



**CITY OF CAPE TOWN
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA
STAD KAAPSTAD**



A HISTORY OF CAPE TOWN'S DISTRICT PARKS

Making progress possible. Together.

CONTENTS

Arderne Gardens
De Waal Park
Durbanville Rose Gardens
Khayelitsha Wetlands Park
Maynardville Park
Nantes Park
The Company's Garden
Trafalgar Square
Wynberg Park



ARDERNE GARDENS

The park forms part of the original Stellenberg estate, which was acquired by Ralph Henry Arderne in 1845. He named it 'The Hill' and began his collection of trees, shrubs and perennials. Working together with his eldest son, Matthew, the intention was to create a garden containing flora from around the world. A vast number of the specimens found in the park today were sourced from Australian and New Zealand trader ships in exchange for many of our local plants.

In 1914, The Hill was sold. A portion of 4.5 hectares was registered in favour of the Council of the City of Cape Town in July 1928. In 1961, this section of land was re-imagined into what has become the Arderne Gardens.



The Arderne Gardens is a national monument and some of its individual trees have received national recognition and protection. Six of the trees are officially recognised as Champion Trees. They are:

- A Moreton Bay fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) – officially the largest tree in the Western Cape and one of the four largest in South Africa
- A Norfolk Island pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) – a particularly large specimen
- A Turkish oak (*Quercus cerris*)
- A Queensland kauri (*Agathis robusta*)
- An Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*)
- A cork oak (*Quercus suber*)

DE WAAL PARK

In 1877, the City Council of Cape Town divided land that it had purchased from the Van Breda family into three parts, first building the two smaller reservoirs below Camp Street and then the Molteno Reservoir below Belvedere Road. The land in between formed a natural park.

From 1889 to 1890, D.C. de Waal, the city councillor at the time, was responsible for developing the park. His love of trees led to thousands being planted in the park and throughout the city.

De Waal Park was opened to the public in 1895. At one stage it was called Jubilee Park, but it soon reverted to the name it bears today.

The impressive gates and wall along Camp Street were built in 1899. In 1900, the wall was extended and a hedge of Kei apple was planted to fence off the park on that side.

In 1905, a bandstand was built for the Cape Town Exhibition; this is now used as the stage for the annual Summer Concerts series.

In the 1950s, De Waal Park became the venue for the annual Theatrical Garden Party, the forerunner of today's Community Chest Carnival now based in Maynardville.

In March 1968, the park was proclaimed a National Monument to be maintained in perpetuity as public gardens. Today it is listed as a Provincial Heritage site.



DURBANVILLE ROSE GARDEN

The Durbanville Rose Garden was established in 1979 as an initiative of the Western Cape Rose Society under the auspices of Mr and Mrs Lindner and the Durbanville Municipality. Part of the garden is located on land that originally formed part of the Old Eversdal Estate and was donated by the Schabort Family. The rose garden now encloses the Schabort family burial ground and

memorial.

The first roses were planted in 1979 and the trial garden began in 1981. The garden was officially opened by Gene Louw in 1983.



Botanical highlights include:

- 500 varieties
- 4500 rose bushes
- Beds of medal winners
- Antique roses
- Hybrid teas
- Floribundas
- Climbers and shrubs
- Gazebo that includes the 'Fairest Cape' rose

KHAYELITSHA WETLANDS PARK

The Khayelitsha Wetlands Park was established in 1998 after a study identified various appropriate and viable land-use zones within the greater Khayelitsha wetlands area. The rehabilitation of this once litter-strewn wetland has been a resounding success. With its aesthetically pleasing and environmentally friendly landscape design, Khayelitsha Wetlands Park is a source of immense pride for the local community.



MAYNARDVILLE PARK

Maynardville, originally administered by the Dutch East India Company (VOC), is named after financier James Maynard, who owned a house in the park from 1836.

Maynard Villa, the original home, was passed through the Maynard family until the land and house were acquired by the City of Cape Town in 1954. After the villa was demolished, the City turned the land into a public park.

Each summer since 1956, Maynardville's now famous outdoor theatre has hosted a production of a Shakespearean play. The tradition was started by actresses Cecelia Sonnenberg and Rene Ahrenson, who persuaded the City of Cape Town to create an outdoor stage and auditorium. Their first production was *The Taming of the Shrew*. In the ensuing years, the original 'Shakespearean seasons' grew into the immensely popular annual tradition of Shakespeare in the Park. Cecilia and Rene retired in the mid-1990s. Shakespeare in the Park is currently maintained through the Maynardville Theatre Trust and Artscape.



NANTES PARK

During the 1970s, Capetonians would go to the park with their radios to listen to the Springbok Radio serial, 'Die Geheim van Nantes'. The activity was so popular that the park eventually became known as Nantes Park.

