

Appendix 1 – Park Management Background Data

1. Weather conditions

- 1.1 The weather station at the Nursery recorded the following monthly average maximum and minimum temperatures for the year:

Month	Average Min (°C) 2011	Average Min (°C) 2012	Average Max (°C) 2011	Average Max (°C) 2012
April	9	6	21	15
May	10	10	21	20
June	12	12	23	21
July	13	14	23	23
August	14	15	23	25
September	13	11	23	21
October	11	8	19	15
November	8	6	14	12
December	5	4	10	10
January	5	3	10	7
February	3	2	9	7
March	6	2	17	8

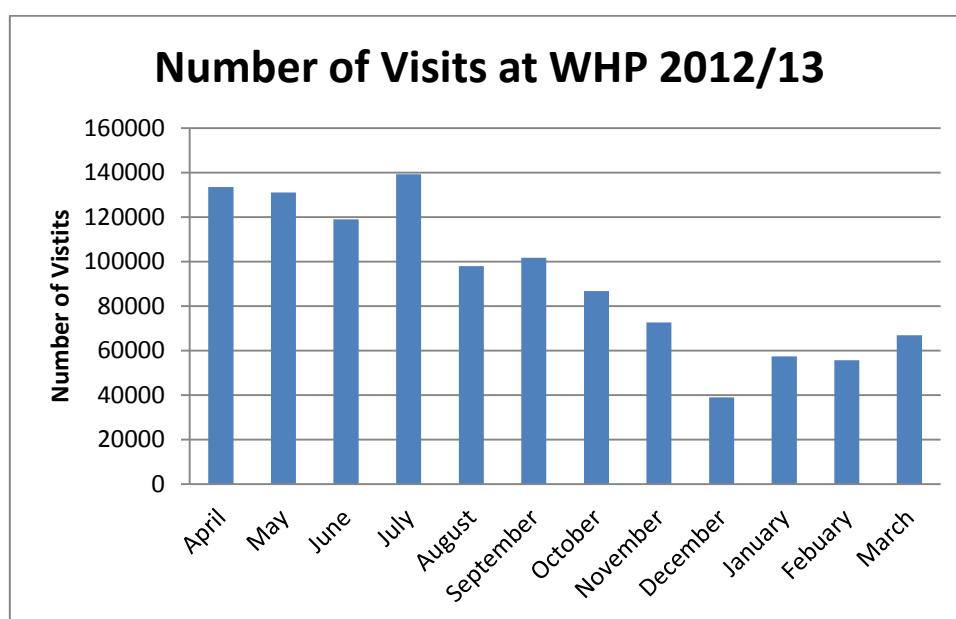
- 1.2 The weather recorded in the last year shows no extreme variance from the temperatures recorded in the preceding year. Maximum and minimum recordings show that on average 2011 was the warmer year. The hottest day recorded for 2012 was on the 18th August at 34.6 °C and the coldest day was the 17th January at -4.6 °C.
- 1.3 The weather recorded in the last year serves as a timely reminder that as part of the long term management planning process for the park, measures for dealing with such conditions and possible long term climate change must be considered. We will therefore continue to monitor temperature to enable us to respond to fluctuations in seasonal weather conditions.

2. Park visitor numbers April 2012 – March 2013

Month	Number of Visits	
	2011/12	2012/13
April	173,580	133,468
May	137,910	131,015
June	125,170	118,912
July	132,637	139,269
August	93,306	97,971
September	96,876	101,720
October	85,093	86,795

November	71,971	72,691
December	52,174	38,907
January	64,538	57,317
February	70,110	55,680
March	113,528	66,831
Totals:	1,216,893	1,100,576

- 2.1 Analysis of the data from 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013 shows that the Main Gate is still the most widely used gate in the Park with over 26% of the visitors at 290,552. This is followed by Margery Gate which accounts for 20% of attendances with 220,115 visitors. The least used gate in the park is Country gate with 51,397 visitors for the year equating to 4.67%.



- 2.2 Unsurprisingly, given the poor weather conditions of last summer, the number of visits to the park was lower than those of 2011/12. This seems to have cancelled out any increase in usage during the Olympic Games, although visitors were very carefully marshalled from key travel hubs direct to the Olympic site, and so this is not unexpected. July 2012 saw the most visits over this time period with December 2012 having the least number of visits.

3. Use of sports facilities

- 3.1 The use of park sports facilities throughout the year was as follows:

- i. **Cricket pitches:** 90 games were scheduled on the two cricket pitches. 48 of these were booked by the three regular clubs at West Ham Park: Amez, Bow Rovers and Star. The remainder of the games were booked by schools.

- ii. **Cricket nets:** The three cricket nets continued to be very popular and received 529 hours of paid use. In addition, our three regular cricket teams enjoyed the free use of one practice net per week.
- iii. **Tennis:** A total of 1853 hours of tennis took place across the twelve available tennis courts throughout the year (3 courts were out of action between February and April 2013 due to refurbishment works). Over 50% of the bookings were over the weekends.
- iv. **School sports:** Eleven different local schools held their sports days in the park. There were 25 separate bookings for the running track, and 251 hourly bookings for tennis courts.

