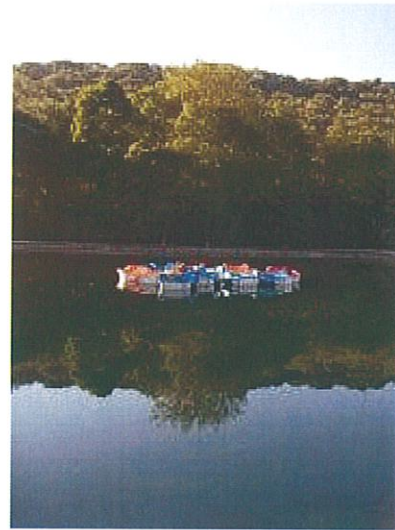


History of Parks and Green Spaces for Receptions

Millhouses Park

In 1907 William Wentworth-Fitzwilliam, 7th Earl Fitzwilliam gave some of his land in Millhouses to the City of Sheffield. The City Council bought more land for £10,325 and laid out the public park. Before the park was created, the area now known as Millhouses Park had been used for farmland and small industrial sites, which had been built to take advantage of the power provided by the river. The Ecclesall Corn Mill, remnants of which can be seen at the north of the park, is recorded as early as 1299, when it was given by Robert de Ecclesall to the monks of Beauchief Abbey. The Skargell or Bartin Wheel was located on the site of the present-day boating lake. It was a cutler's wheel that was constructed in the first half of the seventeenth century and remained in use into the mid-nineteenth century.



Millhouses Park is a leisure park and over the years has become a favourite in the hearts of the people of Sheffield past and present, by the 1930's facilities at the park included a boating lake, an open-air swimming pool, paddling pools, a cricket pitch, bowling greens, and tennis courts.

By the 1960's the park could attract up to 50,000 visitors on summer weekends. In 1970, a Lido replaced the old outdoor pool. The lido design was based on the idea of the Giants Causeway, with pools of varying depth and catering for a wide range of ages. It was enjoyed by many over the years until it finally closed in 1988.

Millhouses Park is loved by the people of Sheffield and has great sentimental value, it is not only used for all sorts of activities including water sports and outdoor events, but it has a lot of history along with acres of mown lawns, trees, floral display beds and the River Sheaf running through it. The park continues to be enjoyed by the people of Sheffield and beyond.

Hillsborough Park

Hillsborough Hall was built in 1779 by a local landowner, Thomas Steade. This was one of the few examples of a large 18th century classical houses in Sheffield. In 1890 Sheffield Corporation bought Hillsborough Park minus the Hall for £15,000 at auction, from the trustees of the late Mr. J Willis Dixon. The proposed park was a small part of the Hillsborough Estate which greatly exceeded the 50 acres proposed public ground and boundaries. The original

parklands extended for 102 acres, bounded by Dykes Hall Road, Wadsley Lane and Penistone Road.

The park was opened on 8th August 1892 after various improvements carried out by the Corporation to provide facilities for the public. The park was laid out in the tradition of English landscape parks, with native tree species planted in naturalistic groups in open parkland.



The park has retained many of its original features, including the Lime Avenue from the Penistone Road Lodge, the lake, the ha-ha and Walled Garden. In the early 1900's the park was used for various reasons; some areas had the grass cut and rolled and were used to present flowers, other parts of the park were rough grass for games and activities. A stream also ran down from Middlewood Road to the lake through an Italian garden and rockery. Near the Library there was a raised circular Bandstand used for open air concerts.



Hillsborough Park has been the venue for a variety of popular events including the Sheffield Show which was held annually in the park for many years, also for Royal Ballet performances. Between the summer of 1991 and the spring of 1992, a dramatic transformation took place in the Walled

Garden. A scheme was devised to create a community garden involving the whole community; this also created a fitting memorial to those who died in the football disaster at Hillsborough Stadium in 1989.

The park today has many elements of the landscape style of the original parkland including the grounds of the hall, the tree belts lining the south and south east boundary, the ha-ha to the south front of the hall and the walled garden. Today's facilities include a car park, tennis courts, bowling greens, pavilion and children's playground. Hillsborough Park has been recognised as having special significance in architectural and historic terms by its designation as a Conservation Area. The park is on the local schedule of Historic Parks and Gardens



and was designated a Heritage Park in the Comedia/Demos 'In Trust' document.

