

This Freshair Fridays **Blue Route** is a full 750 metre circuit of the park and the theme is **park heritage**.

Victoria Park opened in 1902 after what was then Stretford Urban Council bought the land from Sir Humphrey De Trafford, in order to create a green oasis in a busy commercial area close to Manchester Ship Canal and Trafford Park industrial estate. Increasing urbanisation led to concern to create parks to improve quality of life and access to a natural environment following the industrial revolution and the social and health impact of this on the population, especially in urban areas.

The park has a formal Victorian design, with straight tree-lined avenues and by its 1930's heyday boasted four tennis courts, five bowling greens and a bandstand. Approaching the turn of the century, the park employed 5 full time gardeners, had a substantial glasshouse and grew all the plants and flowers for the well-kept and colourful beds, including hundreds of Dahlias, the park at this time had a reputation as a really beautiful, well-managed park.

By 2001, this was a very different story, with the priority of parks sliding, endless cost-cutting and outsourcing of maintenance, the park was neglected and blighted by rising crime levels.

This was when local residents formed Friends of Victoria to help improve the park and were successful in securing funds to improve the park culminating in the building of the tea room and community building. Many volunteer hours resulted in the park returning to a well-loved green space with improved facilities you'll pass on this route.

The heritage highlight of the park are the opulent and grand wrought iron entrance gates which are topped with a crown in honour of Queen Victoria and which you'll pass on the last avenue of this walking route.

Registered Number: **1179731**

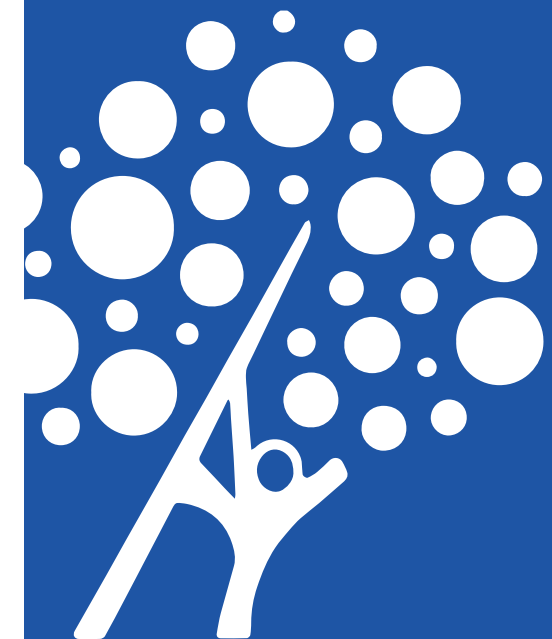
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WALKING ROUTES

BLUE ROUTE



DERBYSHIRE LANE



WALK STARTING POINT

1. TRIM TRAIL
2. FORMAL COTTAGE GARDEN BEDS
3. GARDEN OF TRANQUILITY
4. BOWLING PAVILION
5. LOCK UP
6. COMMUNITY BUILDING / TEA ROOM
7. PETANQUE BOULODROME
8. SCOUT HUT
9. COMPOUND
10. WILDLIFE GARDEN
11. INCREDIBLE EDIBLE BEDS
12. VICTORIA GATES
13. TRIM TRAIL
14. TRIM TRAIL
15. OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
16. BIRD FEEDING STATION
17. EDWARD GATES
18. TABLE TENNIS
19. SCOOTER TRACK
20. ROCK CLIMBING

PARK ROAD



ENTRANCE

VICTORIA ROAD

EASTERN AVENUE

HENSHAW STRI

ENTRANCE

ENTRANCE

SCHOOL ROAD

WESTERN AVENUE

SOUTHERN AVENUE

NORTHERN AVENUE

OLD PUTTING GREEN

SUNDIAL

HOCKEY COURT

BASKETBALL COURT

SPORTS FIELD

BOWLING GREEN

EVENT FIELD

BOWLING GREEN

OVER 5's PLAY AREA

TENNIS COURTS

UNDER 5's PLAY AREA

VICTORIA'S LAWN