



City Gardens

City of London Draft City Gardens Management Plan 2017-2022

Consultation Statement

July 2017

City of London –
protecting green
spaces since
the 1850s

INTRODUCTION

City Gardens, Open Spaces Department, City of London Corporation have prepared the Draft City Gardens Management Plan 2017-2022.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Consultation on the Draft City Gardens Management Plan 2017-2022 took place between Monday 22nd May and Friday 14th July 2017. The following stakeholder groups were consulted:

- Key officers from City of London Corporation departments.
- City Gardens, Open Spaces Department stakeholders
- Consultation poster with a link to the consultation webpage to both download and provide comments and feedback was displayed in noticeboards at St Mary Aldermanbury Garden, Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, West Smithfield Rotunda Garden, Postman's Park, Finsbury Circus Garden, St Botolph Without Bishopsgate and St Dunstan in the East.
- Consultation posters displayed at Guildhall, Artizan Street, Barbican and Shoe Lane libraries.
- Webpage created on the City Gardens website and an e-newsletter sent out to subscribers.
- Draft Management Plan consultation promoted on City of London Corporation social media streams.

The consultation period resulted in constructive comments from 4 individuals which have been acknowledged and addressed with amendments made to the management plan were appropriate. The comments are detailed in the table below along with an explanation as to whether the comment was included in the revised management plan.

1.0	Organisation	
	Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee	
	Comments Received	City Corporation Response
1.1	Comment Re: How are the open spaces managed by City Gardens funded? Suggestion that document should include details of alternative sources of funding that are secured such as agreed maintenance costs, CIL, section 275 and section 106.	4.2 updated to explain the full extent of funding sources received by City Gardens.
2.0	Organisation	
	Facilities Management, City Surveyor's, City of London Corporation	
	Comments Received	City Corporation Response
	No comment	No Action required
3.0	Organisation	
	Head Gardener, Inner Temple Gardens, The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple	
	Comments Received	City Corporation Response
	I have got nothing to add to the action plan 1 to 3. It is a good document.	No Action required

1.0	Organisation	
	Friends of City Gardens	
	Comments Received	City Corporation Response
1.1	Comment I think you need to add in something about waste recycling in Action Plan 2 as you do refer to it in the text. You also need an Action on staff training (which should not just be horticultural, i.e. biodiversity, communication, working with volunteers/children etc) and I think an action to use expertise from other sections of Open Spaces, where appropriate.	<p>We have added an objective in Action Plan 2.6, the review of the sustainability action plan that will include targets relating to waste recycling. To continue to work with City Corporation colleagues, to continue to seek solutions to increase onsite recycling and to reduce the amount of waste generated by users of our open spaces.</p> <p>Staff receive a range of training to support their roles. Biodiversity related training is identified in Biodiversity Action Plan. Communications training is identified in the City Gardens Communications Plan. Volunteer training is identified and delivered by the Learning Team, Open Spaces Department. Identifying and delivering staff training is established an on-going.</p>

1.2	<p>Comment</p> <p>Re: Table 3 – Action Plan 3: Communication and community involvement</p> <p>CC13.9 Develop and install an accessible, sensory garden or part of a garden to enhance the mental health and well-being of residents, City workers and visitors and particularly children with Special Educational Needs.</p> <p>CC13.10 Develop and install a green gym to promote health and well-being.</p>	<p>The need for a specific sensory garden should be explored as part of Area Enhancement Strategies.</p> <p>The use of sensory and fragrant planting should be considering in all spaces when developing planting schemes. To be included on a 'opportunities checklist'.</p> <p>Opportunities for outdoor gym with fixed equipment to be explored with Health and Wellbeing colleagues.</p> <p>Opportunities to introduce a green gym which focuses on exercise and gardening based activities to be explored as part of future proposals at Bunhill Fields.</p>
-----	--	---

