

Kelvingrove Park History

History

In 1852 the City purchased land forming Kelvingrove and Woodlands Estates for the sum of £99,569 to create an area which is now known as Kelvingrove Park.

- The Park was created for the rapidly growing West End of the city for the recreation and amusement of the citizens of Glasgow
- It was one of many Victorian parks created in response to the appalling conditions created by rapid urban growth, resulting from the industrial revolution.
- The park was the first purpose designed and constructed park in Scotland and it rapidly became a considerable attraction
- It was designed by the leading landscape designer of the time, Sir Joseph Paxton who also designed the Crystal Palace in London
- Kelvingrove is one of the city's best loved historic parks, an enduring legacy of Victorian urban parks, which has a special place in the hearts and minds of the people of the West End.
- It has been used twice for International Exhibitions in 1888 and 1901 as well as being used for the Scottish National Exhibition in 1911.
- The magnificent Art Gallery and Museum which is a prominent feature of the park was built for the 1901 Exhibition.
- The Doulton fountain, which has undergone a £5m refurbishment at Glasgow Green, was originally located in Kelvingrove for the 1888 International Exhibition.

Outstanding Features

- The Park has an overarching feel of Victorian grandeur. The layout of conscious curves follows the route of the River Kelvin, which it crosses at several points.
- The Art Galleries and Museum, completed wildly over budget at a cost of £257,000, is the most prominent feature.
- In 1854 a granite staircase was erected near Park Gardens - close to the former home of the SFA - at a cost of £10,000
- The Stewart Memorial Fountain, erected in 1872, commemorates Lord Provost Stewart who was instrumental in the delivery of Glasgow's water supply system from Loch Katrine - inaugurated in 1859. Unfortunately the fountain uses mains water, an extravagance that cannot be afforded today.
- The River walkway is a peaceful natural haven within a densely populated area of the city and it is home to a diverse range of wild life.
- Other features include:
 - Sunlight Cottages 1901

- Highland Light Infantry Monument 1906
- Bandstand and Amphitheatre 1924 (Please note this area of the park is currently closed to public access)
- Tom John Honeyman Garden and seating Area 1972