Over the next few decades, the park fell into a state of disrepair and neglect. It became a hub for illegal activities and was frequently used as a dump site.

In 2007, the community of Athlone and surrounding areas got together, with the support of the City of Cape Town, to begin the rejuvenation of Nantes Park. The full restoration, including the popular skate park, amphitheatre and picnic areas, was completed in 2013. The park now plays a vital role in encouraging recreation, arts and culture within the community.



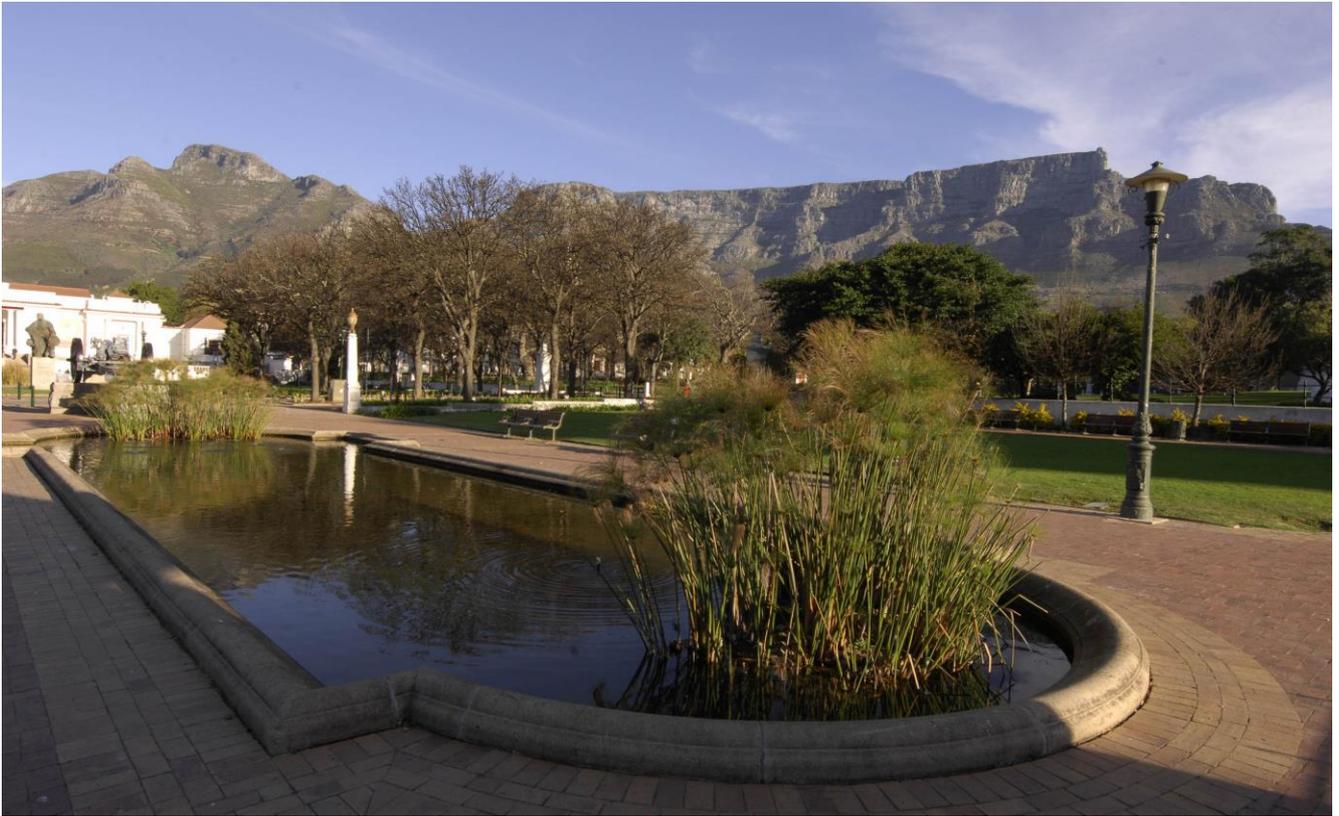
THE COMPANY'S GARDEN

Highlights of the garden include:

- the oldest cultivated pear tree in South Africa, estimated to have been planted in 1652;
- historic statues and a sundial dated 1781 in the centre of the garden
- a well dating from 1842 with a handpump embedded in an oak tree next to it, which is still connected to the well by an underground pipe. It is a symbol of the significance of water from Table Mountain and the origin of the garden;
- a memorial slave-bell, which is actually the old fire-alarm bell from the original town hall in Greenmarket Square. The bell itself dates back to 1855;
- a rose garden designed and built in 1929;
- a vegetable garden designed and built in 2014;
- the Delville Wood Memorial Garden, designed in 1929 by Sir Herbert Baker, commemorates the World War 1 battle at Delville Wood in France, in which a

predominantly South African force of more than 3 000 soldiers was reduced to 755 survivors by German forces;

- a Japanese-themed garden with a stone Japanese lantern donated by the Japanese Ambassador in 1932;
- colourful bedding displays;
- water features;
- a koi fishpond;
- an aviary with a variety of birds;
- botanically and historically valuable trees;
- a herb garden;
- a rockery garden; and
- a Visitors Centre and Information Office which houses a pictorial history of the Company's Garden.



