



## Introducing: Finsbury Park

Today English Heritage Grade II listed Finsbury Park is looking better than ever, after undergoing a £5m Heritage Lottery Funded restoration and improvement programme. The Park provides a rich tapestry of landscapes and a variety of facilities catering for 21st century needs.



# Finsbury Park

Your Park...



<p><b>Shqip</b></p> <p>Nëse doni një kopje të kësaj fletushke Finsbury Park në gjuhën tuaj, ju lutem plotësoni formularin dhe dërgojeni tek adresa e mëposhtme me postim falas.</p>	<p><b>Kurdi Kurmanci</b></p> <p>Heke hun kopjyke vë belavoka Finsbury Park bi zimanê xwe dixwazin, ji kerema xwe formê tije bikin û ji navnişana posta bêpere ya jêrîn re bişînin.</p>
<p><b>বাংলা</b></p> <p>এই ফিন্সবেরী পার্ক প্রচারপত্রের কপি আপনি যদি আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে ফর্ম পূরণ করুন এবং সেটা নিচের ফ্রীপোস্ট বা বিনা ডাকমাংশলের ঠিকানায় পাঠিয়ে দিন।</p>	<p><b>Soomaali</b></p> <p>Haddii aad rabto koobbi ah warqaddan ku saabsan Finsbury Park oo ku qoran luqaddaada, fadlan buuxi foomka oo ku soo dir cinwaanka boostiisu lacag la'aanta tahay ee hoose.</p>
<p><b>Français</b></p> <p>Si vous souhaitez obtenir un exemplaire de ce feuillet de Finsbury Park dans votre langue, veuillez compléter le formulaire et le renvoyer à l'adresse au port payé ci-dessous.</p>	<p><b>Türkçe</b></p> <p>Finsbury Park hakkındaki bu broşürü Türkçe olarak edinmek için lütfen bu formu doldurun ve aşağıdaki freepost adresine geri gönderin.</p>

Please tell us if you would like a copy of this leaflet in another language that is not listed above or in any of the following formats, and send the form to the Freepost address below.

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Please return to: Freepost RLXS-XZGT-UGRJ, Haringey Council, Translation and Interpretation Services, 8th Floor, River Park House, 225 High Road, London N22 8HQ

Many of the Park's original features have been restored to their former glory including the re-landscaping of the American Garden and Alexander McKenzie's historical flower garden, now reflecting much of his original design, lost for many years.

New facilities include an enclosed dog free children's play area to the south of the lake, with an exciting innovative water feature – designed by children. There is also a new play and picnic area located in the American Gardens to the north of the Park where parents can relax and enjoy the surroundings, while the kids play on the brightly coloured play equipment.

A new lakeside café building housing public toilets is open all year round and offers a variety of food and refreshments, where there is something for everyone to enjoy.

The carriageway and paths have been resurfaced making walking, running and wheelchair and pushchair access easier, and two new Victorian style seating shelters have been built, offering a place for quiet contemplation or protection from the sun and rain.



Finsbury Park has always been popular for its sporting facilities. The Track & Gym is open for drop in sessions or organised team sports and now there is even more on offer with the newly built skatepark and tennis courts which cater for both children and adults, so all you need to do is turn up and 'pay & play'!

And if you need anymore reasons to visit Finsbury Park, walking and cycling routes run through it so you can get fit while enjoying the Park!

## History

Records indicate that in the mid 16th century the land where Finsbury Park now sits was part of a large woodland estate called Brownswood, the hunting ground of the Bishops of London. Copt Hall Manor House stood within the large estate and in 1750 changed its name to Hornsey Wood House, becoming a popular tea house with 'pleasure grounds'.

By 1796 the woodland had shrunk considerably to an area of around 27 acres and the lake we know today was built. The island at the centre of the lake had a causeway across which a farmer was able to herd his livestock, and a small hut provided shelter.

In the 1860's Hornsey Wood House was demolished allowing for the expansion of the 'pleasure gardens'.

The Victorians were great park builders with a firm belief in the social and health benefits provided by recreational public open spaces.

On 9 August 1869, after nearly 30 years of petitioning and political manoeuvring from various local groups and individuals, and its very own Act of Parliament (1857), Finsbury Park was opened.

The Finsbury Park development was set against the now familiar backdrop of safeguarding open space for public recreation, in the face of rapid building development and escalating land values.

Alexander McKenzie, a respected landscape designer produced the plans for the Park. Working for the Metropolitan Board of Works (MBW), his style of design is reflected greatly in the vast, sweeping open landscape of the Park.

Construction work continued for well over twenty years and early features included a bandstand, refreshment rooms, chrysanthemum house, flower garden and a rosary.



