

| | |
|---|---|
| Committee(s): West Ham Park Committee | Dated: 11 July 2024 |
| Subject: Review of Learning and Heritage Assets and Activities | Public |
| Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse Engaged Communities • Vibrant Thriving Destination • Flourishing Public Spaces, • Providing Excellent Services • Leading Sustainable Environment. |
| Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending? | N |
| 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: Emily Brennan, Natural Environment Director | For Information |
| Report authors: Abigail Tinkler, Rob Shakespeare, Simon Glynn | |

Summary

This report provides Members with information on the range of learning and heritage activities that take place in West Ham Park, with details of the current organisation and funding models for the Natural Environment Division's learning team and heritage team, within the new Culture and Projects Section. The report describes key heritage and learning assets and their value. The report bench-marks fees, charges and related offers of the City of London with other comparable and relevant, learning providers. Finally, it provides a summary of key findings and insights for Member discussion.

The Division's learning and heritage activities are delivered in accordance with the recently adopted Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy and the cost of delivering our learning activities is met by the department's budget agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee in 2018. The Heritage Team was formed in May 2023, and follows a different operating and financial model to the Learning Team.

The information in this report forms part of a wider review of learning and heritage activities across the Natural Environment Division, bench-marking across the relevant sectors and comparison with third party providers, due to be completed in Autumn 2024 and reported to the relevant Committees.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background and Current Position

Background

1. Following the implementation of TOM2 within the Environment Department from May 2023, a new Culture & Projects Section was established to provide cross-divisional advice, support and services for learning, heritage and special projects across the Natural Environment Division. The section is headed by an Assistant Director, who reports directly to the Natural Environment Director, supported by a Head of Learning and Head of Heritage & Museums, with their respective teams. A Carbon Removals Project Manager, who started on 1 July 2024, completes this management team.
2. The Heritage Team aims to conserve and provide access to our shared culture and heritage, which includes built and natural assets and intangible cultural heritage, providing a consistent and collaborative approach to managing our unique and iconic cultural offer. They help to deliver an inclusive and engaging programme of exhibitions, events and special projects, and supporting activities.
3. The Learning Team provide opportunities to learn within our unique and inspiring green spaces. At a time of increasing disconnection from nature, a need to tackle the climate crisis, and a drive to tackle inequalities and enrich people's lives, our learning programme provides a means for the City of London to contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents of some of London's most deprived communities through connecting them more powerfully to their local green spaces. Benefits include increases in wellbeing, connection to nature, confidence and understanding.

Learning Team

4. The Learning Team is focused on delivering the new Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy, reaching audiences in London's most deprived boroughs and enabling participants to develop a connection to nature, which is a

foundation for pro-environmental behaviours. The team facilitates learning through active engagement with our green spaces and heritage.

5. The Learning Team deliver a successful programme for school, youth and children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). The Children and young people learn through active engagement with nature.
6. The Learning Team's programme at West Ham Park is a free programme for Newham schools, recognising the high levels of child poverty and limited access to gardens and green spaces in the borough.
7. Learning Team staff deliver sessions across the site, including within two enclosed teaching gardens provide safe and welcoming spaces for our audiences. The Learning Team manage a booking system to enable schools to use the teaching gardens independently, as well as leading sessions in the gardens as part of their programme.
8. The Learning Programme is oversubscribed, with waiting lists for the SEND programme and for use of the teaching gardens.
9. The Learning Team are working with North London Open Spaces to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU will clarify roles and responsibilities to enable collaborative working and the effective management of spaces and resources.

