Victoria Park

Spring & Summer Events 2017

... a great day out!

Voted as one of the nation’s favourite parks
Victoria Park

Truly a place for a great day out! Victoria Park was commissioned by Queen Victoria in 1840 due to popular demand for a park in the East End. Victoria Park opened to the public in 1845 and is the largest and most popular park in East London. Today the landscape has matured into a fine park with over 4,000 trees, two large lakes, a boating pond, playgrounds and plenty of space for sports and relaxation. Sporting facilities include football, rugby and cricket pitches, tennis courts and a bowling green.

The park, which is run and maintained by Tower Hamlets Council, contains contains numerous heritage and listed features such as the Burdett-Coutts Fountain, the Dogs of Alcibiades statues, three listed canal bridges and two stone alcoves from the original London Bridge.

The Regent’s Canal and the Hertford Union Canal link the park to a wonderful series of walks through East London.
April School Easter Holidays 3–17 April

Wednesday 5 April
(11am – 3pm)

**Urban Wheelers Jam**
A fun-filled day where you can try out your skating and BMX skills at our fantastic wheel park. A *wheely* great day! Coaching sessions will take place during the day. This event is for ages 7-16 only.
No need to book in advance. Book a coaching session on arrival – first come first served.

Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.

Meet at The Wheel Park – Area D5

Saturday 8 April
(10am – 12.30pm)

**Junior Wildlife Club: Fantastic Foxes**
Join the Community Park Rangers with our very own Victoria Park mascot ‘Vicky the Vixen’ to learn about the many foxes that live in and around Victoria Park. Take part in our fox themed arts and craft activities. A fantastic afternoon of fox fun and facts! This event is for ages 6-14 only. Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Tuesday 11 April (Show starts at 1pm)
Performance in the Park – A Pants Pirate Adventure Show
Bring a picnic to the Bandstand and join The Panto Bus as they take you on a journey across the high seas filled with fun, laughter and a good ol’ sea shanty. Follow Captain Y-Fronts and the pants pirates aboard the HMS Poop Deck on a quest to find hidden treasures. With plenty of audience participation, this is the perfect Easter holiday treat for all the family to enjoy! No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Located on The Bandstand – Area C1

Wednesday 12 April (12pm – 3pm)
Easter Eggstravaganza!
Join our Easter Egg Hunt, have a photo with our Easter Bunny or make an Easter bonnet in our arts and craft corner. Join our Community Park Rangers for an Easter Eggstravaganza for the whole family!
No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at The V&A Building – Area B7

Saturday 15 April (1.30pm – 3.30pm)
Spring Walk
Join Ken Greenway from Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park on an interactive walk to see all the bulbs and trees blooming at this beautiful time of year.
Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Sunday 23 April (11am – 1pm)
Make Your Mark on Vicky Park
Join our Community Park Rangers to help carry out some practical conservation in the park.
No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at the Outdoor Classroom, near St Agnes Gate, Gore Road – Area A1

May

Saturday 6 May (10am – 12.30pm)
Bird Barmy Army
Bring your friends and family along to discover what feathered friends are living in Vicky Park. This event is for ages 13+ only.
No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at The V&A Building – Area B7

Sunday 14 May (10.30am – 12.30pm)
Memoryscape History Walk
Come and join the Community Park Rangers on a recorded audio trail around the park.
Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Saturday 20 May (12noon – 2pm)
**Queen Victoria’s Park For The People: A History**
To mark Victoria Day 2017, join local author and cultural commentator Travis Elborough for an in-depth talk about Queen Victoria and her gift to the population of London, Victoria Park – the first park to be built in London specifically for the people.
This event is for ages 13+ only. Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Sunday 21 May (10.30am – 12.30pm)
**A Victorian Park**
Join Terry Lyle from Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park to mark Victoria Day 2017 with a stroll to explore the rich history of Victoria Park. Learn about the Victorians’ original planting ideas and find out what they were originally trying to achieve in their ‘Park for the People’.
Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Sunday 28 May (11am – 1pm)
**Make Your Mark on Vicky Park**
Join our Community Park Rangers to help carry out some practical conservation in the park.
No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at the Outdoor Classroom, near St Agnes Gate, Gore Road – Area A1
Monday 29 May (12.30pm – 3.30pm)
Children’s Chess Taster Day
Try your hand at chess with specialist tutors from ‘Chess in Schools’. Beginner and advanced sessions available throughout the afternoon. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at The Hub Building – Area D5

