



# West Ham Park

Registered Charity

**2025 - 2035**

# Management Plan

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# Foreword

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West Ham Park is an incredible urban green space – a place for people, wildlife, and heritage, and a testament to the forward thinking of our forebears in the creation of natural public spaces across London. The 150th anniversary of the Park's creation was recently celebrated in 2024. This incredible milestone served as a celebration of all the Park has provided for so many since 1874, as well as a reaffirmation of the City of London Corporation's commitment to the Park, its surrounding community, and natural environment in Newham and across London.

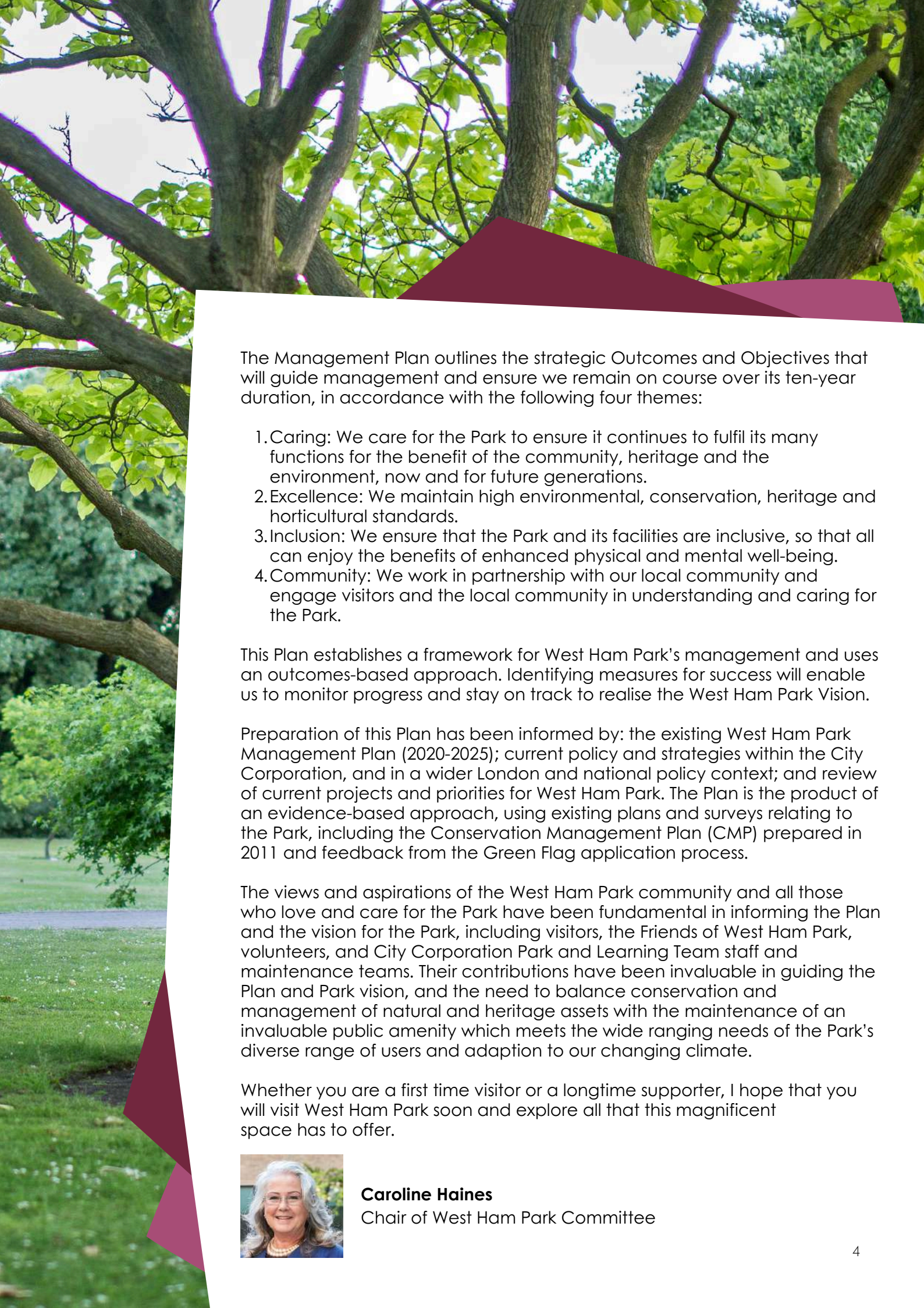
This Management Plan states our commitment to realising our vision to protect and conserve West Ham Park to ensure it continues to enrich the lives of current and future generations.

The Plan aligns with the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan (2024-2029), which provides a framework with six strategic outcomes, to guide our efforts over the next five years, and the . This Plan will be integrated at every level of our work, serving as the 'golden thread' that connects all activities across the organisation. Additionally, it supports the City Corporation's broader goals of contributing to a flourishing society, shaping exceptional environments, and fostering a thriving economy.

The themes, objectives and actions set out in this Management Plan also contribute to overarching City Corporation strategies to address climate change and the management of all aspects of the natural environment within the City Corporation's North London Open Spaces, including Natural Environment Strategies for nature conservation and resilience, recreation and access, community engagement, and culture, heritage and learning.

This Management Plan is also being prepared in the context of a corporate review of the challenges facing our Natural Environment Charities to be completed in 2025. A key objective of the review is to look at opportunities to enable the charities to become more financially independent and provide a more secure and sustainable funding model for the future.





The Management Plan outlines the strategic Outcomes and Objectives that will guide management and ensure we remain on course over its ten-year duration, in accordance with the following four themes:

1. **Caring:** We care for the Park to ensure it continues to fulfil its many functions for the benefit of the community, heritage and the environment, now and for future generations.
2. **Excellence:** We maintain high environmental, conservation, heritage and horticultural standards.
3. **Inclusion:** We ensure that the Park and its facilities are inclusive, so that all can enjoy the benefits of enhanced physical and mental well-being.
4. **Community:** We work in partnership with our local community and engage visitors and the local community in understanding and caring for the Park.

This Plan establishes a framework for West Ham Park's management and uses an outcomes-based approach. Identifying measures for success will enable us to monitor progress and stay on track to realise the West Ham Park Vision.

Preparation of this Plan has been informed by: the existing West Ham Park Management Plan (2020-2025); current policy and strategies within the City Corporation, and in a wider London and national policy context; and review of current projects and priorities for West Ham Park. The Plan is the product of an evidence-based approach, using existing plans and surveys relating to the Park, including the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) prepared in 2011 and feedback from the Green Flag application process.

The views and aspirations of the West Ham Park community and all those who love and care for the Park have been fundamental in informing the Plan and the vision for the Park, including visitors, the Friends of West Ham Park, volunteers, and City Corporation Park and Learning Team staff and maintenance teams. Their contributions have been invaluable in guiding the Plan and Park vision, and the need to balance conservation and management of natural and heritage assets with the maintenance of an invaluable public amenity which meets the wide ranging needs of the Park's diverse range of users and adaption to our changing climate.

Whether you are a first time visitor or a longtime supporter, I hope that you will visit West Ham Park soon and explore all that this magnificent space has to offer.



**Caroline Haines**  
Chair of West Ham Park Committee



# Introduction and Purpose of the Plan

West Ham Park is a 31-hectare (77-acre) public park situated in the London Borough of Newham in East London. As such, it is Newham's largest park. It was conveyed to the City of London Corporation ("City Corporation") in 1874 from the Gurney family on condition that the City Corporation maintains the majority of the site forever 'as open public grounds and gardens for the resort and recreation of adults and as playgrounds for children and youth'. West Ham Park is a registered charity (No. 206948), and the City Corporation is its sole trustee. The primary governing document for the West Ham Park charity, which sets out its objects, is the original conveyance dated 20 July 1874 (as amended by Charity Commission schemes and trustee's resolution).

Today, West Ham Park is a Grade II Listed Victorian style urban park which attracts over 1 million visits a year and offers a valuable green space with a wide range of features and facilities. The Park is located in the London Borough of Newham where access to both private and public open space is at a premium. The Park plays a vital role to the local community, providing a safe and accessible open space, acting in effect as a back garden for many local residents, and also as a focus for community celebrations and events such as Eid and the annual Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile event. The Park is also a designated Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. In July 2024, the Park celebrated its 150th anniversary as a public park, with a range of community events to coincide with the original opening of the Park on 20 July 1874.

The key purposes of the Plan are to:

- Inform stakeholders, users and visitors about the Park and the aims and objectives of management to achieve the Park vision and to safeguard its assets, contribute to wider City Corporation strategies and policies and maintain the Park's annual, well deserved Green Flag award;
- Guide management and maintenance by: describing the Park's assets, features and facilities and their significance, the aims and objectives for their management (set out below); and by setting out the management structures and resources for Park maintenance;
- Support applications to Green Flag and Green Flag Heritage and other initiatives, such as grant funding applications for facilities provision, improvement or heritage and wildlife conservation.





## Structure of the Management Plan

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The Plan is set out under six main headings:

**Management context** – a summary of the existing plans and wider strategies which will inform this Plan

**Description of West Ham Park** and its assets, facilities, attributes, heritage significance and contribution to amenity, recreation, biodiversity, heritage and community benefits; visit numbers and customer survey feedback

**Green Flag and Green Flag Heritage** awards and feedback

**Community Engagement** feedback

**Vision for the Park**, including aims, objectives and outcomes

**Management structure** - sets out the role of the City Corporation and West Ham Park charity in management of the site, the committees and consultation groups that help guide management, and the volunteer groups that make West Ham Park a success.

**Management Objectives and Outputs** set out by Green Flag criteria

**Monitoring and Review**- describes how progress will be assessed and recorded and key milestones at which this progress will be reviewed.



# Management Context

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The first part of the management framework for the Park is the Conservation Management Plan (CMP), which is the overarching policy document that seeks to guide the enhancement and development of new projects whilst ensuring conservation of the Park as a resource to be enjoyed by present and future generations. The CMP is now 14 years old, but the description of the significance of the Park and many of the overarching policies and actions remain relevant. A number of the actions identified in the CMP have now been wholly or partially implemented. This Management Plan re-visits these actions (see Section 5) and incorporates a number of those remaining actions in the delivery of the vision in Section 10.

The Management Plan identifies priority projects for development over a 10-year period and ensures their delivery in line with the objectives of the Park Vision. The Plan is supported by a detailed rolling Five-year Business Plan, which sets out specific projects for delivery within the Plan lifetime, and an Annual Work Plan that sets out cyclical works for the ongoing maintenance of the Park, including regular, year-round and seasonal tasks and allocation of management responsibility.