Heritage Team

10. Prior to May 2023, heritage activities were delivered by discrete officers and teams within each charity, for example, the Heritage and Museum Manager within Epping Forest. With the implementation of TOM2 and to achieve the savings required, a cross-divisional team was proposed, to provide advice, support and guidance across the charities. This structure included the potential for self-funded roles to be appointed to support projects informed by Corporate, Divisional and community priorities, subject to funding being identified for project delivery.
11. The establishment of a cross divisional Heritage Team builds upon the success and expertise of staff managing Keats House on behalf of Keats House charity. Examples of recent work includes delivery of outreach and creative learning programmes such as 'Culturally Speaking' and 'Poetry versus Colonialism', as well as projects such as the restoration of the Roman kiln and associated interpretation at Highgate Wood.
12. The Heritage team have been recently commissioned to research, design and deliver an exhibition for the 150th anniversary celebrations.

Funding Model

Learning Team

13. Since 2019, the funding for the Learning Team has come from an uplift to the then Open Spaces Department (now Natural Environment Division) resource base, which was agreed by Policy and Resources Committee. The Learning Team generates some income through fees (predominantly charged to school groups participating in its learning programme at Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest). Details of the budget for learning in the previous financial year (2023/24) are provided in Appendix 2.
14. The net cost of the Learning Team is recharged to the relevant charities at the end of each year. This is a standard accountancy practice at the City Corporation, with the City of London charities charged for all services provided by the Corporation, including HR, Finance, and IT, as well as Learning.
15. City's Estate Fund provides West Ham Park charity with an annual recharge budget, separate to the charity's local risk budget, which includes a specific budget which currently covers 20% of the direct operating costs of the Learning Team. Providing the Learning Team stay within their budget, there is no additional cost to the charity with any extra costs met through additional deficit funding for the charity from City's Estate. If the Learning Team either exceeds its income target or overspends against its budget, 20% of the additional income or costs are also applied through the annual recharge from the Learning Team. At present the Learning Team recharges to three charities; Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest and West Ham Park.

Heritage Team

16. In 2023/24, the newly established Heritage Team was predominantly funded through Keats House charity, where most of its capacity is employed. Post TOM2, one Heritage Officer post was created at Grade B initially, funded by the new Heritage Team's local risk budget (which itself was derived from savings made elsewhere in the Division following the implementation of TOM2). The new Heritage Team structure also includes the potential for self-funded heritage officers to be recruited once funding is identified and secured for priority projects. In October 2023, a full-time heritage officer was recruited, with 0.5FTE of their role funded through the National Lottery grant awarded to Friends of Highgate Roman Kiln to deliver the 'Firing London's Imagination' project in Highgate Wood, on behalf of North London Open Spaces and 0.5FTE funded by the Heritage Team's local risk budget.
17. From Summer 2024, it is proposed to recruit an additional heritage officer using the budget from the remaining 0.5FTE to provide capacity to: support ongoing heritage conservation, interpretation and projects; and identify new priority projects and secure funding for their delivery at other Natural Environment sites.

18. The funding model for the Heritage Team is therefore different to that of the Learning Team, as there is no dedicated annual heritage budget allocated from City’s Estates to each open space charity against which heritage services in support of the charities can be delivered. Instead, the ability to deliver a cross-divisional heritage service, beyond the single heritage officer post in the budget, relies upon successful internal and external grant funding applications for individual projects.

Activities and Assets

Learning Activities and Assets at West Ham Park

This section refers specifically to Learning activities and assets within West Ham Park.

19. The Learning Team run a successful primary school programme for Newham schools, delivering sessions for 3,570 students in 2023-24. The team also manage access to the teaching gardens for Newham Schools to use independently, increasing opportunities for learning.
20. The Learning Team have been awarded funding from the City of London Cultural and Creative Learning fund to deliver a learning programme for children with special educational needs (SEND). A part-time staff member has been in post since January 2024 to deliver this project.
21. The Learning Team runs a variety of informal learning activities for 13 – 25-year-olds who are struggling with education, employment, or mental health, including young carers and youth groups from local charity ‘Ambition Achieve Aspire’.
22. The Learning Team are running additional activities to celebrate WHP 150: a monthly ‘community campfire’ events for local families, a tree trail in collaboration with the adjacent Park Primary School, eco art workshops for families, and plant trail activity in the Ornamental Garden.
23. The Learning Team has nearly £12,000 worth of assets on site, which were acquired using the Learning Team budget. This includes a steel storage shed and activity equipment, however, the most important resource for learning is the park itself, which provides a rich and inspiring learning environment. The team also have access to a pond platform (an asset of WHP charity) which would cost around £14,000 to replace.

