

Crystal Palace Park

A Year in Review

**CRYSTAL
PALACE
PARK
TRUST**

2025

Crystal Palace Park

Welcome to our review of 2025, a transformational year for this much-loved park.

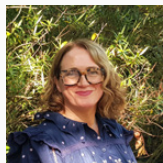
2025 marked 171 years since the opening of this internationally significant and historic landscape, originally created as the new, permanent home to the architectural marvel, the Crystal Palace, in 1854.

It was also the 2nd anniversary of Crystal Palace Park Trust's new custodianship of this Grade II* Registered Park and Garden and its many unique attractions and venues, via a 125-year lease from the London Borough of Bromley.

This remit brings much responsibility and we were delighted that after decades of community campaigning, detailed design work, planning and fundraising the major regeneration and restoration works being co-delivered with Bromley Council started right on schedule in May.

We can't wait to re-open all areas of the park when the works complete in summer 2026 and thank all our visitors, volunteers, partners and donors for the patience with path closures, team work on delivery, and financial backing to realise long-held ambitions to save this special place.

But, for now, we're delighted to share the highlights from the last 12 months in this Year in Review. We hope you enjoy.



Victoria Pinnington,
Chief Executive Officer, Crystal Palace Park Trust



1 AWARD

for Restoration Project of the Year

Crystal Palace Park Trust, London Borough of Bromley and the Friends of Crystal Palace Subway were awarded a prestigious Museums+Heritage Award for 'Restoration Project of the Year' for the Grade II* Subway.

After re-opening in 2024, 8,055 people visited this hidden gem via an Open Day in the 160th year since it originally opened in 1865.



Photo credit: Historic England

“
A bold, beautifully executed restoration, blending community energy with expert conservation to revive a lost historic space. Driven by local passion, it safeguards the past while creating a vibrant future for all.
”

Museums+Heritage award judges

Protecting the park's heritage



The park's major regeneration plan and restoration projects, are being co-delivered by Bromley Council and the Trust, which will both secure the major assets on Heritage At Risk Register for the enjoyment of generations to come, and ensure the park is welcoming, safe and accessible for all visitors.

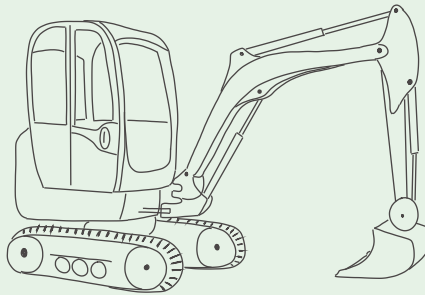
600

Metres of scaffolding
at the Italian Terraces

After standing for over 170 years, the Grade II Italian Terraces are on Historic England's At Risk Register and there was an urgent need to restore them.

The works are restoring the stonework across all walls, balustrades and steps, as well as improving below ground drainage to help prevent further structural damage to the Italian Terraces.

Step-free access is also being introduced across the Italian Terraces.



268

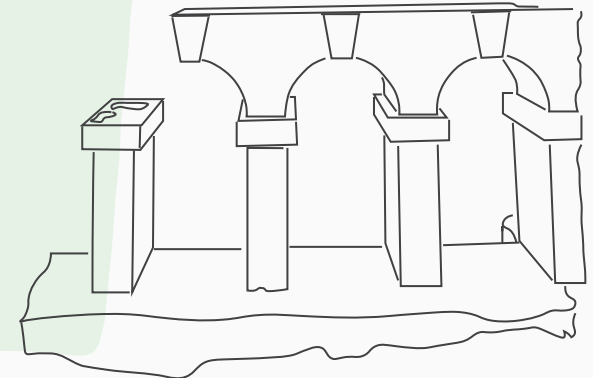
Workers on site

Over 30

Specialist delivery partners - with countless designers, engineers, plant and tree specialists, conservation, restoration and construction workers collaborating as a huge team to plan, design and deliver the regeneration works.

57

Restored balustrades



Protecting the park's heritage

The park's beloved dinosaurs are Grade I listed. Only 2.5% of England's historic buildings and structures are given this designation in recognition of their exceptional national importance and interest.

30 Of the 170 year-old sculptures of dinosaurs and extinct mammals restored

162,000

People watched 'Iggy' the Iguanodon enjoy a spa day online!

5

Prehistoric mammals painted

40

Tonnes of gravel deposited on the surrounding island landscape to support restoration



Caring for nature & the environment

41,000

New plants

Alongside caring for the park's heritage landmarks, we are increasing our efforts to support its natural environment through the work of gardening staff and dedicated volunteers. Hands-on planting, habitat improvements and ongoing maintenance are enhancing biodiversity across the park, from new native hedging and bulbs to thousands of new plants, helping Crystal Palace Park to thrive for both people and wildlife.

102 Plant species



18

Cherry trees planted

39 metres
of new native
hedging planted

10,000

Bulbs planted



150 metres

of park pathways mulched to improve soil health, provide drainage and erosion control and creates a soft surface to walk on.