This ten-year Plan is set within and aligns with the wider City Corporation corporate structure and overall aims and objectives. Key among these are the new Corporate Plan (2024-2029), the Natural Environment Strategies (2024-2029), and the Climate Action Strategy (2020-2027), which set out the City Corporation's strategic approach to our managed open spaces, assets, and activities.

The 'golden thread' directly links the outcomes in this Plan to the City of London Corporate Plan (2024-2029) and the City Corporation Environment Department Business Plan.

The previous five-year Management Plan ran from 2020-2025. This Plan looks forward over the period to 2035, drawing on the vision and objectives, themes and policies set out in the 2020-2025 Management Plan and wider City Corporation strategies, considering progress made in projects identified in previous Plans and identifying and prioritising the outcomes for the next ten years. The ten-year period provides a longer-term framework appropriate to the achievement of wider strategic City Corporation aims, and to the delivery of Park-based projects over a longer time scale, for instance those related to climate resilience and carbon sequestration. The Plan will be subject to a five-year review to monitor progress in the delivery of the Park vision.

The extent to which the outcomes and objectives in this Plan can be realised is dependent on the prioritisation of resources and allocation of funding, and will also be responsive to the changing environmental, social and economic climate. The ambitions set out in this Plan will ensure we are well placed to face the challenges over the next ten years.

The Covid pandemic has changed our perception and understanding of the value of parks and open spaces to the health and well-being of local people. This is of particular importance in Newham, where access to private and public space is at such a premium. Fortunately more and more people are now regularly enjoying the benefits of parks and open spaces, which does bring with it added pressure to conserve and enhance the natural fabric of assets such as West Ham Park.



# Management Context continued..

The West Ham Park Conservation Management Plan (CMP) prepared in 2011 offers a comprehensive analysis of the Park's history and significance. The CMP continues to inform management of the Park, including current and future project proposals and funding applications, repair and conservation works, long term management and maintenance strategies and applications for Green Flag and Green Heritage status. This Management Plan has been prepared within the context of the CMP to ensure that future management and maintenance continues to conserve and interpret the Park's heritage significance and historic fabric.

The West Ham Park Management Team, the Natural Environment Division Learning Team, and the Superintendent of North London Open Spaces have been actively involved in the preparation of this Management Plan.

The Plan also draws on feedback from the Green Flag assessment process, which highlights areas in which the Park is delivering well, as well as aspects requiring improvement, and on public feedback from the West Ham Park Old Nursery Site Engagement Report (make:good, 2024). Key points from this report are included later in the Plan.

Preparation of the Plan has also been informed by consultation with key stakeholders, including NLOS staff and Park Management and Learning Teams and the Friends of West Ham Park.





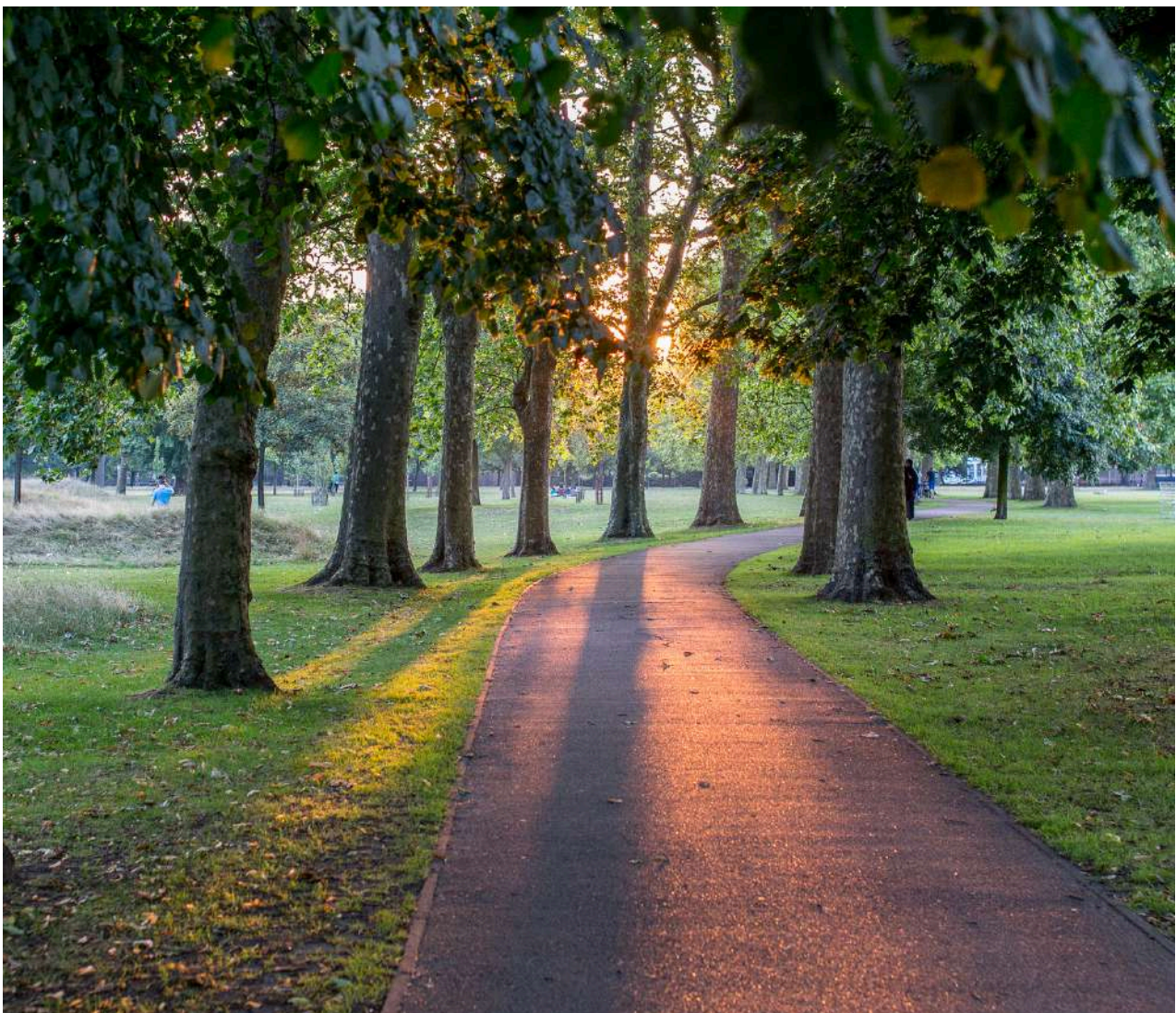
# Policy Context

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West Ham Park is held by the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London (also referred to as 'the City of London Corporation') in its capacity as trustee of the West Ham Park Charity (registration number 206948).

This Management Plan is set within the context of the governing documents of the West Ham Park Charity, as well as City Corporation policy and strategies which provide the framework for the delivery of the City Corporation's overarching aims and priorities. These policies and strategies are informed by the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan, which sets out the vision and strategic outcomes relevant to all of its work. Within this context, the City Corporation has developed targeted strategies to address key issues of climate change and management of the natural environment to enhance future resilience of its open spaces and the wide-ranging benefits they deliver for nature conservation and the community.

Wider London strategies provide additional context for the Site's Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) status and nature conservation significance. The Greater London Authority (GLA) is currently preparing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy which will set out priorities for nature recovery across London as part of a linked biodiversity network.





## London Borough of Newham Draft Submission Local Plan (Regulation 19)

A new Local Plan is in preparation by the London Borough of Newham. The Plan's objectives and policies include a focus on access for communities to a high quality green space network, improvements to health and well-being through access to green space, sport and recreation, enhancements to biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and the protection of heritage assets.

The Park's facilities and special qualities are invaluable in their contribution to achieving these goals within the Borough as a whole. The management recommendations set out in this Plan will ensure that these areas of focus are protected and enhanced, and that the Park continues to fulfil key functions for community, nature conservation and heritage as part of the vision for the wider Borough.

## City of London Corporate Plan (2024-2029)

The Corporate Plan is a tool to guide thinking, planning, decision-making and evaluation across the City Corporation and sets out the strategic outcomes to be delivered across the organisation over the period covered by the Plan. The Corporate Plan is a framework containing six strategic outcomes (see overleaf), which are embedded at all levels of work and form the 'golden thread' across the organisation.





The inclusion of a specific outcome relating to Flourishing Public Spaces emphasises the importance attached to these areas to delivery of the wider strategic aims of the City Corporation.

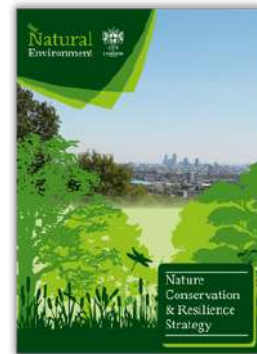
This Management Plan will guide the management of West Ham Park to safeguard and enhance its role in the delivery of these outcomes, with particular reference to its contribution to community, environmental sustainability, and the provision of flourishing public spaces.

### Natural Environment Strategies (2024-2029)

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The four Natural Environment Strategies align with the Corporate Plan and set out the City Corporation's strategic approach to managed open spaces, assets and activities. The Strategies cover four key areas which will inform the future management of all North London Open Spaces and other sites within the City Corporation's portfolio: Nature Conservation and Resilience; Access and Recreation; Culture, Heritage and Learning; and Community Engagement.

The Strategies describe our objectives for the natural environment and the measures by which we will assess our performance against these objectives. They will also inform our business plans and management plans and set out how our activities will align with corporate priorities and policies. This Plan has been prepared within this wider context to ensure that Queen's Park remains a key contributor to the delivery of the four Strategies



### City of London Climate Action Strategy (2020-2027)

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This Strategy sets out the City Corporation's climate action commitments within the Square Mile and across all the City Corporation's wider assets, including open spaces.

The City Corporation will make major investments to achieve the following:

- Net zero by 2027 in the City Corporation's operations
- Net zero by 2040 across the City Corporation's full value chain
- Net zero by 2040 in the Square Mile
- Climate resilience in our buildings, public spaces and infrastructure

Among the key areas for investment, the Strategy highlights:

- Enhancing carbon removal in our open spaces
- Protecting our shared natural resources
- Integrating climate considerations into all our decisions

The City Corporation's parks and open spaces are central to the delivery of Net Zero by 2027. They are estimated to currently remove 16,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. This is equivalent to 40% of the City Corporation's scope 1 and 2 emissions.

This Management Plan aligns with the aims of the Climate Action Strategy. The management aims and priorities for West Ham Park align with and will support the climate action commitments which are of particular relevance to the management of open spaces.



## Natural Capital

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In January 2024, the Park was part of a wider baseline natural capital assessment of the City Corporation's open spaces to map natural capital assets (including biodiversity and carbon sequestration), to estimate their net natural capital value and to make recommendations for enhancing ecosystem service provision and biodiversity.

