Moss Valley
Country Park
Information
and Walks
The Country Park lies between the villages of Gwersyllt and Brynteg, 3 miles north of Wrexham. To get to the Park leave the A483 at the Mold turning. At the roundabout take Summerhill Road, following signs for Moss Valley Golf Course, third left into Poolmouth Road. The car park is situated between the two lakes.

**Moss Valley Country Park**
Poolmouth Road
Off Summerhill Road & Gatewen Road,
Moss, Wrexham, LL11 4UR
Telephone 01978 763140

The Park is open daily all year round, although there is no visitor centre. There is a small, fenced children’s play area next to the car park.

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www.wrexham.gov.uk/countryside

**Introduction**

Moss Valley is beautiful parkland situated between Gwersyllt and Brynteg, three miles north of Wrexham. The v-shaped Valley has wooded sides, two small lakes and areas of open grassland. The Valley provides varied habitats for wildlife and is particularly noted for its birds. Moss Valley has an industrial past, and was once a major coal mining area. In 1973 the spoil heaps were reclaimed, but amongst the tranquil woodland and meadows, evidence of the old railways can still be found hidden in the Park. The Park has a number of footpaths running alongside the lakes and through woodland of Oak and Beech. The paths often follow the old tramways and railway lines that were once used to extract the coal and sandstone from the Valley. Although the coal mines have long since gone, the small sandstone quarries still exist offering excellent wildlife habitats hidden away amongst the trees.

Special thanks go to the Moss Valley Angling Club and the Broughton District History Group (www.broughton-history.co.uk) for their input into this leaflet.

**Dogs**

Well behaved dogs are always welcome at Moss Valley, but must be kept under control at all times. Please remember that failure to pick up dog waste is a serious offence. Used bags can be disposed of at any of the waste bins around the Park.
History of Moss Valley

Moss Valley has had a long industrial history before becoming the beautiful country park that it is today.

In 1796, Thomas Telford constructed a feeder reservoir lake in the Valley for an extension of the Ellesmere canal, which would have eventually served as an extension from the local Trevor Basin. However the plan was abandoned in 1798, and the lakes you see today are not the work of Telford.

During the 19th and 20th century, the Valley contained several coal mines including the Westminster and Gatewen collieries. The coal was transported both locally and nationally through major railway links, much of which was built specifically for its distribution.

This rail expansion included the construction of a 750 ft long tunnel from Westminster Colliery to Summerhill. This tunnel was used during the Second World War as a test site to practice the blowing up of the Brenner Tunnel in Italy during the allied invasion of 1943.

Later the trains carried passengers as well freight from the Moss railway station, with the Valley’s collieries closing in the first half of the 20th century.

In the Valley there was also once a small community of houses, known as the upper and lower boat houses, but these were demolished in the 1930’s. There were many fresh water wells in the Valley, which supplied water to the locality.

One well, known as Ffynnon Deuno (Deuno’s Spring), was located at the Gatewen end of the Valley, and reputedly was a healing well, helping to heal the sick and injured residents of the district. There was possibly a small chapel on the site also.
Fishing at Moss Valley

The Moss Valley Angling Club uses the lake by the main car park. The Club was set up by local volunteers in 2004, transforming the lakeside and surrounding area into something that the community could enjoy and get involved with.

The Club offers yearly membership rates, along with discounts to Junior’s, OAP’s and other concessions. The Club also arranges member’s matches for those with a competitive edge.

The lake is stocked with a healthy head of Roach, Rudd, Crucian Carp, Bream and Tench, making for a great days fishing.

Members of all abilities are welcome for a great day out in friendly company and beautiful surroundings.

A notice-board situated by the lakeside provides further information on fishing and the Angling Club.

Please contact Deggy’s Fishing Tackle, 2 Ruabon Road, Wrexham (01978 351815) to obtain membership details and to purchase day tickets.

Biodiversity at Moss Valley

The mosaic of woodland, grassland and lakes at Moss Valley offer a wonderful home to a variety of plants, animals and birds. Greater Spotted Woodpeckers are often heard ‘drumming’ or seen amongst the trees, along with noisy Jays and shy Treecreepers.

