

Ormeau Park

Points of interest

Ormeau Park was Belfast's first public park, opening in 1871, and originally formed part of the estate of the Donegall family. The estate was home to Ormeau House, now demolished. The only remains from the former estate are the grounds and the walled garden, which is now home to the recycling centre and bowling greens.

The Superintendent's House is a Victorian House built for the Park Superintendent, who originally lived in the park. It is now a private residence.

The name, Ormeau, is French and was chosen by the Donegall family to signify the elm plantation by the river. Many different species of trees can be found today, such as oriental plane from the Balkans, contorted willows from China, cedars from Lebanon and maples from North America.

Every Saturday the *parkrun* event takes place. This is a lapped, marked trail for runners and walkers.

1.3 miles, 2.1 km, circular

Starting from the carpark at the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex, turn right through the tree lined tarmacked path alongside the overflow carpark. This takes you to the start of the circular route. Turn right at the T-junction. Follow this path through the woodland and you will come to a crossroads. Continue straight ahead. Pass the former Park Superintendent's house which is now privately owned. Continue straight along this path. Take the second path on your left. Follow it around the bend and keep left. Pass the bandstand to the right. Take the path on the right at the Y-junction. Continue walking straight ahead. Pass by a shelter, park bell, basketball courts and tennis courts.

In the distance, you will see the Harland & Wolff cranes. Continue straight, passing by the children's play area. On approach to the gates onto Ormeau Embankment, follow the path. It sweeps around to the left and around the other side of the grassed area. To your right is Ormeau BMX track and the Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex. Continue along this path and back to the starting point. Return by the path to your right and back to the carpark.

