

Friends of VERNON PARK

Your Park Needs You!

The Friends of Woodbank and Vernon Parks have been supporting the management of Vernon Park since 1999. Members get involved with task days, organise free summer band concerts and an annual Carols in the Park celebration.

If you would like to take an active part in the management and further development of Vernon Park by joining the Friends group please contact Customer Services on **0161 217 6111**.



Stockport Council works in partnership with community groups to provide a wide range of outdoor recreational facilities, including:

- Allotments
- Urban Parks
- Countryside sites and country parks
- Outdoor Sports pitches
- Woodlands
- Walks and trails
- Local nature reserves
- Playgrounds
- Events

Contacts

Telephone: 0161 217 6111

E-mail: parcs@stockport.gov.uk

Website: www.stockport.gov.uk/parcs

A free interpreting service is available if you would like help with this leaflet. Please call the Stockport English Language Service on 0161 477 9000.

اگر آپ کو اس سروس سے مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو براہ کرم اس سروس سے رابطہ کریں۔ اس سروس سے رابطہ کرنے کے لیے 0161 477 9000 پر کال کریں۔

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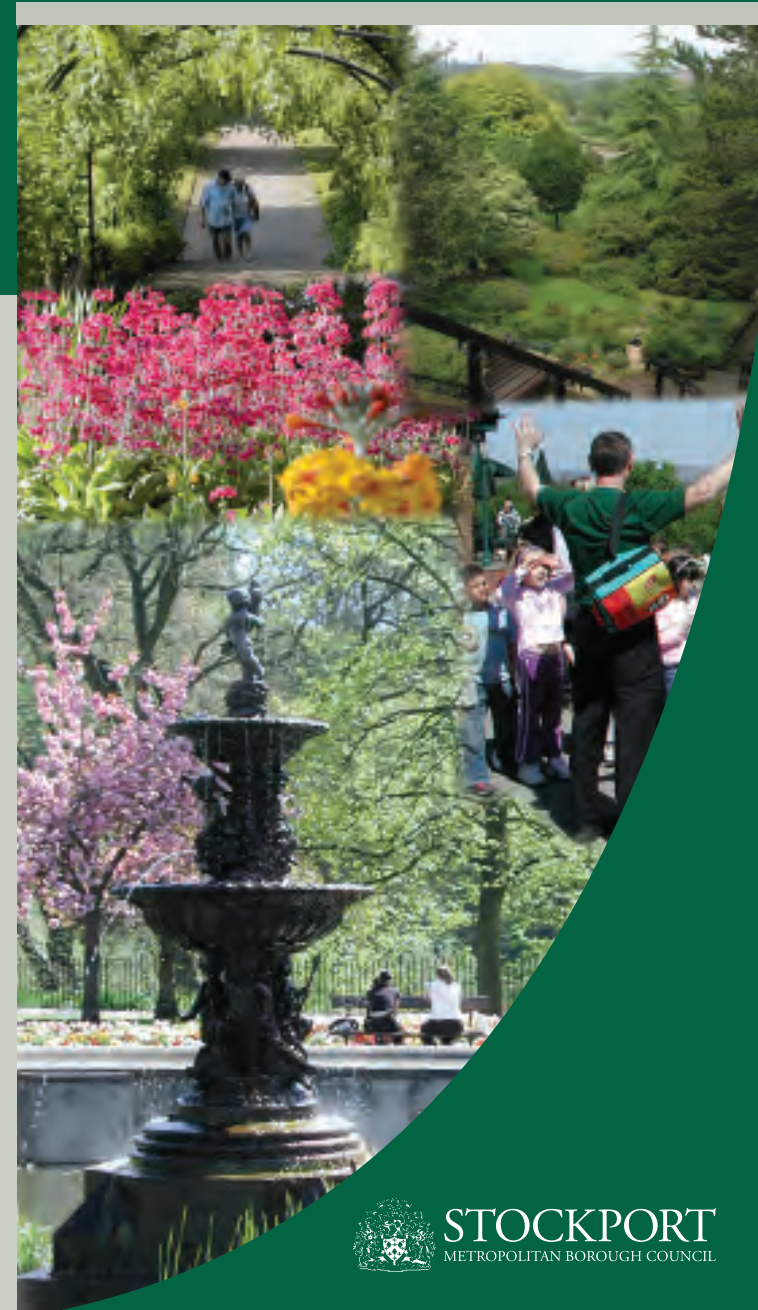
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This information can also be made available in large print, braille and audio. Please call 0161 355 7773 for details.

The information contained in this booklet was correct at time of going to print.



Vernon Park



A Short History of Vernon Park

Vernon Park is Stockport's oldest park, opened in 1858. It was built by Stockport Corporation on land donated by Lord Vernon (George John Warren).

During the 1860's, the American Civil War decimated the English cotton trade and Stockport's unemployed mill workers were given low paid work helping to construct some of the park's features. They were so hungry that they gave it the nickname 'Pinch Belly Park'.

After decades of neglect, the park was restored to its former glory in 2000 with the help of a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. Its beautiful setting, looking across the Goyt Valley, and a host of interesting heritage and horticultural features make it a perfect place to relax.

The Park is designated Grade II in the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens as an important example of an early public park.

The original Stockport Museum building is in the park grounds, now known as Vernon Museum, and this houses the Conservatory Café where light refreshments are available. Events take place in the park and museum all year round.



General Information



Car parking is available off Newbridge Lane and at Woodbank car park. (off Turncroft Lane next to Community Centre).