Tuesday 30 May (11am – 3pm)
Family Fishing Taster Day
For all you budding anglers out there! Come and join the Community Park Rangers to see what fish you can catch in our East Lake. You will be HOOKED! Coaching sessions available throughout the day. This event is for ages 8+ only. Spaces are limited – to book, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Wednesday 31 May (12pm – 3pm)
Victorian Games & Tea Party
Celebrate Victoria Day 2017 with our Community Park Rangers and enjoy some traditional Victorian children’s games. Work up an appetite playing tiddlywinks, hopscotch and oranges and lemons before enjoying a traditional Victorian afternoon tea on the grass. This event is for ages 5-16 only. Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk
June

Thursday 1 June (12noon – 3pm)
Canoeing
Try out canoeing on our model boating lake with professional coaching sessions available throughout the day.
This event is for ages 9-16 only. Spaces are limited – to book, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Friday 2 June (12noon – 3pm)
Water Games Festival
To celebrate our Pools Playground reopening for summer, join our Community Park Rangers for an afternoon of water-filled fun and games! It’s sure to be a big splash! This event is for ages 3-13 only.
No need to book.
Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at The Pools Playground – Area D5

Saturday 3 June (10am – 12.30pm)
Junior Wildlife Club: Waterside Bingo
Join the Community Park Rangers to explore the waterside together. Try your hand at pond dipping, learn about the many inhabitants of our East Lake and then play our interactive Waterside Bingo to win some great prizes!
This event is for ages 7-15 only.
Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Wednesday 14 June (12.30pm – 3.30pm)
British Flower Tea Dance
To commemorate British Flower Week, join us for our over 50s summer tea dance with live music, food and refreshments and a stunning array of British flower table decorations. This event is for ages 50+ only. Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Sunday 18 June (1pm – 5pm)
The Great Get Together Picnic
We invite you to get together and join us for a picnic to celebrate all we hold in common. Inspired by Jo Cox (1974-2016), this nationwide event aims to celebrate all that unites us as communities. Listen to live music on our bandstand provided by East London Arts & Music (ELAM) and join in with our very special Father’s Day mini Olympics. With a variety of different activities happening throughout the afternoon, join us in what is sure to be the biggest community party since the Jubilee. No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for further information.
Meet at The Bandstand – Area C1
Sunday 25 June (11am – 1pm)
Make Your Mark on Vicky Park
Join our Community Park Rangers to help carry out some practical conservation in the park.
No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at the Outdoor Classroom, near St Agnes Gate, Gore Road – Area A1

July

Saturday 1 July (10am – 12.30pm)
Bird Barmy Army
Bring your friends and family along to discover what feathered friends are living in Vicky Park.
No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at The V&A Building – Area B7

Sunday 2 July (12pm – 3pm)
Eid al-Fitr Celebration
To mark the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting, join our Community Park Rangers for a fun-filled celebration with a variety of live entertainment, halal food and cultural activities happening throughout the day.
No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at The V&A Building – Area B7
## OUR SPRING AND SUMMER EVENTS AT A GLANCE

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<td>Sports and Healthy Living Day (11am-3pm) Gardening Club (4pm-6pm)</td>
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All our events are FREE!
Sunday 9 July  
(2pm – 7pm)  
**Bowls Taster Day**  
Come along, try your hand at a game of bowls and potentially become a member of the Victoria Park Bowls Club. Coaching sessions, live music and bar available throughout the afternoon. This event is for ages 10+ only. No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.

Meet at The Bowls Green – Area D3

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Sunday 16 July (10.30am – 12.30pm)  
**Memoryscape History Walk**  
Come and join the Community Park Rangers on a recorded audio trail around the park. Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk

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Sunday 23 July (11am – 1pm)  
**Make Your Mark on Vicky Park**  
Join our Community Park Rangers to help carry out some practical conservation in the park. No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.