4. Newham Cricket Clinics

- 4.1 Active Newham continue to deliver cricket coaching in West Ham Park and this much valued partnership is a valuable link with the Borough enabling cricket coaching to be delivered throughout the year at minimal cost to the park, whilst providing free sports coaching for young children and adults in Newham.

5. Tessa Sanderson Foundation Academy (TSFA)

- 5.1 2012/13 saw the second year of the highly popular West Ham Park Run series, which was attended, on average, by 65 participants. There were fifteen 5km Runs every Sunday from 21st October 2012 through to 10th February 2013 (except 23rd and 30th December). The year concluded with a 10k run and, for the first time, a half-marathon, both of which start and finish in the park. This year saw over 3,000 runners participate.
- 5.2 The foundation has also provided tennis coaching sessions for local schools. Originally launched in 2011, the morning sessions allow 400 children to have taster sessions with Tessa and her professional coaches. Those that show potential are also invited to train with the Academy on Wednesday afternoons.

6. Summer Entertainment

Activity: Summer entertainment	2011	June - August 2012
Children attending	935	1278
Adults attending	523	740

- 6.1 As in previous years, free entertainment was provided from late June through to August on the bandstand. At each show, a staff member was present to observe the quality of the performance and record attendance. Staff received a number of favourable comments and noted that attendance had increased over the previous year, with 37% more children attending than in summer 2011.

7. Paddling Pool

Activity - Paddling Pool	June – September 2012
Paddling Pool open	37 days
Paddling Pool closed	65 days

- 7.1 The paddling pool opens throughout the summer on fine days from June to early September. Using our visitor monitoring form, staff recorded patterns of use and site conditions throughout the opening period.
- 7.2 Analysis of the data shows that the pool was open for 37 days during the summer, closed for 50 days due to inclement weather or lack of interest, and 15 days for repairs. During these times staff undertook other duties.
- 7.3 The visitor figures also show that, on average, ten children use the pool each hour when open, and that the most popular day was Sunday 24th July when 93 children and 40 adults (supervising guardians) used the pool in the seven hours it was open.

8. Recorded incidents

- 8.1 In common with most busy urban parks, a number of incidents took place throughout the year. For the eleventh year running, park staff have recorded all incidents in an occurrence book held in the playground office. Analysis of the records shows that during the year the staff had to deal with a variety of incidents and details are shown in the table that follows (years 2010 and 2011 provided for comparison):

Incident	Frequency		
	2010	2011	2012
Ambulance called and persons taken to hospital	18	17	13
Arson	4	6	8
Assault	21	13	3
Dangerous dogs	4	3	10
Eviction of a person from park by keepers	39	49	43
Fights broken up by keepers	8	4	8
First Aid administered to the public	80	72	102
Found goods	6	12	17
Graffiti	4	3	3
Lost children	5	10	11
Rough sleepers	0	7	5
Police called	34	28	33
Police present (uncalled)	270	165	61
Robbery reported to keepers	12	13	11
Smoking cannabis	21	18	3
Stray dogs	3	5	7
Syringes found	42	16	25
Threats to staff and members of the public	27	23	15

Vandalism	36	24	12
Vehicles entering park without permission	4	1	4

- 8.2 Although these incidents involve only a small percentage of visitors throughout the year, they continue to be an important and time consuming part of the work carried out on site. The presence of an experienced and dedicated keeping team continues to be a great asset to the site – much valued by our residents and users - and allows these incidents to be dealt with professionally and efficiently.
- 8.3 Although many of the statistics remain broadly in line with previous years, points to note include a very positive drop in assaults, cannabis smoking, vandalism and threats to staff, but with an increase in the number of reported dangerous dogs. Staff continue to work with the London Borough of Newham in enforcing Dog Control Orders in certain areas of the park, and with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) where incidents involve dangerous dogs. Also of note is the increase in the number of times when first aid had to be administered to members of the public, which is a welcome ‘additional service’ provided by the team, but of course has an impact on staff time.
- 8.4 The final point of note is the reduction in the number of uncalled police visits. This can be partially explained by a change in the way that the MPS are targeting gang-related crime in the area. This was exemplified by an in-depth weapons sweep exercise in early 2013, providing a high-profile presence in the form of officers, dogs and air support. This took place across a number of open spaces in the area. Police attendance on that day is not included in the figure recorded above.
- 8.5 Support from our local MPS Safer Neighbourhood Team continues to be effective throughout the year. Regular visits are made to the Park and Office in order to gather information and discuss assistance that site staff may need with particular issues. The park is represented on the West Ham Ward Panel along with other members of the community. The group meets four times a year and areas requiring attention and support are discussed and a partnership approach is adopted for resolving issues within the area.

9. Recognising Success

- 9.1 The Park achieved its fourteenth Green Flag award during the year and in addition received its fourth Green Heritage Award achieving top quartile marks. The Park also entered the London in Bloom competition, where we achieved a Gold award and Park of the Year for the second consecutive year.

