

Cheetham Park

Management Plan 2012-2015



Cheetham Park



“Over recent years we have made great progress in making Tameside a better place to live, to work and to visit.”

“Our urban parks and green spaces are key elements of the progress and improvements we have achieved and I feel it is important that they are valued by residents. Our recent Green Flag successes endorse the fact that our open spaces are well managed, safe and attractive places that residents enjoy visiting.”



Executive Council Leader, Cllr Kieran Quinn

Cheetham Park

Management Plan

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Cheetham Park

Management Plan

1. Purpose of the Management Plan

Name of Site: Cheetham Park

Site Address: Park Street
Stalybridge
SK15 2BT

Cheetham Park Management Plan has been designed as an aid for the staff involved with managing, maintaining and developing Cheetham Park.

The plan will act as a tool to focus staff on the efficient and effective management of the site and on the necessity to engage with the parks' users, local schools and businesses as well as groups with an interest in the park, such as Catch Nature angling club and visitors to the bird sanctuary.

The plan will include actions developed following consultation with staff, user groups and members of the public and will build into a comprehensive file that documents the changes and enhancements made in the park over a number of years as well as proposals for future improvements.

A copy of this plan will be made available by appointment at the address shown below:

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2. Introduction to Cheetham Park

Cheetham Park is a green and peaceful oasis just a few minutes walk from the bustling commercial centre of Stalybridge.

The park is surrounded by residential properties and so provides an essential and valuable leisure and recreational resource for the local community.

The towns' bus and train stations are within easy walk of the park and there is parking available at the Park Street entrance.

The park has a popular enclosed play area for younger visitors as well as equipment for older children situated on an adjacent elevated spot.

Eastwood Bird Sanctuary, which is managed by Cheshire Wildlife, has a small stream running through it that feeds the former mill reservoir that is now home to Catch Nature Angling Club. The quiet walks within the sanctuary are popular with families as well as bird watchers.

Privately run tennis and archery clubs are situated at the Mottram Road entrance to the park.



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3. History of Cheetham Park

John Frederick Cheetham, the eldest son of John Cheetham, was born in Stalybridge in 1835 into a family made prosperous by the cotton manufacturing industry. The family business had been started by George Cheetham at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution and was based in mills on Castle Street, Stalybridge.

John Frederick Cheetham generously supported the town throughout his life and this generosity continued upon his death in 1916 when he left his home, Eastwood House, to the town along with the extensive grounds and gardens that surrounded the property. He also bequeathed his remarkable art collection, known as The Astley Cheetham Collection, to the town of Stalybridge. All these passed into public ownership in 1932 on the death of his sister Agnes, and Cheetham Park was opened soon after.

John Frederick Cheetham was ahead of his time in his concern for the environment. He directed that woodland on either side of the stream which fed the mill reservoir should become a nature reserve, one of the earliest in Britain, and he left enduring legacies to the Commons Society and National Trust for its upkeep.

This area, bisected by Acres Brook, is now known as Eastwood Reserve and the former mill reservoir is occupied by Catch Nature angling club.



Opening ceremony

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Cheetham Park has seen many changes since it first opened to the public in 1932, arguably the two most significant being the loss of The Priory shortly after the park opened, demolished as a result of dry rot, and the demolition of Eastwood Hall House in 1950 after numerous attempts to put it to good use had failed.

During the 1960's an educational walk was created through the park. This walk was known as The Cheetham Park Trail and took visitors past various points of interest, including rare and unusual plant and tree species that could be found in the park at that time.

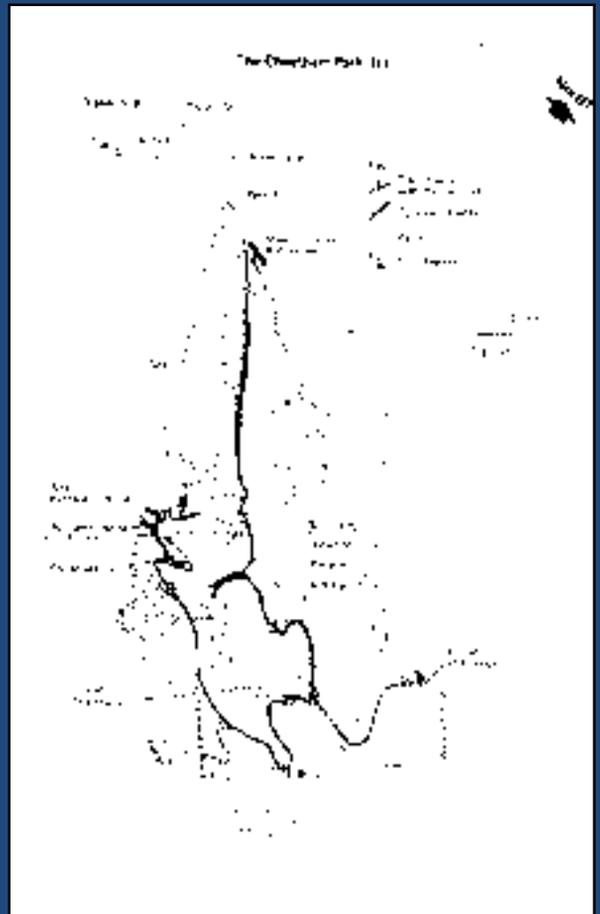
A booklet was produced detailing how to identify each species by its leaves, fruit or flowers and gave readers information on its origin as well how to grow and care for it.

