Headstone Manor Park

Wayfinder Trails

Play
Discover
Explore

Three trails to discover, explore & enjoy the park

© Neil Greenhalgh
Welcome to Headstone Manor Park

Travel back 500 years and this park was part of a noisy, bustling farm supplying the residents of Headstone Manor and people in the City of London with food. As you wander around you can still catch glimpses of its past from woodlands and hedgerows and a water-filled moat.

Today it’s a place for local people, and recent work has helped improve the Park for everyone. But the Park’s value doesn’t stop there - Headstone Manor Park is helping to prevent pollution running into our rivers and reduce the risk of flooding for local communities. Wetlands and flood basins have been recently added and Yeading Brook (which runs into the River Crane) has been opened up for people and wildlife to enjoy after years of running underground.

Orange Trail

Follow the wayfinder posts to discover the waterways and wetland of the park on this 1km trail.

1 Moat
The moat provides a home for fish such as the stickleback. In spring, the male develops a bright red throat and belly and performs a courtship dance to attract a mate.

2 Heron
Despite its urban setting, the park attracts much wildlife. Birds are easy to spot but look more closely and you may see insects, like dragonflies. Mammals such as bats and badgers may also be seen at dawn or dusk.

3 Sedimentation Pond
New homes like those on the old Kodak factory site put pressure on watercourses. Pollutants such as silt, oil and toxic metals are washed off roofs and roads. The ponds trap some of this silt.

4 Reed Beds
The reed beds are a fantastic habitat for birds such as the reed bunting. Reeds are, however, fast growing so need managing to provide the conditions needed by different animals.

5 Orchard
Birds love to feed on the fruit in the orchard. As well as the familiar blackbird you may see other thrushes such as a song thrush or winter visitors like the redwing.

6 Yeading Brook
Now open to daylight after years underground, Yeading Brook is healthier. The presence of animals such as freshwater shrimps indicate cleaner water. Volunteers also test the water for hidden pollution.

7 Picnic Place
Water has been a magnet for people for centuries. In our busy modern lives, the brook offers a calming place to stop and enjoy a picnic, or to take a paddle on a hot day.

8 Trees and Hedges
Trees and hedges provide safe corridors for wildlife. Listen out for the high-pitched calls of flocks of long-tailed tits as they flit from tree to tree.
The park is valued by the local community as a place for sports such as cricket and football. Flood basins and new drainage installed in 2020 help to keep pitches dry.

The old oak trees in the woodland copse close by provide a great nesting site for many birds and mammals, such as bats. Listen out for a woodpecker drumming in late winter or early spring.

Environment
Research shows that 80% of ocean plastic comes from rivers. Water from Yeading Brook enters the sea, via the River Crane and the River Thames. Help the environment – please take your litter home.

Pollution
Are your drains connected properly? Dirty water from washing machines, dishwashers and even toilets still gets into rivers, killing wildlife. It’s estimated that one household in every street has a misconnection. Visit www.connectright.org.uk to check.

Mighty trees
Giant redwood trees stand tall and straight amongst the mighty oak trees in this woodland. The redwoods are estimated to be about 75 years old so they are still relatively small. They can grow to over 70m. That’s taller than the white chimney on the old Kodak site!

Hedgerow harvest
In early autumn look out for jays as they collect fallen acorns to store away for food in winter. In the summer you can see the pretty flowers of the dog-rose.

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Blue Trail

Pick up a Nature Finder’s trail leaflet from the visitor centre to explore the Scheduled Ancient Monument, which is home to Headstone Manor & Museum. The trail takes you around the moat and inside the grounds to discover the Great Barn and the history of this medieval farmstead. Please note – parts of the trail are only accessible when the Museum is open. For information about the Museum, including hours of opening: - www.headstonemanor.org

Find out more about Headstone Manor Park

www.harrow.gov.uk - visit the Headstone Manor Park page for information about facilities available at the Park and details of how to get to the Park.

www.headstonemanorpark.org - a website run by the Friends of Headstone Manor Park. Lots of information about the Park, activities and wildlife. The Friends are a group of volunteers who donate their free time to looking after the Park to ensure it’s a special place for people and wildlife.