



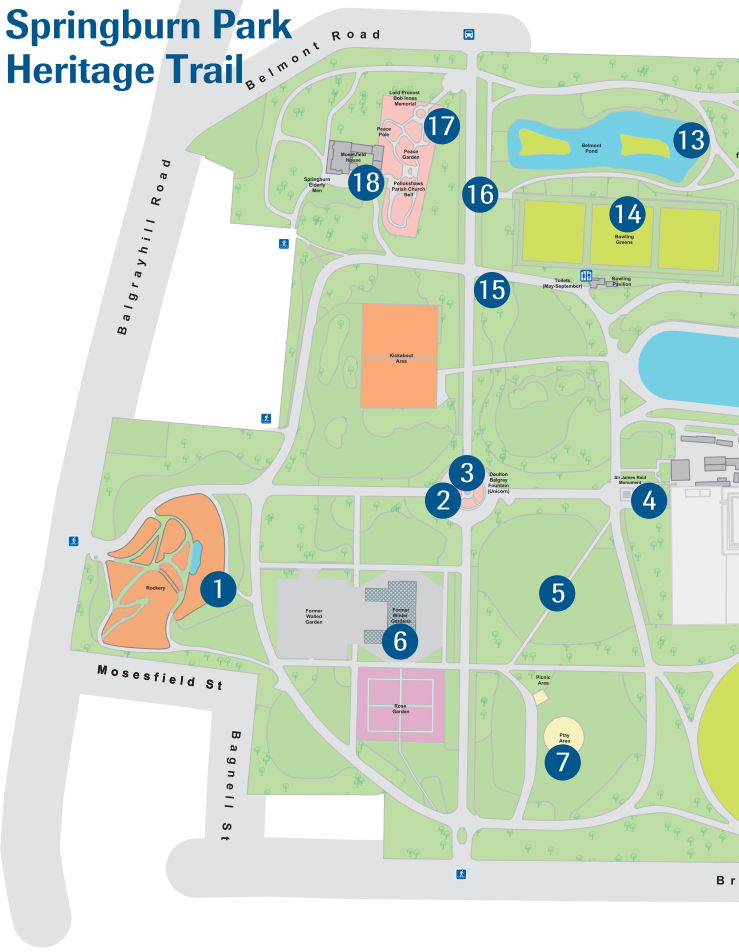
Springburn Park Heritage Trail



JAMES REID
OF
AUCHTERARDER
AND THE
HYDE PARK
LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
BORN-1823
DIED-1894

ERECTED BY PUBL. SUBSCRIPTION
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Springburn Park Heritage Trail



- 1 Rock Garden
- 2 Site of Former Bandstand
- 3 Doulton Ware Column: Listed Status Category B
- 4 James Reid of Auchterarder Monument: Listed Status Category B
- 5 Birch Walk
- 6 Former Winter Gardens: Listed Status Category A
- 7 Play Area
- 8 Cricket Oval
- 9 Cockmuir Reservoirs



- 10 Former Boating Pond
- 11 Stobhill Pond
- 12 Moongate
- 13 Belmont Pond
- 14 Public Bowling Greens
- 15 Extensive Herbaceous Borders
- 16 Nature Trail (Start Point)
- 17 Mosesfield Memorial (Peace) Garden
- 18 New Mosesfield House: Listed Status Category B

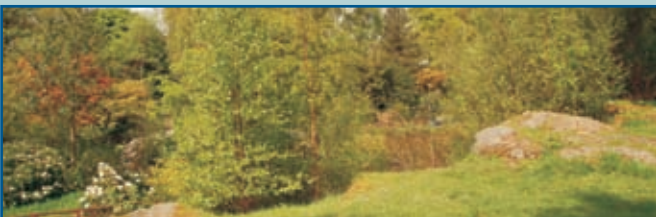
Springburn Park Heritage Trail

On behalf of Glasgow City Council, welcome to Springburn Park. Please enjoy your visit. Springburn Park is a typical late Victorian public park, in which the philanthropic aspirations of its creators are reflected. The park has one of the most beautiful rockeries in Scotland, a garden of peace and three wildlife ponds. Extensive spring and summer bedding, a formidable collection of bulbs, summer bedding and polyanthus are planted throughout. The park is filled with evergreen and flowering trees, shrubs, rhododendrons, heaths, rock and alpine plants.

From its prominent hilltop, the park offers extensive views of Ben Lomond, the Trossachs, the Kilpatrick, Campsie and Kilsyth Hills, the hills of Argyllshire and on a clear day the peak of Goat Fell on the Isle of Arran.

The park is bounded to the immediate west by Balgrayhill Road with its four tower flats and slightly further west by a main arterial road leading to Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch. Immediately east and south are primarily residential areas beyond Broomfield and Balornock Roads, characterised by semi-detached and terraced houses of varying ages, Victorian tenements and modern flats of varying scales. The grounds of Stobhill Hospital lie to the north.

The heritage trail is full of points of interest and offers a welcome retreat from the busy surrounding streets. Toilet facilities (open seasonally to the public) are located at the Bowling Pavilion and Football Centre.



Springburn Park



Introduction

The park has traditionally provided green open space for leisure and recreation to the residents of Springburn and surrounds, and contains a variety of listed buildings, monuments and sporting facilities set within landscaped areas. Facilities include synthetic football pitches with changing accommodation, multi-pitches, three bowling greens, a cricket pitch, and children's play area.

Dominating the southwest corner of the park is the now derelict A listed Winter Gardens. Just to its west is a rockery transformed from an old sandstone quarry into one of the parks more popular features. (New) Mosesfield House lies to the northwest of the park, a B-listed building used by a local worker's club on the ground floor and as a private residence in the upper floor. The northeast portion of the house's gardens were converted into a Memorial Garden in 1997. There is also a magnificent B listed bronze statue to James Reid of Auchterarder and fragments of a rare Doulton Fountain.

The Park is increasingly valued for its wildlife and has been designated a Local Site of Importance for Nature Conservation which contains extensive woodland and three ponds, one of which was originally a model boating pond. The Park offers a number of walks through this area.

Springburn Park Heritage Trail Route

Beginning at Balgrayhill public entrance gates following the suggested numbered route it should take visitors approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes allowing for a brief stop at each item, through the park and back again.

Main Points of Interest

1. Rock Garden



Rock Garden

Springburn Park has one of Scotland's most beautiful rockeries. This spectacular rockery was previously the site of an old sandstone quarry and Glasgow Corporation created the rockery following the purchase of the land in 1892. It is one of the few reminders that Springburn was once a mining and quarrying area. The rockery is derived from a mixed style of garden design, based on ideas from various parts of the world and from historical periods. The wild rock garden is intended to evoke the mountain scenery of the Himalayas and the Alps and the plants from these regions. This often requires wet conditions for the roots (as in mountain clefts) and cold dry conditions for the leaves and flowers. Other features of the rock garden include the curved rustic bridge which is a modern replacement arched over the pond and central viewing area.