The findings highlight the value of the North London Open Spaces and the wider portfolio of City Corporation sites, including West Ham Park:

*The main habitat types in West Ham Park are parkland, modified grassland and built up areas. Other significant habitat types across this site are broadleaved woodland and garden areas. The remaining areas of this site are scrub and semi-natural grassland.*

*Carbon sequestration and water flow regulation capacity of the site is moderate, with pockets of high sequestration where the broadleaved woodland is located. Although a good deal of the site has some tree cover, the open nature of the parkland means that the provision of air pollution, noise and local climate regulation is quite low. Timber production is moderate where woodland occurs and food production capacity is low. Pollinator visitation for both spring and summer is moderate for this site.*

*There are built up areas all around the site, and demand for air purification and noise regulation is high where the A114 passes the site. Demand for accessible nature is high, especially to the east of the site.*

*The net natural capital asset value of West Ham Park is estimated to be £263.9 million over 50 years. The site delivers a benefit to cost ratio of 117, which means that every £1 spent on maintenance delivers £11.70 in benefits.*

Recommendations for enhancement include:

*The planned expansion and improvement of semi-natural grassland (wildflower meadows) and woodland areas (woodland, hedgerow and fruit trees) is designed to enhance biodiversity. However, it will also enhance the capacity of the site to store and sequester more carbon, regulate air pollution noise and climate, and will increase food production capacity, timber and woodfuel production, water flow and quality regulation and pollinator visitation rates. This will provide important public benefits, going some way to meeting the demand from the settlements around the site. The creation of a forest school will improve the recreation and health value of the site. As the grassland and woodland areas are improved and expanded, it would be good to place woodland at the edges of the site nearest to the residential areas and roads as this will provide air pollution regulation and noise regulation benefits where they are needed most, this may also enhance the amenity value of the site. Wildflower meadows created where the modified (amenity) grassland is currently located would increase the service provision further.*

The management recommendations set out in this Plan embrace West Ham Park's critical function in contributing the key benefits delivered by these open spaces including biodiversity, carbon sequestration and health and well-being benefits.

The Park Management Team is currently identifying opportunities to contribute to the City Corporation Climate Adaption Action Plan.



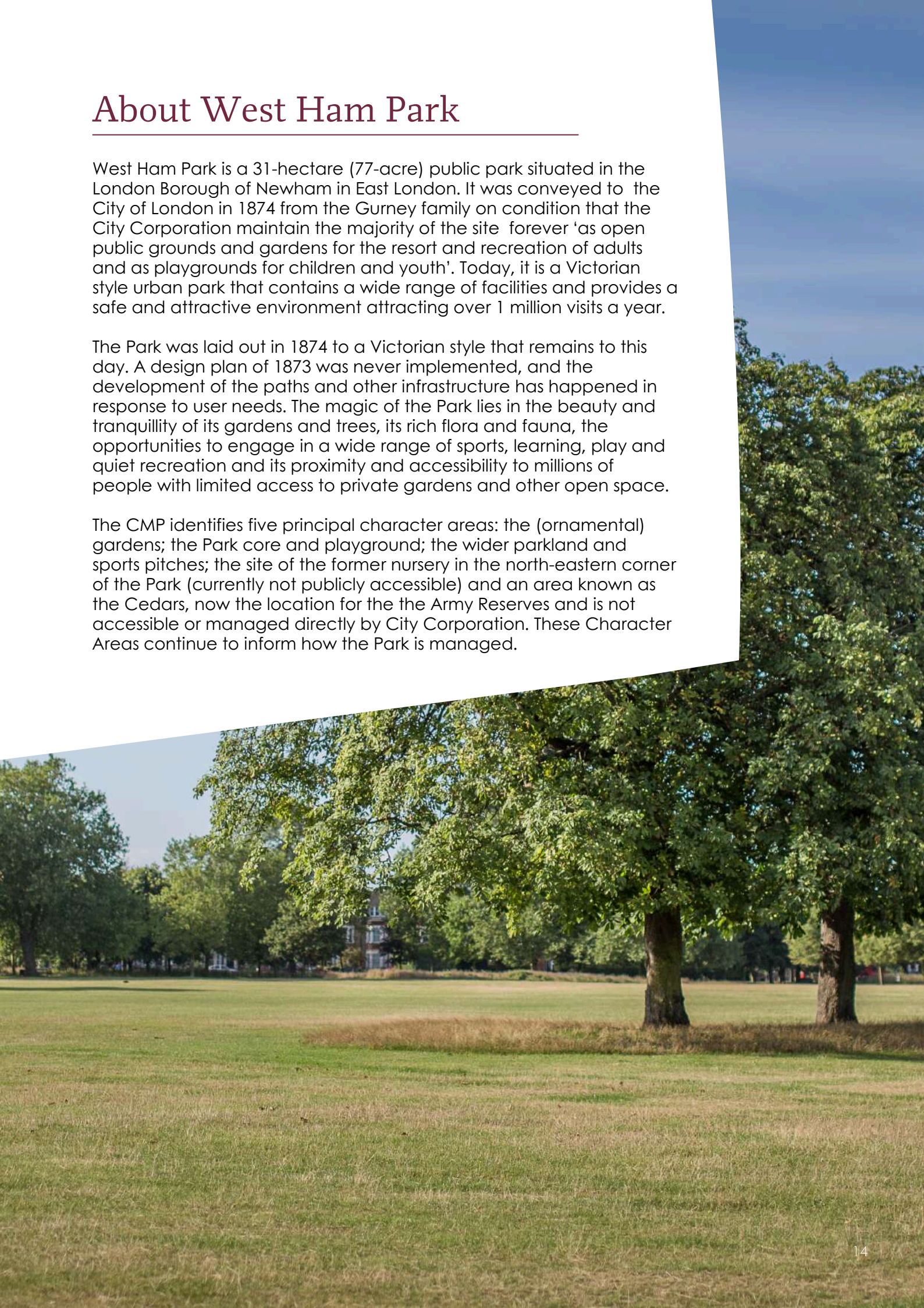
# About West Ham Park

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West Ham Park is a 31-hectare (77-acre) public park situated in the London Borough of Newham in East London. It was conveyed to the City of London in 1874 from the Gurney family on condition that the City Corporation maintain the majority of the site forever 'as open public grounds and gardens for the resort and recreation of adults and as playgrounds for children and youth'. Today, it is a Victorian style urban park that contains a wide range of facilities and provides a safe and attractive environment attracting over 1 million visits a year.

The Park was laid out in 1874 to a Victorian style that remains to this day. A design plan of 1873 was never implemented, and the development of the paths and other infrastructure has happened in response to user needs. The magic of the Park lies in the beauty and tranquillity of its gardens and trees, its rich flora and fauna, the opportunities to engage in a wide range of sports, learning, play and quiet recreation and its proximity and accessibility to millions of people with limited access to private gardens and other open space.

The CMP identifies five principal character areas: the (ornamental) gardens; the Park core and playground; the wider parkland and sports pitches; the site of the former nursery in the north-eastern corner of the Park (currently not publicly accessible) and an area known as the Cedars, now the location for the the Army Reserves and is not accessible or managed directly by City Corporation. These Character Areas continue to inform how the Park is managed.







The Park continues to offer a wide range of facilities and experiences for visitors from the extensive open parklands for sports and recreation to the ornamental gardens which include the rock garden, iris garden, annual bedding displays, rose garden, herbaceous border, heather bed, acer bed, rhododendron beds, a bog garden, variety of specimen trees and a collection of New Zealand plants. The National Plant Collections of *Trachelospermum* and *Liquidambar* are also contained within the Park. Since 2020, we have created the Wildlife Extension Garden and extended the areas of meadow grassland throughout the Park. The refurbished playground was reopened in August 2022. Sports facilities include tennis courts, pitches, including a formal football pitch, informal all-weather surface pitches, cricket square, and an outdoor gym. The bandstand is used for events and can also be rented for private use in alignment with applicable events policies. The Park also includes an area dedicated to community allotments. There are toilet facilities near the Park Office and next to the playground. There are also changing rooms close to the sports pitches in the northern part of the Park.

The Park has no café but there are aspirations for it to again be served by a mobile refreshment service. The CMP proposed that the Park Office could be adapted to provide such a facility, but this building is now fully occupied. The lack of a café or community hub within the Park remains an aspect which is under review.

The governing documents for the West Ham Park charity provide for the majority of the land that was conveyed to the City Corporation in 1874 to be maintained as open public grounds and gardens. They also permit the development of a relatively small area to help fund the management and maintenance of the open public grounds and gardens, or enhance the enjoyment of the Park. These areas include the former nursery site in the northeast of the Park, which previously provided bedding, cut flowers and other plants to the City Corporation and other organisations such as the Royal Parks for parks and formal events, but closed in 2016. This area currently provides a storage area for the grounds team, but there is no public access. Following relevant decisions taken by the West Ham Park Committee, the City Corporation, has been engaging with the public on the potential future uses of the former nursery site. The background to the project and outcomes of this public engagement are set out in the consultation information (2) and West Ham Park Old Nursery Site Engagement Report (3: make:good, 2024). The future uses of this area remain under consideration.

A full list of buildings within the Park, which includes eight staff lodges, is set out in the CMP (Section 3.13). These are primarily the responsibility of the City Corporation Surveyors Department and are outside the scope of this Management Plan. However, reference will be made to buildings where relevant for the purposes of this Plan.

2: <https://make-good.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/202-WHP-July-Sharing-Exhibition-Boards-240710.pdf>.

3: West Ham Park Old Nursery Site: Engagement report (make:good, 2024).



## West Ham Park 150th Anniversary

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In 2024, West Ham Park celebrated an important milestone – its 150th anniversary as a public park managed by the City of London Corporation.

The Park opened in July 1874 following the transfer of the grounds of Ham House (demolished 1872) by the philanthropic Gurney family to the City Corporation to enable the creation of a public green space.

To celebrate the anniversary, a programme of events was devised in partnership with the Friends of West Ham Park, culminating in a weekend of activities on 20 and 21 July 2024 to coincide with the original opening of the Park. The programme included a celebration of culture and heritage, including music from rising stars and local acts, dance, a speech from City Corporation officials and the Mayor of Newham, food, local produce, guided walks, children's nature art workshop, a photo competition, face painting and a small funfair. Events also featured sport and wellbeing, and several sports partners offered free sessions where the public could try a new activity. This included tennis, football, cricket, tai chi, meditation, long-boarding, and a treasure trail. Children were given medals for trying new activities. These events were very well-attended. Further events followed in the autumn, including the spooky autumn walk on 31 October and the annual leaf pile event in November, which proved very popular and attracted large numbers from the local community.



