Myatt’s Fields Park
Management Plan
2016 - 2021
A Vision for Myatt’s Fields Park

“Myatt’s Fields Park is one of Camberwell’s greatest treasures, to be loved and cared for. Everyone is welcome to the park, to discover its history, wildlife, trees and plants, to exercise and play.

Myatt’s Fields Park should be an urban park of the highest quality which preserves its historic character while providing a safe, peaceful and varied environment for relaxation and recreation, and enhancing the wellbeing of all sections of the community.

Welcome to Myatt’s Fields Park”
In Lambeth we have over 60 parks, commons, cemeteries and other open spaces, which enrich all of our lives and make Lambeth a better place to live, visit, and work. From major and local events, casual and competitive sports, reflection and contemplation, through to outdoor play spaces for children, we know that parks and open spaces are necessities in the modern world.

Lambeth’s open spaces have experienced a renaissance in recent years, and we have seen our many active parks groups rise to become champions for green spaces, including exploring new models in how to manage and maintain them. We now have 16 Green Flag Award winning parks and cemeteries, the highest number we’ve ever had, and the latest Residents Survey revealed 76% of local people judged Lambeth’s parks and open spaces to be good or excellent.

To ensure they meet our customer’s needs, Lambeth’s parks, cemeteries and open spaces are managed to Green Flag Award standard, using a rigorous set of criteria such as being welcoming, healthy, safe and secure, clean and well maintained, sustainable, respecting wildlife and heritage, community involvement, well marketed and good management. We want all of our parks, cemeteries and open spaces to be able to fly a coveted Green Flag, or aspire to this challenging but highly rewarding indicator of quality. In addition, through our new in-house grounds maintenance service, Lambeth Landscapes, we now have the capacity and flexibility to respond quickly and efficiently to ensure our open spaces remain at that standard throughout the year.

We have recently implemented a Parks and Cemeteries Capital Investment Plan which sets out a framework to help everyone see what the priorities are for improving our parks and open spaces. It provides the evidence and rationale for investing in green spaces and underpins the thinking behind future improvement. This represents the biggest investment we have ever made in our open spaces; our Friends groups and the wider community have shown us time and again the value of our open spaces, and this demonstrates our commitment and a response to their efforts.

Yet while we have a vital role in delivering better open spaces, we cannot do it alone. This management plan is a story of partnerships where council and local people are working together to shape and deliver standards and improvement in this particular site. The impact our residents have had on the design and implementation of improvements across each parks and open spaces can never be understated. This plan shows what really matters to the many people that use this particular site. Working together, we hope this plan continues to act as the catalyst for stronger coordination to enhance its future and that of all of Lambeth’s parks and open spaces.

Thank you for joining our efforts to protect and improve our valuable parks, cemeteries and open spaces. If you require any further information with regards to this management plan and the work we’re doing to make it a safe, welcoming and enjoyable space to be in, please contact Lambeth Landscapes on 020 7926 9000 or at parks@lambeth.gov.uk.

Councillor Sonia Winifred, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture
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### Appendices

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3. Myatt’s Fields Park – Site Maintenance Plan
4. Myatt’s Fields Park - Tree Management Strategy
5. Myatt’s Fields Park – Marketing Strategy
1. Introduction

This document presents a 5 year management plan for Myatt's Fields Park which will direct the site's management and sustainable development from 2016 to 2021. It was revised and updated in 2019 to take account of some proposed service changes. The plan is informed by consultation with a wide range of user groups, schools, site staff, and council officers, before, during and after a recent £1.7M restoration programme co-funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Lambeth Council under the Big Lottery Fund's Public Parks Initiative, and which was completed in 2008.

In accordance with the conditions of the HLF award, Lambeth Council and their community partners, the Myatt’s Fields Park Project (MFPP), commissioned Land Use Consultants to prepare this management plan, ensuring that all issues concerning the development and future use of the park have been fully realised and addressed.

The format of this plan follows the “Parks for People Draft - 10 Year Management and Maintenance Plan Guidance” and structured around the criteria provided in ‘Raising the Standard’ – The Green Flag Award Guidance Manual

The plan is written to cover not only the park's physical restored landscape, but also its development and use by council, local communities and other stakeholders. It is a 'working document' in that it brings together all the information relating to Myatt's Fields Park, for use by those who are to be involved in its ongoing management. The plan will be reviewed and updated annually, and periodically reviewed and rewritten in the 5th and 10th year after completion of the original restoration works. The purpose of the management plan is to:

- Provide clear guidance as to how Myatt's Fields is managed and maintained to ensure it provides an enjoyable experience for present and future users;
- Identify and address who is responsible for key aspects of its management;
- Identify, discuss and resolve issues relating to park infrastructure, park users and available resources;
- Provide a benchmark against which delivery and performance of the identified objectives can be measured;
- Provide a record of the park, its upkeep and the management decisions made, for future generations.

Structure of the Plan

This management plan is designed to be accessible to all who have an interest in Myatt’s Fields Park regardless of background, culture or ability. The plan first sets out the historic context and significance of Myatt’s Fields Park, providing relevant background information and reviewing its present status and context. The plan then gives a summary of the restoration of the park, highlighting the overall design vision and maintenance objectives.

The remainder of the plan is structured around the Green Flag Award criteria, giving details of relevant management objectives. How these objectives are to be achieved is addressed through the management and maintenance programme in each section.

The management structure shows who is responsible for different aspects of the park’s management and maintenance. The maintenance schedule and financial plan demonstrates how Lambeth Council and MFPP will be securing or investing the resources necessary to achieve the long term vision for the park. Finally, a series of appendices provide background information and give sources of information useful for the management of the park.
2. General Site Information

2.1 General Context

Myatt’s Fields Park itself is an important historic landscape registered Grade II in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest. Completed in 1889, the early layout of the park was characterised by avenues of tree-planting set within wide grassy lawns focused on two buildings - the bandstand and Roundhouse - and a children’s ‘gymnasium’.

Despite a series of incremental changes to the park’s layout over subsequent years these features are present today, and the integrity of the original layout therefore remains intact. Myatt’s Fields Park is of relatively high quality by comparison with other spaces, and this is valued by its users; in a competition organised in 2012 by Green Flag Award called "The People’s Choice" it was voted as one of the United Kingdom’s ten most favourite parks.

2.2 Name, Address & Location

Name: Myatt's Fields Park,
Address: Cormont Road, Camberwell, London SE5 9RA

A general introduction to Myatt’s Fields Park can be found here on Lambeth Council’s website, and its address and location can be found here on Google Maps.

Myatt’s Fields Park is located in the north-east of the London Borough of Lambeth, between Stockwell, Camberwell and Brixton; it is bordered to the north and west by Cormont Road, to the south by Knatchbull Road, and the east by Calais Street. The site is predominantly level although the ground rises slightly towards the south-west entrance. Figure 1 shows the park’s location, and Figure 2 is a schematic layout of the site.

The nearest train station to Myatt’s Fields Park is Loughborough Junction, which is on routes to Bedford, Luton, St. Albans, Wimbledon and Sutton, via London Blackfriars and London King’s Cross. However, the park is also close to Brixton Station via a bus or by walking. The nearest underground stations are Brixton (Victoria Line), which connects to Stockwell, Victoria, Oxford Circus, Euston and King’s Cross-St. Pancras; and Oval (Northern Line), which connects to Balham, Stockwell, London Bridge, Waterloo, Bank and Camden.

2.3 Physical & Geographical Details

2.3.1 Area of Site

The total area of Myatt’s Fields Park is 4.9 hectares.

2.3.2 Grid Reference

The Ordnance Survey Grid Reference for the centre of Myatt’s Fields Park is TQ 318 767.

2.3.3 Access

Public access to the park is via five gates, which are opened each morning and closed at dusk each evening. There is no authorised access to the park at night and before gates re-open next morning. Lambeth Emergency Control provide an out-of-hours support to council services, and Lambeth Police have keys to gates for access after hours in emergencies.
Public gates are open by 7.30 am each morning, and close at dusk; official closing times vary according to the time of the year, so that they close in the middle of winter by 4 pm, and remain open until about 9.30 pm during high summer.

There is an additional vehicle gate on Cormont Road which gives access to the Park Depot. Vehicle access to the park is for staff; other vehicles are prohibited from entering without prior consent, except for police cars and ambulances in emergencies. There is also an external gate on Calais Street which provides access to the Mulberry Children’s Centre; this means that entry and exit to this site is independent of the rest of the park and allows the building to be accessible outside of normal park closing hours.

There are internal gates such as into the playground, tennis courts, quiet garden, nature conservation area, picnic area and dog exercise area, but are not locked. Staff in the Mulberry Centre and Park Depot are responsible for opening and locking their own access gates but other internal gates are normally not locked unless in an emergency or to isolate defective facilities.

Myatt’s Fields Park is accessible to the disabled, and can be traversed by buggies, wheelchairs and those who are walking disabled. There are no sets of steps or steep paths, but entrances to some buildings have narrow gates or changing surface heights, and care is needed to manoeuvre these. Lambeth prioritises changes to any features which currently impair disabled access, as part of its annual site access audit and risk assessment review.

### 2.3.4 Land Tenure

Myatt’s Fields Park is in the freehold of the London Borough of Lambeth.

