

Friends of Rowntree Park

The Friends of Rowntree Park became an official charity in June 2019. Over the last couple of years we have run events, activities, projects, garden and more!
We run a membership scheme so people can support our work.

Charity objectives and aims:

The charity's aims summarised are:

- Conserve, protect and improve the physical space/environment
- Offer educational opportunities related to history, biodiversity and other aspects related to the park
- Work with others on education, recreation and other leisure interests within the park

We have an action plan for 2019-2020 that helps work toward our objectives and aims. We have highlighted the following as key areas for separate action plans (some link):

- Physical Space
- Education/Outreach
- Recreation and leisure
- Civil and social responsibility
- Management & Leadership

Who runs the charity?

A charity has to appoint trustees. When the FRP started as a 'not for profit group' 1993-2019 there has been a Committee made up of Friends members who made key decisions about what the group would do and how things were done. All of our new trustees were/are committee members. We now have Trustees and the Committee. Our Committee and Trustees are the people who are responsible for shaping what the Friends of Rowntree Park do, both in the short and long term. All are volunteers.

Since 2017 we have gone from approximately 200 households as members who pay £5. We now have over 600 who support us. We also get some donations each year. We also apply for grants and funding. As a charity we are accountable to our supporters and bodies who award us funding.

Trustees have formal responsibilities: setting the overall strategic direction of the charity; making sure that it is well run and meeting its objectives. Also making sure it's in good standing financially; and ensuring compliance with the law and check the charity is meeting its objectives and remain accountable to those who fund it. They legally have to meet 3-4 times a year but can meet more often if needed. Our trustees decide the budget based on plans and ideas submitted by the committee. They review the budget through the year and check spending is in line with the aims and objectives as show by the yearly plans. Team/project leaders are accountable for their allocated budgets.

Committee members are more operational and involved in the day to day running of the Friends of Rowntree Park. The committee decide on the work of the group and how to improve the park for its users. They also liaise with the council and outside groups. Committee meetings are a place to discuss issues affecting the park, come up with new ideas, and talk about the work of the Friends of Rowntree Park. Any member of the Friends of Rowntree Park is welcome to join the committee.

Volunteer team leaders work toward the aims and objectives of the charity and share these with their volunteer groups.

Plans and budget

Our plans for each year and budget allocations are discussed at Friends of Rowntree Park meetings. These meetings are held 4 times a year and any Friends of Rowntree Park members welcome to attend and contribute. We always welcome people who want to join the committee (and help make decisions). There are also sometimes subgroups for project areas - we welcome people interested in focusing on a certain project/area. We also publish monthly newsletters on our activities and an annual round up. Our summary of plans and budget allocation are always available to view on our website. They are working documents and do get reviewed and changed as circumstances dictate. Further details can always be requested.