



# City Gardens

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## Bunhill Fields Burial Ground Management Plan

### Consultation Statement

March 2015

City of London -  
protecting green  
spaces since  
the 1850s

## **INTRODUCTION**

City Gardens, City of London Corporation are consulting on the review and update of the Bunhill Fields Burial Ground Management Plan.

## **CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS**

Consultation on the draft Bunhill Fields Burial Ground Management Plan took place between Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015. The following stakeholder groups were consulted:

- Key local stakeholders included Wesley's Chapel, Quaker Gardens, Lyceum School and Golden Lane Campus.
- Officers from London Borough of Islington.
- Friends of City Gardens.
- Key officers from City of London Corporation departments.
- Consultation poster displayed at Bunhill Fields and copies of draft management plan made available to visitors
- Consultation posters with details of how to download and provide comments and feedback displayed at Guildhall, Artizan Street, Barbican and Shoe Lane libraries.
- Webpage created on the City Gardens website and e-newsletter sent out to subscribers.

The consultation period resulted in four constructive comments some of which have been addressed and added to the management plan. The comments are detailed in the table below along with an explanation as to whether the comment was included in the revised management plan.

Name	Organisation	Comment	City Corporation Response
Sarah Hudson	City resident Friends of City Gardens	<p><b>Objective 2: A welcoming park</b> Provide secure bike parking rack next to the gardeners' hut</p> <p><b>Objective 3: A healthy, safe and secure park</b> Plant a hedge on the City Road side of the site to help screen particulates and NO2 arising from traffic on this highly polluted road</p> <p>Introduce a regular 'green gym' gardening session for volunteers and promote it through doctor's surgeries and local libraries as part of a healthy living initiative.</p> <p><b>Objective 6: A park that's addresses conservation and heritage.</b></p> <p>Continue to plant native woodland species amongst the tombstone areas to provide increased forage for insects and birds</p> <p>Plant new shrub species in the tombstone areas, including holly, native roses, yew to provide cover for birds</p> <p>Plant ivy to grow up dead trees to provide nesting and roosting areas for birds and early nectar for bees.</p> <p>Continue developing and gapping up annually the shrub/herbaceous beds in the Peter Shephard inspired designs. Including species that provide good year round forage for bees and night scented species to encourage insects for bats.</p> <p>Install low cost signs explaining the purpose of certain interventions – less mowing, woodland meadow area.</p>	<p>Not added as a specific management action but will be addressed in partnership with the London Borough of Islington.</p> <p>Proposed objectives incorporated into the management plan objectives.</p> <p>Identifying opportunities for the planting of native woodland species and shrubs to increase forage for pollinators and cover for birds added to objectives. Specific actions to be pursued following advice e.g. growing ivy up dead trees.</p> <p>Installation biodiversity interpretation signage incorporated into management plan objectives.</p> <p>All amendments and suggestions to the document appreciated and incorporated into management plan.</p>

Name	Organisation	Comment	City Corporation Response
Jennifer Potter	Wesleys chapel	<p>Thank you for sending us this .I note the continuing hope that more can be done to integrate Bunhill Fields, the Quaker Meeting House and graveyard and ourselves and to make the most of all our assets for visitors. We have had several plans in the past most notably in connection with the re-ordering of the Quaker Gardens. If there was scope for discussion about how we might cooperate further we would be very open to that. As you are probably aware many of our visitors go to see Susanna Wesley's grave and it forms part of our pilgrimage route on May 24th – the 'conversion' day of her son, John. This year 24th may is a Sunday and a large group of people will pass through Bunhill Fields, stopping for a short service on the way from the Chapel to St. Paul's Cathedral.</p>	<p>Comments welcomed. We hope to work with Wesleys Chapel in all future plans for Bunhill Fields Burial Ground.</p>
John Thirlwell	City Resident	<p>I write as a Barbican resident who is peripherally involved with Friends of City Gardens and enjoys walking through Bunhill Fields. This is really just to say what fantastic work you do in maintaining and developing Bunhill Fields. Keep up the good work in line with your plan.</p> <p>My only other major comment is that, given the critical importance of open spaces for City workers and especially residents from an environmental point of view, it is utterly depressing to see that the open spaces budget is likely to continue to reduce in real terms over the next 5 years. I do not see why the work by Friends of City Gardens, should be a material substitute to proper funding.</p> <p>One small point about your background information - it would have been even more interesting to look at the census and other returns for Bunhill Ward, which show much more deprivation than the overall Borough figures and so point to making the Fields even more attractive to residents, despite their living (just) outside the City.</p>	<p>Comments and support of Bunhill Fields welcome.</p> <p>The City of London is experiencing serious economic challenges ahead due to the reduction in government grants. Work is taking place to review the services we currently operate and allow us to explore more efficient, effective and innovative ways of working.</p> <p>We welcome comments regarding the wonderful work of the Friends of City Gardens which both assist and provides added value to our service.</p>
Name	Organisation	Comment	City Corporation Response

Luis Garrido	Blake Society Treasurer	<p>The Blake Society would like to reiterate its commitment to marking the actual grave of William Blake. It would like this to be noted in the 2015-2020 Bunhill Fields Management Plan.</p> <p>The actual location of Blake's grave is detailed and referenced in the 2006 Bunhill Fields Conservation Management Plan. The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) goes on to state that marking this location is an objective and action point of the CMP.</p> <p>Marking the grave of William Blake has the City of London Open Spaces committee approval dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008 which also gave support to approach the London Borough of Islington for Planning permission. Both the City of London and Islington Planning have accepted the Blake Society's proposal for marking the grave of William Blake as has English Heritage and the Islington Tree Officer. The Blake Society has been raising funds to this end and still has this project as a priority for the Blake Society.</p> <p>Blake's family provide an interesting practical example of how the grave coordinate system logged in the Bunhill Fields Burial Order books and in conjunction with the 1869 record of inscriptions map can be used to locate unmarked graves. As the unmarked graves of Blake himself, that of his wife, of his mother, and of his eldest brother can be located in this manner.</p> <p>In this current draft of the Bunhill Fields Draft Management Plan 2015-2020, apart from the well-known fact that William Blake is buried at Bunhill Fields, no mention is made of the location of the actual grave of William Blake lying on the edge of lawn in the Garden Area (item 3.2) and about 20 metres away from the location of Blake's memorial. Unlike Defoe and Bunyan, whose actual graves are marked, the current memorial stone for Blake is not even in its original location over Blake's actual grave, since it was moved.</p> <p>The Blake Society would like it to be noted in the 2015-2020 plan that the location of the actual grave of William Blake is known and that permissions have been given to mark this location for posterity.</p>	<p>Comments and support for marking the exact location of William Blake's grave welcomed.</p> <p>Reference to the known location of William Blake's grave and details included in the Conservation Management Plan added to '3.2. The Garden Area'</p> <p>Action plan for objective 6: a park that addresses conservation and heritage updated to include: OBJ6i 'Proposals to be considered for the appropriate commemoration of William Blake on his exact burial site'</p>
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