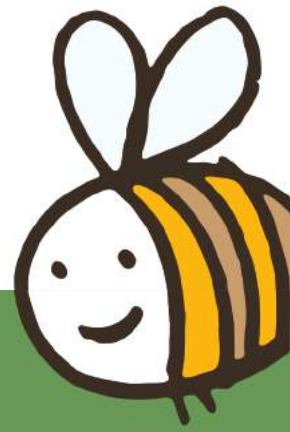




WALLSEND PARKS



Outdoor Learning and
Environmental Education



Using local parks to deliver and
enrich the National Curriculum

Online Education Pack



Tel: (0191) 643 7797/7897

Email: wallsendparks@northtyneside.gov.uk



North Tyneside Council

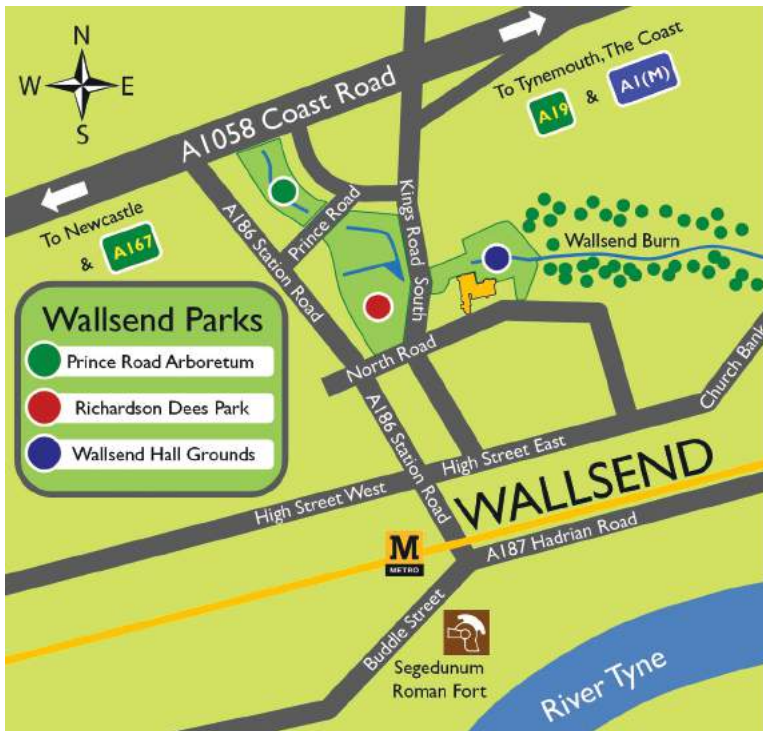
Our natural environment in North Tyneside is a valued resource that can support a broad range of school curriculum subjects. North Tyneside Parks provide diverse, safe and well maintained locations for interactive outdoor learning activities. They can present challenges and interactions that cannot be achieved within a classroom setting or in school grounds. Outdoor learning in parks is 'hands on' and creative, providing learners with real experiences and a chance to achieve beyond expectation.



Why choose us?

- Our fully qualified outdoor learning team are experienced and knowledgeable at facilitating activities outdoors.
- All of our warden-led sessions and sites are fully risk assessed.
- We offer half or full day sessions and will provide advice and recommendations to school staff planning a visit.
- We work with all ages in all weather conditions and ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.
- We aim to promote environmental responsibility, sustainability and an understanding and appreciation of nature and wildlife at all times.
- Our services have a great reputation locally and regionally, with most schools booking repeat visits year-on-year.
- All of our parks follow Green Flag standards to ensure your pupils are visiting a safe, welcoming and well maintained public space.

