

Your co-operation would be greatly appreciated...

Despite seeding the lake banks last winter; the banks remain partially bare and have suffered a degree of erosion. This is due to the amount of human and dog activity at the waters edge. It will be necessary to temporarily fence off parts of the lake banks this winter to allow seeding to take place.

Please do not enter these fenced areas; allow the seeds to take hold and grow strong enough to survive to prevent erosion of the lake bank.

Barley Straw Bales

Visitors to the lake in the spring and summer may also see bales of straw staked in the water, especially in the fenced off end of the lake. These are bales of barley straw that are effective at preventing and dispersing certain types of naturally occurring blue green algae that grows on still waters, such as lakes, during periods of prolonged hot, sunny weather. Such algae can cause distress to fish due to overnight oxygen depletion, but it can also be harmful to both people and animals. It is not fully understood why barley straw prevents or disperses algal growth, but it is believed that it releases a chemical into the water that inhibits the algae growth. Although the Council checks the lake on a regular basis, if you see such algae growth in the water, keep people and animals away from the water.

Water Voles

The drainage ditch at the western end of the lake has been fenced off to protect the population of water voles, which are a protected species, that inhabit the ditch. The water vole population had depleted due to dogs entering the ditch and destroying their habitat. **Please ensure that dogs do not enter this ditch.** Similarly, the water vole population in the river that feeds the lake is declining. It will be necessary to clear some of the river and erect some fencing to encourage the water vole population to increase, please respect these areas and keep dogs from entering the river at these points.

The park and the lake are there for all of the community to enjoy, please take care of it.

Please only leave footprints in the park and take litter, photographs and memories home with you.

If you would like this information in large print, Braille or another language, please phone 01702 318111.



Rochford District Council
Council Offices South Street
Rochford Essex SS4 1BW
Phone: 01702 546366
customerservices@rochford.gov.uk
Website: www.rochford.gov.uk

Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park

The Lake



Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park is a relatively new addition to the parks in the District and has been growing since Her Royal Highness Princess Anne visited it in 2003 to celebrate the completion of its first phase.

As the park is so 'young', there are currently no byelaws applicable to the area. It is a shared facility and open to everyone, so Rochford District Council would ask that people using the park are considerate to other users.



Did you know?

The lake is man made and was created about seven years ago. Rochford District Council did not stock the lake with fish; all fish in the lake have been dumped there by people emptying ponds etc.

Members of the public should be aware that it is illegal to dump fish into lakes or waterways in England

Fishing

Currently, casual fishing is permitted, however **all anglers must abide by national and regional fishing byelaws**. These byelaws include the requirement to have a current rod licence and dictate the type of equipment that can be used.

Details of these byelaws can be found on the Environment Agency website www.environment-agency.gov.uk. These byelaws are enforced by the Environment Agency who have visited and will continue to visit this lake to enforce them.

As the park has grown in popularity and more people visit, the Council has received several complaints, often these complaints are to do with issues around the lake.

Please take note of the **'Do's and Don'ts'** on these pages and help make the park a place that everyone can enjoy.

Do's

- Fishermen should be particularly careful when casting into the lake that their hooks and lines do not catch other park users, including dogs.
- Dog owners are advised to check if and where any fishermen are situated before allowing their dogs to swim in the lake to avoid dogs getting caught up in fishing line.
- Remember to put all your litter in the litter bins that are located throughout the park or take it home with you. Litter, particularly fishing related litter such as fishing line, hooks and bait tins, can be dangerous to both the wildlife and other park users.
- Please be careful when feeding the ducks as any bread left in the water may encourage rats. Feed the ducks a little at a time until they stop feeding.

Don'ts

- One end of the lake is fenced off. This is to provide protection for the wild birds nesting there. Please **do not** climb over this fence or enter this area to fish or allow dogs to swim in this end of the lake. **It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to disturb nesting birds.**

- **Do not** throw anything into the lake as this may be detrimental to the wildlife.
- **Do not** swim in The lake it is not suitable for human swimming.
- **Do not** damage the trees or shrubs in the park

Recommendations

- The use of barbecues, the setting of camp fires and the use of Chinese lanterns in the park are not recommended or endorsed by Rochford District Council due to the risk of fire in the park and surrounding areas, especially during periods of prolonged hot weather. In addition to being a fire risk, the remains of Chinese lanterns when they return to the ground become litter and may also be harmful to animals.
- Overnight camping is not recommended anywhere within the park.
- The lifebuoys situated around the lake are there for use in an emergency. We have had to replace several of these lifebuoys as they have either gone missing or been damaged to such an extent that they were not fit for purpose.

Remember, if you remove a lifebuoy for purposes other than an emergency, you may be putting someone else in danger.