## Natural Environment

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West Ham Park includes important habitats. The majority of the Park comprises amenity grassland, managed as a short award. These areas include the sports pitches as well as large open areas for general recreation. More recently, selected areas have been allowed to develop as meadow through a more relaxed mowing regime, and there is scope to increase these areas in suitable locations. As well as enhancing biodiversity, this has the potential to relieve surface compaction, for instance beneath tree cover, by reducing overall footfall in these areas. Public access and enjoyment is, however, retained through use of mown paths, where appropriate, with the benefit that routes can be altered periodically to minimise compaction.

The Park includes around 1500 trees. Species distribution and tree age was mapped as part of the CMP, and this continues to provide important information in the planning of replacement planting and understanding the potential effects of tree disease. Parkland trees of varying ages and species are a notable feature and are fundamental to the overall character of the Park. The Liquidambar collection is a focal point within the ornamental gardens. Mature London planes form avenues along the path network, however, there are notable gaps where individual specimens have been lost.

Dr John Fothergill bought the Upton Estate, now West Ham Park, in 1762 in order to create a garden of plants from all over the world for scientific and medical study. He built up an extensive collection of rare and interesting plants, including shrubs and trees. The present collection is inspired and informed by Fothergill's collection derived from different parts of the world.

It is believed that there are likely to be four trees that date to the late eighteenth century Fothergill era. All are located within the ornamental gardens, and include one Black Mulberry, one Ginko, and two Fulham oaks.

Around the Park there is a diverse range of species which provide ornamental interest as well as contributing to wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Some of these, including a notable *Ginkgo biloba* planted by Fothergill, survive from the period prior to the demolition of Ham House in the 1870s. Trees in the Park are currently affected by a range of pests and diseases, including *Massaria* (London planes), ash dieback and oak processionary moth. Tree replacement planting and additional planting is carried out and will be developed into a succession plan for tree planting, to take account of the vulnerability of existing trees to disease and the impacts of climate change. There is scope to adapt species selection to create a more climate resilient tree stock. However, this must be considered alongside the heritage significance of the species forming the existing mature tree stock in the historical development of the Park.

The ornamental gardens offer a mosaic of well-maintained flowerbeds, ornamental shrubs and amenity grassland with frequent scattered trees. While celebrating the historical selection of species in the gardens and their ornamental value, species selection for succession planting remains under ongoing review as part of the wider aim to increase climate resilience of the planting and enhance biodiversity.



The Park also includes areas of shrubbery, particularly within the ornamental gardens and around the south eastern boundary where they offer a valuable physical and visual buffer with the surrounding built up area. Occasional areas of scrub, usually in mounded areas around copses and tree groups, have been allowed to develop through a more limited mowing regime and offer further habitat diversity.

The Park includes almost a mile of hedgerow, generally located at the boundaries and comprising privet, hawthorn, beech or holly, as well as a species-rich hedge around the Army Reserves centre. There are plans to plant further hedging around the recently refurbished playground.

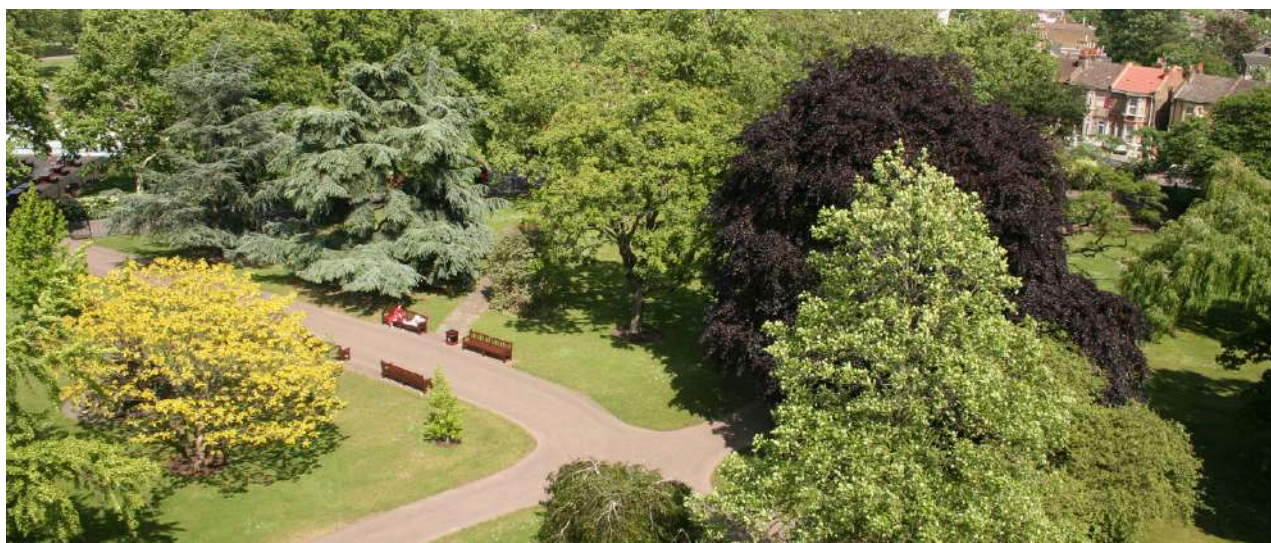
Three areas of the Park currently function as wildlife gardens, managed appropriately to encourage biodiversity, and are in high demand by schools for learning activities either self-guided or run by the Park Learning Team. Two of these, the Wildlife Extension Garden in the east of the Park, which includes a pond and areas of meadow and native planting, and the Wildlife Garden by the Linden Gate in the north west of the Park, are dedicated, enclosed teaching areas. Schools also make use of the south meadow in the southern parts of the Park.

The Wildlife Extension Garden is the most frequently used by the Learning Team to deliver curriculum-linked sessions for local schools, including for children with additional needs, and learning events for the wider community. The Wildlife Extension Garden can also be hired for private parties.

The Wildlife Garden in the north-western corner of the Park has a more wooded character and is used primarily by Park Primary School which is located adjacent to the Park on Ham Park Road. There is scope to widen opportunities for use of these areas by the Friends or other groups seeking a community space for hire.

A small ornamental pond is contained within a hollow at the south-eastern corner of the Park, but there is no public access.

The Park supports a range of birds, mammals and invertebrates. A survey of bird species in the Park carried out by the Friends of West Ham Park in 2023 recorded a total of 32 species, including house sparrow, identified by the City Corporation's Biodiversity Action Plan (2021-2026) as a target species, and mistle thrush, listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



## Park Designations

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The Park carries heritage and nature conservation designations, including:

- Grade II listed Park
- The Park is a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation, a non-statutory, local designation. The Friends is working with the London Wildlife Trust to achieve Borough SINC status for the Park.

## Heritage

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The Park is Grade II listed. The Park's modern history can be traced back to the 18th century. It has been associated with a number of notable figures, including Dr John Fothergill, a noted physician and botanist who occupied the former Ham House within the area occupied by today's Park. 'The Cairn' and drinking fountain marks the location of the house. Fothergill had a particular interest in medicinal plants and created a botanical garden at Ham House described in the CMP as *second only to Kew in the range of plants and its repute*, enhanced by specimens sent by plant hunters of the time from around the globe. The existing rock garden, constructed in 1992 together with the rose garden, is located on the site of Fothergill's 18th century rock garden. During the 19th century, the Park was owned by the Gurney family, known Quakers and philanthropists, including the prison reformer Elizabeth Fry who lived there. The slave trade abolitionist - Thomas Fowell Buxton also stayed there. The Park was transferred into the ownership of the Corporation of London in 1874. Since then the Gurney family has maintained a connection with the Park through representation on its management committee. A full history of the Park and development chronology is set out in the CMP (2011).

The Park offers interpretation of heritage and history through a walking trail based around QR codes which offer context to important trees and features in the Park. The ornamental gardens feature an attractive series of interpretation panels explaining the history of the gardens, focussing on selected plant species, especially Fothergill's introduction of South African plants, and featuring botanical drawings.

## Recreation and Facilities

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West Ham Park offers a safe and welcoming place for formal and informal active and quiet recreation, with a range of community and sports facilities for all ages, including families, schools, dog walkers, commuters and office workers and sports enthusiasts. The Park is widely used by school groups for sport and for learning activities, particularly in the designated wildlife garden areas, and by the community for informal events or private parties, for which the bandstand is a popular venue.

As such, the Park continues to fulfil its original function to provide 'open public grounds and gardens for the resort and recreation of adults and as playgrounds for children and youth'.

The Park's key features and facilities include:



## **Parklands and paths**

The open grassland areas provide opportunities for general recreation, including walking and exercising, sitting, picnics and informal games. Defined areas are left to grow long to create seasonal areas of meadow or as scrub to enhance visual amenity and biodiversity. Parkland trees and shrubs provide shade and shelter, create visual and seasonal diversity, define spaces within the Park and offer roosting, foraging and shelter for wildlife.

## **Play facilities**

The play area was refurbished in 2024 and provides a range of equipment for children under 12, including seasonal water play. This part of the Park provides a focal point and functions as a busy hub where children and parents can gather in a secure environment to relax and socialise.

## **Bandstand**

The bandstand is located close to the Park Office and is a focal point for many community events to offer free entertainment, including events run by the Friends. Examples include music and concerts and “Park in the Dark”. The bandstand can also be hired for private parties.

## **Sports and active recreation**

The Park includes 12 tennis courts, a marked football pitch, cricket square and seasonal running track, rounders pitch and changing rooms. A second football pitch is due for renovation in 2025. An area of hardstanding (former all weather pitch) in the south of the Park is used informally for football. In addition, to the cricket square there is a nets area and general space for cricket, very heavily used. Bookings are managed by the Support Services Officer. The running track is regularly booked by local schools for sports days.

The Park management team is considering options to expand the sports offer through creation of an additional cricket pitch and using an existing area of abandoned hard standing in the north of the Park to create a skateboarding facility. The introduction of Padel at the Park is also being considered here or elsewhere, as noted in Section 10 of this Plan for the achievement of Objective 9: Healthy and Active Park.

An outdoor gym features a range of equipment. This is a popular facility and offers a degree of privacy afforded by a surrounding hedge while allowing natural surveillance from nearby paths. The Park has also hosted Park Run.

## **Toilets**

Toilets are located near the Park Office building and additionally adjacent to the play area.

The Park has no car parking facilities. The provision of cycle parking is under review.

## **Community Garden and Beehives**

There is a small, fenced community growing area which is managed by the Friends and is located just to the south of the play area. There are beehives located in the refuse and recycling compound, which does not provide public access.

## Community Engagement, Health and Well-being

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The Park offers multiple benefits for physical and mental health and well-being through outdoor recreation, formal and informal sports and exercise for all ages, opportunities to meet friends and family and build community cohesion. The Park invites engagement with nature and heritage, education and learning, and caring for the Park through volunteering and engagement with Park management.

