

Progress against the Natural Environment Strategy Action Plans and Business Plan objectives

Quarter 2, 2024-25 (July, August, and September)

1 Nature Conservation & Resilience				
	Theme	Objective	Progress	Also contributes to
1.1	Protect and enhance the biodiversity of our open spaces	<p>Management plans are in place to ensure that their biodiversity and natural assets are conserved, engaged with stakeholders, and are implemented</p> <p>Species records and other biological data are regularly gathered and professionally managed</p> <p>Community support and engagement in the conservation of our open spaces is increased</p>	<p>New Highgate Wood management plan in process of being drafted to be approved by HHHWQP Management Committee in December in time for 2025 Green Flag and Green Heritage applications.</p> <p>Continuing ecological monitoring of species to identify trends/changes in Highgate Wood</p> <p>Volunteers play key role in ecological monitoring. Highgate Wood's longest-running volunteer ecological survey which monitors moth species and dates back to 1985, continued this year; we have 482 species of moth recorded to date. Next year will mark the survey's 40th anniversary.</p>	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Access and Education</p> <p>Learning and Education</p>
1.2	Increase the resilience of our open spaces within a wider,	Greater and more effective engagement with the planning system to influence the protection of our open spaces in the most relevant way	The NLOS Senior Management Team are commissioning a planning consultancy to carry out a monitoring role of all	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Access and Education</p>

1	Nature Conservation & Resilience			
	Theme	Objective	Progress	Also contributes to
	interconnected natural landscape	<p>Landscape connectivity around our open spaces is enhanced through collaboration with other organisations and stakeholders.</p> <p>Reduced visitor impact on priority habitats and other important sites through sustainable visitor and mitigation strategies being in place and implemented</p> <p>Damaging introduced species monitored and kept under control</p>	<p>planning applications submitted adjacent to all NLOS spaces.</p> <p>Connectivity and wildlife corridors were discussed with the Highgate Wood Consultative Group and will be included in the new Highgate Wood management plan.</p> <p>Continuing protection of conservation areas in Highgate Wood to control public access and encourage nature recovery.</p> <p>Continued involvement of Heath Hands volunteers in conservation work in Highgate Wood focusing on protection of enclosed conservation areas.</p> <p>Control of grey squirrels which have caused damage to Highgate Wood's hornbeam population have been discussed as an objective in the new Highgate Wood Management Plan.</p> <p>The Tree Team have continued their Nature Based Solution (NBS) approach to managing oak processionary moth (OPM) in Highgate Wood monitoring OPM-parasitoid populations and their impact</p>	Learning and Education

1 Nature Conservation & Resilience				
	Theme	Objective	Progress	Also contributes to
			on OPM nests. The NBS approach avoids impacting non target species and other Highgate Wood wildlife.	
1.3	Establish a natural capital-based management process across our open spaces.	<p>Baseline natural capital valuation for NED undertaken</p> <p>The City of London Corporation's Climate Action Strategy goals are met for the open spaces</p>	<p>The natural capital audit has been completed and is being reviewed for opportunities of expansion of benefit at Highgate Wood. Headline figures from the report will be referenced in the new Highgate Wood Management Plan</p> <p>Objectives are being drafted for new Highgate Wood management plan building resilience into Highgate Wood Ancient Woodland against climate change impacts.</p>	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Access and Education</p> <p>Learning and Education</p>

2 Community Engagement				
	Theme	Objective	Progress	Also contributes to
2.1	Partnership: Creating meaningful and lasting partnerships	<p>Cultivate and support successful partner organisations that support us in mission delivery</p> <p>Implement a holistic approach to community engagement that encourages active participation</p>	<p>This is actively promoted through Highgate Wood Heath Hands volunteers and other volunteers e.g. Good Gym</p> <p>The Highgate Wood Heritage Day was held on Sunday 1 September and was probably the best-attended event so far, with high number of visitors attracted by the fine warm weather and the Roman Kiln Project</p>	<p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Access and Education</p> <p>Learning and Education</p>

			activities and displays. Alongside the Roman Kiln activities, we had a number of other community stalls representing the Highgate Society, Heath Hands Volunteers, Friends of Queen’s Wood, The Kenwood Bee Keepers Association, and other small stalls specialising in woodland products and nature conservation. The other popular attraction was the dog show.	
2.2	Ownership: Cultivating a sense of deep pride in and attachment to our spaces amongst users	Facilitate a deep sense of pride in and attachment to our open spaces among user groups and communities	This is actively promoted through Highgate Wood Heath Hands ongoing work with volunteers and other volunteers e.g. Good Gym	Community Engagement Access and Education Learning and Education
2.3	Thriving spaces: Creating spaces that attract people and improve their lives	Improve health and wellbeing through our open spaces through successful and effective community engagement	The Highgate Wood Heritage Day was held on Sunday 1 September and was probably the best-attended event so far, with high number of visitors attracted by the fine warm weather and the Roman Kiln Project activities and displays. Alongside the Roman Kiln activities, we had a number of other community stalls representing the Highgate Society, Heath Hands Volunteers, Friends of Queen’s Wood, The Kenwood Bee Keepers Association, and other small stalls specialising in woodland products and nature conservation.	Community Engagement Access and Education Learning and Education

2.4	Knowledge exchange: Continuous transfer of information between the Corporation and its customers	Ensure easy access to information about the Corporation, its open spaces, and our management practices	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	Community Engagement Access and Education Learning and Education

3 Access and Recreation				
	Theme	Objective	Progress	Also contributes to
3.1	Balance the needs of visitors with the requirements of protecting the natural and heritage assets of the open spaces	<p>Manage visitors to protect vulnerable areas.</p> <p>Plan for increased visitor numbers and improve durability of honeypot locations</p> <p>Reduced visitor impact on priority habitats and other important sites through sustainable visitor</p>	<p>Heath Hands volunteers activities involve ongoing repairs to fencing and dead hedging of conservation areas</p> <p>The NLOS Senior Management Team are working with a mobile phone data analysis consultancy to establish where the visitor pressure points are in Highgate Wood. This information will be incorporated in the new Highgate Wood Management due to finalised later this month.</p> <p>Visitor impact on priority habitat is a key issue for consideration in Highgate Wood's new management plan.</p>	Community Engagement Access and Education Learning and Education

3 Access and Recreation				
	Theme	Objective	Progress	Also contributes to
		and mitigation strategies being in place and implemented.		
3.2	Enable the best possible visitor journey, creating the right information from pre -visit to a stress-free and enjoyable on-site experience	Provide easily accessible, clear and exemplary pre-visit information through digital platforms	Audit of website as per above, and communications via social media supports the pre-visit journey.	Community Engagement Learning & Heritage
3.3	Build understanding and knowledge about the open spaces. Visitors will respect one another and will care for and advocate for the sites.	Make improvements to both informal and formal recreational facilities.	Major refurbishment and repairs to Highgate Wood’s popular play area are being costed to ensure a safe play space for the local community.	Community Engagement Access and Education Learning and Education
3.4	Build understanding and knowledge about the open spaces. Visitors will respect one another and will care for and	Respectful use of facilities and sites will be encouraged through engagement and instruction	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.	

3 Access and Recreation				
	Theme	Objective	Progress	Also contributes to
	advocate for the sites.	Key messages are delivered through layered and targeted campaigns	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 address.	

4 Learning and Heritage				
<p>Progress in the performance and delivery of this strategy will be reported by the Culture & Projects Team of the Natural Environment Division. Additional delivery of Learning and Heritage objectives are supported by the partnership with Heath Hands.</p>				