



Making space for community

Frequently Asked Questions - Havenstoke Park, Graylingwell, Chichester

- 1. Who gets to use the Park?** Havenstoke Park is a public park and is accessible to everyone to enjoy. Paid parking spaces are available around the Park and at The Pavilion. The Park can also be reached by the number 50 bus from Chichester or via the cycle and pedestrian routes through Oaklands Park. Bike racks are available at The Pavilion. A flat, surfaced path runs around the Park, making it accessible to wheelchair users, pushchairs, cyclists and skaters.
- 2. What's the large lump in the middle of the Park?** This is an Iron Aged Dyke. This was formed as defensive earthworks known as a dyke. A dyke is a bank formed from the earth dug out of a defensive ditch.
- 3. Who manages and pays for the Park?** Chichester Community Development Trust (CCDT) manages Havenstoke Park and balances the needs of residents, park users, biodiversity, tree management, maintenance, and security. CCDT is a registered charity that became operational at Graylingwell Park in 2012. In 2021, CCDT took on ownership of the park through a freehold transfer from Homes England. At the time of transfer, a legacy payment was made to CCDT to help fund the park's management and maintenance in perpetuity. This legacy fund has been invested in an ethical fund, generating interest and dividends of approximately £16,000 per year. These funds are restricted and can only be used for park management, maintenance, and capital improvements such as tree planting, bollard replacement, and other infrastructure projects. They cannot be used for CCDT's general running costs or staff salaries. The income generated from the fund does not cover the full cost of maintaining a park of this size, including over 220 protected trees. Additional income from Pavilion hire, fundraising, grants, and other charitable activities helps to meet the remaining costs and ensures that the burden of maintaining the park does not fall on local residents or local authorities.
- 4. How much does it cost to maintain the park each year?** It costs over £25,000 per year to manage and maintain Havenstoke Park. This includes grass cutting, tree inspections and maintenance, play equipment inspections, bin emptying, bollard repairs, biodiversity management, and other essential maintenance works.
- 5. How often do you mow the park? Why are some areas left long and not mown? Why don't you mow under the trees?** We have a grass cutting contract with MH Kennedy & Sons <https://www.mhkennedy.co.uk/> who mow the park from April to October. The area in the northwest corner is close mown once a week, as is the area to the front of the Pavilion. Other areas are intentionally left as wild or long grass in line with the approved landscape and planning strategy agreed in 2011. These areas were designed to support biodiversity, mitigate the impact of the pitches and provide wildlife habitat. Some areas remain uncut under trees to protect roots and encourage ecological diversity.



6. **What is the mowing strategy for the park?** As set out in the Havenstoke Park Meadow Management Strategy (2011), a sensitive mowing regime is implemented to enhance biodiversity while retaining sports provision. Non-sport areas are managed as tall tussock grassland to support wildlife, including reptiles. Wildflower meadows are left unmown and then cut annually, to no lower than 150mm, in July/ August. Shorter mown pathways are maintained between meadow areas. Some areas also support sustainable drainage and tree health. The Iron Age dyke is managed as part of the meadow regime to protect this historic feature
7. **How often are the trees surveyed?** The trees are surveyed every 3 years and after every significant storm or bad weather. We work with a local arboriculturist, Jonathan Rodwell <https://www.beechdown.com/>, and a tree surgeon, Gavin Walker <https://www.woodsmentreeservices.co.uk>. Trees can only be removed if they are diseased or pose a risk to park users, and only with the appropriate approval and planning permission from Chichester District Council (CDC). We are also required to replace any protected trees that are felled
8. **How often do you inspect the park, trim trail and play equipment?** The play equipment and trim trail, as well as the whole park area, are formally inspected by our site coordinator once a week. There is also an external assessment and inspection carried out on the play equipment and trim trail every year by DAVID POTTER INSPECTIONS LTD - a registered play equipment inspector - <https://www.playinspectors.com/our-inspectors/outdoor-annual/>
9. **Why are there football pitches in the Park?** The requirement of the football pitches was part of the planning process agreed and completed in 2009. The football pitches (one adult and one junior) were installed by the developers at Graylingwell Park – Countryside Partnerships in 2022. Chichester Colts; <https://chichestercitycolts.com>, now maintain and use the pitches. There is a rest period in July and August, and we ask everyone to refrain from using the goal mouths during this time.



