

## Press Release

# Parks and Gardens in and around Weimar

## Gems of European landscape design and garden art

"Weimar is actually a park in which a city lies," is how the author Adolf Stahr described the cultural city's lifestyle 160 years ago. It is characterized by three landscaped parks, which are joined together over several kilometers like a green ribbon. In addition to the extensive park landscapes of the classical period, Weimar also has green spaces dating from more modern times, which were created under different circumstances. For both visitors and locals, Weimar's parks are a place of recreation, a sensory experience of the past, and a popular place to take a break.

## Parks and Gardens of the Classical Period

City center

### **Park on the Ilm River**

For good reason, it is nick-named "Goethe Park" - the poet had a strong influence on the park's landscaping. Today there are still traces of the classical and post-classical periods. The creation of the landscape park in the Ilm Valley was closely linked to Goethe's life and work in Weimar. The park is part of a kilometer-long green corridor that winds upstream along the Ilm River towards the Belvedere Palace Park in one direction, and downstream to Tiefurt Estate. In 1776, Duke Carl August gave the poet Johann Wolfgang Goethe a cottage with an adjacent garden in the Ilm valley, which is today called Goethe's Garden House. The numerous lines of sight are characteristic for the English garden style. The Roman House located on a hill on the opposite side of the park is the first building in Weimar that was built in classical, or as it was called then, Italian style. Today, the Ilm Park is a popular destination for locals and tourists alike.

City center, Park on the Ilm River

### **Goethe's Garden by the Star**

When Goethe moved into the garden house, he redesigned the property to suit his needs. A section with "modern English paths" was created directly opposite the main entrance. Goethe laid out vegetable patches, flower beds, rose trellises and an avenue of mallows. He planted fruit trees and groves of deciduous and coniferous trees and shrubs and created paths, steps, sitting and rest areas. Goethe also had the statue he named the "Stone of Good Fortune" erected. The "Star" refers to the nearby star-shaped paths in the Ilm Park. Goethe's garden can be visited during the opening hours of the Garden House.

Weimar-Belvedere

### **Belvedere Palace, Palace Park and Orangery**

Built in the 18th century, the ensemble of leisure palace and orangery is surrounded by a post-classical-romantic landscape park designed in the 19th century, into which the so-

called Russian Garden with a hedge theater and a labyrinth were added. The botanical importance of the Belvedere plant collections reached its peak around 1820 as the "Hortus Belvedereanus". Today, the orangery building is used for temporary plant exhibitions. The representative original baroque garden of 1748 with its strict French styling was later transformed into an English garden. The rich collection of cold-housed plants can be viewed in the orangery courtyard in summer. A large selection of colorful summer flowers, including historical varieties, are cultivated in the flower garden and in the historic nursery.

Duke Ernst August had the elegant leisure palace built in the mid-18th century, and today it is a museum of the Klassik Stiftung, which displays a selection of precious porcelain, faience, glassware and exquisite furniture there.

### Weimar-Tiefurt **Tiefurt Estate**

The design of Tiefurt Park began when Prince Constantin and his tutor, Karl Ludwig von Knebel, moved into the manor house, which had been converted into a small palace. Prince Constantin laid out the first landscaped sections. When his mother later moved her summer residence to Tiefurt, she gradually continued the park design and extended it to the opposite bank of the Ilm River. There, she created "Stüfchen und Pfädchen" (little steps and little paths) and "Plätze zur Erinnerung und Erbauung" (places to remember and be strengthened). The park is accessible to visitors coming from the castle on both sides of the Ilm's bend. The paths lead past various monuments, and the park is characterized by interesting groups of trees and shrubs.

Built as a tenant's house for a ducal chamber estate, the mansion later became the famous summer residence of Duchess Anna Amalia and a popular place for literary and social encounters. She welcomed Wieland, Goethe, Herder and Schiller to Tiefurt, as well as the Humboldt brothers and many other celebrities of the time.

