



**2026 Survey of Park Users
In Lake Meadows
Carried out by
Friends of Lake Meadows**

The Context



Love Parks Week

“Love Parks is our annual campaign celebrating parks and green spaces, the people who care for them, and the countless benefits they bring to people, communities and our planet.”

Friends of Lake Meadows is a member of Basildon Parks & Countryside Volunteers Network, which together with Basildon Borough Council decided to become involved in the 2026 event. A programme of 32 events was put on across the Borough by the various voluntary groups.

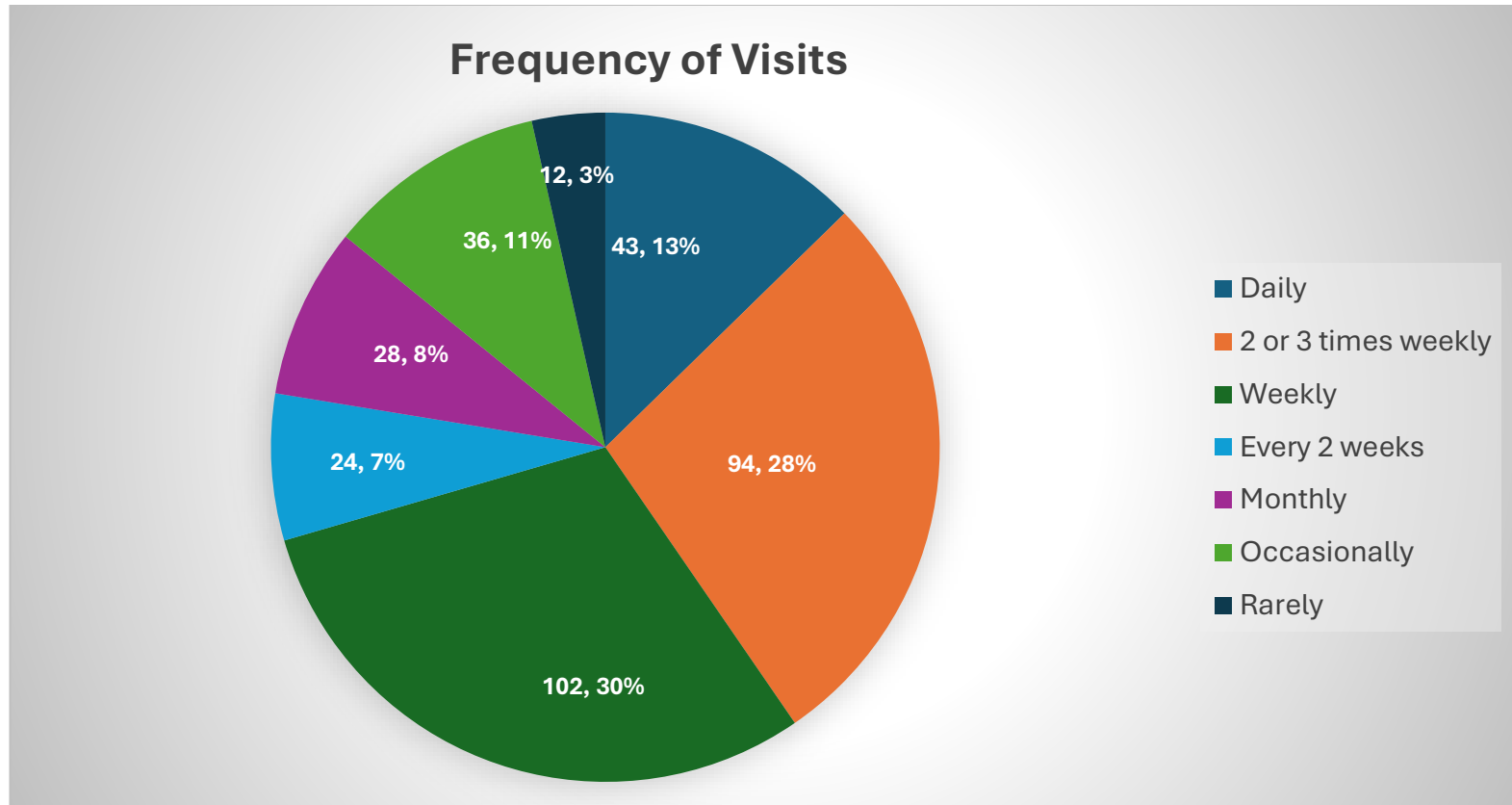
The Committee of the Friends of Lake Meadows decided to carry out a survey of visitors over the week. Unlike our last in-depth survey, this survey simply was to make Park users think about how they actually use the wonderful facility, what it means to them and what elements mean most to them.