How to find us



North Tyneside Council



WALLSEND PARKS



LEISUREWATCH

How to find us

Directions travelling from Newcastle

1. Take the A1058 Coast Road towards Tynemouth
2. Take slip road left to A186 Benton/Wallsend
3. At roundabout take 4th exit onto Station Road
4. Turn left on to North Road
5. Richardson Dees park entrance is on your left

Directions from Northumberland (Cramlington)

1. Take A19 towards Silverlink retail park
2. At the roundabout take the 4th exit to merge on to the A1058 Coast Road
3. Take slip road left towards Hadrian's Wall, Segedunum, Wallsend
4. Turn left on to Kings Road
5. Turn right on to North Road
6. Richardson Dees park entrance is on your right

Coach Parking

Parking for Richardson Dees Park is limited to surrounding residential streets. The most suitable place to park a coach after dropping off at the North Road entrance is Kings Road South. Please be mindful of residents' access requirements to their own properties.

Public Transport

Metro: From Wallsend Metro Station exit onto Station Road. Continue North past the High Street until you reach the junction for North Road. Turn right onto North Road and the entrance to Richardson Dees Park is on your left after the Wallsend Children's Centre. Approximate walking time: 15 minutes.

Bus: There are several bus services which serve the park sites.

Please contact Nexus for all public transport details, at www.nexus.org.uk.



General information

Wallsend Parks are made up of three interconnecting sites, spanning over 16 hectares:

Richardson Dees Park

Richardson Dees Park is a semi-formal Victorian park dating from 1900, with a range of leisure and recreational facilities. The formal end of the park, to the south, includes a multi-age play area, outdoor gym, skate park, games courts, bowling greens, community pavilion and the Verandah Café. To the north of this busy area there is a small lake and burnside paths that run through mixed woodland and offer the chance for a quiet stroll amongst the trees.

Wallsend Hall Grounds

The Hall Grounds is a quiet historic parkland, with formal and woodland walks, wildflower slopes, a south facing kitchen garden, a natural watercourse and many features of historical interest. The grounds were the former pleasure gardens of the Grade II listed Wallsend Hall and were opened for public access in 1916, but date back to 1790. The watercourse that runs through the grounds is a key feature, providing a flow of movement along its entire length, navigating culverts, bridges, pools and weirs. The Vinery wall is a rare example of a flued hot wall which would have been heated with fires to support the growth of vines and soft fruits. A gated Victorian fernery is incorporated into its construction.

Prince Road Arboretum

This open grassland area slopes down to a natural burn with a mixture of open recreational areas, diverse habitats and beautiful views over wild flower tinted slopes. The Arboretum houses a growing collection of specimen trees from all over the world. Of the Wallsend Parks, the Arboretum is the least formal and is managed with wildlife in mind. Plenty of long grassland, native shrubs and areas of dense undergrowth provide habitats for a wide range of wildlife such as mammals, birds and insects.





Menu of activities

The table below gives a brief summary of our most popular activities with curriculum links. Please be aware that a lot of our activities are cross curricular and meet many other targets in other subject areas. The list is not exhaustive and we are always willing to work with teachers to plan new sessions, ideas and activities. If there is a specific target you would like to be delivered outdoors in the park, please contact us to discuss possibilities.

Activity	Suitable for key stage	National Curriculum links
<p>Mini beasts Mini beast hunt and follow up activities. Activities vary depending on age and ability of the group.</p>	EYFS KS1 and 2	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working scientifically • Living things and their habitats • Animals
<p>Seasonal exploration Sensory activities relating to Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter. Exploring the park, looking at the wildlife, plants and weather for the specific time of year.</p>	EYFS KS1	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working scientifically • Seasonal changes
<p>Plants Practical activities covering plants, trees and flowers. Seed dispersal, pollination, seasonal changes.</p>	EYFS KS1 and 2	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working scientifically • Plants • Seasonal changes • Living things and their habitats • Evolution and inheritance
<p>Habitats Practical and sensory activities looking at woodland and parkland habitats. Activities vary depending on age and ability of the group.</p>	EYFS KS1 and 2	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working scientifically • Plants • Animals • Living things and their habitats
<p>Maps A selection of different activities based on the age of the children. These can include making maps and/or simple trails – real or fantasy, following maps to find clues or points of interest using direction and compass skills.</p>	EYFS KS1 and 2	<p>Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical skills and fieldwork <p>Mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geometry – position and direction

Menu of activities (continued)

