






Abbey Park and Grounds

Visitor Guide



Leicester
City Council

Abbey Park is Leicester's premier park and lies approximately one mile north of the city centre.

-  Changing Places
-  Toilets
-  AED Defibrillator
-  Car Parking
-  Cycle Route

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Park House (office)
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Bowling Green
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Sensory Garden
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Model Boat Club
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Education Centre
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Miniature Railway
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Abbey Ruins
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Pets Corner
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Tennis Court
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The Café & Cricket Pavilion
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Play Area
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Outdoor Gym



last updated June 2023

The River Soar divides this beautiful park into two distinct areas: on the western side of the river are the fascinating Abbey Grounds with the remains of the twelfth century Leicester Abbey, and the ruins of Cavendish House, a seventeenth century mansion.

To the east of the river lies the highly decorative Victorian part of the park with its evergreen shrubberies, trees, boating lake, miniature railway, and formally planted flower displays.

History

Abbey Park was purchased from the Earl of Dysart in 1876 and plans were made for creating a much-needed public open space in the heart of the city.



A competition to choose a design for the new park was won by esteemed Victorian landscapers William Barron and Sons. Barron designed the gardens, bandstands, rustic bridges and summerhouses that we enjoy to this day.

Park features

One of the main attractions of this delightful park is the vibrant flower displays and wide variety of trees and shrubs. The lakes are a quiet and tranquil haven for wildlife.

Café: Peppercorns Café has a cosy, friendly atmosphere with a vintage design. Well behaved dogs are welcome.



Play Area: There is a large play area suitable for children of all ages and grassed areas for ball games.

Pets Corner: The popular and well established pet's corner on the western side of the park is free to enter and has a selection of birds and animals.

Sensory garden: This garden has been specially designed with plants and a water feature to appeal to all the senses. Raised planters make good access for people with a sensory or physical disability.

Scaled Model Boats: The Leicester and District Scale Model Boat Club meet every Sunday afternoon throughout the year and hold various competitions and fundraising activities at the parks Lake.

Additional features and facilities

Bowling green • Changing facilities • Lavender maze
Friendship garden • Historical ruins • Miniature railway
(open most Sunday afternoons from April until October)
Outdoor gym • Ping table • Bandstand and play area •
Tennis courts

How to get there

The park is easily accessible from the city centre with access from St Margaret's Way, Abbey Park Road and a bridge from Charter Street over the Grand Union Canal.

There are large pay and display car parks on Abbey Park Road and St. Margaret's Pastures. Buses run regularly from Leicester City centre, the park also forms part of the central section of the riverside walk and cycle route 6.



Abbey Park Bridge



Corn Cockle

