



Peacock Butterfly

the temple

Designed as a feature within the formal gardens, this mid-18th century building escaped destruction in 1824 as it served as accommodation for the Estate's Steward. Today it is used as a southern base for the Forest Keepers and is occasionally open to the public for events.

natural history

There are some fine Horse Chestnut trees a few Sweet Chestnuts and the occasional Walnut mixed in with Ash and Oak. Rhododendrons were introduced in the 19th century and Yew hedges have been re-planted along the lines of some 18th century plantings. In Spring, sheets of Bluebells cover much of the 124 hectares (300 acres) wooded areas with occasional patches of Wood Anemones. Brambles are also frequent.

Rabbits, Foxes and Grey Squirrels are commonly seen within the Park and the woodlands provide nesting sites for Blackbirds and Robins. Swift and Swallows swoop over the water in summer and several species of bat feed on emerging aquatic insects on warm evenings.



EPPING FOREST

Epping Forest is one of a number of open spaces, parks and gardens around London owned and managed by the Corporation of London as part of its commitment to sustaining a world class city. Each open space is a unique resource managed for the use and enjoyment of the public and for the conservation of wildlife and historic landscape. A full list of sites and visitor information can be found on our website at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/openspaces or by contacting the Open Spaces Directorate on 020 7606 3030.

For further information please contact:
The Epping Forest Information Centre
High Beach
Loughton
Essex IG10 4AF
Tel: 020 8508 0028
E-mail: epping.forest@corpoflondon.gov.uk

This information can be provided in alternative formats, including larger print size, on request.

SOME IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Emergency 24hr call out	020 8532 1010
Epping Forest Information Centre	020 8508 0028
Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge	020 8529 6681
Chingford Golf Course	020 8529 5708
Wanstead Flats Playing Fields (football pitch hire)	020 8532 1010
Epping Forest Field Centre	020 8508 7714
Superintendent's Office	020 8532 1010
Website	www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/openspaces/eppingforest
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EPPING FOREST

Wanstead Park



Welcome to

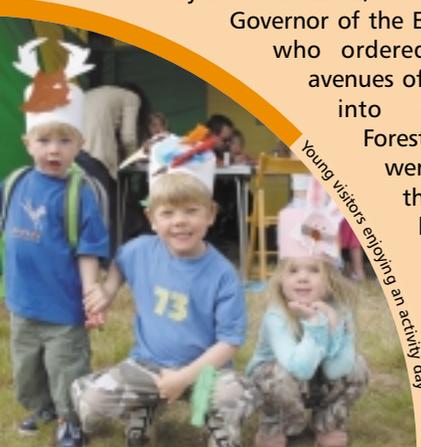
Wanstead Park

Wanstead Park covers 63 hectares (140 acres) and was formerly part of the grand park and gardens which surrounded Wanstead House. It became part of Epping Forest in 1882 and is a very popular venue with local people. It contains many fine trees, attractive ponds and open grassland. In 2001 the Park was officially given Grade II* - listed status on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

History

A Roman mosaic floor discovered in the Park in the 18th century indicates a long history of settlement and subsequent generations have also left their mark on the landscape. In the mid-16th century a substantial house was built together with an enclosed Deer Park. This was visited by Elizabeth I on several occasions. Around 1668 the 300 acre estate was acquired by Sir Josiah Child, a wealthy merchant and Governor of the East India Company, who ordered the planting of avenues of trees radiating out into the surrounding Forest. Elaborate gardens were created reflecting the latest trends in landscape design. Walled enclosures

Young visitors enjoying an activity day



for fruit trees, plantations of Walnut trees and large fish ponds all featured.

The work was continued by Sir Josiah's son, Richard, later Viscount Castlemain and Earl Tylney. He developed the gardens in the French style under the guidance of a famous garden designer of the time, George London. In about 1715 Sir Richard Child built a Palladian mansion on the site of the earlier house where he and his successor could entertain in lavish style. Both the house and gardens became famous and attracted many important visitors.



Mute Swan family

On the death of Sir Richard's son, the 2nd Earl Tylney, in 1784 the estate passed to a nephew and subsequently to his daughter, Catherine Tylney

Long, in 1813. Further changes to the gardens followed on the advice of Humphrey Repton and Lewis Kennedy. Catherine's marriage to the Hon. William Pole Tylney Long Wellesley, nephew of the Duke of Wellington, proved to be disastrous. He gambled away their fortune and regrettably the contents of the house were auctioned in 1822 and the house was demolished in 1824 in an attempt to pay off their debts.

The Conservators acquired the Park as an addition to Epping Forest in 1882. Since then, it has reverted to a more natural state but several of the earlier features still survive. In 1992 the Corporation of London initiated a historic landscape restoration plan which is gradually being implemented.



Hawthorn Blossom



A family day out in the Park

the water areas

Five separate lakes surrounded the grand house. Dating from the end of the 17th century, they were dug by hand and were fed by local streams. Today, water is pumped from a borehole to keep the concrete lined Herony Pond filled with water. All support a range of wildfowl including Coots, Moorhens, Ducks and Great Crested Grebes. Herons and Cormorants catch large fish and Kingfishers take the smaller ones. Water Voles inhabit the banks of the Ornamental Water.

Grotto

Constructed in about 1760, and designed as a boathouse with a room above, the Grotto was famed for its interior reflective decoration of quartz, amethyst and other materials. Opened to the public in 1882, it attracted the curious until it was destroyed by fire in 1884.



The Grotto