Rock Garden circa 1900

Sadly the rockery was badly damaged a number of years ago but has since been refurbished. Restoration of the Rock Garden included the renewal of paths, railings and CCTV surveillance and flood lighting installed.

The refurbishment was the result of new investment, funded by GCC North Area Committee and Land & Environmental Services and with the assistance of the Friends of Springburn Park.

2. Site of Former Bandstand



Springburn Park Bandstand 1925

James Reid's gift of a bandstand to the people of Springburn in 1891 had highlighted the absence of any recreational area and led to the creation of Springburn Park. The bandstand, manufactured by Walter McFarlane's Saracen Works, was erected in May 1893 and was the park's original centrepiece.

Audiences of over 2,000 often attended summer concerts in the park. Popular bands of the first quarter of 20th century were the Springburn Sons of Temperance, Springburn Silver Prize Band, Springburn Rechabite Reed Band and the North British Locomotive Works Silver Band, which would include members from their Queen's Park, Atlas and Hyde Park works. They practised in the quadrangle of the Administrative Building. Perhaps the best known band was the Salvation Army Silver Band, which marched from Flemington Street to their Citadel in Wellfield Street every Sunday.

Performances were intimated by the Union Jack flying from the nearby former flagpole.

Crowds attending the concerts caused such damage to adjoining flowerbeds that the bandstand was later moved and placed in an amphitheatre surrounded by railings. It was removed altogether in the early 1960s due to increasing maintenance costs. The Doulton Ware Column now sits where the bandstand had first been erected 80 years before.

3. Doulton Ware Column: Listed Status Category B

The column which marks the centre of the main axial route through the park is raised on a group of four volutes set at right angles to each other, and has an elaborate Ionic capital decorated with female masks. Above the capital is a cubic block with chamfered edges supporting a unicorn sejant with its forelegs



resting on a shield inscribed with a St Andrew's cross. On the lower part of the shaft of the column is a series of four ornamental shields bearing the names and emblems of the home nations – IRELAND (harp), SCOTLAND (thistle) and ENGLAND (rose) – and the arms of Glasgow.



Doulton Ware Column

The monument as it exists today is only the upper part of a much larger structure, which was designed as a fountain and originally stood in Balgray Pleasure Park; both the park and the fountain were the gift of Sir Hugh Reid.

The lower stage of the fountain consisted of a circular outer basin, above which was a series of smaller basins divided by buttresses decorated with large, water-spouting sea monsters. On the central drum supporting the column were four roundels containing portraits of Sir William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns, with a number of the classics of Scots engineering, such as the Comet and the steamship the Clyde depicted in small rectangular panels below them.



Balgray Springvale Place 1911

As the Corporation Minutes for 12th June 1968 record *“...The derelict Doulton Ware Fountain in Balgray Pleasure Ground, which (has) inhibited the best use of the available space, has been examined by J. & G. Mossman...(and it is) agreed that the fountain be dismantled and the column be re-erected in one of the ornamental flower beds of Springburn Park.*

The block supporting the unicorn also incorporated a weather vane. The fountain was dismantled c.1970, shortly before the Pleasure Park was built over. Frost damage to the lower portions meant that only the column could be saved without becoming an expensive restoration. By comparison the Doulton Fountain located on Glasgow Green cost around £3.75 million to restore.

4. James Reid of Auchterarder Monument Listed Status Category B

James Reid (1823 – 94), was the proprietor of the Hyde Park Locomotive Works, Springburn. Born at Kilmaurs, Ayrshire, he was a blacksmith's assistant before moving to Greenock, where he worked first as an engineer with Scott, Sinclair & Co., and later Caird & Co., with whom he became chief draughtsman in 1850. In the following



year he became manager of the Hyde Park Locomotive Works, then at Anderson in Glasgow, later buying the company from Walter M. Neilson after it had moved to Springburn. Under his energetic leadership the company was vastly expanded, employing 2,500 workers and producing around 200 locomotives per year in the 1890s. A local benefactor, he donated funds for the erection of the bandstand in Springburn Park, and served on the committees of several institutions, including Springburn School Board. He was elected Lord Dean of Guild in 1893, President of the Institute of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland in 1882, and served as JP for the counties of Lanark and Perth. An enthusiastic patron of the arts, he was President of the RGIFA 1891-4, and amassed a fine collection of paintings, many of which were later presented to the city. He died while playing golf at St Andrews.



James Reid monument

The bronze statue of James Reid by sculptor W Goscombe-John ARA, (1860 – 1952), stands in a prominent location to the east of the main axial drive in the centre of the park. The subject is shown in a relaxed pose, with his advanced right foot placed on a slightly raised corner of the plinth and a partially unrolled sheaf of plans in his left hand. He wears a knee-length frock-coat, which is unbuttoned and tucked behind his right arm to reveal his waistcoat. The relief panels on the

the pedestal are decorated as follows: on the right (south) face, a draped female figure with a laurel crown seated in front of an ionic colonnade and holding an inscription tablet; on the left (north) face, a hooded female figure seated in front of a railway bridge and holding an inscription tablet; on the rear (east) face, a rectangular panel in three compartments superimposed on a wreath and featuring the symbols of the Glasgow coat of arms, a sailing ship and inscription. The three plaques represent his terms of office as President of the Society of Engineers and Shipbuilders, President of the Royal Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts and as Lord Dean of Guild. The pedestal stands on a square paved area within a flower bed surrounded by a low iron rail.

The inscription reads: 'James Reid of Auchterarder and Hyde Park Locomotive Works. Born 1823. Died 1894.'

The campaign to raise funds for the monument to James Reid, widely regarded as Springburn's greatest industrialist, was launched in October 1900, by the St Rollox and Springburn Express, and the unveiling ceremony was performed by ex-Lord Provost of Glasgow Sir James Bell. A photograph taken at the time of the unveiling shows the statue without the flower bed or railing, both of which must have been added at a later date.

Related work; Bronze maquette, c.1903, signed by John and inscribed 'sketch model for Reid statue', in Glasgow Museums and Art Galleries.

Other famous examples of Goscombe John's work include the Elf statue a feature of the Kibble Place in Glasgow's Botanic Gardens, The Response at Barras Bridge, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, commemorating the Northumberland Fusiliers; the Memorial to the Engine Room Heroes of the Titanic in Liverpool and the War Memorial at Port Sunlight in Cheshire.



