

**APPENDIX 1: PROGRESS ON NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BOARD STRATEGY OBJECTIVES**

1 NATURE CONSERVATION & RESILIENCE										
#	Theme	#	Objective	#	Measure	October Progress Update	December Progress Update	Also contributes to:		
								CE	A&R	CH&L
1.1	Protect and enhance the biodiversity of our open spaces	1	Management plans are in place to ensure that their biodiversity and natural assets are conserved, engaged with stakeholders, and are implemented.	1	Management plans in place for all sites with annual reporting on progress	Officers are updating the management plan for West Ham Park (and all management plans across NLOS), which will be presented to this committee at the December 2024 meeting. A consultant has been retained to support that effort.	Officers have been reviewing and writing a new 10-year Management Plan for West Ham Park in liaison with appointed consultants. Meetings have been held with key stakeholders such as the Friends of West Ham Park. The management plan will be presented to Committee in December.	X	X	X
				5	Volunteer involvement in biodiversity monitoring and habitat restoration	The gardening team now has a regular volunteer who works twice a week every Tuesday and Thursday. He is an experienced volunteer who studies horticulture and volunteers at one of the Royal Parks. He is helping with tasks such as dead heading the perennials, roses, trimming the informal hedges in the rose garden and carrying out some horticultural research for future landscape projects.	A new 200-metre native species hedgerow is being planted around the playground this winter. The hedgerow is being planted by volunteers on weekends open to the public and planned planting days with local groups such as the Scouts and Park Primary School. The Friends of West Ham led another successful bat walk on 20 September 2024.	X		X

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2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT										
#	Theme	#	Objective	#	Measure	October Progress Update	December Progress Update	Also contributes to:		
								NC&R	A&R	CH&L
2.1	Partnership: Creating meaningful and lasting partnerships	3	Cultivate and support successful partner organisations that support us in mission delivery.	3	Delivery of value-added activities in NE space: Number of partnership organisations that are delivering approved value-added activities in NE spaces	Officers continue to work with external groups and partners to engage them in caring for West Ham Park, including Friends of West Ham Park and a community-wide engagement during the 150th anniversary celebration. The gardening team now have a regular volunteer, as noted above.	Officers continue to work with external groups and partners to engage in activities and management of the park including the Friends of West Ham Park and the Lawn Tennis Association to explore and develop Padel. Meetings are being arranged with Stratford Padel Club and other Padel providers to fully explore all the options and understand the requirements further.	X	X	X
2.2	Removing barriers: Identifying and removing barriers to participation in our spaces and work	2	Create physical spaces that are as accessible as possible to as many people as possible.	2	Initial self-audit of access challenges and opportunities at each NE space, with relevant participating partners, updated annually.	The 150th anniversary celebration created a community-wide engagement opportunity to deepen connections with the park, demonstrate that West Ham Park is welcoming and accessible to the entire community, showcasing a variety of potential activities possible at the park (tennis, cricket, learning activities, etc) and engaging with the community in a variety of relevant ways.	Working with the Lawn Tennis Association to explore free park tennis in the near future.		X	X
		3	Engage in continuous self-reflection to identify opportunities for continuous improvement.	3	Initial self-audit of access challenges and opportunities at each NE space, with relevant participating partners, updated annually.		Development of the 10-year Management Plan is requiring us to reflect on where we are, and how we can continue to make West Ham Park more accessible to the community we serve.			
2.3	Ownership: Cultivating a sense of deep pride in and attachment to our spaces amongst users	2	Create opportunities for user groups and communities to provide additional resource to the Corporation to support mission delivery.	2	Fundraising programme: Donations across NE and at each space		Donation received to plant the new 200-metre hedgerow around the playground this autumn/winter.			
		2	Deliver well-managed spaces that are widely understood as destinations for improved health and wellbeing.	2	Communications: Create a communications plan that promotes the health and wellbeing improvement opportunities at City of London Corporation open spaces.	150th anniversary celebration, attainment of Green Flag award in July 2024 demonstrates the best practice management of West Ham Park, success of the free Swing Gym at the park that offers free access to weight-lifting equipment.	West Ham Park won Gold in the Large Parks (over 25 acres) category and trophy for Best in Category at London in Bloom Awards Ceremony. This is a great achievement and is a testament to the Park being well managed and all the grounds and facilities it provides to visitors.		X	

2.4	Thriving spaces: Creating spaces that attract people and improve their lives	3	Provide a diverse mix of opportunities for enrichment at our open spaces.	3	Portfolio of enrichment opportunities available at each space: Agree and track categories of enrichment opportunities available at each space, eg, active recreation, passive recreation, forest bathing, learning, etc.	Officers are exploring the potential to install Padel in the park, which would expand the overall offer.	Officers are liaising with the Lawn Tennis Association and setting up meetings with other Padel providers to explore the potential to install Padel in the park, which would expand the overall offer.			
		4	Create spaces where formative experiences occur.	4	Number of activities intended to engage people in experiences for the first time.		<p>Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile takes place in the park on 17 November. The Friends of WHP invite visitors to rake up leaves and help make a huge leaf pile, before jumping into it.</p> <p>'Park in the Dark' is on 06 December.</p> <p>A lantern walk through the park where visitors can decorate torches before a guided walk through the park. Festive tunes from the Park Primary Choir will play at the Bandstand.</p> <p>The Spooky Autumn Trail on 31 October in the ornamental gardens was attended by 563 visitors. Participants were able to explore spooky scenes and displays within WHP. The event was a huge success with 563 attendees, which was run by the Learning Team in partnership with the staff at West Ham Park. It was a great opportunity for families to explore and have fun together, with the displays encouraging playful interaction.</p>			X
2.5	Knowledge exchange: Continuous transfer of information between the Corporation and its customers	1	Ensure easy access to information about the Corporation, its open spaces, and our management practices.	1	Audit availability of digital and physical information from COL-managed information resources.	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 website being created by the City Corporation.	Officers continue to audit the NLOS webpages as updated in October 2024.			X
		2	Catalyse improved behaviours in our spaces where needed.	2	Create a communications plan that promotes positive and encouraged behaviours in City of London Corporation open spaces, and provides clear information on the resources the Corporation commits to its open spaces.	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 message against (eg, cycling dangerously).	Officers and Parkguard have been communicating positive behaviours in an to reduce 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 message against (eg, cycling dangerously).			

