

## HISTORY

The city owes a debt of gratitude to Coventry benefactor David Spencer, for the gift of land for Spencer Park which opened in 1883. David Spencer is commemorated by a memorial. The story goes that in the mid 19th Century the City Council was looking for an area of public land on which they could create a city park. Part of Stivichale Common was eventually identified and work began on a 4 acre site on Warwick Road, which is now known as Top Green.

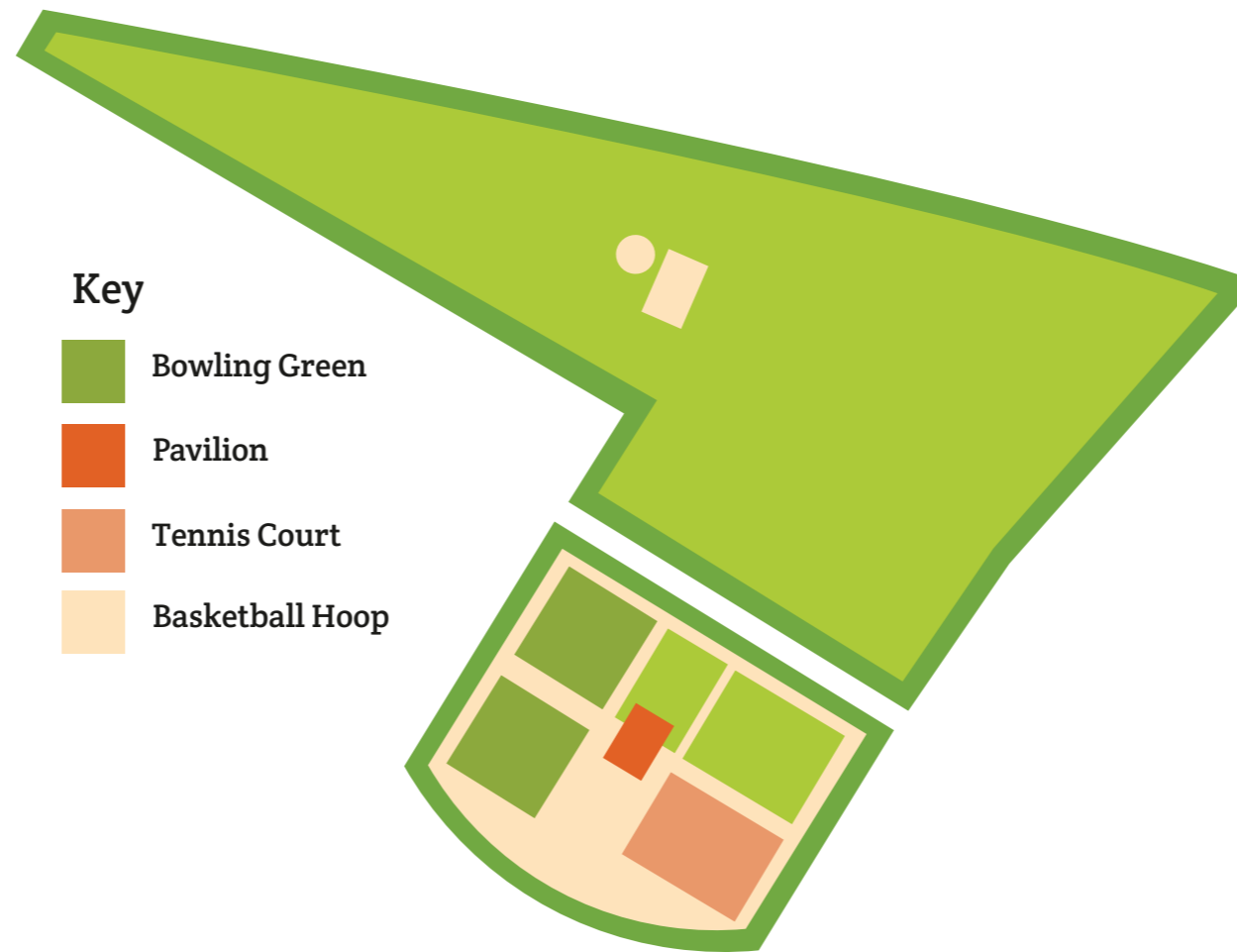
David Spencer believed the area could be improved if the space was increased to provide a good sized recreation ground and he offered the city council 4,000 Guineas to pay for it if they would complete the project. However, the owners of the adjoining land would not sell.

Instead another area of land was found in the form of a large meadow of just over 7 acres which belonged to the Grammar School Trustees. The Trustees were glad to sell as the proceeds enabled them to begin their building project earlier than originally envisaged.



# SPENCER PARK

1883



## PAVILION

On 19 December 1882 there was an official handing over ceremony and a luncheon held in celebration hosted by the mayor and attended by the Corporation, Mr Spencer and many other local worthies. The mayor proposed a toast to Mr David Spencer saying he was "the truest and most generous benefactor, who in his own lifetime at his own expense bestows his bounty for the benefit of his fellows".



## BOWLING GREEN

By 1894 a "gymnasium", as it was called, consisting of swings, roundabouts, slides, see-saws and climbing frames was erected for the children. This was followed some years later by the bowling greens and tennis courts and the pavilion, designed by the City Engineer and opened in August 1915.



## TENNIS COURTS

Originally the park stretched from the railway bridge (the iron part of which was constructed in the 1850s to maintain a public right of way through the new railway marshalling and goods yard) to Dalton Road, unbroken by what is now Spencer Avenue. The section of road that runs through the park was added in the early 1900's to link the existing Spencer Road with Albany Road.