| Natural Environment Learning Team Resource | | Value |
|--|-----------------------------|-------|
| Learning Team Resource Shed | Large metal shed | £5000 |
| Fire Sessions Equipment | Kindling, Logs, Fire Steels | £550 |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---------|
| Orienteering Equipment | GPS & Compasses | £640 |
| Transport | Trolleys (2 x £170) | £340 |
| Gardening Tools | Garden forks, rakes, spades | £ 500 |
| Observation Equipment | Binoculars, Telescopes, Tripods | £600 |
| General activity equipment (measuring wheels, pond nets, trays, ID guides, clay, WW11 replica resources, tarpaulins, musical instruments) | | £1,100 |
| Cargo Bicycle | | £3,000 |
| TOTAL VALUE | | £11,730 |

24. In addition to the activities run by the Learning Team at West Ham Park, learning activities are offered by third party learning providers directly managed by the West Ham Park operational team, including Tindersticks, Tennis Come True, Capital Cricket, Curious by Nature, and Friends of West Ham Park.
25. Programmes for families and adults are led by the Friends of West Ham Park, including bird watching, nature crafts and bat walks [Friends of West Ham Park –](#).
26. Coaching in tennis is provided by Tennis Come True. One-to-one coaching is provided for all ages (adults and children) and holiday tennis camps are available for children [Junior Tennis Program | East London \(tenniscometrue.com\)](#).
27. Coaching in cricket is provided by Capital Kids Cricket (CKC), a youth development charity that uses cricket to overcome societal challenges and empower young people. The charity is committed to using cricket to bring communities together. Initiatives include a cricket club for women and girls and a holiday club. 50 children participated in 2023-24. [Charity Cricket Organization \(ckc.london\)](#)
28. Tindersticks run an outdoor learning programme for children aged one to five years and their carers/parents. The programme targets underserved audiences in Newham and is funded by the City Bridge Foundation, enabling the programme to be free for participants. Six sessions will be run over the

year, each with capacity for 30 participants. [Tindersticks | Bushcraft events to remember.](#)

29. Curious by Nature are a grant funded community organisation who provide family forest school sessions. The group led two free family sessions during 2023-24. [About — Curious by Nature \(curiousbynaturelondon.co.uk\)](#)
30. Periodically, the NE Learning Team coordinates its activities with the other learning providers to create a complementary offer; for example, a recent collaboration with Tindersticks will result in a complementary learning offer for pre-school children, and the team collaborate with Capital Kids Cricket to enhance their summer holiday programme.
31. Our Learning Team provides unique primary school, youth, and SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) learning activities, distinct from those offered by other providers. No other learning providers offer comparable programmes. While the Learning Team is specialized in educational activities, it does not have the training to offer cricket or tennis coaching. These sports coaching activities are considered complementary and fall outside the remit of the Learning Team.
32. Though the learning programmes offered by Tindersticks and Curious by Nature could technically be handled by our Learning Team, we currently lack the capacity to expand into these areas. These programmes show some content and audience overlap with the Learning Team's Community Campfire Programme. However, the scale of these external programmes is limited, with Tindersticks planning just six sessions for 2023/24 and Curious by Nature running only two sessions in 2022/23.
33. To enhance our family-oriented offerings, the Learning Team is exploring grant funding opportunities to hire a new staff member. This addition will allow us to develop and expand programming and opportunities for families.

