

Understanding Everyday Participation – History of Parks in Cheetham, Broughton and Salford

{ Patrick Doyle, University of Manchester

- ⌘ Focus on Peel Park (1846), Queen's Park (1846), Albert Park (1877), Mandley Park, Cheetham Park (1886)
- ⌘ Examining the reasons why parks were established in the first place can emphasise their importance to the way local communities developed.
- ⌘ Key questions the research will focus on are: How are parks managed? Who managed them and how were they paid for?
- ⌘ How do they relate to the communities they serve? Theoretically, these are spaces that are open to all people in the community.
- ⌘ What types of cultural goods are contained in these parks (museums, bandstands, walkways and sports fields)?
- ⌘ Do attitudes towards parks shift considerably over time?

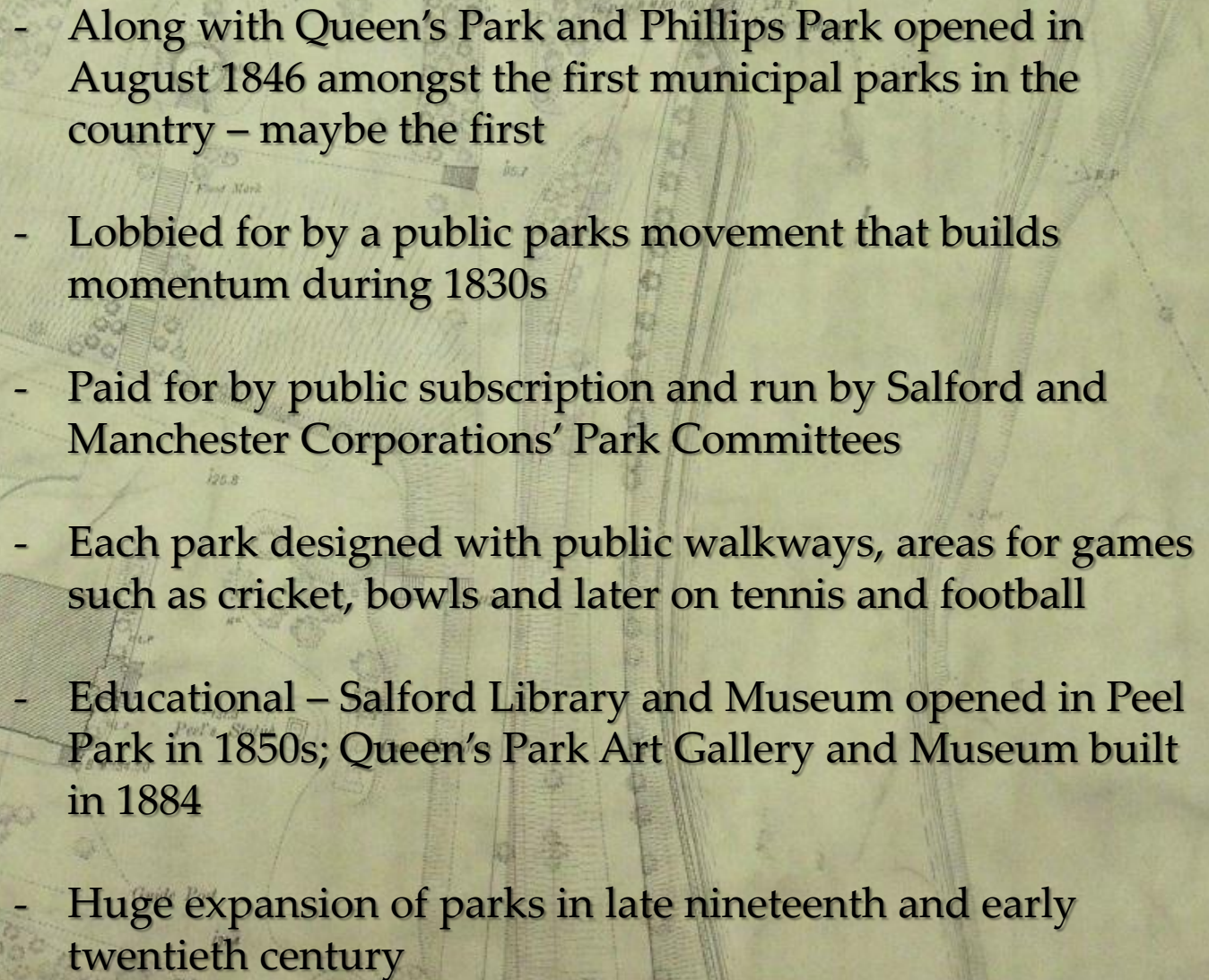
Why focus on parks?

- ⌘ By early 19th century land around manufacturing towns closed to the public
- ⌘ Concern about the effects of industrialisation and 'the state of the large Manufacturing Towns'
- ⌘ 1833 Select Committee met 'to consider the best Means of securing Open Spaces in the Vicinity of populous Towns, as Public Walks and Places of Exercise, calculated to promote the Health and Comfort of the Inhabitants'.
- ⌘ Concern for health of workers
- ⌘ BUT also a desire for the working classes to 'improve'. The opportunity to mix with the middle classes in open space might incentivise working class families to 'better' themselves.

