

Committee:	Date:
West Ham Park	July 2019
Subject: Park Manager's Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent of Parks and Gardens	For Information
<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p> <p>This report provides an update to Members of the West Ham Park Committee on management and operational activities at West Ham Park since April 2019.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 	

Main Report

Budget and Personnel

1. Expenditure for West Ham Park is in line with that expected at this time of year. The Park currently has a full complement of full-time staff.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and events

2. Wild Schools: This academic year we have been investigating new sessions in physics and immersive sessions in creative writing and storytelling. In April we used Robert McFarlane's 'Lost Words' book as inspiration to seek words to describe the fauna and flora in the new wildlife extension garden. Feedback from these new sessions has been good. Since the start of term September 2018 to date, we have taught 3020 students outdoors in the park, a figure we expect to rise significantly by the end of term in July.
3. The Wild Schools officer has been focusing on broadening the range of schools who use West Ham Park and the Wild Schools program to enhance their curriculum. We have succeeded in attracting three more local schools to make use of our educational offering this year. Another local school are also interested in using the newly created wildlife extension garden to run Forest Schools, which would bring the total number of Forest School groups running sessions in the park to three and one home school group.
4. The Friends of West Ham Park

- a. Vegetable garden – The group have been implementing improvements to the garden following their successful application to the ‘Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment’ grant fund. Three new raised beds, a new shed and water point have been added to the garden and are being cultivated with various fruit and vegetables. The group are now running regular sessions on Tuesdays and the first Saturday of each month and attracting new volunteers.
 - b. Open Garden Squares weekend – The Friends launched their exhibition regarding Dr John Fothergill and the parks horticultural history during Open Garden Squares weekend at the start of June with good attendance. The information panels will remain in the garden throughout the summer and have received positive comments from users.
 - c. Bat walks: The Friends will be holding their two annual bat walks in the park on the 22nd August and 20th September.
5. National park city – In July, London becomes the World’s first National park city. Events across the capital will celebrate London’s green spaces, wildlife habitats, green rooftops and waterways and aims to get all Londoners enjoying the outdoors, highlighting the importance, beauty and breadth of London’s green and blue spaces. To mark the occasion, the Chairman will be formally opening the garden on Sunday 21st July. Friends of the park will also be giving a guided tour of the Fothergill Exhibition and staff will lead a walk around the newly extended wildlife garden. The park will also be hosting the Summer Bounce Festival, targeted at encouraging women and girls to play cricket during the cricket world cup, accompanied by healthy eating stalls and other wellbeing activities (organised by the Mama Kari Community Interest Group).
6. Bandstand: The bandstand continues to grow in its popularity for a base for children’s (and adults) birthday parties and celebrations with ten bookings over the summer.

The bandstand is also still used for musical events. The Kimbanguiste African Brass Band and The Thumping Tommy’s were well received. The Red House Rockers, Soulfools and The Blues Spiders will perform over the rest of the summer.
7. The Snack Shack returned at the end of May and will serve tea, coffee, soft drinks and hot and cold foods until the end of September.

Operational activities

8. Oak Processionary moth: In June, the Forestry Commission attended site to carry out a routine survey of a sample of the parks oak trees and found two live Oak Processionary moth caterpillar nests. At the time of writing the report, Islington tree surveyors were surveying the remainder of the parks oak trees to establish the extent of the issue across the site. Where necessary, oak trees will be fenced off to exclude the public until nests can be removed.

9. Ornamental gardens: The implementation of the America bed is completed, and the area was shown to our London in Bloom judge in June as part of the judging tour. Results will be announced in September.

Property Matters

10. Claim for Adverse Possession and an update regarding the nursery project are available in the non-public minutes.

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