Heritage activities and assets in West Ham Park

34. West Ham Park was the first public park to be managed by the City of London Corporation, who took over its ownership from the Gurney family in 1874. Heritage assets principally comprise the park itself, which is a grade II listed park and garden. This status was first registered in 2004, in recognition of its 18th century botanic garden and layout as a Victorian public park.
35. Built structures within the park, some of which have heritage significance, are maintained by City Surveyor's. Two buildings in particular, East Lodge and Park Cottage, are named on the Heritage Estate Team's Heritage Assets database. A ten-year Conservation Management Plan for the park was last completed in 2009 therefore a new one needs to be produced.
36. Physical heritage assets of the WHP charity also comprise interpretation boards on the botanical history of the park under the ownership of Dr

Fothergill, which are located within the ornamental gardens. This exhibition was curated and funded with the support of the Friends of West Ham Park.

37. Coordination and provision of specialist heritage advice is being led by the Culture and Projects team in respect of the West Ham Park nursery site. This includes engagement with Historic England, Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service and other amenity groups.
38. For the West Ham Park 150th celebrations, the Heritage Team were commissioned to research, design and deliver an exhibition on the heritage of the park, which will be on display at the park over the weekend of 20th and 21st July and at two other sites, to promote the significance of the anniversary.
39. Heritage-themed learning is being delivered in the park by the Learning Team. This includes sessions focusing on plant explorers (highlighting the rich collection of trees from around the world) and local and living history in relation to heritage features in the park, such as the WW2 bomb crater and remains of WW2 allotments.
40. The Friends of West Ham Park occasionally provide heritage-related walks and tours, which are advertised on their website [Friends of West Ham Park –](#).

Bench-marking

41. Bench-marking our fees and charges across our learning and heritage offers is an important activity to ensure that these offers remain competitive across the relevant sectors and that we apply a consistent approach to fees and charges across our activities.

Learning

42. An overview of the costs associated with outdoor school sessions offered by other outdoor learning providers operating across London is given below:

| Organisation | School session costs – one class / one session | Location | Notes |
|--|---|--|--|
| NE Learning at West Ham Park | Free | West Ham Park | Sessions are free at WHP as it is an area of high deprivation where children have limited access to green spaces. |
| NE Learning at Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest | £99 state schools £129 private schools | Hampstead Heath Highgate Wood Golders Hill Park Epping Forest | Private schools are charged more than state schools as parents at state schools are more likely to be able to contribute to the costs. |
| Kew Gardens | £70 entry fee £76 per session = £146 total | Kew Gardens | |
| Royal Parks | £120 | Hyde Park | FSC run programmes at Regents Park, Greenwich Park and Bushy Park. |
| Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, London | £255, including free admission to site | Barnes | Class admission without learning session is £225 |
| London Wildlife Trust | £120 state schools; reduced rate of £84 Nov – Feb | Various sites across London | |
| National Trust | No facilitated school sessions, online resources available. Schools can pay to become Education Group Members – fee ranges from £58 to £175 depending on size of school – groups from the school can then visit for free. | Ham House | |

Heritage

43. The Heritage team has bench-marked its fees and charges to visitor attractions, such as Keats House. In West Ham Park, there is no paid visitor attraction comparable to Keats House and therefore this bench-marking data is not directly relevant to West Ham Park charity.

Key Findings & Insights

44. A range of key findings and insights are provided below for discussion.

Learning

45. West Ham Park learning providers have distinct areas of focus, with the Natural Environment Learning Team leading on outdoor nature learning for primary schools, SEND groups and young people; specialist groups delivering sports coaching; and Tindersticks providing opportunities for young children and their parents.
46. The fees charged for facilitated school workshops run by comparable outdoor learning providers in London vary from £99 to £255. We do not currently charge for participation in our WHP Learning Programme, as it is a key method for the City of London to enrich lives and enhance wellbeing in one of London's most deprived boroughs. Should we review this decision in future, this benchmarking exercise will provide useful price point guidance.
47. The Learning Team's local risk net expenditure budget forms part of the Interim Executive Director Environment's local risk budget to meet corporate outcomes for learning. This allocation forms part of an annual recharge budget for learning provided within the West Ham Park charity's annual budget. Additional income (or costs) accrued by the Learning Team above its target, is distributed proportionately using this annual recharge.

