

Appendix 1 – Park management progress Information

1. Weather conditions

- 1.1 The weather station at the Nursery recorded the following monthly average maximum and minimum temperatures for the year:

Month	Average Min (°C) 2010	Average Min (°C) 2011	Average Max (°C) 2010	Average Max (°C) 2011
April	6	9	18	21
May	8	10	19	21
June	12	12	25	23
July	16	13	26	23
August	13	14	23	23
September	11	13	21	23
October	9	11	17	19
November	5	8	10	14
December	-3	5	3	10
January	4	5	8	10
February	6	3	11	9
March	5	6	13	17

- 1.2 The weather recorded in the last year show no extreme variance from temperatures recorded in the preceding year. Maximum and minimum recordings show that on average we had a warmer year than 2010. The hottest day recorded was the 27th June at 35.7 ° C and the coldest day was the 11th February recording a temperature of -5.9 °C.
- 1.3 The weather recorded in the last year serves as a timely reminder that as part of the long term management planning process for the park, measures for dealing with such conditions and possible long term climate change must be considered. We will therefore continue to monitor weather conditions to enable us to respond to fluctuations in seasonal weather conditions.

2. Park visitor numbers April 2010 – March 2011

Month	Number of Visits
April	173,580
May	137,910
June	125,170
July	132,637
August	93,306
September	96,876
October	85,093
November	71,971
December	52,174
January	64,538
February	70,110
March	113,528
Total:	1,216,893

- 2.1 Analysis of the data from 1st April 2011 to 31st March 2012 shows that the Main Gate is still the most used in the park with 317,886 visits, followed by Margery Gate with 245,577 visits over the same time period. The least used gate in the park is Country Gate with 56,625 visits.
- 2.2 April 2011 saw the most visits over this time period with December 2011 having the least number of visits. The total number of visits recorded this year shows that figures have doubled from when we first recorded visitor numbers in 2005.

3. Use of sports facilities

- 3.1 The use of Park sports facilities throughout the year was as follows:
- i. **Cricket pitches:** 72 games were played on the two cricket pitches. 27 games were booked by our three regular cricket sides, Amez, Bow Rovers and Star cricket clubs. The schools booked 45 games.
 - ii. **Cricket nets:** The three cricket nets continued to be very popular and received 646 hours of paid use. This is an increase of 106 hours of play from 2010 figures. In addition, our three regular cricket teams enjoyed the free use of one practice net per week.

iii. Tennis: a total of 2758 games took place on the twelve available tennis courts, with over half this number taking place at weekends.

Concessionary rates were available for students, the under seventeen's, over sixties and the unemployed and this accounted for 1431 games. In addition, the half hourly ticket introduced for end of day play resulted in an additional 10 hours of tennis income for the Park.

iv. School sports: There were 10 school sports days held in the Park, 115 bookings of the running track, 74 tennis courts bookings and 91 bookings of rounder's and sport pitch pitches by the schools.

4. Newham Cricket Clinics

4.1 The London Borough of Newham's Sports Development Team delivered the following cricket coaching throughout the year in West Ham Park.

Dates	Participants	Total attendance for the week
Tuesday 26 th July – Thursday 28 th July	30	90
Tuesday 2 nd August – Thursday 4 th August	30	90
Tuesday 9 th August – Thursday 11 th August	30	90
Overall attendance		270
Monday 24 th October – Friday 28 th October	36	144
Monday 13 th February – Friday 17 th February	40	160
Total participants		574

4.2 This current partnership is a valuable relationship with the Borough enabling cricket coaching to be delivered throughout the year at very minimal costs to the Park along with the provision of free sports coaching for young children and adults in Newham.

5. Tessa Sanderson Foundation Academy

5.1 The academy has successfully created the West Ham Park Run series attended, on average, by 60 participants. The series is seasonal and runs for five week periods on Sunday Mornings. The year concludes with a 10k run which starts and finishes in the Park and this year had over 2500 participants.

- 5.2 The foundation has also been proactive with the provision of many sessions of tennis coaching for the local schools. Launched in July 2011, each morning session allows 400 children to have taster sessions with Tessa and her coaches. Those that show potential can train with the Academy on Wednesday afternoons.

6. Summer Entertainment

- 6.1 As in previous years, free entertainment was provided during July and August on the bandstand. At each show, a staff member was present to observe the quality of the performance and record attendance. Staff received a number of favourable comments and noted that throughout the summer 935 children and 523 adults attended the shows.

7. Paddling Pool

- 7.1 The Park paddling pool was open daily throughout the summer on fine days in June, July and August and was once again one of our most popular facilities. Using our visitor monitoring form, staff recorded patterns of use and site conditions throughout the opening period.
- 7.2 Analysis of the data shows that the pool was open for 25 days during the summer, closed for 43 days due to inclement weather and nine days for repairs.
- 7.3 During the 94 day period that the pool could potentially have been available over the summer season, there were also 17 days when no-one wished to use the pool, and during this time staff undertook other duties.
- 7.4 The visitor figures also show that, on average, ten children use the pool each hour when open, and that the most popular day was Sunday 25th June when 489 children and 296 adults (supervising guardians) used the pool in the seven hours it was open.