Newham is one of the four least active boroughs in London, where obesity remains high and is significant at 61.2% (2020-2021) against a London average of 56%. 30.6% of adults in Newham are classed as physically inactive, compared to a London average of 24.3% (2020-21). Newham has high rates of child poverty with an estimated 50% of children living in child poverty and 32% of children living in food insecurity. Access to quality public green space is a priority for these areas if we are to reduce inequality of access to physical activity, and help improve people's mental health and wellbeing. West Ham Park is a vital asset to the borough as recognised in its Local Plan.

The Friends has a primary focus on working to enhance the established achievements of the Park team in encouraging community engagement. The Friends aim to reach as many sectors of the local community as possible and is active in organising guided walks, talks and events in the Park. These are generally free, but may include a request to bring a small item for contribution to local food banks. Recent events have included bat watching, butterfly watching /butterfly count, annual bird count and a Halloween 'Park in the Dark', which attracted over 560 people. Although less directly involved in practical management tasks in the Park, the Friends do play an active role in management of the community growing area and regular tasks around the Park, including weeding, hedge planting and litter picking. The Friends has capacity to offer weekend events in the Wildlife Extension Garden when the space is not in use for schools.





## Learning

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The Park Learning Team is based in the Park and has an extensive programme designed to offer curriculum-based learning within the Park and to engage and inspire the wider community in nature conservation. The Learning Team seeks to encourage positive attitudes which value and respect the Park's features and qualities, and behaviours which are mindful of the environment and seek to protect and enhance the Park's contribution to the local community, biodiversity and the City Corporation's wider strategies.

The Learning Team comprises a Learning Manager, a Learning Officer focussing primarily on curriculum-based learning for schools, and a second Learning Officer for Nature and Learning. A further role focussing on a programme for young carers and young refugees is delivered by a Learning Officer for Youth across West Ham Park, Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest. The Park's learning offer is in high demand, and the team delivers an ambitious, extensive and diverse programme which has grown significantly since 2020 and is proactive in reaching out to local schools and the wider community and in seeking grant funding to support its work. The team also works with wider organisations, for example Alternative Trust, which offers sessions in the Park to support young women and mothers, and Tindersticks, which runs a monthly pre-Forest School one-hour session for children under five from low-income families. Schools are not charged for learning sessions.

The Team is supported by Learning Volunteers, often recent graduates, in delivering sessions. Additionally, volunteer support comes from the City Corporation's scheme which provides for all its employees to engage in two days' volunteering a year. Occasional support also comes from corporate volunteer days as part of larger firms' programme of community support.

Events run by the Learning Team include a range of nature based and outdoor experiences, including orienteering, community campfire, mini beast hunts, and sensory garden experiences. Curriculum linked sessions include a Maths Trail and also draw on the Park's history and features to create events themed around the Stone Age and the WWII London blitz. The Learning Team website also offers a Plant Explorers booklet for schools, home education and community groups such as the Scouts. The City Corporation has also produced a series of walks within the Park, including a Tree Trail and History Trail. The ornamental gardens feature a series of attractive information boards which offer visitors a history of the gardens and Dr Fothergill's collection.

There is scope to expand the learning offer to meet growing demand.





## Climate Change Mitigation

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The Park has an important role within the context of mitigating the impacts of climate change and enhancing resilience.

Trees and woodland canopy create a microclimate which helps to offset urban temperatures and reduce the urban heat island effect. These also provide shade for Park users and sequester carbon sequester which contributes to City Corporation's climate action targets. Vegetation also absorbs pollutants which helps to improve air quality for visitors and the wider local area.

The permeable surfaces of parkland and woodland absorb surface water and helps alleviate issues of run-off and flooding. The Park's habitats, including trees, woodland and shrubs, grassland and wildflower areas, also form part of the wider ecological network and contribute to habitat linkages in the surrounding area for the benefit of local wildlife including birds, mammals and invertebrates.

The City Corporation is currently assessing how all of its parks and open spaces can contribute to a Climate Adaption Action Plan, and the energy efficiency of buildings is under examination as well.

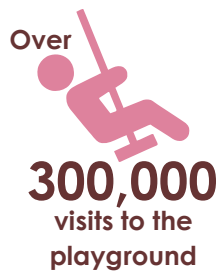




# Key Stats



Each year at West Ham Park there are:



# Visitor Numbers and Surveys

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Recent surveys indicate that West Ham Park attracts over 1 million visits a year.

The 2011 CMP, although now some years old, summarised the findings of consultations carried out in 2010. Responses showed that the top three qualities of the Park were *a place to walk, a place to exercise, and a peaceful place*. A place to play, a place to unwind and feeling closer to nature were the next three most popular responses.

The key qualities or facilities liked by individual groups were:

- The Friends said the park is peaceful, a place to walk, observing wildlife, feeling closer to nature, general sports facilities, and the ornamental gardens.
- Schools like the park as a place to play, as a place to play team sports and because it is peaceful.
- Members of the public like the park as a place to walk and exercise and because it is peaceful.
- The staff like the ornamental gardens and the park as it provides a place to walk.

Aspects identified for improvement included:

- Toilet facilities
- Drinking Fountain
- Refreshment facilities/café.

In 2024, the City Corporation commissioned a public engagement exercise primarily to assess public opinion on the potential future uses of part of the former nursery site. The outcomes of that engagement offer some insight into the views and priorities of Park visitors. In summary, the report outlines the top items people wanted to see for the 50% of the nursery site approved by West Ham Park Committee to be retained for community and operational uses were:

- Café and community facilities
- New green and open spaces
- Community growing space
- Sheltered seating

Proposals for the former nursery site remain under consideration following the public engagement exercise.



# Achievement of Green Flag Green Heritage Awards

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## Green Flag

West Ham Park has successfully retained Green Flag status for some 20 years. Green Flag is the benchmark national standard for parks and green spaces.

The 2024 judging process identified many strengths from the desk assessment across all Green Flag criteria. Among its recommendations were, in summary:

- Additional information in the Management Plan with reference to health and safety management, environmental practices, a map of heritage trees, and the role of FWHP and volunteers
- Consideration of Park entrances, ie a more welcoming tone through paint work to the gates and floral displays
- Removal of self-set tree saplings and attention to issues affecting London Planes
- Repairs to Park benches and a more consistent design
- Surveys to establish biodiversity levels and progress in enhancements
- Consideration of repairs to the cairn fountain
- Community involvement: consider closer links with the Territorial Army Centre and wider Newham parks
- Social media presence
- An updated suite of Plans for the Park.

The inspection summary concluded:

*This is a very good Park, providing a range of services to the local population, particularly children. The ornamental gardens are impressive and contain the National Collection of Liquidambar tree cultivars.*

The judge's comments have informed the actions set out in Section 10 of this Management Plan.

## Green Heritage

The Park was not awarded Green Heritage status in 2024. The Park last achieved the award in 2023, retaining it after several successful years. In the 2024 assessment, the Park was complimented on the quality of the CMP and its recommendations, on the high quality of the ornamental gardens and interpretation of heritage features in the Park. The assessment commented, however, that the 2020-2025 management Plan gave no indication as to whether the CMP recommendations had been addressed or considered, which is understood to be the key reason for the judges' decision not to award Green Heritage. The assessment made further recommendations for enhancing interpretation of heritage features, for species selection in the ornamental gardens to reflect the original planting, and a tree trail to illustrate the significance of historic trees.



A number of the 2024 Green Flag recommendations are already being addressed by the Park team as part of ongoing management or as projects for specific attention which will require dedicated time and resources. This Management Plan has been informed by a review of the CMP and its recommendations to conserve, enhance and manage the historic fabric of the Park. It sets out the priorities and proposed timescales for delivery of these and wider enhancements to ensure not only that Green Heritage status is achieved, but that the Park's assets, features and qualities are conserved and enhanced to maintain its invaluable long term contribution to the community. These priorities will be reviewed as part of the Plan's interim review in five years' time to assess achievements and progress towards the fulfilment of the ten-year Vision and aims.

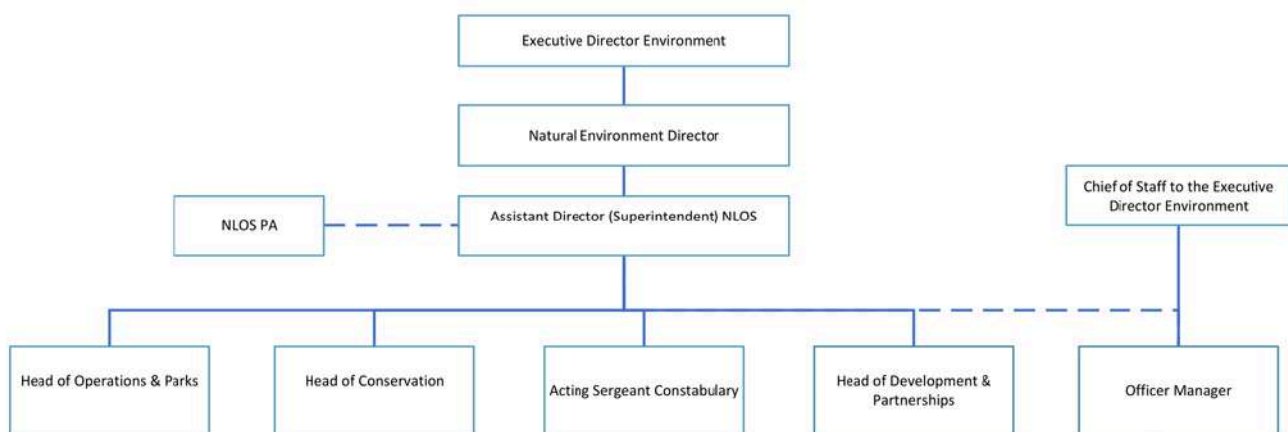




# How West Ham Park is managed

West Ham Park is one of the four spaces managed by North London Open Spaces, a sub-division of the City Corporation's Natural Environment Division. In addition to West Ham Park, these include Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park. North London Open Spaces is led by the Assistant Director (Superintendent), who is responsible for the operation. NLOS comprises the equivalent of c. 125 full-time directly employed staff.

## North London Open Spaces: Top Tier



As set out above, West Ham Park is a registered charity (No. 206948) and relies on funding from the City Corporation, along with revenue generated from services, grants and donations.

In line with the governing documents for West Ham Park Charity, the management of the Park is primarily overseen by a committee, known as the West Ham Park Committee, consisting of fifteen members. Eight members of the Committee are appointed by the City Corporation, four members are appointed by the Heir at Law to the late John Gurney Esq., one Member is appointed by the priest in charge of the benefice of West Ham and two members are appointed by the Council of the London Borough of Newham.