10. Other volunteer activities in the Park

- 10.1 In addition to activities carried out by the Friends, other volunteers have provided assistance with a wide range of projects throughout the year. For example, through projects funded by City Bridge Trust, 4 different local primary schools, 7 classes and approximately 210 children were involved in

sowing 2,200m² of wildflower meadow. The local scouts group also assisted in other CBT funded projects such as native bulb and soft fruit planting in the Orchard. The Park has continued to support a variety of work experience candidates through our established links with a number of educational establishments, charities and volunteer agencies ranging from school children to adults who sought experience in a working environment. As always these volunteer projects and work placements benefit staff as well as the participants, as staff have direct involvement in the projects, as well as being able to pass on their skills to guide, encourage and support participants.

10.2 Members may recall that a permanent food growing garden was constructed in January 2012 using funding from the City Bridge Trust. The project aims to involve local people in food growing, illustrating how food can be grown in confined spaces in a sustainable way. The Jubilee Food Garden was officially opened by Alderman Hall in June 2012. A public planting day in May 2012 saw 20 adults and children plant various vegetables and the start of the West Ham Park Gardening club. Seven gardening club sessions were held between May and October 2012 involving 52 visits by gardening club members. We look forward to developing the gardening club further in 2013/14.

10.3 Table showing Volunteer Hours and Educational Sessions

Year	Volunteer (hours)	Educational sessions (number of attendees)	Number of educational sessions
2010/11 April - March	1494	702	26
2011/12 April - March	1574	1399	59
2012/13 April - March	1518	1159	43
% change	-3.6%	-17.2%	-27%

10.4 The table above shows the number of volunteer hours and educational sessions carried out in the park. The latter includes specific sessions teaching about different wildlife habitats and about the requirements for growing food, which are run for up to 7 local schools. Also included are sessions run by the Field Studies Council for local adults and children.

10.5 There was a slight decrease in both volunteer and educational sessions compared to the previous year. This can be attributed to the fact that 2011/12 saw an exceptional increase, particularly in number of attendees of educational sessions and the number of educational sessions carried out, from the previous year and therefore 2012/13 is a more realistic picture of what can be delivered in a year by staff. The 2012/13 figures still show a substantial increase over time when compared with only 2 years before. There has also been a focus on the quality of the training and volunteer experience, rather than just 'numbers through the door'.

11. Additional Funding

Activity: Funding	April 2012 – March 2013
City Bridge Trust Year 2	£75,000
Tessa Sanderson Foundation and Academy (indirect funding)	Refurbishment of tennis courts £100,000

- The sum of £100k was granted to the TSFA by the London Marathon Trust to refurbish courts, 3 of which were completed in April 2013.
- An application to the London Marathon Trust for a £150k grant towards the paddling pool conversion to a splash pad was turned down in December 2012.

- 11.1 The park benefitted from funding for a number of projects from the second year of the Open Spaces City Bridge Trust Application. The funding enabled us to establish a gardening club in The Jubilee Food Garden (see above), the replacement of 50% of the hedge around the tennis courts, and also assisted with the creation of several new meadow areas.
- 11.2 One of the largest projects to take place in the park in 2012/13 was the refurbishment, to a very high standard, of three of our twelve tennis courts. This was made possible through a bid submitted by TSFA to the London Marathon Trust. A small balance of the £100,000 secured by TSFA is available to put toward improvements to the remaining courts, providing additional funding can be secured.

12. Friends of West Ham Park

- 12.1 During 2012/13, four public meetings were held by the Friends at the local Scout hall and on occasion on the bandstand in the Park. At their annual meeting in June 2012, the Friends re-elected their seventh Chairman, Ms Nicky Brown, and Deputy Chairman, Mr Ron Innell who replaces Ms Charlotte Evans. At this annual meeting, the Friends suggest projects that they would like to be involved in and agree a timetable of events for the forthcoming year. The group was formed in July 2006 and are currently have 12 regularly active members and 176 additional corresponding members.
- 12.2 Through a close working relationship between the park's Outreach Officer and the elected Friends' Chairman, the group has successfully organised a number of activities throughout the year that have been of benefit to the Park. These have included monthly bird surveys and the organisation and promotion of events on their own web site www.friendsofwesthampark.btck.co.uk and Facebook. The Friends have been extremely successful in providing a diverse programme of activities that has enabled park visitors to assist in a range of projects centred on conservation, heritage, and community involvement. The park has benefitted greatly from the support of the Friends, as many of the projects could not have been achieved without their support.

13. Nursery update

- 13.1 Throughout the year, the team worked on projects set out in year three of the five year business plan. The plan has provided clear direction exploring charity, business and trading options that clearly support the objectives of the park.

- 13.2 In addition, the nursery has continued with its core role of providing a quality service to its clients, supplying over 250,000 bedding plants to internal and external clients. For the first time, these included 3 of The Royal Parks – Richmond, Greenwich and Bushy – as part of the 7-year contract for the provision of bedding. The first deliveries were made in October 2012 and these were plants that would flower throughout the winter and into spring 2013. Positive feedback was received and the exercise proved extremely helpful in streamlining the process for future deliveries. A number of bespoke floral displays were provided for high profile events and visits, including The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and banquets for Kuwait, and for the President of the Republic of Indonesia.