8. Recorded incidents

- 8.1 In common with most busy urban parks, a number of incidents took place throughout the year. For the tenth year running, Park staff have recorded all incidents in an 'occurrence' book held in the Playground office. Analysis of the records shows that during the year the staff had to deal with a variety of incidents and details are shown in the table that follows:

Incident	Frequency 2010	Frequency 2011
Ambulance called and persons taken to hospital	18	17
Arson	4	6
Assault	21	13
Dangerous dogs	4	3
Eviction of a person from park by keepers	39	49
Fights broken up by keepers	8	4
First Aid administered to the public	80	72
Found goods	6	12
Graffiti	4	3
Lost children	5	10
Rough sleepers	0	7
Police called	34	28
Police present (uncalled)	270	165
Robbery reported to keepers	12	13
Smoking cannabis	21	18
Stray dogs	3	5
Syringes found	42	16
Threats to staff and members of the public	27	23
Vandalism	36	24
Vehicles entering park without permission	4	1

- 8.2 Although these incidents only involve a small percentage of visitors throughout the year, they continue to be an important and time consuming part of the work carried out on site. The presence of an experienced and dedicated team of staff continues to be a great asset to the site, and allows these incidents to be dealt with professionally and efficiently.
- 8.3 Support from our local Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) continues to be effective throughout the year. Regular visits are made to the Park and Office in order to gather information and discuss assistance that site staff may need with particular issues. The Park Manager is a representative on the West Ham Ward Panel along with other members of the community. The group meets four times a year and areas requiring attention and support are discussed and a partnership approach is adopted for resolving issues within the area.

9. Recognising Success

- 9.1 The Park achieved its thirteenth Green Flag award during the year and in addition received its third Green Heritage Award achieving top quartile marks. The Park entered London in Bloom for the first time, where we achieved Gold in the Parks, Gardens and Grounds Awards and also won Park of the year Award.

10. Other volunteer activities in the Park

- 10.1 In addition to activities carried out by the Friends, other volunteers have provided assistance with a wide range of projects throughout the year. Through our established links with a number of local schools, charities and volunteer agencies, we were able to offer a number of work placements ranging from school children to adults who sought experience in a working environment. As well as providing valuable experience for the participants, it also gave staff an opportunity to pass on their skills and to guide, encourage and support the placements.
- 10.2 With the support of local schools and park visitors, the Park continued with our successful food growing in the planters within the playground. The project illustrated how the local community can grow their own food in confined spaces, organically and sustainably.

- 10.3 Table showing Volunteer Hours and Educational Sessions

Year	Volunteer Hours	Educational sessions - No. of attendees	Number of educational sessions
2010/11 April - March	1494	702	26
2011/12 April - March	1574	1399	59
% increase	5.4%	99%	11.5%

- 10.4 The table above shows the number of volunteer hours and educational sessions carried out in the park. There was a significant increase in number of participants in educational sessions as we accommodated more schools and other partnering organisations also made use of the facilities. The increase in the number of educational sessions illustrates more direct learning with smaller groups.

11. Additional Funding

- 11.1 The park benefitted from funding for a number of projects from the Open Spaces City Bridge Trust Application. The funding enabled us to create a permanent food growing area (The Jubilee Food Garden), which included the installation of a borehole. The funding also assisted with the creation of several new meadow areas and the introduction of a new Orchard to the Park boundary.
- 11.2 Aiming High for Disabled Children awarded funds for the playground in the park to create an inclusive mound with slide. The bespoke design includes landscaping and has proved very popular with children in the playground.

12. Friends of West Ham Park

- 12.1 The Friends of West Ham Park were formed in July 2006 and are currently at a membership of 221 volunteers, an increase of 33 new members this year. The Friends aim is to assist the Park management team in implementing the Management Plan for the benefit of the whole community through providing local support, publicity, volunteer assistance and improved links with the community.
- 12.2 Through close joint working between the Park Manager and the elected Friends Chairman, the group have successfully organised a number of activities throughout the year that have been of benefit to the Park. These have included monthly bird surveys, promotion of events on their own web site www.friendsofwesthampark.btck.co.uk and facebook. They also organised a 'Past Times Event' attended by 600 park users to celebrate 300 years of history of Dr John Fothergill and 200 years history of the Gurney family in West Ham Park.

13. Nursery update

- 13.1 Throughout the year, we worked on projects set out in year two of our five year business plan. The plan has provided clear direction exploring charity, business and trading options that clearly support the objectives of the Park.

13.2 In addition to delivering the projects set out in the plan, the team continued with its core aim of providing a quality service to its clients, supplying 250,000 bedding plants to the City's Open Spaces. A number of bespoke floral displays were provided for high profile events and visits and the Nursery successfully tendered to supply bedding to Bushy, Greenwich and Richmond Parks of The Royal Parks for a seven year contract.