

Did you know?

- Remnants of the old fields that once existed on site are buried beneath today's modern landscape, but some of the older trees and paths in the park were part of the network of hedges and ditches that made up boundaries to these long-lost fields.



- The main channel of the River Effra is now buried deep underneath the eastern side of the park, a victim of our habit of turning urban rivers into sewers and burying them out of harms way; it's now one of the famous 'Lost Rivers of London'.



- Outdoor lidos were first introduced to provide exercise felt necessary to improve the nation's health after the Great War, to increase exposure to sunlight to boost Vitamin D levels. When the Brockwell Lido was created, Lambeth Council paid £24,150 towards the new building, London County Council donated a further £2,000, and the architect was Harry A. Rowbotham.

- The original stables attached to Brockwell Hall would have had sufficient space to house eight horses and two carriages.

- William Papworth, architect, was involved with the various changes to the hall and other key buildings between 1824 and 1829; a clue is the octagonal columns in the Temple which are similar to those of the Stable Block, which he designed.



For more information on Brockwell Park, its restoration and management, please contact Lambeth Council on **020 7926 9000** or at **parcs@lambeth.gov.uk**. To find out more about Brockwell Park, including downloading a copy of this and other guides, please go to the Lambeth Council website at **www.lambeth.gov.uk**

Brockwell Park is one of London's greatest and most loved public parks, containing not just some fantastic views across the city but also popular features including a walled garden, ponds and a range of sports and play facilities. The park has recently been restored with funding including from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), The Big Lottery and the London Borough of Lambeth, in partnership with Brockwell Park Community Partners and a wide range of other stakeholders. The objective has been to provide residents and visitors with a park that is safe, welcoming and sustainable, and meets the needs and aspirations of both present and future generations.

Acknowledgements

The following organisations have contributed to not only the production of this guide, but also the management of Brockwell Park to conserve its many wild plants and animals and promote it as a place for everybody to see and enjoy wildlife throughout the year.

**Friends of
Brockwell Park**



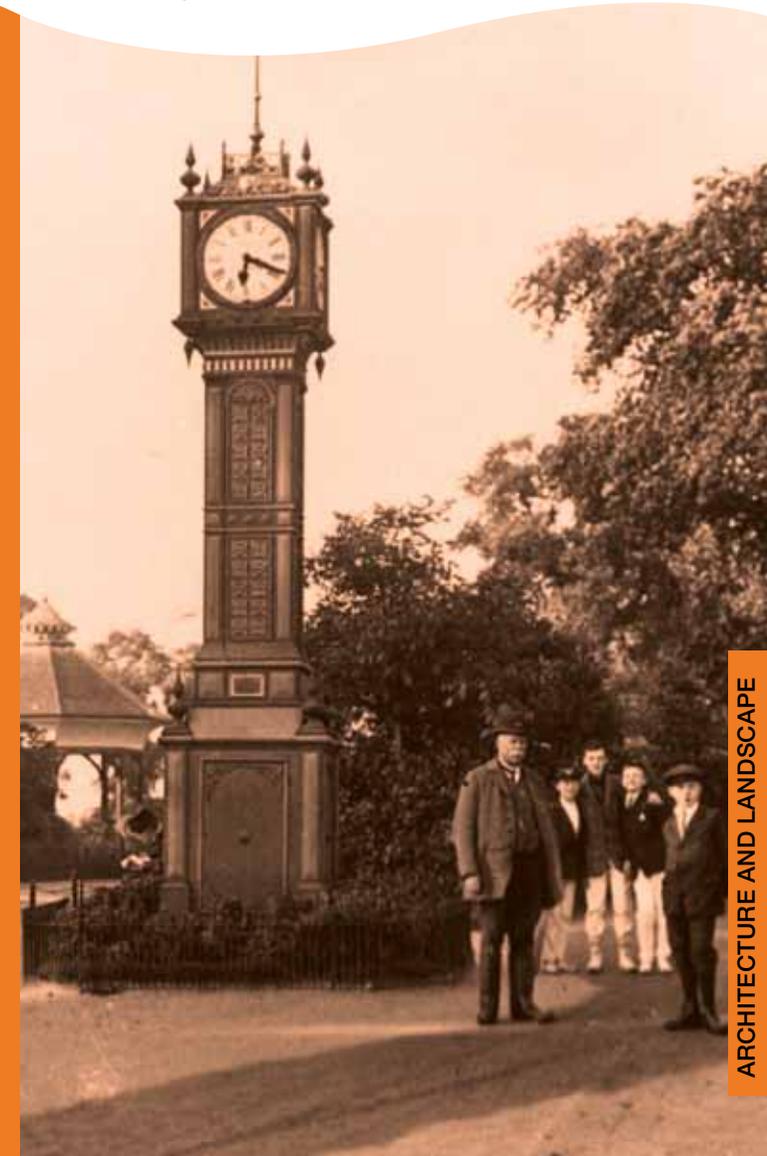
**Brockwell Park
Community
Greenhouses**
Registered Charity no. 1140990

