardens



Winding pathways along the banks of the Otepunī Stream provide a refreshing break from the city's central business district. A few minutes' walk from the city centre, Otepunī Gardens covers 9.4 hectares and encompasses four city blocks.

The gardens were once the main city park, complete with a nursery, display houses and aviaries, but those have now gone, although the charm and beauty of the gardens remain.

The Otepunī Gardens are a popular venue for weddings, picnics and concerts. A small amphitheatre with a band rotunda is a feature and there is ample parking around the perimeter of the park.

Runners, walkers and cyclists take advantage of the sense of seclusion offered by the gardens, which have been enhanced and hidden by stopbanks to protect the city from flooding.

The gardens give a peaceful sanctuary to city workers, shoppers and visitors.



For further information contact:

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