The Survey

The survey was completed by 339 people, with over 200 being completed online. With the exception of one person who clearly didn't "Love the Park", the responses show how much the Park means to visitors. The final question gave them a chance to add their comments and 128 people took the time to do so.

FoLM would like to thank those who took the time to complete the survey.

Question 1 - How often do you visit Lake Meadows?

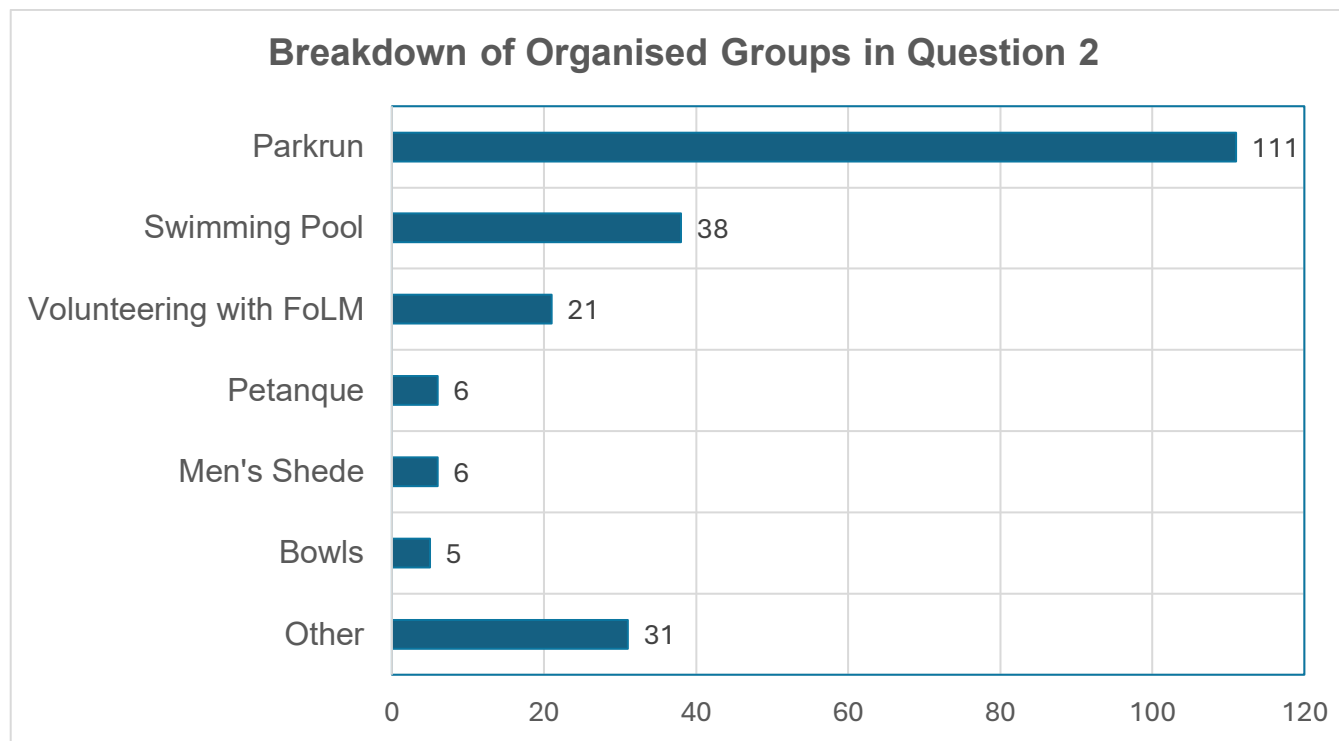


Question 2 - What do you visit the Park for?

