

VPAG News – June 2023

Here is the news about Victoria Park from VPAG's last meeting and other sources:

VPAG Festival & Dog Show – Saturday 16th September: Please put the date in your diary for the biggest event of the year in Victoria Park! Shaun will be sending round an email soon with more details, including specific roles for volunteers who are crucial for making the day successful.

Having a picnic in the park? Please ensure that:

- a) **Barbecues** are not lit on dry grass or under trees and hot ashes are not left unattended. Apart from causing fires, in the past hot ashes have burnt children's feet and dogs' paws.
- b) **Litter** – please take all your litter home. The bins cannot cope with the volume in hot weather and seagulls and foxes will soon scatter the contents of any rubbish bags left next to bins.
- c) **Noise** – please have consideration for other park-users and keep the volume of music low: not everyone shares your taste in music!

Overflowing bins: Most of us have noticed that the bins have not been emptied as much as usual recently. The Council has this in hand – problems have largely been due to staff shortages.

Barriers at entrances to the park: Whilst some cyclists and double buggy users are frustrated by the entrance barriers, these were put in after much consideration to prevent motorcycles entering the park and to encourage cyclists to go more slowly, thus making the park safer for children, dogs and pedestrians. Each entrance has been tested by a wheelchair user.

Teenage girls in parks: National research is showing that teenage girls feel less welcome than other users in parks. We would be grateful if you could ask the teenage girls in your life what might make Victoria Park more attractive for them and let us know.

Old maps of park now on website: See www.vpag.org.uk under *History – Old Maps* for maps showing how the land forming the park has developed since it was farm fields in 1800.

Current gardening opportunities in the park:

- a) **Community Garden** (South of the Bowling Club): Meet on Thursdays between 2.30 and 4.00pm to help (or donate your excess plants at this time).
- b) **Vegetable beds** (North of the Lodge). Meet on Wednesdays from 10am-12.00 to help Ellie & Martin and local college students grow vegetables for the local foodbank.
- c) **Bedminster Station & flower beds bordering nearby path into Victoria Park:** Usually meet on 1st Sunday of month from 10am-12.00.

Anti-social behaviour in the park: The local Police have asked us to report any unacceptable or threatening behaviour in the park via their StreetSafe website so they can ensure appropriate action is taken: <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/streetsafe/>

Tennis and Bowls: We have active Tennis and Bowling Clubs at the top of the park:

For more about Victoria Park Tennis Club see www.vptc.org.uk

For more about Victoria Park Bowling Club see *Victoria Park Bowling Club BS3* on Facebook.

Next VPAG meeting: Monday 3rd July at 7.30pm in the Bowling Club. Everyone is welcome! Agenda likely to include the Lodge, the Skate-park and the proposed accessible Playground.