

Balloch Castle Country Park



UNCOVER A LOST GARDEN

This is a new map of Balloch Castle Country Park, but the landscape's designer would have drawn one just like it – later owners built gardens within the gardens, but the layout has hardly changed in 200 years.

After years of neglect, much of the landscape lies hidden beneath a tangle of overgrown trees and shrubs. Now an exciting restoration project is peeling back the layers to reveal one of the gems of Scotland's designed landscapes – a true work of art.

As you wander through the park discover long lost viewpoints, follow rediscovered paths and enjoy many of the new facilities, such as play areas and benches, that are being installed.



LOCH LOMOND

Loch Lomond has been here longer than the garden – but that didn't stop Robert Lugar using it as part of his creation. Garden designers often 'borrow landscape' from some distance away, designing gardens to incorporate the best views. Perhaps you've tried the same thing in your own garden?



PARKLAND

Once sheep and cattle chomped their way across these lawns. Nowadays, you're more likely to see a lawn mower. Every Landscape Movement design included parkland.

WOODLANDS

On windy days you can shelter in the woodland gardens – that's why they were planted. Before 1800 trees were often planted in formal blocks, but the Landscape Movement swept this formality away and replaced it with fluid shapes that followed the contours of the land.

SECRET GARDEN

This late addition to the garden was developed on the south wall of the kitchen garden in the 20th century, when the City of Glasgow bought the park.

THE FAIRY GLEN

It's easy to imagine wood elves and fairies as you walk by the sparkling waters in this wooded glen. It's a typical Picturesque feature of the Landscape Movement – rough and varied – for which the Scottish landscape needed little adaptation!

CHINESE GARDEN





This garden was added in the late 19th century. Some of the original acers and conifers remain, but it became overgrown. Now plants have been cut back and replanted with the same types of trees and shrubs that were first planted here.

PLEASURE GROUNDS

This woodland garden was planted close to the house with rhododendrons, azaleas and specimen trees. It provided an attractive place for the owners to walk.

QUARRY POND

Stone was taken from this quarry to build different parts of the garden. Slowly it filled up with water. Bog and water plants were planted and a rustic fence was added to give it a romantic feel.

-  Visitor Information (seasonal)
-  Parking
-  Toilets
-  Picnic Site

LANDSCAPE BY DESIGN

The tradition of designed landscapes goes back around 400 years. From simple beginnings landscape designers came up with more and more grand designs. By the mid 18th century, some rebelled against formality and introduced a new, more natural style – the Landscape Movement was born.

World-famous landscape designer, Capability Brown's wonderfully smooth designs were part of the Landscape Movement's 'Beautiful School'. Although he never worked in Scotland, many copied him. More rugged designs, so well suited to Scotland, were part of the 'Picturesque School'. The grounds here at Balloch include features of both.

In the 20th century many estates were broken up or sold to meet the high cost of death duties. Balloch Castle Country Park is a rare find – a designed landscape in public ownership with its structure still largely intact.

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Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

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