1.3	<p>Comment</p> <p>Re: Table 2 – Action Plan 2: Environmental responsibility (includes sustainability, biodiversity and heritage)</p> <p>On reflection under Action Plan 2 I think you need an objective to make more gardens smoke free.</p>	<p>The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Action Plan 2017-2020 identifies the need to increase the number of smoke free spaces in the City with the outcome of reduced parental smoking and reduced smoking in parks and paly areas. Current Smoke Free Gardens to be reviewed and users surveyed gauge support.</p>
-----	---	--

2.0	Organisation	
	Pollution Control, Markets & Consumer Protection	
	Comments Received	City Corporation Response
2.1	Comment <p>The issue of noise / soundscape has been omitted from the draft management plan and should be included to meet the aims of the City of London Noise Strategy 2016 to 2026.</p> <p>In particular –</p> <p>CHAPTER 5 -PROTECTING AND ENHANCING THE ACOUSTIC ENVIRONMENT AND SOUNDSCAPE OF THE CITY OF LONDON</p> <p>To protect, and where possible enhance, the acoustic environment and soundscape in suitable parts of the City in such a way that any measures will contribute to an improvement in health and quality of life and wellbeing for residents, workers and visitors.</p> <p>In delivering this aim it will be necessary to seek opportunities for the enhancement of the acoustic environment, for the promotion of soundscape initiatives and for the protection of quiet and tranquil places when and where such measures are supported by the local community</p> <p>POLICY SOUNDSCAPE 1: The City Corporation will, where possible, seek to integrate acoustic design and management into other relevant City Corporation policies and strategies and environmental management practices so as to enhance the acoustic environment and soundscape of the City.</p>	<p>Reference to the City of London Noise Strategy 2016-2026 added to 10.0 Environmental responsibility, 10.3 Noise.</p> <p>Soundscape has been added to the objectives checklist as details in action CCI3.9 aims and objectives</p>

2.2	<p>POLICY SOUNDSCAPE 2: The City Corporation will identify certain open spaces in the City that would benefit from further protection or enhancement of the acoustic environment and/or from soundscape initiatives and will seek appropriate supportive funding.</p> <p>Comment</p> <p>Re: Table 2 – Action Plan 2: Environmental responsibility (includes sustainability, biodiversity and heritage)</p> <p>Action 2. We will identify potential open spaces in the City that would benefit from further protection and/or enhancement of the acoustic environment and/or from soundscape initiatives in conjunction with relevant internal teams and interested external organisations.</p>	<p>Action ER2.3 added to Table 2 – Action Plan 2: Environmental responsibility (includes sustainability, biodiversity and heritage)</p>
-----	---	---

3.0	Organisation	
	<p>██████████</p> <p>Professor of Planting Design and Urban Horticulture Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield.</p>	
	Comments Received	City Corporation Response
3.1	Comment	
	<p>First I must declare an interest - I have been involved with the re-design of the plantings at Beech Gardens, The Barbican, and also with some other City of London projects. I therefore have a good amount of background with the City of London City Gardens.</p> <p>It is very good that this plan has been produced, and that it has been put out for consultation.</p> <p>However, my feeling is that this could be a much more radical and forward-looking document than it is.</p> <p>This is because the City of London has been at the forefront of new initiatives (i.e Barbican replanting) and because the City Gardens are so important in the overall character of the city, but also because they have so much potential for the future.</p> <p>I think there is potential for real leadership here, and in setting a national example for how to meet the challenges of climate-change, economic pressures, biodiversity objectives, and increasing user pressures, with novel and innovative approaches.</p> <p>Much of the content of the draft management plan is non-controversial, and the actions are fairly general and do not have a lot of very specific or innovative content.</p>	<p>Thank you for taking the time to respond and thank you for your comments.</p> <p>Beech Gardens is a site that works in its context, but most of our sites do not have the same benefits that a wide elevated space provides and that particular planting scheme would not be transferable to many of our sites. Design needs to be site specific, as well as allowing for site individuality through a variation in designs and approach.</p> <p>The aim of the management plan is to describe the role and function of the City Gardens team in managing City of</p>

