

Committee(s):		Date(s):
West Ham Park	- For Information	17 July 2017
Subject:		Public
Superintendents Update		
Report of:		For Information
Superintendent of Parks and Gardens		
Summary		
<p>This report provides an update to Members of the West Ham Park Committee on management and operational activities at West Ham Park since December 2016</p>		
Recommendation(s)		
<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report 		

Main Report

Budget and Personnel

1. The budget for West Ham Park is currently in line with anticipated expenditure for this time of year. The Park currently has a full complement of staff.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach and events

2. Wild East Project: The Wild East tricycle session have been continuing on site with five sessions being held in the park throughout June and six planned for July. Activities carried out with local people include wildflower identification, bird spotting and tree games. During July, sessions will focus on bees, park visitors will be introduced to the different species of bees found in the park, creating solitary bee hotels, bumblebee finger puppets and learning about honeycombs.
3. Green Space Friendly (GSF) schools: The emphasis of the project has been to develop relationships with existing schools before the end of the summer term, with some new sessions around orienteering and wild flower meadow habitats being created. 617 pupils were taught in May and a further 820 in June.
4. The Springfest event went well with Wild East Volunteers and the Friends of West Ham Park in attendance to engage with users. Music on the bandstand helped to celebrate the opening of the new mobile food concession, 'Snack Shack'. Volunteers promoted the new interactive walk throughout the garden.
5. Friends of West Ham Park: The friends held their annual general meeting on the 22nd June. A new chair and deputy were elected. In addition to helping at

Spring-fest, the Friends have also lead two bird walks in the park and will be holding bat walks on the 24th August and 22nd September along with leading a maintenance session in the Nature garden on the 6th August.

6. The bandstand will host music throughout Sundays in July and is becoming a popular community resource that can be booked for children's parties etc. To date 17 bookings have been made for the summer season (April to September).

Operational activities

7. Gardeners completed the planting of the South Africa border in May. Corporate volunteers completed the project by dressing the flower beds with buff flint gravel. Additional native hedging has been added around the gym equipment to create a 'gym zone' within the park. Keepers and gardeners have been busy keeping on top of maintenance ahead of London in Bloom judging on the 14th July. The park was mystery shopped for Green Flag and Green Heritage this year. Results for the competitions will be announced in autumn.
8. Tennis activity: A new automatic gate system has been installed at the entrance to the tennis courts. A gate entrance code is generated when players book a match on line. Keepers have been on-site to talk users through how to set the system up on their mobile devices. The new system means that all tennis court payment are now transacted on-line, this removes the need for keepers to take cash bookings on site, resulting in reducing banking and administration associated with processing takings. Court usage continues to grow with 100 hours of coaching taking place in June and 579 hours of general play.
9. Cricket: Capital Kids Cricket have launched 'All Stars' a new programme from the English Cricket Board aimed at getting more children playing cricket. So far West Ham Park has seen one of the highest numbers of children registering across London with 30 signed up to the programme in the park, the highest in East London. Children pay £40 and received a backpack containing a cricket bat, ball, water bottle, personalised shirt and cap. The fee also pays for eight one-hour training sessions. As well as their regular coaching and match games in the park, West Ham and Stratford Cricket Club also held an open day in the 2nd July and a Cricket Festival with local schools on the 12th July.
10. Summer sport days: 16 schools have held their sports days at West Ham park so far this year. This number is slightly up from last year and has seen some new schools booking with us for the first time.
11. Antisocial issues: On four occasions in June third parties have accessed the park after closing time by cutting padlocks and chains from the park gates. Stronger, heavier gauge chains have been purchased and park staff continue to work with the West Ham Safer Neighbourhood team in order to deal with antisocial behaviour. The Park Manager is working with the City Surveyor to increase CCTV coverage of park entrances.

Property Matters

12. Nursery update: Park Manager and City Surveyor are working with the Procurement team to appoint specialist consult to further evaluate the three recommended options.
13. Park cottage, residential lodge located on Portway is undergoing refurbishment through the cyclical works programme with a new kitchen and bathroom are being installed, along with the windows and heating being replaced. All external works have received planning approval from London Borough Newham as the building is listed.
14. Mobile food concessions: The Ice cream concession conducted a trial of early morning coffee sales, unfortunately take up was low with on average only one sale per day. Therefore the early morning trading will not continue. The Snack Shack have been building trade and received positive feedback from local people and regular park users.

Appendices

- None

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