



West Ham Park Committee

Date: TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2024
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: COMMITTEE ROOMS - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members:

Caroline Haines (Chair)	Catherine Bickmore
Eamonn Mullally (Deputy Chairman)	Rafe Courage
Andrew McMurtrie	Councillor Joy Laguda MBE
Anne Corbett	Justin Meath-Baker
James St John Davis	Reverend Simon Nicholls
Wendy Mead OBE	Councillor John Whitworth
Benjamin Murphy	Tim Hodgson
Deputy Alpa Raja	

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

3. **MINUTES**

To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous meeting held on 17 October 2024.

For Decision
(Pages 5 - 12)

4. **ANNUAL REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Report of the Town Clerk.

For Decision
(Pages 13 - 16)

5. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Report of the Executive Director, Environment.

For Information
(Pages 17 - 26)

6. **UPDATE TO MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WEST HAM PARK**

Report of the Executive Director, Environment.

For Decision
(Pages 27 - 70)

7. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT.**

9. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

For Decision

Non-public Agenda

10. **MINUTES**

To agree the non-public minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 October 2024.

For Decision
(Pages 71 - 72)

11. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

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WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE Thursday, 17 October 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at Committee Room -
2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 17 October 2024 at 9.30 am

Present

Members:

Caroline Haines (Chair)
Eamonn Mullally (Deputy Chairman)
James St John Davis
Wendy Mead OBE
Catherine Bickmore
Councillor John Whitworth
Tim Hodgson

In Attendance:

Councillor Joy Laguda OBE
Andrew McMurtrie JP

Officers:

Clem Harcourt	- Chamberlain's Department
Pauline Mouskis	- Chamberlain's Department
Jack Joslin	- City Bridge Foundation
Anna Cowperthwaite	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's
Emily Brennan	- Environment Department
Helen Evans	- Environment Department
Simon Glynn	- Environment Department
Joanne Hill	- Environment Department
Jo Hurst	- Environment Department
Bill LoSasso	- Environment Department
Paul Maskell	- Environment Department
Katie Stewart	- Executive Director of Environment
Charlotte Williams	- Environment Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received by Anne Corbett and Rafe Courage.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor John Whitworth declared an interest in relation to Item 9, as a Councillor of the London Borough of Newham and Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning and Development, Air Quality and Climate Emergency. Councillor Joy Laguda OBE also declared an interest, in relation to Item 9, as a Councillor of the London Borough of Newham.

It was noted that the Members could be present for the item and engage in the discussion, but they would not be able to participate in the decision-making.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee agreed to amend the attendee list to add Tim Hodgson who attended the last meeting and amend the apologies to ensure 'Wendy Mead MBE' was changed to 'Wendy Mead OBE'

RESOLVED – That, the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 11 July 2024 be approved as a correct record, subject to the agreed amendments.

4. **INTRODUCTION TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

The Executive Director of Environment provided a short introduction to the Committee following her appointment.

5. **ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a report from the Assistant Director (Superintendent) of North London Open Spaces which reported on key accomplishments against the four strategies of the Natural Environment Division.

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- a) Officers informed the Committee that the hiring of the supplementary security service was due to a rise in anti-social behaviour (ASB) at West Ham Park and across the Open Spaces when staff were locking up.
- b) Officers provided an update on the play feature which had previously tested positive for e. Coli and had now been decommissioned and winterised. It would be re-opened in the Spring following it being disinfected and retested.
- c) Officers noted the Away Day would instead be an informal session to focus on the Management Plan for the Park.
- d) In response to Committee questions, Officers reported that the consultant retained for developing the Management Plan was Land Management Services.
- e) The Committee considered how much research had been done in relation to the padel installation and the tennis courts. Officers explained licenses were being finalised for tennis coaches and padel provisions would be explored after that.

- f) Officers noted that the disused basketball court was a potential area to develop padel, but planning permission would be needed due to change of use, the need for Perspex walls and recommendations from partners for the need for floodlights. Consideration also needed to be given to current use by families.

RECEIVED.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Committee received a report which sought to provide assurance that risk management procedures in place within the Environment Department and its Natural Environment Division, which included West Ham Park, were satisfactory and met the requirements of the Corporate Risk Management Framework and the Charities Act 2011.

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- a) Representatives from the London Borough of Newham indicated that most reports they received were related to anti-social behaviour, but the Park seemed to be relatively protected compared to the rest of the Borough.
- b) The Committee queried how many staff were brought in from supplementary security service. Officers confirmed that they worked in pairs from an organisation named Parkguard.
- c) Members reminded the Committee of the need to consider the welfare of staff travelling to and from the park.
- d) Officers noted there was an increase in the park being used for criminal activity in the Summer; there were 18 reported instances from May to September involving members of the public and staff ranging from physical to verbal abuse. Parkguard were assisting to alleviate that pressure and conflict management training had been arranged with staff in November.
- e) The Committee expressed concerns about the soil compaction leading to tree health issues and considered whether pre-emptive action could be taken on the issue. Officers indicated they were fortunate to have a team dedicated to trees and were thinking proactively about how to address the problem.

RESOLVED – That, Members:

- Confirmed, on behalf of the City Corporation as Trustee, that the Risk Register appended to the report satisfactorily set out the key risks to the charity and that appropriate systems were in place to identify and mitigate risk.

7. PROJECT PRIORITISATION PROCESS

The Committee received a report which sought to propose a project prioritisation process for the West Ham Park charity which would inform the development and implementation of the five-year business plan for the charity.

Officers presented the report to the Committee and expressed the need for the prioritisation process due to limited resources to ensure high priority projects were delivered.

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- a) A Member considered whether there was a criteria that defined what different scores indicated and if the process had been tested. Officers explained that Assistant Directors had been working through criteria to test whether they worked.
- b) The Chair noted that the Natural Environment strategies were designed to reflect and support the charity objectives for each of the nine charities that the City Corporation acted as trustee for. Officers confirmed that was the case.
- c) The Committee noted that a weighting process could produce unusual results and suggested having it set to a timed basis of every six or twelve months.
- d) The Committee also warned against organisational imperative and the inability to adapt to events and advised not to rigidly follow the scores and adapt to situations as and when they arise.
- e) The Committee expressed concern at omittance of health and safety considerations. Officers indicated they sat outside of the process as health and safety and statutory considerations were compulsory.

RESOLVED – That, Members:

- Approved the proposed project prioritisation criteria and process for the West Ham Park charity.
- Authorised the Executive Director Environment to make minor amendments to the matrix to take on board comments/feedback arising from its consideration by the different Natural Environment charity management committees.

8. **REPORT ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS**

The Committee received a report and presentation from Officers which provided Members with an update on the 150th anniversary celebrations of West Ham Park.

RECEIVED.

9. WEST HAM PARK FORMER NURSERY SITE

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the West Ham Park charity's stakeholder engagement activities in relation to the former nursery site between March and July 2024.

Officers informed the Committee in the report presentation that Historic England had been consulted with to ascertain the heritage value of the site.

During the discussion, the following points were made:

- a) The Chair highlighted that 85% of those who gave their postcode in the consultation lived within a one-mile radius of the site, and 95% of those surveyed lived in the London Borough of Newham (LB Newham).
- b) Officers indicated they had reached out to LB Newham to begin conversations over an acceptable use of the site and were working with City Surveyors to understand what would be viable.
- c) A Member noted that the local area was a very diverse community and suggested that the questions were not very specific and were potentially difficult to answer. Officers indicated there was a catch-all question and were trying to strike a balance between providing potential options without leading the public in one direction.
- d) Members queried what range of engagement activities were carried out. Officers noted there was an online survey, pop-up events in person with individuals who could speak multiple languages were also used.
- e) Officers explained, in response to questions about the area of the site consulted on, that the 50% of the site consulted on was what had been agreed previously.
- f) Officers also consulted with different schools who used the park for their own activities.
- g) A Member suggested the summary of the report should make it clear that it was 50% of the site that was consulted on.

RESOLVED – That, Members:

- Noted the community engagement report provided in Appendix 1.
- Noted the on-going engagement with Historic England with an outcome of that engagement to be reported to the next meeting of this Committee.
- Noted the on-going engagement with LB Newham and submission of written representations as part of Newham's Local Plan review.
- Noted the instruction of a commercial agent to review the site's current market viability for a future disposal and development.
- Authorised officers to share with Newham the results of WHP charity's community engagement activities.

10. DRAFT WEST HAM PARK TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Committee received a draft version of the Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 for West Ham Park (charity registration number 206948).

Officers indicated some changes had been made to the reporting style to ensure it was more in line with the charity reporting model.

RECEIVED.

11. OPERATIONAL FINANCE PROGRESS REPORT 2024/25 (PERIOD 5 APRIL - AUGUST)

The Committee received an update on the operational finance position as at Period 5 (April – August) 2024/25 for the West Ham Park charity (charity registration number 206948) and set out the charity's revenue operating budget position to date and projected year-end outturn, current live capital projects and outstanding debt position. It also provided information on various reserve funds held and other relevant finance information to the charity.

RECEIVED.

12. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

No questions were received on matters relating to the work of the Committee.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT.

No other business was raised by the Chair for consideration.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That, the following matters relate to business under the remit of the Court of Common Council acting for the City Corporation as charity Trustee, to which Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 public access to meetings provisions do not apply. The following items contain sensitive information which it is not in the best interests of the charity to consider in a public meeting (engaging similar considerations as under paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act) and will be considered in non-public session.

15. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That, the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2024 be approved as a correct record.

16. WEST HAM PARK FORMER NURSERY SITE - NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX

The Committee received an appendix relating to a report of the Executive Director of Environment.

17. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

No non-public questions were received on matters relating to the work of the Committee.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

No other business was raised by the Chair for consideration in non-public session.

The meeting ended at 10.51 am

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Callum Southern
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City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): West Ham Park Committee	Dated: 10 December 2024
Subject: Annual Review of Terms of Reference	Public report: For Decision
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:	Town Clerk
Report author:	Callum Southern, Town Clerk's Department

Summary

As part of the implementation of the 2021 Governance Review, it was agreed that the cycle and process of annually reviewing the Terms of Reference of all Committees/Boards should be revised, to provide more time for Committees to consider and discuss changes before they are submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee. This is to enable any proposed changes to be considered in time for the annual reappointment of Committees by the Court of Common Council.

Following approval at the West Ham Park Committee, the terms of reference of the are attached as an appendix to this report for Members' consideration.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- The terms of reference of the West Ham Park Committee, subject to any comments, be approved for submission to the Court of Common Council in April, and that any further changes required in the lead up to the Court's appointment of Committees be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman;
- Members consider whether any change is required to the frequency of the Committee's meetings.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference

Callum Southern

Governance Officer

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MAINELLI, Mayor	RESOLVED: That the Court of Common Council holden in the Guildhall of the City of London on Thursday 25 th April 2024, doth hereby appoint the following Committee until the first meeting of the Court in April, 2025
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WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE

Constitution

A Non-Ward Committee consisting of,

- eight Members elected by the Court of Common Council, at least one of whom shall have fewer than five years' service on the Court at the time of their appointment; the membership to be the same as the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee.
- plus the following:-
 - four representatives nominated by the Heirs-at-Law of the late John Gurney
 - one representative nominated by the Parish of West Ham
 - two representatives nominated by the London Borough of Newham

2. **Quorum**

The quorum consists of any five Members.