Heritage

48. Heritage assets and activities are currently being managed and delivered by a range of individuals and teams across Natural Environment, the wider Corporation and external providers, but without sufficient capacity in the Heritage Team to coordinate these activities. This can result in an inconsistent and fragmented approach to managing and promoting these valuable assets.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications: All learning and heritage activities led by the Natural Environment Division on behalf of West Ham Park charity support the recently adopted Natural Environment Division strategies, which includes the Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy's themes of:

1. Developing nature connection and pro-environmental behaviours
2. Developing well-being through spending time in nature or through our heritage
3. Providing more opportunities through education and employment
4. Developing greater engagement, confidence and enjoyment
5. Ensuring the effective care, management and promotion of our offer.

The Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy supports 5 of the 6 outcomes in the Corporate Plan 2024-29. These are:

- Outcome 1: Diverse engaged communities
- Outcome 3: Vibrant thriving destination
- Outcome 4: Flourishing public spaces
- Outcome 5: Providing excellent services
- Outcome 6: Leading sustainable environment.

Financial implications: None at present

Resource implications: None at present

Legal implications: None at present

Risk implications: None at present

Equalities implications: All learning and heritage activities led by or licenced by the City of London Corporation or its open spaces charities are required to demonstrate how these activities comply with our Public Sector Equality Duty 2010.

Climate implications: None at present

Security implications: None at present

Conclusion

This report provides Members with information on the range of learning and heritage activities that take place at West Ham Park, with details of the funding models for the Natural Environment Division's learning team and heritage team, within the Culture and Projects Section. The report bench-marks fees, charges and related offers of the City of London with other comparable and relevant learning providers. Finally, it provides a summary of key findings and insights for Member discussion.

The information in this report forms part of a wider review of learning and heritage activities across the Natural Environment Division due to be completed in Autumn 2024 and reported to the relevant Committees.

Appendices

- **Appendix 1:** Summary of activities and the associated Natural Environment strategies
- **Appendix 2:** Background information on the Natural Environment Learning Team.

Report Authors

Abigail Tinkler, Head of Learning, Natural Environment Division

Rob Shakespeare, Head of Heritage and Museums, Natural Environment Division

Simon Glynn, Assistant Director, Culture and Projects, Natural Environment Division

T: [020 7332 1095]

E: [simon.glynn@cityoflondon.gov.uk]

Appendix One: Summary of activities and the associated Natural Environment strategies

| Learning Provider | Learning Activity | Audience | Natural Environment Strategy |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| Learning Team | School Programme | Primary schools | Culture, Heritage and Learning Community Engagement Access and Recreation Nature Conservation and Resilience |
| Learning Team | Youth Programme | 13 – 25 year olds struggling with mental health, education and/or employment | Culture, Heritage and Learning Community Engagement Access and Recreation Nature Conservation and Resilience |
| Learning Team | SEND Programme | Primary school children with SEND | Culture, Heritage and Learning Community Engagement Access and Recreation |
| Learning Team | WHP 150 Programme | Families and primary schools | Culture, Heritage and Learning Community Engagement Access and Recreation |
| Tindersticks | | Pre-school children and their parents/carers | Culture, Heritage and Learning Community Engagement Access and Recreation |
| Curious by Nature | | Families | Culture, Heritage and Learning Community Engagement Access and Recreation |
| Friends of West Ham Park | | Families and adults | Culture, Heritage and Learning Community Engagement Access and Recreation Nature Conservation and Resilience |
| Tennis Come True | | Adults and children | Culture, Heritage and Learning |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|----------|---|
| | | | Community Engagement Access and Recreation |
| Capital Cricket | | Children | Culture, Heritage and Learning Community Engagement Access and Recreation |

Appendix Two: Background information on the Natural Environment Learning Team

Vision

To facilitate learning through active engagement with our green spaces, reduce inequalities in education and wellbeing, and develop nature connection as a foundation for pro-environmental behaviours.

