



The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

Park usage conditions

Using the Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park

Last updated October 2023

Definitions

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park ('FoTHCP', 'we') are responsible for the management and maintenance of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and Ackroyd Drive Greenlink (collectively the 'cemetery park' or the 'site.'). This includes all pathways, monuments, plants and physical assets within the site, including the Forest School area, dipping ponds and decking, benches, etc. It also includes the Cemetery Park Lodge building and the Cemetery Park Lodge Yard.

The Soanes Centre building is managed by Setpoint London East. The grounds immediately surrounding the Soanes Centre are managed by the FoTHCP.

Byelaws

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park manage and maintain the site under Lease and Service Level Agreement from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Ultimately, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park is owned by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and is regulated by these byelaws. All visitors to the site must abide by the Council's regulations set out in the [rules for parks, available here](#).

These include (but are not limited to):

- Protection of plants and structures
- No climbing on structures, trees, walls, fences or buildings
- No camping
- No fires or barbecues

Additionally, all public spaces inclusive of parks within Tower Hamlets are subject to the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. This law says that dog walkers must clean up straight away after their dog has fouled. Failure to comply could result in prosecution and a fine of up to £1,000.

Visitors

We endeavour to make the site open and accessible for all. The park is enjoyed by a range of people for many different reasons - exercise, relaxation, reflection, research - and more. We ask that all visitors please remain considerate of the grounds and other park users.

The historically significant space that we manage includes a number of monuments (including gravestones, pathways, walls). These may from time to time require repair, and visitors may experience diverted pathways. Some of the pathways may become slippery or uneven, though the main routes have been resurfaced to support accessibility.

Information on site access and accessibility is available [here](#).

Group visits, exhibitions or activities

Organisations or individuals wishing to host events or activities within the Cemetery Park must notify the FoTHCP to obtain explicit permission. This includes charitable or community groups.

Events and activities include:

- Community fun days
- School groups and Forest Schools
- Guided walks or tours
- Fitness groups
- Arts events, including installations

The FoTHCP will require such parties to initially explain the purpose of the visit, a summary of the activities planned and visitors expected (child/adult, numbers), and what support (if any) they believe they will require from the FoTHCP in order to deliver the activity.

There is a standard charge of GBP35 per organisation per session (though we may be able to agree a concession or negotiate e.g. a fee-share arrangement or ongoing arrangement). Such fees help the Charity to continue to effectively manage the site for the benefit of all and help cover administrative costs.

If your event is agreed in principle, you will need to provide the following:

- Payment of any fees due to FoTHCP (and any additional fees due through obtaining additional licenses)
- Payment of any relevant deposits
- Adequate meetings/communications leading up to your event with relevant FoTHCP staff
- Full detailed Risk Assessment including operational plan (for each activity)
- Proof that you hold any additional licences as required by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) Council for trade or activity (see 'Additional Licenses and/or Permissions' below)
- Agreement to provide any additional information as requested by FoTHCP
- Adherence to all Park bylaws and the FoTHCP's terms and conditions of use
- Provision of adequate first aid cover (if required)
- Provision of public liability insurance

We can provide additional event support (depending on the nature of the activity), subject to availability and additional fees.

Filming, photography and media

Filming and photography requires prior permission. Please contact us and the Tower Hamlets Film Office to obtain permission. Further information is available on our [Filming and Media page](#).

Foraging

The Tower Hamlets Council byelaws state "No person shall without reasonable excuse remove from or displace within the ground ... any stone, soil or turf or the whole or any part of any plant, shrub or tree." Accordingly, these laws explicitly prohibit foraging. Commercial foraging in particular is forbidden under the Theft Act (1978).

Each plant within the Cemetery Park exists because of the hard work of our staff and volunteers, and we have extremely limited financial resources to maintain these. Foraging for personal use is by written permission from the FoTHCP only, and you may be required to demonstrate that you have a sufficient knowledge of foraging best practices and adherence to the guidelines produced by the [Woodland Trust](#).

Vehicle Access and Parking

Cars and motorised vehicles, including but not limited to motorbikes and mopeds, are not permitted within the Cemetery Park. From time to time, the FoTHCP may require or permit vehicles onsite to conduct approved activities. Vehicles are not permitted without the express written permission of the FoTHCP Park Manager.

Evening and Weekend Activities

The FoTHCP staff are typically onsite during weekday normal business hours. Several of our activities also mean that we have a staff presence onsite during weekends and evenings, but this is not guaranteed. As a result, visitors and event hosts who require access to the Cemetery Park at night and/or at weekends, especially those using vehicles, must give advance notice to the FoTHCP in order to confirm their arrangements.