3. **Membership 2024/25**

- 4 (4) Andrew Stratton McMurtrie, JP
- 2 (2) Eamonn Mullally *for two years*
- 2 (2) Alpa Raja *for two years*
- 3 (3) Benjamin Murphy
- 1 (1) Anne Corbett, Deputy *for two years*
- 7 (2) Caroline Wilma Haines
- 14 (2) Wendy Mead, OBE
- 3 (1) James St John Davis

together with the ex-officio Members referred to in paragraph 1 above and:-

Four representatives appointed by the heirs-at-law of the late John Gurney:-

- Catherine Bickmore
- Rafe Courage
- Tim Hodgson
- Justin Meath-Baker

One representative appointed by the incumbent or priest, for the time being, in charge of the present benefice of West Ham:-

- The Rev. Simon Nicholls

Two representatives appointed by the London Borough of Newham

- Councillor Joy Laguda
- Councillor John Whitworth

4. **Terms of Reference**

To:-

- (a) have regard to the overall policy laid down by the Natural Environment Board.
- (b) be responsible for the ownership and management of West Ham Park (registered charity no. 206948) in accordance with the terms of conveyance of the Park by John Gurney, Esq. to the City of London Corporation dated 20th July 1874 and in accordance with the Licence in Mortmain dated 22nd May 1874.
- (c) authorise the institution of any criminal or civil proceedings arising out of the exercise of its functions.
- (d) express views or make recommendations to the Natural Environment Board for that Committee's allocation of grants which relate to West Ham Park.

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City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): West Ham Park Committee	Dated: 10 December 2024
Subject: Assistant Director's Report	Public report: For Information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes 	-Diverse Engaged Communities -Leading Sustainable Environment -Vibrant Thriving Destination -Providing Excellent Services -Flourishing Public Spaces
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:	Katie Stewart, Executive Director Environment
Report author:	Bill LoSasso Assistant Director (Superintendent), North London Open Spaces

Summary

This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to West Ham Park since the last Committee meeting on 17 October 2024. As Members will recall, this new report format has been developed in agreement with the Committee Chairman and reports on key accomplishments against the four strategies of the Natural Environment Division, which were released in January 2024. This is a new reporting format that is likely to evolve.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report.

Main Report

Current Position

1. This quarterly report format and content has been amended to align reporting with the objectives of the Natural Environment Strategies, and the forthcoming Business Plan currently being created for the period 2025-2030. The revised reporting process is still being developed and further refinements will occur. The revised report structure provides a more detailed breakdown of activities in Appendix 1, with summary details and key points highlighted in the following report.

Nature Conservation and Resilience

2. Officers progressed a couple of actions that furthered this Natural Environment strategy, focused on the strategic theme of enhancing biodiversity.
3. These activities include ongoing work to create the 10-year management plan, which is being presented for decision at this committee, and engaging volunteers from local group with planting a new 200-metre native-species hedgerow.
4. Further detail is outlined in Appendix 1.

Community Engagement

5. Officers progressed several actions that furthered this Natural Environment strategy, focused on strategy themes of creating meaningful and lasting partnerships, removing barriers to participation at West Ham Park, cultivating a sense of pride and attachment to the park among users, and exchanging information between the City Corporation and open space users. Most significantly reported against for this quarter, is the theme of creating thriving spaces that attract people and improve their lives.
6. The activities include winning Gold in the Large Parks (over 25 acres) category and trophy for Best in Category at London in Bloom Awards Ceremony. Events such as Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile event, Park in the Dark and the Spooky Autumn Trail event, which was a huge success attracting well over 500 visitors. Alongside these community engagement

events, Officers have been working to engage with external groups to improve the provisions and partnerships, and to reduce ASB at the park.

7. Further detail is outlined in Appendix 1.

Access and Recreation

8. Officers progressed a number of actions that furthered this Natural Environment strategy, focused on strategy themes of balancing the needs of visitors with the park's natural and heritage assets, enable the best possible visitor journey and build understanding and knowledge about the open spaces.

9. The activities include improving some of the beds in the ornamental gardens, installing new 11-a-side goal posts and improving security presence at the park which has encouraged respectful use of the facilities.

10. Further detail is outlined in Appendix 1.

Culture, Heritage and Learning

11. Officers worked towards furthering this Natural Environment strategy, focused on the strategy themes of developing nature connection and pro-environmental behaviours, providing more opportunities through education and employment, and developing greater engagement, confidence and enjoyment.

12. This was achieved through learning sessions planned with a focus on nature connection, with 3387 persons engaging with the activities offered to the local community.

13. Further detail is outlined in Appendix 1.

Income Generation

14. Income generation at West Ham Park remains aligned with past practice, relying primarily on user fees and charges for sports pitch hire, bandstand hire, and small events. The annual review of fees and charges will be brought to the next committee meeting on 6 February 2025.

Financial implications

19. No implications.

Resource implications

20. No implications.

Legal implications

21. No implications.

Risk implications

22. Risks are monitored and recorded through the various risk registers, including the Division and Departmental Risk Registers.

Equalities implications

23. No implications.

Climate implications

24. Included within the business plan for 2024-25 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.

Security implications

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

Conclusion

26. This report provides Members with an update on matters relating to West Ham Park since the last committee meeting on 17 October 2024.

Appendices: Appendix 1: Assistant Director report appendix

Author

Bill LoSasso
Assistant Director (Superintendent)
North London Open Spaces
bill.losasso@cityoflondon.gov.uk

APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BOARD STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

1 NATURE CONSERVATION & RESILIENCE										
#	Theme	#	Objective	#	Measure	October Progress Update	December Progress Update	Also contributes to:		
								CE	A&R	CH&L
1.1	Protect and enhance the biodiversity of our open spaces	1	Management plans are in place to ensure that their biodiversity and natural assets are conserved, engaged with stakeholders, and are implemented.	1	Management plans in place for all sites with annual reporting on progress	Officers are updating the management plan for West Ham Park (and all management plans across NLOS), which will be presented to this committee at the December 2024 meeting. A consultant has been retained to support that effort.	Officers have been reviewing and writing a new 10-year Management Plan for West Ham Park in liaison with appointed consultants. Meetings have been held with key stakeholders such as the Friends of West Ham Park. The management plan will be presented to Committee in December.	X	X	X
				5	Volunteer involvement in biodiversity monitoring and habitat restoration	The gardening team now has a regular volunteer who works twice a week every Tuesday and Thursday. He is an experienced volunteer who studies horticulture and volunteers at one of the Royal Parks. He is helping with tasks such as dead heading the perennials, roses, trimming the informal hedges in the rose garden and carrying out some horticultural research for future landscape projects.	A new 200-metre native species hedgerow is being planted around the playground this winter. The hedgerow is being planted by volunteers on weekends open to the public and planned planting days with local groups such as the Scouts and Park Primary School. The Friends of West Ham led another successful bat walk on 20 September 2024.	X		X

APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BOARD STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT										
#	Theme	#	Objective	#	Measure	October Progress Update	December Progress Update	Also contributes to:		
								NC&R	A&R	CH&L
2.1	Partnership: Creating meaningful and lasting partnerships	3	Cultivate and support successful partner organisations that support us in mission delivery.	3	Delivery of value-added activities in NE space: Number of partnership organisations that are delivering approved value-added activities in NE spaces	Officers continue to work with external groups and partners to engage them in caring for West Ham Park, including Friends of West Ham Park and a community-wide engagement during the 150th anniversary celebration. The gardening team now have a regular volunteer, as noted above.	Officers continue to work with external groups and partners to engage in activities and management of the park including the Friends of West Ham Park and the Lawn Tennis Association to explore and develop Padel. Meetings are being arranged with Stratford Padel Club and other Padel providers to fully explore all the options and understand the requirements further.	X	X	X
2.2	Removing barriers: Identifying and removing barriers to participation in our spaces and work	2	Create physical spaces that are as accessible as possible to as many people as possible.	2	Initial self-audit of access challenges and opportunities at each NE space, with relevant participating partners, updated annually.	The 150th anniversary celebration created a community-wide engagement opportunity to deepen connections with the park, demonstrate that West Ham Park is welcoming and accessible to the entire community, showcasing a variety of potential activities possible at the park (tennis, cricket, learning activities, etc) and engaging with the community in a variety of relevant ways.	Working with the Lawn Tennis Association to explore free park tennis in the near future.		X	X
		3	Engage in continuous self-reflection to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.	3	Initial self-audit of access challenges and opportunities at each NE space, with relevant participating partners, updated annually.		Development of the 10-year Management Plan is requiring us to reflect on where we are, and how we can continue to make West Ham Park more accessible to the community we serve.			
2.3	Ownership: Cultivating a sense of deep pride in and attachment to our spaces amongst users	2	Create opportunities for user groups and communities to provide additional resource to the Corporation to support mission delivery.	2	Fundraising programme: Donations across NE and at each space		Donation received to plant the new 200-metre hedgerow around the playground this autumn/winter.			
		2	Deliver well-managed spaces that are widely understood as destinations for improved health and wellbeing.	2	Communications: Create a communications plan that promotes the health and wellbeing improvement opportunities at City of London Corporation open spaces.	150th anniversary celebration, attainment of Green Flag award in July 2024 demonstrates the best practice management of West Ham Park, success of the free Swing Gym at the park that offers free access to weight-lifting equipment.	West Ham Park won Gold in the Large Parks (over 25 acres) category and trophy for Best in Category at London in Bloom Awards Ceremony. This is a great achievement and is a testament to the Park being well managed and all the grounds and facilities it provides to visitors.		X	

