

Ottawa Photo Hotspot: Fletcher Wildlife Garden & Area

- ✓ Fletcher Wildlife Garden
- ✓ Dominion Arboretum
- ✓ The Ornamental Gardens
- ✓ *Bonus*: The Tropical Greenhouse

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Photography Hotspots around the Central Experimental Farm

As photographers we are fortunate to have a wealth of “photogenic” locations in the Ottawa area.

This presentation reviews some favourite photography locations near the Central Experimental Farm:

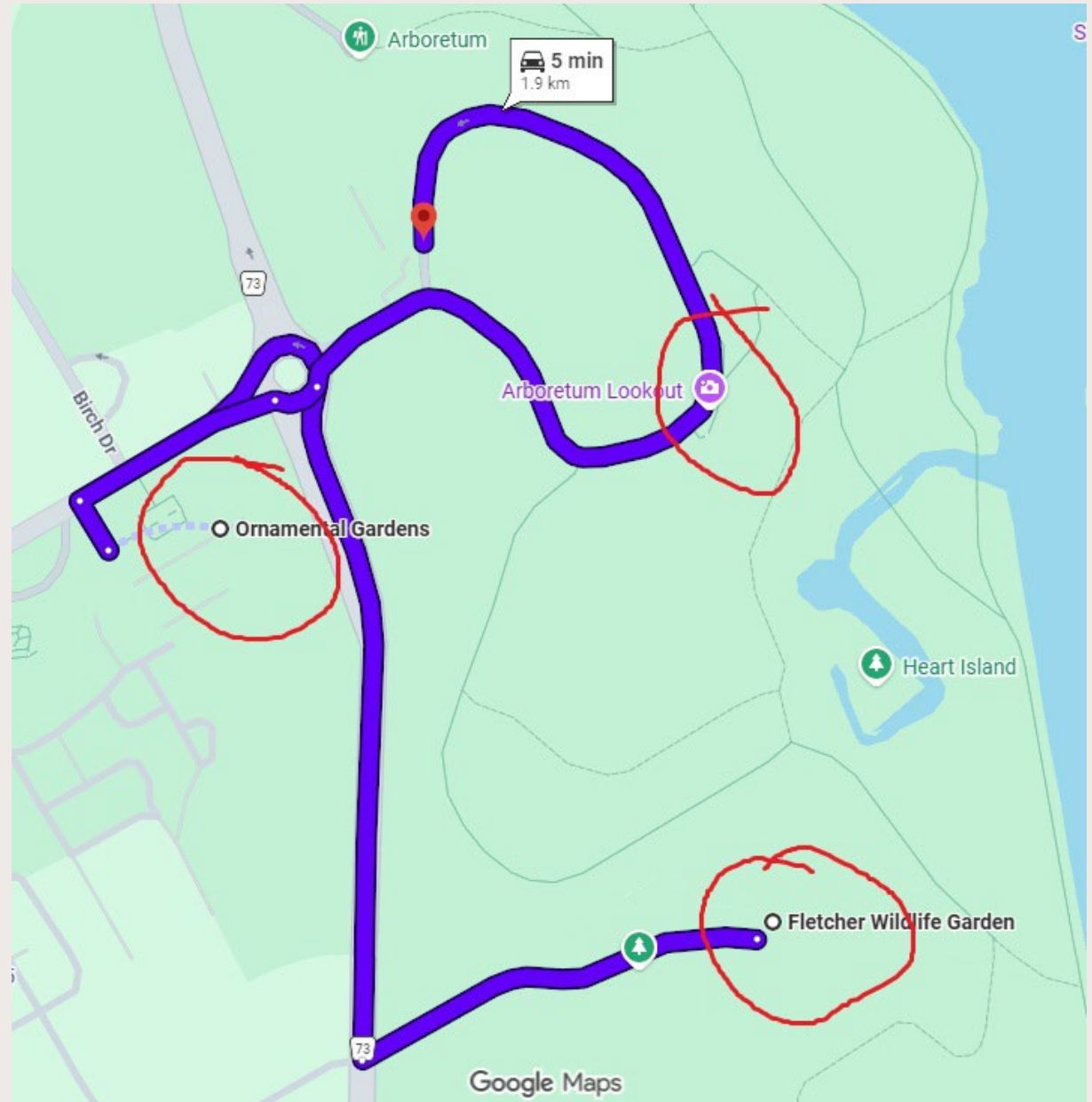
- ✓ Fletcher Wildlife Garden
- ✓ Dominion Arboretum
- ✓ The Ornamental Gardens
- ✓ *Bonus*: The Tropical Greenhouse.