This booklet also set out a code of acceptable conduct that visitors to the park should be aware of and were expected to adhere to.

A plan of the trail is shown on the right.

The creation of a sculpture trail through Cheetham Park generated a great deal of interest in its history and so we recreated the trail incorporating new areas of interest within the park as well as the more traditional and historic points.

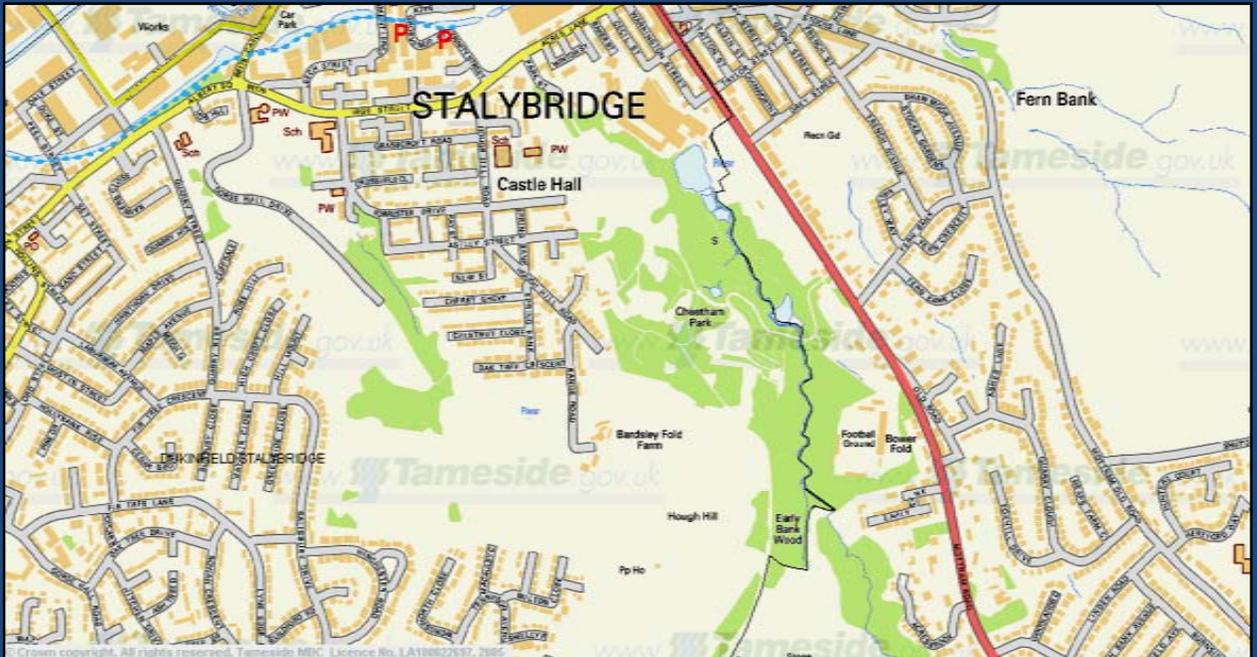
Further information on the trail is available on page 12.



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4. Location Plan



Accessing Cheetham Park

The Borough of Tameside lies to the east of Manchester and came into being as a local authority in 1974. Tameside shares boundaries with Manchester, Oldham, Stockport and the Derbyshire Borough of High Peak. Stalybridge is situated in the north of the Borough.

Cheetham Park covers more than 13 hectares and can be accessed via three main entrances: Mottram Road, Park Street and Forester Drive. Parking is available at the Park Street entrance.

The park is within easy walk of both bus and rail links and has adequate connections to the local road network. The park is within short walking distance of five local schools: Stalyhill Juniors, Stalyhill Infants, St Peter's Catholic Primary School, St Paul's Church of England Primary School and Gorse Hall Primary School.

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5. Site Plan



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6. Site Details

Name:	Cheetham Park
Grid Reference:	Easting 396573 Northing 398259
Area:	13.062 Hectares
Location:	Cheetham Park is situated approximately ¼ of a mile from Stalybridge town centre.
Tenure:	The park is owned by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council. Stalybridge District Assembly is responsible for the management and maintenance of the park.
Telephone:	0161 303 8547
Access:	Access to the park can be gained from the entrances on Park Street, Mottram Road and Forester Drive.

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The play area

One of the more popular attractions in Cheetham Park is the children's play area. The play area was installed in 2005 following extensive consultation and at a cost of more than £132,000. There are two distinct and separate areas of play equipment: The enclosed area alongside the main pathway through the park is aimed at children up to 5 years old and equipment for children aged 5-14 is ranged up a small hillside giving views over the park and towards Stalybridge town centre. There are picnic benches inside and overlooking the enclosed play area to cater for parents.



In 2010/11 the older children's play area was extended using external monies, attracted into the park from the Playbuilder fund. The final cost of this extension was a little in excess of £40,000.