2.4	Thriving spaces: Creating spaces that attract people and improve their lives	3	Provide a diverse mix of opportunities for enrichment at our open spaces.	3	Portfolio of enrichment opportunities available at each space: Agree and track categories of enrichment opportunities available at each space, eg, active recreation, passive recreation, forest bathing, learning, etc.	Officers are exploring the potential to install Padel in the park, which would expand the overall offer.	Officers are liaising with the Lawn Tennis Association and setting up meetings with other Padel providers to explore the potential to install Padel in the park, which would expand the overall offer.			
		4	Create spaces where formative experiences occur.	4	Number of activities intended to engage people in experiences for the first time.		<p>Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile takes place in the park on 17 November. The Friends of WHP invite visitors to rake up leaves and help make a huge leaf pile, before jumping into it.</p> <p>'Park in the Dark' is on 06 December.</p> <p>A lantern walk through the park where visitors can decorate torches before a guided walk through the park. Festive tunes from the Park Primary Choir will play at the Bandstand.</p> <p>The Spooky Autumn Trail on 31 October in the ornamental gardens was attended by 563 visitors. Participants were able to explore spooky scenes and displays within WHP. The event was a huge success with 563 attendees, which was run by the Learning Team in partnership with the staff at West Ham Park. It was a great opportunity for families to explore and have fun together, with the displays encouraging playful interaction.</p>			X
2.5	Knowledge exchange: Continuous transfer of information between the Corporation and its customers	1	Ensure easy access to information about the Corporation, its open spaces, and our management practices.	1	Audit availability of digital and physical information from COL-managed information resources.	Officers are performing an audit of all NLOS webpages on the corporate website. While NLOS does not have control over the website, we are ensuring that information available is as accurate and as accessible as possible in the absence of a modern website being created by the City Corporation.	Officers continue to audit the NLOS webpages as updated in October 2024.			X
		2	Catalyse improved behaviours in our spaces where needed.	2	Create a communications plan that promotes positive and encouraged behaviours in City of London Corporation open spaces, and provides clear information on the resources the Corporation commits to its open spaces.	Officers have been communicating positive behaviours in an effort to reinforce them amidst increased ASB in the park. Officers have further developed an internal NLOS Communications Group to regularly inform our Communications Team of positive behaviours needed/to be promoted in all NLOS spaces, and problematic behaviours to message against (eg, cycling dangerously).	Officers and Parkguard have been communicating positive behaviours in an to reduce ASB in the park. Officers have further developed an internal NLOS Communications Group to regularly inform our Communications Team of positive behaviours needed/to be promoted in all NLOS spaces, and problematic behaviours to message against (eg, cycling dangerously).			

APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BOARD STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

3 ACCESS & RECREATION										
#	Theme	#	Objective	#	Measure	October Progress Update	December Progress Update	Also contributes to:		
								NC&R	CE	CH&L
3.1	Balance the needs of visitors with the requirements of protecting the natural and heritage assets of the open spaces	2	Plan for increased visitor numbers and improve durability of honeypot locations.	2	Site management plans developed by 2026, and a site-wide approach to physically managing the wear and tear on tracks and paths is articulated in annual site management plans.	Officers are updating the management plan for West Ham Park, which will be presented to this committee at the December 2024 meeting. A consultant has been retained to support that effort. Visitor numbers are tracked by a paid service that tracks mobile phone presence in the park. In addition, our communications efforts to influence behaviours furthers this objective.	Officers have been reviewing and writing a new 10-year Management Plan for West Ham Park in liaison with appointed consultants. Meetings have been held with key stakeholders such as the Friends of West Ham Park. The management plan will be presented to Committee in December. Visitor numbers are tracked by a paid service that tracks mobile phone presence in the park.	X	X	X
3.3	Provide welcoming places that visitors from all backgrounds and abilities are comfortable to explore	2	Work with partners to develop outreach to ensure wider audiences or are aware of and able to access sites.	2	Minimum of six outreach activities provided through partnership annually	Our partnerships with the Natural Environment Division Learning Team and FoWHP expands the total number and overall quality of activities and opportunities for engagement in the park	The annual; Newham's Biggest LEaf Pile event occurred in partnership with Friends of West Ham Park on 17 November, inviting the community into WEst Ham PArk to help the team care for it, have fun, and bring people together.		X	X
3.4	Build understanding and knowledge about the open spaces. Visitors will respect one another and will care for and advocate for the sites.	2	Respectful use of facilities and sites will be encouraged through engagement and instruction.	2	Codes of conduct are promoted on every site	150th anniversary celebration, communication of positive behaviours and work of on-site team further this objective. Retention of Parkguard to provide a supplemental enforcement and security presence in the park is necessary to support appropriate behaviours.	Parkguard provided cover during the October half-term week and every weekend until 3 November to patrol the park, assist with locking up duties, engage with members of the public on byelaw infringement and to control any anti-social behaviour. Visitor numbers have remained steady, so security presence helps to minimise incidents and assist staff.		X	

APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BOARD STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

4 CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND LEARNING										
#	Theme	#	Objective	#	Measure	October Progress Update	December Progress Update	Also contributes to:		
								NC&R	CE	A&R
4.1	Developing nature connection and pro-environmental behaviours	1	Deliver learning activities which incorporate the 'pathways to nature connection' and which facilitate an increase in participants' feelings of nature connection.	1	Percentage of participants' feeling connected to nature after taking part in a learning session		All session plans updated to include 'pathways to nature connection'. Evaluation data to be collated for end of year.			
		2	Develop synergies between NE Learning, CoL Environmental Resilience and CoL Climate Action, and provide opportunities for children and young people to get involved and make a positive contribution to biodiversity and environmental resilience.	2	Number of environmental resilience projects for children/young people delivered each year		Collaboration with colleagues in Environmental Resilience and Climate Action ongoing.			
		3	Collaborate with educators and researchers to develop an evidence-informed model of best practice in climate education and apply best practice to the NE learning programme.	3	Number of climate education themes integrated in NE Learning Programmes per year		Focus on nature connection as the foundation for pro-environmental attitudes.			
4.3	Providing more opportunities through education and employment	1	Engage participants from London boroughs with high levels of deprivation and child poverty.	1	Number of learning programme participants from the 15 London boroughs rated highest for child poverty.		2,786 participants from Newham (April - October 2024)			
		2	Provide bespoke learning opportunities for young people struggling with education, employment or mental health.	2	Number of participants taking part in bespoke learning programmes for young people struggling with education, employment or mental health.		38 participants (April - October 2024)			
		3	Provide bespoke learning sessions for children and young people with additional needs.	3	Number of bespoke programmes for children and young people with additional needs each year.		57 sessions (April - October 2024)			
4.4	Developing greater engagement, confidence and enjoyment	1	Engage participants in our learning, heritage and cultural activities which provide opportunities to explore, enjoy and feel safe in our spaces.	1	Number of people who participate in our programmes.		3,387			
		3	Develop strategic partnerships with organisations that help to deliver our culture, heritage and learning offer.	3	Number of annual programmes delivered in partnership with others.		Successful partnerships with Capital Cricket and Tindersticks enhanced the learning programme			

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): West Ham Park Committee	Dated: 10 December 2024
Subject: Update to Management Plan for West Ham Park	Public report: For Decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes 	-Diverse Engaged Communities -Dynamic Economic Growth -Leading Sustainable Environment -Vibrant Thriving Destination -Providing Excellent Services -Flourishing Public Spaces
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:	Katie Stewart, Executive Director Environment
Report author:	Bill LoSasso, Assistant Director (Superintendent), North London Open Spaces

Summary

This report summarises the work done to update the management plan for West Ham Park, which is attached in near-final form as appendices, and seeks Committee approval to finalise the document and prepare for layout and publication.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report and attached draft West Ham Park Management Plan.
- Authorise the Superintendent, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to finalise the update to the management plan for West Ham Park.

Main Report

Background

1. As previously reported to this Committee, officers are updating all four management plans for the four open spaces that NLOS is responsible for (Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, Queen's Park, and West Ham Park). Officers have retained a consultant with extensive experience in developing management plans and strategies for open spaces to support in that effort (Land Management Services).
2. As part of that effort, officers are completing updates to the management plan for West Ham Park. In addition to the plan being due for review, this exercise was needed to ensure that the management plan remained aligned (as appropriate) with recent strategies that have been developed across the City Corporation in recent years, including the new Corporate Plan (2024-2029), new Natural Environment Strategies (2024-2029), and Climate Action Strategy (2020-2027), as well as reflecting world events, newly developed best practice, and experience gained in managing West Ham Park under the existing management plans.
3. While these new strategies and plans provide broad direction to NLOS in managing its sites and indeed will be furthered and delivered by our work at NLOS, the West Ham Park Management Plan will remain the primary plan for the management of West Ham Park.

Consultation

4. Officers hosted a consultation session for this committee with Land Management Services, and contributions were taken into account in drafting the plan. The Friends of West Ham Park attended a separate participatory engagement session during the development of the plan with officers and Land Management Services and then provided additional written comments for consideration. Their contributions were taken into account in drafting the plan.

Finalisation of the Management Plans

5. Appendix 1 provides the current draft of the West Ham Park Management Plan.
6. This draft is in near-final form, subject to final comments of officers and this Committee and formal layout of the document for publication in alignment with relevant standards. Land Management Services will provide a presentation and overview of the plan for Members at the meeting on 10 December 2024.
7. Members are asked to note the work done to date, review the near-final draft, provide any final comments, and authorise the Superintendent in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair to finalise the West Ham Park Management Plan and prepare it for publication.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Financial implications

8. None from these plans. Future projects and initiatives in furtherance of the plans will have to be delivered in alignment with funding constraints.

Resource implications

9. Delivery of the management plans will have to be delivered in alignment with funding constraints.

Legal implications

10. West Ham Park is a registered charity (Charity Number 206948), of which the City of London Corporation is the trustee. The City Corporation, as trustee, is responsible for ensuring that the charity fulfils its charitable purpose, which in summary is: 'the maintenance of West Ham Park as open public grounds and gardens for the resort and recreation of adults and as playgrounds for youth and children'. Upon approval and implementation, the management plan will assist the trustee in discharging this duty in accordance with the charity's objectives.

Charity implications

11. As noted above, West Ham Park is a registered charity. Charity Law obliges Members to ensure that the decisions they take in relation to a charity are taken in the best interests of that charity.

Risk implications

12. Risks are identified, regularly reviewed, and managed through the West Ham Park Risk Registers.

Equalities implications

13. Inclusion is specifically incorporated into the management plan, with actions for officers to ensure and increase access and participation at West Ham Park.

Climate implications

14. The management plans were developed in consideration of the City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy.

Security implications

15. Risks are identified, regularly reviewed, and managed through the West Ham Park Risk Register.

Conclusion

16. The West Ham Park Management Plan has been updated, in consultation as noted herein. The plan is now in near-final form, and authority is sought for the Superintendent, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to finalise and publish the document.

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Draft West Ham Park Management Plan (2025 - 2035)
- Appendix 2 (via hyperlink): City of London Corporation Corporate Plan (2024-2029)
 - [Our Corporate Plan 2024-29 - City of London](#)
- Appendix 3 (via hyperlink): Natural Environment strategies (2024-2029)
 - [Natural Environment - City of London](#)

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West Ham Park

Registered Charity

City of London Corporation

West Ham Park Management Plan (2025-2035)

DRAFT

City of London Corporation North London Open Spaces

West Ham Park Management Plan (2025-2035)

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1.0 Foreword - Draft

TO COME

Caroline Haines

Chair of West Ham Park Committee

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2.0 Introduction and Purpose of the Plan

West Ham Park is a 31-hectare (77-acre) public park situated in the London Borough of Newham in East London. As such, it is Newham's largest park. It was conveyed to the City of London Corporation ("City Corporation") in 1874 from the Gurney family on condition that the City Corporation maintains the majority of the site forever 'as open public grounds and gardens for the resort and recreation of adults and as playgrounds for children and youth'. West Ham Park is a registered charity (No. 206948), and the City Corporation is its sole trustee. The primary governing document for the West Ham Park charity, which sets out its objects, is the original conveyance dated 20 July 1874 (as amended by Charity Commission schemes and trustee's resolution).