	Combined respondents		Breakdown of responses by Age Group									
			Over 65		50-64		30-49		18-29		Under 18	
Stroll around Park	217	63%	76	68%	39	64%	70	60%	23	82%	9	41%
Walking a dog	95	25.10%	31	28%	26	43%	29	25%	6	21%	3	14%
For child's use of Play Area	119	34.80%	17	15%	8	13%	85	73%	2	7%	7	32%
Exercise	171	50.10%	58	52%	33	54%	55	47%	14	50%	11	50%
Visit Cafe	166	49.00%	59	53%	35	57%	54	46%	14	50%	4	18%
Meet Friends	144	42.80%	45	41%	17	28%	53	45%	16	57%	13	59%
Organised Groups	61	0.206	23	21%	33	54%	31	26%	1	4%	6	27%

See next page for a breakdown of organised groups (Question 3)

Question 3 - If going to an organised group.



Of those choosing “Other”, 15 did not expand but Walking groups, Tennis, Skate Park and fishing featured

As a Saturday morning was used for the Survey many of those completing had been on/or supporting parkrun

Question 4 - We assume you "love" the Park.

Please choose those statements that are relevant to you

	Combined respondents		Breakdown of responses by Age Group									
			Over 65		50-64		30-49		18-29		Under 18	
We are lucky to have LM	320	94.40%	107	96%	59	97%	111	95%	25	89%	16	73%
I visit to recharge my batteries	159	46.90%	51	46%	52	85%	105	90%	24	86%	11	50%
I believe it helps to keep me fit	202	59.60%	82	74%	40	66%	58	50%	15	54%	12	55%
Mental health improved	230	67.80%	76	68%	46	75%	82	70%	18	64%	8	36%
My Children love to visit the park	138	40.70%	27	24%	18	30%	87	74%	6	21%	3	14%
Other	28	8.25%	10	9%	6	4%	7	6%	3	11%	4	18%

The Comments related to the Question 4 response "Other"

A perfect place to share with my mother
 Always bump into kids we know, since kids don't play out on street any more it's the main way to meet friends
 Dog loves it
 Dog walk
 Excellent locality usually walking distance
 Grandchildren love playpark, scooter park, cafe ,secret garden and walk round lake
 I am interested in wildlife and like to see the different flowers, trees, birds etc
 I have gone fishing with my dad there on many occasions and it's a great way to spend the day
 I like to go to the park with my grandparents

It allows us to have picnics (which we like very much) and to meet friends
It reminds me that we are a community and we share this space when we come together.
It's a lifeline for my partner who can't drive
It's awful. Dull, miserable, full of miserable people. The facilities are dire; parking is rubbish and if I never visit it again that'll be too soon.
It's so well locked after
Meeting friends and discussing issues
My boys love to use the skatepark
My cousins who are younger, love playing here as it's fun and there's lots to do
My dog loves the park. We are so super lucky to have such an amazing park. We love all the wildlife.
My friends and family love the park too
My great nieces love visiting
no comment added
Our dogs love the park!
Perfect meeting place for friends and the cafe is great
Somewhere for my dog to come
To walk the dog
Volunteer to keep it nice
Watching the birds
We are a group of ladies who used to do aqua aerobics together in the pool and then lost our time space years ago but still meet up for a walk and natter

Question 5 - What things add to your enjoyment of the Park?