	<p>This openness to innovation has been what really struck me in my work at The Barbican.</p> <p>So, some of the sorts of things that could be included are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a commitment to reduce the need for automatic irrigation, or regular irrigation unless in severe drought conditions. And/or a commitment to reduce or eliminate irrigation by treated potable mains water. This can be achieved through ongoing changing of the character and content of plantings to make them climate-change adapted. - A wider commitment to meeting the challenges of climate change through moving to plantings that are adapted to the changing London climate. - Reducing intensive approaches to garden maintenance where appropriate. For example, changing from regular seasonal bedding to longer-term perennial bedding - introducing new ideas and concepts - i.e using naturalistic or 'mingled' bedding ideas, rather than old and traditional formal bedding - Undertaking a detailed audit of how more ecological ideas or less-intensive maintenance could be introduced into City Gardens - a commitment to training or CPD of city gardens managers and work-force into new horticultural ideas and maintenance techniques - supervised volunteer involvement in maintenance to enhance that undertaken by City Gardeners <p>There are many other innovations, initiative, pioneering approaches that could be integrated into this document, so that the City Gardens become a national (and international) example of leadership in how to maintain the highest standards of excellence and visitor satisfaction, whilst also meeting future and current climate and economic challenges in very innovative and exciting ways.</p>	<p>London Corporation open spaces in the Square Mile. This therefore makes it challenging to include specific or innovative opportunities that may be associated with a specific project until investigated further.</p> <p>The City Gardens team will look at how future challenges are addressed in City-wide policies that inform both City Corporation and privately managed spaces such as the City of London Local Plan and Open Space Strategy.</p> <p>Details regarding sustainability and plant selection have been added to 10.0 Environmental responsibility, 10.1 Sustainability. Automatic irrigation is currently preferred as an efficient method of establishing planting schemes and trees but there is a commitment to reduce reliance on main</p>
--	---	--

	<p>I am very happy to help out with this, or to have a wider discussion on what sort of initiatives could be taken.</p>	<p>water.</p> <p>ER 2.6 is a new action point for the review of the sustainable action plan to include water management, SUDS, sustainable planting, Air Quality and Heat Island</p> <p>There has been considerable reduction in the use of bedding across City Gardens sites although will continue to be used at flagship sites. We will continue to select a planting pallet suitable for the site condition and include a mix of shrub and herbaceous.</p>
--	---	--

4.0	Organisation	
	Department of Community and Children's Services	
	Comments Received	City Corporation Response
4.1	Comment Great to see a good emphasis on health and wellbeing. Would be good to see more about how children and young people use City gardens and the potential for increasing outdoor play.	<p>Thank you for comment.</p> <p>The City Gardens team will be working with the Public Health Team to identity opportunities for outdoor play. Opportunities to also be explored with the Learning Team, Open Spaces Department.</p> <p>Several of our open spaces currently include opportunities for nature</p>

<p>4.2</p>	<p>Comment Re: 7.0 Challenges</p> <p>Challenge, ageing work force. Could investigate using traineeships as part of open spaces traineeship programme, to get young people interested in working in this sector.</p>	<p>play but there is a need for more multi-functional landscapes and features for all ages.</p> <p>We are in the process of recruiting 4 new apprentices to work within the City Gardens Team</p>
<p>4.3</p>	<p>Comment Re: Engaging with the City community through volunteering</p> <p>Volunteering: Adult Skills, a possible option could be an Adult Community Learning course (health and wellbeing), with a focus on basic horticulture to work on some of the City Garden spaces as part of the course. Would need to investigate tools and equipment and an easy way to transport to locations.</p> <p>Time credits for volunteers working City Garden sites – Would like to see them included in the section 'how we recognise our volunteers'</p>	<p>These comments will be considered as part of CCI3.3 <i>"Produce a City Gardens volunteering policy and manual to support volunteering."</i></p>