TRAFALGAR PARK

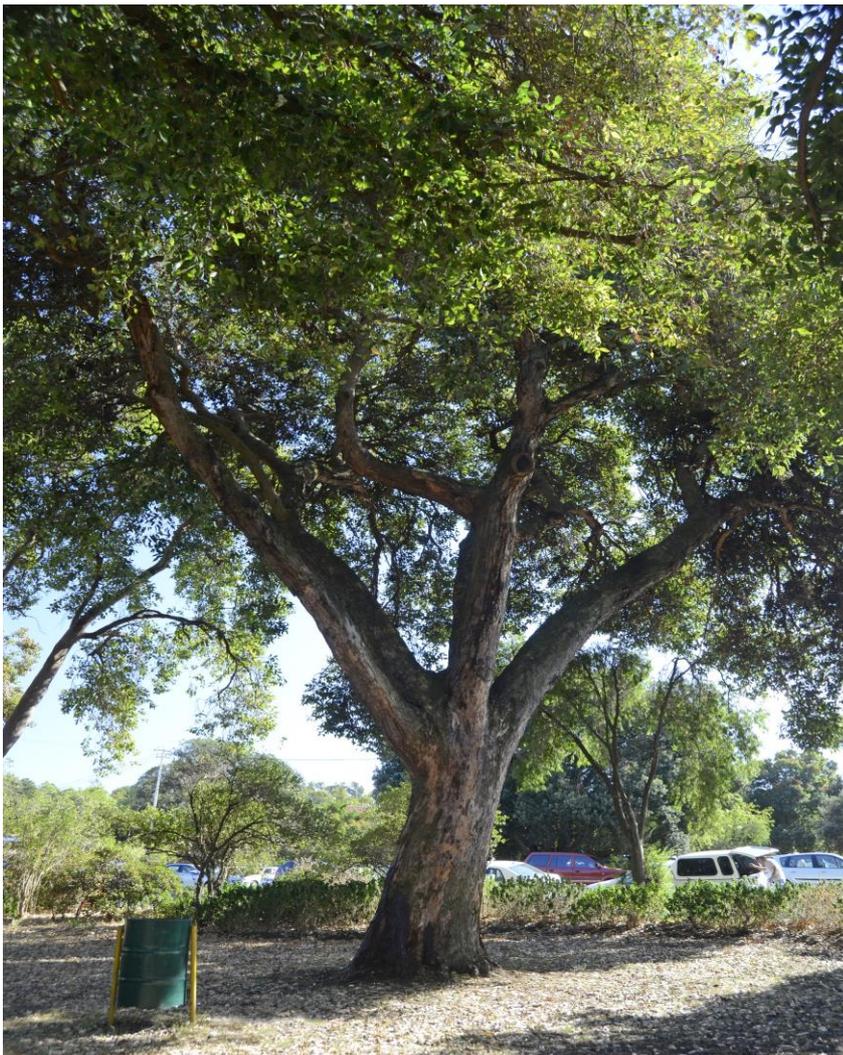
The remains of the Fredrick William Redoubt (or French Redoubt) still stand at Woodstock's Trafalgar Park.

In 1781, the Dutch East India Company, fearing an overland attack by the British, accepted the assistance of a French garrison to build a line of defence consisting of four forts and three redoubts.

In 1795, after the British occupation, the redoubts and forts were again utilized for defence purposes. The line eventually fell into disuse and, in 1827, instructions were given to demolish the forts.

In 1968 the last remaining redoubt was proclaimed a National Monument.

The site also contains a small 19th century incinerator known as The Destructor. Little is known about it but it is believed to have been used to destroy undelivered mail and confidential official city documents.



WYNBERG PARK

In the 1890s, the land for the King Edward Park, as it was then known, was obtained through the combined efforts of William Horne, a Wynberg resident and William Morom, a councillor of the Wynberg Municipality. Together, these two men negotiated the grant for this extensive stretch of ground on Wynberg Hill.

Once granted, the park was magnificently landscaped with waterways, lawns, trees, shrubs and flower displays. A large section was also allowed to remain wild.

The park was formally opened in 1902 by the Honourable Thomas Graham. After the opening ceremony, the Guild of Loyal Women (formed during the South Africa War), planted commemorative trees that can still be seen today in an area close to the duck pond.

The park also features a white marble fountain commemorating the Coronation of King Edward VII.