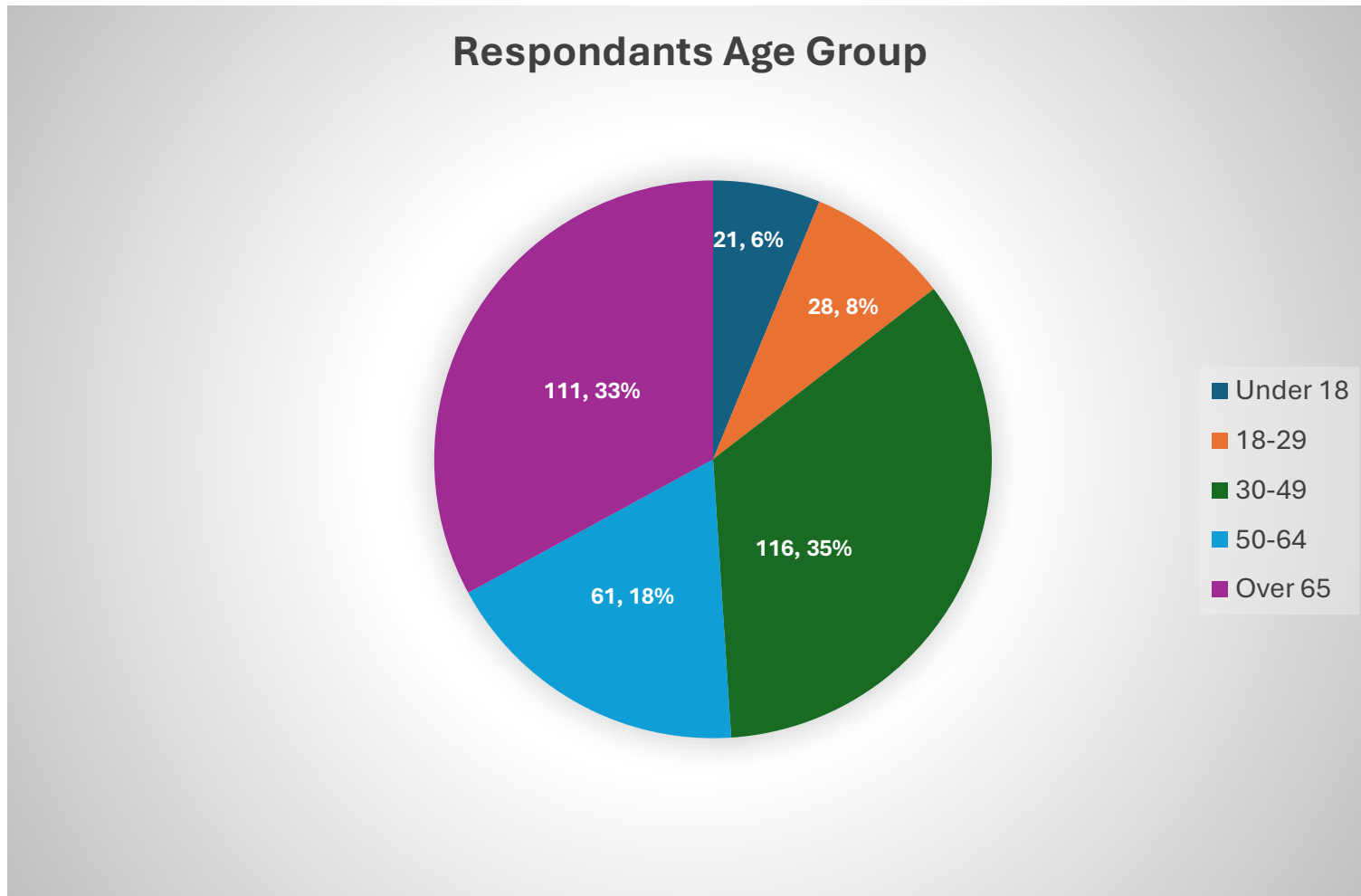
	Combined respondants		Breakdown of responses by Age Group									
			Over 65		50-64		30-49		18-29		Under 18	
The walk around the lake	317	94%	105	95%	60	98%	109	93%	25	89%	17	77%
The garden areas	234	69%	94	85%	45	74%	74	63%	17	61%	6	27%
The wood	174	51%	58	52%	39	64%	56	48%	12	43%	8	36%
The trees and green environment	237	70%	90	81%	46	75%	76	65%	15	54%	11	50%
The Play Area	153	45%	59	53%	17	28%	86	74%	5	18%	9	41%
The café	253	75%	83	75%	51	84%	91	78%	18	64%	10	45%
A lovely place to meet friends	203	51%	63	57%	38	62%	71	61%	17	61%	12	55%
Other	21	6%	7	6%	2	3%	8	7%	1	4%	3	3%