### 2.3.5 Status and Planning Context

Myatt’s Fields Park is classified as a protected public open space in the 2015 Lambeth Local Plan. It is designated a Local Park in the Lambeth Open Spaces Strategy (OSS), a category below that of Major Park; the distinction derives from size threshold (20 ha), range of amenities available, size of catchment and extent of use.

Figure 3 shows some of the key planning designations relating to Myatt’s Fields Park, as described in the Lambeth Unitary Development Plan, such as Conservation Areas, the boundary of the park’s English Heritage listing and any designated footpaths or cycle routes.

Myatt’s Fields Park is within the Minet Estate Conservation Area (CA 25, designated October 1980) for Lambeth. It is also registered Grade II in the English Heritage "Register of Historic Parks and Gardens" as being of a sufficiently high level of interest to merit a national designation’ (Figure 3). Myatt’s Fields Park’s place in the Register is due to it being a good example of a smaller-scale Victorian urban park, and also for having been designed for the Metropolitan Gardens Association by the first ever female landscape architect, Fanny Rollo Wilkinson. It is also significant for the important part it plays within the Minet Estate.

The octagonal Bandstand in Myatt’s Fields Park is also registered by English Heritage a Grade II listed structure. This indicates that the building is ‘of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve it’. The listing ensures that any alterations respect the character of the structure and that the case for its preservation is fully taken into account when any redevelopment proposals are considered.
Figure 1. General location of Myatt's Fields Park

2.3.6 Public Rights of Way

No public rights of way exist across the site; all paths are permissive (Figure 3).

2.3.7 Geology

The underlying soils are ‘made ground’, as the park is located on gardens or cleared agricultural or orchard land. The deeper strata are London Clay: though not exposed on site it influences drainage, plant growth and nutrition. Surface soils are relatively free draining in most places but impeded in others, especially where hardstanding or intensive use (e.g. ball games) have compacted the soils beneath.
2.3.8 Hydrology & Drainage

Dominance by London Clay suggests impeded drainage, but there are no recorded springs, ponds or streams on site.

2.3.9 Planning Authority

The London Borough of Lambeth is the Local Planning Authority. However, given the park’s immediate proximity to the Borough of Southwark, they are consulted on any planning issues or strategic planning policy matters pertinent to the site.
Figure 3. Myatt’s Fields Park – planning context
2.3.10 Electoral Information

Myatt’s Fields Park is located within Vassall Electoral Ward, and three elected Councillors represent the ward.

2.3.11 Demographic Information

Myatt’s Fields Park is located within the Vassall Ward of the Borough of Lambeth, which has the highest level of deprivation of wards in Lambeth, characterised most notably by high rates of crime, teenage pregnancy, and unemployment. In terms of deprivation, Vassall Ward and the neighbouring Coldharbour Ward are currently in the top 10% most deprived wards in the UK. Indicators of this include:

- High infant mortality rate - over 7.5% per 1,000
- Low life expectancy - well below the national average
- High incidences of life-threatening diseases – heart disease, diabetes and cancer
- One of the highest teenage pregnancy rates in Lambeth
- The second most deprived ward in the country for child poverty

A high proportion of the population in Vassall Ward are council/housing association tenants and from families with ‘below average’ incomes. The majority of these live in housing without private gardens, a key indicator when considering deficiency of access to open space.

The redevelopment of the nearby “Myatt’s Fields North Estate” to provide an extra 500 new homes includes a new public open space at its centre. However, given the current level of deficiency of good quality open space in the Vassall ward, along with the high levels of need in the wider area, it is clear that the facilities Myatt’s Fields Park provides are as important and valued and complement those the new open space will provide.

Together with neighbouring Coldharbour Ward, Vassall is identified as a ‘Priority Neighbourhood’ in Lambeth’s Local Plan. This summarises progress in developing Local Area Action Plans, with the Vassall and Angell Action Plans. These Action Plans identify the issues of most concern to local people, as well potential improvements to these neighbourhoods.

The Vassall Local Area Action Plan highlights the recent contribution of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding to environmental improvements in Myatt’s Field Park. These improvements were initially identified by the community, demonstrating the extent to which these spaces are valued. The Lambeth Open Space Strategy (more later) highlights the potential for local open these spaces to contribute to improving the quality of life of local residents, by saying:

‘Our parks, allotments and open spaces matter. Aside from the responsibility we have to sustaining wildlife and promoting biodiversity, our parks and greenspaces provide a sanctuary to many and maintaining and improving these spaces will make a vital contribution to ensuring the well being of all residents.’

However, the population of the Vassall Ward is extremely multi-cultural in character; the population includes over 10,000 people from ethnic minority groups and a large number of these would term themselves refugees. The presence of these people contributes greatly to the vibrancy of the community there. The Vassall Ward is perhaps most known for its sizeable Portuguese population, which plays, like many of the refugee communities in the area, an important role within the local community, including a well-defined economic contribution in the form of the many restaurants they run.
3 History of Myatt’s Fields Park

3.1 Historical Evolution

Myatt’s Fields Park has a long interesting history, but this section provides a short summary. A more detailed chronology is in the book ‘Lambeth’s Open Spaces – a Historical Account’ by Marie Draper (1979). The chronological development of the park is set out below.

Table 1. Outline Early Chronology of Myatt’s Fields Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event or Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1889</td>
<td>Myatt’s Fields Park formally opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Bothy erected (Current One O’clock Club area)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Drinking Fountain installed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Bandstand erected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Croquet permitted on plot of land by lodge gates; 12 seats added later</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1895</td>
<td>Swings, portable parallel bars, giant slide and girls’ swings added to the gymnasium (current children’s playground)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Shelter in place. Refreshments served here from 1899 under LCC license</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Gravel paths replaced with Tarmac because of Minet’s concern about stone throwing by youths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>More tennis courts added</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Fencing erected around ‘band promenade and refreshment house’ added by Messrs. M. McVey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>New ornamental fencing around bandstand erected by McVey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1914-21</td>
<td>Park closed to the public and used as annex to military hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>Status raised from ‘Fourth-class Park’ (Open Spaces Act, 1881) to ‘First Class Garden’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>Susan Minet presents a further quarter of an acre near junction of Knatchbull Road and Calais Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939-45</td>
<td>Park dug with air raid shelters; railings removed for war effort</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The 19th Century

Myatt’s Fields Park is a unique example of a surviving small-scale Victorian urban park. Most of the area now known as Myatt’s Fields falls into the former Minet Estate, which was acquired by Hughes Minet in 1770 on the Camberwell/Lambeth borders.

During the 19th Century the Myatt’s Fields area was transformed from a collection of fields and market gardens into an increasingly populated neighbourhood. Building began at the edges of the estate and two years after the opening of Vauxhall Bridge in 1816 ‘Cut-throat Lane’ became Camberwell New Road and a reliable thoroughfare between Kennington and Camberwell Green. Soon after good quality villas lined the road with their gardens on the south side reaching into Myatt’s Fields. By 1874 the press were drawing attention to overcrowding and the need for a park in the area. However, though the Minet Estate was not fully built up until after 1900, a decision to build the new park was taken in the late 1880s.

The new park was designed from start to combine space for recreation with ornamental horticulture and opened to the public on May 28 1889. It was designed by the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association’s (MPGA) designer, Fanny Rollo Wilkinson, Britain’s first professional woman landscape gardener. The MPGA, with a grant from the Lord Mayor’s Fund for the Unemployed, laid out and landscaped the park, which was named after Joseph Myatt, a market gardener famed for his rhubarb and strawberries, who tenanted the land.
Myatt’s Fields Park was acquired by the London County Council, successor to the Metropolitan Board of Works after 1888, in the same year that it was opened to the public in 1889. The Minet family had donated the land to the Metropolitan Board of Works (later the London County Council) for use as a public park on understanding that the donor remained anonymous. It is not known whether William Minet continued to be involved with the park’s design or whether Miss Wilkinson, other members of the MPGA and the availability of funds, dictated the layout of the remainder. It may be that the LCC was responsible for a large part of the park’s planting and ongoing layout, with or without consultation with the MPGA.

By the end of the nineteenth century J. J. Sexby of the Metropolitan Board of Works and later the London County Council, noted how:

‘The park lies a little below the level of Knatchbull Road, from which it is separated by an open wrought-iron railing, with massive and artistic gates, which are a decided ornament to the park. The principal entrance is through a porch attached to the superintendent’s lodge, something after the style of a country lych-gate. The park is tastefully laid out with gravel walks, flower-beds, and grass enclosures, which are large enough to provide room for several tennis-courts. A portion of the ground is used as a gymnasium for boys and girls, the remainder of the buildings comprising a large circular shelter, a bandstand, and the necessary green-houses for the raising of the flowers for decoration’.

First World War

During the early stages of the First World War, Myatt’s Fields Park was requisitioned for use as an annexe to the first London General Hospital, Camberwell, which was the military extension of St. Bartholomew’s Hospital. The park was thus closed to the public until 1921. It re-opened in March 1921 with an approved estimate of c. £7,000 for ‘reinstatement expenditure’. In 1922 the park’s status was raised from a ‘Fourth-class Park’ (Open Spaces Act, 1881) to ‘First Class Garden’.

Second World War

In the Second World War a complex system of trenches was dug in Myatt’s Fields Park for the purpose of sheltering local people during bombing. A barrage balloon based in the park was raised above it during bombardments. Restoring the park after the end of the war and closure of the air raid shelters cost £1,747. 4s.6d. In common with many parks and gardens at this time, the railings surmounting the boundary wall of Myatt’s Fields Park were removed as part of the war effort.

