

History of the Park Railway

From 1930

On occasion of large exhibitions, a miniature railway is operated between the exhibition area and the Grand Garden. It soon becomes a popular attraction. One ride on the small train takes 14 minutes. However, the entire facility is temporary only and has to be dismantled each time an exhibition is over. During World War II, the railway is deposited in a quarry near Kamenz and falls into oblivion.

1950

On June 1, the International Children's Day, a children's railway is inaugurated. The first 1.3-km-long stage is opened. Only one month later, its operation is suspended again, as only limited operation supervised by the Dresden Public Transport Company has been intended.

1951

Since – still in the year of inauguration - efforts have been made to maintain the children's railway, the decision is taken to permanently operate it as a railway for instructing "pioneer", that is the members of the communist children's organization of the GDR. Thus, it is renamed into "Pioneers' Railway". From now on, children and youths take care of a smooth railway operation. Its operator is the Dresden City Administration. The track is extended to 5.6 km in length and the new stations "Carolasee", "Palaisteich" and "Karcherallee" are inaugurated. The number of passengers transported amounted to 295.000 in its first year already.

1962

A battery-driven locomotive with ten carriages completes the fleet. The number of passengers clearly continues to rise. If it is still 457,000 in 1962, it will be more than half a million passengers one year later.

1982

Another train consisting of eight passenger carriages and a battery-driven locomotive is handed over as a present made by the railroaders of 'Deutsche Reichsbahn' on occasion of the Pioneers' Meeting.

1990

The name is changed from "Pioneers' Railway" into "Dresden Park Railway".

1992

The promoting association "Dresden Park Railway, non-profit registered association" is founded.

1993

The railway becomes property of the Free State of Saxony and is subordinated to the Dresden Palaces and Gardens.



GRAND GARDEN OF DRESDEN



1996

Four closed carriages made in the UK roll along the track for the first time.

1998

Twelve roofed-over carriages belong to the Dresden Park Railway fleet. The Park Railway is dedicated its own mascot – “Parkolino”, the squirrel.

2000

The new railway station “Am Straßburger Platz” is inaugurated following the setup of the “Transparent Manufactory” of the Volkswagen AG. The fleet of the railway includes two steam locomotives made by the locomotive manufacturer Krauss & Co. AG, Munich (year of manufacture 1925) and two battery-driven locomotives made by RAW Dresden (years of manufacture 1962 and 1982).

2005

The Dresden Park Railway welcomes its 22 millionth passenger.

2009

In August, the 23 millionth passenger is welcomed by the Dresden Park Railway.

2010

On April 1, the station ‘Am Straßburger Platz’ is renamed into ‘Hauptbahnhof an der Gläsernen Manufaktur’ (Main Station at the Transparent Manufactory).