Consider exploring each of these hotspots with your camera. Take along a photographer friend(s) and make it a daylong outing with a lunch break along nearby Preston Street. Alternatively, take 1-2 hours at different times to visit each location.

Note that this presentation does NOT include the many photo ops at the agricultural farm itself---which is a whole other photography hotspot!

Locations:

- ✓ Access to the circled photo hotspots is via Prince of Wales Drive, south of Carling Avenue and north of Baseline Road.
- ✓ Parking is available at each photo hotspot (free at the FWG and at the Arboretum).
- ✓ Admission is free at each photo hotspot.



Fletcher Wildlife Garden

A project initiated in the late 1980's, the Fletcher Wildlife Garden (FWG) aims to show *“the residents of the Ottawa area how to create or restore wildlife-friendly habitats and gardens in their neighbourhood, emphasizing the use of plants native to this region.”*

The garden is approximately 7 hectares (16 acres) in size and is managed by the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club. The FWG is named in honour of James Fletcher, the first Dominion Entomologist who was appointed in 1887.

There are numerous natural trails and pathways that wind their way throughout the FWG. Wear long pants and footwear capable of handling a few areas that get a bit boggy and slippery, especially after a recent rainfall.



The numerous “Gardens” within the FWG: an amphitheater-style pond, a butterfly meadow, ravine, a native plant garden and more