Goscombe John was made a Royal Academician in 1909 and was knighted in 1911. He was awarded the RBS Gold Medal in 1924 and became an honorary freeman of Cardiff in 1936.

He died in 1952 at the grand old age of 92.

The Reid statue will be restored late 2011.

5. Birch Walk



Birch Walk

Alternating on either side of the pathway leading down from the James Reid monument there are thirty semi mature birch trees planted, varieties include, *Betula Pendula Dalecarlica* (Swedish Birch) and *Betula Nigra* (River Birch).

This fine avenue of trees were planted on the 7th March 2006 by Land and Environmental Services, with the assistance of the Friends of Springburn Park and 130 primary one school pupils from Albert, Balornock, Barmulloch and St Martha's primary schools.

The avenue is marked with two plaques at opposite sides.

6. Former Winter Gardens: Listed Status Category A



Winter Gardens



Winter Gardens 2011

The Winter Gardens were erected in 1900 by Glasgow Corporation as a condition for accepting a £10,000 gift from Hugh Reid of the North British Locomotive Company to finance the construction of the nearby Springburn Public Halls. Hugh Reid, whose patronage following that of his father James was essential not only to the park but indeed to the community of Springburn. As reported in the Glasgow Herald for Monday 8th October 1900, at a ceremony presided over by the Lord Provost, the Winter Gardens had been handed over to the Corporation two days before by Hugh Reid, who is recorded as having

“...mentioned that it was 37 years since his family came to reside at Springburn. For many years



after that, the district retained much of its sylvan beauty and rural charm. As a family they felt that their commercial and manufacturing relations with it had of necessity done not a little to destroy its former beauty, and that they owed it a debt that they could not hope to repay”.

The Winter Gardens is now the oldest structure that was gifted as part of the formation of the original park. The glasshouse was supplied by Messrs. Simpson & Farmer in association with William Baird & Sons of the Temple Park Ironworks. The main structure is of mild steel with secondary elements of wrought iron and decorative internal structure of cast iron. The steel structure was detailed and fabricated in 1899 using mild steel from the operational steelworks at Glengarnock in Ayrshire.

Simpson and Farmer are thought to be a firm known locally to and well used by the Corporation but they do not seem to have been widely reputed outwith the city. Around the same time of the construction of the Springburn Winter Gardens, the firm built the Glasshouse at Queen's Park and were also involved in erecting the glasshouse at Tollcross Park using components originating from a country house in Ayrshire. In each of these, the firm gives itself a different description, including 'Hothouse Builders' at Springburn and 'Horticultural Builders' at Queen's Park.



Springburn Winter Garden circa 1980

The Winter Gardens were much loved by generations of Springburn residents for their displays of exotic plants and for the concerts and exhibitions held there. Despite being classified as an A-Listed building, the Winter Gardens have remained derelict for the last 20 years due to major structural problems.



Winter Garden 2011

At present the City Council is attempting to raise funds to restore this site to its former grandeur.

7. Play Area



Play Area

Play facilities within Springburn Park were upgraded in 2011 to incorporate areas zoned for specific age ranges and abilities and as such are challenging yet still great fun. The landscape around the play zone has been designed to allow for more informal play with a



winding footpath that doubles a safe cycling route for younger children. This footpath crosses a stone bridge that in turn is built over a dry burn which is all part of the naturalisation of the landscape around the play area with the creation of meadows, new woodland coppice and stands of pine trees all to compliment the existing mature trees that fill the park.

8. Cricket Oval



Cricket Oval

Springburn was one of several Glasgow public parks which could boast a cricket pitch and this was well used formerly by the Cowlares XI. Perhaps their best remembered match was the charity one against “Sir” Andrew Dougall's XI. He was a colourful character and was known as the “Earl of Hogganfield”. So great was the interest in cricket in 1893 that there were discussions about forming a league championship amongst the district's clubs, which were Belmont, Springburn, Union and two quaintly named ones – Ravenna and Gonzaga.

Today the Springburn Cricket Oval is used by a number of teams including Victoria Cricket Club, Scot Indians Cricket Club and Active Life Cricket Club, all regular users of the park.

The pitch is used from April to September each year.

9. Cockmuir Reservoirs



Springburn Ariel - Cockmuir Reservoir

The Cockmuir Reservoirs, managed by Scottish Water, sit to the top right of the park. These are built on Cockmuir farmlands, once occupied by a family of Stewarts in the mid 19th century. Cockmuir farm buildings survived well into the 20th century and were sited near the present football pavilion. They are today concealed from view, since the demolition of the landmark white water towers, which were built in 1939 and demolished in 1978.

These reservoirs, served by the mains supply from Milngavie retain a capacity of some 1,000,000 gallons and supply much of North Glasgow. Robert Stewart (Lord Provost 1851-1854) was the driving force behind the implementation of a municipally –owned water scheme to provide clean water to Glasgow's rapidly increasing population and is commemorated by the magnificent Stewart Memorial fountain in Kelvingrove Park.

10. Former Boating Pond

The former boating pond was famously photographed in the early thirties, where young boys could sail their toy yachts and clockwork motorboats. Others could walk round the edge carrying a bamboo cane with a net



attached which enabled children to fish for minnows. In the summertime they could hire and enjoy cranking paddle boats on the pond. In the late 19th Century the colder winters allowed the use of the pond for Curling.



Model Yacht Pond

The boating pond has artificial banks, naturalised in 2003 to create areas for aquatic vegetation to enhance the habitat. Waterbirds and minibeasts such as damselflies which have an aquatic larval stage have been attracted to the pond. A small island provides cover and nesting habitat for waterbirds. Near the northwest corner of the pond in the adjacent trees is the site occupied by two coal mine shafts.

The boating pond also has areas where pond dipping can take place.



The Boating Pond

11. Stobhill Pond



Stobhill Pond

Early views of Stobhill Pond and the hospital c1904 show the north eastern corner of the park dominated by the north façade of the hospital's main administration block and the tall clock tower.

Ponds in city parks attract many birds and other animals usually found outside of town in the countryside. Many of the birds found around Stobhill pond have different ways of feeding. Some birds like the Mallard Duck dabble about on the surfaces of the water or up-end looking for small aquatic creatures and plants. Other birds like the Tufted Duck and Coot dive under the water to catch their food. Herons and Little Grebes have also been seen, each with their own feeding habits. Grey Squirrels are noted egg thieves and are common in the park along with Foxes which hunt there and in the hospital grounds and surrounding neighbourhoods. Roe Deer are occasional visitors, as are Hares and Rabbits.