Meet at the Outdoor Classroom, near St Agnes Gate, Gore Road – Area A1
Saturday 29 July (12noon – 3pm)
Community Volunteer Awards
Join us for an afternoon of live music, food and awards as we thank our wonderful community, corporate and Victoria Park Friends Group volunteers for keeping Victoria Park one of ‘The Nation’s Favourite Parks’ (Green Flag Awards 2016/17). This event is presented as part of ‘International Friendship Day’ and is by invitation only. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.

Monday 31 July (9am – 4pm)
Pet First Aid Training
Keeping our pets safe takes many important skills including a knowledge of first aid. In an emergency, it’s good to have the skills needed to care for an injured pet before they can be seen by a vet. Join PDSA Community and Education Veterinary Nurse for a six hour course covering topics such as heatstroke, bandaging, bloating, poisoning, seizures, choking and resuscitation – a mixture of theoretical and practical information as well as opportunities for group discussion. All course attendees will receive a certificate of attendance. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.
This training is for ages 16+ only. Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk
August

Saturday 5 August (11am – 4pm)
Victoria Park Day:
A Great Day Out

A Victoria Park institution and our flagship event! Truly a great day out for all the family to enjoy. A fun-filled festival with many games and activities happening throughout the day.

No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.

Located around the Bandstand – Area C1

Tuesday 8 August (1.30pm – 3.30pm)
Meadow Safari

Join Dan Hall from Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park on a stroll to explore our meadow areas and the many flowers and mini beasts that inhabit them.

Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Saturday 12 August (10.30am – 12.30pm)
Junior Wildlife Club – Children’s Tree Trail
Join the Community Park Rangers on a special tree trail just for children! Learn about trees as you follow the map. All children must be accompanied by an adult. This event is for ages 5-13 only.
No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at The Hub Building – Area D5

Saturday 19 August (1.30pm – 3.30pm)
Summer Tree Walk
Join Terry Lyle from Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park on a walk and talk about some of the 4,000 trees in Victoria Park. Learn how to identify the many types of trees during the summer months.
Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Sunday 20 August (11am – 1pm)
Make Your Mark on Vicky Park
Join our Community Park Rangers to help carry out some practical conservation in the park.
No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at the Outdoor Classroom, near St Agnes Gate, Gore Road – Area A1
Wednesday 30 August
(11am – 3pm)
**Sports and Healthy Living Day**
Get out in the fresh air and participate in a wide range of fun-filled activities to promote a healthy lifestyle.
No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Located at the Opera Field – Area B2

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**September**

Saturday 2 September (10am – 12.30pm)
**Bird Barmy Army**
Bring your friends and family along to discover what feathered friends are living in Vicky Park.
No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at The V&A Building – Area B7

Wednesday 6 September (12pm – 3pm)
**Teddy Bear’s Picnic**
An event especially for our mini park users! Bring your favourite teddy and a picnic and enjoy storytelling, fun games and interactive music. This event is for ages 0-5 years only.
Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Saturday 16 September (1.30pm – 3.30pm)
**Wildfood Walk**
Join Ken Greenway from Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park on an interactive walk to learn about and forage for seasonal wild food. See, taste, smell, collect and eat!
Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Sunday 17 September (10.30am – 12.30pm)
**Memoryscape History Walk**
Come and join the Community Park Rangers on a recorded audio trail around the park.
Spaces are limited – to book a place, please contact 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Wednesday 20 September (12noon – 3pm)
**Disability Awareness Day**
Join us as we provide a variety of activities to raise awareness of disability issues in the wider community. This is a private event by invitation only. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Sunday 24 September (11am – 1pm)
Make Your Mark on Vicky Park
Join our Community Park Rangers to help carry out some practical conservation in the park.
Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.
Meet at the Outdoor Classroom, near St Agnes Gate, Gore Road – Area A1

Victoria Park Summer Bandstand Season
Organised by the Victoria Park Friends Group.
Come and join us around the bandstand for an afternoon of music and fun. The perfect way to relax – feel free to bring a picnic!
Times and artists to be released at a later date – please call 020 7364 7968 or email victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for further information.
No need to book.
Meet at The Bandstand – Area C1

Sunday 14 May
Sunday 18 June
Sunday 25 June
Sunday 2 July
Sunday 30 July
Sunday 13 August
Sunday 20 August
Sunday 27 August
Sunday 3 September
Sunday 16 April, 7 May, 28 May, 18 June, 9 July and 30 July (11am – 12pm)

**Laughter Yoga in the Park**

Join us for Laughter Yoga – a new twist on an ancient practice providing the same physiological and psychological benefits as spontaneous laughter. Join this fun workshop that encourages interaction, playfulness and spontaneity and is designed to accommodate any age, language or disability. Laughter increases happiness and strengthens the immune system, reducing pain and lowering stress. More contagious than a cough or sneeze – laughter relaxes the whole body for a complete sense of wellbeing.