The Comments related to the Question 5 response “Other”

A pleasant section of my walk to town/railway
 A safe environment
 A safe environment
 Animals
 Skate park
 Skate park and swimming pool

Birdlife and squirrels and wild flowers
Dog walking
How tidy it is
It really is for all of those things
Knowing that there are community projects, activities and events for all ages.
Leaving it
Skate park
Skate park is an amazing resource.
Some good music
Tennis courts
The extra facilities such as tennis courts etc.
The lake
The Lake and feeding ducks
The skateboard park
The wildlife
Toilets

Question 6 - It will help us if you could answer this question about you. Your age group?



Question 7 Would you like to add a comment?

128 people took the time to add further comments; these are listed below.

Your work in the park is so much appreciated. I've been going since I was a child and I love it

You all do great work keeping the park looking nice and keeping it a sociable area for all ages

Yes, Many thanks to those volunteers that litter pick, garden, and generally keep the park up to its high standard

Would love someone to invest in the swimming pool, would be a great addition to the park - could even have doors opening to the outside

Would it be possible to have more organised music events at the park aimed at a young audience?

When I have visitors, especially children, it is a lovely place to take them. When I have older visitors, it is a good place to go for a walk.

We love the park very, very much. Anouk and Felicity

We love that we can walk and drive here and it's such a lovely park that I enjoyed as a child and now with my child.

We love Lake Meadows. It has been such a shame to see how quiet it has been after parking restrictions were brought in. Good to see it busier again at least at the weekends now it's free to park Saturday and Sunday.

We love Lake Meadows!

We love Lake Meadows and feel really lucky to live near.

We love Lake Meadows

We grew up here and now live in North Yorkshire but always visit Lake Meadows when visiting family.

We do feel very lucky to have Lake Meadows and have been using it for years

We desperately need the parking charges to be abolished or returned to previous rules, to avoid being used by commuters.

Older people need the exercise and young families need to get out of the house and away from computers. Otherwise the local hospitals will have an influx of unhealthy, stressed patients.

We as a family love the park!

We are lucky to have such a well kept park and love the special events such as the fireworks displays and Jazz in The Park.

We are blessed to have such a wonderful area for all ages.

Water fountain is brilliant too and the inflatables in school holidays

Very disappointed at current parking charge. Stops me going I'm afraid.

This is a lovely park which is well kept and a pleasure to walk around,

This is a great facility.

These spaces are important for my family

The work of Friends of Lake Meadows definitely enhances the park and my enjoyment of it.

The toilets are horrible and dirty

The park offers so much and we appreciate the work of the council and particularly the Friends of Lake Meadows and recently noticed men's shed contributing too

The park is wonderful & very well kept, just a shame there are so many rats - I think the bird feeding station (where we see many rats) by the lake/children's area should be taken away. Many thanks.

The park is my favourite place in Billericay

The park is for everyone, whatever age, however mobile you are and your circumstances. I would like to see the parking fees removed or revised as I know some people who are no longer visiting. The old system worked well with a small fee to deter all day parking. I'm lucky to be fit and able, but some may not have the ability to walk to & from the park as I do. For some people and families too the only option is to drive to the park to be able to enjoy being in the park for a while.

The park is a wonderful place that is always well maintained. It's a huge asset to the local area. Only issue is the amount of dogs off leads walking around the lake.

The park is a beautiful place and must be retained at all costs for the benefit of the residents.