Myatt’s Fields Park: 1945 – Present Day

After the war, the considerable bomb damage which had occurred during the Blitz meant that large areas of London were available for redevelopment; Camberwell was no exception to this. The construction of the large and nearby Myatt’s Fields North Estate is an example of such redevelopment, and construction of this and other large estates shifted the social and demographic profile of the local community in the area significantly over the years.
4. **Myatt’s Fields Park – Masterplan and Future Vision**

4.1 **Drivers for Action and Change**

Myatt’s Fields Park is a well managed and much loved local park, which provides facilities that its users need and appreciate. The park is clearly benefiting from a recent £3M restoration programme co-funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Lambeth Council, which injected significant investment into its core facilities including restoration of its infrastructure, renovation of the park depot into a new staff facility, growing area and training resource, a new wildlife area, a new playground and the Mulberry Children’s Centre.

Restoration of the park was driven forward by the Myatt’s Fields Park Project (MFPP) which represents the park’s user community as well as council officers. Together they appreciated its unique heritage, cultural and community values and the need to maximise and widen its user base to ensure its facilities are properly and well used, and that positive activities are taking place which are available to all aspects of the local community.

What has helped the MFPP and Lambeth Council in driving forward this objective and in securing the resources – both financial and human – to achieve it has been a series of factors – ‘drivers for change’, which recognise the need for quality accessible open spaces for the people of London and Lambeth.

This chapter and the following sections describe these drivers for change, which not only influence the way Myatt’s Fields Park is managed and improved, to create opportunities to make these improvements, and to secure the necessary resources or support to achieve improvement and better management. All of these core drivers have been incorporated into this management plan, and these are evidenced in subsequent chapters and sections.

4.2 **Lambeth Parks & Greenspaces Strategic Plan**

Lambeth Council has adopted a ‘Lambeth Parks & Greenspaces Strategic Plan’ (LPGSP), following consultation with park user and community groups. This Strategic Plan has been a key policy in determining how parks and greenspaces like Myatt’s Fields Park are managed, improved and used.

At the heart of the Strategic Plan are ten ‘fundamental principles’ for the management, development and use of parks, commons and public open spaces which must apply at each site to ensure they meet and respond to the needs and aspirations of communities, as well as the corporate vision of the council. These are as follows.

1. **Parks for Present and Future Generations**

As the representative of the people of Lambeth, the council is the ‘steward’ of their parks and greenspaces and should be managing them in the interests of the community to ensure they are fit for use and capable of accommodating future demands and changing priorities.

2. **Parks as Places of History and Heritage**

The council protects and preserves the historic landscapes and rich architectural heritage found within Lambeth’s parks and greenspaces, ensuring this heritage is protected for both present and future generations.
3. Parks as Community Assets

Lambeth’s parks and greenspaces are an essential and inalienable community resource. As such the council works in partnership with local people and involves them in decision making relating to the use, development and management of parks, commons and greenspaces.

4. Investing in Parks is Investing for the Future

The council recognises that Lambeth’s parks and greenspaces require appropriate investment and careful nurturing. The council actively secures resources for the regeneration of its parks and greenspaces, in partnership with local people and external agencies.

5. A Right of Access to Parks

Lambeth’s parks and greenspaces are available to all sections of the community, not just residents but also the many visitors who come to the borough. The council supports and promotes access and use of parks and greenspaces for the benefit of the whole community.

6. A Right to Safety in Parks

All sections of the community have a right to use Lambeth’s parks and greenspaces in safety and without the fear of crime or harassment. The council works in partnership with people and other agencies to ensure all of its parks and greenspaces are healthy and safe.

7. Parks as an Educational, Artistic & Cultural Resource

The council recognises that Lambeth’s parks and greenspaces are a rich resource for learning, not only about the living environment but also the borough’s history and culture. The council encourages the use of parks and greenspaces as centres of education as well as places to celebrate Lambeth’s cultural and artistic diversity.

8. Parks as Places for Play, Sport & Recreation

Lambeth’s parks and greenspaces are an essential resource in providing quality space for play, sport and recreation. The council will ensure that these uses are provided for, to improve the health, enjoyment and wellbeing of residents and local communities.

9. Parks as ‘Green’ Spaces

The council manages its parks and greenspaces to ensure they comply with the Lambeth Sustainability Charter. As well as protecting biodiversity, the council takes every opportunity to maximise resource efficiency by increasing recycling, making better use of alternative energy sources and minimising the use of pesticides and other harmful chemicals.

10. Aiming High for Quality Parks

The council makes best use of available resources to ensure its parks and greenspaces are at or attaining the highest quality possible. The council strives to comply with the objectives of the ‘Green Flag Award’ standard across all parks and greenspaces and where appropriate make formal applications to recognise this level of quality.
One of the key outcomes of the Strategic Plan was recognition of the importance that parks and greenspaces have, wherever possible, adopted management plans to deliver these principles, ensure resources are targeted to have maximum effect, and opportunities to improve the quality of parks are taken. This was recognised by the Council’s Executive at the time the Strategic Plan was adopted, and as a result many parks and greenspaces in Lambeth now have management plans, including Myatt’s Fields Park.

This management plan demonstrates how the key principles of the Strategic Plan are being incorporated into the ongoing management, development and use of Myatt’s Fields Park, including through the Management Action Plan in Appendix 1.

4.3 Proof of Success - Lambeth Open Spaces Strategy

In 2003 over 240 parks, commons and open spaces (public and private) were surveyed as part of the ‘Lambeth Open Spaces Strategy’ (LOSS). This was undertaken as part of the council’s obligations under the Mayor of London’s ‘London Plan’ and as part of the evidence base of its Unitary Development Plan and it successor the Lambeth Local Plan. Local authorities should have an open spaces strategy to manage the use and development of open spaces within their boundaries and protect those which offer accessible space for sport, play, education and wildlife.

Myatt’s Fields Park’s assessment showed that its overall site quality score was 66%, which classified it as ‘Good’ using the GLA criteria. What was reassuring, even before the park had even secured HLF funding and restoration, was that key categories were rated good or excellent at 60% or above: transport, maintenance, accessibility, play provision, sports facilities, boundary features, personal security, preventing vandalism, footpaths and aesthetic factors. However, others such as site furniture, signage, biodiversity, vegetation and architecture were low or should have scored higher (highlighted as yellow in Table 2).

Following its recent restoration and in order to assess whether this successfully addressed existing deficiencies, the park was re-evaluated in 2012 as part of the council’s proposals to update the LOSS as part of the evidence base of the new Lambeth Local Plan, which was formally approved and adopted in 2015. This reassessment generated a new Overall Site Score of 76% for Myatt’s Fields Park, an increase of 10% on its 2003 score and which now grades the park as ‘Excellent Quality’.

A breakdown of categories contributing to this score showed many were scoring relatively high such as transport (60%), accessibility (87%), boundary features (79%), footpaths (93%), maintenance (100%), play provision (82%), sports provision (84%), personal security (91%), preventing vandalism (100%), vegetation/horticulture (64%) and aesthetic factors (93%). Nevertheless, some categories scored average such as site furniture (52%), signage (51%), architecture (48%) and biodiversity (53%), and these will need further attention and/or investment to improve their quality scores. Many of the issues identified in the 2012 LOSS as needing attention correlate with the same ones recognised by the council and community as needing improvement, and described in subsequent sections.

4.4 A Vision for Myatt’s Fields Park – Restoration and Renewal

Myatt’s Fields Park has benefited from capital and revenue investment as a consequence of securing a large HLF/Lambeth Council grant to address many issues of concern to community and council as to condition, suitability and accessibility. It is important to recognise this point would not have been reached were it not for local people and council realising a ‘common vision’ using the above ‘drivers and strong consensus for having a safe, welcoming and accessible space for play, sports, learning and relaxation.
The Need for Restoration

Myatt’s Fields Park is a unique surviving example of a small-scale Victorian park. First impressions have always been of a quiet, attractive park with well-kept flower beds and busy tennis courts. However, even five years ago closer inspection of the park would have revealed that its fabric had deteriorated significantly to the point where failure to intervene positively in the near future was likely to result in an irreversible ‘spiral of decline’.

It was also recognised that the community, with a complexity of social and economic issues, lacked access to quality open space in this part of Lambeth, Southwark and Camberwell. As the proportion of social housing tenants around the park accelerated after the Second World War, serious overcrowding and a lack of adequate facilities had developed which meant that as deprivation deepened, the local Indices of Multiple Deprivation had risen correspondingly.

In terms of the character of this redevelopment, the loss of significant swathes of the old Minet Estate housing, which was uniformly Victorian/Edwardian in character, had a major impact on the area, as the smaller-scale 19th century traditional street pattern was replaced with monolithic blocks of flats erected in the 1960s.

However, 1960s urban planning recognised the importance of ‘designing in’ open space as part of these social housing developments, and nearby Mostyn Gardens was created to provide valuable amenity open space. However, the combination of its poor design and layout with the prevailing high levels of deprivation meant that space was never well liked or used. Therefore, the Vassal Ward had ended up with two open spaces close by each other: Mostyn Gardens which was large but bland, unimaginative and unpopular, and Myatt’s Fields Park, which was well loved and used, but suffering from progressive deterioration in its fabric and infrastructure, with facilities that were rapidly losing their interest to local users.