Wildflower meadows around the ponds look attractive in flower and provide nectar for bees, butterflies and other insects. Some of the species are the food plants for the caterpillars of some butterflies so enabling these species to breed in the park.



12. Moongate



The Moongate

The project lead by Stobhill Hospital NHS and Land and Environmental Services with support of Community Planning Partnership and the Friends of Springburn Park brings forward a series of works that developed through working with artist and poet Alec Findlay and his associates in Platform Arts.

The culmination of a 2 year development and consultation project in and around Stobhill Hospital and Springburn Park the project became focused on the theme of the circles. Circles the eternal shape and form with no beginning and no end, of birth and renewal are a symbol used for millennia and here it is used in circle poems carved into rocks which allow the reader to obtain several interpretations.

The monumental symbolic representation of the theme is the Moongate which welcomes the visitor in the Park or leads one to the hospital. Its gentle form harmonises with nature and the steel from which is formed echoes so many of the natural colours around it.

The incorporation and embracing of the Parks 'wilder' parts in the overall project lead to the birdbox crossword trail where the visitor is encouraged to engaging with nature by the need to seek out the clues and solve the puzzle.

A series of benches cut from slate have been positioned for a casual rest as the visitor enjoys the quieter parts of the Park or watches the world go by. One of the benches was dedicated with a circle poem to the memory of local broadcaster, writer, walker and character Tom Weir.

The grassland near the moon gate shows a clear run rig pattern of agriculture which was in use up to the eighteenth century.

13. Belmont Pond



The Belmont Pond

The Belmont Pond has natural looking edges with considerable amounts of wetland vegetation. The pond supports a number of species of waterbird including Mute Swan, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Moorhen and Coot and rarities such as an American Wigeon, have been noted.

The pond is also home to a huge variety of smaller animals such as insects, spiders, and toads. Frogs and toads spend most of their time on land hidden away in the surrounding woods and reed beds. They return to the pond to breed at the beginning of spring when they lay thousands of eggs in clumps or strings of jelly. The eggs hatch out into tadpoles that will develop into adults if they can avoid being eaten by other water



predators like the Great Diving Beetle and Pike and other coarse fish which inhabit it.

14. Public Bowling Greens



Public Bowling Greens

The public bowling greens were officially opened Wednesday 16th August 1905, by Lord Provost Sir John and Lady Ure Primrose. Mrs. Marion Reid of Belmont rolled a silver jack and the first bowl to the accompaniment of cheers. She retained the jack as a memento of the occasion. The greens are still kept in excellent playing condition and much used today. The district once had four other public greens at Cowlairs Park and also three private clubs – Stobhill Hospital, Cowlairs in Hillkirk Place and Springburn in Broomfield Road. Only the latter, established in 1858, still exists.

During 2011/12, a new community recreation building will be constructed on this site which will accommodate the bowling clubs playing on these greens. The building will also allow the development of other sporting, recreational and community uses of the park.

15. Extensive Herbaceous Borders



Herbaceous Borders

Hidden attractions within the park are the magnificent looking herbaceous borders screened by the backdrop of various rhododendron and tree species. Herbaceous plants are non-woody plants. They are principally perennial plants which means they have an indefinite life span of more than three years. Herbaceous borders as they are known today were first popularly used in gardens in the Victorian era. Hybridisation and new imported plant species revolutionized the form of British gardens in the 18th and 19th centuries. Scots were amongst the great plant hunters and those who financed them.

Springburn Park contains one of the longest herbaceous borders in Glasgow.

16. Nature Trail (Start Point)



Springburn Park Nature Trail

The nature trail in the park has recently been redeveloped with cairns and interpretation boards which provide visitors with a direct informal, educational and recreational experience using the natural environment as a tool to illustrate a conservation message. The cairn at the start of the route gives information on the 1km trail, which is the home to a surprisingly diverse range of wildlife. Ponds, woodlands and meadows are all found within a relatively small area, making the north side of the park a



great place to experience Glasgow's wildlife at first hand. The markers posts lead the visitors to stone cairns along the route where particular aspects of the environments will be interpreted. The trail is open 52 weeks of the year and has been designed for casual walkers and wheel chair users alike.

The woodland is mainly broad-leaved plantation woodland with a mix of species including alder, ash, birch, elm, hawthorn, lime, sycamore, oak, pine and whitebeam. As well as various ornamental conifers, hornbeam, horse chestnut, laburnum, cherries, larch, holly, rowan, willows oak, over 30 species and varieties to be found. Towards the east, there are some large beech trees. Through the woodland is a trail of bird and bat boxes with the name of the tree jumbled up in a phrase on each box. Native woodland vegetation has been planted by volunteers especially at the path edges to enhance the woodland habitat. Boulders carved with poems and stone benches are located in and around the woodland.

17. Mosesfield Memorial (Peace) Garden



The Monument to Robert Innes

Formerly used as a holding area for plant material. One of the most charming features of the park the Peace Garden was dedicated to the late Lord Provost Bob

Innes. It features beautifully laid out flower and heather beds with memorial seats, pergolas and a "Peace Pole" donated by Japanese atomic bomb survivors.

The Monument to Robert Innes is a modest but highly unusual memorial, the sculpture is an assemblage of real locomotive components, including a bogey wheel with brake – block linkage and suspension spring, a section of railway track and a train buffer, all attached to a slightly tilted backing plate supported by two steel struts. Robert Innes was a highly respected City Councillor whose 'brief tenure as Lord Provost was tragically cut short'.

THIS GARDEN IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY
OF LORD PROVOST BOB INNES LORD PROVOST
OF GLASGOW 1992-94
OPENED BY MRS INNES ON THE 10TH JULY 1997
GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL
on the locomotive wheel axle - 175023

An unusual feature of the garden includes Pollokshaws Parish Church Bell.

The northeast portion of New Mosesfield House gardens were converted into this Memorial Garden in 1997.

18. New Mosesfield House: Listed Status Category B

On what was the site of the 18th century Sighthill Farm Mosesfield House was built in 1838 to designs by the office of the well-known and much celebrated Glasgow architect, David Hamilton, for wealthy publisher and bookseller, James Duncan his son, a sugar broker of the same name developed Bemmare Gardens near Dunoon, now on stature of Edinburgh Botanic Gardens.



Mosesfield House

The house was named New Mosesfield to differentiate it from the 18th century 'Old' Mosesfield which was built near what was to become the south west corner of the park.

The house has served various important social functions over its history, in addition to its first role as a dwelling house for a wealthy Glasgow businessman. Between 1861 and 1895 it served as the Manse of the Reverend James Johnston of the Springburn United Presbyterian Church. As a manse the house would have been well used by the clergy and the local community, for church business and social events. The Minister's son George Johnston, who was co-founder of the Arrol-Johnston Motor Company, designed and constructed the first mechanised dog cart in Scotland, an early motor car, at Mosesfield House which gives the building an important historical association.