Background

The learning programme was developed in response to a growing consensus that spending time in nature is beneficial to health and wellbeing, and a concern over health and wellbeing inequalities as people in deprived areas of London face more barriers than most to accessing nature. The programme provides a key method for the City of London to contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents of some of London's most deprived communities through connecting them more powerfully to their local green spaces. Audiences include school children growing up in poverty and young people excluded from mainstream schooling.

The current learning programme engages schools and communities in three sites: Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest (including Wanstead Flats) and West Ham Park. The programme consists of the following workstreams:

- a. Schools service at Hampstead Heath, Epping Forest, West Ham Park
- b. Youth programme working with 13 – 25-year-olds struggling in education, employment or mental health
- c. Play activities at Hampstead Heath (two play centres) engaging children, parents and carers
- d. Programmes for children with autism and other special educational needs and disabilities

The learning programmes have a positive impact on wellbeing, nature connection, confidence and understanding, as noted in the Environmental Education Journal (2020, peer-reviewed) [Development and implementation of evaluation resources for a green outdoor educational program: The Journal of Environmental Education: Vol 52 , No 1 - Get Access \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

Natural Environment Learning at West Ham Park

3,570 students participated in the programme (2023-24).

Sessions are delivered to support the National Curriculum and promote awe, wonder and inspiration as children learned through active engagement with nature.

Based on the unique features of the sites and the needs of schools, the programme provided rich opportunities to:

- Learn through first hand observation e.g. exploring habitats, life cycles, seasons

- Stimulate the imagination e.g. creating artwork using natural materials
- Give children an active role e.g. pond dipping, orienteering
- Develop team working skills e.g. team den building and orienteering.

Staffing:

- Learning Officer for primary schools, 5 days per week, term time only.
- Learning Officer for SEND, 3 days per week, term time only. Funded through City of London Cultural and Creative Learning Fund.
- Learning Manager, full time post covering West Ham Park and some Hampstead Heath programmes
- Learning Officer for Youth: full time post, working cross-sites at West Ham Park, Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest.
- Head of Learning: full time post with cross-site responsibility.

Reaching disadvantaged school students

There is a wide recognition and concern over the attainment gap between disadvantaged school students and their peers (see [Little progress on attainment gap could have lifelong impact on disadvantaged children - Nuffield Foundation](#)). The West Ham Park learning programme has engages schools in Newham, one of London’s most deprived boroughs where 49% of children are living in poverty (Trust for London).

Children living in areas of deprivation suffered the greatest loss of learning during lockdown, and our programme is one of the ways in which opportunities for these young people can be increased, enriching their learning. (see [Children in most deprived areas suffered greatest loss of learning during lockdowns – ONS | Schools | The Guardian](#))

25 schools engage with the Learning Programme at West Ham Park, with schools visiting multiple times throughout the year. The table below lists all schools and their level of pupil premium. Pupil premium is an indicator of disadvantage, with 30% or more considered high level of disadvantage.

| Schools participating in Learning Team programmes at West Ham Park | Percentage Pupil Premium |
|--|--------------------------|
| Stratford Manor | 46 |
| Rosetta Primary | 41 |
| Bobby Moore Academy | 41 |
| North Beckton Primary | 40 |
| Earlham Primary | 39 |
| William Davies Primary | 37 |

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| St Francis Catholic Primary | 37 |
| West Ham Church of England Primary | 36 |
| Colegrave Primary | 36 |
| Maryland Primary | 36 |
| School 21 | 36 |
| Portway Primary | 34 |
| Selwyn Primary | 33 |
| Lathom Junior | 33 |
| Gallions Primary | 31 |
| Plaistow Primary | 30 |
| Vicarage Primary | 30 |
| New City Primary | 28 |
| Tollgate Primary | 27 |
| Elmhurst Primary | 27 |
| Godwin Junior | 26 |
| Sandringham Primary | 25 |
| Park Primary | 25 |
| St Edwards Catholic Primary | 24 |
| Upton Cross Primary | 24 |

