



Philips Park - Facilities

The Lodge (Visitor Centre)

Located next to the entrance on Stuart Street, the Visitor Centre (or 'Lodge' as it is also known) is an historic building, which today provides a range of information and services relating to the park. The design for the lodge was commissioned in 1868 from the architect Alfred Derbyshire, who was also responsible for Manchester's famous Palace Theatre. It was built for the sum of £529 - approximately £35,000 in today's money.



The Lodge was completely refurbished in 2002, when it was officially opened to the public as a Visitor Centre. Despite the refurbishment, the building remains virtually unaltered inside and out, retaining all of its original character. Since then, it has enjoyed regular use by the local community and visitors alike.

Facilities include toilets, information about events, historical displays. Please feel free to use the facility when the warden is in the park.

Toilets are located downstairs inside the Visitor Centre. A disabled ramp allows easy access for wheelchair users.

Want to visit or more information? Contact East Area Parks 0161 223 8278

A series of maps showing walking routes are available in resources on the website.

Tulip Valley

Located towards the back of the park near the cemetery Tulip Valley got its name in the early twentieth century from the spectacular floral displays that filled its ornamental flower beds. These were a celebrated annual feature that attracted thousands of visitors to the park, particularly during the weekend of 'Tulip Sunday' (usually the first or second Sunday in May) when the display was at its most vibrant, with over 50,000 individual flowers in full bloom.



Today Tulip Valley contains an array of ornamental flowerbeds, and two 'Tulip Trees' that have been planted in honour of the valley's history and the flower that made it famous. In spring and summer, when the flowers are in bloom, the sheltered valley offers an oasis of bright colours in which to relax, unwind and escape the bustle of city life.



"People flocked from all parts of the city and surrounding areas in their Sunday best clothes to parade around the flower beds. There would be parents with their children, playing on the grass, feeding the ducks or licking an ice cream cornet as they came through the gates."

Pritchard, F (1986) My Manchester. Neil Richardson.



Peace Gardens

Peace Gardens, including a Peace Mosaic installed in 2003, located next to the bowling green. An oak tree was planted in 2007 to commemorate all the people who worked in the industries in east Manchester. The peace garden is the original location of the first bowling green in Manchester.



Bowling Green

Bowling greens are situated behind the Visitor Centre next to the Peace Garden. The local Bowling Club meets regularly, offering a warm and sociable welcome to new beginners, as well as more experienced bowlers. For more information contact East Area Parks.

Allotments

These are located next to the Community Orchard near the Arches near the Bank Street and Bank Bridge Meadow entrances. A number of local people rent these plots and grow a variety of plants, food and share their knowledge with local groups. Want to become involved or rent a plot? Contact City Allotments Officer on 0161 226 3322.



Community Orchard

Located next to the allotments (opposite the Fairclough Street entrance), the Community Orchard was set up by local residents to provide a source of fresh produce and shared enjoyment for the community.



The inspiration for the orchard came from Bill Booth, a local community leader and long-standing Philips Park allotment holder, who envisaged a 'green resource' for the benefit of local people. The site has many apple trees and is designed to bring a warm welcome to anyone who visits the site.

The Community Orchard is open to everyone. If you would like to visit, then contact East Manchester Parks on 0161 223 8278.



Ball Court

A multi-purpose ball court incorporating quick cricket, five-a-side football and basketball is located next to the Children's Play Area at the Stuart Street entrance

Play Area under 8s

This play area is located near the Lodge on Stuart Street and intended for use by young children. It includes slide, swings and interactive play equipment.



Play Area over 8s

The over 8s play area is located near the allotments off Stuart Street and intended for older children. The equipment gives lot of fun adventure and a zip slide which has proved to be very popular.

Natural Play

There are a number of paths with different walks, lots of green space and wooded areas offering lots of open space for running and playing. Let you imagination run wild!