Springburn Park circa 1895 Mosesfield House dogcart

In 1904 the house was purchased by Sir Hugh Reid (of Glasgow's locomotive industry) who lived in Belmont House to the north of Mosesfield at the time. Sir Reid gifted New Mosesfield to Glasgow Corporation for a museum and reading room. This gift to the city was just one part of the Reid family's philanthropic gestures within the local community. Their locomotive business was not only critical to the local economy of Springburn, employing hundreds of local people, the Reid family also invested significant sums of money into the local area for community benefit. New Mosesfield House was an important part of this investment. The museum subsequently became a new element of the recently established Springburn Park.

At the time of the house's conversion to the museum function, the first floor of the building was also converted to a self contained flat and a cottage created in the courtyard. The museum was very popular with the local community and generated many visitors until its closure in 1952. After this date the ground floor of Mosesfield House was converted to its current use, the Strathbogie Worker's Club. During the 1980s the cottage within Mosesfield's courtyard became a base for Springburn Park employees. The ground floor of Mosesfield House continues to be utilised by Strathbogie Worker's Club for social meetings and events and the upper floor is a tenanted flat.

The design of New Mosesfield is attributed to the office of Glasgow architect David Hamilton whose works include The Royal Exchange, Hutcheson's Hall, the Nelson Monument in Glasgow Green and the Glasgow Necropolis among others. David Hamilton's work is much celebrated throughout Glasgow and beyond. His significance as an architect is also considered to be enhanced by the fact that a number of other important architects trained in his office, including William Stirling II (1807 – 1816) and Charles Wilson (1827 – 1837). Because of this connection with Glasgow's architectural establishment, Hamilton is often described as 'the father of Glasgow's architecture'.



This brings you to the end of Springburn Park Heritage Trail.

In order to understand Springburn Park's significance in history, let us take a step back in time...

Early History of Springburn

The area of Springburn lies to the North of the City of Glasgow and encompasses Cowlairs and Old Balornock. It has played an important role in the industrial development of Glasgow whose past is renowned for its heavy industry. Until the world-wide depression, the iron and steel-making industries and the industries of the products made from them were the cornerstones of the Glasgow economy much of which was driven by the north. Prior to industrialisation the area was largely characterised by scattered rural activity including weaving, small-scale mining and quarrying and farming. A number of the city's merchants and gentry also chose to locate their mansion houses in this attractive area of hilly countryside.

During the 19th century the area was transformed by industry. Following the opening of the Glasgow and Garnkirk railway in 1831, Springburn became strongly associated with the railway industry and the area became the largest manufacturer of locomotives in Europe. Development of the railway and foundry industries characterised the physical form of Springburn as can be seen on Ordnance Survey Maps of the late 19th century. Large manufacturing concerns such as the Saracen Foundry and Blochairn Iron Works are clearly shown. Railways are particularly prominent, with large areas being occupied by the Cowlairs Works of the North British Railway, the St Rollox Works of the Caledonian Railway and the Hyde Park and Atlas Works of the North British Locomotive Co.



Atlas works Springburn

By 1891, Glasgow had over 200 foundries and a range of other manufacturing industries. Foundries manufactured diverse products such as railings, ornate staircases, bandstands, kitchen ranges and manhole covers. The railway works in Springburn had their own foundries, manufacturing parts for steam engines. Firms such as Cowieson's Ltd, A & J Main & Co. Ltd, Walter McFarlane & Co, Arrol's Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd and Brownlie & Murray Ltd supplied not only entire buildings but also supplied steelwork for buildings locally and internationally. The structural engineers Fleming Brothers based at St Rollox depot became one of the primary manufacturers and suppliers of steel structural sections for the construction industry.



Locomotive leaving Hyde Park works

The construction of the Hyde Park Locomotive Works in 1860, in particular was extremely influential to the



community and economy of the local area. Neilson & Co built the Hyde Park works as an expansion of their operations in Finnieston on the Clyde, from which the works took their name. James Reid, a former works manager and partner of the company, took over the firm in 1873. By 1900 when it was operating at its peak it was the largest locomotive firm in Britain, employing 3,500 men and capable of building 300 engines a year. The impact of this operation on the local area was massive and despite the closure of the Hydepark Works in 1962, due primarily to the increasing competition from road transport, Springburn's close relationship with the railway industry is still remembered and celebrated by many today.

The Reid's of Springburn

HUGH REID the chief managing director and deputy chairman of the North British Locomotive Company, Limited was the eldest surviving son of the late Mr. James Reid, and was born at Manchester in 1860. Mr. Reid, senior, a native of Kilmaurs, Ayrshire, was then manager to Messrs. Sharp, Stewart & Co., engineers, Atlas Works, Manchester, but three years later he became a partner in the business of Neilson & Co., which had just relocated from Hydepark Street, Anderston, to Springburn, and his eldest son accordingly received his education at Glasgow High School and Glasgow University. He obtained his practical training in the Hydepark Works, and rapidly developed a natural talent for engineering. After the retirement of Mr. Neilson in 1878, Mr. Reid, senior, carried on the business of the firm with the assistance of his four sons till 1893, when he took them into partnership. In the following year he died, and Mr. Hugh Reid became senior member of the firm then known as Neilson, Reid & Co., of Hydepark Locomotive Works.

After they came into possession of the business Mr. Reid and his brothers added largely both to their

buildings and plant, and to the number of men in their employment, and in 1903 an amalgamation was effected between the Hydepark Works, Springburn, the Queen's Park Works, Polmadie, and the Atlas Works, Springburn, under the name of the North British Locomotive Company, Ltd. The united firm employ between 7,000 and 8,000 men, and was the largest private locomotive-building concern in Europe.

Mr. Reid became a director of the Clydesdale Bank, Limited, and a Member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, and he was Convener of the Committee on Machinery and Electric Lighting in connection with the Glasgow Exhibition of 1901. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and the Volunteer Officers' Decoration, from the Lanarkshire Engineer Volunteers, after twenty-three years' service. He also became a member of the Royal Company of Archers (the King's Bodyguard for Scotland).

The Reid family dominated Springburn, and James' son Hugh built a new mansion, Belmont House, overlooking the area in 1889. As with many other industrialists of the Victoria era, James Reid, and latterly his son Hugh, sought to 'give something back' to the local Springburn community, many of whom worked in the family's engineering works, to compensate for the impact their locomotive works had had on the once expansive open countryside of the Springburn area. James Reid made an offer to Glasgow Corporation in the autumn of 1891, of a bandstand, which subsequently prompted the creation of Springburn Park. The Reid family's benevolent donations to the area also included the Springburn Public Halls, land for Springburn Library and an extension to Springburn Park, the Winter Gardens and many other local amenities.

