

## **Cycling in the Royal Parks Policy Statement 2016**

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Cycling is welcomed in designated areas in all the Royal Parks, with the exception of Primrose Hill. As the parks are Crown Land, cycling is permitted under the Park Regulations which were altered by Acts of Parliament and consolidated in 1977.

Regulation 3 (4) (a), 3(10) (c) and 3(11) (b) of the principal regulations apply. Enforcement is undertaken by the Metropolitan Police.

Visitors cycle in the parks for many different reasons thus cycle routes within the park provide paths that allow cyclist to transit through the park or access areas within the Parks. Cycling has become increasingly popular in recent years with the increased success of UK cycling athletes and funding initiatives from Transport for London. Thousands of journeys each day are made by cyclists through the Royal Parks and at peak times cyclists can outnumber pedestrians in key locations.

Pedestrians have priority within the Parks as they make up the majority of park visitors. Provision is made to encourage all users to be considerate to one another with the Pathway Code of Conduct. On park roads the Highway Code applies and is enforced under the Highways Act. Off carriageway the park is protected through Park Regulations. Speed limits do not apply to cyclists within the parks but it is recommended that cyclists keep to appropriate speeds for the environment. Cycling design speeds between 8 and 12mph have been found to be more acceptable to other park visitors\*.

There is 32 miles of road and 27 miles off carriageway cycle paths within the parks where cycling is permitted and 14 London Cycle Hire Docking Stations. Cycle parking is provided in key locations within all the parks, particularly close to entrances or facilities.

Cycling is a significant issue across the parks as there is equal representation for The Royal Parks to do more for cyclists as there is for reducing the impact of cycling on visitor's experience. Hence, the Royal Park hosts a Walking and Cycling Stakeholder Group to consult with representative organisations 4 times a year. This is supplemented by Reference Groups that deal with issues on a park by park basis.

Companion cycling schemes are licensed in Bushy Park and The Regent's Park which allow people with disabilities to enjoy the parks on specially modified bicycles. Cycle tour groups are licensed within the central parks for guided tours of the city. Cycle hire is available at Richmond Park at Roehampton Gate.

Sport cycling is popular in The Regent's Park and Richmond Park which means that organised groups use the roads as places to train. There are organised groups in regular communications with The Royal Parks to represent their issues and work on initiatives to support the parks and their activities.

The Royal Parks has a Cycle Programme which works on walking and cycling improvements within the parks. This programme manages the construction works funded by Transport for London as well as dealing with communications and behavioural change initiatives (such as bike week and signage). Due to the millions of visits within the parks, visitor behaviour, nature and heritage considerations and high quality of the spaces, The Royal Parks has employed shared-space design approach in many locations. This aims to provide design cues that help visitors understand the expected behaviours for themselves and others using the spaces.

Designation of additional or changes to where cycling is permitted is dealt with in a systematic process based on a proposal which would require a feasibility study, that in turn may lead to installation with a trial period and review. The trial period includes monitoring process which is measured against criteria which informs the decision to make the proposal permanent or not.

\*Reference:

Transport for London - London Cycle Design Standards and Sustrans Guidance.  
The Royal Parks – Walking and Cycling Technical Design Guidance