

As well as exploring the meadows and experiencing the wildlife, there are a number of benches situated around the park, why not picnic by the pond. For the more adventurous, at the park's centre is a children's play area, climbing frame, basketball hoop and a five-a-side kickabout area.

Help us keep this park clean by putting your litter and dog waste in the bins provided.



How to get there



By Road:

Composers Park is located in Elstree, southwest of Borehamwood, close to junction 4 of the M1 with the A41. The park can be accessed from the A411 Watford Road and Sullivan Way.

By Public Transport:

The site is 1½ mile (30 minutes) walk from Elstree & Borehamwood Railway Station. There are bus stops at the entrances on the A411 Watford Road.

For travel details visit www.intalink.org.uk, contact Intalink 0300 123 4050 or Travelline 0871 200 2233.

Composers Park is owned and managed by Hertsmere Borough Council. For further information contact the Parks and Amenities team:

www.hertsmere.gov.uk/parks
Tel: 0800 731 1810 (freephone)
Email: parks@hertsmere.gov.uk

The Countryside Management Service (CMS) works with communities in Hertfordshire to help them care for and enjoy the environment. For more information contact us at:

www.hertslink.org/cms
Tel: 01992 588433



Elstree

Composers Park

Colourful wildflower meadows, the hidden gem of Hertsmere

Produced by Fitzpatrick Woolmer - 0800 130 3630



Wildlife in the park

Composers Park has a series of colourful and important wildflower meadows, from spring to summer the meadows are peppered with an ever changing spectrum of colour provided by the wildflowers. From the yellows of **Meadow Buttercup**, through whites of the delicate **Lesser Stitchwort**, to the purples of flowers like **Tufted Vetch**, part of the pea family, it uses its tendrils to attach on to grass stalks and clamber its way to the sunlight.

Marbled White



Black Knapweed

During the spring and summer months the meadows are alive with the buzz of insects. **Common Blue Damselflies** are on the wing and can be seen in large numbers along the hedgerows and near the pond. In late June, July and August different species of butterfly can be seen feeding on the nectar of the wildflowers including **Meadow Brown**, **Ringlet**, **Marbled White** and **Large Skipper**.

Green Woodpeckers can be seen feeding on insects in the grassland, ants are a particular favourite, well camouflaged in the grass the woodpeckers red head cap is a distinguishing feature, along with their cackling call made when disturbed.

Take a look in the pond and see what you can see, you may be lucky enough to find a **Common Frog**

Large Skipper



or their tadpoles in the spring, maybe even a **Smooth Newt** as they briefly come up to the surface for air. The large willow near the stream is regularly cut at the same height, a traditional management technique called pollarding, this helps the tree survive into old age.

The meadows across the park were historically cut for hay and until recently grazed by sheep, cows and latterly horses. Grazing has now ceased but the annual hay cut continues to help keep the meadows open, the growth of trees and shrubs in check and allows wildflowers to thrive.

Common Blue Damselfly



Common Bird's-Foot Trefoil



Selfheal

Tufted Vetch



Dog Rose



Areas like Composers Park are important areas for wildlife in the UK, once common, hay meadows like these have seen dramatic declines in their number.

A staggering 97% were lost between 1930 and 1983, largely due to changes in farming and development.