

# Falls Park



## Route description

This route through a busy local park follows surfaced paths with some moderate climbs.

## Distance

1.5 miles 2.4 km.

## Average Time

50 - 60 mins.

## Access

**By bus** - Metro Services: 10 A-F.

**By car** - Entrance to the park is off the Falls Road just past the Glen Road roundabout. Car Parking is available in the bottom left of the park.

## Trail Route

Start at the park gates opposite the garage on the Falls Road. Follow the path uphill through the park, past the flower beds and the bowling pavilion on your left.

After a short distance the route crosses a small bridge over the Ballymurphy Stream **(1)**. Turn right here and continue climbing the hill keeping the playing fields on your left. On your right is the City Cemetery **(2)**.

As you climb pause to admire the views. Look back over the city and the Bog Meadows (Walk 5) below and up to the Black Mountain (Walk 11) and the Belfast Hills **(3)**.

Continue along this path with playing fields on your left; at the next junction go straight ahead up the hill. Then contour round the top of the playing fields and begin your descent.

Follow the path downhill past mature Scots pine and oak trees. Further down it skirts the edge of the park adjacent to private residential housing.

At the next junction turn right down the hill into a wooded glen, passing under mature ash and beech trees. This will lead you past the bowling pavilion, back to the Falls Road.

## Trail 12



### History

Originally part of the estate of Thomas Sinclair, Falls Park became Belfast's second public park when it opened in 1873.

The Cooler, a huge outdoor swimming pool, was opened in 1924 and cost £3000. Possibly one of the finest pools of its time, it held 650,000 gallons of very cold natural spring water. It closed in the 1980s.

### Things of Interest

#### **Ballymurphy Stream (1)**

The Ballymurphy Stream runs off the Belfast Hills, through Falls Park, Bog Meadows and into the Blackstaff River, a tributary of the Lagan.

#### **City Cemetery (2)**

The City Cemetery was opened in 1869. The older sections of the cemetery contain many monuments, statues and vaults. Burials still continue today in the newer part of the cemetery.

#### **Views of Black Mountain and Belfast Hills (3)**

Black Mountain and Divis (Walk 11) owned by the National Trust, are the centrepiece of the Belfast Hills; a line of low hills which stretch from Collin Mountain near Lisburn to Carnmoney Hill in Newtownabbey.

### Look out for

- summer bedding displays.
- grey wagtails on the stream.