This new play equipment caters for older park users and includes a range of equipment that combines play as well as exercise.

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Cheetham Park Trail

In July 2008 we commissioned renowned North West sculptor, Thompson Dagnall, to create a timber owl for display in the park. Thompson Dagnall, based in Southport, has been engaged on similar community projects for over 20 years. The owl's basic outline was created using a chain saw, with hand tools used to provide the finer details. This attractive piece of artwork has proved such a popular talking point that we have now



extended this initiative with the installation of three further pieces; a snake, a nuthatch and a pair of badgers. The sculptures have been used as the basis for Cheetham Park Trail that covers points of interest and history throughout the park.



The trail has been designed to attract the attention of visitors of all ages. There is a range of markings on the footpaths which direct visitors around the route and information boards have been sited overlooking the community orchard and the herbaceous border that provide factual and education points about these particular features.

A copy of the trail route can be downloaded from our website.

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The Time Line

Recently a time line has been created, funded jointly by Stalybridge District Assembly and the Heritage Lottery Fund, that tells park visitors of the rich history surrounding the industrial heritage of Stalybridge. The piece was commissioned by Groundwork Tameside on behalf of Stalybridge District Assembly and was designed following extensive research by local school children. These children, from Copley High School, visited local libraries and museums to come up with unusual and interesting facts about the town. The 6 foot tall stone obelisk was placed atop a small grassy mound and ramped pathways were created using natural stone materials ensuring easy access. The area has been surrounded with attractive shrubs and plants that are suited to its woodland dell setting.



Picnic area

The popular and well maintained picnic area is situated in a peaceful area of the park and is within easy walking distance of the toilets and play areas.

We have arranged five tables around a well manicured lawn that is in turn surrounded by mature specimen trees. It provides the perfect setting for a packed lunch whilst your children enjoy playing on the grass.

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Stalybridge Archery Club

Stalybridge Archery Club was founded in 1958 and became an affiliated member of the Cheshire Archery Association in 1960.

It is a well established and well respected club and boasts a membership that includes; County, Regional and National Champions; County, Regional and National record holders, and has even had members who have competed at the Olympic games. The club also has within its membership a National judge and several County officials.



The club's principle discipline is target archery and it caters for all levels of archers. The club runs several of its own competitions throughout the year as well as entering tournaments spanning the length and breadth of the country.

Priory Tennis Club

Priory Tennis Club offers a facility for anyone with an interest in tennis, whatever their ability. The club is situated adjacent to the park's Mottram Road entrance.

The club has been based in Cheetham Park since 1921 and has four professionally maintained artificial grass courts, all with floodlights, that provide some of the best facilities in Tameside for year round tennis.

Priory Tennis Club is affiliated to The Lawn Tennis Association and has four teams playing in the North East Cheshire Summer League and three in the Winter League. The tennis club is currently working towards obtaining "Tennis Clubmark" the Lawn Tennis Association's quality accreditation endorsement for clubs.

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The Community Orchard

Our community orchard was planted on the former Priory house site. Planting took place in February 2009 and was carried out by our apprentice gardeners.

The orchard is available as a teaching resource for visiting schools or for any park visitor to harvest and enjoy an item of fruit as they wander around the park.

The orchard also serves as a haven for wildlife and attracts native bees.

A number of pear, plum, apple and cherry varieties were selected for disease resistance and hardiness. Drifts of wildflowers underplant the fruit trees to encourage pollinating insects.

The Herbaceous Border

In 2009 we removed a row of mature *Leylandii* that shaded the picnic area. A low natural stone wall was built around the newly cleared area to retain a raised herbaceous border. The bed was designed in the style of renowned Dutch plantsman Piet Oudolf who pioneered prairie planting style. The bed comprises of bold drifts of herbaceous perennials such as, Asters, Echinacea, Inula and Rudbeckii.

Local schoolchildren spent a day in the park learning about their environment and assisting with the planting.



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Eastwood Nature Reserve

Eastwood Nature Reserve was gifted to the people of Stalybridge by John Frederick Cheetham and was one of the first nature reserves to be established in Britain. He also left enduring legacies to the Commons Society and the National Trust to ensure the long term future of the reserve.

Cheshire Wildlife Trust, who manage the reserve, is a charity dedicated to preserving Cheshire's plants, animals and wild places for all to enjoy, both now and in the future.

The reserve can be accessed from the main pathway near to the park's Mottram Road entrance and is home to numerous bird and mammal species in its steep-sided broadleaved woodland. Acres Brook bisects the reserve and is crossed by several wooden bridges. The brook goes on to feed a number of ponds and a reservoir that formerly serviced mills belonging to the Cheetham family. This reservoir is now home to the Catch Nature angling club.

Negotiations are currently underway between Tameside Council, Cheshire Wildlife Trust and the RSPB regarding how we can increase the frequency of opening of the reserve whilst at the same time protecting the natural habitats contained within it.