Today, West Ham Park is a Victorian style urban park which attracts over 1 million visits a year and offers a valuable green space with a wide range of features and facilities. The Park is located in the London Borough of Newham where access to both private and public open space is at a premium. The Park plays a vital role to the local community, providing a safe and accessible open space, acting in effect as a back garden for many local residents, and also as a focus for community celebrations and events such as Eid and the annual Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile event.

The key purposes of the Plan are to:

- Inform stakeholders, users and visitors about the Park and the aims and objectives of management to achieve the Park vision and to safeguard its assets, contribute to wider City Corporation strategies and policies and maintain the Park's annual, well deserved Green Flag award;
- Guide management and maintenance by: describing the Park's assets, features and facilities and their significance, the aims and objectives for their management; and by setting out the management structures and resources for Park maintenance;
- Support applications to Green Flag and Green Flag Heritage and other initiatives, such as grant funding applications for facilities provision, improvement or heritage conservation.

Structure of the Management Plan

The Plan is set out under six main headings:

Management Context – a summary of the existing plans and wider strategies which will inform this Plan

Description of West Ham Park and its assets, facilities, attributes, heritage significance and contribution to amenity, recreation, biodiversity, heritage and community benefits; visit numbers and customer survey feedback

Green Flag and Green Flag Heritage awards and feedback

Community Engagement feedback

Vision for the Park, including aims, objectives and outcomes

Management Structure: sets out the role of the City Corporation and West Ham Park Charity in management of the site, the committees and consultation groups that help guide management, and the volunteer groups that make West Ham Park a success.

Management Objectives and Outputs set out by Green Flag criteria

Monitoring and Review- describes how progress will be assessed and recorded and key milestones at which this progress will be reviewed.

3.0 Management Context

The first part of the management framework for the Park is the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), which is the overarching policy document that seeks to guide the enhancement and development of new projects whilst ensuring conservation of the Park as a resource to be enjoyed by present and future generations. The CMP is now 14 years old, but the description of the significance of the Park and many of the overarching policies and actions remain relevant. A number of the actions identified in the CMP have now been wholly or partially implemented. This Management Plan re-visits these actions (see Section 5) and incorporates a number of those remaining actions in the delivery of the vision in Section 10.

The Management Plan identifies priority projects for development over a 10-year period and ensures their delivery in line with the objectives of the Park Vision. The Plan is supported by a detailed Annual Works Programme, which sets out specific projects for delivery within the Plan lifetime and annual cyclical works for the ongoing maintenance of the Park, including regular, year-round and seasonal tasks and allocation of management responsibility.

This ten-year Plan is set within and aligns with the wider City Corporation corporate structure and overall aims and objectives. Key among these are the new Corporate Plan (2024-2029), the Natural Environment Strategies (2024-2029), and the Climate Action Strategy (2020-2027), which set out the City Corporation's strategic approach to our managed open spaces, assets, and activities.

The 'golden thread' directly links the outcomes in this Plan to the City of London Corporate Plan (2024-2029) and the City Corporation Environment Department Business Plan.

The previous five-year Management Plan ran from 2020-2025. This Plan looks forward over the period to 2035, drawing on the vision and objectives, themes and policies set out in the 2020-2025 Management Plan and wider City Corporation strategies, considering progress made in projects identified in previous Plans and identifying and prioritising the outcomes for the next ten years. The ten-year period provides a longer-term framework appropriate to the achievement of wider strategic City Corporation aims, and to the delivery of Park-based projects over a longer time scale, for instance those related to climate resilience and carbon sequestration. The Plan will be subject to a five-year review to monitor progress in the delivery of the Park vision.

The extent to which the outcomes and objectives in this Plan can be realised is dependent on the prioritisation of resources and allocation of funding, and will also be responsive to the changing environmental, social and economic climate. The ambitions set out in this Plan will ensure we are well placed to face the challenges over the next ten years.

The Covid pandemic has changed our perception and understanding of the value of parks and open spaces to the health and well-being of local people. This is of particular importance in Newham, where access to private and public space is at such a premium. Fortunately more and more people are now regularly enjoying the benefits of parks and open spaces, which does bring with it added pressure to conserve and enhance the natural fabric of assets such as West Ham Park.

The West Ham Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP) prepared in 2011 offers a comprehensive analysis of the Park's history and significance. The CMP continues to inform management of the Park, including current and future project proposals and funding applications, repair and conservation works, long term management and maintenance strategies and applications for Green Flag and Green Heritage status. This Management Plan has been prepared within the context of the CMP to ensure that future management and maintenance continues to conserve and interpret the Park's heritage significance and historic fabric.

The West Ham Park Management Team, the Natural Environment Division Learning Team, and the Superintendent of North London Open Spaces have been actively involved in the preparation of this Management Plan.

The Plan also draws on feedback from the Green Flag assessment process, which highlights areas in which the Park is delivering well, as well as aspects requiring improvement, and on public feedback from the West Ham Park Old Nursery Site Engagement Report (make:good, 2024). Key points from this report are included later in the Plan.

Preparation of the Plan has also been informed by consultation with key stakeholders, including NLOS staff and Park Management and Learning Teams and the Friends of West Ham Park.

4.0 Policy Context

West Ham Park is held by the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London (also referred to as 'the City of London Corporation') in its capacity as trustee of the West Ham Park Charity (registration number 206948).

This Management Plan is set within the context of the governing documents of the West Ham Park Charity, as well as City Corporation policy and strategies which provide the framework for the delivery of the City Corporation's overarching aims and priorities. These policies and strategies are informed by the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan, which sets out the vision and strategic outcomes relevant to all of its work. Within this context, the City Corporation has developed targeted strategies to address key issues of climate change and management of the natural environment to enhance future resilience of its open spaces and the wide-ranging benefits they deliver for nature conservation and the community.

Wider London strategies provide additional context for the Site's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) status and nature conservation significance. The Greater London Authority (GLA) is currently preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which will set out priorities for nature recovery across London as part of a linked biodiversity network.

City of London Corporate Plan (2024-2029)

The Corporate Plan is a tool to guide thinking, planning, decision-making and evaluation across the City Corporation and sets out the strategic outcomes to be delivered across the organisation over the period covered by the Plan. The Corporate Plan is a framework containing six strategic outcomes (see overleaf), which are embedded at all levels of work and form the 'golden thread' across the organisation.



The inclusion of a specific outcome relating to Flourishing Public Spaces emphasises the importance attached to these areas to delivery of the wider strategic aims of the City Corporation.

This Management Plan will guide the management of West Ham Park to safeguard and enhance its role in the delivery of these outcomes, with particular reference to its contribution to community, environmental sustainability, and the provision of flourishing public spaces.

Natural Environment Strategies (2024-2029)

The four Natural Environment Strategies align with the Corporate Plan and set out the City Corporation's strategic approach to managed open spaces, assets and activities. The Strategies cover four key areas which will inform the future management of all North London Open Spaces and other sites within the City Corporation's portfolio: Nature Conservation and Resilience; Access and Recreation; Culture, Heritage and Learning; and Community Engagement.

The Strategies describe our objectives for the natural environment and the measures by which we will assess our performance against these objectives. They will also inform our business plans and management plans and set out how our activities will align

with corporate priorities and policies. This Plan has been prepared within this wider context to ensure that West Ham Park remains a key contributor to the delivery of the four Strategies.



City of London Climate Action Strategy (2020-2027)

This Strategy sets out the City Corporation's climate action commitments within the Square Mile and across all the City Corporation's wider assets, including open spaces.

The City Corporation will make major investments to achieve the following:

- Net zero by 2027 in the City Corporation's operations
- Net zero by 2040 across the City Corporation's full value chain
- Net zero by 2040 in the Square Mile
- Climate resilience in our buildings, public spaces and infrastructure

Among the key areas for investment, the Strategy highlights:

- Enhancing carbon removal in our open spaces
- Protecting our shared natural resources
- Integrating climate considerations into all our decisions

The City Corporation's parks and open spaces are central to the delivery of Net Zero by 2027. They are estimated to currently remove 16,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year. This is equivalent to 40% of the City Corporation's scope 1 and 2 emissions.

This Management Plan aligns with the aims of the Climate Action Strategy. The management aims and priorities for West Ham Park align with and will support the climate action commitments which are of particular relevance to the management of open spaces.

Natural Capital

In January 2024, the Park was part of a wider baseline natural capital assessment of the City Corporation's open spaces¹ to map natural capital assets (including

¹ Baseline natural capital assessment of the City of London Corporation's open spaces (Natural Capital Solutions Ltd, January 2024)

biodiversity and carbon sequestration), to estimate their net natural capital value and to make recommendations for enhancing ecosystem service provision and biodiversity.

The findings highlight the value of the North London Open Spaces and the wider portfolio of City Corporation sites, including West Ham Park:

The main habitat types in West Ham Park are parkland, modified grassland and built up areas. Other significant habitat types across this site are broadleaved woodland and garden areas. The remaining areas of this site are scrub and semi-natural grassland.

Carbon sequestration and water flow regulation capacity of the site is moderate, with pockets of high sequestration where the broadleaved woodland is located. Although a good deal of the site has some tree cover, the open nature of the parkland means that the provision of air pollution, noise and local climate regulation is quite low. Timber production is moderate where woodland occurs and food production capacity is low. Pollinator visitation for both spring and summer is moderate for this site.

There are built up areas all around the site, and demand for air purification and noise regulation is high where the A114 passes the site. Demand for accessible nature is high, especially to the east of the site.

The net natural capital asset value of West Ham Park is estimated to be £263.9 million over 50 years. The site delivers a benefit to cost ratio of 117, which means that every £1 spent on maintenance delivers £11.70 in benefits.

Recommendations for enhancement include:

The planned expansion and improvement of semi-natural grassland (wildflower meadows) and woodland areas (woodland, hedgerow and fruit trees) is designed to enhance biodiversity. However, it will also enhance the capacity of the site to store and sequester more carbon, regulate air pollution noise and climate, and will increase food production capacity, timber and woodfuel production, water flow and quality regulation and pollinator visitation rates. This will provide important public benefits, going some way to meeting the demand from the settlements around the site. The creation of a forest school will improve the recreation and health value of the site. As the grassland and woodland areas are improved and expanded, it would be good to place woodland at the edges of the site nearest to the residential areas and roads as this will provide air pollution regulation and noise regulation benefits where they are needed most, this may also enhance the amenity value of the site. Wildflower meadows created where the modified (amenity) grassland is currently located would increase the service provision further.

