



This stylised watercolour of 1920 pre-dates Boot's decision to add University College to the north side of the lake. The tram route depicted on the boulevard was finally realised in 2015. From Manuscripts Collection, MS 313

In 1919 Jesse Boot bought the Highfields Estate. He laid it out as a recreational park for the people of Nottingham, and funded University Boulevard to improve access to the area.

He also proposed a tram line but that took nearly another 100 years to complete. South of University Boulevard, Boot laid out sports fields, including an area reserved for staff and students from University College. To the north was the lake, greatly expanded from the original five-acre ornamental lake to the 15 or so acres we see today.

In 1922 Boot asked Morley Horder, his preferred architect, to revise the plans in order to make space on the north side of the park for the new University College building. Since that decision, there have been two adjoining parks: University Park, owned today by The University of Nottingham, and Highfields Park, owned by Nottingham City Council. The histories of Highfields Park and University Park

have always been intertwined, and few people know where one ends and the other begins!

Boot also provided other facilities. The lido, remembered by many alumni, opened in 1924. It was unheated, and was demolished in the 1980s and replaced by the Djanogly Art Gallery and Concert Hall. Boot objected to 'dirty boys' being admitted to the pool, and suggested that for them 'the canal is quite safe'!

Boot's tea pavilion originally provided refreshments for park users, but gradually the University took it over for indoor sports and examinations. It was rebuilt in 2001 as Lakeside, with galleries and a restaurant.



Highfields Park Tea Pavilion, 1930. Courtesy of Nottingham City Council and www.picturethepast.org.uk



Outline plan showing how Highfields Park and University Park were designed to interlock, with University Boulevard providing access. From University Collection, UR 1402



Chinese New Year celebrations in Highfields Park. Photograph by The University of Nottingham



Plaque on the boat house at Highfields Park. Photograph by A. Souter