



ACCESS & COMMUNICATIONS


Jardines del Buen Retiro gardens have 17 gates that connect with the five streets that border the park nowadays:

Alfonso XII St.
Alcalá St.
O'Donnell St.
Menéndez Pelayo Av.
Poeta Esteban Villegas St.

BUS LINES

1, 2, 9, 14, 15, 19, 20, 26, 28,
32, 51, 52, 61, 63, 74, 146,
152, 202, Circular

METRO STATIONS

Retiro & Príncipe de Vergara (Line 2)
Ibiza (Line 9)
Estación del Arte (Line 1)
Atocha Renfe (Line 1) 

OPENING HOURS JARDINES DEL BUEN RETIRO GARDENS

Summer (April-September) 6 a 24 h
Winter (October- March) 6 a 22 h

jbuenretiro@madrid.es

OPENING HOURS JARDINES DE CECILIO RODRÍGUEZ & JARDINES DE LA ROSALEDA GARDENS

Summer (April-September) 6 - 24 h
Winter (October- March) 6 - 22 h

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & INFORMATION "EL HUERTO DEL RETIRO"

Tuesday to Sunday (Monday closed)

April, May, June & September 10 - 14 h
16 - 18:30 h

July & August 10 - 14 h

October - March 10 - 14 h
15:30 - 18 h

inforetiro@madrid.es

<https://diario.madrid.es/cieaelretiro>

Phone number: +34 91 376 91 97

A place of environmental value

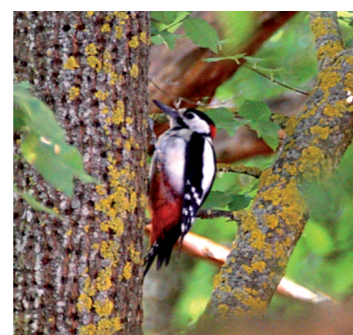
El Retiro is one of the "green lungs" that make up the rich natural heritage of Madrid. It is the most important green mass in the urban centre in extension (118 hectares) and in vegetation wealth. There is a signposted botanical track starting next to Puerta de la Independencia gate with an itinerary that includes the identification of 79 significant vegetal species.

Some plant specimens deserve special mention due to their singularity. For example, the bald cypress (*Taxodium mucronatum*), found in Parterre gardens, maybe the oldest tree in the park. A great specimen of Aleppo pine close to Rosaleda garden also deserves to be outlined.



Bald cypress

Water has always been a determinant element, from the beginning. The Estanque Grande (pond), the estuaries, the ponds and fountains define the basic structure of the gardens. Nowadays water is also where many water birds live; and in other calm tree-covered areas it's easy to find blackbirds, serins, bluetits, great tits and other insectivorous birds.



Great spotted woodpecker

Retiro was originally placed on the outskirts of the city, but today is found in the heart of Madrid. For that reason, it suffers a great and aggressive environmental pressure and a huge intense demand of use. These two factors emphasize the fragility of a park that is an historic garden.



Ángel Caído fountain detail

The City Council has as one of its goals the sustainable management of the park and, to get this purpose, the future Plan Director de los Jardines del Buen Retiro intends to establish an organised use of the park. Some exceptional measures have been taken in order to protect the park: elimination of road traffic

and night-time closures. It is crucial that social, cultural and sport activities that give life to El Retiro are compatible with its preservation and enhancement in the future. Citizens should be aware of the negative consequences of inadequate use in the health of the park. This can be achieved by making its natural and historical values known.

The City Council offers a service of environmental education and information in El Retiro including interpretive trails and guided visits to the park and its facilities, exhibitions, meetings, courses and environmental workshops. This service is offered at information points found at Casita del Pescador and Bosque del Recuerdo, and also at "El Huerto del Retiro", the new centre of environmental education next to Vivero de Estufas.