The management recommendations set out in this Plan embrace West Ham Park's critical function in contributing the key benefits delivered by these open spaces including biodiversity, carbon sequestration and health and well-being benefits. The

Park Management Team is currently identifying opportunities to contribute to the City Corporation Climate Adaption Action Plan.

5.0 About West Ham Park

West Ham Park is a 31-hectare (77-acre) public park situated in the London Borough of Newham in East London. It was conveyed to the City of London in 1874 from the Gurney family on condition that the City Corporation maintain the majority of the site forever 'as open public grounds and gardens for the resort and recreation of adults and as playgrounds for children and youth'. Today, it is a Victorian style urban park that contains a wide range of facilities and provides a safe and attractive environment attracting over 1 million visits a year.

The Park was laid out in 1874 to a Victorian style that remains to this day. A design plan of 1873 was never implemented, and the development of the paths and other infrastructure has happened in response to user needs. The magic of the Park lies in the beauty and tranquillity of its gardens and trees, its rich flora and fauna, the opportunities to engage in a wide range of sports, learning, play and quiet recreation and its proximity and accessibility to millions of people with limited access to private gardens and other open space.

The CMP identifies five principal character areas: the (ornamental) gardens; the Park core and playground; the wider parkland and sports pitches; the site of the former nursery in the northeastern corner of the Park (currently not publicly accessible) and an area known as the cedars, now the location for the Territorial Army Centre. These Character Areas continue to inform how the Park is managed.

The Park continues to offer a wide range of facilities and experiences for visitors from the extensive open parklands for sports and recreation to the ornamental gardens which include the rock garden, iris garden, annual bedding displays, rose garden, herbaceous border, heather bed, acer bed, rhododendron beds, a bog garden, variety of specimen trees and a collection of New Zealand plants. The National Plant Collections of *Trachelospermum* and *Liquidambar* are also contained within the Park. Since 2020, we have created the Wildlife Extension Garden and extended the areas of meadow grassland throughout the Park. The refurbished playground was reopened in 2024. Sports facilities include tennis courts, pitches, including a formal football pitch, informal all-weather surface pitches, cricket square, and an outdoor gym. The bandstand is used for events and can also be rented for private use in alignment with applicable events policies. The Park also includes an area dedicated to community allotments. There are toilet facilities near the Park Office and next to the playground.

The Park has no café but there are aspirations for it to again be served by a mobile refreshment service. The lack of a café or community hub within the Park remains an

aspect which is under review. The CMP proposed that the Park Office could be adapted to provide such a facility, but this building is now fully occupied.

The governing documents for the West Ham Park charity provide for the majority of the land that was conveyed to the City Corporation in 1874 to be maintained as open public grounds and gardens. They also permit the development of a relatively small area to help fund the management and maintenance of the open public grounds and gardens, or enhance the enjoyment of the Park. These areas include the former nursery site in the northeast of the Park, which previously provided bedding, cut flowers and other plants to the City Corporation and other organisations such as the Royal Parks for parks and formal events, but closed in 2016. This area currently provides a storage area for the grounds team, but there is no public access. Following relevant decisions taken by the West Ham Park Committee, the City Corporation, has been engaging with the public on the potential future uses of the former nursery site. The background to the project and outcomes of this public engagement are set out in the West Ham Park Old Nursery Site Engagement Report (make:good, 2024). The future uses of this area remain under consideration.

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Natural Environment

West Ham Park includes important habitats. The majority of the Park comprises amenity grassland, managed as a short award. These areas include the sports pitches as well as large open areas for general recreation. More recently, selected areas have been allowed to develop as meadow through a more relaxed mowing regime, and there is scope to increase these areas in suitable locations. As well as enhancing biodiversity, this has the potential to relieve surface compaction, for instance beneath tree cover, by reducing overall footfall in these areas. Public access and enjoyment is, however, retained through use of mown paths, where appropriate, with the benefit that routes can be altered periodically to minimise compaction.

The Park includes around 1500 trees. Species distribution and tree age was mapped as part of the CMP, and this continues to provide important information in the planning of replacement planting and understanding the potential effects of tree disease. Parkland trees of varying ages and species are a notable feature and are fundamental to the overall character of the Park. The *Liquidambar* collection is a focal point within the ornamental gardens. Mature London planes form avenues along the path network, however, there are notable gaps where individual specimens have been lost. Around the Park there is a diverse range of species which provide ornamental interest as well as contributing to wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Some of these, including a notable *Ginkgo biloba*, survive from the period prior to the demolition of Ham House in the 1870s. Trees in the Park are currently affected by a range of pests and diseases, including *Massaria* (London planes), ash dieback and oak processionary moth. Tree replacement planting and additional planting is carried out and will be developed into a succession plan for tree planting, to take account of the vulnerability of existing trees to disease and the impacts of climate change. There is scope to adapt species selection to create a more climate resilient tree stock. However, this must be considered alongside the heritage significance of the species forming the existing mature tree stock in the historical development of the Park.

The ornamental gardens offer a mosaic of well-maintained flowerbeds, ornamental shrubs and amenity grassland with frequent scattered trees. While celebrating the historical selection of species in the gardens and their ornamental value, species selection for succession planting remains under ongoing review as part of the wider aim to increase climate resilience of the planting and enhance biodiversity.

The Park also includes areas of shrubbery, particularly within the ornamental gardens and around the south eastern boundary where they offer a valuable physical and visual buffer with the surrounding built up area. Occasional areas of scrub, usually in mounded areas around copses and tree groups, have been allowed to develop through a more limited mowing regime and offer further habitat diversity.

The Park includes almost a mile of hedgerow, generally located at the boundaries and comprising privet, hawthorn, beech or holly, as well as a species-rich hedge

around the Territorial Army centre. There are plans to plant further hedging around the recently refurbished playground.

Three areas of the Park currently function as wildlife gardens, managed appropriately to encourage biodiversity, and are in high demand by schools for learning activities either self-guided or run by the Park Learning Team. Two of these, the Wildlife Extension Garden in the east of the Park and the Wildlife Garden by the Linden Gate in the north west of the Park, are dedicated, enclosed teaching areas. Schools also make use of the south meadow in the southern parts of the Park.

The Wildlife Extension Garden is the most frequently used by the Learning Team to deliver curriculum-linked sessions for local schools, including for children with additional needs, and learning events for the wider community. The Wildlife Extension Garden can also be hired for private parties. The garden includes a pond, teaching areas, and areas of meadow and native planting.

The Wildlife Garden in the north-western corner of the Park has a more wooded character and is used primarily by Park Primary School which is located adjacent to the Park on Ham Park Road. There is scope to widen opportunities for use of these areas by the Friends or other groups seeking a community space for hire.

A small ornamental pond is contained within a hollow at the south eastern corner of the Park, but there is no public access.

Park Designations

The Park carries heritage and nature conservation designations, including:

- Grade II listed Park
- The Park is a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation, a non-statutory, local designation. The Friends is working with the London Wildlife Trust to achieve Borough SINC status for the Park.

Heritage

The Park is Grade II listed². The Park's modern history can be traced back to the 18th century. It has been associated with a number of notable figures, including Dr John Fothergill, a noted physician and botanist who occupied the former Ham House within the area occupied by today's Park. 'The Cairn' marks the location of the house. Fothergill had a particular interest in medicinal plants and created a botanical garden at Ham House described in the CMP as *second only to Kew in the range of plants and its repute*, enhanced by specimens sent by plant hunters of the time from around the globe. The existing rock garden, constructed in 1992 together with the rose

²WEST HAM PARK, Non Civil Parish - 1001685 | Historic England

garden, is located on the site of Fothergill's 18th century rock garden. During the 19th century, the Park was owned by the Gurney family, known Quakers and philanthropists, including the prison reformer Elizabeth Fry. The Park was transferred into the ownership of the Corporation of London in 1874. Since then the Gurney family has maintained a connection with the Park through representation on its management committee. A full history of the Park and development chronology is set out in the CMP.

The Park offers interpretation of heritage and history through a walking trail based around QR codes which offer context to important trees and features in the Park. The ornamental gardens feature an attractive series of interpretation panels explaining the history of the gardens, focussing on selected plant species, especially Fothergill's introduction of South African plants, and featuring botanical drawings.

Recreation and Facilities

West Ham Park offers a safe and welcoming place for formal and informal active and quiet recreation, with a range of community and sports facilities for all ages, including families, schools, dog walkers, commuters and office workers and sports enthusiasts. The Park is widely used by school groups for sport and for learning activities, particularly in the designated wildlife garden areas, and by the community for informal events or private parties, for which the bandstand is a popular venue.

As such, the Park continues to fulfil its original function to provide 'open public grounds and gardens for the resort and recreation of adults and as playgrounds for children and youth'.

The Park's key features and facilities include:

Parkland and paths

The open grassland areas provide opportunities for general recreation, including walking and exercising, sitting, picnics and informal games. Defined areas are left to grow long to create seasonal areas of meadow or as scrub to enhance visual amenity and biodiversity. Parkland trees and shrubs provide shade and shelter, create visual and seasonal diversity, define spaces within the Park and offer roosting, foraging and shelter for wildlife.

Play facilities

The play area was refurbished in 2024 and provides a range of equipment for children under 12, including seasonal water play. This part of the Park provides a focal point and functions as a busy hub where children and parents can gather in a secure environment to relax and socialise.

Bandstand

The bandstand is located close to the Park Office and is a focal point for many community events to offer free entertainment, including events run by the Friends. Examples include music and concerts and "Park in the Dark". The bandstand can also be hired for private parties.

Sports and active recreation

The Park includes 12 tennis courts, a marked football pitch, cricket square and seasonal running track, rounders pitch and changing rooms. A second football pitch is due for renovation in 2025. An area of hardstanding (former all weather pitch) in the south of the Park is used informally for football. In addition, to the cricket square there is a nets area and general space for cricket, very heavily used. Bookings are managed by the Support Services Officer. The running track is regularly booked by local schools for sports days.

The Park management team is considering options to expand the sports offer through creation of an additional cricket pitch and using an existing area of hard standing in the north of the park to create a skateboarding facility. The introduction of Padel at the Park is also being considered.

An outdoor gym features a range of equipment. This is a popular facility and offers a degree of privacy afforded by a surrounding hedge while allowing natural surveillance from nearby paths. The Park has also hosted Park Run.

Toilets

Toilets are located near the Park Office building and additionally adjacent to the play area.

The Park has no car parking facilities. The provision of cycle parking is under review.

Community Garden and Beehives

There is a small, fenced community growing area which is managed by the Friends and is located just to the south of the play area. There are beehives located in the Leafyard.

