

## City of London Corporation Committee Report

<b>Committee(s):</b> West Ham Park Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 10 December 2024
<b>Subject:</b> Assistant Director's Report	<b>Public report:</b> For Information
<b>This proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes</li> </ul>	-Diverse Engaged Communities -Leading Sustainable Environment -Vibrant Thriving Destination -Providing Excellent Services -Flourishing Public Spaces
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b>	Katie Stewart, Executive Director Environment
<b>Report author:</b>	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](mailto:bill.losasso@cityoflondon.gov.uk)