Art, culture and leisure



Estanque Grande and Alfonso XII monument

Actions carried out in El Retiro from the creation of the park in the XVII century until today show evidence of the trends in different periods, which have made a melting pot to form the current landscape ensemble full of diversity and harmony.

The monumental nature of El Retiro is enriched by the huge number of statues, some of them of kings, statesmen, literary figures, people of knowledge, other allegorical and mythological. Some of the most important Spanish sculptors of the XX century made this works of art specifically for these gardens. Benlliure, Bellver, Estany, Macho or Coullaut Valera are some of the participants of this real open-air museum of sculpture.



Ángel Caído statue (fallen angel)

Worth a mention are the fountain of Ángel Caído, the only monument in the world dedicated to the devil, the magnificent sculpture set of the monument to Alfonso XII or the equestrian statue of General Martínez Campos.

The fence that encloses the park started in 1987 and the access gates are also of a significant monumental value.



Detail of streetlamp at Puerta de Madrid gate

As the park is found in the heart of the city and the traditional leisure activities, boats, puppets, outdoors concerts, kiosks and street painters, citizens and visitants use it as meeting point. They turn the park into a diverse place on holidays, very attractive for strolling and entertainment, where spontaneous culture and open air sum up to nature and art in the gardens.



Performances in El Retiro

Jardines del Buen Retiro gardens

Felipe IV created the Jardines del Buen Retiro gardens in the XVII century as a country villa for the dynasty of Austria.

During the reign of Borbón dynasty in the XIX and XX centuries, the Real Sitio and its surroundings were improved with new facilities.

In the reign of Fernando VII the park was replanted and there are some facilities that deserve being highlighted: Casa de Fieras (zoo garden), Real Embarcadero (dock), Jardín de Caprichos o Reservado (garden) of which still remain some buildings as Montaña Artificial (hill) and Casita del Pescador (information point).

The venue was demolished several times and it suffered heavy damage during Independence War, when it was used as fortress and quarters by the French army. The urban broadening of the city during the XX century plus the former incidents set up the present appearance of the park.

In 1868 becomes part of the municipal assets, for the use of the people of Madrid.

At the end of the XIX century and the beginning of the XX century El Retiro was the place to celebrate different international exhibitions. As a legacy of these events have remain the Palacio de Cristal palace and the Palacio de Velázquez palace. The gardens of Cecilio Rodríguez were also added to the park, giving new uses to old buildings.

In recent years, modern architecture appears with the sports centre of La Chopera, new Kiosks, and a new and ambitious plan of restoration of all landscape, monumental and natural assets of the park by sectors.



