

Corporate Risk Detailed Register EXCLUDING completed actions

CR41 Tree Maintenance

Generated on: 04 July 2024



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	Current Risk score change indicator
CR41 Tree Maintenance	<p>Cause:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees are subject to decline, physical damage and infection. As trees deteriorate, they are increasingly likely to shed limbs or fall in strong winds and the potential to cause harm increases. Therefore, a robust programme of proactive and reactive tree inspections is in place at each of the City of London open spaces to identify trees which require works to make them safe. The impact of drought and a rise in tree disease, combined with more frequent extreme weather events due to climate change, is increasing the risk of trees failing. During the Covid pandemic lockdowns and associated staff limitations, the number of vulnerable trees requiring work built up across the City's open spaces. In some areas there is difficulty recruiting arborists (tree surgeons) due to higher pay offered in the private sector: we currently do not have sufficient funds to recruit enough staff resource to clear the outstanding works. 		32	<p>Risk escalated from Departmental to Corporate following agreement from CORMG on 5 June 2024.</p> <p>Regular tree inspections are carried out at each open space to identify vulnerable trees that require work. Works are then prioritised in order of risk. At all sites, climate change, and the associated greater frequency of severe storms, extreme weather conditions, and tree disease, is resulting in more frequent tree (and tree limb) failures and this will continue to increase over time.</p> <p>Long term funding: Officers are working in collaboration with colleagues in the Chamberlain's Department to consider options for increasing our budgets for tree management in the long term.</p>		12	31-Dec-2024	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is, as a result, an increasingly large number of vulnerable trees across our open spaces which require works to prevent failure. • There have been a series of incidents of tree failures where trees have fallen onto vehicles and buildings. • Our sites have more than 100 miles of highway verge predominately lined with trees. <p>Event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More frequent tree (or tree limb) failures. • Trees adjacent to busy roadways and residential properties falling onto vehicles, properties and other infrastructure. <p>Effect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public safety - serious injury/death. • Damage to City of London’s physical assets. • Disruption to public highways. • Damage to cars and adjoining properties with increased exposure to public liability claims. • Adverse media attention and significant reputational damage to the City of London Corporation. • Financial impact of insurance claims. 		<p>Epping Forest outstanding works: There are currently a number of trees at Epping Forest which require work (approx. 3,600 trees). In recent years, ongoing staff shortages have enabled only the highest priority works to be completed. In the meantime, more frequent tree failures are being experienced and the number of trees requiring work continues to grow.</p> <p>Specialist contractors have been employed to supplement the in-house teams, but we have not been able to find, or fund, enough to address all outstanding works.</p> <p>We are exploring the possibility of employing up to six new fixed-term arborists which should enable us to clear the outstanding works over the next two years, and reduce the risk, but this will require additional financial resource of £300,000 (over two years).</p> <p>Once the outstanding works are cleared, and providing we are able to maintain fully staffed in-house arborist teams, we will be able to manage ongoing tree safety works as ‘business as usual’.</p> <p>The ‘target date’ to reduce the risk score to Amber 12, is the time by which we hope to have the necessary financial and human resources in place to be confident that we will be able to clear the outstanding works at Epping Forest and have identified</p>			
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03-Jul-2024 Emily Brennan				funding for ongoing tree works across all sites.					
				03 Jul 2024				Reduce	Constant

Action no, Title,	Action description	Latest Note	Action owner	Latest Note Date	Due Date
ENV-SLT 005b Epping Forest: funding for outstanding works	Explore options to secure additional funding to address outstanding tree safety works at Epping Forest, in liaison with Corporate colleagues.	<p>We require additional funding of £300,000 (over two years) to clear the outstanding tree safety works at Epping Forest.</p> <p>We are working closely with colleagues in the Chamberlain’s Department, to identify possible sources of funding.</p> <p>The Epping Forest arborist team is fully staffed but will not have capacity to tackle all outstanding works. We are exploring the possibility of employing up to six new fixed-term arborists but will need to find extra resources to do so.</p> <p>Epping Forest received £210,000 from City Cash Contingency for the financial year 2023/24. This has been fully spent on external arborist contracts and purchase of equipment for future tree safety work efficiency including a MEWP (mobile elevated work platform) for roadside working at greater speed without closing the road.</p> <p>The ‘due date’ of this action is when we hope to have the necessary financial and human resources in place to be confident that we will be able to clear the outstanding works and reduce the risk.</p>	Emily Brennan	03-Jul-2024	31-Dec-2024
ENV-SLT 005e Funding for ongoing tree works	Explore options to identify funding for the ongoing management of tree safety across all Environment Department sites.	We are working with colleagues in the Chamberlain’s Department to consider options for increasing budgets for tree management at all sites in the long-term.	Emily Brennan	06-Jun-2024	31-Dec-2024

ENV-SLT 005f Tree Safety Policy	Review Natural Environment Division Tree Safety Policy.	<p>The Natural Environment Division Tree Safety Policy sets out the requirements and processes that must be in place at all sites for proactive tree inspection programmes, based upon prioritisation criteria, and reactive inspections following incidents such as severe weather events. The Policy is based upon guidance issued by the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) and has proven effective when tested following previous incidents.</p> <p>The Natural Environment Division's Tree Safety Group will review the Policy to check that it is being implemented fully across the Division and amend the content as necessary to reflect any changes.</p> <p>When the NTSG releases its revised guidance (date to be confirmed but expected later this year), the Divisional Group will further review the Policy to ensure it aligns with the National Guidance.</p>	Emily Brennan	06-Jun-2024	31-Dec-2024
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