As a direct consequence of the initial donation of the bandstand, Glasgow Corporation minutes from this time record the agreement to acquire grounds on the estate of Mosesfield and Cockmuir:



“which would be very suitable as a recreation ground for the district”.

Consequently work began on preparing 40 or 50 acres of land on the crown of Balgrayhill in the Spring of 1892. Springburn Park has become widely known and celebrated as the highest park in Glasgow at 106.98m above sea level and remained so until Cathkin Braes were acquired and fell within the City Boundaries after the 1938 Boundaries extension.

Former Belmont House



The Reid home Belmont House

Belmont House was the home in Springburn of Hugh Reid, Managing Director of the North British Locomotive Company. It embodied the wealth and power of the Reid family, occupying the highest point in the City of Glasgow with views of seven counties.

Hugh Reid was the second son of James Reid on his death bequeathed the mansion to Stobhill Hospital for use as a children's home in memory of his wife, Marion Bell, who had died in 1913.

'The Marion Bell Home' was later used as a nurses' living and training quarters, and as a meeting place for the hospital's board of managers and its staff association. The house was demolished in 1986. All that now remains are two red sandstone pillars of the lodge gates at the bend in Belmont Road.

Winter Gardens



Springburn Winter Gardens 1910

Glasshouses heralded the beginnings of the entertainment industry during the 19th century. The public were encouraged to enter 'a garden under glass' and view the exotic plants within. The glasshouses provided a place where people could meet and view nature in the comfort of a covered environment sheltered from the elements. In addition, the glasshouses housed concert halls, music halls, theatres, cafes, art exhibitions, billiard rooms, restaurants and banquet halls. As well as displaying exotic plants, the Winter Gardens in Springburn Park held concerts and exhibitions and provided a place for the community to come together.

Comparison with other glasshouses in Glasgow sets the Winter Gardens apart. In terms of outlying locality, it can be compared with Queen's Park or Tollcross. These small octagonal domes however are dwarfed by the huge single span hall of the Winter Gardens in Springburn. In terms of scale it is on a par with the People's Palace glasshouse or Kibble Palace, perhaps representing the significance of Springburn and its railway and manufacturing industries at the time. The eminent critic Lord Esher described it as the first example of Edwardian Glasshouse in Scotland.



Springburn Winter Gardens Fashion Show

Glasshouse construction in the UK began around 1830 and continued into the 20th century. Springburn's Winter Gardens were constructed towards the end of the 19th century. Having benefitted from several decades of development of the glasshouse building type, they were particularly efficient in layout and structure. Glasshouse designers had developed the curvilinear roof following investigations into the optimum roof type and shape in order to fully utilise the sun's rays in winter. The curved roof allows the sun to fall perpendicularly to the glass for the longest time, particularly in northern climates where the angle of the sun is low, thereby reducing reflection of the sun's rays.

The Springburn Winter Gardens is noteworthy in its original layout and function as having a central main hothouse, two entrance porches, four smaller

planthouses and a walled garden that served the main glasshouse space. These gave the design an overall symmetry and added spaces of human scale and proportion. The original design contained a number of other ancillary buildings which were never built but together would have formed a facility of even more significant scale and operation.



View of the Springburn Winter Gardens

The architectural inspiration for the glasshouse seems to have come from the railway industry, as the wide 18.3m span and its mild steel, cast and wrought iron construction is reminiscent of the Victorian railway stations of the age. The firm William Baird & Sons is described as structural and bridge engineers in archived company records.

The structure itself is uncomplicated, although its simplicity and lightness are beneficial to the glasshouse model allowing more expansive views out and sunlight in. The purity of the structure also gives the glasshouse a certain beauty. The glasshouse was detailed with elegant cast iron balustrading and gallery details, arched teak windows some of which still exist. The original ventilation winding gear is still intact in both main and smaller glasshouses. Other architectural details and flourishes such as the thistle motif brattishing and finials survive.



Glasgow is fortunate to have so many of its Winter Gardens structures surviving as there are very few other examples of the same quality throughout the rest of Scotland. Therefore the Springburn Winter Gardens is also considered to have a rarity value. Its architectural importance is derived from its large scale, simplicity and internal detailing. Its aesthetic quality is derived from its simple elegance and surviving decorative details both internally and externally. Although it contains some interesting structural features of note, the building is not considered to be of particular structural significance. It is in essence a very important surviving structure and worthy of its Category A listed status.

Consultation with the well-established community of Springburn and local groups revealed that the gardens were a popular attraction before their closure, and their restoration is widely supported.

The Formation of Springburn Park

By 1859, legislation had been put in place that led to the formation of the City Improvement Trust and the Glasgow Parks and Galleries Trust, and the Corporation employed Sir Joseph Paxton to advise on the laying out of both Kelvingrove and Queen's Parks. Prior to the creation of Springburn Park, Glasgow Corporation had already gained considerable experience from the creation of other substantial public parks, including Kelvingrove Park (1859), Queen's Park (1862), Alexandra Park (1872) and Victoria Park (1887) built by the Burgh of Partick.

The creation of Springburn Park was then based on several decades of experience and expert advice on the laying out of city parks. Several men were instrumental in organising the drive to acquire the land and vacant steadings on the site for the Park, including City Architect John Carrick and two of the Corporations

Superintendents of Parks, Duncan McLellan and James Whitton. These men toured other city parks throughout England and the mainland of Europe, drawing in precedents seen in London, Liverpool and Manchester where “every facility was afforded for the pleasure and recreation of the masses...”, and later various cities in Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium.

In 1891 the city boundaries were greatly extended resulting in the lands to the north and east of Springburn now being within the City of Glasgow. That same year, James Reid's gift of a bandstand to the people of Springburn had highlighted the absence of any recreational area. A year later in 1892, Glasgow Corporation acquired a 52 acre site at the crown of Balgrayhill chiefly from the owners of Old Mosesfield House and Cockmuir House to provide a park for Springburn. The cast-iron bandstand, manufactured by Walter McFarlane's Saracen Works in Possilpark, was erected in May 1893. It was the park's original centrepiece and can be said to have led to the creation the park. The bandstand was a popular attraction for Springburn residents, with up to 2000 people attending biweekly summer concerts.



