

been to provide for the active enjoyment of the parks as well as the aesthetic, and a judicious combination of the two has resulted in the parks and recreation grounds being put to the fullest possible use and advantage. The area of the parks and recreation grounds is now 228 acres 3 roods 3½ poles as compared with 122 acres 1 rood 20½ poles, 10 years ago. The Council has adopted a progressive policy in placing recreation areas and "lungs" within easy reach of a public spread over a wide area.

So far as horticulture is concerned, in almost every ground, the organised recreation facilities are being placed in a horticultural setting of a semi-permanent character. Furthermore, various types of horticultural features are being introduced as a means not merely of providing interest, but of horticultural education also. To instance a few of the recent introductions mention might be made of the Rose Gardens at Vernon and Cale Green Parks; the sunken formal garden and the new landscape entrance, also the opening up and forming of a natural daffodil bank at Vernon Park with a view of the river and Woodbank. At Cale Green also a Heath and Fern Garden is an interesting feature, whilst the Ornamental Rest Garden at Alexandra at present nearing completion, promises well. The Boulevards at Heaton Norris with the daffodils in the grass as at Hollywood, in years to come, should provide a unique feature in the midst of a town. North Reddish Park, recently laid out, provides a number of horticultural features combined with recreation facilities, and illustrates the layout of a modern recreation park.

There are now 61 tennis courts, of which six are grass the remainder, being hard, 25 bowling greens and 6 putting greens. In 1922 there were 32 tennis courts, 12 bowling greens and the number of players were as follows:—

	Putting.	Bowling.	Tennis.	Total.
1921	...	55,600	...	87,000
1931	11,500	...	68,300	...
			37,200	117,000

Organised football and cricket has lately been introduced, allowing boys who are not financially in a position to rent pitches to have the use of a pitch on alternate Saturdays, and for which the only charge is for marking the pitch.

During the winter months, the players rooms in pavilions have been allotted to the local residents of retired age; a stove is provided and this facility is to many a great boon.

The Hall at Woodbank Park which was reaching a serious state of decay was entirely remodelled within its fabric and now is devoted to a museum, attractive refreshment rooms, reading room and lecture room, whilst the general offices of the Department also are situated within the building.

The music arrangements in the parks have been extended, performances now being given in four chief district parks in place of those previously only given in Vernon Park.

Mr. Leslie Edgar Morgan, N.D. Hort., of Manchester, was appointed Parks Superintendent, in succession to Mr. William Price, on February 28, 1929.

The Museum at Vernon Park is still popular with the general public, and the many interests new exhibits acquired during the past ten years are proof that this institution has still an important function to perform.