



Welcome to Cassiobury Park

Cassiobury Park is Watford's premier park; it is located immediately to the west of Watford town centre and covers an area of approximately 77 hectares (190 acres). Cassiobury Park is a significant and extensive green space, comprising historic and picturesque designed parkland, woodland, grassland and formal sports pitches and courts. The Grand Union Canal forms the western boundary of the park. To the west of the park lies West Herts Golf course and Whippendell Wood, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The Earls of Essex occupied Cassiobury for more than 250 years. However, on the death of the 6th Earl in 1892 it became apparent that Cassiobury House had received little maintenance in the previous fifty years. Upkeep of the house and estate was expensive, and family paintings and other valuables were sold to provide funds for maintenance. By 1900 the house was no longer used as a permanent residence, and in 1908 parts of the estate itself were sold off, some being purchased to provide a public park. Despite public opinion actually being against the proposal, Watford Urban District Council purchased 65 acres in 1909 to create "a people's park and pleasure ground". The Council purchased more land over the years, to make the park into the size it is today.

Welcome to Cassiobury Park

Points of interest



1 Tree sculpture. (The Owl Tree)
Near the Cha Cha Cha Playground we have carried some interesting tree carvings on an old Oak Tree estimated to be 400 years old. Its has been in decline for several years, while on the inside is still remains valuable for vertebrates and fungi. On the outside the main carvings are owls, cat, bear, and deer with several wildlife animals.

2 Rustic Bridge.
The Rustic Bridge is approximately 75 years old and in March 2008 it was decided to enhance and improve the character of the bridge. The bridge carvings carried is a design of several flora and fauna, this bridge has now become a great educational point and makes visitors more aware of the wealth of wildlife we have surrounding us in Cassiobury Park.



3 River Gade.
A chalk stream that rises from springs near Great Gaddesden, the Gade not only provides an attractive country walk through the park, but forms the backbone to the nature reserve, home to a wide variety of wildlife. The River Gade in Cassiobury Park is classed as Grade A by the Environment Agency and 10 species of fish have been recorded here.

4 Nature Reserve.
Sixty-four acres of Cassiobury Park has been designated by Watford Borough Council and Natural England as a Local Nature Reserve. Centred on the River Gade it is managed in partnership with the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust. A wide variety of wildlife may be found here, including uncommon and protected species. Rich in biodiversity, 300 species of moths alone are present. Also, of note are the presence of 5 species of bat, great crested newts, bullfinches, reed buntings, snipe and water-rail.



5 Willow Banks.
Increasingly the crumbling banks of the River Gade in the park are being stabilised using the natural process of "willow spiling", which not only prevents erosion, but provides habitat for wildlife.

6 Whippendell Wood.
An ancient semi-natural wood, extending to 66 hectares can be reached via Lime Walk an avenue of limes planted c1720. The wood is a Site Of Special Scientific Interest.

7 Sports.
Cassiobury Park provides a range of sporting facilities, including croquet, grass court tennis, bowls, basketball, cricket and football. For details of how to join the clubs, please visit the following web sites or contact 01923 278333 for details.
www.watford.gov.uk • www.watfordcroquet.org.uk • www.watfordpiscators.co.uk



The park is used for a range of events all year round. The latest events programme is displayed on our notice boards within the park and on the Councils web site: www.watford.gov.uk

Points of interest



Points of interest

- 1 Tree sculpture. (The Owl Tree)
- 2 Rustic Bridge.
- 3 River Gade.
- 4 Nature Reserve.
- 5 Willow Banks.
- 6 Whippendell Wood.
- 7 Sports.

Planning your day

- 8 Café Cha Cha Cha.
- 9 Tea Pavilion Playground.
- 10 Paddling Pools.
- 11 Paddling Pools Kiosk.
- 12 Paddling Pools Playground.
- 13 Model Railway.
- 14 Bouncy Castle.

Watford Borough Council,
Town Hall, Watford,
Hertfordshire. WD17 3EX
Telephone: 01923 278333
www.watford.gov.uk
leisureandcommunity@watford.gov.uk

Facilities in the park

- 15 Toilets
- 16 Car Park
- 17 Cycle paths
- 18 Watford metropolitan station

Join Friends Group

The Friends of Cassiobury Park came into being in 1973 to challenge proposals being made by the Borough Council for the development of the Park. Then, as now, there was pressure on the council to permit more and more man made structures and facilities. The Friends still feel that some provision for amenities has to be accepted, but the main aim is to retain the Park as an unique area of natural beauty and tranquillity.

