

Welcome to Priory Park Heritage Trail: Board 1

This is the first of four boards forming the Priory Park Heritage Trail. The boards are placed at various locations, highlighting aspects of the Park's history.



Become a Time Detective.
To answer the questions on each board you will have to read the text and look for clues all around you.

Middle Lane Pleasure Grounds (phase one)

Priory Park now covers 6.5 hectares but was established in two phases. The eastern side of the Park, next to Middle Lane where you can find the formal beds and the large fountain, was the first part to be established as the Park we know today.

In 1891 farmland was purchased by the Hornsey Local Board from local landowner, Colonel Warner, for the creation of a park for people's recreational use. An additional three acres were then bought from another local landowner Mr Linzee, and the laying out of the Park began in 1896. Middle Lane Pleasure Grounds were completed in 1899.

In the 1870s Hornsey and Crouch End were developing rapidly and the land used for the Pleasure Grounds was very nearly built upon. Recognising that people needed open space, the plot of land was purchased for park use, largely due to the vision of local politician Henry Reader Williams.

Middle Lane Pleasure Grounds 1908 ▶



The Priory Park (phase two)

The creation of Priory Park continued in 1926 with the acquisition of land known as Lewcock's Fields by the Borough of Hornsey. The combined open space then became known as The Priory Park.

Middle Lane Pleasure Grounds c1900 ▶



The Priory

Despite the name, there has never been (as far as is known) a Priory on this site. The Park is named after the sprawling estate that once covered this area and the 19th century mansion that stood within it.

The estate was owned by the Warner family, who had family connections to the Linzees. Both families are commemorated in the Edwardian roads that were built over the old estate when it was sold off for housing development in 1898.



Time Detectives

In what year were the Middle Lane Pleasure Grounds completed?

Who owned the fields that were added to the Pleasure Grounds in 1926 to make The Priory Park?

What part of the Park are you standing in now – the first part or the part added in 1926?

Look at the picture of the Park in 1900 – what looks different and what looks the same as today?

The Old Priory 1865 ▼



Getting Involved

Community involvement is a key aspect of achieving and maintaining high standards within Haringey's parks and open spaces and we welcome your involvement. To find out how you can get more involved with the Friends of Priory Park or to take part in volunteer workdays with conservation charity BTCV, contact Parks Customer Care on 020 8489 5662 or email parkscustomer@haringey.gov.uk

Parks Constabulary

To report incidences of crime or anti-social behaviour in a Haringey park or open space please call the 24 hour incident line on 020 8211 1923.