

How to Find Us?

Train – Trains travel from High Street low level Station to Easterhouse Station, which is a 20 minute walk from the park.

Bus – Various bus routes operate from the city centre, bus numbers 19, 43 and the x17 operate a regular bus service.

Car – follow M8 to junction 10 turning left entering into the Fort Retail Park, existing onto Auchinlea Road, turning first on your right into Provan Hall at the top of Auchinlea Road.

Walking – Provan Hall can be easily accessed on foot from Auchinlea Road or the adjacent Road connecting to the FORT Retail Park.

Land Services General Enquiries 0141 287 5180

Travel Line Scotland 0871 200 2233

Opening Times

Auchinlea Park is open all year round.

Provan Hall is opened Monday to Thursday 9am till 4pm

Friday 9am till 1:30pm

Land and Environmental Services

Glasgow City Council

231 George Street

Glasgow G1 1RX

Phone 0141 287 5064

Email mailroom@glasgow.gov.uk

Web www.glasgow.gov.uk/parks

Tours of the historic houses are available Monday to Thursday starting at 9.00am. Last tour starts at 3.30pm and on Fridays at 12.00noon. Tours are free of charge and can be arranged on arrival or prebooked by phoning 0141 773 1202

The information contained in this leaflet was provided from various sources, in particular:

Glasgow Building Preservation Trust

The Friends of Provan Hall

The National Trust for Scotland (Images)

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Auchinlea Park



Auchinlea Park a park for all

Auchinlea Park is located at the edge of Greater Easterhouse on the outskirts of Glasgow. Originally 74 acres in size, the park is now a compact 20 acres due to the development of the Glasgow FORT retail centre which now forms the southern boundary of the park. Their estimate suggests that some 10 million shopping visits are made each year. Glasgow City Council is keen to encourage more visitors to use the park by restoring the historic buildings and providing a visitor centre, interpretation, regeneration of the parkland, improved access and signage as well as new visitor attractions.



Features of Auchinlea Park

There are two Category A listed historical buildings situated within the grounds.



Provan Hall - forming the north range of a walled courtyard, is the best-preserved medieval fortified country house in Scotland. It was built in the mid 15th Century, around the same time as Provand's Lordship. The buildings were originally part of the Prebendary of Barlanark (later Provan).



The kitchen boasts a fireplace capable of roasting an ox and has one of the finest examples in Scotland of a Roman style barrel vaulted ceiling.

At that time, Glasgow was divided up into 32 prebends, or areas, by the Church. Prebends were given to Canons of Glasgow Cathedral for their upkeep. The prebend of Barlanark was the only one without a church building, so it had to find other ways of making money. The estate, which ran from Springburn to Bishop Loch and from Shettleston to Garthamlock, was 5000 acres. Funds were raised from the estate, as people came from all over to hunt and fish on the best lands in Central Scotland.

In 1491, King James IV became a Canon of Glasgow Cathedral, and the prebend of Provan fell to him. He was a keen huntsman who probably enjoyed hunting on the estate. After his death William Baillie was appointed to the post of Prebendary and Provan Hall passed to his family (Ballieston is probably named after them). Through marriage the lands passed to the Hamilton family and it is their initials



Hamilton family's initials above the courtyard gate

you can see above the courtyard gate. In 1760, the estate came to Dr John Buchanan, related to James Buchanan, the 10th President of the United States of America. In 1934 Provanhall was put up for sale, and was eventually bought and renovated by a group of local people. They donated the house to the National Trust for Scotland. Today Glasgow City Council is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance.



Blochairn House is thought to have originally been a single storey building, constructed around the same time as Provan Hall and possibly used for horses and storage of farming equipment.

It is understood that the outer walls of the lower storey are of similar appearance and construction as Provan Hall. This evidence is now covered with a cement-based render. Built by a Tobacco Lord, Blochairn House was remodeled in 1760 to resemble the plantation house on his Jamaican tobacco estate.

Provan Hall Gardens



The City Council in partnership with the Scottish Development Agency started the construction of Auchinlea Park in the 1970's. The first phase of the work involved the construction of the gardens and grounds around Provan Hall.

