



## Orienteering

Grab your compass and try our orienteering route – winding its way through the park with marker posts ranging in difficulty to suit all abilities. Orienteering packs can be purchased from the Visitor Centre and maps are also available online.

## The Verdun Tree

One of the park's unique features is the Verdun Tree, grown from a chestnut gathered in the ruins of Verdun, France, in 1918. Seeds were sent to this country to commemorate peace.

## Pet Cemetery

This was established in 1949, after a request from the RSPCA to the council of the time to set up a dedicated cemetery for pets. The cemetery is full, with over 200 headstones in place, including those which commemorate animals who were involved in work during World War II.



## Outdoor learning, environmental education and group visits

Our Environmental Education Service uses the natural environment of the park as a resource to support a range of school curriculum subjects. Our wardens provide a safe, informative outdoor learning experience – with sessions tailored for different ages, community groups and other organisations. Contact us for more details.

## Volunteers

Join our group of enthusiastic volunteers who enjoy a range of conservation and horticultural tasks throughout the park on a weekly basis. Please contact the Park Wardens, or see the park noticeboard for further information.

## Friends Group

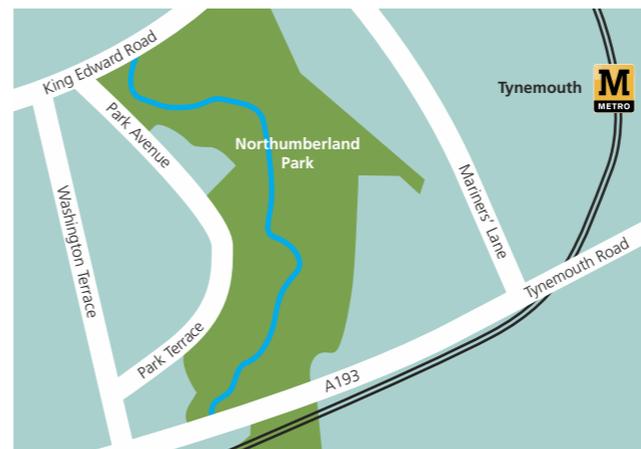
Formed in 2009, the Friends of Northumberland Park support and enhance the work of the dedicated parks team. Made up of people with a passion for the park, they volunteer with events, weekly gardening activities, finance and funding for future developments. To find out more, email [sec.nparkfriends@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sec.nparkfriends@hotmail.co.uk).



## Events and activities

North Tyneside parks host an amazing array of events and activities all-year-round. Join us for everything from nature walks to family fun days, and bat walks to musical performances. Pick up a copy of our latest guide from the Visitor Centre.

## How to find us



The park is just a few minutes walk from Tynemouth Metro station with direct access when exiting from platform 1 (Birtley Avenue side). Parking is available along King Edward Road and Tynemouth Road; please park considerately.

## Staffed times

**April to September:**  
7.30am – 7pm weekdays  
9.30am – 6pm weekends  
**October to March:**  
9.30am – 4pm daily

## Contact us

Tel: (0191) 643 2245  
Northumberland Park Visitors Centre and Tea Room,  
King Edward Road, North Shields, NE30 2ES

**Park Wardens:** 07976 307378 / 07866 596663  
**Email:** [northumberland.park@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:northumberland.park@northtyneside.gov.uk)  
**www.northtyneside.gov.uk**

@NTCouncilTeam

North Tyneside Parks

North Tyneside Council cares for 17 parks, including the outstanding Rising Sun Country Park at Benton and the Victorian splendour of Wallsend Parks.

**How many have you visited?**



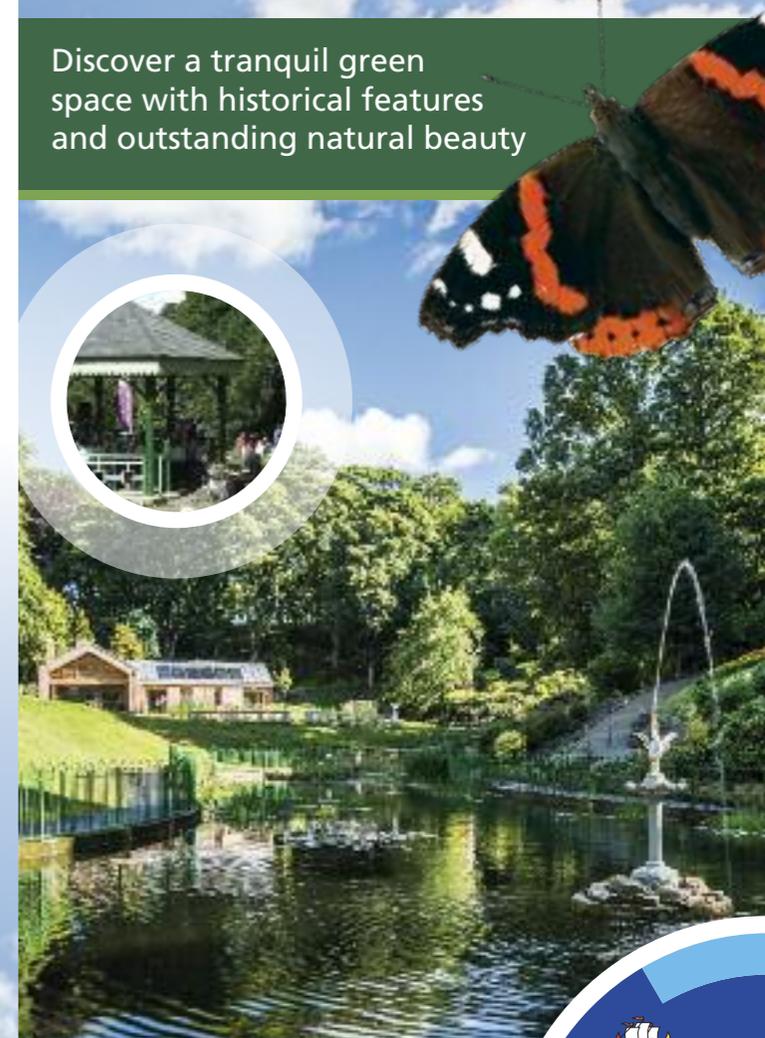
Northumberland Park is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund through the jointly funded 'Parks for People' programme.



