

## Membership

You can be a member of the Community Trust and have a say on how the park is managed. Members receive a quarterly newsletter and a monthly news email. Family memberships and concessions are available.



## Sponsorship and Dedications

You can dedicate any of the benches in the woods in the name of anyone you choose – to commemorate a life, a birth or any other special occasion. You can also sponsor your chosen tree in the woods.

## Merchandise

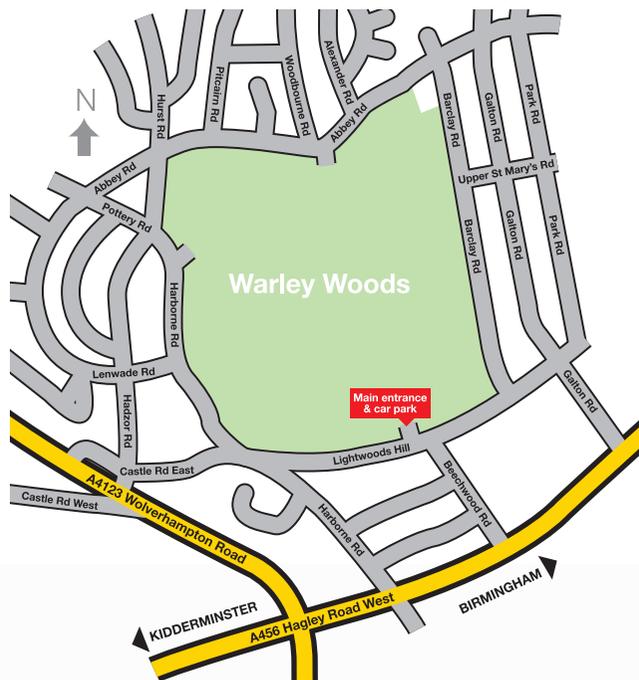
All of the sales in the shop help to support the work of the Community Trust. This includes not only golf accessories and equipment, but also the Trust's book Centenary of The People's Park. Greetings cards and other Trust merchandise are also available. Staff are happy to order in any golfing equipment that is not on display.

## Golf Course

The Trust runs the 9 hole golf course at Warley Woods. It is a beautiful pay and play course with competitive green fees. Clubs, trolleys and buggies can all be hired and there is a visiting professional who gives individual and group lessons. The site drains extremely well because of its geology and is rarely closed, with over 30,000 rounds of golf played on the course every year. Any profits from green fees are invested back into the course and parkland.

## Events

The Trust organises regular events in the woods. These include regular health walks and walks focusing on history or the natural aspects of the woods. In addition, there is an annual picnic in the park with live music from local bands in the meadow.



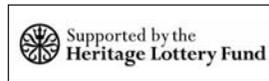
# Warley Woods Community Trust

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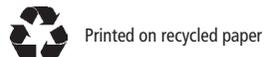


### Warley Woods Community Trust

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## Introduction

Warley Woods is a 40 hectare (100 acre) community park; a mix of woodland, open meadow and a golf course. As a result of its historic plan, designed by Humphry Repton, it is registered Grade 2 on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens. Although little more than three miles from the centre of Birmingham, Warley Woods is in Smethwick, itself one of the six towns of Sandwell Borough. Sandwell MBC's Green Space Audit (2005) confirmed that Warley Woods was one of the most significant green spaces in the Borough.



## History

Warley Woods began life as private parkland for the Galton family who were Birmingham Gunmakers. A gothic mansion called Warley Abbey was built in 1819, and remained until 1957, when it was demolished. The site was saved from being developed for housing by public subscription and was opened as a public park in 1906, administered by Birmingham City Council. Warley Woods Community Trust was formed in 1997 as a way for local people to have a say in the running of this important open space and in 2004 the Trust took on the park's management. This makes it the first urban park in the United Kingdom to be managed by a community trust.



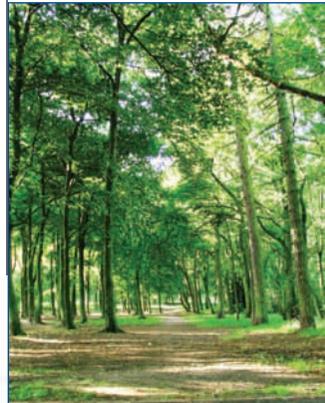
## Management and Community Engagement

Warley Woods Community Trust is a registered charity and is committed to the long term improvement, maintenance and management of the park. The Trust plans to restore historic features and develop new facilities by working with charities, community enterprises, local partners and volunteers. The Trust intends that the park should be a true People's Park and so local people are involved in every aspect of the park from its management and maintenance, to developing educational materials and organising events.

## Natural Features

While there are many things on offer in the woods, most people just come to enjoy its natural features. Recently restored driveways and improved paths mean that it is possible for people on bicycles, in wheelchairs and with buggies to move easily about the woods.

About one third of the park is covered by woodland, mostly native species such as oak and beech, and including remnants of ancient oak woodland near the corner of Barclay Road and Lightwoods Hill. Within the gardens of the Galtons' former home at Warley Woods a number of ornamental specimen trees survive. The distinctive, sunken nature of the open meadow means that it is easily possible to escape the noise of people and traffic, and you would not realise you were so close to homes and the city.



## Volunteering

Volunteers are the life-blood of Warley Woods. They are involved in all aspects of the management and maintenance of the woods, undertaking maintenance work, organising events, planting trees, fundraising, updating notice boards and delivering leaflets. If you would like to volunteer to help in the woods, please see the notice boards or speak to us in the office about how you might get involved.



## Play Area

On the north side of the park, off Abbey Road, near the meadow, is a children's play area. It contains swings and a slide and imaginative play features which include a labyrinth and wooden snake. It is recommended for children of 12 years and below. Dogs are not allowed in the play area, but are welcome everywhere else on site, with the exception of the café.

## The Pavilion and Café

The building at the south end of the park, off Lightwoods Hill, is the Pavilion. It is home to the Trust's office, the shop, public toilets and the café. The café is open to all members of the community; when the café is closed drinks and confectionery are available in the shop. The main car park for the site is by the Pavilion. The Alf Padgham Room is a room in the Pavilion, which the Trust shares with the Golf Club. It is available for use by community groups connected with the park.