Figure 4. Myatt’s Fields Park Roundhouse, summer 2016
The Myatt’s Fields Park Project

In 2003 the Myatt’s Fields Park Project (MFPP) was established to represent the park and campaign for its restoration and development. The group is an umbrella organisation for a wide range of other local groups and residents, working in partnership with Lambeth Council and other stakeholders, for the benefit of Myatt’s Fields Park and its surrounding communities. Although MFPP was originally set up by local parents to campaign for a new One O’clock Club in the park, it had widened its remit and interests to take a broad approach to how the whole park could be restored.

MFPP were confident that they could make a case for the park’s restoration and ensure it continued to develop and seek out new sustainable uses. Myatt’s Fields Park caters for a wide range of recreational uses, and the majority of users are local residents who use the park for their children’s informal recreation, sports, for picnics, leisurely walks, dog walking or simply peaceful relaxation. The fact that the playground, paddling pool and One O’clock Club all urgently needed refurbishment was highly valued by the community and any opportunities to provide better modern facilities proved very popular with local families.

The MFPP made its case that enhancement of Myatt’s Fields Park would not only address the issue of improving access to open spaces in an area of deprivation, but also that the restoration, and then sustained management and maintenance, of the park would continue to act as a catalyst to the regeneration of the Vassall Ward as a whole. This resulted in a Partnership Agreement being signed between MFPP and Lambeth Council in 2005, in order to seek funding for the restoration of Myatt’s Fields Park.

The Restoration Vision

The MFPP and council developed a restoration vision which aims to provide a park which:

a) Meets the needs of the whole community;
b) Is attractive, safe and welcoming a wide range of activities and events;
c) Is a ‘joined-up’ approach to open space management; and
d) Plays a key role in the ongoing regeneration of the wider area.

This restoration vision helped inform policies which form the strategy for managing the park once restored. The three key principles which underpinned this vision - Working in Partnership, Accessible to All and Creative Management are considered in the Management Action Plan (Appendix 1) and all subsequent chapters and sections.

The Restoration Vision

Once the park had been restored, the MFPP and Lambeth Council developed a longer-term vision for the management of Myatt’s Fields Park, which aims to:

a) Positively welcome people to the park in terms of physical and social access.
b) Ensure a healthy, safe and secure experience for all park users.
c) Provide a well-maintained and clean park.
d) Improve environmental quality and sustainability of all aspects of the park.
e) Maintain the restored historic landscape character whilst ensuring there is provision for new and contemporary users.
f) Provide opportunities to increase community use and involvement, particularly through events, education and interpretation.
g) Ensure effective promotion of the park as a community resource.
h) Ensure all involved in management and maintenance of the park make full and effective use the management plan as a working document.
Each aim and its objectives do not exist independently from others and have been organised for ease of use. Each subsequent chapter shows how particular activities and actions help deliver on these core objectives, and ensure the Management Vision is delivered. Crucial to the success of the restoration and long-term sustainability of the park is ‘on the ground’ partnership working, and this plan must evidence that. Furthermore, the newly restored park requires a higher level of maintenance than previously provided, and therefore it is essential a proper training programme for staff and financial planning is carried out.

The management plan acts as a tool for identifying maintenance and management tasks and training needs. Funding can therefore be matched accordingly with some areas requiring more resource input than others, and ultimately allowing value for money to be achieved.

The above vision places considerable emphasis on training and support for volunteers so they are actively involved in the park’s future. The intention was also to have a local horticultural or environmental group using the depot site for a long-term training enterprise, with particular focus on food production and wildlife conservation, along with a sound and robust volunteering policy, will be critical to success of this key objective.

The Management Action Plan (Appendix 1) identifies all those involved with the management and maintenance of Myatt’s Fields Park, their roles and interactions.

Figure 5. View of Myatt’s Fields Park
4.5 Stepping Forward: Cooperative Management for Myatt’s Fields Park

As part of its commitment to ‘localism’ and the greater involvement of residents and other stakeholders in making decisions as to how their local assets are used and managed, Lambeth Council initiated the Lambeth Cooperative Parks programme in 2013.

This programme involves park users and their representative bodies (e.g. ‘Friends’) in deciding how the borough’s parks, commons and other public open spaces can be managed to ensure that users and local communities have a greater say on how often limited resources are allocated in each site, and on increasing their role in managing staff and facilities that are based there. The programme also gives communities increased power and capacity to identify and secure additional capital investment and revenue income, so that not only existing assets and facilities can be maintained to the required standard, but that new ones can be developed on site to help meet local demands and expectations.

There are essentially three ‘models’ for how open spaces in Lambeth can be cooperatively managed and developed: a) Level One - council-led management (the ‘status quo’); b) Level Two – cooperative management (joint management arrangement with shared responsibility for making decisions); and c) Level Three – community-led management where the site is directly managed by local residents and stakeholders who make and take all decisions.

Figure 6. The Little Cat Café – one element of the park that is already independently managed by the local community

Following detailed consultation, Myatt’s Fields Park Project (MFPP) are have progressed through to Level Three (community-led management) for the park, so that large aspects of it are directly operated through a local trust which can employ its own staff and decide how the existing assets are used, maintained and improved. During 2015-16 MFPP began consulting with local residents, park users and other stakeholders as to the viability of this model, and that income generation and the use of the services in the park would balance out expenditure and other maintenance requirements.
During autumn 2015, a detailed business case and plan was been submitted by MFPP to Lambeth Council, and this was adopted in 2016 as both sustainable and realistic. The proposals passed the necessary ‘public interest tests’ and financial viability checks, and showed that the park and its assets could, in time, be independently managed by the community, although the exact detail as to what assets or features divested from council control will always be subject to review.

Therefore, as of 2018 the park is being directly managed by MFPP, although the council, through its Lambeth Landscapes grounds maintenance service, undertakes all routine grounds maintenance functions such as litter, infrastructure repairs and tree works.

As well as using the Mulberry Centre, sports facilities and rental of the park, bandstand and Roundhouse for events (including weddings and other ceremonies) to generate income, another important aspect of the proposals has been the redevelopment and improvement of the existing depot buildings and greenhouses at the southern end of the park.

In November 2015 MFPP sought planning advice on refurbishment and remodelling of this area; a copy of the Design & Access Statement relating to these proposals is on the MFPP website at http://www.myattsfieldspark.info/noticeboard/archives/11-2015.

Plans for the depot, although ambitious and subject to securing additional capital funding and other matters, are designed to ensure the park will have a long term future, not just in terms of being self-managing but also in ring-fencing the park from future budget challenges and other external pressures. Again, as progress is made on the depot plans, further information will be included in the management plan.

Figure 6. Myatt’s Fields Park playground – a key element of the park which the community would be expected to maintain and improve
5. Myatt’s Fields Park – Status and Significance

5.1 Current Significance of Myatt’s Fields Park

Table 3 is a summary of the key issues relating to the past, present and future significance of Myatt’s Fields Park, and why its management, restoration and sustainable use are important for not only the people and communities of Lambeth but also for London as a whole. Some of the features and issues described in Table 3 are expanded on or referenced below and in subsequent chapters, in terms of present status and management objectives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3. Significance Assessment of Myatt’s Fields Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Landscape History</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Myatt’s Fields Park has a Grade II listing in the English Heritage ‘Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Presence of the entire original footpath network (though with one significant extension) meaning that the original park layout still remains intact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Survival of avenues of trees from the first park planting scheme, with a few specimen trees (most notably the Mulberry) even pre-dating the layout of the park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Presence of one important listed structure - the Bandstand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Location of the children’s’ play area on the footprint of the original ‘Gymnasium’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B. Landscape Character and Land Use</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Attractive mixture of landscape settings, from open grass areas to more intimate shaded areas beneath avenues of trees and along tree lined perimeter footpath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• An important ‘green oasis’ in an otherwise very built-up residential area which is characterised by significant social deprivation and environmental degradation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• An important public open space with a wide variety of opportunities for both active and passive recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Variety of social settings, from busy recreational areas to the peace and solitude of the boundary tree lined footpaths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Important public facilities in the form of the playground, One O’clock Club, the ‘Astroturf’ football pitch and the nature garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Presence of onsite park maintenance facilities and the depot building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C. Ecology</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Meadow: the majority of the park is characterised by close-mown amenity grassland, but there are significant opportunities to increase the coverage of wildflower-rich meadow grass, including within the new nature gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hedges: there is little shrub planting within the park, but the perimeter hedges provide valuable cover for birds to nest in. There are significant opportunities to extend existing and create new wildlife habitat along perimeter and internal boundaries with new native hedge planting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- **Trees**: the presence of a number of mature trees with cracks and holes provide a potential habitat for bats, and for birds in terms of nests and feeding resources

### Cultural Value

- Evidence of the history of park pre-dating its Victorian laying-out
- Potential to enhance the park’s history and increase understanding of the social and economic conditions at the time it was created, and provide interpretation

### Recreational and Educational Value

- Loyal local residents who value the open space as an informal recreational, educational and wildlife resource
- Flat topography makes the gardens particularly appropriate for use by local people with special needs, and who are generally less mobile
- Venue for cultural events such as Myatt’s Fields Park Summer Fair, with great potential for using the park for other events to draw the whole community together
- Valued by local primary and secondary schools who use the park for sports events, but with significant potential for use for teaching and community skills development
- Park environment has considerable aesthetic value, in particular the attractive bedding and fine specimen trees providing a year round interest
- Valued by local people as well as those who live further afield for sporting facilities

The table shows that Myatt’s Fields Park has considerable significant and value to local people, both existing users and those who currently do not but are aware of its status and potential. The following section describes some of the key features and facilities in the park which form the basis of its significance, as well as future potential.