# NORTHUMBERLAND PARK

NORTH SHIELDS

Discover a tranquil green space with historical features and outstanding natural beauty



Nestled between Tynemouth and North Shields, Northumberland Park has attracted visitors to its woodland paths, gardens, lake and bowling green since it was opened in 1885.

Today it hosts scenic walks, a vibrant herb garden, tea room, bandstand with regular musical performances, sculpture trail, children's play area and BMX pump track.

Northumberland Park offers a tranquil green space with a variety of landscapes, providing a mixture of Victorian elegance and urban wilderness.

Admission is free.

## Heritage and wildlife

Northumberland Park dates back to 1885 after the land was donated by the then Duke of Northumberland, Algernon George Percy and paths were cut, trees planted and a lake constructed.

The park is designated as a site of Nature Conservation Importance and is within a local wildlife corridor adjacent to the River Tyne estuary

It is an idyllic place to learn about the natural world that lives around us. Fox, hedgehog, rabbit and grey squirrel are amongst the mammal friends of the park. Visit after dark and you may see or hear bats. Over 100 species of birds have been recorded here, including heron, kingfisher and great spotted woodpeckers.

The park's beauty is enhanced by the canopy of trees and its horticultural design. Some 65 species of tree can be identified, including sycamore, ash, beech and sweet chestnut; and old woodland species of ground flora such as hedge mustard, wild garlic and lesser celadine.



**NORTHUMBERLAND  
PARK**  
NORTH SHIELDS



## Glasshouse Tea Room and Visitor Centre

A central feature of the park is the Glasshouse Tearoom, located within our modern Visitor Centre. Enjoy stunning views across the lake from the terrace while you enjoy a tasty home-made treat. Cool off with an ice-cream when the weather heats up, or warm up with coffee and a home-made scone!

The Visitor Centre hosts our community room, educational resources and toilet facilities.

## Medieval herb garden

This partially secluded medieval garden is a recreation of what may have been here at the time of St Leonard's hospital. Featuring species such as Meadowsweet, Fennel and Parsley, it offers a peaceful retreat.



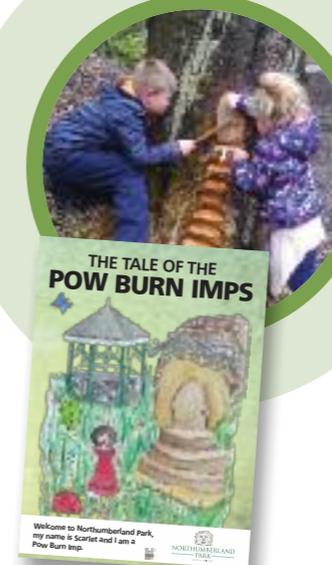
## Ready, steady, go!

Kids of all ages can get to grips with our play area, featuring state-of-the-art zip wire, swings, an embankment slide and climbing equipment. Younger children are well catered for too, with a special junior area just for them.

Located near the children's play area, the BMX pump track is full of ramps, twists and turns suitable for BMX bikes, mountain bikes, scooters and skateboards. It's an ideal place to sharpen your bike skills, the constant transition between upslope and downslope. Appropriate protective clothing and equipment is to be worn.

## Sculpture trail

We've created a special trail throughout the park – with a number of trees and logs carved into different characters like trolls and a giant snail! Look out too for the mysterious small doorways at the base of trees throughout the park, waiting to be discovered by any curious visitor ... Pick up a copy of the Pow Burn Imps sculpture trail story from the Glasshouse Tea Room.



Wood Mouse  
*Apodemus sylvaticus*



## Himalayan Dene

This area is a representation of the Victorian fascination for plants collected from around the world, including the Himalayas. The rustic bridge traversing the Dene is a replica of one found in the park originally and the buttress of one of the originals can be seen towards the pet cemetery. This area provides a habitat for a wide variety of wildlife.

## A fascinating past

Part of the park rests on the medieval site of St Leonard's hospital and chapel – which has been explored during recent archaeological digs. These unearthed the outline of the hospital dating back to the thirteenth century and a tiled floor.

It was first referred to in records dating back to 1293 and was perhaps a leper hospital (due to it being sited away from the town of Tynemouth). Bones, pottery, a Neolithic stone axe and a penny featuring Henry VIII have also been found at the site during previous investigations. Headstones and coffins uncovered by Victorian gardeners can be seen there today.