Report from the Select Committee on Public Walks (1833), HCPP



A rural escape amidst an industrial landscape

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- A historical map of Peel Park in Salford, showing various landmarks and features. The map is detailed with paths, trees, and buildings. Key locations labeled include 'Library & Museum', 'Queen Victoria's Statue', 'Prince Albert's Statue', 'Golden's Statue', and 'Brotherton's Statue'. The map also shows the 'Peel Park' area and the 'Salford and Manchester Corporations' Park Committees.
- Along with Queen's Park and Phillips Park opened in August 1846 amongst the first municipal parks in the country – maybe the first
 - Lobbied for by a public parks movement that builds momentum during 1830s
 - Paid for by public subscription and run by Salford and Manchester Corporations' Park Committees
 - Each park designed with public walkways, areas for games such as cricket, bowls and later on tennis and football
 - Educational – Salford Library and Museum opened in Peel Park in 1850s; Queen's Park Art Gallery and Museum built in 1884
 - Huge expansion of parks in late nineteenth and early twentieth century

Map of Peel Park, Salford



- Royal Visit seized upon by Manchester and Salford Councils as an opportunity to showcase their national economic and political importance
- Peel Park hosted the Queen and her Consort and over 80,000 congregated in the park to see her



Royal Visit, 1851

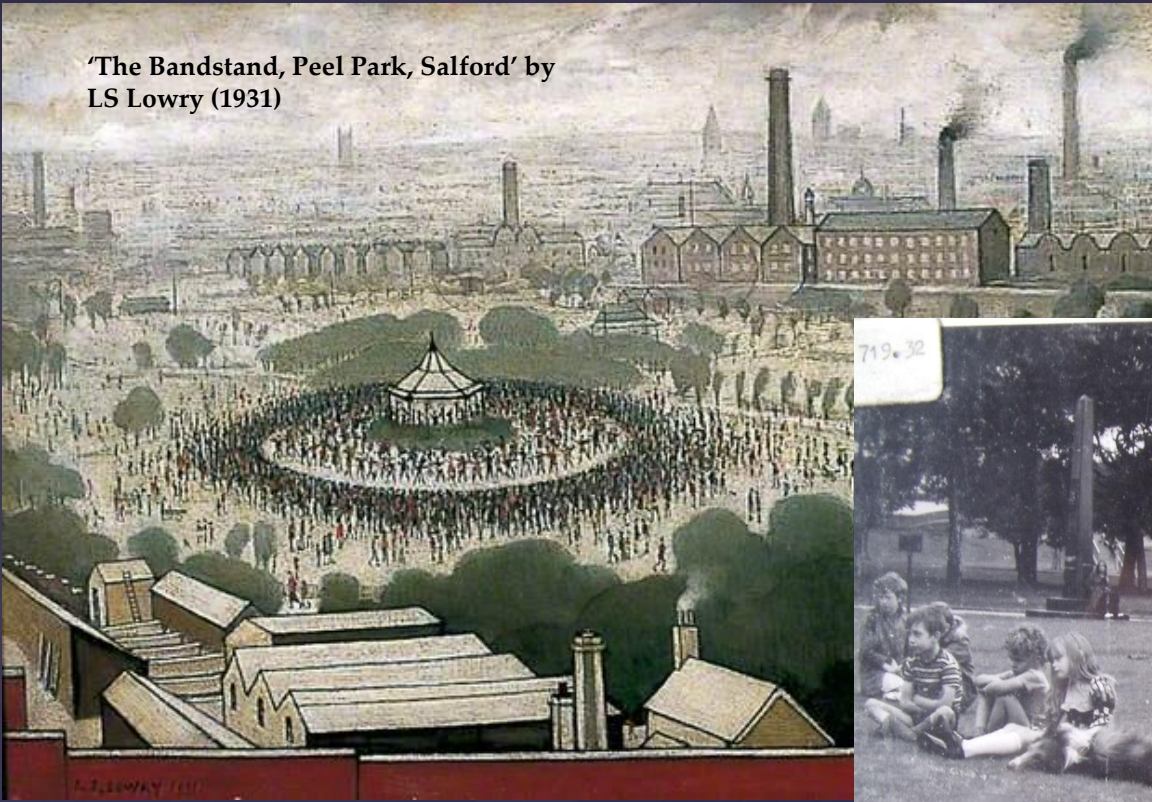


Centres for Leisure...



... Presentation...

'The Bandstand, Peel Park, Salford' by
LS Lowry (1931)



Youth Theatre, 1974

... Entertainment...



... and quiet contemplation

- ⌘ Research into the Parks is in early stages – focusing on two or three key periods
- ⌘ By examining the attitudes towards the parks in the past by local government and people who used the park, we hope to flag up relevant parallels with contemporary attitudes towards the park – especially as there is anxiety and debate about how to spend local budgets.
- ⌘ We want to hear about people's experiences and memories of these local parks? How are these public spaces viewed today?

History Project