Activity	Suitable for key stage	National Curriculum links
<p>Fire - outdoor cooking A structured session including lighting a fire, safety around fire and cooking a healthy snack or meal on an open fire.</p>	KS2 and above	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals, including humans • States of matter • Properties and changes of materials <p>Design and Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking and nutrition <p>History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone Age
<p>Orienteering Three separate permanent courses in place with 30 control points. Activities for all ages from beginner to advanced, including GCSE PE and training for teachers.</p>	KS1, 2 and above	<p>Physical Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outdoor and adventurous activity • GCSE PE <p>Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical skills and fieldwork
<p>Environmental art Creating small and large scale art outdoors using natural materials. We also look at the work of Andy Goldsworthy.</p>	EYFS KS1, 2 and above	<p>Art and Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce creative work • Become proficient in sculpture and other art techniques • Know about great artists
<p>Soft archery A great introduction to archery. Great session for team building.</p>	All ages	<p>Physical Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master basic movements • Participate in team games • Play competitive games • Outdoor and adventurous activity
<p>Mini golf This set can be hired as a self-led activity or we can provide a member of staff to lead. A fun activity that will help with putting skills and team building.</p>	Ages 6+	<p>Physical Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master basic movements • Participate in team games • Play competitive games • Outdoor and adventurous activity



Prices for educational visits 2016/17

Bookings

All visiting groups who would like a warden-led visit must pre-book with us. Please contact us to check the availability of your preferred date. All bookings will be confirmed using our booking form - we ask all staff to bring a copy of this on the day of their visit.

Education visit - warden-led	Per child	Minimum charge (group of 20 or less)
North Tyneside School Half day (approx two hours)	£2.50	£50
North Tyneside School Full day (approx four hours)	£4.00	£80
Non North Tyneside School Half day	£3.00	£60
Non North Tyneside School Full day	£5.00	£100

Our range of prices are based on the facilities available for use at each site and also reflect the demographic make up of each area. If, for any reason you cannot make your booking, please contact us as soon as possible. There is a cancellation fee of £17.50 for a half day and £25.00 for a full day if the visit is cancelled within 10 working days of the booked date.

What's included?

- An Education Warden who will lead all planned activities, provide learning equipment and resources
- Access to a clean, dry space to meet in the morning, leave bags and eat lunch
- Access to the public toilets in the Verandah Café
- Health and safety information and risk assessment summary
- Use of waterproofs and wellington boots if needed

Payment

We only invoice for the number of children attending on the day. We will ask you for the number of children attending and send an invoice to your school/ department after your visit.

Typical visit itinerary

On arrival (9.45am – 10am)

You will be met by a member of staff who will take you to the Pavilion room where you can store packed lunches, bags etc. A member of the education team will give a short introductory talk to include staffing, health and safety, behaviour, session plan and a toilet visit if necessary. Children can change footwear and put on extra clothing at this point and have a snack. We allocate one Education Warden to no more than 30 children at a time.

Tour of the park/outdoor activities (10.15/30am – 12pm)

Each Education Warden will take a different route around the parks. During the session the Education Warden will lead the walk around the park and all activities with the assistance of staff and parents. All activities take place outside in all weather conditions. The only exception would be if the weather was dangerous and the group were at risk. For example, in high winds.

Lunchtime 12pm – 12.45pm (minimum 45 minutes)

We aim to get back to the pavilion for noon, depending on initial arrival times and weather. If you have booked a **half day** session, this is the end of your visit. Your Education Warden will make final checks with staff before leaving. You are welcome to have lunch inside the community pavilion room or outside in the park. Staff and visitors are welcome to purchase food and drinks from the Verandah Café. We ask you to vacate the community pavilion room by 1.30pm. You are welcome to leave bags etc in the cloakroom, or on the Verandah if you are staying for a play in the play site. If you have booked a **full day** session your Education Warden will agree a time with you to return after lunch. Toilets are located in the Verandah Café. We encourage all children to wash their hands thoroughly after their time outside.

Afternoon

If you have booked a **full day** visit, your Education Warden will return after lunch at the agreed time. The Education Warden will lead all agreed activities in the afternoon and return to the community pavilion room 5-10 minutes before your departure to collect bags and allow groups access to toilets.

