

Pocket Park Report (2024)

Syresham Pocket Park is located approximately ½ mile east of the village on the old A43 with the land being owned by the Parish Council. The park committee receive £200 from the Parish Council annually to cover maintenance and improvements to the park.

The record breaking wet winter and spring meant that large areas of the park were under water for this time – these conditions unfortunately prevented the annual School Easter Egg hunt taking place this year, and prevented path mowing until May.

Litter continues to be a problem at the park entrance, dropped by users of the lay by rather than the park and the erecting of signs in the area appears to have made little difference. Large scale 'Fly tipping' and the abandoning of vehicles in the lay by also causes problems.

Dog fouling is also a problem – thank you to the responsible owners who do pick up after their dog and a reminder to the minority who do not that this is an offence - many children use this area in which to play.

The pond has now become well established, with the planting of reeds around the edge and the addition of native water plants. Insects are also finding their way into the pond with water boatman, great diving beetle and dragonfly nymph all being seen. Frogspawn was again recorded this year, along with smooth newt. Grass snakes also frequent the pond and surrounding damp grass. A camera trap also revealed otters, stoats and foxes are using the park.

The bulbs planted in the woodland walk appear to have established well as does the tree planted within the park to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II – a plaque has also been erected adjacent to this tree.

The larger trees within the park have been professionally inspected and surveyed with some work due to be carried out shortly on the willow trees. Smaller trees within the woodland walk sometimes blocked the pathway during this wet and windy winter – I would like to thank John Wyness for his chainsaw skills during this time to help the clear up.

David.