Springburn Bandstand 1925



Plans for the laying out of the rest of the park were developed through 1892 and 1893, with final approval given in May 1893. The Ordnance Survey of 1895 shows the first elements of the park already in place, including the main circuit walk, the bandstand and adjacent drinking fountain, the Model Yacht Pond and nearby flagstaff, and partially completed Rock Garden. Reference to the bowling greens appears in Corporation minutes as early as 1892 and it is likely that two of the three rinks and the further two ponds were completed before the turn of the century. Cockmuir Reservoir already existed by the time the park was formed. It was built by Glasgow Corporation Water Works to supply water to the north of the city. At this time, it was located at was the eastern boundary of the Park.

The creation of Stobhill Hospital to the northeast of the park has come to have a direct influence on the park today, although it had no direct impact on the original layout and development of the Park. It was conceived in 1899 as a Poor Law Hospital, and was officially opened in 1904. Early views of Stobhill Pond and the hospital show views to be dominated by the north façade of the hospital's main administration block and the tall clock tower. The crowding of numerous other buildings onto a fairly restricted site allowed little space for ornamental planting on the hospital grounds, thereby increasing the importance of the park to patients who relied on views out to the park.



Stobhill Hospital and Flagstaff

The park was improved through the years 1900 – 1905 in no small part due to the benevolence of the Reid family. With the family's assistance, in 1900 the Corporation acquired 15 acres at Cockmuir Farm to the east for the enlargement of the Park. The Winter Gardens were gifted to the Park by Hugh Reid, son of James, and opened in 1900. The bronze statue of James Reid was erected by public subscription in 1903, located at the west end of the east/west walk near the Model Boat Pond and Reservoir. Mosesfield House was presented to the Corporation by the Reid family as a museum in 1905.

The incremental addition to the Park through this period gave it its shape as we know it today.

Twentieth Century Development

The Ordnance Survey map from 1913 illustrates that 20 years following the creation of the park that the landscaping and planting of the park was complete and major elements in place. The Rockery was complete, both Belmont and Stobhill ponds and two bowling rinks were in place, the cricket field is shown and several sheepfolds are noted suggesting that livestock were used to maintain grass areas. One or two short lengths of park-rail fencing show how the animals were retained.

Existing records contain little evidence of major changes to the park during the remainder of the 20th century. Minor alterations came in the form additions to the park to suit changing public demand for outdoor games. When the park was formed, parks were largely intended for restful recreation and quiet reflection. Half a century later, the idea of recreation had grown to include formal sports, and demand had increased for football and hockey pitches, cricket fields, tennis courts and bowling greens.



Springburn 1910

By the Ordnance Survey of 1932, a third rink had been added to the bowling greens, tennis grounds with a pavilion were added directly south of 'Mosesfield Museum' and a new picnic pavilion and lodge near the Statue had been built. An area of land east of Cockmuir Farm was given to football grounds, and path networks had been developed particularly to the north of the park near the ponds.

As shown on 1938 maps, the Bandstand was relocated to a landscaped amphitheatre created to provide seating. (The amphitheatre now serves as the children's play area. It was later removed altogether in the early 1960s due to increasing maintenance costs. The Balgray Fountain (Doulton Ware Column) now sits where the bandstand was first erected.

During decades following, there were a few minor additions to the park and expenditure took the form primarily of repairs, in particular to the Winter Garden during the 1930s and again in the 1950s. During World War II, the park largely escaped conversion to allotments, a fate which affected many other parks, and the sports pitches and paths in the park remained in good use during this time. The Museum was removed from Mosesfield House following its transfer from the Museums Department to the Parks Department, after which time the house served as a working men's club

and tenemented flat. Noticeable additions to the Park in the 1957 Ordnance Survey plan are the addition of a putting green adjacent the tennis courts, a new hockey ground on the site of the former Cockmuir Farm and the water tower built in 1939 (subsequently demolished in 1978).

In 1968, the Bandstand was demolished and the amphitheatre partially filled in to be laid out as a children's playground. Shortly following, the derelict Balgray fountain (Doulton Ware Column) was moved from the Balgray Recreation Ground to the centre of the park first used as the site for the Bandstand. The fountain was seen to have inhibited the best use of available space at the Balgray Ground, so was dismantled and only the column was erected in a flowerbed. Springburn Leisure Centre now occupies the site of the former Recreation Ground.

Following the amalgamation of the Council's propagation services at other glasshouses in the city, the Winter Gardens were closed in 1984, and have since fallen increasingly into a derelict state. Other changes have included the creation of the floodlit Synthetic Sports pitches to the south-east corner opened in 1989, the creation of a new Mosesfield Memorial (Peace) Garden dedicated to the late Lord Provost Bob Innes in 1997, the renewal of the Rock Garden and designation of the northeast area of the park as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation.

Since its creation, the Park has provided general recreation, outdoor games and entertainment to the community of Springburn and other outlying areas to the north of the city. In 1923, Parks Superintendent James Whitton commented that *"...this park is now one of the best equipped, having bowling greens, cricket and football pitches, tennis courts, model yacht pond, also two ornamental ponds for waterfowl and plenty of swings for children...."*



James Whitton

The Council's Land and Environment Services Department has invested in a number of improvements to the Park, and it is hoped that these can be brought within the strategic plan of action for the improvement of the Park to allow it to continue to serve the people of Glasgow as successfully as it has done in the past.

The Glasgow Herald Monday 8th October 1900 reported on the Springburn Park Public Hall and Winter Garden

The memorial stone of the Springburn Public Hall was laid on Saturday afternoon by Lord Provost Chisholm. Associated with the ceremony was the formal opening by Mrs Hugh Reid of the Reid Winter Garden, gifted to the City by Messrs Reid. The double event was looked forward to with great interest by the People of Springburn, and both functions were largely attended. Unfortunately the weather was extremely inclement, rain falling heavily throughout the afternoon, and the ceremonies, or as all events the open-air ones, were somewhat shorn of the éclat which in more favourable conditions would have attended them.

The new public hall, which is in course of erection by the Corporation as the outcome of long and persistent agitation on the part of the inhabitants of the locality and advocacy by their representatives in the Town Council, is situated in Keppochhill Road at the corner of Millerbank Street, and almost directly opposite another handsome range of public buildings occupied by the Fire Brigade and Tramway Departments. The estimated cost is about £12,000 and the edifice, which is chaste in design and commodious internally, is being erected in accordance with plans by Mr W. R. White, formerly assistant in the office of Mr A.B. McDonald, the City Engineer. The main hall is 77 feet in length by 59 feet in width and is seated for accommodation of fully 1200 persons. The Winter Gardens occupies an appropriated site on the southern portion of Springburn Park, a short distance to the North of Broomfield Road it has been erected at a cost of £10,000, through the generosity of the family of the late Lord Dean of Guild Reid, whose gifts to the city, it will be recalled, include a numerous valuable collection of paintings. The structure, which has an internal area of 150 feet by 60 feet, is about 40 feet in height, and was designed by Messrs Simpson & Farmer, Hot-House Builders, along with Mr William Baird, of the Temple Ironworks. On each side of the main building is a range of plant houses 50 feet long by 32 feet in width.