**Brockwell
Park Community
Partners**



Brockwell Park architecture and landscape trail

Introduction to the architecture and landscape of Brockwell Park



Description of key points of interest

1 What Makes the Land?

The land Brockwell Park lies on has been cut and shaped over millions of years by the action of ancient rivers, flooding, winds and rain on soils and rocks that lie beneath the ground. The park sits on a slab of heavy London Clay with smaller bits underlain by a mixture of clay, sands and gravels known as 'Lambeth Beds', or coated with 'Head Deposits' which are layers of material washed down from higher ground by natural processes.

These layers of rocks and soils explain why some areas of Brockwell Park get waterlogged or drain freely, and influences what trees, plants and features we find in the park.

2 Time for Change

Close by the hall is the 'Tritton Clock', a Grade II listed ornamental cast iron structure gifted to the park in 1897 by Charles Ernest Tritton, Member of Parliament for Norwood. The introduction of the clock known locally as 'Little Ben' signifies the park's change from a private estate to a public amenity.



3 Water Power: the River Effra and the Ponds

A big influence on the park has been the River Effra which originates on higher land around Upper Norwood and Crystal Palace before winding its way to the River Thames at Vauxhall Bridge. The River Effra sculpted the underlying clays and sands and thus shaped Brockwell Park.

A tributary of the Effra lies in the western side of the park and drains surface water into the ponds before joining the main river underground near the Brixton Water Lane. Whilst shallow ponds might have been found along the line of the tributary in the past, the ponds you see today were deliberately created but still have a major effect on the way the park looks.

4 Places for Play and Leisure

Brockwell Park contains modern features popular with all ages. Examples include the new children's wet play area which replaced an older paddling pool, as well as a large children's playground, installed as part of the recent restoration of Brockwell Park with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Big Lottery and Lambeth Council.

5 The Brockwell Lido

The Grade II listed Brockwell Lido is a unique feature, originally built in the 1930s to replace an older bathing pond. The Art Deco building is almost identical to a similar one in Victoria Park in East London, and was first opened in July 1937. Following a £3M Heritage Lottery Fund-supported restoration programme, the Lido reopened in 2005 with a wide range of facilities, but the attraction still remains its large open air swimming pool.



6 Gatekeepers and Worshippers

Scattered through the park are various buildings, some of which were built when first laid out in 1892 but others go back to when it was once private land. A small lodge building sits inside the park called 'Norwood Lodge', which was originally a gatehouse to control access to the private Brockwell Estate. When the new park was created it was used to house staff. Another interesting building is the Temple, a white ornate building attached to the front of the Walled Garden which was a 'folly' in the Brockwell Estate.

7 Gardens Secret and Special

All big private estates had their own 'kitchen garden' to provide fruit and vegetables to feed the owner, his family and workforce. The Walled Garden and the neighbouring Brockwell Park Community Garden evolved from the original kitchen gardens, although many original features survive alongside ones added when the park was created. The Walled Garden contains old brick walls, shelters, paths, planted flower beds and a central water fountain.