Departure

On departure please ensure you have collected all belongings from the community pavilion room. We will ask all visiting groups for feedback either by a paper evaluation form or online survey. Feedback is very important to us, please take the time to fill it in.

Long term projects and other opportunities

We encourage all schools and groups to visit the park on a regular basis to experience the seasons and nature throughout the year.

Woods project

Suitable for EYFS. Please phone to discuss options for older children.

Following the principles of Forest School education, we offer schools the opportunity to visit the park and work with us on a regular basis. Regular visits to the park allow hands on, real life experiences of the natural environment and seasonal changes. This is a very valuable and beneficial project for both staff and children to be involved in.

Literacy project

Suitable for KS2 pupils. Using the outdoors as an inspiration, this project aims to engage and enthuse pupils who might be struggling in the classroom with literacy targets. It offers six warden-led sessions delivered in the park. Group sizes are kept small for maximum benefit.

Teacher training

We can offer workshops, advice and guidance on most aspects of outdoor learning. Staff are available to deliver outreach work in schools or deliver inhouse using the park as a resource. If there is an area of outdoor learning you would be interested in learning more about, please get in touch with us.

School grounds development

If you are planning on developing your school grounds and don't know where to start, we can offer advice, guidance and recommend suitable professionals to work with you.



Booking procedure

1. Contact us via the online enquiry form situated on the North Tyneside Parks website. Completing all fields will help us plan your visit efficiently from the very start.
2. We will contact you to discuss your requirements and to agree the details of the visit.
3. You will then receive a confirmation of booking via email which you must bring with you on the day of your visit. Please check that all the details on the letter are accurate.
4. Inform us of any changes as soon as possible by phone or email.
 - * If you have not received a confirmation of booking seven days before your visit, please contact us immediately.

Self-led visits

We welcome all groups into our parks to access our facilities and learning opportunities. If you are planning on bringing a group to the park on a self-led basis, there are some things you need to be aware of:

- Before your visit, if you could let us know how many children you are bringing and your travel arrangements we can make other park staff aware should you need assistance at any time.
- During busier times of year there may be other visiting school groups on site.
- You will not have access to an indoor space. However, you are welcome to use the Pavilion veranda or Bandstand to shelter/eat lunch if the weather is bad. The Pavilion room is available to hire for a charge.
- We have some self-led activities available to download and print, available on the website.
- You must complete all of your own Risk Assessments for your visit to the park.
- Fires are not permitted at any time.

Outdoor Learning and Environmental Education Risk Management Summary

North Tyneside Council recognises the need for visiting groups to assure themselves of the quality and safety of our provision. The purpose of this document is to clearly state the roles and responsibilities of North Tyneside Council staff and visiting staff, taking into consideration Health and Safety requirements and the principles underpinning our service.

Risk Assessments have been undertaken for all activities carried out by the education service, which are reviewed and updated regularly. Schools and visiting groups can contact North Tyneside Council to view our detailed risk assessments. Alternatively, you can request our self-declaration form depending upon the requirements of your LEA or organisation. We do not send out Risk Assessments, however we do provide a summary of our risk assessments in this information pack.

Health and Safety systems in place include DBS checks on all park staff and volunteers working with children, following procedures consistent with North Tyneside Council's child protection policies. Park staff are trained in First Aid and emergency procedures are in place for gaining assistance while out on site.

North Tyneside Council Park staff will be responsible for	Visiting staff will be responsible for
Providing Risk Assessment for activities carried out under their supervision	Providing Risk Assessment for travel to and from the Centre, lunchtime and any self-led activity
Leading and organising activities within the agreed programme	Supporting the educational staff by managing the behaviour of the children to ensure maximum participation in activities
Leading the groups around site using the safest or most suitable routes depending upon the ages and abilities of the children	Ensuring staffing ratios are correct, that no child is left alone or wanders away from the group and carrying out regular head counts
Providing all the necessary equipment for agreed activities, unless previously discussed with the teacher bringing the group	Providing resources that may be required over lunchtime or extra equipment that may have been previously discussed with the park education staff
Providing an appropriate space for lunch, which is clean, dry and has good toilet facilities	Ensuring the children have a packed lunch and a drink
Offering first aid under the guidance of visiting staff, who should bring parental consent forms on visit	Providing parental consent forms and accurate information and advice on children's needs
	Ensuring parental permission is given for children to be photographed during visits

Risk Assessment Summary

North Tyneside Council parks have full Risk Assessments for all of the activities that are led by education staff in our parks. These are available to view online.