Community Engagement, Health and Well-being

The Park offers multiple benefits for physical and mental health and well-being through outdoor recreation, formal and informal sports and exercise for all ages, opportunities to meet friends and family and build community cohesion. The Park invites engagement with nature and heritage, education and learning, and caring for the Park through volunteering and engagement with Park management.

Newham is one of the four least active boroughs in London, where obesity remains high and is significant at 61.2% (2020-2021) against a London average of 56%. 30.6%

of adults in Newham are classed as physically inactive, compared to a London average of 24.3% (2020-21). Newham has high rates of child poverty with an estimated 50% of children living in child poverty and 32% of children living in food insecurity³. Access to quality public green space is a priority for these areas if we are to reduce inequality of access to physical activity, and help improve people's mental health and wellbeing. West Ham Park is a vital asset to the borough as recognised in its Local Plan.

The Friends has a primary focus on working to enhance the established achievements of the Park team in encouraging community engagement. The Friends aim to reach as many sectors of the local community as possible and is active in organising guided walks, talks and events in the Park. These are generally free, but may include a request to bring a small item for contribution to local food banks. Recent events have included bat watching, butterfly watching /butterfly count, annual bird count and a Halloween 'Park in the Dark', which attracted over 560 people. Although less directly involved in practical management tasks in the Park, the Friends do play an active role in management of the community growing area and regular tasks around the Park, including weeding, hedge planting and litter picking. The Friends has capacity to offer weekend events in the Wildlife Extension Garden when the space is not in use for schools.

Learning

The Park Learning Team is based in the Park and has an extensive programme designed to offer curriculum-based learning within the Park and to engage and inspire the wider community in nature conservation. The Learning Team seeks to encourage positive attitudes which value and respect the Park's features and qualities, and behaviours which are mindful of the environment and seek to protect and enhance the Park's contribution to the local community, biodiversity and the City Corporation's wider strategies.

The Learning Team comprises a Learning Manager, a Learning Officer focussing primarily on curriculum-based learning for schools, and a second Learning Officer for Nature and Learning. A further role focussing on a programme for young carers and young refugees is delivered by a Learning Officer for Youth across West Ham Park, Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest. The Park's learning offer is in high demand, and the team delivers an ambitious, extensive and diverse programme which has grown significantly since 2020 and is proactive in reaching out to local schools and the wider community and in seeking grant funding to support its work. The team also works with wider organisations, for example Alternative Trust, which offers sessions in the Park to support young women and mothers, and Tindersticks, which runs a monthly pre-Forest

³ All statistics www.Newham.gov.uk

School one-hour session for children under five from low-income families. Schools are not charged for learning sessions.

The Team is supported by Learning Volunteers, often recent graduates, in delivering sessions. Additionally, volunteer support comes from the City Corporation's scheme which provides for all its employees to engage in two days' volunteering a year. Occasional support also comes from corporate volunteer days as part of larger firms' programme of community support.

Events run by the Learning Team include a range of nature based and outdoor experiences, including orienteering, community campfire, mini beast hunts, and sensory garden experiences. Curriculum linked sessions include a Maths Trail and also draw on the Park's history and features to create events themed around the Stone Age and the WWII London blitz. The Learning Team website also offers a Plant Explorers booklet for schools, home education and community groups such as the Scouts.

There is scope to expand the learning offer to meet growing demand.

Climate Change Mitigation

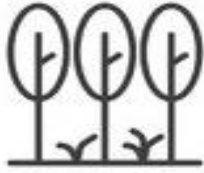
The Park has an important role within the context of mitigating the impacts of climate change and enhancing resilience.

Trees and woodland canopy create a microclimate which helps to offset urban temperatures and reduce the urban heat island effect. These also provide shade for Park users and sequester carbon sequester which contributes to City Corporation's climate action targets. Vegetation also absorbs pollutants which helps to improve air quality for visitors and the wider local area.

The permeable surfaces of parkland and woodland absorb surface water and helps alleviate issues of run-off and flooding. The Park's habitats, including trees, woodland and shrubs, grassland and wildflower areas, also form part of the wider ecological network and contribute to habitat linkages in the surrounding area for the benefit of local wildlife including birds, mammals and invertebrates.

The City Corporation is currently assessing how all of its parks and open spaces can contribute to a Climate Adaption Action Plan.

West Ham Park



1500 trees and
400 metres of
hedgerow



Re-furbished
Playground



Ornamental and
wildlife ponds



Interpretation
telling the
story of the
Park



Over 2 hectares
of meadow
in2024



over
10,000m²
shrub borders



17 sports pitches



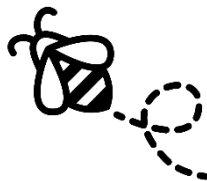
2 wildlife learning
gardens



Community Food
growing area



Recycling
yard

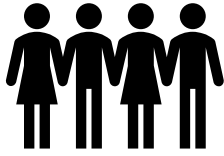


Beehives

31 hectares

Biggest park in
Newham

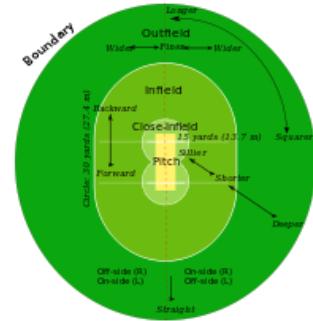
Each year at West Ham Park there are:



Over
1 million
Visits



Over
300,000
Visits to the
playground



Extensive Opportunities
to engage in
organised sport



39 learning sessions
targeting children
with special needs



158 learning activities led by
the Learning Team



Our learning team
works with
21
Newham schools

Visitor Numbers and Surveys

Recent surveys indicate that West Ham Park attracts over 1 million visits a year.

The 2011 CMP, although now some years old, summarised the findings of consultations carried out in 2010. Responses showed that the top three qualities of the Park were a *place to walk*, a *place to exercise*, and a *peaceful place*. A *place to play*, a *place to unwind* and *feeling closer to nature* were the next three most popular responses.

The key qualities or facilities liked by individual groups were:

- The Friends said the park is peaceful, a place to walk, observing wildlife, feeling closer to nature, general sports facilities, and the ornamental gardens.
- Schools like the park as a place to play, as a place to play team sports and because it is peaceful.

- *Members of the public like the park as a place to walk and exercise and because it is peaceful.*
- *The staff like the ornamental gardens and the park as it provides a place to walk.*

Aspects identified for improvement included:

- *Toilet facilities*
- *Drinking fountain*
- *Refreshment facilities/café.*

In 2024, the City Corporation commissioned a public engagement exercise⁴ primarily to assess public opinion on the potential future uses of part of the former nursery site. The outcomes of that engagement offer some insight into the views and priorities of Park visitors. In summary, the report found that the top items people wanted to see for the 50% of the nursery site approved by West Ham Park Committee for community and operational uses were:

- Café and community facilities
- New green and open spaces
- Community growing space
- Sheltered seating

Proposals for the former nursery site remain under consideration following the public engagement exercise.

7.0 Achievement of Green Flag and Green Heritage Awards

Green Flag

West Ham Park has successfully retained Green Flag status for many years. Green Flag is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces.

The 2024 judging process identified many strengths from the desk assessment across all Green Flag criteria. Among its recommendations were, in summary:

- Additional information in the Management Plan with reference to health and safety management, environmental practices, a map of heritage trees, and the role of FWHP and volunteers
- Consideration of Park entrances, ie a more welcoming tone through paint work to the gates and floral displays
- Removal of self-set tree saplings and attention to issues affecting London Planes

⁴ West Ham Park Old Nursery Site: Engagement report (make:good, 2024)

- Repairs to Park benches and a more consistent design
- Surveys to establish biodiversity levels and progress in enhancements
- Consideration of repairs to the cairn fountain
- Community involvement: consider closer links with the Territorial Army Centre and wider Newham parks
- Social media presence
- An updated suite of Plans for the Park.

The inspection summary concluded:

This is a very good Park, providing a range of services to the local population, particularly children. The ornamental gardens are impressive and contain the National Collection of Liquidambar tree cultivars.

Green Heritage

The Park was not awarded Green Heritage status in 2024. In the 2024 assessment, the Park was complimented on the quality of the CMP and its recommendations, on the high quality of the ornamental gardens and interpretation of heritage features in the Park. The assessment commented, however, that the 2020-2025 management Plan gave no indication as to whether the CMP recommendations had been addressed or considered, which is understood to be the key reason for the judges' decision not to award Green Heritage. The assessment made further recommendations for enhancing interpretation of heritage features, for species selection in the ornamental gardens to reflect the original planting, and a tree trail to illustrate the significance of historic trees.

A number of the 2024 Green Flag recommendations are already being addressed by the Park team as part of ongoing management or as projects for specific attention which will require dedicated time and resources. This Management Plan has been informed by a review of the CMP and its recommendations to conserve, enhance and manage the historic fabric of the Park. It sets out the priorities and proposed timescales for delivery of these and wider enhancements to ensure not only that Green Heritage status is achieved, but that the Park's assets, features and qualities are conserved and enhanced to maintain its invaluable long term contribution to the community. These priorities will be reviewed as part of the Plan's interim review to assess achievements and progress towards the fulfilment of the ten-year Vision and aims.

8.0 How West Ham Park is Managed

West Ham Park is one of the four spaces managed by North London Open Spaces, a sub-division of the City Corporation's Natural Environment Division. In addition to West

Ham Park, these include Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park. North London Open Spaces is led by the Assistant Director (Superintendent), who is responsible for the operation. NLOS comprises the equivalent of c. 125 full-time directly employed staff.

North London Open Spaces: Top Tier 26 July 2024



As set out above, West Ham Park is a registered charity (No. 206948) and relies on funding from the City Corporation, along with revenue generated from services, grants and donations.

In line with the governing documents for West Ham Park Charity, the management of the Park is primarily overseen by a committee, known as the West Ham Park Committee, consisting of fifteen members. Eight members of the Committee are appointed by the City Corporation, , four members are appointed by the Heir at Law to the late John Gurney Esq., one Member is appointed by the priest in charge of the benefice of West Ham and two members are appointed by the Cuouncil of the London Borough of Newham.

The team looking after West Ham Park comprises seven Rangers and Operative Rangers, plus a Head Gardener and a team of two Gardeners. They are managed by the Senior Ranger, who is in turn managed by the Formal Parks Manager. The Senior Ranger currently has the support of one Support Services Officer and One Support Services Assistant. The Park currently employs a total full time equivalent of 14 staff, supported by the City Corporation's Learning Team which provides a range of activities for school children which get them exploring the Park, establishing connections with the natural world and addressing school curriculum requirements.

West Ham Park Staffing Structure

- Head of Parks and Operations - responsible for Queen's Park, Golders Hill Park, Parliament Hill, West Ham Park, swimming facilities, fleet, and Health and Safety operations.
- Formal Parks Manager - Responsible for Queen's Park, Golders Hill Park, and West Ham Park.
- Senior Ranger - Responsible for West Ham Park's day-to-day management.
- Head Gardener and Ranger - Based at West Ham Park, both roles responsible for leading teams on the ground.
- The rest of the dedicated West Ham Park team consists of 2 x Gardeners and 6 x Operative Rangers.
- Casual staff as and when required.
- Administrative support officers.