The team looking after West Ham Park comprises seven Rangers and Operative Rangers, plus a Head Gardener and a team of two Gardeners. They are managed by the Senior Ranger, who is in turn managed by the Formal Parks Manager. The Senior Ranger currently has the support of one Support Services Officer and One Support Services Assistant. The Park currently employs a total full time equivalent of 14 staff, and a Gardener Apprentice as notes in the staffing structure plan below. The Parks team is supported by the City Corporation's Learning Team which provides a range of activities for school children which get them exploring the Park, establishing connections with the natural world and addressing school curriculum requirements.

## West Ham Park Staffing Structure

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- Head of Parks and Operations - responsible for Queen's Park, Golders Hill Park, Parliament Hill, West Ham Park, swimming facilities, fleet, and Health and Safety operations.
- Formal Parks Manager - Responsible for Queen's Park, Golders Hill Park, and West Ham Park.
- Senior Ranger - Responsible for West Ham Park's day-to-day management.
- Head Gardener and Ranger - Based at West Ham Park, both roles responsible for leading teams on the ground.
- The rest of the dedicated West Ham Park team consists of 2 x Gardeners and 6 x Operative Rangers.
- Casual staff as and when required.
- Administrative support officers.

West Ham Park is also supported by several staff who operate across other North London Open Spaces, including:

- Arboricultural Team
- Conservation Team
- Ecologist
- Fleet and Health & Safety Officer
- Mechanic
- Events Manager
- Communications Team
- Learning Team
- City Surveyor's Department

### **Apprenticeship**

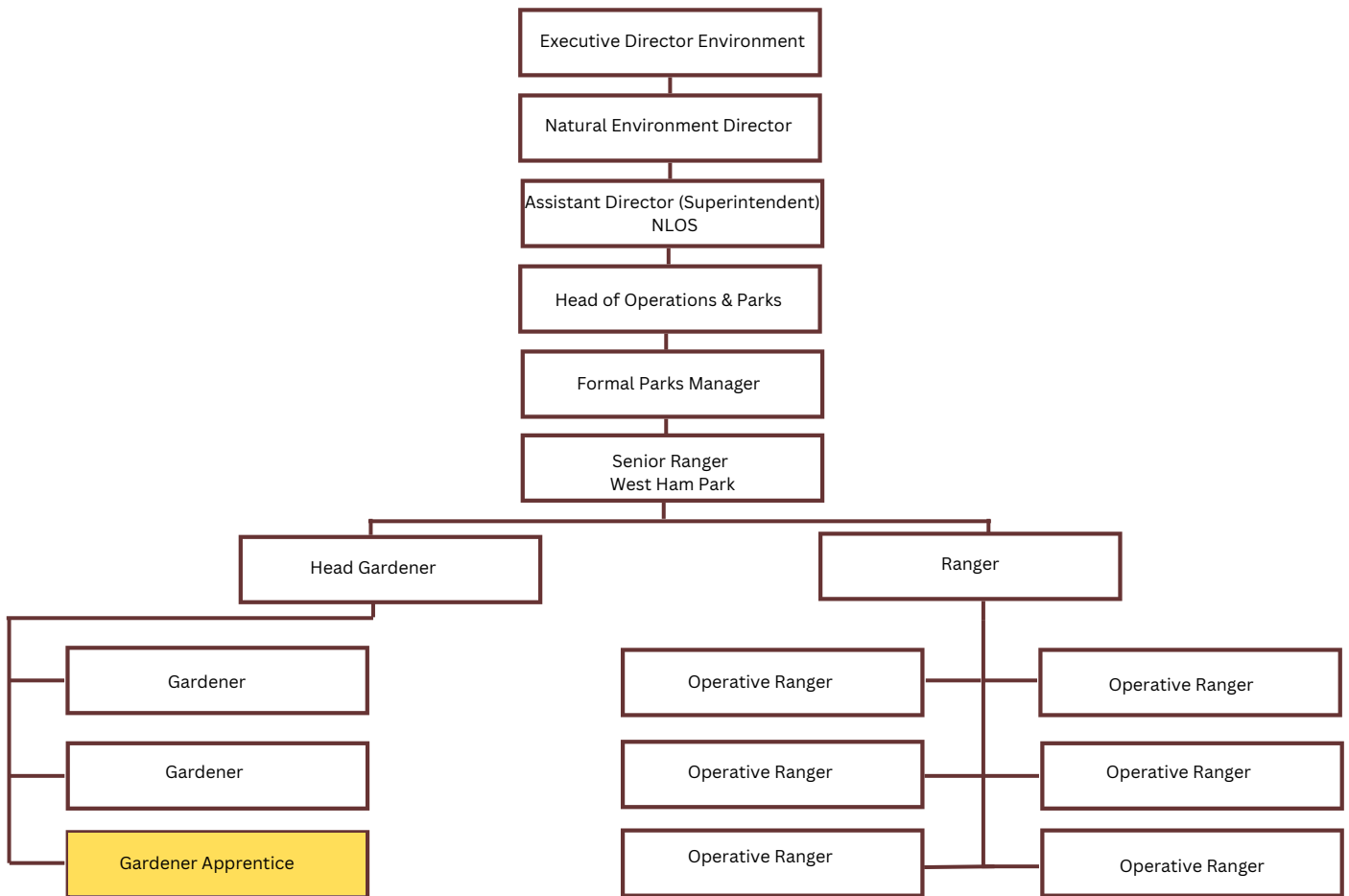
The Park supports a horticulture apprenticeship programme that will provide apprentices with a good technical knowledge base of the sector, combined with practical work experience, proven competency in the workplace and the development of transferable skills. The Park supports level 2 and level 3 apprentices.

The staffing structure for West Ham Park is outlined in the next page, with apprentice posts shown in yellow.



## West Ham Park Staffing Structure continued

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## Staff training, learning and development

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All staff have a Performance Development Approach (PDA) appraisal, which is conducted by their line manager and includes an individual learning and development plan and sets objectives to be met over the year. Objectives and development are set at the beginning of the year (April) and reviews made at mid-year and end of year. All staff have monthly local team meetings and individual monthly meetings with their line manager. Recent improvements in the organisation, booking, recording and evaluation of courses, have ensured that we continue to make progress in this important area. All staff receive a mid-term and an annual review to provide a dedicated opportunity to talk on a one-to-one basis with their line manager about a range of development issues, including personal objectives, competencies, and training. All staff are also required to undergo mandatory training that comprises a mixture of off-site and on-site operational training.

## Volunteers

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The Friends of West Ham Park provide valuable practical support for the grounds team in the Park. Volunteers are engaged with ongoing maintenance tasks such as litter picking, leaf clearance, hedge management and a range of projects to enhance the Park environment, nature conservation and biodiversity within the Park, including surveys. In addition, the Friends put on a range of events and activities which encourage engagement and involvement in the Park. Activities and events are advertised in Notice Boards in the Park and on the Friends' website (8).

## West Ham Park Charity

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West Ham Park is a registered charity (reg. 206948). The average annual expenditure budget for the Park is c. £1.5 million. The Park receives this funding from the City of London Corporation and from the Park's charitable activities. Baseline annual income to the Park comes mainly from three sources: leasehold income; refreshment licences; and sports facilities. Funding for capital improvements comes from the City Corporation and occasional grant funding.

The Park has also received grant funding and gifts in kind from organisations including Tesco Bags of Help; Greater London Authority; Groundwork; sports bodies such as the Lawn Tennis Association and England Cricket Board; and the City Bridge Trust.

Throughout the life of this Plan, we will seek to maximise opportunities to deliver projects through external national and local funding. GiftAid for the charity was introduced in 2023 and has been successful in securing donations that have been reinvested back into the Park.

8: <https://friendsofwesthampark.co.uk/>



# Vision and Themes

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The City Corporation welcomes and values its role as the custodian of West Ham Park. We place great value on its stewardship for current and future generations and have collaboratively developed the following Vision Statement to guide its management.

## Vision

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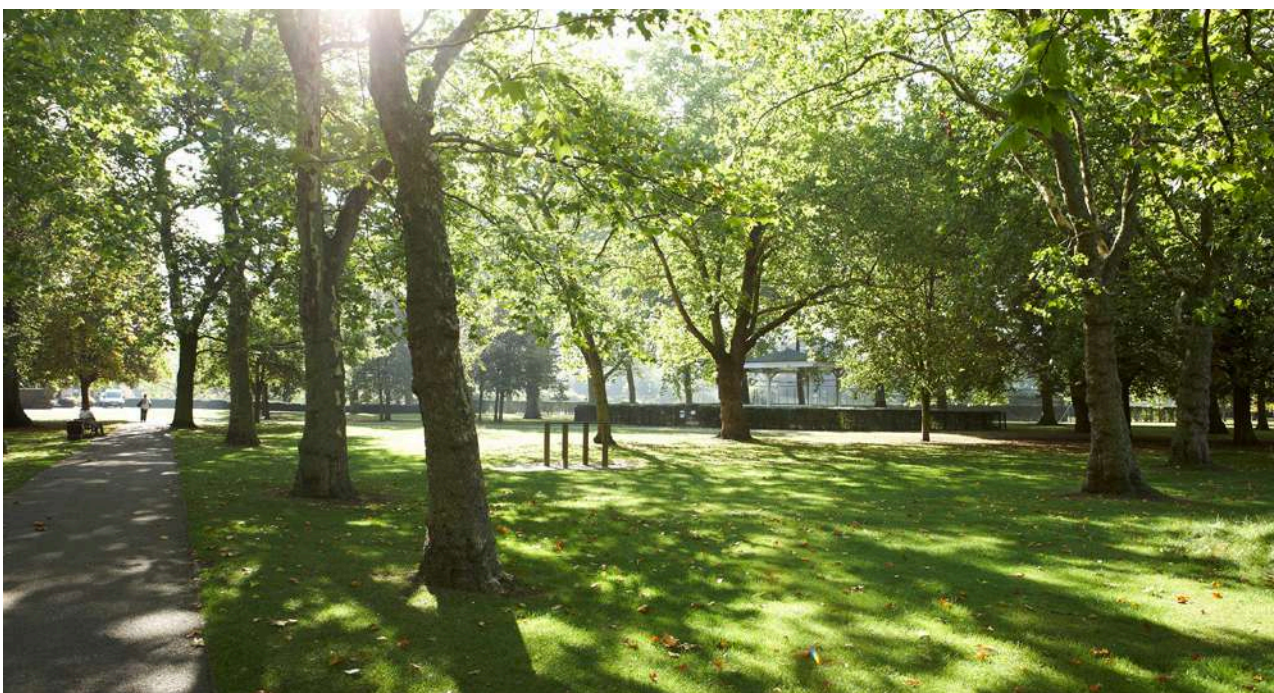
West Ham Park provides a beautiful, safe and accessible open space which is welcoming to all members of our local community. It is a place where we celebrate our local social, cultural and landscape heritage and look forward, adapting to changing needs and embrace opportunities to ensure the Park continues to provide a sustainable, resilient, beautiful and safe place to be enjoyed by all.