As recommended by the Department for Education (HASPEV,1998) we suggest that visiting school staff come and see the park beforehand to gain first-hand knowledge of the site and facilities.

Activity	Risk and associated hazards	Risk level	Controls in place and action required by park staff and visitors
Visit to the park - weather conditions	Hazards Exposure to the elements. Heat exposure, wind, getting 'wet', sunstroke, sunburn, colds and chills.	Low	It is the responsibility of visiting staff to ensure that all children have sufficient protection for all types of weather. Children/young people must be appropriately dressed for inclement weather. This includes suitable footwear (wellies/boots) and a waterproof coat. In hot sunny weather we advise sun hats and sun cream to be worn at all times. Wallsend Parks have some spare waterproofs and boots, but not enough for a large group of children.
Group supervision when travelling around the park	Rough, uneven terrain. Large unfamiliar (to the children) area open to public. Dogs off leads. Dog faeces on ground Lost children. Open watercourse throughout some areas of the park. Traffic on road to get to the Hall Grounds. Slips, trips and falls. Minor bumps and bruises. Bites and frights, infection from dog faeces. Children may wander off, get lost, stranger danger. Risk of falling in water and drowning. Ingesting water causing sickness. Getting soaking wet.	Low/medium	The supervision of the children remains the responsibility of the visiting teachers, parents and group leaders at all times during the visit to the park. Park Education Wardens lead all planned activities and will only take a group out on site if there are sufficient adults with the visiting group. See Health & Safety Executive guidelines for adult: child ratios. We would advise teachers to pay a preliminary visit to the park prior to their group visit. Use of pedestrian crossing when moving between parks.

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Risk Assessment Summary

Activity	Risk and associated hazards	Risk level	Controls in place and action required by park staff and visitors
Group activities led by Education Warden	1. Mini beast hunt – bites and stings.	Low	1. The Education Warden will give a demonstration to the children of how to collect mini beasts without handling them where possible and also asked not to catch wasps or bees in their collecting pots.
	2. Mirror walk – loss of balance, motion sickness.	Low	2. Education Warden leads the group along terrain. Children reminded to take their time.
	3. Building woodland animal homes and nests – children choosing large sticks, waving them/hitting someone.	Low	3. Education Warden discusses the activity with the group before it starts and advises them to select small materials to use.
	4. Collecting natural materials – children may accidentally pick up dog faeces or sharp litter.	Low	4. Children reminded about looking out for dog-poo and not to pick up any litter. If they see something and they don't know what it is children are asked to tell their grown up or an adult with the group.
	5. Den/shelter building – Minor injuries, cuts/bruises from broken sticks, falling branches during construction. Muscle strains or limbs damaged from lifting or falling heavy logs.	Low	5. Children reminded of how to safely construct a shelter. Demonstration given by Education Warden of how to lift heavy materials and logs. Dangers of falling logs and poor construction pointed out to the children.
	6. Butterfly catching/ winged insects – using long handled nets the children may get injured from improper use.	Low	6. Children are given a demonstration of how to use the net safely and exercise caution when "swooping" the net.
	7. Duck feeding on the lake – children may eat the duck food. Risk of falling, slipping into the lake.	Low	7. Education Warden gives quick talk about the difference between human and animal food emphasising that it is not for human consumption. Procedure explained to group whereby all children throw the food into the lake at the same time and do not go past a point identified by the warden.