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7. Strategic Context

Sustainable Community Strategy

We want Tameside to be a good place to live, work and play for everyone now and in the future. We want it to be a place where people of all ages and backgrounds feel at home and are able to get involved in the life of the community, where they can contribute to a prosperous local economy, feel safe and healthy, and take active responsibility for the environment in which they live.

In 2002, based upon extensive consultation with the people of Tameside, we established what their priorities were for the Borough and six key themes were identified:

Supportive Communities

A Safe Environment

A Prosperous Society

A Learning Community

A Healthy Population

An Attractive Borough

Our approach to delivering the Sustainable Community Strategy will particularly consider children, young people and older people.

The key measure of our success will be to increase the proportion of people who are satisfied with Tameside as a place to live, visit or invest.

The Sustainable Community Strategy was produced by Tameside's Strategic Partnership which includes the Council and other key public organisations such as the Police and the health service, together with the voluntary and community sectors and the business community.

Many of the services provided by District Assemblies are central to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy and Cheetham Park is a key supporting element of this, providing a focal point for the local community and an essential combination of sporting, leisure and play facilities.

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Supportive Communities

We want to encourage strong community relations between people from all backgrounds and cultures and we achieve this by offering a wide range of activities and events within the park. The park provides a venue for community activities such as Stalybridge Carnival and fundraising events such as the Willow Wood Midnight Wander. We also recognise that accessibility is a key factor and, although set in hilly grounds, Cheetham Park has a good network of level pathways many of which have been repaired over recent months.

A Safe Environment

We want Cheetham Park to be a safe environment for all its users. Many different elements of our security help contribute towards this, including the work carried out by Tameside Patrollers and the local police. Security within the park is regularly discussed and reviewed at PACT meetings in order to match security provision with the park's needs. A range of inspections are regularly carried out to ensure a visit to the park is a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

A Prosperous Society

Stalybridge has seen many new housing developments spring up over recent years and the town centre is currently undergoing some major changes as the trend for apartment living has seen developers start to transform many of the towns aging mills. Having a park of the size and recreational importance as Cheetham Park has undoubtedly been a factor in attracting such interest and investment into Stalybridge.

A Learning Community

Cheetham Park, particularly the bird sanctuary, is teeming with wildlife that attracts a large number of groups and visitors. The dipping platform on the pond is extremely popular with school groups that come into the park as part of their environmental studies. Hides are available in the bird sanctuary with feeding platforms close by to allow the study of local birdlife.

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A Healthy Population

Cheetham Park contributes towards making Tameside a healthier place for everyone to work and live. The network of pathways and diverse range of flora and fauna attract many visitors. Tennis and archery provide sporting outlets for the more energetic visitor whilst angling provides a more restful pastime at the former mill reservoir. Flat open fields are used for informal football and cricket matches and also host an annual fair. The new sculpture trail encourages people to walk around the park and enjoy a healthy stroll.

An Attractive Borough

We recognise that the quality of the environment has a significant impact upon people's lives and can also have a negative influence on crime and disorder within the community. The park combats this by creating a clean and attractive green space in the heart of a community once dominated by cotton mills. Stalybridge District Assembly staff regularly meet with park employees to discuss ways to improve its practices on cleansing and maintenance within the park. The District Assembly management team also meets with partner organisations such as the police at local PACT (Partnerships and Communities Together) meetings to discuss crime and anti-social behaviour problems as they affect Stalybridge.



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Tameside Environment Strategy

Tameside's Urban Green spaces are an important part of the borough, giving people somewhere pleasant to relax, play and take part in sport. They help to improve people's health, as well as creating an attractive and high quality environment, and providing a habitat for wildlife.

Our overarching Action Plan for Urban Green Spaces is contained within the Tameside Environment Strategy 2008-13, which has the goal of ensuring "that the people of this borough enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising that of future generations." The Strategy sets out how we will achieve the Attractive Borough priorities of making Tameside more attractive and promoting environmental sustainability. The Strategy is currently being updated by the Tameside Strategic Partnership Sustainable Use of Resources sub-group.



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Green Space Strategy

As part of the Urban Green Spaces Action Plan we are creating a Green Space Strategy in line with Government guidance, and are shortly due to produce an action plan as part of Stage III of the Strategy's development.

The Strategy will seek to determine standards of management, which the Council shall aim to provide for the range of green space across the borough.

Our urban parks are clearly an important part of our network of green spaces and the Green Flag criteria shall be included within the management standards for all our major urban parks.



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Children's Play Policy

“Play is freely chosen, personally directed, intrinsically motivated behaviour that actively engages the child... Play can be fun or serious. Through play children explore social, material and imaginary worlds and their relationship with them, elaborating all the while a flexible range of responses to the challenges they encounter”

Taken from 'Best Play – what play should do for children. Children's Play Council (2001)

This policy guides play provision for children across Tameside. The policy aims to ensure that a suitable amount and standard of play facilities are provided by the Council and that they are readily accessible to children and their parents or carers and it recognises that play is of fundamental importance to the health and well-being of the children and young people of Tameside.

The purpose of this strategy is to co-ordinate our approach to play and ensure that play provision contributes to achieving the priority outcomes for children and young people in Tameside whatever their age, disability or ethnicity, and wherever they live in the Borough.

