

The Worthington Park Animals

The animals in our park started with “Leo the Lion” which was originally presented to Sale Council in 1903 and installed in Worthington Park. In the 1990s, it was moved to the entrance of Sale Waterside Library, where it still lives.



The next additions were the two bronze lions that live in the Triangle Garden. They were bought by The Friends of Worthington Park and unveiled by the Mayor of Trafford, Councillor Pauline Lane, on 5th February 2006. They have been recently restored to their former glory by Nick Roberson, a Manchester portrait artist working in marble and bronze.

More recently, several carved wooden animals have come to live in the park. These were inspired by George Mottershead, the founder of Chester Zoo, who was born in Sale Moor. Mottershead disliked seeing animals confined in cages at Belle Vue Zoological Park, and was determined to create a zoo without bars. When he got older he kept aviaries, pet lizards and snakes. In December 1930, as an adult, Mottershead and his family moved to Upton-by-Chester, paying £3,500 for a 9 acre site. They acquired two Himalayan black bears from a wildlife park in Matlock, and added monkeys, chimpanzees, birds, and reptiles, and on 10 June 1931 Chester Zoo opened to the public.

Our carved wooden animals started with a koala and an armadillo, followed by two meerkats, a red panda, and a woolly monkey. In September 2026, they were joined by a magnificent golden eagle. These amazing carvings have been made by Andy Burgess, a wood sculptor based in Knutsford.