The Park was characterised by large open areas of grass, informal shrub beds, broad tree-lined carriageways and a network of footpaths twisting around the site.



In 1889 management of the Park passed to London County Council (LCC) which replaced the MBW. The Ordinance Survey map of 1936 shows significant changes to the Park layout reflecting the trend towards active recreation, including the addition of the athletics track and tennis courts. In 1949 a children's play area was constructed.



The character of the Park changed dramatically again when the Greater London Council (GLC) inherited responsibility in 1965. The open air theatre, boat house, conservatory, bandstand and refreshment room were demolished, and the 'Hope' Play Space, Track building and café were constructed.

With the demise of the GLC in 1986 management of Finsbury Park passed to the London Borough of Haringey. At the time councils across the country were running short of money. With no investment the Park visibly deteriorated and many of the notable features disappeared. Those that remained such as the lake and carriageways were a shadow of their former selves.

In an effort to reverse this Haringey Council approached the Heritage Lottery Fund in 1996 to secure investment for a programme of restoration. The bid had a twofold approach; to restore the historic aspect of the landscape and to return the Park to a standard that befit its premier status within the locality.

With the aid of several funding bodies, a total of £4.9million was invested. Works were completed in 2006 and Finsbury Park now continues to evoke its undoubted value as a 'People's Park'.

Historic Photos used with the permission of Bruce Castle Museum (Haringey Libraries, Archives and Museum Service).

## Virtual Tour

Before visiting Finsbury Park, why not logon and take a virtual tour of what's on offer, from the comfort of your own home – [www.haringey.gov.uk/finsburypark](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/finsburypark)

## Green Flag

Finsbury Park won the Green Flag Award in 2007. This is given by the Civic Trust in recognition of achieving and maintaining excellent standards for a public park.

## Getting Involved

Community involvement is a key aspect of achieving and maintaining high standards within Haringey's parks and open spaces and we welcome your involvement. To find out how you can get more involved or take part in volunteer workdays within Finsbury Park contact the Friends of Finsbury Park on 020 8809 0039 or visit [www.thefriendsoffinsburypark.org.uk](http://www.thefriendsoffinsburypark.org.uk). For further information on this, or any other park in Haringey contact Parks Customer Care on 020 8489 5662, email [parkscustomer@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:parkscustomer@haringey.gov.uk) or visit [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk)

## Parks Constabulary

To report incidences of crime or anti-social behaviour in a Haringey park or open space please call the 24 hour incident line on 020 7272 5464.

## Getting There

- By bus: 4, 19, 29, 106, 141, 153, 210, 236, 253, 254, 259, 279, 341, W3, W7
- By tube: Finsbury Park (Piccadilly and Victoria Lines), Manor House (Piccadilly Line)
- By train: Finsbury Park
- By bike: A covered, staffed bike park comprising of 125 lockable cycle racks are available to smart card holders. For more info see Bike Park section on the inside pages.
- By car: Access to pay & display parking within Finsbury Park via the Hornsey Gate entrance. The Park is closed to all vehicles on days when major events take place.

## When to Visit

6.30am until dusk

# Finsbury Park

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## Staff Yard

If you would like to come and talk to a member of the Finsbury Park team you can find them in the Staff Yard office. They are based here together with the Parks Constabulary. If you can't pop in, but would like to speak to someone about Finsbury Park call 020 7263 5001.

If you would like to speak to the Parks Constabulary call the 24 hour incident line on 020 7272 5464.

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## Boating Lake

The lake and island are the same shape and size today as they were when designed in the late 1880s. Boats are available to hire between March and October, keeping some of the older traditions alive today. To find out times of hire call 07905 924282 or email [boathire@townwalks.com](mailto:boathire@townwalks.com)

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## Public Toilets

The new public toilets are located next to the café, and are open from 8am until dusk.

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## Ball Games Area

If you want a game of basketball or a casual kickabout try out the large, hardball games area located to the north of the tennis courts.

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## Tennis

7 adult and 2 mini courts are available to hire 7 days a week, during Park opening times. All you have to do is turn up and 'pay & play'! £3.50 for adults and £2.25 for juniors, per hour.

Or if you would like some lessons or people to play with, join the Community Tennis Programme run by Access to Sport by calling 020 7686 8812.

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## Art Hut

The Art Hut is located beside the Jamboree Project and is used by the Friends of Finsbury Park for lessons and workshops in music and art or visit [www.thefriendsoffinsburypark.org.uk](http://www.thefriendsoffinsburypark.org.uk). Interested in taking part? Call the Friends on 020 8809 0039.