Health and Safety Policy

This policy has been developed to ensure the health and safety of all residents of the Borough and of employees and Members of the Council in connection with the management of public facilities throughout Tameside. The policy covers all aspects of the management of Cheetham Park and requires that Risk Assessments are carried out and safety procedures developed for all work and events within the park. This policy together with up to date Risk Assessments may be viewed by request to the Town Manager.

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Investors in People & Charter Mark

Investors in People is the national Standard which promotes best business practice and Tameside was amongst the first councils to achieve IIP for all its workforce. IIP recognition involves an inspection by independent assessors.

We have achieved this by recognising that our staff are our greatest asset and by investing in relevant quality training for all employees. This training regime is geared towards improved service delivery and the significance of this for Cheetham Park is that we believe our employees understand the needs of the park and its users, and are therefore able to satisfy all demands placed upon them.

Charter Mark is the Governments national standard for excellence in customer service. It is for the benefit of organisations that deliver public services. Charter Mark is independently evaluated and promotes positive change and customer service improvement. The Economy and Environment directorate, of which Stalybridge District Assembly is an integral part, has also been accredited with this prestigious award.



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Tree and Woodland Policy

Tameside Council has developed a Tree and Woodland Policy to encourage the sympathetic management of its tree and woodland stock.

Tree surveys are carried out annually in all of Tameside's parks and woodland areas. As a result of these surveys, a work programme is developed which ensures that the Council fulfils its statutory obligations to maintain a safe and healthy stock of trees in public areas.

Stalybridge District Assembly supports the policy by maintaining existing trees and aim to replace any trees that are removed from the park. **(Appendix 2. Page 45)**

Other Policies

We shall also draw on other Policies and Strategies where these may aid in managing the park e.g. the Council's policy on dog fouling provides a means of dealing with any issues arising from dog fouling and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act which may be used to further control dog fouling in our parks.



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8. Creating a Sense of Welcome to the Area

The Borough of Tameside is on the whole an urban environment that is particularly densely populated around some of its town centres. The Council recognises that this makes its parks and open spaces essential to people's quality of life, providing valuable spaces for leisure and sporting activities as well as essential sanctuaries for wildlife. Cheetham Park management team aims to address the needs of each user group and aims to identify which elements of the park are most important to the local community. By doing this we believe we can provide a space that is valued equally by the whole community.

Park Security

Cheetham Park is, despite being surrounded by residential properties, isolated enough to provide a quiet meeting spot for local young people. This has made it a target for a certain amount of vandalism and anti-social behaviour that has at times affected residential streets around the park.

Issues such as this are dealt with in various ways:

Our Town Patrollers can be called upon to increase their presence in and around the park when anti-social behaviour becomes a concern. Their role includes speaking to the youths and liaising with the police and other council departments to look at solutions.

The police will deploy their local Community Beat Manager and PCSO's into an area where they feel their presence will be of benefit. Each CBM holds a monthly meeting in his/her patch to discuss issues of local concern and will prioritise these issues for action, involving any partnership organisation that may be able to have a positive impact on the problem.

Lockable gates have been installed at certain entrances to restrict access and egress and to make life easier for those dealing with behavioural problems in the park.

We operate a small depot from Cheetham Park that acts as mess and office facilities for those staff based within the park and mess facilities for locally based cleansing staff. This visual presence acts as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour during the week and provides a point of contact for visitors to the park should they wish to report any problems they have encountered.

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Good and Safe Access

Cheetham Park occupies a hilly location and so access to the whole park can be difficult for certain user groups. In an effort to make as much of the park as accessible as possible given the geographic circumstances we have resurfaced the main pathways and are working closely with Probation Services to have improvements made to the network of unsurfaced woodland paths.

Signage

Attractive new signage has been introduced at the Park Street and Mottram Road entrances. The signs feature some of the information that park users may require during their visit, including a plan of the park and its attractions. These signs include notice of by-laws pertaining to the park, an example of this is the instruction for dog owners to keep their pets on a leash whilst in the park at the request of an authorised officer.

A number of fingerposts and information boards have been erected around the park, which direct visitors to points of interest and point the way onto Cheetham Park Trail.



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9. Ensuring a Safe and Healthy Environment

Inspections

Various methods of inspections are employed to ensure that a visit to Cheetham Park is a safe and enjoyable experience. These inspections take in the condition of all aspects of the park, including maintenance and cleansing requirements.

Each category of inspection, along with the recommended inspection frequency, is contained in the table below.

Type of Inspection	Included in Inspection	Inspected by
Daily Inspection	Dangers such as broken glass and faulty equipment.	Park Staff
Twice Weekly	As above with recorded results	Park Staff
Monthly	Maintenance requirements of play equipment	Playground Team
Annual	Inspection of all trees	Arboricultural Section

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Daily and Twice Weekly Inspections

Our on-site staff deal immediately with dangers such as broken glass and report any faulty play equipment to our Playground Team. These staff members also carry out a recorded inspection twice a week looking for similar occurrences, the results of which are reported to the Operations Manager who ensures the appropriate repairs are carried out.