In the Spring, Bluebells carpet the lakeside woodland, whilst the tree canopy hosts nesting birds including Bullfinches, Blue Tits and Woodpigeons. Both the fishing and wildlife lakes are popular with damselflies and dragonflies. Dragonflies, such as the Common Darter, can be spotted throughout the warm months hunting across the water. Bats have also been recorded, feeding off insect swarms drawn to the lakes on warm, balmy evenings.

Grey Herons are commonly seen, standing motionlessly at the waters edge, hunting amphibians or fish fry. A Kingfisher pair were also sighted in 2012.

During the Autumn, the trees that cover both sides of the Valley begin to change colour to a natural kaleidoscope of oranges, yellows and reds, whilst Oak trees shed acorns to be hoarded by Squirrels and smaller mammals for the coming winter.

The colder months see the dark silhouettes of the trees laid bare, and wintry weather offers an opportunity to come across mammal tracks in the snow or spot unusual migratory wildfowl resting by the lakeside.
Moss Valley walks

Both walks are looping routes, which include steps, some uneven ground, gradients or narrow sections of pathway.

Valley Top Woodland Walk

1. Starting at the wildlife lake car park, walking back towards the edge of the road you will see steps on your left up through the woodland. Ascend these and turn left at the top.

2. Following this pathway you will see evidence of historic quarry works at intervals on your right, and looking left you may glimpse the lake below you through the trees. You will come to some steps, go up these and continue left on the track through the woodland.

3. Next you will reach some steps down to the Valley floor. Go down these then turn right onto the path, cross the bridge then take the looping path to the right that passes the bench and up the bank.

4. At the top of the bank turn left onto the wide path that skims the top side of the Valley. (See map)

5. You will come to some steps with a handrail to your right, take these and you’ll emerge onto a narrow lane. Be aware of passing vehicles as you turn left and follow this lane back down to the main road. Looking to your left you will see the car park where the walk began.

Old Railway Walk

1. Starting at the main car park, with the angling lake facing you, walk left through the metal barrier. Stay on the path closest to the lake, crossing the weir via a small bridge.

2. Carry on down this side of the lake, just to the corner where looking left you will see some steep steps. Climb the steps, and turning left at the top of these, you will come across one of the old railway bridges.

3. Walk under the railway bridge, turn left up the steps and follow the path back onto the top of the bridge.

4. Walking left along the path, you’ll cross a small bridge. Follow this path until you reach the end.

5. Where the path ends at the metal fencing, turn right down into the woodland, then immediately left onto a road by a small bridge.

6. Be aware of passing vehicles as you walk down this road back to your starting point in the main car park.
Moss Valley walks

Valley Top Woodland Walk

A. Keep a look out for Jays and Greater Spotted Woodpeckers
B. Open grassland is a perfect habitat for a myriad of butterflies in the warm months
C. The wildlife lake attracts a host of dragonflies in the summer

Old Railway Walk

A. Spot the ducks as you walk past the angling lake
B. See the old railway bridge. A reminder of the valleys industrial past

Wrexham's parks have something for everyone to enjoy. Five of the parks have the prestigious Green Flag Award for excellence as public green spaces. The parks offer tranquil woodland, grassland and riverside walks set within a variety of beautiful scenery and some have an historical past.

Families with children can use exciting playgrounds, BMX tracks, trim trails and tennis and basketball courts. Watch bowling or relax with a picnic near the river or meet the farm animals at Ty Mawr.

Throughout the year, including school holidays, visitors can take part in exciting arts and craft workshops, sports activities, practical volunteer days and guided walks.

If you have any special requirements, check with the appropriate park by telephoning beforehand.

For more information go to:
www.wrexham.gov.uk/countryside
www.wrexham.gov.uk/walks
email:countryparks@wrexham.gov.uk
Bus timetable enquiries: 01978 266166

Our events are mostly suitable for everyone but please remember that children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.