Amphibian Pond



Butterfly Meadow

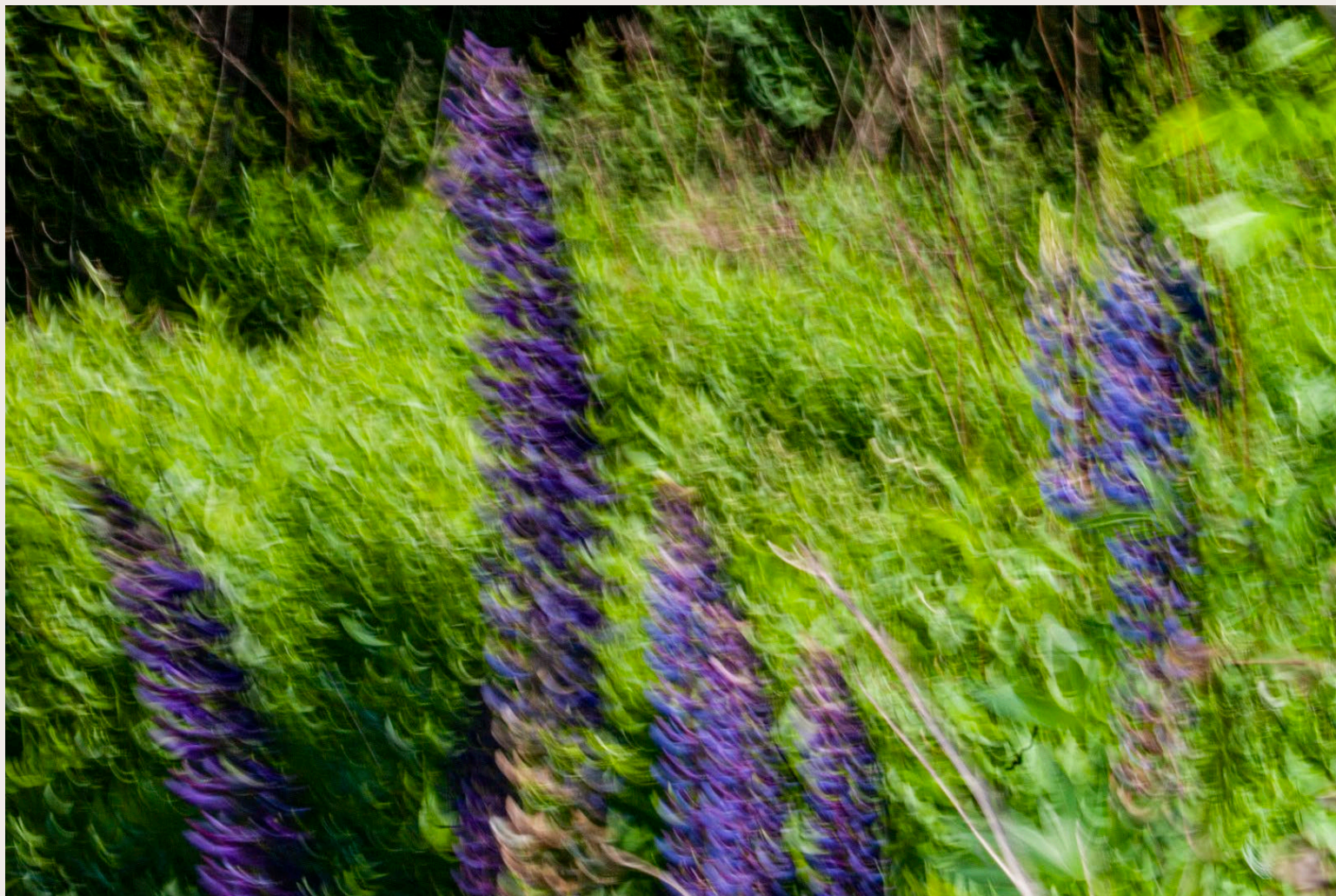




Insect Life



Impressionist Lupines





At nearby Hartwell Locks



Just across the street from the FWG entrance





Visit:

ofnc.ca/programs/fletcher-wildlife-garden/fwg-habitat





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The Dominion Arboretum



The Dominion Arboretum Story

- ✓ Part of the Central Experimental Farm, the arboretum is home to over 1,700 varieties of trees and shrubs within a 26 hectare (64 acres) parklike setting.
- ✓ Begun in 1889, it is the most northerly arboretum in North America and a testing ground for plant hardiness in cold climates.
- ✓ The arboretum has a great lookout point over the Rideau Canal towards Carleton University.
- ✓ The arboretum is a prime spot for bird photographers and is famous for its cherry blossoms in April.