A visit to these gardens is unforgettable in any season and allows visitors to immerse themselves in nature. Spring is a special time of year when sweeps of spring colour start to bejewel the borders, pushing the signs of winter away. Summer heralds the heady scent of roses, while in autumn the colourful fruits of the Malus trees turn the garden into a patchwork of red, yellow and orange. Winter brings a particular charm of its own, with a mass of colourful stems and architectural seed heads.

The cultivated area of the garden demonstrates an eclectic range of horticultural styles including a formal walled garden, medallion garden, extensive shrub and herbaceous plantings. The wider peripheries comprise a woodland garden and a bog garden which are of value for their nature conservation interest.

Highlights

- *Medieval Garden*
- *Modern Parterre Garden*
- *Woodland Garden*
- *Bog Garden*
- *Medallion Garden*
- *Extensive Herbaceous Borders*
- *Spectacular display of rose borders*
- *Magnificent summer/spring bedding displays*

Modern Parterre Garden

The modern parterre gardens were constructed in 1971 and are accessed through the old walled courtyard. These rectangular gardens are divided into two main areas by a holly hedge and enclosed on the north and western sides by a sandstone wall. The southern area contains formal beds framed by gravel paths and



Medieval Garden

The stone raised beds of Provan Hall have been planted up and laid out to resemble former medieval garden designs such as Benedictine monasteries or late medieval manor house gardens.

Medieval gardens were a collection of plants for a variety of uses often divided into separate raised beds. There was no distinction between flowers, vegetables, or plants. There were herb plants grown in kitchen gardens for seasoning, dyeing fabrics, flowering, for ornamental use around the house, and for cooking meals such as pottage, which was a thick soup made of peas and beans that supplied the liquid part of the starchy diet everybody lived on. Other beds contain medicinal or physic herbs for remedies or religious ceremonies.



The former terraced gardens sited in front of Blochairn House were unfortunately demolished in 1978 as part of the works to establish Auchinlea Park, although good historical records survive of their layout and appearance. Provan Loch which was previously drained (probably during the construction of the Monkland Canal) was reinstated in an altered form, known as Auchinlea Pond in a more southerly location.

Bog Garden

The bog garden is part of a designated Local Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (L-SINC) and contains the most diverse range of habitats within the park, with small patches of acidic grassland, neutral grassland, open water and marsh or swamp within the larger area of planted trees and scrub.

Small ponds were created within the wetland in 2003 to attract dragonflies and potentially amphibians as well as creating a new niche for aquatic plants to exploit. Currently these ponds are fringed

concrete edgings. The northern area contains a variety of planting areas including raised beds and a formal pond where you can sit amidst a sea of rosemary and lavender. The parterres are also divided into terraces with a change in level incorporating steps on a north to south axis.

with reed sweet-grass. In the spring, the striking Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*) provides a fantastic display with its yellow flame-shaped flowers which look magnificent reflected in the water and are followed by enormous paddle shaped green leaves which remain until autumn.

The bog garden provides an important oasis for insects of aquatic habitats, including diving beetles and dragonflies, the latter may be seen hovering around the reeds for food in midsummer.



Skunk Cabbage
image © cambridge2000.com

Woodland Garden

Provan Hall's woodlands only cover a fraction of their former acreage, but they still provide homes for a great number of species. In spring the floor of the deciduous woodland is carpeted with bluebells, primroses, celandines, pignut and the occasional wild daffodils. There is a large number of historic sycamore and beech trees on site, which correspond to locations marked on historic maps dating as far back as 1795. These trees are mostly in lines or avenues, which define spaces within the landscape particularly in the areas to the west and north of the buildings.



Mixed shrubbery in the western part of the site outside the line of trees, which enclose the parterre garden area, adds a striking winter plant interest for the woodland garden enjoying a moist position. Alders are extremely attractive in winter, first with black fruits, followed by the catkins. The contorted

shapes of tortured willow trees are impressive in winter when at their most obvious and witch hazel's strange spidery flowers are deliciously perfumed.

A swathe of bluebells growing wild in the dappled shade of the woodland floor is arguably the most wonderful sight in springtime, broken only by the occasional creamy white flowers of pignut.

There is a showy autumnal mix of decorative heathers which remains attractive through to early spring, located down at the lower end of the medallion garden. The flowers of evergreen heather vary from red through purple and pink to white and gold. Most flower in late summer, autumn, and early winter.