Autumn landscape



Puerta de Alcalá around 1839

PLAZA DE LA INDEPENDENCIA

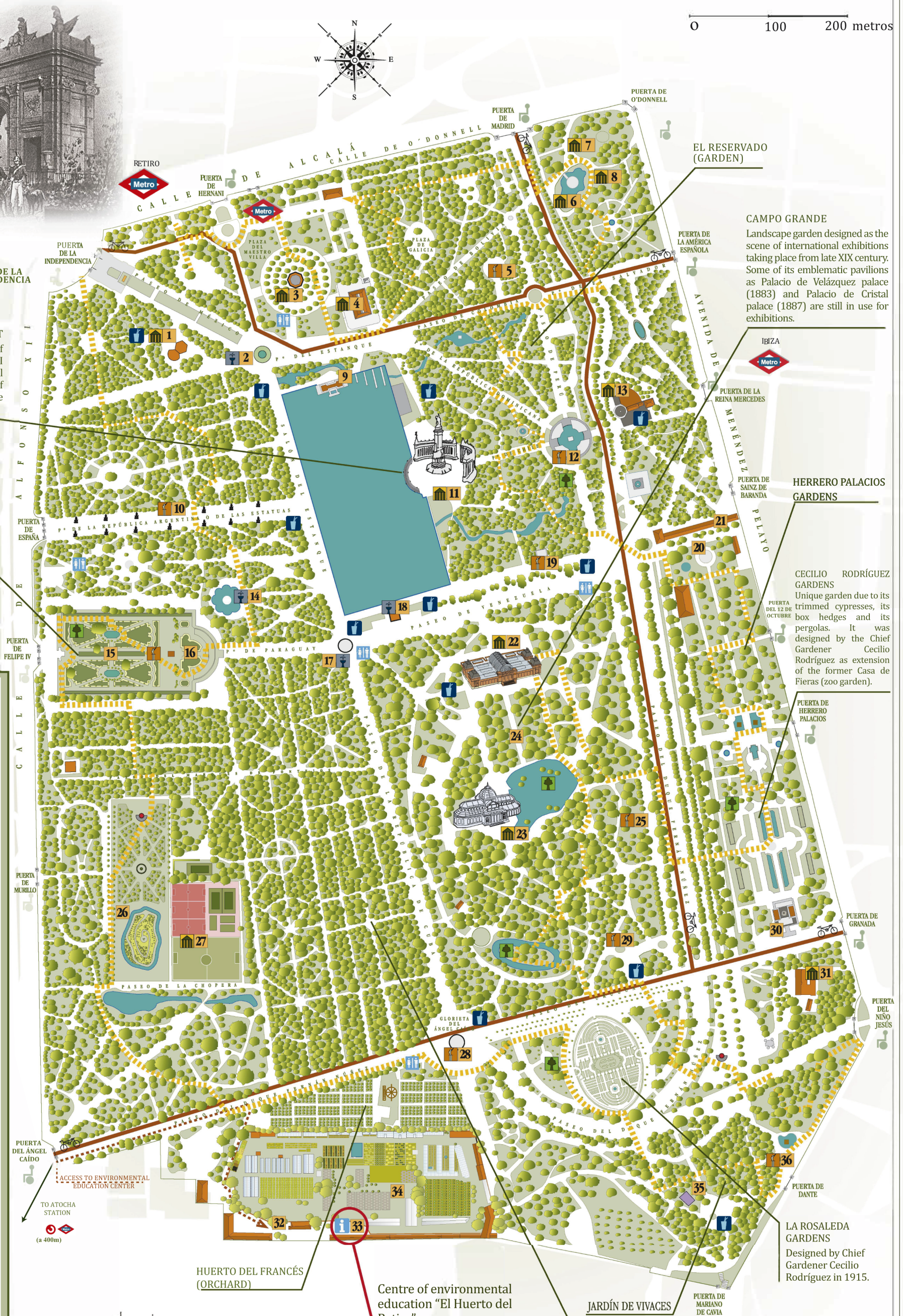
BIG POND AND ALFONSO XII MONUMENT
The big pond Estanque Grande is part of the gardens from the beginning in the XVII century. The commemorative monumental set of Alfonso XII forms a true museum of Spanish sculpture of the beginning of the XX century.

EL PARTERRE (FLOWERBED)

It is the only French garden of El Retiro. It was commissioned by Felipe V. The best way to appreciate its pattern is from a high point.

