

Holding Picnics and Gatherings in The Royal Parks

Policy Statement

We welcome informal picnics in the Royal Parks. However, please be aware that the parks can get very busy during the summer, which limits available space. The parks are used by many people for different reasons, and we are unable to allow any one group exclusive rights to an area. The parks are also home to a rich variety of wildlife. We therefore ask you to follow these simple guidelines when picnicking in the Royal Parks.

It's always a good idea to check our website to see what other events are happening in the area of the park you would like to visit. Each park has a map which is available to download from our website and can help you find an area to meet. We suggest that you look for an open area, as it can be difficult to locate family and friends in one of the formal gardens.

Different parks have different maximum group sizes:

- **Bushy Park:** 20
- **Hyde Park:** 40
- **The Green Park:** 20
- **Greenwich Park:** 25
- **Kensington Gardens:** 30
- **The Regent's Park:** 40
- **Richmond Park:** 40
- **St James's Park:** 60

If you are holding an organised event (for gatherings larger than the maximum number), please contact the relevant park office via the Contact Us page on www.royalparks.org.uk/get-in-touch

If you intend to use a commercial photographer (whatever the size of the gathering) please contact the park office, as you are likely to need a commercial vehicle permit and licence.

To ensure everyone enjoys the parks fully, we ask that you refrain from the following:

- Collecting or soliciting money – If yours is a charity picnic, any collections must take place outside of the park boundary;
- Corporate advertising and distribution of leaflets – If yours is an informal staff picnic you will not be permitted to display any corporate banners or distribute promotional material;
- Barbecues, or any form of cooking in the parks – As well as being a fire hazard, abandoned barbecues can be a hazard to other visitors and to wildlife. There are catering outlets in each Park selling a selection of hot and cold food;
- Playing ball games – Ball games are only permitted in certain areas of some of the parks. If you want to play ball games, please contact the park office to find out where you should play;
- Playing music – Please be considerate to others;
- Fixing anything to trees or driving anything into the ground;
- Erecting tents, marquees, or other structures, or any equipment that is likely to obstruct other park users.
- Glass – Please ensure that you use plastic cups and bottles where possible. Broken glass is a hazard to other visitors and wildlife and very difficult to remove from parkland;
- Balloons – Please remember to be careful when bringing balloons into the park, as when released they get caught up in the trees and are hard to remove. They can also be a hazard to the wildlife in the park. Balloon releases are not permitted in the Parks for these reasons.

We have no objection to alcoholic drinks, but they must be available free of charge (i.e., not for sale), and for consumption by your guests only. And of course, alcohol must only be made available to persons over the age of 18.

Please remember, before you leave the park, to collect all of your litter to take home with you and recycle where possible.

Please do not leave any items unattended at any time, both to protect your items from theft and also to prevent them causing a possible security alert.

Above all, please be considerate, so other people can enjoy the park too.

The Royal Parks Regulations are available online.