Playground Inspections

A more thorough inspection is carried out monthly on all play equipment to ensure it remains safe for visitors to use. This is carried out by the Playground Team, who record their inspection results, carry out any minor repairs whilst on site and report any other more serious defects to the Parks and Land Manager for programmed repair.

Tree Inspections

Cheetham Park contains a wide variety of mature native and non-native tree species, which includes oak, Holm oak, beech, yew and several varieties of fir, and this mix contributes greatly towards the parks pleasant outlook. The woodland stock on the other hand consists of native species such as beech, sycamore and ash, which in turn provide a perfect habitat for the native birds, mammals and insects that inhabit the park.

The trees within Cheetham Park are inspected annually by a dedicated Arboricultural Section. This helps to maintain a healthy stock as well as protect the natural beauty of the trees through a programme of sympathetic pruning. Any tree planting or additional maintenance work is carried out in conjunction with advice from the Planning Department. All waste produced during pruning works in the dell are left in situ to rot down gradually, further supporting the natural ecology. **(Appendix 4. page 46)**

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10. A Clean and Well Managed Area

We recognise just how essential it is to keep the visual appearance of Cheetham Park to the highest standard in order for visitors to fully benefit from their visit, therefore grounds maintenance and cleansing issues are dealt with as a priority.

We have various reporting mechanisms that members of the public can use to contact our staff with issues relating to the park, the main ones being:

Our call centre is manned 24 hours a day and can refer problems to our staff via the Symology complaints system.

District Assembly office contact details are clearly displayed on notice boards at the park's entrances.

Park staff will take details of problems from members of the public and either deal with them directly or contact an officer for advice.

Grounds Maintenance

Cheetham Park has just one full time gardener. Operational Managers regularly visit Cheetham Park depot and they can supplement the workforce by calling on one of their mobile gardening or cleansing teams when necessary.



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Cleansing

Litter picking and bin emptying is carried out daily throughout the working week by staff based in the park.

Mechanical sweeping and use of a blower are employed to enhance the work carried out by park staff during times of leaf-fall and following events held in the park.

The parks toilets are situated inside the former stable block and receive daily cleansing by our on-site staff. The toilets are kept open by park staff during their normal working hours and opened for any events held within the park.

All occurrences of graffiti within the park are removed as soon as possible, however, any instances of offensive or racist graffiti are removed immediately.

A graffiti board, installed in 2006, has been largely effective in keeping graffiti off the small children's play equipment that had previously suffered from such vandalism. As well as attracting the usual marker pen comments the board also displays the work of some talented local graffiti artists.

The graffiti board is over painted regularly, either to remove offensive material or to allow fresh artwork to be created.



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Dog Fouling

Cheetham Park adheres to the Council's policy of 'No Dog Fouling' within the borough's parks.

Tameside MBC has adopted the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 to help control dog fouling and issues of dog control within the park.

The park has two distinct zones, which allows us to accommodate all park users, and they are:

No dogs permitted within the fenced children's play area.

Dogs must be placed on leads at the request of an authorised officer in the rest of the park.

Owners must of course clean up after their pets on all areas where dogs are permitted.

Notices have been put up at each entrance and inside the park warning dog owners of the penalties for allowing their pets to foul the park. Our Patrollers undertake random checks within the park and our staff are on hand to remind dog owners of their responsibilities.

Maintenance of Equipment

To maintain our strict safety standards and to keep plant and machinery operating at optimum levels, all vehicles and items of machinery are regularly serviced in line with the manufacturers' recommendations.

All our plant and equipment is serviced and repaired by our Fleet Management Section, which is based at Tame Street in Stalybridge. This practice helps to reduce fuel consumption and emissions as well as extending the life of the equipment.

We are also currently in the process of replacing all our transport with bio-diesel vehicles in line with current council policy on carbon management.

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Building Maintenance

All buildings in the grounds of Cheetham Park undergo a range of tests annually, which include PAT testing and asbestos testing. The majority of these tests are undertaken by external contractors, the results of which are collated within the Tameside Administrative Centre and then passed out to the District Assembly area for action/repairs.

All these tests are recorded and any identified faults are placed on a work programme. Any other repairs are undertaken as and when necessary, and can be reported by the park staff or members of the public to our team of Environmental Officers or via the council call centre.

The testing carried out in our buildings includes:

- ✓ Asbestos test
 - ✓ DDA audit
 - ✓ Glass survey
 - ✓ Legionella
 - ✓ Pat testing
 - ✓ Electrical test
 - ✓ Gas test
 - ✓ Fire equipment test
 - ✓ Alarm testing
- (Appendix 1. page 44)**



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The former stable block now houses mess, toilet and office facilities.

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11. Environment and Sustainability

Cheetham Park, as with other Tameside facilities, is moving towards environmentally sensitive management techniques in accordance with current council policies such as Local Agenda 21. To achieve this we have limited the use of herbicides to Glyphosate based products and trained all staff in their correct handling and use.

The majority of the bedding plants used in Cheetham Park are produced by our own nursery based in Denton, which is graduating towards peat-free and reduced peat composts.

