

Skating in The Royal Parks

Policy Statement

Background

The Royal Parks are managed for the enjoyment of the public, balancing the interests of our visitors, wildlife, the historic environment and conservation. As pedestrians comprise the majority of visitors and include potentially vulnerable groups, such as small children and the elderly, they have priority in the parkland and open spaces. The Royal Parks seeks, however, to cater for wide range of other recreational activities in a way that does not interfere with the safety, comfort and convenience of other park users.

Skating is a popular activity that appeals to a wide range of people. The Royal Parks seeks to provide opportunities for skating in the Royal Parks for the enjoyment of skaters and without adverse impact on other park users and the park environment.

This policy concerns skating on what is described in the Park Regulations as "foot-propelled devices" – including roller blades, roller skates, freeline skates, roller-skis, skateboards, wave boards and scooters.

Regulations

The Royal Parks Regulations state that visitors:

- May skate on the roads, unless this is restricted by a park notice, and in any other area where permitted.
- Must not skate in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger any person.
- Must comply with any direction for the control of skating that is given either by a constable, or by notice.
- Must not intentionally or recklessly interfere with the safety, comfort or convenience of any person using a park.

Where you may skate in The Royal Parks

Skaters may use park roads that are open to other vehicles, unless prohibited to do so.

There are other areas of the parks where skating is permitted as follows:

- Hyde Park – on the roads including Serpentine Road and on permitted cycle routes.
- Kensington Gardens – on the Albert Approach Road and on The Broad Walk.
- The Regent's Park – on the roads including the Inner and Outer Circles.
- St James's Park – on The Mall North Horse ride cycle track.
- The Green Park – along Constitution Hill cycle track.
- Greenwich Park – on Great Cross Avenue and Bower Avenue.
- Richmond Park – between Sheen Gate and Ham Gate via Pen Ponds.
- Bushy Parks – on all paths.

There is also a skating park managed by the London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames, located near Hampton Wick, within the bounds of Bushy Park.

Code of Conduct

Skaters in the Royal Parks should:

- Stay alert and be aware of obstacles or uneven surfaces.
- Be courteous and give way to pedestrians and animals.
- Do not exceed park speed limits and adjust speed/skating style to the conditions.
- Be aware of the surroundings, including other park visitors and vehicles.
- Ensure they can hear what is going on around them and be mindful that some park visitors may have a visual or hearing impairment.
- Keep visible and consider appropriate safety equipment.

- Be cautious on roads and not endanger themselves, pedestrians, or drivers.
- Be aware that there may be service vehicles on closed roads.
- When turning or changing direction, indicate clearly and in good time.
- Don't perform jumps, tricks, dance steps or spins if there are pedestrians, vehicles, or obstacles nearby or using park furniture.
- Don't set up slalom obstacles if they obstruct or otherwise interfere with free passage on any road or path.
- Don't accompany skating with music that will be audible to other visitors because this is not permitted under the Park Regulations.
- Don't leave belongings unattended – they may get stolen or be removed as a security risk.
- Obey the Park Regulations.