

Woodvale Park



Route description

A short walk through an historic park on surfaced paths with some gradual hills.

Distance

0.6 miles 0.9 km.

Average Time

20mins.

Access

By bus - Metro Services: 11A-D.

By car - No parking in the park. Pedestrian entrances at Woodvale Road, Woodvale Avenue and Ballygomartain Road.

Trail Route

This is a circular walk that can be started from any of the entrances to Woodvale Park. This description begins at the main entrance at the main gates of the Woodvale Road.

Turn right and follow the path uphill past the playground.

Before you reach the Ballygomartin Road entrance, turn left. Pause to admire the views of Divis, Black Mountain **(1)** (Walk 11) and the city below.

Continue straight ahead past 2 small kick-about areas and a bowling green on your left. After a short distance you will pass parkland of mature oak, ash and lime trees.

Soon you pass another bowling green and pavilion on your right. Keep right at this junction and after a short distance go left downhill.

As the path loops around the bottom of the hill, there is a bandstand **(2)** on your left. You will pass another entrance and after a short distance arrive back at the starting point.

Trail 21



Things of Interest

Views (1)

There are fine views of Divis and Black Mountain from this park.

Victorian bandstand (2)

This bandstand is a good example of what was once a common feature of Victorian parks.

History

Woodvale Park became Belfast's fourth public park when it opened in 1888. The land was bought by Belfast Corporation from Reverend Glover. He had lived in a house called Woodville, that once stood in the park.

The park was due to be called Shankill Park, but the name was changed to Woodvale at the last minute. The opening was set for 3.00pm on Saturday 18 August 1888. By 3.35pm the dignitaries had not turned up and so one of the rangers took the key and opened the gates to admit the large crowd.

The park included a large pond, which was used by local people in wintertime for skating. Cricket was first played in the park in 1894, although the authorities were wary of possible injury to other park users. The pond was filled in after the Second World War and a children's playground established in its place.

Look out for

- people playing bowls.
- summer bedding plants.