Medallion Garden

As well as the many beautiful plants within Provan Hall gardens the Medallion Garden contains a wide range of outstanding and inspirational plants selected from former RHS Award of Garden Merit species.

The forms, shapes, and textures of plants contained within the Medallion Garden excite the eye and combine with colour to make the garden interesting and unique. The vast array of Azaleas and Rhododendrons with vibrant combination of colours textures and forms provide winter interest as well as attraction in summer.

When the plants are covered in lush green leaves it is easy to forget how beautiful many of their bare branches and twigs can be in the winter months, particularly against the clear blue sky.



Hidden under the shade of the woodland canopy within the Medallion Garden sits the striking Giant Himalayan Lily, *Lilium giganteum* some three meters tall with its glorious perfumed flowers forms a wondrous summer display. The huge, downward pointing trumpet-shaped white flowers have bright orange hearts and look just like real lilies, but on a gigantic scale. Under the shade you will also find the rare and unusual woodland Cyclamen naturalising, though familiar as a garden plant, Cyclamen are rare in the wild, petite and pretty with robust scented blooms.

Auchinlea Pond

The park features a large pond, home to fish and aquatic invertebrates - with a central island for wildlife. The pond is home to a wide range of breeding wildfowl, such as coot, moorhen, mute swan, mallard and tufted duck. Surrounding features include a walkway offering a circular walk around the waters edge.

Naturalisation of the pond includes the construction of shallows along parts of the pond's edge and island. Vegetation planted in these shallows gives the waterbirds and their young cover, as well as enhancing the pond visually with colour. It also provides habitat for aquatic insects such as dragonflies and damselflies.

Shallows round the island give young waterbirds access to the island for safety. Overall these measures further enhance the biodiversity of the pond and its appeal for members of the public.



Sculptures

Bird of Prey



The magnificent sculpture is made from recycled chestnut, felled from one of the existing trees located within the grounds of Provan Hall.

The decision to create the bird of prey was inspired by the success of the 2003 celebrations which marked the 500th anniversary of the marriage of King James IV of Scotland to Mary Tudor, known as the marriage of the Thistle and the Rose, as those were the symbols of Scotland and England respectively.

Gartloch Columns



Nothing of the original Georgian mansion house remains today, except the wonderfully restored fluted columns which form the focal point of the gardens in Provan Hall. The existing drive leading to MacPherson House probably supported its once grand portico, from which the columns were retrieved. The old drive is now overgrown but can still be seen running through the woods east of the Mid Cottages.

'Gart', in old Scots, means an enclosure or garden. This garden by the loch' may have got its name at the time when the Bishops lived in their Lochside palace. Beautiful woods and parklands surrounded Gartloch House, which stood, on high ground overlooking the loch from the west. It was a neat Georgian mansion, typical of many such houses around Glasgow that disappeared being no longer financially viable or simply swallowed up by the growing city.

Play Area

Auchinlea Park boasts a large play area suitable for all age groups. The play facility itself was famously opened in the early 90's by the late Anita Roddick of Body Shop who also gifted funds for this part of the development. Upgrading of the play park in 2008 includes the installation of a variety of robust and exciting modern play equipment.

Park Regeneration

Glasgow City Council's priority is to see the site conserved and promoted effectively, both as the main Gateway to the Bishop's Estate and as the centrepiece to the redevelopment of Auchinlea Park. The Council plans to develop an Interpretation / Visitor Centre within the grounds of the park, which will provide an interpretation facility for the buildings as well as a heritage centre for the Bishop's Estate.



Events in the Park



Auchinlea Park offers an exciting and diverse range of events each year. These include events organised by Land and Environmental Services and the Friends of Provan Hall group, such as cultural heritage exhibitions, community events, galas and days out.

These ensure the active involvement of the local community through events for schools and families throughout the year, and co-ordination of events for the Glasgow wide Doors Open Day.



Auchinlea Park

Pedestrian Access

Toilets

Vehicle Access

Telephone

Car Park

Café



Legend

- Amenity Mown Grass
- Woodland / Shrub
- Bedding Areas
- Play Area
- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation

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