The South-East View from the Lookout

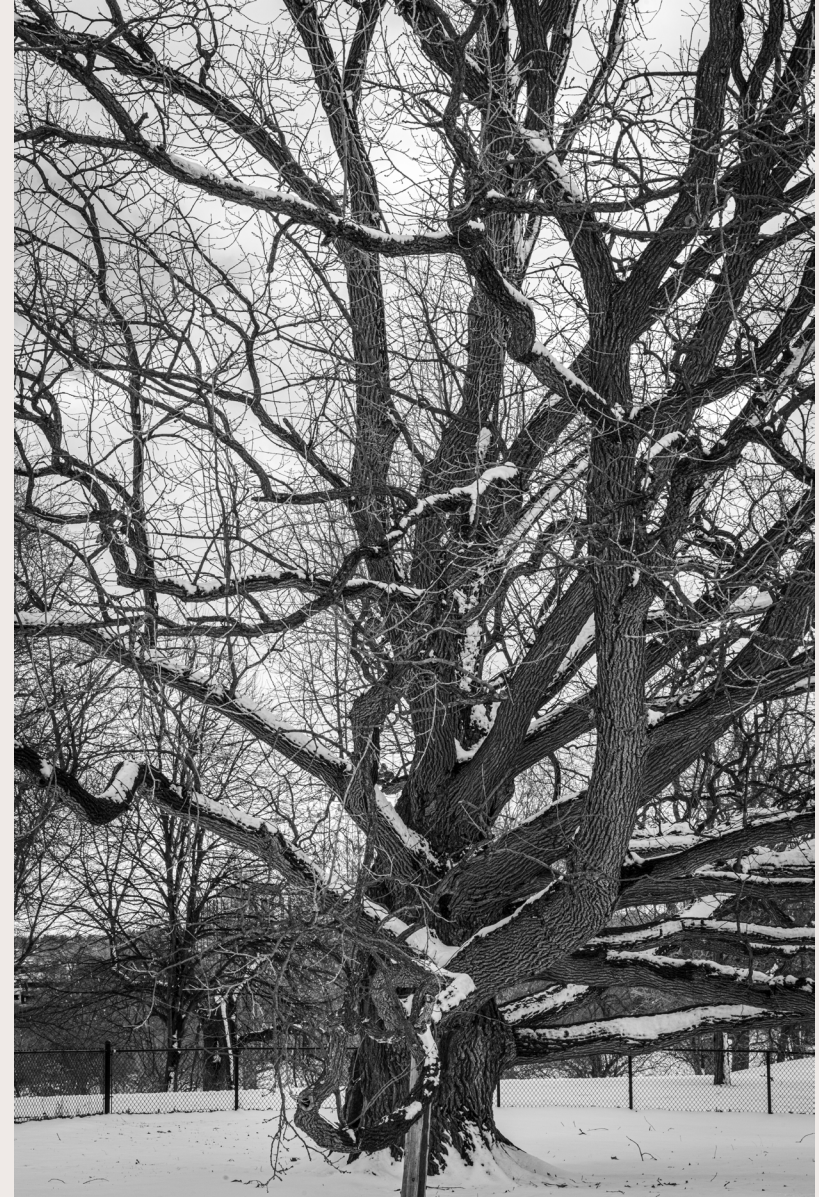


Birds at Heart Island



The Famous Bebb's Oak

- ✓ The spectacularly huge and sprawling branches of the largest of the arboretum's Bebb's Oak trees can be seen adjacent to Prince of Wales Drive and across from the entrance to the Central Agricultural Farm parking lot entrance.
- ✓ Planted from a single acorn in 1898, this old tree is now surrounded by a chain link fence for protection from those tempted to climb its branches which run almost horizontally to the ground. Wooden posts are in place to help prop up the heavy branches.



Visit: gardensottawa.ca/gardens/the-dominion-arboretum-at-the-central-experimental-farm





The Ornamental Gardens



The Story of The Ornamental Gardens

- ✓ Just across Prince of Wales Drive from the arboretum, the Ornamental Gardens cover an area of over 3 hectares (8 acres).
- ✓ These colourful gardens have been a horticultural showcase in Ottawa since 1898 and a favourite spot for photographers, especially wedding photographers, in summer months.
- ✓ There are numerous gardens of interest to photographers with their vibrant displays of annual and perennial flowers and shrubs, including rose gardens, peonies, lilies, lilacs, rock gardens, a sunken garden, and more.
- ✓ The Ornamental Gardens are tended by a group of volunteer gardening enthusiasts, The Friends of the Farm.



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 Explorer Rose Garden | 7 Rock Garden |
| 2 Preston Heritage Lilac Collection | 8 Iris & Daylily Garden |
| 3 Lycett-Lorrain Daylilies | 9 Heritage Rose Garden |
| 4 Perennial Borders | 10 Annual Garden |
| 5 Macoun Memorial Garden | 11 Peony Garden |
| 6 Lilac Walk(West & East) | 12 Crabapples |
| | 13 Ottawa Horticultural Society Pergola |

Lots of photo “ops” with many varieties of plants



Experiment with direction of light and shallow depth of field



Play with framing, intentional camera movement and zoom bursts, etc.