Recycling

All green waste produced at the park is collected separately and stored in a container which, when full, is removed to a local amenity tip and the contents mulched for reuse as compost. We occasionally hire a 'chipper' machine to dispose of shrub arisings and these materials are used as mulch on shrubberies within the park.



Cheetham Park Depot

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12. Conservation and Heritage

Many of the original architectural features of Cheetham Park have been lost over the years and we accept that those remaining are in need of considerable investment if they are to be preserved for future generations to enjoy on their visits to the park.

The former drying shed, situated with spectacular views across the steep sided valley, has fallen into a state of disrepair following years of neglect and more recently a spate of vandalism.

Original stables, situated alongside the depot, are now used for a variety of purposes more suited to a modern park: Toilet facilities, a park office and a mess room are accommodated here as well as a storage facility for tools and equipment. Due to the age of the two stable buildings considerable work is required to the roof, lead valleys and roof timbers. The interior of the mess room and toilet block would both benefit from a complete refurbishment.

The original lodge house has been retained adjacent to the park entrance on Mottram Road, but this is now occupied as a private residence.

Throughout the park there is further evidence of the rich history and legacy left by the Cheetham family: Examples of ornamental stonework such as those shown below can be found at several locations.



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13. Nature Conservation

Eastwood Nature Reserve

Eastwood Nature Reserve is a peaceful and relaxing haven that provides an essential sanctuary for native birds and mammals virtually on the doorstep of Stalybridge Town Centre.

As well as providing vital habitat for wildlife, the reserve plays an important role to the town in other ways: Several local schools regularly visit the reserve for its educational value. Local ornithologists flock to the reserve to take advantage of its abundant birdlife. Local residents can enjoy a stroll through the mature woodland area, crossing the brook via one of the quaint wooden bridges.

The reserve is part of a steep-sided valley, broadleaved woodland adorning its slopes is bisected by Acres Brook. The geology is shale and sandstone on an acid soil, with a rich variety of plants and animals typical of woodland habitat. Several former mill ponds provide further essential elements to the local ecology.

To preserve the natural state of the reserve Cheshire Wildlife Trust has limited public access to Sundays only. Groups, such as schools, can have access by prior arrangement, however this is currently being reviewed as the reserve is becoming more widely recognised as a valuable learning resource for local schools and it is hoped that access will be increased accordingly.

Woodland Management

Woodland habitats support more native species than any other landscape in Britain, yet despite this many of these valuable spaces are under threat from urban development such as housing, new roads and industry, as well as the more natural threats of climate change and invasive species. By sympathetic management and protection of woods and woodland sites in Tameside, we aim to defend and re-establish the UK's precious native tree species and so encourage an abundance of insect, mammal and birdlife to inhabit our green spaces.

Cheetham Park's woodland bears strong links to England's rich and historic past and also provides valuable space for educational and recreational visits.

Acres Brook, which feeds several ponds adds another element to the park's eco system, attracting further insects, mammals and birds that thrive alongside water.

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14. Community Involvement and Events

Cheetham Park plays host to several annual community events:

Stalybridge fair takes place on the large, level grass surface adjacent to the play area. The fair has been held in the park for many years and attracts people from across the borough.



The carnival is organised by Stalybridge Festival Committee which is made up of local residents. The Committee was formed in the mid 1970's and the first carnival took place in 1976. The Committee maintains strong links with Stalybridge's twin town, Armentieres, and regular exchange visits have been arranged allowing participation in each others carnival events. The carnival usually starts from Bayley

Street and makes its way into Cheetham Park via the Park Street entrance. The procession joins a host of fairground rides and stalls that have assembled for the day. This event is supported by District Assembly staff and a float is entered by volunteers from our workforce.

We encourage local schools to use the park as an outdoor classroom and have also involved them with several of our planting schemes.



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The Midnight Wander

Willow Wood is a local hospice that is set within a leafy location in Ashton-under-Lyne. The Hospice is a place of warmth and comfort with a homely environment and provides specialist palliative care to those suffering with life-threatening illnesses.

It costs around £1.7 million annually to run the hospice much of which is secured through financial support from the local Health Authority. But the hospice also relies heavily on voluntary donations and fundraising activities and so runs numerous fund raising events across the Borough.

The hospice uses Cheetham Park as the start and finish point for its annual 'Midnight Wander' event. The Wander covers 10 kilometres through three of the borough's towns.

For the event every participant dresses in pink and leaves the park at a predetermined time according to their fitness level and expected completion time. Staggering the start in this way minimises disruption along the route and allows better marshalling. This fund raiser attracted 1953 female participants in 2010 and raised funds in excess of £165,000.



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15. Marketing

Our objective is to make Cheetham Park available to as wide a range of users as possible, and to achieve this we employ various advertising methods, such as local papers, the councils web site www.tameside.gov.uk and the park's notice boards.

As well as the usual advertising mediums, we are able to utilise several unique methods of publicising events to be held in our parks:

Visual and verbal presentations can be made at District Assembly public forum meetings that are held every six weeks.

We have free information papers: The award winning 'Wire' which is delivered to all employees monthly and 'The Citizen' that goes out to every home in Tameside quarterly. Electronic notice boards are placed at locations around the borough, and these can also be used for promotional purposes. All our customer service centres stock copies of the 'Tameside What's On' booklet, which gives information about events and places of interest across Tameside.

