

Committee(s): West Ham Park Committee	Date(s): 19 February 2024
Subject: Planning for the 150 th anniversary for West Ham Park	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Executive Director, Environment	For Information
Report author: Bill LoSasso, Assistant Director	

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to West Ham Park since the last Committee meeting on 4 December 2023.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report

Main Report

1. West Ham Park was transferred to the City of London Corporation by the Gurney Family on 20 July 1874. Since then, the Corporation has steadfastly overseen its protection, conservation, and improvement. Thousands of park keepers have devoted themselves to the park, often living on site as a demonstration of their commitment. Hundreds of thousands of volunteers have supported the park throughout its history. Millions of people have benefitted from the park and have used it as a place to play, relax, enjoy nature, and come together. Today, the park is the largest in Newham and is a place that improves the health and wellbeing of residents while supporting and protecting nature and biodiversity.
2. 150 years after the transfer, the Corporation seeks to commemorate the anniversary with a programme of activities that celebrates the past, marks the present, and instills optimism for the future.

3. A themed programme of activities will be delivered throughout the spring and summer that includes sports, learning and education, history, events, community activities, and a commemorative installation or planting.
4. The programme will culminate in a flagship event on Saturday, 20 July 2024 to mark the official transfer, likely consisting of a music event, community events, and a memorial planting. This will be followed by a sports-related event on Sunday, 21 July 2024.
5. As the 150th anniversary celebration is a significant milestone and opportunity to celebrate the Corporation's steadfast commitment to the Park, to acknowledge the many stakeholders that made the Park's creation and transfer possible, to engage the local community in its care and future, and to celebrate its importance and positive impact on people, wildlife, and the planet, it is important that officers have sufficient resource to plan and deliver the programme of activities.
6. To ensure sufficient resource, officers will seek different avenues to secure an additional funding allocation of approximately £25,000, which will be used to fund costs for an outdoor exhibition at two locations (The Guildhall and West Ham Park) similar to the successful and impactful exhibition displayed for Hampstead Heath's 150th anniversary. This funding will also be used to support additional event and programming delivery costs, additional grounds maintenance and reinstatement supply and material related costs, and the hiring of occasional casual staff required for additional tasks related to the increase in activities this financial year. If officers are unable to secure additional funding, then the celebration will have to be scaled accordingly to fit existing budget and staff capacity constraints.
7. Officers will report back progress on the planning and funding of the anniversary celebration to this Committee at its planned meeting of 16 May 2024.

Financial Implications

8. As noted in paragraph 6 above, officers are seeking additional funding sources for the West Ham Park charity 150th anniversary celebration.

Resource Implications

9. The anniversary celebration will require additional operational resource as noted within this report.

Climate Implications

10. Included within the annual plan for 2023/24 are a series of projects which contribute towards achieving the City of London's Climate Action Strategy,

which was launched in October 2020. A key part of the strategy is conserving and enhancing biodiversity alongside reducing carbon emissions. The Climate Action Strategy will be embedded into future strategies which are currently being drafted within the Natural Environment Division.

Legal Implications

11. No implications.

Risk Implications

12. Risks are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk Register.

Equality Implications

13. No impact.

Security Implications

14. Security implications are monitored and recorded through the Departmental Risk register.

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