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Preston Park – The People’s Park

Preston Park is Brighton & Hove's first and largest public park. With 63 acres of parkland, the well-loved open space offers a huge role in the life of the city, offering a variety of sports and activities and hosting many music and cultural events. The park is also home to beautiful building schemes, a garden museum and a wide range of playgrounds, cafes and toilets. The park was bought by Brighton Corporation in 1883 for £50,000 from Mr William Bennett-Stanford who owned the Preston Manor estate. Preston Park was bought by Brighton Corporation in 1883 and opened to the public in November 1884.

During your visit, don't miss the beautiful rock garden, designed to resemble a mini garden in Cheddar Gorge. The rock garden was restored and replanted in 2001 with funding from a Heritage Lottery Grant. The timber framework building was originally moved to the park in 1929 for Captain Bertie MacLaren to draw people into the park, the building was later restored and now hosts the Bowls Pavilion.

Little changed until 1920 when Captain Bertie MacLaren was promoted to Parks Superintendent, bringing with him new skills in landscape design, construction, management and a vision for a light, colourful and family friendly park.

Today, Preston Park remains a wonderful urban landscape, with walkways, drives and plantations and is formally declared open to the public in November 1884. Popular with families, the park has a large children’s playground complete with swings, and a wide range of sports including bowling greens, eight tennis courts, football and cricket pitches, basketball court and cycling facilities. The council also organises regular roadshows – a perfect way to learn and explore this beautiful park. For more information contact hoveparks@brightonandhove.gov.uk

During your visit, don't miss the beautiful rock garden, situated on the other side of the main road. It's one of the largest of its kind in Britain and is full of stunning rock climbing, plants and wonderful flowers. The garden was originally designed based on the popular William Patten.

Contact information

Brighton and Hove City Council

Email: parks@brightonandhove.gov.uk

Information about Park Rangers and Friends of Groups (01273) 206204

Sports bookings (01273) 207204

Police, non-emergency 08456 00 30 00 or in case of an emergency 999