

Additional information on Stakeholders and activities

Victoria Park – OrangeGrove Athletics Club

OrangeGrove athletics club was formed in 2009 and now have over 70 members. Their membership is developing with particular increases amongst female members and a rapidly developing junior section. The club has 5 coaches, this expertise has assisted in attracting, retaining and developing members of all ages and abilities. The club offer a varied training programme, suited to all levels and ideally would like a home venue therefore have requested the use of Victoria Park sports pavilions and ancillaries when feasible for training during the below list of timeframes;

- Monday 18.30pm – 21.00pm
- Wednesday 17.30pm – 20.00pm
- Saturday 7.30am - 12.00pm
- Sunday 9am – 12.00pm

The department has been actively working with OrangeGrove athletics club since their formation to help with club development and facilitate where feasible free use of Victoria Park facilities. Volunteers from OrangeGrove athletics club in May 2011 launched Victoria Parkrun and have successfully managed the weekly 5km run. To mark this achievement they recently celebrated their anniversary event on Saturday 5 May 2012. The club has been utilising the bowling pavilion most weeks for the purpose of kitchen and toilet facilities and periodically offering free physiotherapy and various health and wellbeing talks to both club members and Parkrun participants.

OrangeGrove athletics club last season worked in partnership with the Maple Leaf bowling club to sustain a relationship that promoted Victoria Park bowling pavilion as a shared space. It is envisaged that the football pavilion if available may also be an option especially if the bowling pavilion is hosting a bowling competition. Below are a few statistics on Victoria Parkrun;

- Number of events so far 52
- Average number of runners each week 83
- Total number of individual runs, 4331
- Number of runners since May 2011, 1,107
- Average run time 25 minutes

Orangefield Park – Bloomfield Football Club

Bloomfield Football Club over the last 8 years has been working in partnership with the department under a facility management agreement in Orangefield Park. The club promotes the playing fields and ensures that the facility is used by a wide variety of teams across the city and province from a number of football associations as well as local schools and community groups.

The club was formed from members of Bloomfield Presbyterian church on the Beersbridge Road out of the 24th Boys Brigade during the 1950's. The team was formerly known as the 24th Old Boys until the mid 1990's when they changed their name to Bloomfield Football Club.

Bloomfield Football Club currently has 165 playing and 35 non playing members. There are 3 senior teams competing in 2 different leagues. Both 1st & 2nd teams compete in

"The Northern Amateur Football League" divisions 1C & 3B respectively, while the 3rd team compete in the premier league of the South Antrim Football League.

The club also has six junior teams the age range of the teams is under 10 to under 18. Five of these teams compete in the South Belfast Youth League, and the under 14's in the Lisburn Invitational Junior Youth League. The club each year run a Munch-kin group after Christmas for 6-8 year olds preparing them for team football.

Bloomfield Football Club has requested free use of the bowling pavilion and ancillaries when feasible for toilet and kitchen facilities during training, committee meetings and hospitality.

The newly refurbished five-a-side multi games area beside the bowling green will be utilised for junior training during the months of August through to May, Monday and Wednesday evenings between 6pm and 8pm.

Both the junior and senior committees meet the first Monday and Tuesday evening, 7.30pm to 9.39pm every month.

Bloomfield Football Club would also like to offer refreshments for the travelling team after cup games on some Saturdays between August through to October from 4pm to 5.30pm.

Orangefield Park – Bloomfield Wildlife Watch Group

Bloomfield Wildlife Watch Group is a junior branch of the Ulster Wildlife Trust, run by experienced and registered volunteers. The club provides an ideal way for kids aged 7 and over to nurture their interest in nature and has an emphasis on locally based conservation action. The group was formed in November 1999 and have 14 junior members aged 7 to 12 and 6 senior members aged 12 to 15.

In January 2008 Bloomfield Wildlife Watch Group successfully received £6,500 and an additional £5,000 grant aid from the Breathing Places, Big Lottery Fund to run four environmental awareness events which included several biodiversity improvement projects in Orangefield Park.

- Autumn Tree Party (November 2008)
- Winter Bird Day (January 2009)
- Spring has Sprung (April 2009)
- Summer Bug Hunt (June 2009)

Bloomfield Wildlife Watch Group has requested free use of the bowling pavilion and ancillaries when feasible.

The junior group usually meets every second Tuesday of the month from November through to March from 6pm to 8pm completing indoor environmental activities. April through to October (no meetings in July & August) the group are usually based outside undertaking projects for wildlife in various parks and open spaces. The senior group meets every second Saturday of each month between 2 and 4pm with the exception of holidays and exam periods. In addition the group also meet and get involved with a variety of other special events.

Bloomfield Wildlife Watch Group recently hosted a butterfly and moth awareness event in Orangefield Park on Tuesday 8 May 2012 at 6pm until 8.30pm.

Orangefield Park – Orangefield Friends of Group

Request for free use of the bowling pavilion and ancillaries when feasible to promote and enhance Orangefield Park and the local community.

The Friends of Orangefield Park was formed on Tuesday 20 September 2011 with 10 members being elected on their committee. The group have 34 paid members with an additional 26 individuals on their database and 73 people chatting online on their facebook page.

The Friends of Group is a voluntary group of local people who dedicate some of their time, energy and effort to caring for and improving their local Park.

The Friends of Group frequently get involved in activities such as organising local events in parks, litter picking, fundraising and helping us to shape the future development of their park.

The Friends of Group meet monthly and the agenda and committee minutes are circulated to all members on a monthly basis. The group will be holding their first annual general meeting in September however if necessary further friends meetings may be organised to communicate and discuss important issues.

The Friends of Orangefield Park in partnership with the department recently held their first successful event on Saturday 28 January 2012 – Winter Bird Day.

The Friends of Orangefield Park are working in partnership with the department to host four celebratory events – Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II Challenge 2012.

- Saturday 2 June 2012 or Monday 4 June 2012 – Family Fun Day
- Saturday 21st July 2012 – Environmental activities / improvements
- Saturday 25th August 2012 – Sports tryout events (Asda and the FIA*)
- Week beginning Monday 24 September – Mixture of above schools event.

**Asda is a primary sponsor of the FIT QEII Challenge, the Fitness Industry Association (FIA) are working with Asda and FIT on a campaign to get people involved in healthy activity. We need to clarify what funding will be available from them to support this event.*

Orangefield Park – Orangefield Community Association

Request for free use of the bowling pavilion and ancillaries when feasible to run a youth club.

The group was established in 2006 to support events and alleviate bonfire related issues and in January 2010 with the help of Bloomfield Methodist Church the group was formally constituted. The group have 20 members of local residents with their main focus on young adults offering diversionary activities and linking in with East Belfast Alternatives and the Exit Community Group. At recent organised activities approximately 30 young people aged between 14 and 22 predominately male have got involved.

The group would like to meet twice a week between 7pm and 10pm offering a meeting area for the young adults to socialise. Activities such as pool, table tennis, television computer and possible games console would be top on their wish list.

Orangefield Park – Bowling Activities

Orangefield Veteran United have 20 members which play home matches between 1pm and 5pm alternative Mondays from April through to September.

Senior citizen club with 15 members meet every Monday between 11am and 1pm to socialise and play informal matches.

Senior citizen social network group and park users with a total of 15 members meet in the bowling pavilion every afternoon between 2pm and 5pm. During the outdoor bowling season closure the group meet every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 1pm and 4pm.

Various Church groups sporadically book the bowling pavilion throughout the season.