

## A short history of the Park

Greenhead Park was formally opened on 27 September 1884, 15 years after the newly-established Huddersfield Corporation took the first steps to buy the land from the Ramsden Estate, then the town's major landowner.

A plaque on the park lodge records the leading part played by Alderman Thomas Denham, a town centre draper, in securing the Park for the people of Huddersfield. In 1870, hearing of plans by the Ramsden Estate to build housing on what was then open land, he personally leased about 15 acres which he opened to the public each summer, providing an orchestra stand and seats at his own expense, while other parts were let out as grazing land for animals. This early park hosted band concerts, flower shows and galas just as Greenhead Park does today.

Alderman Denham's aim was always to secure a proper public park for Huddersfield, and negotiations to purchase the necessary land started between the Council and the Ramsden Estate as early as 1869. But it was not until January 1881 that the Huddersfield Corporation finally sealed the deal to purchase 30 acres of land from the Ramsden estate.

Planning of the park was placed in the hands of the Borough Surveyor, Richard Dugdale, who took responsibility for every aspect of the design – the layout, the buildings and even the park benches. Most of the main features can still be seen today, including the entrance lodge, Italian Gardens and fountain, the main lake and the octagonal bandstand.

Important later additions to the park were the Boer War Memorial, unveiled in 1905, and the massive Great War Memorial in 1924. An extension to Gledholt Road was opened in 1927 providing bowling greens, tennis courts, putting greens and a pavilion housing a cafe and changing rooms. The fine conservatory was another striking new feature, opened in August 1930.

Originally the park had five lakes or ponds, of which two can be seen today - the recently restored main lake and the next largest, now a children's paddling pool. The other three, on sites now occupied by the conservatory and the rose garden, were all filled in by 1930.

One further significant change was the wartime removal of the railings in 1940. As part of a major Heritage Lottery funded restoration of the park, these were re-instated in 2010 (though to a plainer design), along with exact replicas of the two main gates.

## Want to know more?

**The Greenhead Park History Trail** - a series of ten information boards, distributed throughout the park, tell you more about the main historic features. The locations of the boards are marked on the map overleaf.

**Secured for the Town** - a 68 page book published by the Friends of Greenhead Park, tells the story of the Park from its earliest days to its recent restoration. It's available at £5 from The Park restaurant and local bookshops, or by post from the address below for £6.25 (including p&p).

**Park activities** - the Friends of Greenhead Park organise a range of activities in the park, including history talks. You can find more details on our website, [www.friendsofgreenheadpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgreenheadpark.org.uk).

You can contact the Friends of Greenhead Park by **post:** c/o Refreshment Rooms, Greenhead Park, Huddersfield HD1 4HS

**web:** [www.friendsofgreenheadpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgreenheadpark.org.uk)

**email:** [foghuddersfield@gmail.com](mailto:foghuddersfield@gmail.com)

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## Explore the history of Greenhead Park, Huddersfield

*Includes a map showing the Greenhead Park history trail and current park facilities*



Friends of  
Greenhead  
Park

# Finding your way around the park

## Park facilities

1. Skate Park
2. Multi Sports Court
3. Tennis Courts
4. Cafe, Community Room & Public Toilets
5. Miniature Railway
6. Bowling Greens
7. Pavilion
8. Children's Playground
9. Paddling Pool
10. Conservatory and Restaurant

## Heritage information boards

- A. Italian Gardens & Boer War Memorial
- B. Bandstand & Temperance Drinking Fountain
- C. Lake & Arbour
- D. Ramsden Fountain & 'Rebecca'
- E. Miniature Railway & Open Air Theatre
- F. Park Extension
- G. Oastler Playground
- H. Belvedere
- I. War Memorial
- J. Conservatory & Rose Garden