### 5.2 Current Features and Assets

This section is an overview of the key features and facilities in Myatt’s Fields Park. It is not exhaustive but summarises items which are either important to park users or the park’s heritage, ecological and social character, or critical items in terms of ensuring its integrity, security and accessibility as a public resource.

The location and description of these features is shown in the Final Park Restoration Masterplan for Myatt’s Fields Park (Figure 7); however, for clarity the map is sectioned up into quarters: Figure 8 (South West), Figure 9 (North West), Figure 10 (North East) and Figure 11 (South East). More detailed information on how these items are managed or used is provided in subsequent chapters and in various Appendices.
Figure 7. Myatt's Fields Park Masterplan – key features and areas
Figure 8. Myatt's Fields Park – South West Quarter
Figure 9. Myatt's Fields Park – North West Quarter
Figure 11. Myatt's Fields Park – South East Quarter
5.2.1 Boundary Features (Figures 7 to 11)

Myatt’s Fields Park is defined by gates, railings, walls, fencing and hedges which enclose it from surrounding roads and properties; the roadside boundaries are characterised by low parapet walls surmounted by railings. The metal boundary railings have been restored and repainted in ‘parks green’ paint, walls repointed where necessary and fencing replaced or repaired as required. There are a number of trees on or close to boundary walls but these are maintained to minimise lift or damage to them, and hedges are kept low or closely pruned to provide a dense ‘green barrier’ between the park and the public highway.

5.2.2 Entrances and Gates (Figures 7 to 11)

There are five public entrances into Myatt’s Fields Park, labelled A to E in maps and maintenance schedules. The double gates on Entrances A (south of site) and D (north of site) are very ornate and in a style which reflects the late Victorian era of the park’s design and creation. The gates on Entrances B (west of site next to Kiosk), C (north west of site) and E (south east of site) are single and more utilitarian, but still in keeping with the park’s age and character. All five sets of gates are locked at night.

There are two other sets of external gates but these are not for public use: the double gates on Cormont Road give access to the Park Depot yard, and gates on the northern boundary give access from Calais Street into the Mulberry Children’s Centre. There are also a number of internal gates, usually defining points of access into some areas described below but these are normally kept closed to manage access to restricted areas by dogs or children.

5.2.3 Park Depot (Figures 7 and 8)

Along the southern border is the Park Depot which consists of buildings, yard and greenhouses. Before the park was restored the depot was in poor condition with buildings deteriorating and unfit for use. The greenhouse area was defunct and only used for storing bedding or shrub plants, or for storing compost, aggregates or maintenance equipment.

As part of the park restoration programme the whole Park Depot was completely refurbished, stripping out of internal fittings, knocking through certain walls and adding new ones, and the complete replacement/refurbishment of roofs, doors, windows, fencing and gates. New utilities were installed, along with phone and broadband internet connections, and buildings were refitted with cupboards, tables, lighting, toilets and kitchens.

Access to the depot is via double gates onto Cormont Road to the south, just north of Entrance A. These gates are only used for vehicles accessing the park for maintenance activities, for staff and volunteers working in the park, or visitors to the Depot Yard. Following restoration the Park Depot now provides a number of functions for the park:

a) Staff room for the grounds maintenance staff, which includes toilet, kitchen, office and storage space;
b) Stores for equipment, plus chemicals and consumables used to clean and maintain the playground/wet play area, toilets and buildings;
c) Office space for the Park Manager and other staff, with access to toilets, kitchen, meeting rooms and storage space;
d) Offices and rooms for use by various gardening, food, training or educational programmes working to develop community enterprises, including Streetscape;
e) Greenhouses and maintained beds for growing plants, storing materials or other activities associated with community projects based in the park;
f) The Depot Yard, which is an area in front of buildings for parking vehicles, bicycles or storage of equipment associated with park management.
5.2.4 Greenhouses (Figures 7 and 8)

Lying at the back of the Park Depot is a set of greenhouses, cold frames and associated storage areas, once used to grow a wide variety of plants for the park. However, these facilities were decommissioned in the later 1990s and had not been used to their maximum advantage prior to the restoration of the park.

However, whilst replacement or refurbishment of the greenhouses was not included within the funded restoration programme for Myatt’s Fields Park, there was significant interest in using them for training and educational projects, focused on growing food. In order to take forward this vision a ‘Greenhouse Growing project’ was established to secure the required support, funding and community engagement to ensure long term success. This project is described in greater detail under Section 11.9 (‘Community Involvement and Projects’).

5.2.5 Greenwaste Depot (Figures 7 and 8)

To the west of Entrance A is a small area surrounded by tall wooden fencing and gates; this is the new greenwaste recycling area for the park, used for receiving, storing and recycling greenwaste produced in the park during normal grounds maintenance, including any tree, hedge and shrub works. This area also contains a set of beehives which were first installed in 2010 and maintained by experienced beekeepers and volunteers. A hardstanding base in this area which allows chipped and shredded greenwaste to be stockpiled, turned and screened, so that mature compost and mulch can be taken out on a regular basis and applied to beds, borders and tree pits in the park.

5.2.6 Bandstand (Figures 7, 9 and 12)

In the centre of the park is the Bandstand, a late 19th Century octagonal structure on a raised brick plinth with wood balustrade railings. It has eight decorative cast iron piers supporting shallow elliptical arches with key mouldings on which the top frame rests, and a steeply-pitched tiled roof with a ball and spike finial on top. Prior to the park’s restoration the bandstand was in poor condition with the superstructure deteriorating. The bandstand has been refurnished, with a power supply to its basement allowing for organised, amplified/lit events to be held. The beds around the bandstand have been completely replanted.

From 2015, the bandstand is now available for wedding and civil partnership ceremonies arranged through Lambeth Events; ceremonies are now booked in for the rest of 2015 and beyond, and the facility is also proving popular for other events and celebrations.

5.2.7 Roundhouse (Figures 7, 10 and 13)

The Roundhouse is a relatively large building in the north east of the park heading towards Entrance D onto the Calais Street roundabout. Prior to restoration it was, like the bandstand, in poor condition and was not open for public use. It has been totally restored, and although it is not feasible at the moment to have it open at all times, it is made available for community events, or special events where the public are invited in, although supervised. The Roundhouse is supplied with electricity in order to be used for organised events, and the beds around it have been totally reformed and replanted.
5.2.8 Café (Figures 7 and 9)

A small kiosk is found in the centre of the park to the west of the Bandstand and close to Entrance B, which leads to a small gate opposite Charles Edward Brooke Secondary School. It dates back to 1897 when it was originally a shelter, and then was converted into a small kiosk for serving refreshments. Prior to 2008 the Kiosk building was used as the Myatt’s Fields Park One O’clock Club, open from 1 to 6 pm on most weekdays for use as a parent-child nursery. It was surrounded by some metal and wood fencing, which gave a defined area in which young children and carers could play separate from the rest of the park.

The building was in poor condition and the costs of repairing or replacing to make it safety compliant were prohibitive. In 2007 funding was made available by Lambeth Council’s Children & Young People’s Service (CYPS), who managed the building, to provide a new building and relocate this alongside the new playground planned for the restored park.

As a result the old One O’clock Club building was available to be converted into a kiosk-café, now called the ‘Little Cat Café’, for serving refreshments in the park or for functions where it can be booked out. In 2008 following temporary closure and relocation of the old One O’clock club, it was refurbished inside and out and painted in an attractive cream and brown scheme in keeping with the nearby Bandstand.

The café is incredibly popular and is run by MFPP and residents/volunteers as a community enterprise with all profits ploughed back into running the café. Cakes and other goods are provided by volunteers who also staff the café during specified times during peak seasons of the year. More information can be found later in the plan under Section 11.8.
5.2.9  Tennis Courts (Figures 7 and 9)

There are two tennis courts north of the Bandstand and Kiosk; both sets of courts are completely refurbished with new surfaces, markings, nets and perimeter fencing as well as signage and improved access. Prior to 2008 there were courts either side of the Bandstand, but both are brought together and the southern court landscaped over by the nature garden.

5.2.10  Multi Use Games Court or MUGA (Figures 7 and 11)

In the south eastern quarter of the park is a new synthetic ‘Astroturf’ games court with attached basketball court, surrounded by robust fencing, which is extremely popular with local youth groups, schools and clubs. This facility was installed in 2011 on the site of an older MUGA with over £150,000 provided by the London Marathon Charitable Trust.

It is also proposed to seek additional capital funding for the installation of floodlights around the court, so that the facility can be operated and used into the evening or at weekends. This will help generate further income for the park to help offset costs for maintaining not only the MUGA but any associated facilities including the parks depot.

5.2.11  Mulberry Children’s Centre (Figures 7, 9 and 14)

As described in 5.2.7, in 2007 funding was made available by Lambeth Children & Young People’s Service to replace the old One O’clock building with a new ‘Children’s Centre’ facility. This would not only include the old club with nursery facilities but also toilets that could be used by children in both the Centre and adjacent playground (Figure 14).
The new centre, named ‘The Mulberry Children’s Centre’, was constructed next to the play area; work started in early 2009 and the centre was formally opened in September 2010. The centre is now managed directly by MFPP as a source of income and to provide a base of operations for a wide range of community and income-generating activities.