Bus routes 330, 364, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384 and 386 from Stockport run close to the park.



Most parts of the park are wheelchair accessible (some paths are steep). A free mobility scheme is in place (24 hour advanced booking required). Disabled toilet available.



Refreshments are available in the Conservatory Café.



Toilets available during park opening hours.



Please clean up after your dog – scoop bins are provided. Dog restrictions exist in some areas of the park.

To book the mobility scheme or check the availability of facilities, please call **0161 474 4460**.

For up to date public transport information please call **0161 228 7811**.

We welcome your views and suggestions about Vernon Park. If you would like to complete a park survey on-line visit www.greenstat.org.uk alternatively complete a paper copy available at the Museum.

Greenstat is an independent survey which gives people the opportunity to comment on the quality of their open spaces.



Pure Innovations

Pure Innovations took over the management of the museum building in 2006 when the Heritage service moved to their new premises at Staircase House in Stockport Marketplace.

Pure Innovations offer exciting day time opportunities for adults with severe and profound learning, physical and/or sensory disabilities. Service users help with the day to day activities in the café and work as rangers in the park. These activities help to build skills, increase confidence and make a difference to people's lives.

Pure Innovations also manage other sites around the borough including: Level 2 Café at the Hatworks Museum, Lakeside Café at Etherow Country Park, Blackshaws Café at Stockport Marketplace and Bramhall Hall Tea Rooms.

Vernon Museum and the Conservatory Café

Opening Times:

Winter months

30th Sept-1st April

Monday – Friday 10am until 4pm

Weekends 11am until 4pm

Summer months

1st April – 29th September

Monday – Friday 10am until 4pm

Weekends 11am until 5pm

Bank Holidays

11am until 5pm

Meeting rooms in the museum are available for hire.

For further information phone **0161 474 4460**.



For more information contact

0161 217 6111

Vernon Park, Turncroft Lane

Stockport SK1 4AR

Vernon Park - History, Heritage & Horticulture

1 Museum building, Conservatory Café and Public Toilets

The Museum was opened in 1860. The building was funded by two local members of parliament: James Kershaw and John Benjamin Smith.

2 Glacial Erratic

This boulder was found in Edgeley in 1886. It would have been carried to Stockport from the Lake District by ice-sheets during the last ice age.

3 Mirror Borders, Main Driveway, Observatory location

The borders on either side of this main driveway mirror each other in shape. In 1860 an Observatory with a 150 ft tower was planned for this site but it was never built.

4 The Sunken Rose Garden

Originally the 'top pond' which was drained in 1930, now a rose garden.

5 The Cannon Borders

These cast-iron Blomefield cannons replaced the original Russian cannons which were captured at the battle of Sebastopol during the Crimean War. They were donated to the park by the War Office. The originals were taken for scrap in 1940 as part of the war effort.

The Victorian Plant Collectors Border

These numbers indicate plants collected by the listed Victorian Plant Collectors. See the information board for more information.

6 Frank Kingdon Ward

7 Ernest Wilson

8 George Forrest

9 Reginald Farrer

10 Sir Joseph Hooker

11 J.G. Veitch

12 Charles Maries

13 William Lobb

14 David Douglas

15 Robert Fortune

16 The 'Diamond Steps' & Laburnum Arch

The Laburnum Arch has been constructed over the patterned paviers which give these steps their name.

17 The Pinetum

A new feature - this collection of coniferous trees includes Pine, Larch, Ginkgo, Juniper and Cedar.

18 The Bowling Greens & the 'Ladies Bowls Pavilion'

The lower green was opened in 1905, the upper in 1908. The Ladies Bowls Pavilion is a new building in the style of the original small bowls office.

19 The Fernery

Ferns were extremely popular in Victorian times. These are hardy varieties which can tolerate this dry shaded area.

20 The Stone Bridge & Roman Road

This ornate stone bridge across the 'Roman Road' (also known as Royal or Royles Lane) was built in 1876 and bears the shield of the De Stokeports. Tradition says that this was the route taken by Bonny Prince Charlie on his retreat through Stockport to Manchester in 1745.

21 The Drinking Fountain

The upper part of the fountain has been restored. The original was taken for scrap in 1940 as part of the war effort. The original was donated by the workpeople of Greg's Mill in Reddish.

22 The Bandstand

The original bandstand was built in 1888. It was demolished in 1968 after falling into disrepair. This new bandstand was built for the reopening in 2000.

23 The Stone Staircase & Terrace Walks

Built around 1900 this stone staircase linked the upper and lower parks and provided access to the terraces for promenading.

Plants Around The World

24 The Americas

These 'Around the World' shrub beds represent the new plants which were being introduced to Britain during the Victorian era.

25 Europe

26 The Far East

27 The Antipodes

28 The Rockery & Cascade

Constructed around 1935. Originally gravity fed from the 'top pond'. Restored for 2000, an electric pump now re-circulates the water.

29 Rhododendron Bed

A favourite plant of the Victorians - a wide selection have been replanted here.

30 The Fountain & Lily Pond

The inscription on the stone base informs us that the original fountain was donated by the workpeople of India Mill in 1858. It was powered by gravity fed water from the 'top pond'.

31 'Flight of Fancy' Sculpture on former Aviary Site

32 Herbaceous Borders

33 The Holly Circle

Traditional formal bedding site.

34 The Yew Maze

Planted in 2000.

35 Community Pavilion

A new building in the framework of a former shelter; completed in 2006.

36 Wetland bed