West Ham Park is also supported by several staff who operate across other North London Open Spaces, including:

- Arboricultural Team
- Conservation Team
- Ecologist
- Fleet and Health & Safety Officer
- Mechanic
- Events Manager
- Communications Team
- Learning Team
- City Surveyor's Department

Apprenticeship

The Park supports a horticulture apprenticeship programme that will provide apprentices with a good technical knowledge base of the sector, combined with practical work experience, proven competency in the workplace and the development of transferable skills. The Park supports level 2 and level 3 apprentices.

The staffing structure for West Ham Park is outlined below.

encourage engagement and involvement in the Park. Activities and events are advertised in Notice Boards in the Park and on the Friends website⁵.

West Ham Park Charity

West Ham Park is a registered charity (reg. 206948). The average annual expenditure budget for the Park is c. £1.5M. The Park receives this funding from the City of London Corporation and from the Park's charitable activities. Baseline annual income to the Park comes mainly from three sources: leasehold income; refreshment licences; and sports facilities. Funding for capital improvements comes from the City Corporation and occasional grant funding.

The Park has also received grant funding from organisations including Tesco Bags of Help; Greater London Authority; Groundwork; sports bodies such as the Lawn Tennis Association and England Cricket Board; and the City Bridge Trust. Throughout the life of this Plan, we will seek to maximise opportunities to deliver projects through external national and local funding. GiftAid for the charity was introduced in 2023 and has been successful in securing donations that have been reinvested back into the Park.

9.0 Vision and Themes

The City Corporation welcomes and values its role as the custodian of West Ham Park. We place great value on its stewardship for current and future generations and have collaboratively developed the following Vision Statement to guide its management.

Vision

West Ham Park provides a beautiful, safe and accessible open space which is welcoming to all members of our local community. It is a place where we celebrate our local social, cultural and landscape heritage and look forward, adapting to changing needs and embrace opportunities to ensure the Park continues to provide a sustainable, resilient, beautiful and safe place to be enjoyed by all.

Themes

The Vision provides the guiding principles for the four main themes which, in turn, show how it will deliver outcomes which contribute towards corporate and departmental objectives. Those themes are:

1. Caring: We continue to care for the Park to ensure it fulfil its many functions for the benefit of the community, heritage and the environment, now and for future generations.

⁵ <https://friendsofwesthampark.co.uk/>

2. Excellence: We maintain the highest environmental, conservation, heritage and horticultural standards.
3. Inclusion: We ensure that the Park and its facilities are accessible to all and inclusive, so that all can enjoy the benefits of enhanced physical and mental well-being.
4. Community: We work in partnership with our local community and engage visitors and the local community in understanding and caring for the Park.

Table 1: How the Park vision will be delivered, and it links to other key strategic documents

THEMES	<p><u>Caring:</u> We continue to care for the Park to ensure it continues to fulfil its many functions for the benefit of the community, heritage and the environment, now and for future generations.</p>	<p><u>Excellence:</u> We maintain the highest environmental, conservation, heritage and horticultural standards.</p>	<p><u>Inclusion:</u> We ensure that the Park and its facilities are accessible to all and inclusive, so that all can enjoy the benefits of enhanced physical and mental well-being.</p>	<p><u>Community:</u> We work in partnership with our local community and engage visitors and the local community in understanding and caring for the Park.</p>
CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2029 OUTCOMES	<p>Leading Sustainable Environment</p> <p>Flourishing Public Spaces</p> <p>Vibrant Thriving Destination</p> <p>Providing Excellent Services</p>	<p>Flourishing Public Spaces</p> <p>Vibrant Thriving Destination</p> <p>Providing Excellent Services</p>	<p>Diverse Engaged Communities</p> <p>Providing Excellent Services</p>	<p>Diverse Engaged Communities</p> <p>Flourishing Public Spaces</p> <p>Providing Excellent Services</p>
CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY 2020-2027 AIMS	<p>To support the achievement of net zero</p> <p>To build climate resilience</p> <p>To champion sustainable growth</p>	<p>To support the achievement of net zero</p> <p>To build climate resilience</p> <p>To champion sustainable growth</p>		<p>To support the achievement of net zero</p> <p>To build climate resilience</p> <p>To champion sustainable growth</p>

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIES	Nature Conservation And Resilience Strategy	Nature Conservation And Resilience Strategy	Access and Recreation Strategy	Community Engagement Strategy
	Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy	Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy	Community Engagement Strategy	
	Access and Recreation Strategy			
	Community Engagement Strategy			

DRAFT

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">OUTCOME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management balances needs of visitors with requirement to protect natural and heritage assets • Management issues around facilities and condition of the Park, for example toilet block refurbishment are addressed • Natural assets, trees and priority habitats are healthy and well-maintained • We plan for the future in tree succession planning and planting across the Park to contribute to climate resilience • Projects and initiatives for improvement, protection and enhancement of Park heritage and natural assets and enjoyment of the Park balance the interests of all stakeholders and contribute to City Corporation wider strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green Flag, Heritage Award and London in Bloom Award • Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation • Enhanced biodiversity, resilience to climate change and contribution to interconnected spaces through appropriate Park management and maintenance practices • Our practices are financially, socially, and environmentally sustainable • Heritage assets are conserved • Sustainable practices minimise waste, optimise recycling of green and non green waste and encourage responsible recycling of waste by Park users 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Park continues to provide the 'back garden' for local residents • Facilities and activities reflect the needs of our local community and are improved and cared for • We continue to provide facilities for sports and learning for our local schools. • All feel safe and comfortable to access the Park's variety of facilities • Our learning programme continues to focus on emotional connections and physical health and mental well-being • Our partnerships with local stakeholders inform improvements and management and optimise promotion of the Park and events, and volunteer engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our events, activities and learning programmes foster emotional attachment to the Park and a desire to care for the Park • Continue to work in partnership the Friends, local schools and other groups to maintain the connection between the Park and local community • Continue to consult with the local community in developing proposals for the Old Nursery Site • Identify opportunities to adapt management to provide opportunities for learning, activities and recreation. • Provide activities and interpretation celebrating the heritage of the Park • Numbers engaged in activities, sports and Enhanced volunteering continues to grow • Improved health and well-being for Park community
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OBJECTIVES	<p>Objective 1: Well managed Park</p> <p>Objective 2: Well maintained and clean Park</p> <p>Objective 3: Sustainable Park</p> <p>Objective 4: Park that addresses conservation and heritage</p>	<p>Objective 1: Well managed Park</p> <p>Objective 2: Well maintained and clean Park</p> <p>Objective 3: Sustainable Park</p> <p>Objective 4: Park that addresses conservation and heritage</p>	<p>Objective 5: Welcoming Park</p> <p>Objective 6: Safe and secure Park</p> <p>Objective 7: Well marketed and promoted Park.</p>	<p>Objective 8: Park where community involvement is encouraged.</p> <p>Objective 9: Healthy and active Park</p>
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10. Delivery of the West Ham Park Vision

To deliver and achieve the Park Vision through the four main themes as shown in Table 1, nine objectives have been developed in this Management Plan. To achieve this vision, we recognise the importance of working towards an agreed national standard for good practice in the management of parks and open spaces. The objectives will contribute towards the Green Flag Award criteria, the benchmark national standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom:

Objective 1: Well managed Park

Objective 2: Well maintained and clean Park

Objective 3: Sustainable Park

Objective 4: Park that addresses conservation and heritage

Objective 5: Welcoming Park

Objective 6: Safe and secure Park

Objective 7: Well marketed and promoted Park

Objective 8: Park where community involvement is encouraged.

Objective 9: Healthy and active Park

This Plan sets out the nine objectives and the associated tasks and projects through which delivery of the Park Vision will be achieved in the ten-year period to 2035.

10.1 Park Vision Theme: Caring

We continue to care for the Park to ensure it continues to fulfil its many functions for the benefit of the community, heritage and the environment, now and for future generations..

Objective 1: Well managed Park

- The Management Plan balances community use and enjoyment of the Park with the protection and enhancement of the Park's character, natural and heritage assets and contribution to nature conservation and environmental sustainability

Objective 2: Well maintained and clean Park

- The fabric, infrastructure and facilities within the Park are kept in good order to maintain public access and enjoyment

Objective 3: Sustainable park

- The Park's contribution to the City Corporation's Natural Environment and Climate Action strategies is optimised

Objective 4: Park that addresses conservation and heritage

- Manage the protection and enhancement of natural and heritage assets, informed by the CMP, to safeguard their significance and to further public understanding and enjoyment

To achieve this, we will:

Action	Timescale
Facilities and infrastructure – repairs and refurbishment	
Refurbishment of the toilet block	2025/26
Continue to develop proposals for the Old Nursery Site in partnership with the local community.	Ongoing
Sustainability	
Continue to implement sustainable management practices in all Park operations wherever possible	Ongoing
Work as part of the Climate Adaption Action Plan/Carbon Removals Project to adapt management practice and planting where appropriate to contribute to climate resilience and carbon sequestration.	Ongoing
Develop a tree succession plan to maintain the historic fabric of the Park (avenues) and adapt to climate change	2025/26
Conservation and heritage	
Re-visit CMP strategy and actions and identify opportunities to implement remaining actions	2025

Conserve and maintain heritage assets in the Park in partnership with the City Surveyors Department.	Ongoing
Bandstand: Ongoing repainting and repairs	Ongoing
Learning and Community	
The Park Management and Learning Teams work with the local community to identify opportunities to enhance learning and engagement opportunities in the Park	Ongoing
We continue to observe how local people use and benefit from the Park and adapt our practice where appropriate	Ongoing
Ensure that our existing Wildlife Teaching Areas provide a valued facility for local schools and look at opportunities to create new areas.	Ongoing

10.2 Park Vision Theme: Excellence

We maintain the highest environmental, conservation, heritage and horticultural standards.