The Mulberry Centre provides accommodation for indoor and outdoor play space; a ‘quiet’ or reading corner; training room, internal and external storage and office space, as well as toilets which are accessible from the public play area for children and carers. The building is also covered by external CCTV, and linked to the existing facility in the playground. In fact the whole centre is now seen as an integral part of the whole park, and significant efforts have and are still being made to ensure there is constant use of the building and a regular ‘flow’ of children, carers and families between it, the playground and rest of the site.

The new centre does not ‘pretend’ to be part of Myatt’s Fields Park’s Victorian history. However, even if the building is recognisably ‘contemporary’ and clearly part of the park’s 21st century life, its design and exterior materials blend in with the rest of the park, and appropriate landscaping is used to ‘soften’ its boundaries without compromising user safety.

Figure 14. View of the Mulberry Children’s Centre
5.2.12 **Playground (Figures 7, 8 and 10)**

As part of the restoration programme for Myatt's Fields Park certain elements were not funded by the HLF and so alternative sources of funding were secured. This included the children's playground which was old and tired and lacked basic facilities as well as a deteriorating paddling pool and toilet block that was expensive to maintain.

The MFPP and Lambeth Landscapes secured significant funding, including from Lambeth Council's Capital Play Programme, Biffa Award Landfill Trust, London Marathon Charitable Trust, Lambeth Endowed Charities and Western Riverside Environment Fund to finance the replacement of the old playground with a new one. This new playground included equipment for infant, junior and senior age children, as well as a water play zone, grass picnic area and seating, perimeter fencing, gates and landscaping. New toilets are provided as part of the adjacent Mulberry Centre, along with changing areas and storage of play equipment.

5.2.13 **Nature Conservation Area (Figures 7 and 9)**

A ‘nature conservation area’ is found along the southern part of the western park boundary, north of the greenwaste area and south of the Kiosk. This area is bounded by metal fencing and gates, and includes a pond with surrounding wetland/shingle habitat and fencing, as well as mounds and depressions to provide various habitats. The garden is prioritised for training activities, as well as a focus for community volunteering and business events, to include hedge, tree and ground cover planting, meadow creation, pruning and trimming plants, weeding and habitat creation. The garden was planted up with native hedging, wildflower seed-grass mixes and other native plantings, including a small community orchard.

Initial planting of the pond was delivered through a project called ‘Lambeth Living Waters’ funded through in-kind support and resources provided by Lambeth Landscapes and Froglife ([www.froglife.org](http://www.froglife.org)) via a landfill tax grant provided by ‘Grantscape Inner London Nature Conservation Fund’; this involved local volunteers organised through MFPP and created a diversity of habitats in and around the pond (Figure 15).

The HLF grant for the park also funded new information boards to be installed in the nature area, along with information leaflets on park’s nature and history, which focus on using the nature area and its pond for a wide range of activities.

A new management plan was created for the nature conservation area to allow it to not only be properly maintained but also help secure funding for further additions such as shallow scrapes, additional wetland or boundary habitat including loggeries. Funding secured from the Western Riverside Environment Fund ([www.wref.org.uk](http://www.wref.org.uk)) on the basis of the plan resulted in improvements to the area such planting more bulbs, woodland plants, adding fruit shrubs to the hedge line and planting the pond edges.

5.2.14 **Gardens (Figures 7 and 11)**

The extreme south eastern corner of the park, next to Entrance E, is occupied by a ‘quiet garden, which is fenced off from the remainder of the park to exclude dogs. The garden is planted out with a mixture of native and ornamental plantings, including herbaceous borders and shrubs, and contains some formal seating. There are proposals to lease the quiet garden for small family events and activities, in keeping with the park’s character.

A network of edged paths of varying width provides access to all of the above. The majority of the park is covered by amenity grass and it is well treed with specimens of varying age and species, as well as sections of mature boundary hedge and shrubs.
5.2.15  **Dog Exercise Area (Figures 7 and 9)**

The extreme north western corner of the park, just south of Entrance C is a dog exercise area where dogs can be exercised off the lead; it is securely fenced off from the rest of the park, and contains seating plus a new informal surfaced path.

5.2.16  **Rose Gardens and Formal Bedding (Figures 7 to 11)**

The extreme north eastern corner of the park, approaching Entrance D (Calais Road roundabout) is dominated by a series of beds which contain a mixture of formal schemes. The old central bedding features which used to be here before restoration were replaced with new gardens inside a low box hedge and with herbaceous perennial underplanting.

The circular beds either side of the central bedding contain new bedding inside a box hedge. At the Cormont Road entrance (Entrance A) the herbaceous and shrub beds have also been replanted, and comprises a palette of sun loving shrubs and perennials, namely lavender, Hebe, roses, Iris, Eryngium and Stachys and the planting supported by a ‘backdrop’ formed by a formal clipped evergreen hedge.

5.2.17  **Picnic Area (Figures 7, 9 and 10)**

Myatt’s Fields Park contains an area immediately to the north east of the Bandstand and south of the new playground, which is fenced off and designated as a dog-free picnic and informal play area. This area contains a number of trees, wooden play animals and seating.
5.2.18 Toilets (Figures 7 and 8)

A new toilet block is located within the grounds of the Park Depot in the southern part of the park. The toilets are built to a modern design to be both sympathetic to the character of other features of the park, but also to be visible and easy to access and use.

The complex compromises a female and male toilet, one unisex toilet accessible for wheelchairs and a baby changing unit. Construction of the building started in September 2009 and completed in 2010, at around the same time the Mulberry Centre was built.
6. Myatt’s Fields Park is a Welcoming Place

6.1 Objectives

To be a welcoming place, Myatt’s Fields Park:

6.1.1 Is maintained to create a welcoming effect in keeping with its surroundings which respects its natural, heritage and community character.
6.1.2 Is managed to ensure it remains accessible to all sectors of the community.
6.1.3 Benefits from signage, leaflets and publicity of a coherent consistent design which contains up to date, relevant information.

6.2 Management Actions

The first time visitor to Myatt’s Fields Park should be impressed by how welcoming and attractive the park is, and for regular visitors the impression should be that the park remains as such and there is no measurable deterioration in quality.

Features of particular importance include good and safe access, pedestrians taking priority over vehicles (including cycles), effective signage to and within the park, and something for everyone with a healthy spread of different user groups in the park.

An access plan was produced for Myatt's Fields Park which included an Access Policy agreed upon by the MFPP and Lambeth Landscapes, which has a key objective of improving access. Recommendations from this plan are taken into account in the park’s management, through actions within the Work Plan and maintenance specifications.

Figure 16. Formal planted beds in Myatt’s Fields Park – a welcoming impression
6.3 Accessibility

Although a ‘closed park’ open during daylight hours Myatt’s Fields Park is open seven days a week, 365 days a year. Entrances are kept wide open and sight lines maintained to ensure people feel safe. Where gates are narrow surrounding vegetation is kept low or back from paths to improve views into and out of the park, and remove sensations of being ‘closed in’. Vehicle access is restricted to two specific gates, including the one for the Mulberry Centre, and vehicle movements only permitted on certain internal paths and in specified areas to provide a safe environment for pedestrians.

The park falls within the provisions of the Disability and Discrimination Act (DDA 1995) and as such the park takes into account a need for reasonable steps to remove, alter or avoid barriers to equal access. Therefore, an annual access audit is carried out to ensure barriers to access are addressed and resolved.

Although access within the park is good there are issues around access across surrounding roads as these are used by cars travelling at speed where views around corners are not always good. Therefore, to minimise the risk of collision accidents with pedestrians or cyclists, traffic calming measures are found at entrance points into the park. However, though outside the remit of the park’s management they have significant benefits for small children and elderly people. These measures will form part of a wider traffic-calming strategy around the park, such as ‘speed humps’ and new crossings.

The park is used by commuting walkers and cyclists given its proximity to Camberwell New Road, Coldharbour Lane and Brixton Road, as well as train and tube stations. There are no formal cycle routes within the park, and whilst cyclists generally show consideration to others, where required signs are erected to help keep speeds down.

6.4 A Visible Presence

Myatt’s Fields Park is manned by grounds maintenance staff which provides reassurance; these staff have a strong devotion to the park, so creating a strong sense of ownership, excellent site knowledge and a familiar public face. Staff are also uniformed so they are readily identifiable, and all carry identification if required.

6.5 Park Buildings

The park contains buildings which attract regular users for various reasons and act as focal points to welcome to both them and first-time visitors, especially through the use of signage, landscaping or planting, and well-maintained paths and gates which provide safe and easy access. Key facilities are the playground, the Mulberry Centre, Parks Depot, Bandstand, Roundhouse and Kiosk. These make the park feel extremely welcoming and reassuring, and so management actions aim to prioritise keeping buildings and surrounds safe, clean and presentable, and address issues acting as barriers to normal access.

6.6 Signage

As part of the restoration programme new signage was installed in Myatt’s Fields Park to inform and educate users about both park and the restoration. Prior to this signage in the park was inaccurate or damaged, did not meet the council’s style guide, did not comply with legislation relating to the DDA 1995 and was limited in terms of how much information it contained that was relevant to customer’s needs. The new park signage, installed in 2009, now provides relevant information and conveys important public messages.
6.6.1 Park Entrance Signs

Four new park entrance signs are installed at the main pedestrian entrances (Appendix 1). These are large black ‘heritage panel’ signs and conform to a style and layout consistent with both the requirements of both Lambeth Council and the HLF. The signs include a schematic map identifying main internal features and access points, along with logos of funders and partners. They also include a single lockable one-door cabinet, used for parks, council or community information. The artwork for the entrance signs is shown in Figure 17, and Figure 18 shows the construction of the signs.