Whilst the Learning Team teach sessions across the park, the space also provides two enclosed teaching gardens which provide school groups with a defined learning space, boosting teacher confidence to take classes outdoors and supporting the inclusion of children with additional needs. The Learning Team run sessions in these gardens and also manage a timetable of booking for local schools to use the gardens independently, thus increasing access to learning in the park. The Learning Team agree expectations around garden use with participating schools. Eight local primary schools use the spaces, taking students for regular weekly sessions. There is a waiting list of additional schools who would like to book space in the teaching gardens, which currently exceeds the capacity available.

| Schools using WHP teaching gardens independently | Pupil premium percentage |
|--|--------------------------|
| Ranelagh Primary | 40 |
| Langdon Academy | 40 |
| Vicarage Primary | 30 |
| Curwen Primary | 29 |
| Ellen Wilkinson Primary | 26 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Park Primary | 25 |
| Sir John Heron Primary (SEND group) | 21 |
| Odessa (SEND group) | 20 |

The benefits of outdoor learning

The West Ham Park learning programme has had a positive impact on participants' sense of wellbeing, nature connection and confidence to explore. (An evaluation toolkit developed with researchers at Derby Uni is used to evaluate the programme's impact in these areas.)

Social return on investment studies have valued high confidence at £13,080 per year and relief from depression or anxiety at £43,453 per person (see [Wellbeing Introduction to Social return on investment \(tnlcommunityfund.org.uk\)](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)). In addition, Play England have reported a correlation between opportunities to explore and play outside in childhood with significantly lower psychological distress scores as adults (see [Street Play Report July 2023 Final \(squarespace.com\)](https://www.squarespace.com)).

A report from Natural England shows that students were more engaged with learning when outdoors; the majority of children thought they learned better and achieved more when learning outside, and 90 per cent feeling happier and healthier as a result, see [England's largest outdoor learning project reveals children more motivated to learn when outside - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

The Learning Team lead a cross-departmental City of London Climate Education Action Group, working with colleagues in Education Strategy, Environmental Resilience, and Climate Action, and has a leadership role in Climate Action Pathways in Education (CAPE), - an alliance of researchers, educators, schools, and partners across the UK who are working to change today's education for tomorrow's climate. Their work was showcased in the latest CAPE report (2024) [CAPE+Report+2024-web_2.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](https://www.squarespace.com).

Looking ahead

The Learning Programme successful in building nature connection, which is the foundation for pro-environmental behaviours (see [Nature Connectedness Research Group - Research centres and groups - University of Derby](https://www.universityofderby.ac.uk)). This work will continue as vital contribution to future pro-environmental attitudes. In addition, the learning team are leading a new 'Climate Action Pathways in Education' (CAPE) alliance, bringing together teachers and researchers to develop best practice in climate education. The alliance will work together to change today's education for tomorrow's

climate, equipping people with the knowledge and skills to take climate action and protect the environment.

City's Estate Fund (formerly City's Cash) allocation for Learning to West Ham Park charity.

| NATURAL ENVIRONMENT DIVISION LEARNING PROGRAMME (DKD10) | Actual 2023/24 £ |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Direct Employees | 410,470 |
| Indirect Employees | 5,831 |
| Premises | 4,766 |
| Supplies and Services | 53,834 |
| Income (Tuition Fees and Grants) | -56,565 |
| Central Support Services Recharges | 54,039 |
| | |
| Total Net Expenditure | 472,375 |
| | |
| West Ham Park Annual Recharge Budget for Learning Team | 94,475 |
| Learning Team recharge of 20% of net expenditure to West Ham Park charity | -94,475 |