The members of the Corporation with the guests invited for the occasion, assembled at the Municipal Building, George Square and at two-o'clock the company, which included a large number of ladies, drove in carriages to Springburn among others present were Lord Provost Chisholm. Mr and Mrs Hugh Reid, Mr and Mrs John Reid, Mr Andrew T Reid, Mr Hugh Brown, Rev Dr M Adam Muir, and a large representation of the Town Council. At the memorial stone ceremony Bailie John King Convenor of the sub-committee on Springburn Halls presided. After a brief religious service conducted by Rev, John G Duncan and Rev J H Dickie, the Chairman made a statement in which he traced the origin and described the purposes of the building. Lord Provost Chisholm then laid the memorial stone, after which Mr Whittie, on behalf of the



contractor for the joiner work, handed to the Lord Provost a trowel, and Mr Hugh Macpherson contractor for the mason work handed to Bailie King a mallet, as souvenirs of the occasion. The Lord Provost congratulated the residents of the district on the near approach of the completion of their Public Hall, and the proceedings were closed by the band playing the National Anthem.

At the opening of the Reid Winter Garden the Lord Provost presided, and called on the Rev. Hugh Mair and the Rev Alexander Gilchrist to conduct a brief religious service. The Lord Provost next addressed the company, and expressed the Corporation's and Citizen's gratitude to the Messrs Reid for their gift of this amenity to the residents of the district. His Lordship invited Mrs Hugh Reid to do the Corporation the honour of performing the opening ceremony, and Mr Simpson, the contractor, having presented Mrs Reid with a gold key, she declared the Winter Garden open for the perpetual use of the Citizens, the ceremony being followed, on the call of the Lord Provost, by "Three Cheers for Mrs Reid". Ex Bailie Wm Bilsland (Convenor of the Committee on Parks and Gardens), on behalf of the Corporation, presented Mrs Reid with a silver flower vase as a memento of the occasion. Mr Hugh Reid, on behalf of his wife, acknowledged the compliment and gifts and in the course of an address mentioned that it was 37 years since his family came to reside at Springburn. For many years after that the district retained much of its sylvan beauty and rural charm. As a family they sometimes felt that their commercial and manufacturing relations with it had of necessity done not a little to destroy its former beauty, and that they owed it a debt they could not hope to repay the objects they had heart in suggesting a Winter Garden were to afford protection from the extremes of climatic conditions with which we were familiar, and that the garden might make band performances possible in the park independently of the state of the weather, and that association therein with plants and flowers at all seasons of the year in comfortable temperatures might afford please and an opportunity of instruction to the people of the district (Applause) a concert of instrumental and vocal music followed.

Chronological Development of Springburn Park

Key Milestone Dates

- 1823-1894 James Reid
- 1831 Springburn becomes strongly associated with the railway industry and becomes the largest manufacturer of locomotives in Europe
- 1838 New Mosesfield House designed by architect David Hamilton
- 1851 James Reid becomes manager of Hyde Park Locomotive Works
- 1861 New Mosesfield House is home to Reverend James Johnston
- 1889 Hugh Reid builds Belmont House
- 1890 Charles Rennie Mackintosh builds Redclyffe House, 140-142 Balgrayhill Rd, for his cousin James Hamilton
- 1891 James Reid offers bandstand to Glasgow Corporation prompting the creation of Springburn Park
- 1892 Glasgow Corporation acquired land to provide a park for Springburn
- 1892 Rockery created from former quarry following purchase of land
- 1893 James Reid elected Lord Dean Guild
- 1893 Walter McFarlane Bandstand erected, gifted by James Reid
- 1896 George Johnston (son of Rev. James Johnston) designed and constructed Scotland's first motorised dog-cart
- 1899 Glengarnock Steelworks fabricates mild steel for the main structure of the Winter Gardens
- 1900 Winter Gardens erected



- 1903 James Reid Monument erected
- 1904 Reid family purchased Mosesfield and gifted to Glasgow Corporation
- 1904 Stobhill Hospital opened adjacent to North Boundary
- 1905 Bowling Green officially opened by Lord Provost Sir John Ure Primrose
- 1912 Former Balgray Fountain gifted to city
- 1913 Marion Bell died, wife of Hugh Reid
- 1935 Hugh Reid died bequeathing mansion to Stobhill Hospital in memory of his wife
- 1939 Cockmuir Water Towers built
- 1968 Bandstand demolished and playground established
- 1970 Former Balgray Fountain dismantled and partially re-erected in park
- 1978 Cockmuir Water Towers demolished
- 1984 Winter Gardens Closed
- 1986 Marion Bell Home demolished
- 1989 Creation of Floodlit Synthetic Sports Pitches
- 1997 Mosesfield Memorial (Peace) Garden opened in memory of Lord Provost Bob Innes
- 1997 Renewal of Rock Garden and northeast area of the park designated as a Site of Importance for nature Conservation
- 2003 Boating Pond naturalised
- 2006 Birch walk planted with 30 semi-mature trees
- 2011 Play Area renewed
- 2014 Springburn Park features as Commonwealth Park Twinning Venue for schools

Historical Pictures of Springburn Park



Opening - James Reid Monument



Bandstand 1910



Springburn Winter Gardens Fashion Show



Duck Pond Springburn Park



Springburn Rockery early 1960's



Springburn Park Winter Gardens 1922



Springburn Winter Gardens circa 1975



Circa 1910



New Mosesfield House



Travel Information

Trains - operate from Glasgow Queen Street to Springburn Station, situated some ten minutes walk along Balgrayhill Road.

Bus - Service numbers 71, 72, 85/A, 88 and 271 operate a regular bus service from the city centre.
www.firstgroup.com

Parking - Car parking is available adjacent to the Synthetic Football Park and on street parking is available at the hospital.

Cycling - The park is suitable for cyclists although care must be taken in some areas and on loose fill paths.

Walking - The park can be accessed from Balgrayhill Road, Belmont Road, Broomfield Road and Balornock Road.

Land and Environmental Services General Enquiries
0141 287 5064

Travel Line Scotland 0871 200 2233
www.travelscotland.com



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Springburn Park Options Appraisal

The Springburn Local History
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Springburn Virtual Museum

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Ronnie Gray

Dictionary of Scottish Architects
Website;
www.scottisharchitects.org

www.glasgowstory.com

www.historicscotland.com

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