The park has always been in our lives from our children to our grandchildren. More recently it has been instrumental in my rehabilitation after a breast cancer operation and then the recovery and physical improvement of my husband after a serious accident in which his femur was broken and hip cracked. He has gradually been able to walk a little further and the park always is beautiful.

The only thing letting the park down is the toilet facilities. It's a lovely park

The only problem is rats

The Friends of Lake Meadows should be congratulated for the excellent way in which the park is kept

The Friends group do a grand job

Thanks to all the gardening volunteers who make our park so beautiful.

Thanks for your efforts.

Thank you to the park staff and the volunteer gardeners for keeping it so nice

Thank you to everyone who volunteers in keeping our park a lovely communal place to visit.

Thank you to all the volunteers for looking after our park!

Thank you to all

Thank you all volunteers without whom the council could not keep it a lovely place to visit

Swimming pool needs sorting out and parking should be free

Such a well-used park for all age groups- from the revamped children's' play area, used it lots when my grand children were small. To all the facilities, e.g. bowling green, lovely cafe. Great for socialising dogs around it. The lovely lake etc.

Such a shame there are now parking charges

Such a lovely area for all ages. Good paths for wheelchair users.

So lovely seeing so many families enjoying all different aspects

Sadly the toilets could do with an update.

Please.,please push Basildon Council to do something about the toilets that serve the park and the cafe. I avoid using them at all costs.!!! One thought, children, under a certain age must have an adult with them. They are sometimes quite unusable.

Please do up the toilets

Part of the reason we bought our house was the proximity to the park

Parks like Lake Meadows are one of the main reasons why we came to live in Billericay and chose here to establish family

Parking fees puts me off bringing my mum

Over many years I have taken my children, grandchildren and now great-granddaughter to our lovely park and now re-styled afe playground. I always enjoy a walk from my house and a walk round the lake by myself or with friends too. I find it a safe environment. Thank you.

Not happy to pay parking charges after so long without them

The park feels safe

It's a park that meets the needs of all ages, its diverse and I have zero complaints. The Friends of Lake Meadows do an exceptional job and are a credit to our community. I have to move from Billericay and leaving the park will be a wrench.

No

Need a disabled parking space

My visits to the park have become rare because of the amount of rats I saw there.

My only issue is parking, sometimes there is not the room to get my pram out of the car

My dog recently passed away so I'm not visiting as much and it's been so hot but I really enjoy walking around there at all times of the year but I think Autumn is my favourite time of all.

Maybe a picket fence to keep the green on the hill clean from goose poop would make it a nicer place for picnicing.

Lovely park, especially the lake with ducks etc

Lovely park so well maintained.

It's a lovely park

Love this place

Love the park!

I love the new play area and skate park

Love living so close to the park.

Love it, we need more spaces like this less houses more grass

Long live Lake Meadows!

Like Meadows is a marvellous local amenity for a wide group of users and the Billericay community. It is especially important in view of the 'creeping' urbanisation of the town over recent years

Lake Meadows seems to be well managed

Lake Meadows is wonderful; we all use it. Three children aged 9,6 and 4.

Lake Meadows is an asset to Billericay, it's not Billericay without it and we appreciate all the hard work that goes into making it special for us all.

Lake Meadows is a very important green space including many varied activities available to the local community. It brings enjoyment to many and very important for wellness opportunities to all. It's great for exercise and important for the family environment. I especially enjoyed the recent wildflower meadow. Keep up the good work.

Lake Meadows is a lovely Park and is very good benefit to our community

To me Lake Meadows is a blessing

Lake Meadows is a beautiful area which provides peace and quiet from the busy town around us. The trees are spectacular as they change colours throughout the year. It is also a fab area for town fireworks in November. It is a truly loved place.

Keep up your good work in the park, it is appreciated by many

Keep up the good work.

It's lovely to have a park with all the necessary equipment

It's a wonderful place to unwind and the number of people of all ages seen there at every time of day is testament to this.

Disgraceful that Basildon council see fit to charge car parking. So short sighted of them!

It's a beautiful park. No one should have to pay to enjoy it other than their council taxes

It would be nice if plants were regularly watered in the summer as some look a bit floppy in this July hot weather.