Graves Park

Graves Park is the largest public park in the City and forms the setting for Norton Hall which is Grade II listed.

The land that constitutes Graves Park was formally part of the Norton Estate, referred to in the Domesday Book. After several owners through the centuries, the estate passed on to Samuel Shore who rebuilt Norton Hall and extended the grounds around the house, forming the estate into a landscape of beautiful parkland. In 1850 the Shore Estate was sold by auction and then passed on through a series of owners until it was sold to Bernard Alexander Firth in 1902.



The park was presented as a gift to the city by Alderman John George Graves who had purchased 154 acres of the estate to provide the people of Sheffield with a fine sports and recreational space on the edge of the city. Graves recognised the great potential of the site with its varied topography, wooded valleys and lake suitable for boating. The proposed park, to be named 'Graves' in honour of the contribution made, was over three times the size of Norfolk Park and, because there were ample areas of flat ground, presented great opportunities for organised sports. Three woods were included in the gift, Cobnar, Waterfall and Summerhouse, and these provided leafy, shady enclosures in contrast to the openness of other parts of the park.

During the early years of the park, walks were constructed, the lakes were cleaned out and much planting took place. In 1927 an open air theatre was constructed and additional acres of land were donated by J G Graves.

During the thirties a children's playground and formal rose garden, once home to a statue of Peter Pan, was added, both of which remain in place today. Norton Hall Nurseries, a gift from J G Graves, was once the old kitchen gardens of the Hall.

The park retains much of the original grounds of the hall and is truly beautiful, with its panoramic views over the city, legends, fabulous history and sheer scale of open space; it really is a perfect location to hold a wedding reception.

Whirlow Playing Fields

Whirlow Playing Fields, off Limb Lane were originally farmland which was used for growing oats and grazing horses. The Playing Fields were leased from the Graves Trust and the Corporation was to pay £1 per annum. The land was then officially renamed Whirlow Playing Fields which was to be known as 'a public park, in the same way as

Graves Park or Concord' (other city parks donated by the Graves Trust) and was dedicated to the public for use as pleasure grounds and an open space.

The Playing Fields had their official opening on 2nd May 1953 by the Lord Mayor at the time Alderman Peter Buchanan. This was followed by one or two sports matches with afternoon tea taken in the nearby Whirlow Book Park.

The land acreage at the time was 408sq yards and included six football pitches, four cricket squares and a temporary pavilion.

Don Valley Bowl

For dazzling outdoor events the Don Valley Bowl is a fine, open air Greenfield site suitable for special occasions and celebrations.

Norfolk Park

Norfolk Park is situated one mile south of the city centre. Nationally it is one of the earliest public parks to be created. During the medieval period, the land now occupied by Norfolk Park formed part of Sheffield Park, the deer park of Sheffield Manor which, by 1637, covered 2,462 acres. In the mid 17th Century, Sheffield Park passed by marriage to the Howard family, Dukes of Norfolk. Although the park was opened to the public in 1848, it remained in the ownership of the Duke of Norfolk until 1909, when it was presented to the City Council. The layout of the park owes more to the landscape style of the early 19th century with echoes of the agricultural landscape that preceded the park.



The laying out of Norfolk Park by the 12th Duke of Norfolk took place between 1841 and 1848. The main intention was to provide much



needed recreational space for the 'operative class' and from its opening in 1848, the general public was allowed free access to the park at all times. The layout was simple with open spaces for cricket and football, with a shady peripheral walk or ride with regularly placed seats and avenues of trees.

On the 21st May 1897, Queen Victoria opened the Town Hall in her Diamond Jubilee Year. After the opening, she was driven to Norfolk Park in an open landau to hear 50,000 children sing in her honour.

It was an event of great civic pride and it was fitting that Henry, the 15th Duke of Norfolk, was the city's Mayor and with this event rose to the status of Lord Mayor.

In 1910 the Parks Committee instructed the City Architect to prepare a design for a refreshment room in the park, which was opened in 1912. Over the years a series of improvements and additions took place to keep the facilities to a high standard. In 1959 the valley of Queens Drive was filled in to create the present day level events arena. In the 1950's the Granville Road entrance was laid out with grass and planting and the main drives and footpaths in the park were resurfaced.

