

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Do NOT feed or approach wildlife even if they appear to be tame.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Keep all pets on leashes at all times.
- Do not throw rocks in ponds.
- Touch with your eyes not your hands.
- Flowers close at 90 degrees and above.
- Use caution when walking.
- Be CAUTIOUS of Poison Ivy!

THINGS TO LOOK FOR

- Birds- Kenilworth is often ranked as one of the top birding spots in Washington D.C. with an average of over 150 species frequenting the park.
- Beavers- while mostly nocturnal, there are still several signs of their activity such as chews, dams, and highways.
- Turtles- often seen basking on fallen trees or the shoreline. They are very skittish and will often retreat into the water when approached.
- Insects- there is a large variety of insects and spiders living in the park. Most of the insects found inside the park often begin their lives in the ponds.



KENILWORTH'S STORY

Walter B. Shaw, was a man of determination who lost part of his right arm, while serving in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. He taught himself to write with his left hand, accepted a job in D.C. as a clerk in the U.S. Treasury Department, married, and later bought 30 acres from his in-laws in the 1880s.



Shaw's fondness for water lilies led him to plant a dozen wild water lilies from his home state of Maine in a pond previously used to make ice. Over time, this hobby became a thriving business as Shaw built more ponds, collected exotic water lilies, developed new varieties, and sold blooms around the world.

With the help of his daughter, Helen Fowler, Shaw created a unique garden of sparkling water and colorful blooms of lilies. Helen followed her father as manager of W.B. Shaw Lily Ponds. She traveled looking for plants from Asia, Africa, and South America. Her pastel studies of lilies are displayed in the visitor's center.

In the 1920s, visitors came by the thousands to see the flowers open in the summer sun. President Calvin Coolidge, and his wife Grace, frequently came to stroll under the willows, and admired the beautiful flowers. Then in the 1930s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with orders to dredge the

Anacostia River, moved to take the gardens by condemnation.

Instead, Congress purchased 8 acres of gardens in 1938 for \$15,000 to preserve them for the American people. The National Park Service received the property, renaming the gardens Kenilworth for the community that surrounded the park.

WATER LILIES AND LOTUSES

Hardy water lilies begin blooming in early May with waxy cup shaped flowers. Tropical water lilies are more open flowers in intense colors, with rippled and often spotted leaves. They bloom late July through early fall. The lotus usually bloom late June through the end of July and have large leaves growing several feet above the water. Their showy flowers drop petals to reveal seedpods that look like shower-heads.

KENILWORTH WETLANDS

Wetlands inside Kenilworth are distinguished in the following ways natural swamp, reclaimed marsh and ponds.

The marsh surrounding the ponds is a freshwater tidal flood plain of the Anacostia River. Managed for water quality and wildlife, here one finds plants and animals typical of wetlands: wild rice, sedges, raccoons, eagles, and fox. The wetland serves as a filter for water flowing off the land into the Anacostia River, and serves as a catch basin for floods.

Welcome to the only National Park Service unit dedicated to cultivating water-loving plants. This 7 1/2 acre sanctuary features over 45 ponds filled with a variety of tropical and hardy water lilies, lotus, and other aquatic species.



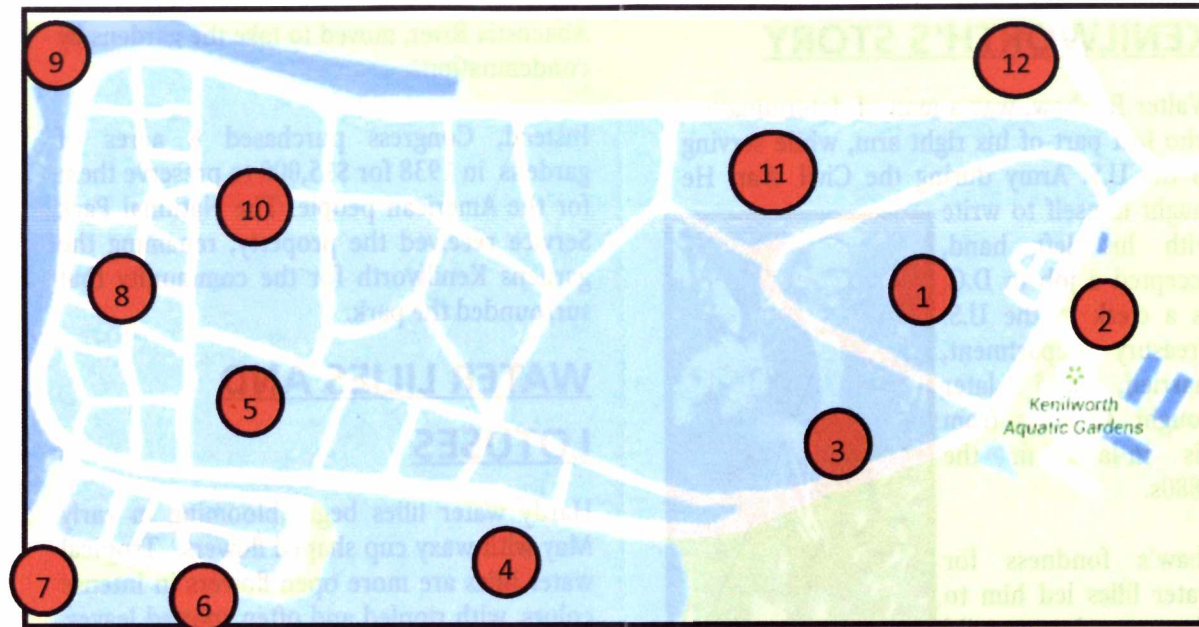
Established on the east bank of the Anacostia River, the park contains human-made shallow ponds and dikes surrounded by 75 acres of fresh-water tidal wetlands. This quiet oasis offers a scenic break from the busy pace of Washington, D.C. and a perfect place to observe local wildlife throughout all four seasons. The park provides recreational opportunities along the Anacostia River and serves as a great outdoor classroom.