It would also be nice if flowers were planted in the sign above the map at the main entrance. Currently the flowers are dead in the council map sign at main entrance.

Overall, a lovely park, would be even better with more frequent police presence!

It is always a pleasure coming to the park, either alone or with friends/family, throughout the year and the seasons. We are very lucky and grateful to have this wonderful park in Billericay.

It has been a big part of our family life for many years. I treasure the park.

Improve the toilets Accessible children's play area

I've visited this park almost every day since living in Billericay for the last 10 years. It's my happy place, I feel very lucky to have the park on my doorstep. Now I get to share it with my daughter too who loves the playground and cafe. The toilet facilities could do with some investment.

I work at Hamelin trust round the corner so use the park daily, as well as the swimming pool and park with my child. I would be lost without the park

I was disappointed by recent parking charges. It's important in this time of high prices that there are places that families can visit for free especially during school holidays.

I think the volunteers do a wonderful job

I think the park brings people together and is also very good for well being

I meet gardeners and think they do a good job

I love this park and hugely appreciate all the work that goes into keeping it beautiful for us to enjoy.

I love this park

I love the park and the cafe - we are so lucky to have it at the centre of our town

I love the park - I would welcome the addition of a bandstand to add a focal point and also I find by the blue railings the weeds are overgrown and also on the hill where the pitch and putt used to be

I love seeing all the groups that are organised with all different age groups

I hope we are lucky enough to enjoy this lovely park in years to come thanks to the upkeep of the beautiful flower beds maintained by the hard working volunteers!

I cannot begin to explain what a vile place it is. I'd prefer to see it bulldozed and a cemetery in its place, which would add more value to the community and would be a damn sight nicer place to visit quite frankly.

I absolutely love Lake Meadows - it is a fantastic park. I walk around it during my lunchtimes, participate in the adult 5K parkrun and volunteer for the junior parkrun as well. It's truly a blessing to have such a gorgeous piece of scenery on our doorstep

Hopefully we will be able to enjoy our beautiful park for years to come thanks to the amazing, hard work of the volunteers who strive to maintain the many areas throughout the year.

Grounds need more regular maintenance

Green areas bring people joy and the skate park brings the excitement for all ages

Great park.

FOLM have always and continue to do a great job to keep this lovely park a pleasure to visit. The car parking should be free so that people outside of Billericay also have the chance to visit. Could we attempt to crowd fund the cost of running and maintaining the car parking? The rats appear to be flourishing, why do we have a duck feed machine, which must help feed the rats!!

FOLM does a fantastic job in maintaining the Park in such great condition. It is something we like to "show off" to visitors from all over.

First time visiting and we will certainly come back. Wish we had found sooner. It's great the parking is free at the weekends.

First Strokes has amazing staff and you can tell how much they love being a part of the park and its community.

Fantastic park

Excellent park, appreciate the work undertaken by the Friends of Lake Meadows. The park sometimes could be better maintained by the Council's contractors!

Events list would be great.

Even though I don't live in Billericay itself, I feel we are so lucky and blessed to have such a wonderful multi-tasking area suitable for young, old and all in between, for strollers, joggers and serious runners, for sports from bowls to tennis, for relaxation on your own or meeting friends, for a picnic or a meal at the fantastic cafe, for the variety of environments from the gardens, the lake, the parkland and the woods. It has serviceable toilets, benches, environmental projects, did I mention parkrun and junior parkrun, what's not to love about Lake Meadows Park?

Chance to say the toilets are filthy

Better Toilets

Beautiful park, well used and appreciated by all ages

Beautiful park for children, our favourite park.

As we live across the road from the park entrance and call it our back garden, we are members of Friends of Lake Meadows but are in our 90's and can't give physical help.

A jewel in Billericay's crown 👑

A great facility for the community

A brilliant and cherished local resource that must be protected, as well as a communal meeting place for such activities as Jazz in the Park and annual firework display

A beautiful park.