These signs inform the public of:

a) The site’s name so users associate the open space with a standard name;
b) Basic site history and how it developed over time;
c) A list of the main facilities and features on site;
d) ‘Good rules’ – asking the public to respect the site and use it appropriately;
e) Contact details – who to contact for further information or report a problem.

6.6.2 Community Information Boards

A ‘community information board’ is installed in Myatt’s Fields Park (Figures 19 and 20) next to the Picnic Area and opposite the playground (Figures 7, 9 and 10). It consists of a free standing 2-door information board, which can be opened to insert community information.

Figure 17. Artwork for the entrance signage for Myatt’s Fields Park
Figure 18. Artwork for the entrance signage for Myatt’s Fields Park

Figure 19. Artwork for the information board for Myatt’s Fields Park
6.6.3 Directional Signage

Consultation indicated no need for ‘fingerboard’ style directional signs within the park as sightlines across it are good. However, access audits identified, given the park is surrounded by housing and minor roads and isolated from major roads or transport routes/hubs, it would benefit from signage to direct people from main roads or transport hubs (e.g. Loughborough Junction train or Oval and Brixton tube stations).

Therefore, five directional ‘finger’ style signs are fixed to lampposts on streets around the park to help pedestrians and cyclists find the quickest and safest routes to it. Each sign has the park’s name on either side, and are fixed so as to point to the quickest and safest ways to walk or cycle to the park (Figure 21).
6.6.4 Behavioural Signs

The park contains signage to inform and educate users about good rules of behaviour and to avoid conflict with other users. Examples of behavioural notices include:

- Signage at entrances to playground on what is permitted or not;
- 'No Dogs Allowed' signs on gates to the playground, dog-free areas and games courts;
- ‘Please close the gate’ signs on gates into formal gardens or playground;
- Signs to remind vehicle drivers of the speed limit (5 mph) at vehicle entrances.

These are fabricated in aluminium plate with anti-graffiti coating compliant; they are cheap to make and easily replaced if damaged. This form of signage can also be erected as required and left in place as a permanent reminder or removed once a problem is dealt with.

6.6.6 Information Signage

One issue for users is provision of information about the park or the function of key features such as Bandstand, Roundhouse, and Kiosk. As an example, interpretative signage is installed next to the Bandstand (Figure 22); this is in a ‘lectern style’ and angled so it can be easily read. It provides a summary of the history of the park, and was a close between MFPP, Minet Conservation Association (which represents households in the Minet Conservation Area) and Lambeth Council. Further information signage is found in the park, which includes small panels for the nature conservation and dog exercise areas.

Whilst the children’s playground has signage on gates to remind users of rules and regulations, a new information sign is in place which contains a map of the playground (as in Appendix 2) along with acknowledgements for funders. Other buildings in the park will be assessed during the lifetime of this plan to identify a need for interpretation, with the Roundhouse, Nature Area and Park Depot set as priority.

Figure 22. The new heritage interpretation panel, Myatt’s Fields Park
7. Myatt’s Fields Park is a Healthy, Safe and Secure Place

7.1 Objectives

To be a healthy, safe and secure place, the following objectives have been developed for Myatt’s Fields Park:

7.1.1 It is managed to ensure the personal safety and wellbeing of all park users.
7.1.2 It is promoted as a place for physical activity, including play, sports and exercise, as well as for promoting mental wellbeing and social confidence.

7.2 Management Actions

Myatt’s Fields Park must be healthy, safe and secure for all members of the community to use. Relevant issues that impact upon personal safety or create negative perceptions must be addressed in the management plan and implemented on the ground, and any new concerns which arise addressed promptly and appropriately.

Of particular importance to park users is a) equipment and facilities which are safe to use, b) people can enter, leave and move across the park in relative safety, c) dog fouling is prevented or kept under control, d) unsafe features are quickly repaired or removed, and e) there is signage to inform people on what to do in an emergency or how to report problems.

Figure 23. Beekeeper removing a bee swarm at Myatt’s Fields Park; an example of how keeping people is embedded into the park’s management
Myatt’s Fields Park is perceived as safe and well cared for, not only because there are gardeners visible tending gardens and beds around the park, but also because there is a constant flow of users through the average day providing reassurance and confidence. The park has a relatively low incidence of violent crime compared to other parks in Lambeth, but has been in the past affected by a significant perceived ‘fear of crime’. At one time it was relatively underused and often empty in winter and bad weather.

As in most urban parks, some vandalism and graffiti will occur, but it must be quickly responded to and addressed. There is one fixed CCTV camera in the park located in the children’s playground, but no lighting – this is not an issue as the park is locked at dusk.

7.3 Risk Reduction and Management

Audits are undertaken annually to identify safety issues in parks which generate a set of risk assessments along with actions to reduce risk or likelihood of accident, injury or crime. Each risk assessment is commented upon and approved by the Park Manager. The risk assessment identifies actions to be implemented to balance the needs of personal safety and wellbeing against normal park use. All officers who work in the park are issued with the assessment and perform their duties to comply with actions in it.

Staff play a crucial role in ensuring the park is safe, taking action to remove or reduce risk. Staff inspect the park at the beginning of each day when coming on duty and as they open gates; this gives them an opportunity to identify defects and isolate, repair or report them for further action. Staff remove litter and graffiti during the day which helps keep the site clean and welcoming; the emphasis is always on being ‘out and about and visible’.

Because of the presence of onsite staff, vandalism and antisocial behaviour can be observed and reported immediately to the Park Manager. The causes and consequences of any incident are assessed to see what preventative measures can be introduced to prevent further damage to or loss of property, or reduce any risks.

Accident and incident reporting books are available in the Manager’s office which is used to monitor and take action on incidents affecting safety or protection of assets. These reports include not just incidents reported to park staff but any passed initially to the Police. Information from these reports is used to compile crime statistics shared with the Police and Lambeth Community Safety but also to identify and target resources to remove risks, deter crime or improve surveillance and safe access.

7.4 Play Equipment

Play equipment must be inspected at least twice weekly (in fact it is inspected daily) and any defects reported; written records of inspections are kept on site and open to audit by the Park Manager. Any defective equipment is repaired or decommissioned until specialist repairs are made by an approved contractor, operating under an annual service level agreement.

Staff are required to inspect all play areas quarterly and provide a written report to the Park Manager, detailing defects in equipment, surfaces or infrastructure. Equipment is also subject to an annual independent inspection carried out on behalf of the council’s insurers. Any defects are reported and repairs made or equipment is decommissioned and then replaced by newer items as resources permit.
7.5 “Lambeth Park Watch”

It was felt some form of monitoring and reporting initiative was essential for Lambeth’s parks and open spaces so that residents, visitors and other groups could enjoy these sites in safety and comfort. As a result, it was decided to trial an initiative known as ‘Park Watch’ at Myatt’s Fields Park, which is a voluntary scheme that brings together Police, residents, staff and volunteers, provide a presence in the park. The principles of Park Watch can be understood through the example of an earlier scheme set up in Wigan.

Park Watch works in a similar way to the successful nationwide “Neighbourhood Watch” scheme by encouraging people to take a personal interest in their parks. The scheme aims to protect parks from vandalism and crime whilst improving safety and security. The aim is to give local people support should they encounter antisocial behaviour ranging from drug use, dog fouling, littering, vandalism, graffiti and underage drinking. The Park Watch project is a joint initiative involving Lambeth Council (Landscapes and Community Safety), Lambeth Police, Lambeth Community Safety and MFFP.

The Park Watch scheme aims to:
- Promote awareness of the Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws;
- Make user groups and the public feel confident they can invest time and resources in visiting, using and improving the park;
- Act as a source of advice to users, complementing services provided by the council;
- Liaise with the Park Manager, Lambeth Police, Emergency Services and Lambeth Community Safety to exchange and act on intelligence relating to antisocial, behaviour, crime or public safety issues in Myatt’s Fields Park;
- Monitor behaviour in and use of the site, to identify ways and opportunities to encourage positive activities and use of the site.

7.6 Lambeth Police and Lambeth Community Safety

Myatt’s Fields Park is under the authority of Lambeth Borough Command of the Metropolitan Police. As well as attending parks in response to emergencies or special operations, a local policing initiative is in place to increase safety and perceptions of the public realm, including parks, known as ‘Safer Neighbourhoods’. This is based around electoral wards in each borough, with officers having a local, ward-based knowledge of policing needs and concerns.

Myatt’s Fields Park is patrolled by the ‘Vassall Ward Safer Neighbourhoods Team’ (SNT) of Lambeth Police. The SNT has had a major impact in terms of regular patrols, working closely with the Park Watch Scheme and community, especially young adults and children, to challenge antisocial behaviour and deter crime.

Working alongside the Police is ‘Lambeth Community Safety’, working to reduce crime, improve quality of life and make Lambeth a safer place. It works with the Police, Probation, Prison and Fire Services, and a range of organisations, and a number of events and activities to make Myatt’s Fields Park a safe site have involved them, including Park Watch.