## Themes

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The Vision provides the guiding principles for the four main themes which, in turn, show how it will deliver outcomes which contribute towards corporate and departmental objectives. Those themes are:

- **Caring:** We continue to care for the Park to ensure it fulfil its many functions for the benefit of the community, heritage and the environment, now and for future generations.
- **Excellence:** We maintain the highest environmental, conservation, heritage and horticultural standards.
- **Inclusion:** We ensure that the Park and its facilities are accessible to all and inclusive, so that all can enjoy the benefits of enhanced physical and mental well-being.
- **Community:** We work in partnership with our local community and engage visitors and the local community in understanding and caring for the Park.



**Table 1: How the Park vision will be delivered, and it links to other key strategic documents**

THEMES	<p><b>Caring:</b> We continue to care for the Park to ensure it continues to fulfil its many functions for the benefit of the community, heritage and the environment, now and for future generations.</p>	<p><b>Excellence:</b> We maintain the highest environmental, conservation, heritage and horticultural standards.</p>	<p><b>Inclusion:</b> We ensure that the Park and its facilities are accessible to all and inclusive, so that all can enjoy the benefits of enhanced physical and mental well-being.</p>	<p><b>Community:</b> We work in partnership with our local community and engage visitors and the local community in understanding and caring for the Park.</p>
CORPORATE PLAN 2024-2029 OUTCOMES	<p>Leading Sustainable Environment</p> <p>Flourishing Public Spaces</p> <p>Vibrant Thriving Destination</p> <p>Providing Excellent Services</p>	<p>Flourishing Public Spaces</p> <p>Vibrant Thriving Destination</p> <p>Providing Excellent Services</p>	<p>Diverse Engaged Communities</p> <p>Providing Excellent Services</p>	<p>Diverse Engaged Communities</p> <p>Flourishing Public Spaces</p> <p>Providing Excellent Services</p>
CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY 2020-2027 AMS	<p>To support the achievement of net zero</p> <p>To build climate resilience</p> <p>To champion sustainable growth</p>	<p>To support the achievement of net zero</p> <p>To build climate resilience</p> <p>To champion sustainable growth</p>		<p>To support the achievement of net zero</p> <p>To build climate resilience</p> <p>To champion sustainable growth</p>
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIES	<p>Nature Conservation And Resilience Strategy</p> <p>Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy</p> <p>Access and Recreation Strategy</p> <p>Community Engagement Strategy</p>	<p>Nature Conservation And Resilience Strategy</p> <p>Culture, Heritage and Learning Strategy</p>	<p>Access and Recreation Strategy</p> <p>Community Engagement Strategy</p>	<p>Community Engagement Strategy</p>



**Table 1: How the Park vision will be delivered, and it links to other key strategic documents continued**

<p>OUTCOME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management balances needs of visitors with requirement to protect natural and heritage assets</li> <li>• Management issues around facilities and condition of the Park, for example toilet block refurbishment are addressed</li> <li>• Natural assets, trees and priority habitats are healthy and well-maintained</li> <li>• We plan for the future in tree succession planning and planting across the Park to contribute to climate resilience</li> <li>• Projects and initiatives for improvement, protection and enhancement of Park heritage and natural assets and enjoyment of the Park balance the interests of all stakeholders and contribute to City Corporation wider strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain Green Flag, Heritage Award and London in Bloom Award</li> <li>• Obtain/seek Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation</li> <li>• Enhanced biodiversity, resilience to climate change and contribution to interconnected spaces through appropriate and best practice Park management and maintenance practices</li> <li>• Our practices are financially, socially, and environmentally sustainable</li> <li>• Heritage assets are conserved</li> <li>• Sustainable practices minimise waste, optimise recycling of green and non green waste and encourage responsible recycling of waste by Park users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Park continues to provide the 'back garden' for local residents</li> <li>• Facilities and activities reflect the needs of our local community and are improved and cared for</li> <li>• We continue to provide facilities for sports and learning for our local schools.</li> <li>• All feel safe and comfortable to access the Park's variety of facilities</li> <li>• Our learning programme continues to focus on emotional connections and physical health and mental well-being</li> <li>• Our partnerships with local stakeholders inform improvements and management and optimise promotion of the Park and events, and volunteer engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our events, activities and learning programmes foster emotional attachment to the Park and a desire to care for the Park</li> <li>• Continue to work in partnership the Friends, local schools and other groups to maintain the connection between the Park and local community</li> <li>• Continue to consult with the local community in developing proposals for the Old Nursery Site</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to adapt management to provide opportunities for learning, activities and recreation.</li> <li>• Provide activities and interpretation celebrating the heritage of the Park</li> <li>• Numbers engaged in activities, sports and Enhanced volunteering continues to grow</li> <li>• Improved health and well-being for Park community</li> </ul>
<p>OBJECTIVES</p>	<p><b>Objective 1:</b> Well managed Park</p> <p><b>Objective 2:</b> Well maintained and clean Park</p> <p><b>Objective 3:</b> Sustainable Park</p> <p><b>Objective 4:</b> Park that addresses conservation and heritage</p>	<p><b>Objective 1:</b> Well managed Park</p> <p><b>Objective 2:</b> Well maintained and clean Park</p> <p><b>Objective 3:</b> Sustainable Park</p> <p><b>Objective 4:</b> Park that addresses conservation and heritage</p>	<p><b>Objective 5:</b> Welcoming Park</p> <p><b>Objective 6:</b> Safe and secure Park</p> <p><b>Objective 7:</b> Well marketed and promoted Park.</p>	<p><b>Objective 8:</b> Park where community involvement is encouraged.</p> <p><b>Objective 9:</b> Healthy and active Park</p>

# Delivery of the West Ham Park Vision

To deliver and achieve the Park Vision through the four main themes as shown in Table 1, nine objectives have been developed in this Management Plan. To achieve this vision, we recognise the importance of working towards an agreed national standard for good practice in the management of parks and open spaces. The objectives will contribute towards the Green Flag Award criteria, the benchmark national standard for publicly accessible parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom:

**Objective 1: Well managed Park**

**Objective 2: Well maintained and clean Park**

**Objective 3: Sustainable Park**

**Objective 4: Park that addresses conservation and heritage**

**Objective 5: Welcoming Park**

**Objective 6: Safe and secure Park**

**Objective 7: Well marketed and promoted Park**

**Objective 8: Park where community involvement is encouraged.**

**Objective 9: Healthy and active Park**

This Plan sets out the nine objectives and the associated tasks and projects through which delivery of the Park Vision will be achieved in the ten-year period to 2035.







## Theme: Caring

We continue to care for the Park to ensure it continues to fulfil its many functions for the benefit of the community, heritage and the environment, now and for future generations.

### **Objective 1: Well managed Park**

The Management Plan balances community use and enjoyment of the Park with the protection and enhancement of the Park's character, natural and heritage assets and contribution to nature conservation and environmental sustainability

### **Objective 2: Well maintained and clean Park**

The fabric, infrastructure and facilities within the Park are kept in good order to maintain public access and enjoyment

### **Objective 3: Sustainable park**

The Park's contribution to the City Corporation's Natural Environment and Climate Action strategies is optimised

### **Objective 4: Park that addresses conservation and heritage**

Manage the protection and enhancement of natural and heritage assets, informed by the CMP, to safeguard their significance and to further public understanding and enjoyment

## Commitment

To achieve this, we will:

Action	Timescale
<b>Facilities and infrastructure - repairs and refurbishment</b>	
Refurbishment of the toilet block	2025/26
Continue to develop proposals for the Old Nursery Site in partnership with the local community.	Ongoing
Football pitch renovation	2025
<b>Sustainability</b>	
Work as part of the Climate Adaption Action Plan/Carbon Removals Project to adapt management practice and planting where appropriate to contribute to climate resilience and carbon sequestration.	Ongoing



<b>Conservation and heritage</b>	
Continue to re-visit CMP strategy and actions and identify opportunities to implement remaining actions	2025
Conserve and maintain heritage assets in the Park in partnership with the City Surveyors Department.	Ongoing
Bandstand: Ongoing repainting and repairs	Ongoing
<b>Learning and Community</b>	
We continue to observe how local people use and benefit from the Park and adapt our practice where appropriate	Ongoing





## Theme: Excellence

We maintain the highest environmental, conservation, heritage and horticultural standards.

### Objective 1: Well managed Park

Park attains Green Flag, Green Heritage, and London in Bloom awards

### Objective 2: Well maintained and clean Park

- Horticultural displays and all areas of planting, parkland and woodland are visually attractive
- Park is tidy and litter free, furniture and equipment is clean and fit for use
- All sports facilities, equipment and play areas are safe and fit for purpose

### Objective 3: Sustainable Park

- Maintain and implement sustainable management practices in all Park operations, where possible.
- Park's natural assets and planting are managed within the context of sustainability, succession and climate change mitigation

### Objective 4: Park that addresses conservation and heritage

Management ensures ongoing protection and conservation of heritage assets, including the Park's historic design and distinctive mature woodland tree cover

## Commitment

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To achieve this, we will:

Action	Timescale
<b>Green Flag / Green Heritage / London in Bloom</b>	
Ensure all supporting information requested in the 2024 Green Flag feedback is supplied as part of the submission	2025
Continue to secure annual Green Flag and London in Bloom awards	Annual
Attain Green Heritage Award	2025

<b>Sustainable Park Management</b>	
Continue to implement sustainable management practices in all Park operations wherever possible, including transition to non-petrol powered machinery and equipment, waste management and recycling, water management and avoidance of chemicals; encourage visitors to recycle waste through appropriate on site provision	Ongoing
Park-wide: Achieve a balance in soft landscape management between access and amenity requirements for general recreation, and nature conservation, for example in management of grassland and hedgerows, including ongoing review of meadow grassland	Ongoing
<b>Conservation and Heritage</b>	
Trees: develop tree succession plan to maintain the historic fabric of the Park (avenues) and safeguard the Park's distinctive tree and woodland cover in the longer term and its contribution to nature conservation and climate mitigation. Consider species selection plan to balance replanting of Park's historic tree species with choice of species likely to be more resilient to climate change	2025/26
Continue to develop measures for the monitoring and management of tree pests and diseases such as <i>Massaria</i> , ash dieback and oak processionary moth	Ongoing
Update ecology/habitat survey (current survey dates from 2011 CMP) and implement actions to enhance biodiversity value and target Biodiversity Action plan habitats and species	2025/26
Work with London Wildlife Trust and Newham to raise the status of the Park as a Site of Interest for Nature Conservation from Local to Borough	Newham Local Plan Review
Continue to review interpretation and information provision around the Park	Ongoing





## Theme: Inclusion

We ensure that the Park and its facilities are accessible to all and inclusive, so that all can enjoy the benefits of enhanced physical and mental well-being.