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## Jamboree Play Huts

This attractive and safe environment offers a daily play drop-in facility for carers and children under the age of 5. For more information call 020 8802 1301.

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## Skatepark

Since first opening in 2006, the skatepark has been a popular and significant attraction to the local area. It's available to use during Park opening hours and is a must see attraction for anyone wishing to try it out or just merely stand and watch!

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## Bowls Club

The Bowls Club, located in a scenic position beside the lake, is one of the most popular in the Borough. If you've ever fancied trying your hand at the game or joining the club call 020 7254 6554 to find out more.

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## Café

The new café offers child friendly facilities and a very warm welcome. Order a latte, panini or from the children's menu – there's lots to choose from! You can even pre-order your food by calling 020 8880 2681.

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## American Gardens Play & Picnic Area

American Gardens became popular during the late 18th century, when botanists brought plant species from America. Recently re-landscaped the area now accurately reflects the original style of planting. To cater for 21st century needs a new play and picnic area have been included and are definitely a must see for anyone visiting with children.



## Pay & Display Parking

Access to parking is available via the Hornsey Gate entrance. A pay & display system operates between 10am and 5pm daily. Vehicles displaying registered disabled badges can park free of charge. The Park is closed to public vehicles on days when major events take place, but advanced notice signs will be displayed.

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## New River

The New River crosses the northern part of the Park. It is an artificial watercourse constructed in the early 17th century to bring water from Hertfordshire springs in to London. Public access cannot be gained from within the Park but for more information visit the Ramblers' Association website at [www.ramblers.org.uk](http://www.ramblers.org.uk)

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## Sporting Events

As well as the Track & Gym, the open landscape is an ideal location for other sporting opportunities. If you're interested in taking part in American Football or Softball contact the London Blitz American Football Club on 07834 350641 or the Meteors Softball Club on 07770 381308.

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## Athletics Track & Gym

Feeling fit or wish to feel fitter? Pay a session fee for individual training and take advantage of the changing rooms, showers and toilets. Call 020 8802 9139 for more details.

Heathside Athletics Club run both adult and junior sessions, so if you're interested in joining the club visit [www.londonheathside.org.uk](http://www.londonheathside.org.uk).

And if you're interested in cycling opportunities for the disabled contact Cycle-able on 020 8365 0251.

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## Alpha Dog Club

'Training for Responsible Dog Owners' takes place every Sunday at 10.30am within an enclosed area near to Manor House Gate. To find out more contact Sue Evans on 020 8809 6762.

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## McKenzie Flower Garden

Alexander McKenzie's Victorian flower garden has recently been restored to its former glory. 30 new formal beds now evoke the original layout and planting schemes. Make a visit and be transported back in time, and enjoy this Victorian 'pleasure garden'.

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## Play & Picnic Areas



## Richard Hope Play Space

An enclosed dog-free picnic area, great for small scale events, or for letting the children enjoy scrambling over the rocks.



## Lakeside Play & Picnic Area

This new play area offers children up to the age of 14 state of the art play equipment. A water feature is available between May and September to help cool them down on hot days. Parents can sit in the picnic area or outside the café keeping a watchful eye on the kids, and located near to the all important baby changing facilities and public toilets.

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## Events

Finsbury Park is the location for a diverse range of events including major international acts to community festivals, reflecting the rich diversity of the local population. If you're interested in hiring Finsbury Park for an event call Parks Customer Care on 020 8489 5662.



## Walking Routes

Walking is one of the best ways to achieve a healthier lifestyle. It is something we do on a daily basis, so why not do it in the surroundings of Finsbury Park.

A lap of the carriageway measures nearly 1.5 miles. The Capital RING – Walk 12 takes you along the Parkland Walk Nature Reserve and through Finsbury Park towards Stoke Newington. And the Better Haringey Walking Trail forms a ring around the Borough, crossing Finsbury Park.

For more information on any of these walks, pop into the Café or Staff Yard office within the Park to pick up a leaflet, logon to [www.haringey.gov.uk](http://www.haringey.gov.uk) or call 020 8489 5662.

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## Metropolitan Housing Projects

The home of a horticultural project for those with disabilities and learning difficulties. Volunteers are always welcome by calling 020 8802 2057.

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## Manor House Lodge & Garden

The Lodge houses the office for the Friends of Finsbury Park and Access to Sports. Volunteers are welcome to join the working party in the community garden on the first Saturday of each month, by calling the Friends on 020 8809 0039.

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## McKenzie Pavilion

If you're interested in using the community room for a meeting or exhibition please contact 020 7263 5001.



Main entrances on Endymion Road, Seven Sisters Road, Green Lanes and Stroud Green Road N4