Once inside the park, the original intention of the design becomes apparent, the elegant avenues of trees create a parkland character. Further into the site, the wide expanses of grass enveloped with bold swathes of mature woodland enhance that quality even more. The circular ride or walk creates a strong focus in the design, with spectacular views being revealed with each progression. In its simplicity lies the strength and significance of the design.

Norfolk Park is Grade 2 listed on the National Register, is on the Local Schedule of Historic Parks and Gardens and was designated a Heritage Park in the Comedia/Demos 'In Trust' document. It is of a national significance as one of the earliest parks open to the public. It is of a local significance as the second park open the public in Sheffield. The park reflects the social and cultural history of the city, sitting as it does in a cluster of historically important sites and is significant in its connections with the Dukes of Norfolk.

Ecclesall Woods

This is the largest area of ancient woodland in Sheffield. It is the largest of a number of woods in the immediate area. Ecclesall Woods as we see them today are a historic creation of at least five phases of management; wildwood, modified wood, pasture park, wooded common and waste ground, coppice wood, high forest management and



planting of non-native species and neglect leading to the use of the



woods for amenity only. The site exemplifies human involvement in a woodland management over many centuries.

There are written records of Ecclesall Woods as far back as 1319. Ownership can be traced to the De Ecclesall family in the

14th Century. The earliest dated map of the woods is from 1725. There are also more recent historic landscape features such as boundary banks, ditches, canalised streams, signs of ancient stone quarrying, and charcoal and whitecoal kilns.

The site was purchased in 1927 for a sum of £45,000. Alderman Graves and the Sheffield Town Trust each contributed £10,000. The woods were officially opened to the public in 1928 by HRH Princess Mary. In 1929 a bird sanctuary was set up covering 13.5 hectares.

The site today is a Local Nature Reserve and is identified in the UDP as an area of Natural History Interest. The habitat types include broadleaved woodland, streams and flushes. Ecclesall Woods are very popular. It is a large area of woodland easily accessible both by the local community and from other parts of the city and region. People come to enjoy the changing seasons in a woodland atmosphere, to walk their dogs, for jogging, horse riding and bird spotting.

Ecclesall Woods is designated a Heritage Countryside in the Comedia/Demos 'In Trust' report, the acquisition by the Corporation having been supported by Alderman Graves and the Town Trustees. As the largest area of ancient woodland in the city it is of immense ecological and historical value, making a major contribution to the character and environment of the city and the immediate neighbourhood.



Wedding Receptions in Sheffield's Parks

Marquees

You may use a marquee company of your choice, although they must be a reputable company and have all relevant insurance and certificates. The companies listed below have all worked within our Parks and Gardens and are companies that have been used by previous couples who have had their receptions within the parks.

PLEASE NOTE This list is for your information only. You may choose another marquee provider. The Council cannot accept any liability which may result from loss as a result of contracting with any of these companies.

All Occasions Marquees	07958 955 470
Florida Marquees	0800 731 1676
Papakata	0800 612 9692

Security

You will be required to provide security to be present when you are not on site. This is to ensure the safety of the marquee and the contents, especially overnight. It is strongly advised that you do arrange for security to be on site from a reputable company with relevant insurances and certificates.

Utilities

You will need to hire in generators for your event. These can usually be provided by your marquee company, who should be able to advise you what type of generator you will need to suit your individual power requirements, although you may wish to use an alternative company.

There is no on site drainage system. All liquid waste products will need to be removed off site by you or by your catering company.

Cost

The Fee to hire any of the sites is £1,000.

Bond

As you are aware our Parks are beautiful places that are enjoyed by many visitors each day, and whilst we understand you will make every effort to ensure no damage is caused during your event, occasionally damage may occur. It is for this reason that we require a bond of £500 from you. It will need to be paid at least 21 days before the date of your event. You will be responsible for any damages caused by yourselves or any company you may contract with. Your bond will be returned to you after the date, ensuring no damage is caused by your event.

General Public

Please Note: Members of the public will be in the park whilst your event is taking place.

Catering

You may provide your own catering or bring in a catering company to provide this service for you.

Noise levels/Entertainment

An acceptable level of noise has to be maintained throughout your event. Any entertainment will need to finish by 11.30pm and the site vacated by 12 midnight.

Further Details:

If you would like to make a booking or you require further information please contact Ericka Hill, Ceremonies Co-ordinator on 0114 205 3500 or email ericka.hill@sheffield.gov.uk