### Objective 5: Welcoming Park

- All visitors feel welcome in the Park and able to freely explore and enjoy its features and facilities
- Information about and within the Park, welcome signs at entrances, bylaws, directional signage, interpretation and events notices on site are well located, clear, unobstructed and accessible to all
- Whole Park and its facilities are accessible to all

### Objective 6: Safe and secure Park

- Visitors and staff feel safe in all areas of the Park
- All facilities are maintained in a safe condition, fit for purpose

### Objective 7: Well marketed and promoted Park

- Local residents and Park visitors have access to information and events; forthcoming events are effectively communicated
- Visitors understand the quality of the Park recognised in Green Flag and other awards

## Commitment

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To achieve this, we will:

Action	Timescale
Continues to develop learning opportunities for all age groups and communities	Ongoing
Ensure that our existing Wildlife Teaching Areas provide a valued facility for local schools and look at opportunities to create new areas. Explore opportunities to create an additional Learning area in the Park to meet growing demand.	Ongoing
Continue to review, and where appropriate update or enhance, signage and interpretation in the Park	Ongoing
Support our staff through training to provide 'a friendly face' to maintain our communication and links across our local community	Ongoing



## Theme: Community

We work in partnership with our local community and engage visitors and the local community in understanding and caring for the Park.

### Objective 8: Park where community involvement is encouraged

- Park enjoys the benefit of active public engagement with all stakeholders in the ongoing management of the Park and the decision-making process for proposed projects and initiatives
- Community and volunteers benefit from a deeper understanding of the Park, development of learning and skills, and enhanced mental and physical health through a wide range of voluntary activities, and experiences which engender and deepen their attachment to and interest in caring for the Park

### Objective 9: Healthy and active Park

- Visitors of all ages, backgrounds and abilities enjoy a range of options for enhancement of health and well-being, including walking, running, use of formal sports facilities and informal exercise

## Commitment

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To achieve this, we will:

Action	Timescale
<b>Facilities</b>	
Work with the local community to identify a suitable location for a food and beverage provision	Over the life of this plan
<b>Community Involvement</b>	
Retain and develop engagement and partnerships with residents associations and volunteer groups.	Ongoing
We continue to work closely with the community and the Friends of West Ham Park to identify opportunities to enhance learning and engagement, grow our programme of activities, events, walks and talks to enhance understanding of the Park's heritage and nature conservation significance and Park management.	Ongoing



Widen volunteer engagement in all aspects of Park management, including practical maintenance, surveys such as wildlife monitoring, and biodiversity.	Ongoing
Continue to grow our Learning Programme with local schools and children's groups to provide opportunities for learning about the Park, heritage and nature conservation, through guided visits, walks, talks and activities, and experiences such as bulb planting and wildlife monitoring.	Ongoing
<b>Health and active park</b>	
Continue to work with local schools and clubs to provide facilities for organised sport and recreation	Ongoing
Work with the FWHP to increase opportunities to engage in informal activities such as health walks, guided walks and tasks in the community garden and around the Park.	2025
Look at opportunities to develop the Outdoor Gym which is heavily used.	2026
Consider options to expand the sports offer through creation of an additional cricket pitch and using an existing area of abandoned hard standing in the north of the Park to create a skateboarding facility, and introduction of Padel	Ongoing
Park Run: continue to promote and support.	Ongoing

# Monitoring & Review

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## **Implementation**

The West Ham Park Management Plan identifies priority projects and activities implemented via the rolling Five-year Business Plan and Annual Work Plan.

The implementation of this Management Plan will continue to be overseen by the West Ham Park Committee, which provides strategic direction for the charity, and City Corporation Environment Department.

An annual review and update of the work programme will be undertaken, and an annual Business Plan prepared. Resources will be allocated to priority projects on a five-year rolling basis, informed by the Outcomes and Priorities in this Management Plan and aligned with the City Corporation's business planning cycle.

At the end of the first five years, the Management Plan will be subject to a full review and update.

## **Monitoring**

Monitoring and tracking progress towards achieving the outcomes will help us to understand the impact of our work, and to share and celebrate successes.

We will continue to monitor progress towards the outcomes and priorities set out in this Management Plan, and report back to the West Ham Park Committee.

## **Learning and improving**

Monitoring the changes or benefits that result from our activities provides insight into and understanding of the effectiveness of our actions and highlights where we can develop our work to make the biggest difference.

Evaluating effectiveness has enabled us to check our course and to make corrections in a timely manner, capturing learning and building in improvements as we proceed.

## **Communicating our impact**

Each year, we will prepare an annual Business Plan and Annual Work Programmes for West Ham Park which set out the priorities and how these deliver against the Themes and Outcomes described in both the City Corporation Strategies and this Management Plan.

# References

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Baseline natural capital assessment of the City of London Corporation's open spaces (Natural Capital Solutions January 2024)

City of London Open Spaces Department Managing Tree Safety (2014)

City of London Corporate Plan (2024-2029)

City of London Climate Action Strategy (2020-2029)

City of London Tree Strategy (May 2012)

City of London Global City of Sport (2023-2030)

City of London Biodiversity Action Plan (2021-2026)

Natural Environment Nature Conservation and Resilience Strategy (2024-2029)

Natural Environment Access and Recreation Strategy (2024-2029)

Natural Environment Community Engagement Strategy (2024-2029)

Natural Environment Culture Heritage and Learning Strategy (2024-2029)

West Ham Park Management Plan (2020-2025)

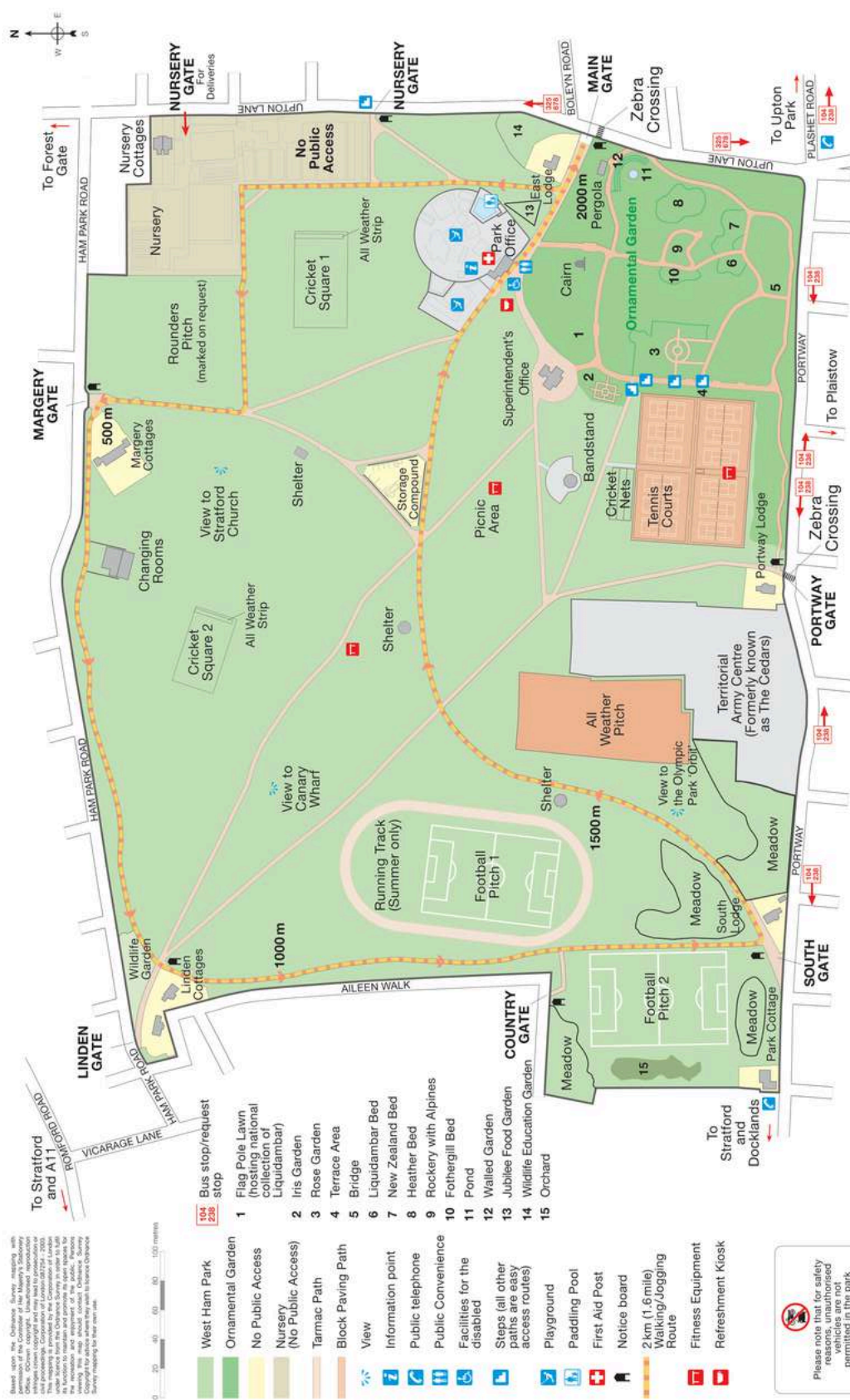
West Ham Park Conservation Management Plan (2011)

West Ham Park Old Nursery Site: Engagement Report (2024)



# Appendix 1:

## Map of West Ham Park



**Park opening** – The Park is open from 7.30am every day until dusk. The Toilets are open from 7.45am until 15 minutes before closing.

**Children's Playground** – The playground is open from 9.30am every day until 30 minutes before park closing time (8pm in the summer months).

**Catering** – An ice-cream van is available in the summer providing refreshments. Picnics are welcome and benches are provided in the Park.

If you would like to tell us your ideas for how the park could be improved, contact us by emailing [parcs.gardens@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:parcs.gardens@cityoflondon.gov.uk).

**Want to get involved?** To find out more about helping to shape future plans for the park and volunteering opportunities please contact the Park Office on 020 8472 3584 or [parcs.gardens@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:parcs.gardens@cityoflondon.gov.uk) or see [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/westhampark](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/westhampark)



# West Ham Park



# West Ham Park

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