

A Floral Walk in Roundhay Park

Each year the staff of Roundhay Park plant a number of spectacular displays to compliment established floral areas such as the Rose Garden in front of Tropical World, the Friends Garden and of course the Chelsea Flower Show award winning gardens in the Specialist Gardens.

Our walk starts from the car park off Princes Avenue.



1. On the corner of Princes Avenue is a large bed with a raised central portion. This is the first display that most visitors see so it is designed to be eye catching, and to encourage people to visit and explore the park. The central feature is always a floral design which could be a sponsor's or charity logo, or a design associated with an event in the park such as the Tour de France or the World Triathlon.

Turn right and in 50 yards turn left and take the path into the area known as Victoria Gardens

- 2.. On your left is a large open area used as a picnic spot by school parties visiting the park. This was originally a rose garden but as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded improvements to the park it was redesigned as you see it now. In the centre is a large flower display centred on a Palm tree. The surrounding beds are laid out to represent the petals of a flower. The four larger petals and the centre are planted with a complex mixture of different brightly coloured flowers while the smaller petals follow a simpler design.



Continue along the path to the cross roads.



3. On your left alongside the path to the main gates is a long narrow border containing a mixture of herbaceous plants and shrubs. It also forms a boundary of the bowling green. Although less eye catching than some of the other areas it contributes to the overall floral pattern in the park.

Go straight ahead and follow the path up to the circular area known as Roundell beds.

4. This is now laid out as another flower petal design. As the area is partially shaded by trees the planting is always colourful to brighten up the area. The colour in this area attracts photographers and is often used as a backdrop to



Follow the path on the left out onto Princes Avenue. Turn left and take the pedestrian crossing then go through the gate and down the steps.



- 5 Mary's Tree. Although not strictly floral, the carving of a dead tree into the shapes of the animals and birds found in Tropical World and the wider park attracts visitors of all ages to this unique feature of the park.

Follow the path up to the side of Canal Gardens pond.

6. Canal Gardens. The large pond with statue and fountains is surrounded by a large number of colourful floral displays. Look first at the beds on this side of the pond, which give another colourful display. Then looking across to the other side of the pond there are further displays in the oval beds on the far bank. Against the wall which separates Canal Gardens from the area in front of Tropical World there is a bed containing many tall plants forming a backdrop to the water feature and the surrounding beds.



Turn left along the canal side towards Old Park Road. Just inside the Park wall is The Friends Garden.

7. The Friends Garden was created out of a neglected boggy space by voluntary work and contributions of the Friends of Roundhay Park with a grant from Living Spaces. Work started in 2001 and the Garden was opened in July 2005. It is maintained by the Friends Garden Maintenance Group. The stepping stones provide children with endless fun.



Go through the Friends Garden to reach the Jubilee Rose Garden



8. Originally the trial rose garden, this area is now based on an Italian garden with different coloured plants in the different beds. There are also two Chelsea Flower Show gardens built by Leeds City Council apprentices and students from Askam Bryan College, the Globetrotters Garden in the bottom right hand corner from 1996 and in the top corner, the garden of Harmony from 1997.

Go through the Arch into Coronation Gardens, the formal gardens in front of Tropical World.

9. Originally part of the kitchen garden for the Mansion, this area is now one of the largest floral areas in the park. In the centre are four rose beds surrounded by small box hedges. The centre two contain Old English roses in one and hybrid roses in the other. The hedges in the outer beds form a sort of maze. Against the walls there are herbaceous beds allowing space to grow many tall herbaceous plants and along the front of Tropical World are long beds displaying 15 - 20 different plant colour co-ordinations with the pattern repeated along the beds.



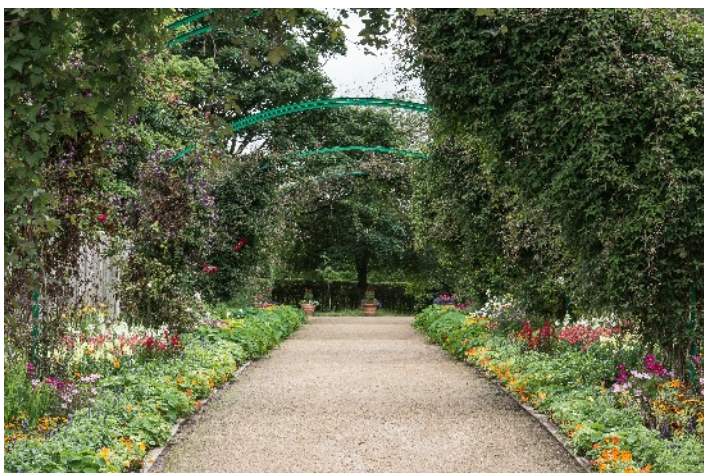
Exit through the gate in the wall into Princes Avenue

10. Immediately on your right is a raised bed which displays a sponsor's logo or a logo associated with an event being held in the park. Together with the surrounding beds this forms a shop window for the attractions of the park to passengers in buses and cars along Princes Avenue.



Using the pedestrian crossing, cross over Princes Avenue and proceed along Mansion Lane to the entrance to the Specialist Gardens on your left.

The Specialist Gardens are a unique feature of Roundhay Park. These permanent displays highlight the expertise of the Parks and Countryside staff working with garden designers to produce garden features of national renown



11. You are now entering the Monet garden. This garden is based on the artist's garden in Giverny north west of Paris cleverly using plants that flourish several hundred miles to the north. The plants represent an artist's palette, with the two sides of the path mirroring one another.

Continue along the path to the Alhambra garden.

12. Based on the gardens in the Alhambra Palace in Granada, where water was so precious that to use it decoratively showed your wealth, this garden is less colourful than many other areas. This is because, as in the original, the plants are selected for their medicinal properties.



Pass through the gap in the hedge on the right hand side



13. Immediately in front of you is the first of four garden designs entered in the Chelsea Flower Show in 2008 and re-built later in Roundhay Park. “The Largest Room in the House” is based on the garden of Talbot House, a first world war rest and recuperation centre outside Ypres during the first world war. This garden won a silver gilt award. There is more information on the board in front of the garden.

To your right is a second Chelsea garden.



14. “Saving Water from a Rainy Day” The garden design demonstrates techniques to reduce water run off and help to prevent flooding. This garden also won a silver gilt medal at Chelsea in 2009. More information on the board in front of the garden.

Move to your right again to the third Chelsea garden.



15. “Unlocking Green Corridors” The design was inspired by the Leeds Liverpool canal which forms a green corridor through the city. This garden won the city’s first Chelsea Gold Medal in 2010 More information on the board in front of the garden.

The final Chelsea garden



16. “The Power of Nature” The garden design illustrates the importance of water power to drive the mills that were an important part of the industrial development of Leeds. This garden also won a Gold Medal at the Chelsea show.

You have now reached the end of the Roundhay Park Floral Walk. You can now return to the Tropical World cafe for some well earned refreshment.