Internally we advertise via the councils' staff portal and on an electronic notice board in the main entrance of our administrative building.



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16. Management of Master Plan

The Action Plan provides a quick reference to the suggested timing of the management operations along with estimated costs.

It is anticipated that the programme of improvements will be cut back in line with budgetary reductions.

This list is not exhaustive and will be subject to regular changes as the park develops.

Project	Action	Date	Est. Cost
Sculpture trail	Complete sculpture trail by printing a guide and adding an electronic copy to our website.	2012	£350
Eastwood Nature Reserve	Work with Cheshire Wildlife Trust to open up the nature reserve for wider use. The work will include better access, improved pathways and bridges, protection of natural habitats and the creation of a part time post. Funding will come via an Communities Landfill Grant and from the District Assembly.	2012	£30,000
Fence between park and nature reserve	Work with Cheshire Wildlife Trust and Probation Service to improve fence line at agreed locations.	2012	
Tree Planting	Continuation of tree planting programme and planting of memorial trees	2012	£450

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17. Reference Table

The table below provides a quick reference to projects that have been completed in the park and that are ongoing in the park along with costs either actual or estimated. Costs shown are those incurred by the District Assembly Service as managers of the park and do not include costs incurred by other groups when carrying out improvements or staging events within the boundaries of our park.

Project Name	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Timeline Pathways	£6,727					
The Priory Orchard	£5,605	£1,500				
Conifer removal	£2,600					
Benches and bins	£6,165					
New signage	£1,792	£2,670				
Herbaceous border	£13,573					
Path works	£24,282	£6,000				
Drainage repairs	£3,156					
Cheetham Park trail	£11,460	£883	£4,500	£350		
Bulb planting		£6,500				
Fence	£570		£8,351			
Shrub bed improvements		£500				
Interpretation boards		£1,155				
Play area			£41,500			
Nature reserve				£3,000		
Tree planting			£450	£450	£450	

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18. Monitoring and Review of Master Plan

The Management Plan for Cheetham Park has been designed as a working document and changes or improvements made to the park will be reflected in future editions.

Review of actions contained in this document and improvements made in the park are discussed at team meetings and District Assembly meetings, and it is intended to expand this process to include a friends group once we have generated community interest in forming such a group.

To maintain this document as an effective management tool, it will be reviewed and updated annually. However, situations within the park or changes to current council policy may supersede the annual review date and such eventualities will be taken into account.

The document has been designed to encourage the effective use and allocation of resources and manpower associated within the park, and is aimed to reflect realistic aims and objectives for the management and future development of Cheetham Park.



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19. Useful Contacts

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Contact Name</u>	<u>Contact Number</u>
Tameside MBC (out of hours calls)	Emergency Control	0161-342 2222
Tameside MBC Environment Officer	Peter Jordan	0161-303 8547
Acting Town Manager	Kevin Garside	0161-303 8547
Priory Tennis Club	Anne Steele	annesteele707@hotmail.co.uk
Stalybridge Archery Club		stalybridgeac@gmail.com
Eastwood Nature Reserve		01948 820728

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Appendices

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Appendix 1. Building Tests

Asbestos	<u>Once</u> surveyed only known asbestos need to checked annually (to determine no further deterioration). Annual inspections due June
DDA Audit	<u>Once</u> surveyed not required again. However, action needed re. Reports.
Glass & Glazing	<u>One</u> survey and recommendations.
Legionella	One survey and report but ongoing management and regular testing required at <u>work face</u> .
Gas	Annual.
PAT	One survey and report but ongoing management and regular testing required at <u>work face</u> . Annual retesting carried out June
Electric H/W	Every 3-5 years. Annually for premises such as Pavilions and Changing Rooms
Lifts	N/A
Emergency Lighting	Annual – ongoing site checks where installed – weekly.
Gas/Catering	N/A
Fire Extinguishers	Annual - need to check issue re. changing rooms (football). Annual inspections carried out January/February
Fire Alarms	Annual – ongoing site checks where installed – weekly.

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Appendix 4. Tree Survey (extract)

CHEETHAMS PARK, STALYBRIDGE TREE SURVEY 2008

Tree Ref.	Species	Age	Vitality	Notes	Management Recommended
1	Acer pseudoplatanus	M	Normal		
2	Acer pseudoplatanus	M	Normal		
3	Aesculus hippocastanum	M	Normal		
4	Ulmus	M	Good		
5	Fagus sylvatica	M	Good		
6	Acer pseudoplatanus	EM	Normal	Tar spot on leaves	
7	Fagus sylvatica	M	Normal	Minor dead wood in crown. Fungal bracket at base.	Identify fungi, monitor tree.
8	Fagus sylvatica	Y	Suppressed		
9	Aesculus hippocastanum	M	Poor	Dead wood and sparse crown	Monitor
10	Fagus sylvatica	EM	Good		
11	Acer pseudoplatanus	EM	Normal		
12	Acer pseudoplatanus	EM	Normal		
13	Aesculus hippocastanum	M	Normal/Poor		