- 10. Are there any other organised activities in the Park?** Park Play takes place every Saturday and provides free inclusive play opportunities for children and families. More information here: [Park Play](#). If you're interested in running an organised activity, fitness session or community event, or other regular programme in the Park, please contact info@thepavilionchichester.com.
- 11. What is happening with the car park in the Park?** As part of the 2009 planning, a Grasscrete car park was included within the approved development at Graylingwell Park. The car park will be installed following completion of the development. The grass will grow through the reinforced surface, giving the appearance of a grassed area. This will be available on match days as well as for up to 8 community events per year and will not be available for day-to-day parking.
- 12. How often do you empty the bins?** The bins are emptied weekly under a contract with Chichester District Council. They are mixed waste bins and are suitable for both general waste and dog waste. We have repositioned less-used bins closer to more heavily used areas of the Park to improve accessibility. During the busier summer months, when the park is heavily used, we ask that users take their waste home or use an alternative bin if the nearest one is full. Additional bins increase collection and maintenance costs, so we encourage park users to take litter home where possible.
- 13. What have you done to prevent illegal encampments/traveller incursions?** Several measures have been taken to ensure we are doing all we can to prevent illegal encampments in the park. These measures include the reinstatement of over 110 broken wooden bollards, installation of a secure gate at the remaining access point, lockable bollards in three locations and the installation of 4 large concrete blocks. WSCC and CDC teams visit the park on several occasions to advise on the best approach to take to secure the park, and all advice has been implemented. CCDT are members of CDC's Traveller Liaison Group, which meets quarterly.
- 14. Can we have a BBQ in the Park?** BBQs are permitted on Havenstoke Park, provided they are used safely, are raised off the ground and do not come into direct contact with the grass or other surfaces, and the area is left clean and free from damage. BBQs are only permitted if used safely and responsibly. We ask all park users to take responsibility for their BBQ, ensuring that it does not put themselves, others or the park at risk. All waste must be taken home and disposed of responsibly. During periods of hot weather, BBQs may be restricted to protect the park from increased fire risk.
- 15. Can I let my dog off the lead?** Dogs are welcome in the Park. Owners are responsible for ensuring their dogs are under control at all times and do not cause a nuisance to other park

users. Dog waste must be bagged and placed in the bins provided. Ticks may be present in the longer grass or meadow areas, particularly during the warmer months. We recommend keeping to the mown paths and following seasonal guidance from your vet regarding tick prevention.

- 16. Where's the nearest toilet?** The nearest public toilets are located at The Pavilion. These toilets are available when the Pavilion is open and are regularly cleaned and restocked. As Havenstoke Park is a shared community space used by all ages, we ask all park users to make use of the toilets and not use the bushes. Human waste and used tissues left in the park create hygiene issues, and health risks for other users. We ask everyone to always respect the park.
- 17. Can I fly a drone in the Park?** Anyone wishing to fly a drone in the Park should contact CCDT in advance. Drone operators must comply with all Civil Aviation Authority regulations and ensure they do not cause nuisance or safety concerns.
- 18. Can I plant a tree or dedicate a bench?** As the Park is managed under an approved landscape and maintenance plan, any requests for memorial trees or benches, should be discussed with CCDT.
- 19. How do you encourage nature on the Park?** Along with the planned meadow management and the tree surveys, the park is also home to a Bug Hotel, Buggy Ma-Home, which can be found on the west side of the park. Residents include solitary bees, beetles, and other pollinators, who play a vital part in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.
- 20. How can I support the Park?** If you'd like to get involved in caring for Havenstoke Park, we would love to hear from you. You can join our volunteer group, Park Friends, led by Susan. The group meets every Saturday from 10am outside the Pavilion and works together on a range of activities to help maintain and enhance the Park. If Saturday mornings don't suit you, there are plenty of other ways to help, such as litter picking, watering young trees or helping to keep the Park's green spaces today. For more details, contact: community@chichestercdt.org.uk.