Keeping the park clean & tidy



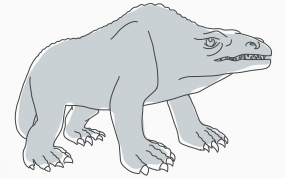
As Crystal Palace Park marked 171 years since opening in 1854, the ongoing care of its 200 acres of Grade II* listed parkland, which is included on the Heritage at Risk Register, requires consistent and practical work to ensure the site remains clean, safe and usable for the many people who rely on it every day.

23,000

Bins emptied

170 Tonnes

of new sand in the sandpit – or **85** Megs!



78.5

Tonnes of litter collected



600

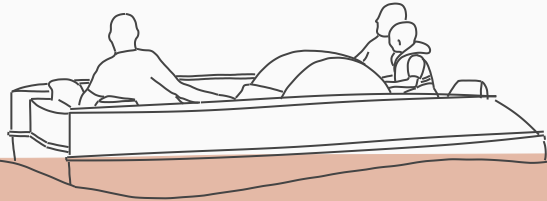
Metres of footpaths resurfaced throughout the park

Park visitors

Crystal Palace Park is a welcoming space, open to everyone and accessible through all seasons. In 2025, the park hosted a wide range of activities and events, from large concerts and markets to regular community sports, as well as a varied year-round free public programme. The two major festivals in its historic venues offer music-lovers the chance to see world-class acts, spanning music, theatre and the arts.

1.1m

Visits to the park in 2025



12,065

Adults and children took part in free activities organised by the Trust including **1,242 children** taking part in our flagship activity programme '**Summer of Play**'.



Photo credit: Ethan J. of 3dge Photos

121,000

People attended world class festivals on the Italian Terraces and the Concert Bowl, reviving the original intention for the park to host large-scale outdoor performances.

8,039 People attended the Big Smoke Festival at South Facing making it the park's busiest day!

100,000

People visited the Sunday Market with **35** regular market traders

Connecting with our communities



A few words from our volunteers

“I look forward to and thoroughly enjoy participating in the sessions. There’s great camaraderie at all times and it’s lovely interacting with the other regular volunteers.”

“It’s a very precious space and I’m happy that there’s such an inclusive thoughtful team supporting it.”

The park is cherished by many people and groups in the surrounding five boroughs. In 2025 we set up a range of ways for people to get more involved in caring for the park and sharing their views about what could be improved in the future. We launched our volunteer programme for the first time to support events and gardening within the park.

2

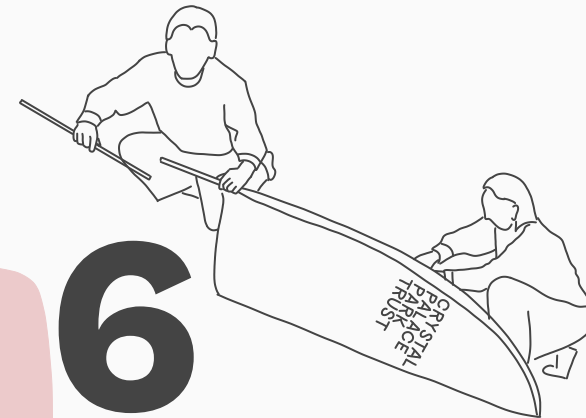
We also launched new Advisory Groups created in 2025 to elevate key voices through the Young Advisory Group and the Access Advisory Group with 15 total members.

346

People shared their views through our new in-park Visitor Survey

1

Volunteer fair with **13 local volunteer organisations** where **191 people** explored ways to get involved in their local community.



1,635

Hours volunteered this year

6

Specialist park groups and their expert volunteers donated their time, including; Friends of Crystal Palace Park, Crystal Palace Museum, Friends of Crystal Palace Dinosaurs, Friends of the Crystal Palace Skateparks, Crystal Palace Foundation and Invisible Palace.

“My social skills have improved but most importantly volunteering has greatly helped my mental wellbeing being part of a community.”

Every penny we raise in the park stays in the park



Crystal Palace Park is a large and complex park to care for due to its unique heritage. We spend over £2 million every year keeping the park clean, safe and welcoming for over 1 million visits every year.

As a Registered Charity the Trust raises this money through a wide range of income sources including festivals, events, filming, tenants, concessions, grant funding and car parking charges.

In addition, the capital regeneration plan and restoration projects being co-delivered by Bromley Council and the Trust need additional funding.

In 2025 a **£21.8m**
programme of regeneration works
started on the 19th of May.



Our dedicated staff ensures the park receives the care, investment and long-term stewardship it deserves.

18

Trust staff
members

11

Gavin Jones
groundskeepers

6

Duty managers

10

Security team
members

Thank you

With thanks to our partners who helped make these achievements possible this past year.

And a special thank you to our visitors for your continued patience and support while the major regeneration works have been underway last year - we can't wait to unveil the finished result this summer!

As custodians of this unique park, we are grateful to be part of a community that cares so deeply about this special place.

Regeneration project delivered by



In partnership with



Supported by



Photo credit: London Borough of Bromley

Cover page photo credit: CP Photographer

With additional support from