No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.

**Meet at The Hub Building Reception – Area D5**

**Every Thursday (12noon – 1pm)**

**FABS Exercise and Laughter Yoga Class**

Join our FABS exercise instructor for the best of chair-based exercises regardless of whether you need to sit or stand. Set to music, these free classes accommodate any age, language or disability combatting the effects of ageing with a variety of exercises to improve flexibility, aerobics, balance and strength. With added activities and laughter games, this really is a top-to-toe workout. Improve your health and muscle strength without pumping iron and feel fit and fabulous for life!

No need to book. Contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information.

**Meet at The Outdoor Classroom, near St Agnes Gate – Area A1**
Victoria Park’s Outdoor Classroom

Our Outdoor Classroom is located on the west side of Victoria Park, close to St Agnes Gate, Gore Road. People are welcome to get involved in the Gardening Club who meet to grow vegetables, fruits and flowers right in the middle of the park! The Gardening Club meets at the Outdoor Classroom on Wednesday afternoons and Sunday mornings with times varying depending on the season.

Victoria Park Friends Group also host small, intimate events in the Outdoor Classroom which are free for the community to attend.

Upcoming Events

Organised by the Victoria Park Friends Group.

Meet at the Outdoor Classroom, near St Agnes Gate, Gore Road – Area A1

Sunday 2 April (11am – 2pm)  
**Botanical Drawing Workshop**

Join Chisenhale Art Place for a free botanic drawing workshop suitable for all ages and abilities. Discover your inner artist by creating detailed illustrations of plants using a variety of different media. Pictures will be displayed as part of ‘A May Day Celebration of Spring and The Arts’ (see below).

Sunday 30 April (11am – 2pm)  
**A May Day Celebration of Spring and The Arts**

Join us in for an afternoon of May Day celebrations with a variety of live entertainment, art and photography, and traditional refreshments. Bring along your home-grown items for our seed and plant swap or make a butterfly mask in our arts and craft corner. A fun-filled afternoon for all the family!
Sunday 11 June (11am – 2pm)
**Strawberry Jamboree**
An afternoon of all things strawberry! Bring along your family as we plant out strawberry runners, enjoy music, strawberry cocktails, strawberry recipe swaps and arts and craft activities. Enter your own strawberry cake into our cake competition!

Sunday 13 August (11am – 2pm)
**Salad Fiesta!**
Join our specialist permaculturist for a talk on the value of growing and making your own salads. Take part in our "do it yourself salad" demonstration and sit back to enjoy a light lunch of salad and artisan bread accompanied by hot teas and relaxing music. Presented in collaboration with the Pavilion Café.

Sunday 27 August (11am – 2pm)
**The Great Potato Growing Competition!**
Join us as we pull up the potatoes we planted in February and enjoy the fruits of our labours with a chance to win 'best potato.' Then join us as we cook jacket potatoes on the open fire. With activities and music, this is sure to be the perfect Sunday afternoon treat for all the family!

There’s no need to book in advance for our Outdoor Classroom events, just turn up at the times listed above.
For more information, please contact victoriapark@towerhamlets.gov.uk
How to find us

**Bus:** routes 277, D6, 8, 425

**Tube:** Bethnal Green or Mile End Stations (Central, District, and Hammersmith & City Line)

**Overground:** Hackney Wick

**DLR:** Bow Road

For more information contact: Dave Hime on **020 7364 7968** or email **dave.hime@towerhamlets.gov.uk**

[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/victoriapark](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/victoriapark)

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Well let us know on our social media accounts. Send your pictures and comments to…

- [@VickyParkLondon](http://twitter.com/VickyParkLondon)
- [towerhamletsnow](http://twitter.com/towerhamletsnow)

Monthly Park Newsletter – [eepurl.com/bVkfxH](http://eepurl.com/bVkfxH)