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Risk Assessment Summary

Activity	Risk and associated hazards	Risk level	Controls in place and action required by park staff and visitors
Group activities led by Education Warden	8. Fire making, sitting around a camp fire – group exposed to open fire in the park. Risk of burns and scalds.	Low/medium	8. Discussion with group before activity starts about the dangers of fire and expected behaviour when working around and with the fire. Warden demonstrates safe fire lighting technique. Groups separated into smaller groups with an adult in each to supervise. Fire blanket and water within close range to the group.
	9. Making and cooking flat bread/dampers, marshmallows on the fire – Use of open fire to cook bread on griddle pan or using withies. Burns and scalds.	Low/medium	9. Children showed how to carefully place their flat bread on the pan. Staff flip the bread and hand out when cooked. Withies or sticks must be put down as soon as the food has been eaten. Not to be used for poking the fire. Children advised that food straight from the fire is very hot and to wait till it cools before eating.
	10. Soft archery – Use of bows and arrows (no points). Scrapes, bruises, grazes.	Low	10. Warden demonstrates correct technique for use of bow and arrow. Children offered arm braces. Rules clearly set out about where to aim and fire. Children not shooting should wait in the designated area.

Wallsend Parks Risk Benefit Statement

North Tyneside Council parks staff recognise the importance of allowing children and young people to access risk in the outdoor environment. Our well-planned activities and sessions allow participants to access risk in a managed environment with qualified, experienced staff. We recognise that risk cannot be removed completely, but take into account risk assessments and put in place control measures where necessary.

The main risk benefits we acknowledge from children accessing the natural environment in a parkland setting are:

- Exposure to fresh air, a relaxing environment, pleasure, fun, mental and social health and wellbeing improvements
- Opportunities for new unstructured and unpredictable physical challenges
- Enhanced subject knowledge through direct experience of the natural environment and natural elements
- Development of self confidence
- Learning through experience: learning from accidents
- Endless opportunities presented by the natural environment and the use of natural materials, allowing for creativity, problem solving and resourcefulness

What's on, where?

	Rising Sun Country Park	Wallsend Parks	Northumberland Park
Mini beasts	●	●	●
Pond dipping	●		
Seasonal visits	●	●	●
Plants	●	●	●
Habitats	●	●	●
Maps	●	●	●
GCSE PE Orienteering	●	●	●
Fire	●	●	
Outdoor cooking	●	●	
Iron Age/Stone Age	●		
Environmental art	●	●	●
Den building	●		
Change in land use	●		
Forest schools	●	●	●
Literacy	●	●	●
Soft archery		●	
Team building	●	●	
Self led activities		●	
Teacher training	●	●	

North Tyneside Parks



Rising Sun Country Park, Whitley Road, Benton, NE12 9SS
Telephone: (0191) 643 8115
Email: outdoorlearning@northtyneside.gov.uk

A large green oasis of 162 hectares featuring a nature reserve with dipping ponds, woodlands and grasslands. The Countryside Centre has beautiful views from the café and terrace over Swallow Pond, children's play areas and an exhibition room. This site has a deep industrial past to learn from, as well as an Iron Age Celtic village with fire pits, Giants Garden and Woodland Quarry.



Wallsend Parks, Richardson Dees Park Lodge
North Road, Wallsend, NE28 8RH
Telephone: (0191) 643 7797/7897
Email: wallsendparks@northtyneside.gov.uk

Three connected sites covering over 16 hectares of public parkland. The parks include woodland walks, sculpture trail, flower beds, streams and bridges, a lake and kitchen garden with orchard. Each park has a distinct character mixing wildlife with Victorian history alongside modern activities.



Northumberland Park Visitors Centre and Tea Room
King Edward Road, North Shields, NE30 2ES
Email: northumberlandpark@northtyneside.gov.uk



A beautiful green space of 12 hectares situated within a natural dene with bridges and a lake. The park was once the site of the medieval hospital which has been explored using archaeological digs. Today it hosts a vibrant herb garden, sculpture trail, children's play area and dirt bike track.

All of the parks include on site cafés, public toilets and a dedicated space for your visit in our community pavilions or education rooms. These provide somewhere to leave bags or take shelter in wet weather. All Education staff are experienced and knowledgeable at facilitating activities outdoors. We offer a wide range of activities to suit all ages. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.