		4	Improve service delivery by the Corporation at its open spaces through information exchange.	4	Development of a Community Engagement Toolkit that provides guidance on best practice engagement in a variety of circumstances and contexts. (Complete by 31 March 2025)	Engagement with stakeholders in creation of the management plan will ensure that local feedback is considered and incorporated.	Meetings have been held with key stakeholders such as the Friends of West Ham Park in reviewing and writing the next 10-year Management Plan.	X	X	X
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3 ACCESS & RECREATION										
#	Theme	#	Objective	#	Measure	October Progress Update	December Progress Update	Also contributes to:		
								NC&R	CE	CH&L
3.1	Balance the needs of visitors with the requirements of protecting the natural and heritage assets of the open spaces	2	Plan for increased visitor numbers and improve durability of honeypot locations.	2	Site management plans developed by 2026, and a site-wide approach to physically managing the wear and tear on tracks and paths is articulated in annual site management plans.	Officers are updating the management plan for West Ham Park, which will be presented to this committee at the December 2024 meeting. A consultant has been retained to support that effort. Visitor numbers are tracked by a paid service that tracks mobile phone presence in the park. In addition, our communications efforts to influence behaviours furthers this objective.	Officers have been reviewing and writing a new 10-year Management Plan for West Ham Park in liaison with appointed consultants. Meetings have been held with key stakeholders such as the Friends of West Ham Park. The management plan will be presented to Committee in December. Visitor numbers are tracked by a paid service that tracks mobile phone presence in the park.	X	X	X
3.3	Provide welcoming places that visitors from all backgrounds and abilities are comfortable to explore	2	Work with partners to develop outreach to ensure wider audiences or are aware of and able to access sites.	2	Minimum of six outreach activities provided through partnership annually	Our partnerships with the Natural Environment Division Learning Team and FoWHP expands the total number and overall quality of activities and opportunities for engagement in the park	The annual; Newham's Biggest LEaf Pile event occurred in partnership with Friends of West Ham Park on 17 November, inviting the community into WEst Ham PArk to help the team care for it, have fun, and bring people together.		X	X
3.4	Build understanding and knowledge about the open spaces. Visitors will respect one another and will care for and advocate for the sites.	2	Respectful use of facilities and sites will be encouraged through engagement and instruction.	2	Codes of conduct are promoted on every site	150th anniversary celebration, 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.	Parkguard provided cover during the October half-term week and every weekend until 3 November to patrol the park, assist with locking up duties, engage with members of the public on byelaw infringement and to control any anti-social behaviour. Visitor numbers have remained steady, so security presence helps to minimise incidents and assist staff.		X	

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4 CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND LEARNING										
#	Theme	#	Objective	#	Measure	October Progress Update	December Progress Update	Also contributes to:		
								NC&R	CE	A&R
4.1	Developing nature connection and pro-environmental behaviours	1	Deliver learning activities which incorporate the 'pathways to nature connection' and which facilitate an increase in participants' feelings of nature connection.	1	Percentage of participants' feeling connected to nature after taking part in a learning session		All session plans updated to include 'pathways to nature connection'. Evaluation data to be collated for end of year.			
		2	Develop synergies between NE Learning, CoL Environmental Resilience and CoL Climate Action, and provide opportunities for children and young people to get involved and make a positive contribution to biodiversity and environmental resilience.	2	Number of environmental resilience projects for children/young people delivered each year		Collaboration with colleagues in Environmental Resilience and Climate Action ongoing.			
		3	Collaborate with educators and researchers to develop an evidence-informed model of best practice in climate education and apply best practice to the NE learning programme.	3	Number of climate education themes integrated in NE Learning Programmes per year		Focus on nature connection as the foundation for pro-environmental attitudes.			
4.3	Providing more opportunities through education and employment	1	Engage participants from London boroughs with high levels of deprivation and child poverty.	1	Number of learning programme participants from the 15 London boroughs rated highest for child poverty.		2,786 participants from Newham (April - October 2024)			
		2	Provide bespoke learning opportunities for young people struggling with education, employment or mental health.	2	Number of participants taking part in bespoke learning programmes for young people struggling with education, employment or mental health.		38 participants (April - October 2024)			
		3	Provide bespoke learning sessions for children and young people with additional needs.	3	Number of bespoke programmes for children and young people with additional needs each year.		57 sessions (April - October 2024)			
4.4	Developing greater engagement, confidence and enjoyment	1	Engage participants in our learning, heritage and cultural activities which provide opportunities to explore, enjoy and feel safe in our spaces.	1	Number of people who participate in our programmes.		3,387			
		3	Develop strategic partnerships with organisations that help to deliver our culture, heritage and learning offer.	3	Number of annual programmes delivered in partnership with others.		Successful partnerships with Capital Cricket and Tindersticks enhanced the learning programme			