A Peaceful Retreat



Visit: friendsofthefarm.ca/plan-your-visit/attractions



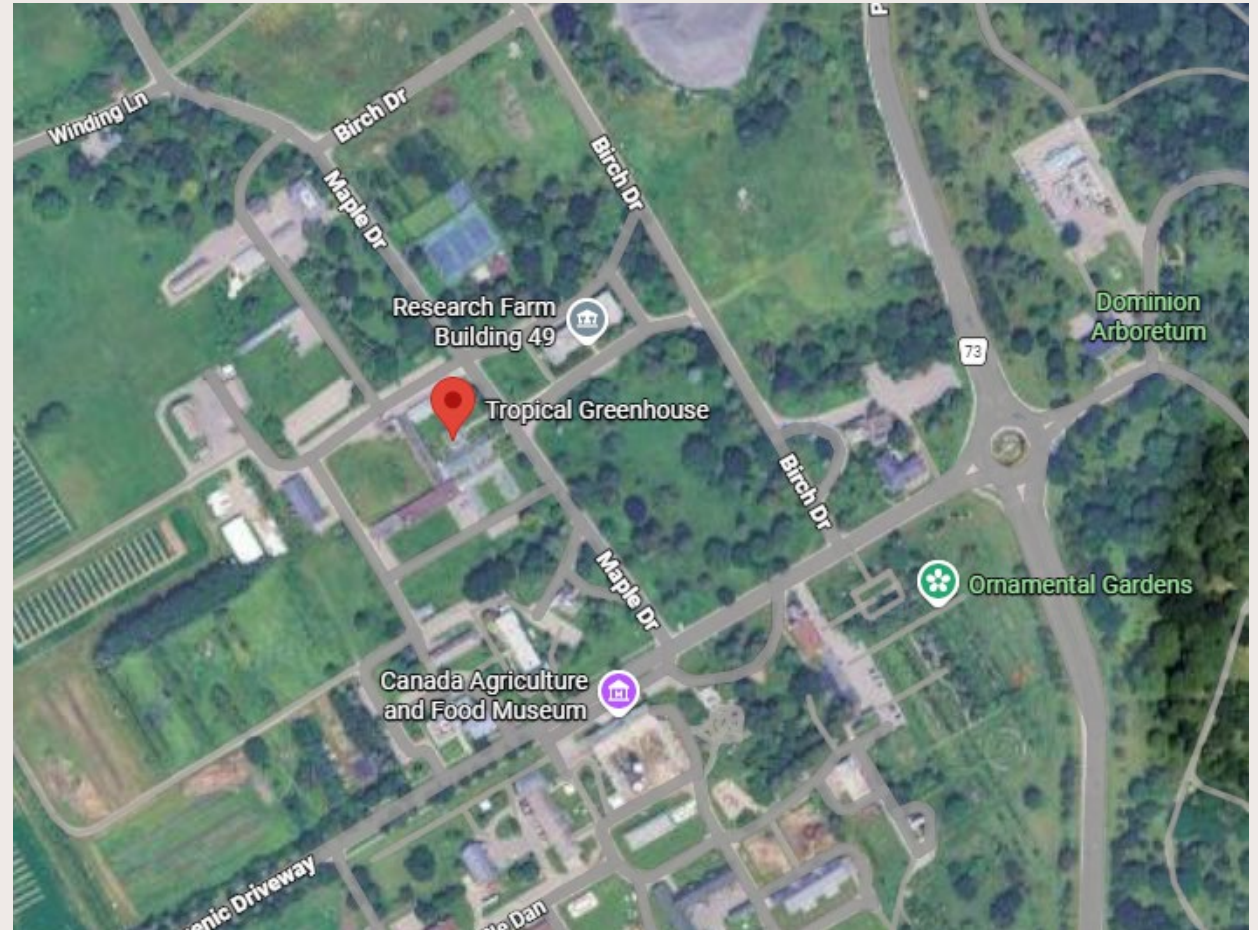


Bonus photo stop: The Tropical Greenhouse



Location

- ✓ Just west and north of the roundabout at the Arboretum, the Tropical Greenhouse is situated along Maple Drive and open weekdays and Sundays from 10—4 pm (closed on Saturdays).
- ✓ Originally built at Major's Hill Park in 1928, it was moved ten years later to its current location on the grounds of the Central Experimental Farm.
- ✓ Admission is free and parking is next to the main building.
- ✓ The Tropical Greenhouse is a warm escape on a winter's day and while only about 1,600 square feet in area, there are lots of rainforest plants, cacti and succulents.



The greenhouse is architecturally photogenic





Lots of photography “ops” at the greenhouse



Visit:

gardensottawa.ca/gardens/tropictropical-greenhouse-at-the-central-experimental-farm



Hopefully you can take the opportunity to explore and enjoy these photo hotspots in our backyard.

Thank you!