- 1 PUPPETS THEATRE
- 2 FUENTE DE LOS GALÁPAGOS (FOUNTAIN)
- 3 SMALL TEMPLE OF MUSIC
- 4 CASA DE VACAS
- 5 ÁLVAREZ QUINTERO BROS
- 6 CASITA DEL PESCADOR (INFORMATION POINT)
- 7 MONTAÑA ARTIFICIAL (HILL)
- 8 SAN ISIDRO CHAPEL REMAINS
- 9 DOCK
- 10 STATUE WALK
- 11 ALFONSO XII MONUMENT
- 12 GENERAL MARTÍNEZ CAMPOS
- 13 FLORIDA PARK
- 14 CAMPANILLAS FOUNTAINS
- 15 EL PARTERRE (FLOWERBED)
- 16 JACINTO BENAVENTE
- 17 FUENTE DE LA ALCACHOFA (FOUNTAIN)
- 18 FUENTE EGIPCIA (FOUNTAIN)
- 19 SANTIAGO RAMÓN Y CAJAL
- 20 OLD CASA DE FIERAS (ZOO GARDEN)
- 21 RETIRO OFFICES
- 22 PALACIO DE VELÁZQUEZ (PALACE)
- 23 PALACIO DE CRISTAL (PALACE)
- 24 CAMPO GRANDE
- 25 RAMÓN DE CAMPOAMOR
- 26 BOSQUE DEL RECUERDO (FOREST)
- 27 POLIDEPORTIVO LA CHOPERA (SPORT CENTRE)
- 28 FUENTE DEL ÁNGEL CAÍDO (FOUNTAIN)
- 29 BENITO PÉREZ GALDÓS
- 30 CECILIO RODRÍGUEZ PAVILION
- 31 INSTITUTE OF METEOROLOGY
- 32 EDUCATIONAL ORCHARDS
- 33 CENTRE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION "EL HUERTO DEL RETIRO"
- 34 ESTUFAS (MUNICIPAL GARDEN CENTRE)
- 35 ECOLOGY CENTRE "LA CABAÑA"
- 36 DANTE ALIGHIERI

- ACCESSIBLE GATES
- IMPORTANT BUILDINGS
- SCULPTURES
- MONUMENTAL FOUNTAINS
- SINGULAR TREES
- TOILETS
- KIOSKS
- INFORMATION POINT
- BOTANICAL TRACK
- CYCLIST TRACK



0 100 200 metros



EL RESERVADO (GARDEN)

CAMPO GRANDE
Landscape garden designed as the scene of international exhibitions taking place from late XIX century. Some of its emblematic pavilions as Palacio de Velázquez palace (1883) and Palacio de Cristal palace (1887) are still in use for exhibitions.

HERRERO PALACIOS GARDENS

CECILIO RODRÍGUEZ GARDENS
Unique garden due to its trimmed cypresses, its box hedges and its pergolas. It was designed by the Chief Gardener Cecilio Rodríguez as extension of the former Casa de Fieras (zoo garden).

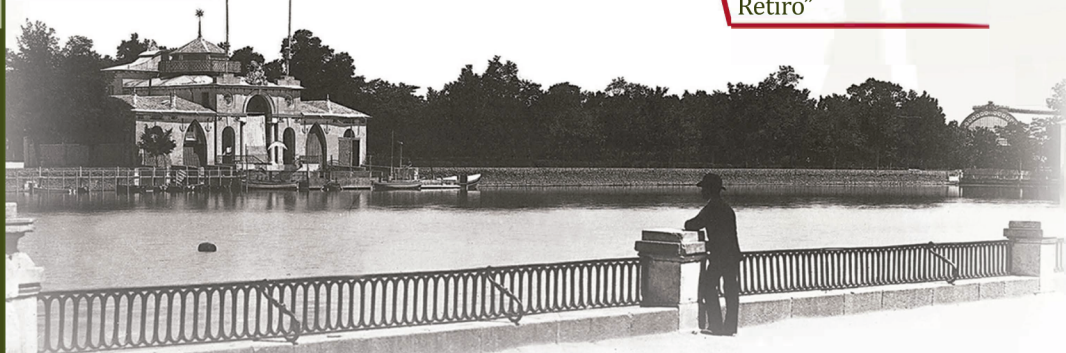
LA ROSALEDA GARDENS
Designed by Chief Gardener Cecilio Rodríguez in 1915.

HUERTO DEL FRANCÉS (ORCHARD)

Centre of environmental education "El Huerto del Retiro"

JARDÍN DE VIVACES

PERENNIALS GARDEN
Traditional Madrid garden, shady and fresh, most inviting for a stroll.



Retiro pond around 1885