### Weimar-Ettersburg **Ettersburg Castle Park**

Together, they are a jewel of Thuringian garden design: the palace park and the "Pücklerschlag", an elongated wooded meadow with beautifully designed contours. When Duchess Anna Amalia chose to move her summer residence to the former hunting lodge in Ettersburg, the transformation of the former hunting grounds also began. The castle park extends over 6 hectares on the northern slope of Ettersberg Hill. One of the paths created 250 years ago has been cleared and leads from Ettersburg Palace to the former Buchenwald concentration camp.

The palace, built at the beginning of the 18th century, was the first summer residence of Duchess Anna Amalia. It is currently being renovated.

### City center, Am Frauenplan 1 **Garden at Goethe's Residence**

Goethe's wife Christiane Vulpius used the garden to supply the household with fruit and vegetables. Goethe carried out botanical experiments here and there. The garden is preserved today as it was cultivated around 1820. Goethe brought plants back from his travels and occasionally carried out botanical experiments in his garden. The trees and shrubs include maple, lime, laburnum, bladder-senna, false indigo, and lilac. Roses,

auriculas, dahlias and many summer flowers grow around the edges. Potted plants, stylish garden furniture and a replica of a historical flower bed complete the ensemble. The former vegetable patches have been replaced by lawns.

City center, Jakobstraße 10

### **Garden at the Kirms-Krackow House**

Privy Councillor Franz Kirms was one of the Weimar "Blumisten" or amateur florists and cultivated many botanical rarities. His niece, Charlotte Krakow, maintained this legacy into the 20th century. The Kirms-Krackow House was refurbished for the Weimar City of Culture Year in 1999, and the garden was restored to its original form with arbors, sitting areas, fruit trellises and varied, colorful flowerbeds. An exhibition on "Floristry in old Weimar" can be seen in the baroque garden house. The neighboring garden of the banker Moritz, on the other hand, is a small mansion garden. The garden features generous pathways, deciduous trees, conifers and shrubs as well as a meadow area with flower roundels and tufts, a fountain, pergola and sitting areas.

City center, Herderplatz 8

### **Garden at Herder's home**

Behind the parsonage of the City Church Sts. Peter and Paul were the gardens of the preachers and teachers. The theologian and philosopher Johann Gottfried Herder lived in the superintendency with his large family. The house garden, with its fruit trees, berry bushes, vegetable patches and flower beds, was intensively used by Herder's wife and children.

## **Parks and Gardens of Modern Times**

City center

### **Weimarhallenpark**

Today's park originally belonged to the house of the publisher Friedrich Justin Bertuch, a contemporary of Goethe's, whose mansion now houses the Stadtmuseum (Municipal Museum). The garden was redesigned into a public park around 1925, encompassing a sports field, an outdoor pool, and a recreational area, and it was incorporated into the "Weimar Culture Project" in 1932. With the construction of the Weimarahalle, the context of the Bertuchhaus was lost. The park is directly adjacent to today's congress centrum weimarahalle and the Bauhaus Museum Weimar. The historic trees and the pond fed by the Lotte stream lend the park its unique character.

Am Horn 61

### **Garden at the Haus am Horn**

The Haus am Horn was built for the first Bauhaus exhibition in 1923, based on a design by Georg Muehe. Even before it was built, the area was used by the Bauhaus students as a vegetable garden. The Haus am Horn was built on a hill so that it was prominently visible. The property was converted and altered by later users to serve as a retreat. During restorations in 1989 and 2018, the original condition was largely restored. Behind

the house, there are cultivated vegetable patches reminiscent of the self-sufficiency of the Bauhaus cafeteria.

Belvederer Allee 58

### **Garden at the Haus Hohe Pappeln**

The Belgian designer and architect Henry van de Velde was appointed to Weimar in 1902 to found the School of Arts and Crafts. Up until 1913, he also designed many private buildings, including his private home in Belvederer Allee, the Haus Hohe Pappeln. His son Thyl called it "Haus unter den hohen Pappeln" (House under the tall poplars) because of the trees that surrounded it when it was built. Van de Velde designed the garden in close consultation with his wife Maria. Each part of the façade had its own garden area: a small ornamental garden at the entrance, a country garden with fruit trees and a pergola facing the street, a terrace to the south and a kitchen garden at the rear of the house. The garden also became a beloved playground for the five children.

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