<p>Objective 1: Well managed Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park attains Green Flag, Green Heritage, and London in Bloom awards <p>Objective 2: Well maintained and clean Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horticultural displays and all areas of planting, parkland and woodland are visually attractive Park is tidy and litter free, furniture and equipment is clean and fit for use All sports facilities, equipment and play areas are safe and fit for purpose <p>Objective 3: Sustainable Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and implement sustainable management practices in all Park operations, where possible. Park's natural assets and planting are managed within the context of sustainability, succession and climate change mitigation <p>Objective 4: Park that addresses conservation and heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management ensures ongoing protection and conservation of heritage assets, including the Park's historic design and distinctive mature woodland and tree cover

To achieve this, we will:

Action	Timescale
Green Flag / Green Heritage / London in Bloom	
Ensure all supporting information requested in the 2024 Green Flag feedback is supplied as part of the submission	2025

Continue to secure annual Green Flag and London in Bloom awards	Annual
Attain Green Heritage Award	2026
Sustainable Park management	
Continue to implement sustainable management practices in all Park operations wherever possible, including transition to non-petrol powered machinery and equipment, waste management and recycling, water management and avoidance of chemicals; encourage visitors to recycle waste through appropriate on site provision	Ongoing
Park-wide: Achieve a balance in soft landscape management between access and amenity requirements for general recreation, and nature conservation, for example in management of grassland and hedgerows, including ongoing review of meadow grassland.	Ongoing
Conservation and heritage	
Trees and woodland: develop tree succession plan to safeguard the Park's distinctive tree and woodland cover in the longer term and their contribution to nature conservation and climate mitigation. Consider species selection plan to balance replanting of Park's historic tree species with choice of species likely to be more resilient to climate change	2025/26
Continue to develop measures for the monitoring and management of tree pests and diseases such as <i>Massaria</i> , ash dieback and oak processionary moth	Ongoing
Work with London Wildlife Trust and Newham to raise the status of the Park as a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation from Local to Borough	Newham Local Plan Review
Continue to review interpretation and information provision around the Park.	Ongoing

10.3 Park Vision Theme: Inclusion

We ensure that the Park and its facilities are accessible to all and inclusive, so that all can enjoy the benefits of enhanced physical and mental well-being.

Objective 5: Welcoming Park

- All visitors feel welcome in the Park and able to freely explore and enjoy its features and facilities
- Information about and within the Park, welcome signs at entrances, bylaws, directional signage, interpretation and events notices on site are well located, clear, unobstructed and accessible to all
- Whole Park and its facilities are accessible to all

Objective 6: Safe and secure Park

- Visitors and staff feel safe in all areas of the Park
- All facilities are maintained in a safe condition, fit for purpose

Objective 7: Well marketed and promoted Park

- Local residents and Park visitors have access to information and events; forthcoming events are effectively communicated
- Visitors understand the quality of the Park recognised in Green Flag and other awards

To achieve this, we will:

Action	Timescale
We continue to work closely with the Friends of West Ham Park to grow our programme of activities and events	Ongoing
Learning opportunities in the Park continue to grow across all age groups and communities.	Ongoing
Explore opportunities to create an additional Learning area in the Park to meet growing demand.	Ongoing
Support our staff through training to provide 'a friendly face' to maintain our communication and links across our local community.	Ongoing

10.4 Park Vision Theme: Community

We work in partnership with our local community and engage visitors and the local community in understanding and caring for the Park.

Objective 8: Park where community involvement is encouraged

- Park enjoys the benefit of active public engagement with all stakeholders in the ongoing management of the Park and the decision-making process for proposed projects and initiatives
- Community and volunteers benefit from a deeper understanding of the Park, development of learning and skills, and enhanced mental and physical health through a wide range of voluntary activities, and experiences which engender and deepen their attachment to and interest in caring for the Park

Objective 9: Healthy and active Park

- Visitors of all ages, backgrounds and abilities enjoy a range of options for enhancement of health and well-being, including walking, running, use of formal sports facilities and informal exercise

To achieve this, we will

Action	Timescale
Facilities	
Work with the local community to identify a suitable location for a Park Hub and Café and develop business plan for implementation	Over the life of this Plan
Community involvement	
Retain and develop engagement and partnerships with residents associations and volunteer groups.	Ongoing
Maintain and develop programme of walks and talks with the Friends of West Ham Park to enhance understanding of the Park's heritage and nature conservation significance and Park management.	Ongoing
Widen volunteer engagement in all aspects of Park management, including practical maintenance, surveys such as wildlife monitoring, and biodiversity.	Ongoing
Continue to grow our Learning Programme with local schools and children's groups to provide opportunities for learning about the Park, heritage and nature conservation, through guided visits, walks, talks and activities, and experiences such as bulb planting and wildlife monitoring.	Ongoing
Healthy and active Park	
Continue to work with local schools and clubs to provide facilities for organised sport and recreation	Ongoing
Work with the FWHP to increase opportunities to engage in informal activities such as health walks, guided walks and tasks in the community garden and around the Park.	2025
Look at opportunities to develop the Outdoor Gym which is heavily used.	2026
Park Run: continue to promote and support.	Ongoing

11. Monitoring & Review

Implementation

The West Ham Park Management Plan identifies priority projects and activities implemented via the Annual Work Programme.

The implementation of this Management Plan will continue to be overseen by the West Ham Park Committee, which provides strategic direction for the charity, and City Corporation Environment Department.

An annual review and update of the work programme will be undertaken, and an annual Business Plan prepared. Resources will be allocated to priority projects on a five-year rolling basis, informed by the Outcomes and Priorities in this Management Plan and aligned with the City Corporation's business planning cycle.

At the end of the first five years, the Management Plan will be subject to a full review and update.

Monitoring

Monitoring and tracking progress towards achieving the outcomes will help us to understand the impact of our work, and to share and celebrate successes.

We will continue to monitor progress towards the outcomes and priorities set out in this Management Plan, and report back to the West Ham Park Committee.

Learning and improving

Monitoring the changes or benefits that result from our activities provides insight into and understanding of the effectiveness of our actions and highlights where we can develop our work to make the biggest difference.

Evaluating effectiveness has enabled us to check our course and to make corrections in a timely manner, capturing learning and building in improvements as we proceed.

Communicating our impact

Each year, we will prepare an annual Business Plan and Annual Work Programmes for West Ham Park which set out the priorities and how these deliver against the Themes and Outcomes described in both the City Corporation Strategies and this Management Plan.

References

Baseline natural capital assessment of the City of London Corporation's open spaces (Natural Capital Solutions January 2024)

City of London Open Spaces Department Managing Tree Safety (2014)

City of London Corporate Plan (2024-2029)

City of London Climate Action Strategy (2020-2029)

City of London Tree Strategy (May 2012)

City of London Global City of Sport (2023-2030)

City of London Biodiversity Action Plan (2021-2026)

Natural Environment Nature Conservation and Resilience Strategy (2024-2029)

Natural Environment Access and Recreation Strategy (2024-2029)

Natural Environment Community Engagement Strategy (2024-2029)

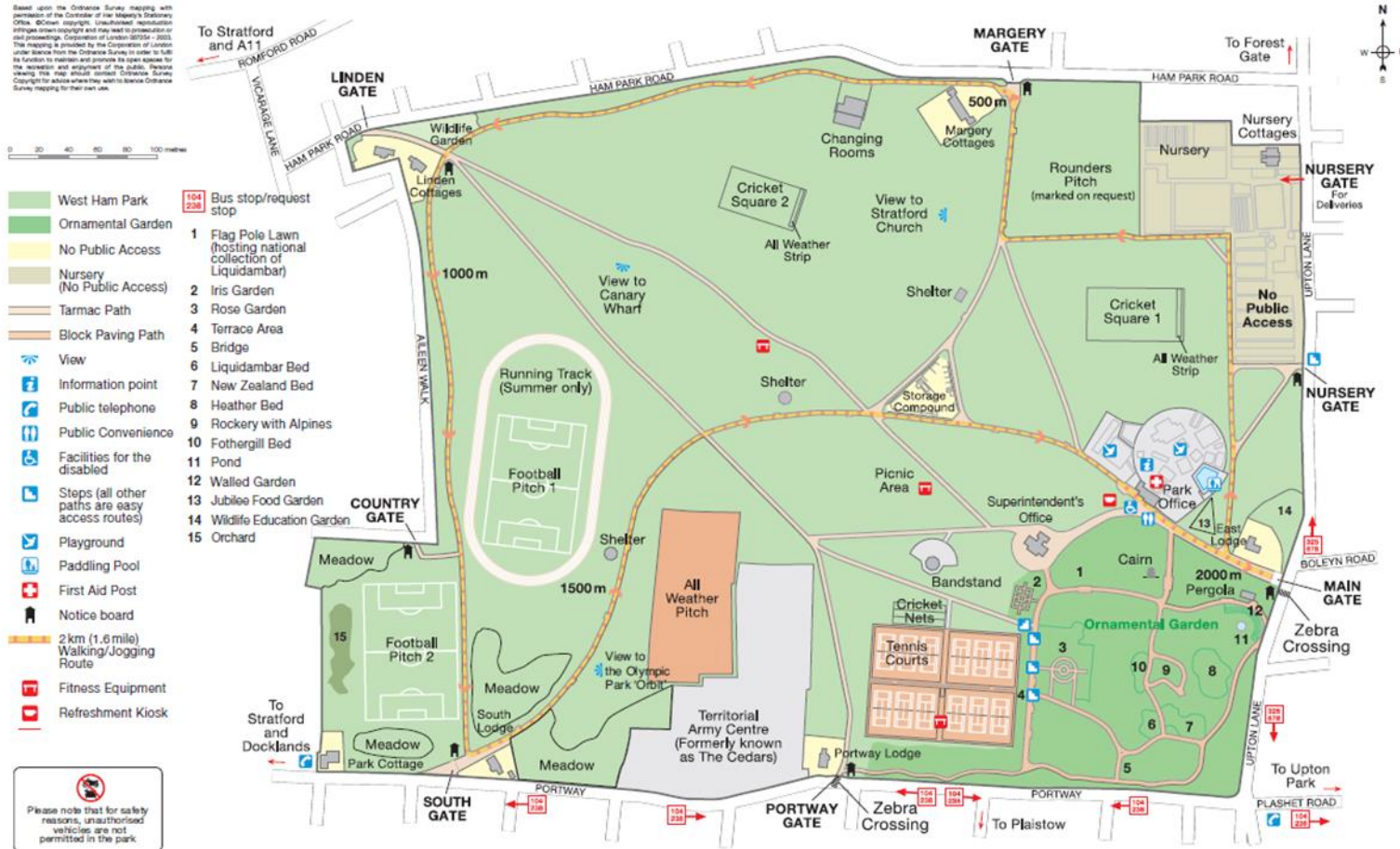
Natural Environment Culture Heritage and Learning Strategy (2024-2029)

West Ham Park Management Plan (2020-2025)

West Ham Park Conservation Management Plan (2011)

West Ham Park Old Nursery Site: Engagement Report (2024)

Appendix A Site Plan



Park opening – The Park is open from 7.30am every day until dusk. The Toilets are open from 7.45am until 15 minutes before closing.

Children's Playground – The playground is open from 9.30am every day until 30 minutes before park closing time (8pm in the summer months).

Catering – An ice-cream van is available in the summer providing refreshments. Picnics are welcome and benches are provided in the Park.

If you would like to tell us your ideas for how the park could be improved, contact us by emailing parcs.gardens@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

Want to get involved? To find out more about helping to shape future plans for the park and volunteering opportunities please contact the Park Office on 020 8472 3584 or parcs.gardens@cityoflondon.gov.uk or see www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/westhampark



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