

West Ham Park: Tree failure risk

This risk is reported in detail as it was added to the Risk Register since the date of the last report to your committee.

Risk no, title, creation date, owner	Risk Description (Cause, Event, Impact)	Current Risk Rating	& Score	Risk Update and date of update	Target Risk Rating &	Score	Target Date/Risk Approach	Current Risk score change indicator
ENV-NE-WH 014 Tree failure	Cause: Large numbers of older, more vulnerable trees which require regular inspection and works to prevent failure. Extreme weather conditions, particularly high winds, heavy/prolonged rain and snow, exacerbate the risk, as does soil compaction. Event: More frequent tree failures. Greater risk during high winds, particularly when accompanied by heavy rainfall, and when trees are in leaf. High levels of soil compaction leading to tree health issues. Effect: Public safety - people (serious injury/death) and property; loss of trees; loss of habitat; insurance claims; reputational damage.	Impact	8	Robust tree management systems are in place to address this risk. These include regular inspections of trees to identify any which are more likely to fail due to structural or health issues. Works are prioritised to ensure the most urgent issues are addressed quickly. The Extreme Weather Protocol contains criteria for closing West Ham Park in extreme weather conditions. Discussions with neighbouring local authorities and relevant parties are being undertaken to determine whether closure of roads adjacent to the sites during severe storms is feasible. We are allocating additional resources where needed to manage the tree maintenance programme.	Impact	6	31-Mar- 2024	

02-Feb-2023		12 Jun 2023		Reduce	Constant
Jonathan Meares					

Action no	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-WH 014a	Continue to comply with established tree management systems.	A tree management system is in place which includes regular inspections. Trees with issues/features that require action are identified and works are prescribed based in order of priority (high, medium and low) with all urgent works undertaken straight away. Expert staff are resident at the site and are, therefore, able to monitor tree condition on a continuous basis.	Jonathan Meares	12-Jun- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
ENV-NE-WH 014b	Continue to enforce Extreme Weather Protocol and site closures as appropriate (see also ENV-NE-WH 006: Climate and Weather)	An Extreme Weather Policy is in place which requires relevant sites/parts of sites to be closed during extreme weather events, such as high winds, lightening/storms or flooding. The Protocol is being reviewed to determine whether the criteria for closure are still appropriate.	Jonathan Meares	12-Jun- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
ENV-NE-WH 014c	Review Divisional Tree Safety Policy	The Natural Environment Division's Tree Safety Policy will be reviewed in liaison with colleagues across the Division to ensure it is fit for purpose and updated as necessary.	Jonathan Meares	12-Jun- 2023	31-Dec- 2023
ENV-NE-WH 014d	Liaise with local authorities regarding possibility of road closures during severe storms.	The Natural Environment Division's Tree Safety Policy will be reviewed in liaison with colleagues across the Division to ensure it is fit for purpose and updated as necessary.	Stefania Horne; Jonathan Meares	12-Jun- 2023	31-Dec- 2023

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ENV-NE-WH 005 Tree Diseases and other pests	Cause: Inadequate biosecurity, purchase or transfer of infected plants and soil. Invasion of pests and diseases from neighbouring areas e.g. Oak Processionary Moth, Massaria, etc. Event: Sites become infected by plant or tree diseases. Effect: Threat to human health, either directly or indirectly. Service capability disrupted; ineffective use of staff resources; damage to corporate reputation; loss of species; site closures (temp) and associated access; increased costs for reactive maintenance.	Impact 6	Environmental factors, specifically drought and hotter summers will increase vulnerability of trees to pests and diseases. However, we aim to reduce the risk to a score of 4 (serious/unlikely) through effective monitoring and actions. The threat of OPM across the North London Division (NLOS) is reducing but we continue with the Forestry Commission led management on a targeted caterpillar spray in specific areas and nest removal in others. Staff continue to manage Massaria and Horse chestnut bleeding canker. The Tree Team works with the Forestry Commission in conjunction with the London Tree Officers Association on an annual inspection program looking at 53 plots around London for the presence of Canker Stain of Plane (Ceratocystis platani) and Xylela fastidiosa. Staff continue to be vigilant and inspect for all the other tree pest and diseases on the list. We have Chalara dieback of ash at NLOS which currently is not a major concern. The Division has a Severe Weather Protocol which requires staff to actively review tree canopies for storm damage. Sites may be closed in high winds to reduce incidents with	Impact 4	31-Oct- 2023	

25-Nov-2015		tree damage (which may be associated with pests/disease). 25 Apr 2023		Reduce	Constant
Jonathan Meares					

Action no	Action description		Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-WH 005a		Provision of staff training is continuing. Information on training is shared through HSIG, Equalities Board, SLT, and other avenues.	. 1	31-Mar- 2024
ENV-NE-WH 005b		Tree inspections for Spring and Summer 2023 are being undertaken and resultant works will be carried out. Annual programme is in place for cyclical inspections and is being met.	20-Apr- 2023	31-Mar- 2024
ENV-NE-WH 005d	Maintain relationships with industry bodies and neighbouring local authorities to ensure free flow of information.	Relationships with industry bodies and neighbouring local authorities continue to be maintained.	. 1	31-Mar- 2024

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ENV-NE-WH 010 Local Planning Issues	Cause: Pressure on planning authorities to meet housing targets and needs. Event: Population increases in the London Borough of Newham cause increased pressure on green space and facilities. Effect: Additional pollution, ground compaction and resulting associated effects on tree and plant health. Wear and tear to sports pitches. Lack of budget to facilitate repairs.	Literhood	4	The current and target risk scores remain Green 4 (unlikely/serious). This is because our ongoing actions, including collaboration with local stakeholder groups in opposition of potentially damaging developments, have been effective in reducing the risk. We accept the risk at a score of 4 as we are unable to reduce it any further at the present time. We continue to liaise with relevant partners and stakeholders as necessary. 20 Apr 2023	Impact	4	Accept	Constant

Action no	Action description		Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-NE-WH 010a	local plans to help influence the content of the document.	Communication with London Borough of Newham is undertaken as necessary. Stakeholders, e.g. West Ham Park Committee, are updated as appropriate.	· 1	31-Mar- 2024
ENV-NE-WH 010b	authorities.		1	31-Mar- 2024