Self-Guided Tour of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens and Boardwalk

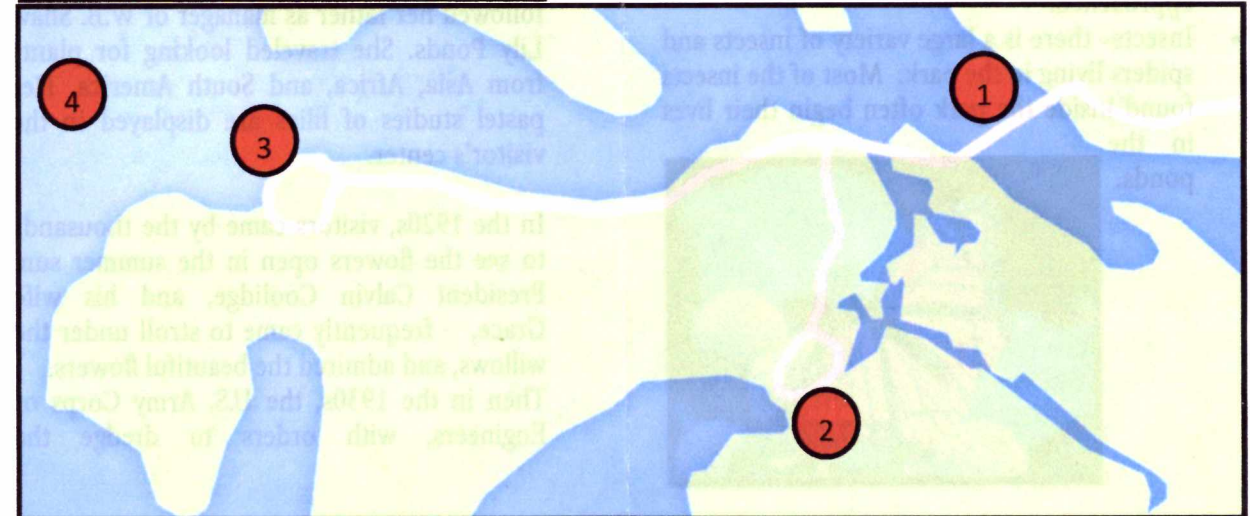
Gardens

1. This pond was used for making ice before Walter Shaw purchased this property. He planted the first water lilies in this pond.
2. This greenhouse was built in 1913 by Walter Shaw. He used it to cultivate their flowers over the winter. Today it is still used by the NPS to propagate water lilies and then store the tropical plants during the colder parts of the year.
3. This pond is our largest Lotus pond. It contains the *Nelumbo nucifera*, the Sacred Lotus.
4. The wetland area of this section of the park is some of the last remaining natural wetland in DC. This is what sections of the river would have looked like 300 years ago.
5. The Helen Fowler Lily (Pale pink with a yellowish tint) is contained in this pond and a few of the surrounding ponds. This lily was cultivated by Walter B. Shaw who then named it after his daughter.
6. These ponds were created by the NPS after acquiring the land in 1938. These were added to further the cultivation work of water lilies.
7. Here is the entrance path leading to the boardwalk. The boardwalk ends in a cul-de-sac that offers a view of Kenilworth Marshes. The boardwalk tour continues for this section on the other side of the page.
8. During the heights of the growing season, a majority of the tropical plants are placed in these



ponds.

9. Sitting on the bench at low tide, you can see evidence of a beaver lodge and dam to the left and looking below.
10. This bridge was placed here after a beaver eroded the dirt away by persistently crossing from pond to pond. Other such instances can be seen to varying degrees throughout the park.
11. Our largest pond of white water lilies.
12. The river trail is currently closed due to construction of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail. This trail will connect Anacostia Park to the trail in Maryland and DC.



Boardwalk

1. Here is your best chance to see how much the tide changes. Depending on your visit, the water level could have a difference of as much as three feet. Looking at the boardwalk supports during low tide can give you a picture of the high tide level from the water marks. On your left as you walk cross the bridge you will see the native yellow Lotus.
2. Looking to the south offers a view of cattails and wild rice. These were food staples for the American Indians.
3. Looking out into the marsh you can see an active construction site. This is the construction of the Anacostia River Trail mentioned in #12. You will also see a 30 foot gap; this is the inlet that allows the tidal water to flow in and out of the wetlands.
4. This marshland was altered when the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in an attempt to manage the river water flow and mitigate the mosquito populations. The NPS has been working to restore this area to its natural state.