Aims

- To preserve and enhance the natural appearance of the park wherever possible and the wildlife habitats.
- To initiate the planting of new trees, where required, in consultation with the Council.
- To preserve the wetland areas and the meadow, by initiating working parties to clear the stream and meadow area.
- To encourage the protection of animals, birds and all wildlife in the park.
- To attract new members.
- To keep members informed of any proposals affecting the use of the park, and where appropriate, challenge the Council.
- To promote the need for permanent wardens to ensure the safety of people and wildlife in the park.
- To have the wetlands area and the nature reserve designated as a Local Nature Reserve (LNR).
- To co-operate with the council by reporting any problems that may arise.
- To provide volunteer working parties for the management of the nature reserve, and litter clearing, throughout the year.
- The Friends of Cassiobury Park spread knowledge and appreciation of the Park and its historical background throughout Watford, for whose benefit it was purchased by the council.

Join Friends Group

Application Form



At vero eos et accusamus et iusto odio dignissimos ducimus qui blanditiis praesentium voluptatum deleniti atque corrupti quos dolores et quas molestias excepturi sint occaecati cupiditate non provident, similique sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollitia animi, id est laborum et dolorum fuga. Et harum quidem rerum facilis est et expedita distinctio.

Your details

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Email address:

Telephone Number:

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,

At vero eos et accusamus et iusto odio.

- Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur
- Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur
- Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur .
- Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur .

Signed:

Date:

Under the Data Protection Act 1998, this information will be securely held by Kent County Council solely to inform you of its work. This data will not be used for any other purpose, nor passed onto any third party.

Planning your day



8 Café Cha Cha Cha.
Hot and cold food and drinks all year round. Sit indoors or out and enjoy artwork from local artists, or even have a go yourself at one of the many workshops on offer. www.chachachacafe.co.uk



9 Tea Pavilion Playground.
This playground provides for younger children and includes a range of equipment for children with disabilities, including a roundabout accessible to wheelchair users. Let your children play while enjoying a coffee in the gardens of Café Cha Cha Cha.



10 Paddling Pools.
One of Cassiobury's most popular attractions, the three large pools provide hours of fun for children in the hot summer days. Open from May through to September.



11 Paddling Pools Kiosk.
Hot and cold, food, drinks, snacks and ice creams. Open from May through to September.



12 Paddling Pools Playground.
This playground is being fully replaced over the 2008/09 winter period to provide a showpiece playground for all ages. This will be the biggest and best playground for miles around and will provide another high quality attraction in the park.

13 Model Railway.
Operated all year round, the model railway offers rides for children through the nature reserve on this miniature railway. Charge applies.



14 Bouncy Castle.
Near the paddling pools this facility opens from April to September. The operator can open at their discretion. Charge applies.

Green Flag



Cassiobury Park was first awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award in 2007.



The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The award scheme began in 1996 as a means of recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in the country. It was also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve high environmental standards, creating a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas.

The following is an outline of the key criteria against which every is judged.

- **A Welcoming Place:**
The overall impressions for any member of the community approaching and entering the park should be positive and inviting.
- **Healthy, Safe, and Secure:**
The park must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Equipment and facilities must be safe to use and dog fouling must be adequately addressed. Toilets, drinking water, first aid and emergency equipment should be available.
- **Clean and Well Maintained:**
Litter and other waste management issues must be adequately addressed; grounds, buildings, equipment and other features must be well maintained.
- **Sustainability:**
Methods used in maintaining the park and its facilities should be environmentally sound and regularly reviewed. Pesticide use should be minimised and horticultural peat use eliminated. Waste material should be recycled where possible, energy conserved and pollution minimised.
- **Conservation and Heritage:**
Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of natural features, wildlife and fauna, landscape features, buildings and structural features.
- **Community Involvement:**
The community should have the opportunity to be involved in the management of the park and appropriate recreational facilities should be provided for all sectors of the community.
- **Marketing:**
A marketing strategy must be in place with a good provision of information to Management. A green flag park must have a management plan that clearly and adequately addresses all the award criteria and any other relevant aspects of the park or green space's management. The plan must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed.

www.greenflagaward.org.uk



Cassiobury Park