

## Bedford Park

A walk in a Victorian park

**Parking address:** Park Avenue, Bedford, MK40 2LP

**Parking:** There is free parking on both sides of the road in Park Avenue. During peak periods in the summer this may all get taken, but the adjacent roads have Pay and Display parking that allows for stays of up to 4 hours. In addition, Foster Hill Road which runs up the west side of the park has a small Pay and Display car park.



Parking is available on both sides of the avenue. There are entrances to the park at both ends of the road, or you can walk between the hedges in Park Avenue to get in.

**Walk:** This is a Victorian park, created in 1888 with paths going around it and through it. Even after prolonged rain you probably don't need boots for this. The park has a pavilion, a bandstand, sports changing rooms (shuttered and boarded), and a small lake all from that period. In addition, if you follow the path upwards and out on the east side of the park it leads into Foster Hill Road Cemetery which is immediately behind the park.

The cemetery is well tended and dates from 1855. Although a few of the headstones have fallen or are heavily tilted, it still makes for an interesting walk in itself. The cemetery has volunteers who help maintain it and its own 'friends of' website. You can exit the cemetery through the red-brick gatehouse and re-enter the park to continue your park visit from the Foster Hill Road side.

**Food and drink:** There are loads of places to eat in Bedford, but the park has a nice cafe in the pavilion with seats outside for when the weather permits. The cafe serves hot food and snacks. Take your reading glasses for the menu; when we visited it seemed to be in about 6 point.