

A little bit of history.

The land that now constitutes Leesland Park was purchased in 1915 by Gosport and Alverstoke Urban District Council for 'leisure purposes'. Prior to that uses of the land included digging clay for brick-making and drying washing for the branch of Flux's Laundry situated in Whitworth Close, where the Builders' Merchants now stands.

Following public consultation the transformation of the former allotment site into a community park began in 1998. The 'Friends of Leesland Park' (FoLP) group was set up in the same year. The aim of this group was to establish a park catering for the needs of local people whilst protecting and increasing the wildlife of the area.

Since work began a number of facilities serving all sections of the local community have been instigated. The 'Friends of Leesland Park' and Gosport Borough Council continue to work to support and improve the park.

Are you up for the challenge?

The Friends of Leesland Park welcome volunteers to help with:

- Committee duties
- Volunteer workdays
- Presenting ParkFest

For further information about FoLP activities, please visit our website or call:

Tel: 023 92 527310

<http://leeslandpark.btck.co.uk>

If you require further information on the management of the park please contact Gosport Borough Council Landscape Management or Countryside Section.

Landscape Management
Gosport Borough Council
Town Hall, High Street,
Gosport. PO12 1EB
Tel: 08000 198 598
Email: streetscene@gosport.gov.uk

Countryside Section
Tel: (023) 9258 8666
Email: countryside@gosport.gov.uk
www.gosport.gov.uk/countryside



Welcome to Leesland Park



Map of Leesland Park

1. Leesland Allotments

Managed by Gosport Borough Council.

2. Open Parkland

An area for informal recreation, dog walking and public events such as the annual Friends of Leesland Park 'ParkFest'. This area is maintained by Gosport Borough Council contractors. Picnic tables and benches are available.

3. Children's Play Area

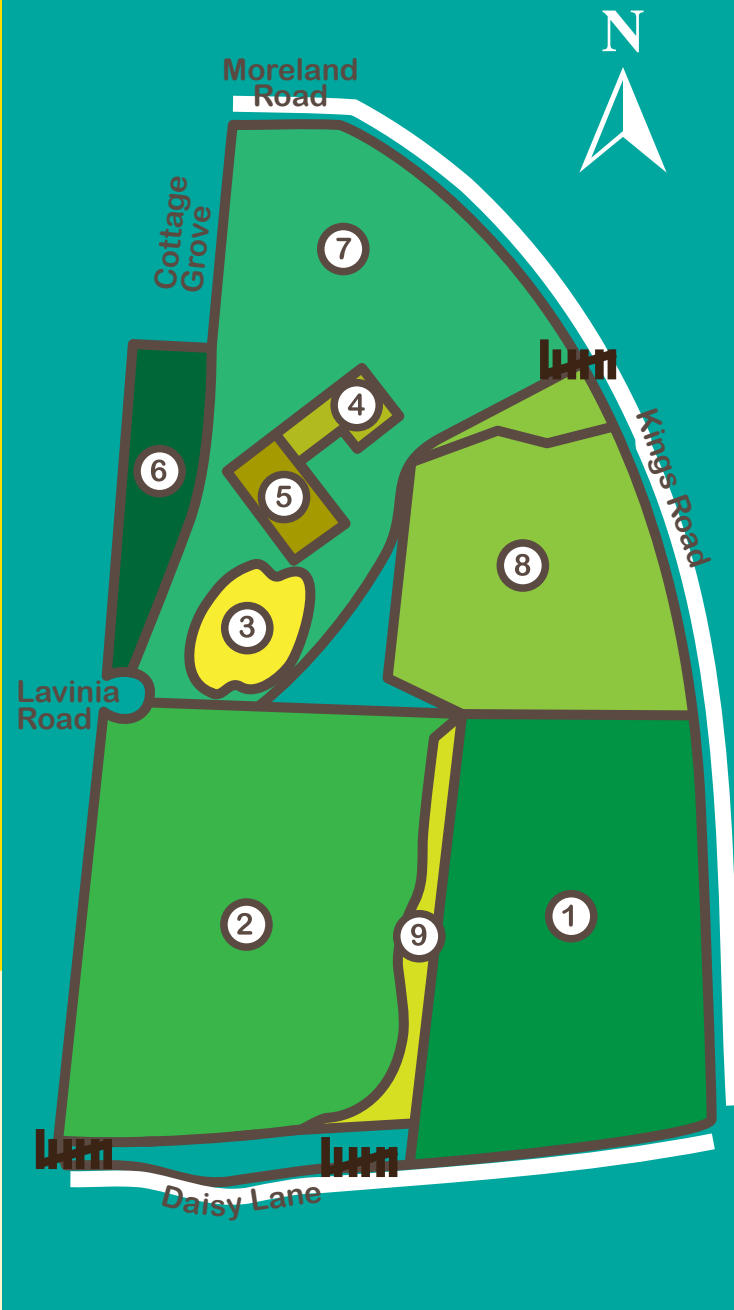
Designed for children aged 3 and over, this area encourages adventurous play in a safe environment. Purpose-built equipment complements natural features, allowing children to use their imaginations as well as burning off energy. Play equipment includes climbing nets and frame, swings, slide, tactile maze and zip wire.

4. Skatepark

The concrete ramps and bowl provide a challenging and popular facility.

5. Hardcourt Sports Area

Open to everyone, this area is perfect for sports such as football and hockey or for group games. The tarmac surface means it can be used all year round.



6. Sensory Garden

Plants and sculptures allow all 5 senses to be stimulated. This peaceful corner of the park provides a perfect setting for quiet contemplation.

7. Community Woodland

Native trees and shrubs provide a natural play area or the perfect spot for a walk in the woods. The woodland supports a variety of insects and small mammals such as voles and shrews. It also provides essential cover for larger mammals such as foxes and badgers.

8. Conservation Area

Providing a whole host of habitats, this part of the park welcomes natural visitors. The wildflower meadow is mowed annually, allowing wild flowers to bloom and seed, benefiting birds, reptiles and insects. A variety of butterfly species can be spotted in the conservation area as well as wild bees and honey bees.

9. Community Orchard

This part of the park boasts a variety of traditional fruit trees for everyone to enjoy. Varieties include cooking, eating and cider apples, pears, quinces, cherries, crabapples, plums and medlars. Fruit can be enjoyed not just by people but by wildlife too. Animals such as foxes and butterflies enjoy autumn fruits and winter visitors such as migrating redwings and fieldfares benefit from them too.