Like all large open spaces, Myatt’s Fields Park can experience occasional (although thankfully rare) incidents of ‘rough sleeping’, where individuals ‘sleep out’ on site overnight or even during the day, not always because they are homeless but equally because they have issues being associated with other members of the public, including in shelters or hostels. These and other members of the local ‘street population’ can cause issues in terms of the unauthorised occupation and use of important buildings and facilities, or can cause concern and distress to other members of the public using the park.
7.7 Surveillance and Monitoring

Myatt’s Fields Park contains one CCTV camera in the children’s playground although it has scope to see other parts of the park. It is part of a borough-wide CCTV system which covers not only streets and housing estates but also parks, and additional cameras are located on local streets. Information and intelligence provided through CCTV and other systems is shared with the Park Manager and officers provide information to the MFPP and Police regarding incidents or concerns around public safety or crime that affect or occur in the park.

There is no immediate plan to increase the number of CCTV units in the park, although there is CCTV on the new Mulberry Centre but this will be primarily for staff use and building security, although park management work with Centre staff as to sharing information and preventing crime or misuse of the facilities. The Park Manager works with the LCSP and Police to assess if any tree branches or furniture in the park are obstruct the CCTV’s area of vision, and whether any remedial works are necessary or appropriate to resolve the problem.

7.8 Lambeth Parks & Open Spaces Byelaws

Myatt’s Fields Park is covered by a set of ‘local laws’ specific to Lambeth’s parks, commons and open spaces, which are known as the "Lambeth Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws". These are designed to encourage, regulate and manage the proper use of and sensible behaviour in public places; they are usually made and enforced by councils or other public bodies, and the Police have the powers to enforce them as well.

The new Byelaws came into force on 6th April 2005 and replace an older set of byelaws which dated back to 1932. The new Byelaws reflect the different ways open spaces are now used, and are easier for people to understand and the council to enforce. The byelaws contain information on how the council manages activities in Myatt’s Fields Park, like:

- travel and transport, including use of cycles and motor vehicles
- sports activities, e.g. field sports or ball games like football or tennis
- public shows and performances, including trading and sale of goods
- preventing damage from bonfires, fireworks or parking

The park is also covered by other laws not mentioned in the Byelaws. This includes drinking alcohol, litter and graffiti; there are other powers available to the council and Police to take action or deal with offences, including being drunk, disorderly or aggressive.

The Byelaws can be enforced by any officer of the council and the Police. The first objective is to inform and educate, so an offence is not committed or repeated. However, if an offender takes no notice or continues to offend, the council can take down details as evidence for prosecution. The maximum fine for a breach of the Byelaws is £500 on conviction.

7.9 Dogs and Dog Control

The Parks Byelaws do not specifically mention dogs, either prohibition of dog fouling or keeping dogs under control or out of certain areas. This is because byelaws are supplemental to existing legislation and cannot describe offences for which there are already laws or regulations in force.

The London Borough of Lambeth is covered an order made under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996. This order, made in June 1997, makes it an offence to allow a dog to foul the ground in any public space to which the public are “entitled or permitted to have access” – this includes all areas within any of the borough’s parks and public open spaces. Under this order, parks officers, including the Police, have powers to issue fines or seek prosecution for any person knowing allowing a dog to foul or fail to dispose of any dog wastes.
However, it has long been realised that the scope and powers of orders made under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act are relatively limited, and do not attract sufficient penalties to deter most persistent offenders, nor compel a person in charge of a dog to give an accurate name and address to allow any fines or prosecutions to be enacted.

Recognising the current deficiencies, Lambeth Council is now consulting on the making of what is known as a ‘Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to address the shortcomings in enforcing dog control and fouling. PSPOs were first created through powers given to local authorities by the Antisocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. PSPOs enable local authorities to prohibit certain activities judged to be ‘antisocial’ or likely to cause offence or harm to communities. PSPOs can be wide-ranging in terms of what is prohibited, and breach of any of these prohibitions can result in intervention by the police or council enforcement officers, and can ultimately result in a prosecution with financial and custodial implications.

Whilst powers to prevent dog fouling or to require dogs to be kept on leads or excluded from certain locations, including Myatt’s Fields Park, are the priority for any PSPOs for the council, it does enable other unacceptable activities to be covered, such as cycling at excessive speeds or trespass (e.g. bringing cars and caravans onto site). A detailed consultation is now in progress to determine what a PSPO will cover and where, as well as how any offences will be reported, investigated and prosecuted.

In the meantime staff keep detailed records of incidents where dogs are involved, or where damage is caused to any items in the park that can be attributed to dogs; these records are shared with the Police, Community Safety to identify trends or patterns that warrant increased surveillance or action taken against specific dog owners. This information is also shared with the Lambeth Dog Warden scheme, which operates a 24-hour service to recover stray or illegal dogs, which assists in allocating staff time to particular risk sites.

7.10 Sports, Health and Wellbeing

Myatt’s Fields Park is valued and used by local residents as a place to get and keep fit and healthy, offering as it does a safe and welcoming place for sports, walking, running and socialising to develop mental wellbeing as well as physical. The tennis courts are popular with adults and children, along with regular tennis classes for children. These are well attended, and coaches are keen to encourage more young people to use take part especially from black and minority ethnic groups or local housing estates.

The new MUGA games court is popular and attracts users from a wide catchment area, though again from a narrow user-group almost exclusively Afro-Caribbean and rarely female. The park is also used by visitors for informal sports use – for example, the local Portuguese community visit the park regularly at the weekend, with young men playing football on the grass, and young women playing volleyball alongside.

The tennis courts and MUGA/games pitch are classified as a “Community Site”; these are ‘turn up and play’ sports facilities which do not require a booking or payment of their use. The football pitch is also used daily by local community football club, Lambeth Tigers, to coach nearly 200 young children playing football and other ball games. Lambeth Community Sports, part of the council’s Sports and Leisure Unit, is working with Lambeth Landscapes and MFPP to widen community uses of the park and its sports facilities. MFPP works with Lambeth Sports to widen sports access, especially with schools and local residents.

Local primary schools use the park for athletics during the summer term, and a small running track is marked out on the grass for their use. MFPP and Lambeth Landscapes are committed to increasing positive and appropriate use of the park for schools health development activities, and also to address existing barriers to greater use by those schools.
8. Myatt’s Fields Park is Well Maintained and Clean

8.1 Objectives

To be a well maintained, the following objectives are developed for Myatt’s Fields Park:

8.1.1 It is free of litter, or any littering is quickly dealt with.
8.1.2 Grounds maintenance is carried out to a high standard.
8.1.3 The buildings and infrastructure are maintained to a high standard.

8.2 Current Status and Management Actions

Consultation with the public shows how important a well maintained and tidy park is to them. This is not just for aesthetic and social reasons but also health and safety ones, especially where children or cultural/ethnic minority groups are involved.

Therefore litter and other waste management issues need to be adequately dealt with, the grounds, buildings and equipment must be well maintained, and all policies relating to litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in operation and subject to regular review.

It should be noted here that, as mentioned earlier, should the proposed independent ‘Level Three’ management model be successfully applied then whilst the actual organisation undertaking the management and maintenance of the park may change, the basic principles and processes described below would be unlikely to change. Consultation with local residents and stakeholders have shown that they would expect the same maintenance priorities and standards to be in place, and for a robust mechanism to report problems or request services to be available. However, until management changes are confirmed, for the purpose of this plan it can be assumed that it is the council that manages the park.

Figure 24. View of Myatt’s Fields Park, showing some of the features that require maintenance and replacement during an average year
8.3 Grounds Maintenance – Practical Management

Lambeth contains 128 verges, parks, commons and public greenspaces which cover a total of 298 hectares. Myatt’s Fields Park covers 4.9 hectares, which equates to 1.3% of the total public open space managed by the Borough of Lambeth. In Financial Year 2016-17 Lambeth Council spent a total of £2,326,000 on grounds maintenance services in its parks and public greenspaces, which equates to a per hectare expenditure of £7,805 per hectare of land.

Following a detailed public consultation and benchmarking exercise in 2015, the maintenance of Lambeth’s parks and open spaces was brought back ‘in house’ as a directly managed service on 1st April 2016 which is called ‘Lambeth Landscapes’. As all grounds maintenance staff are now employed directly by the council this offers considerable economies of scale as well as greater flexibility in how resources and staff are allocated to manage the borough’s public open spaces.

As part of the transformation process, a new grounds maintenance specification, along with performance indicators and monitoring arrangements, has been produced which is attached as Appendix 2. The specification is output based in that it specifies a finished standard of service to be achieved by Lambeth Landscapes rather than the amount of work carried out. Staff inspect all areas to ensure this standard is maintained, whilst also ensuring the park is patrolled to remove litter and graffiti. Staff also carry out daily inspections of buildings and structures in the park; details of these inspections and response times are described below.

Reactive maintenance is reported to a specialist team of council staff called the ‘Parks Improvement Team’ (PIT), or external contractors if appropriate, who deal with issues according to agreed response times. These are, depending on critical impact on the safe and effective working of the park and the protection of the staff and public, immediately, same working day, within 24 hours, within 48 hours or as planned work for longer time periods.

Any building and other defects found by the public can also be reported to Lambeth Landscapes via its Customer Call Centre on 020 7926 9000, out of hours on 020 7926 1000 or by email to parks@lambeth.gov.uk. The Call Centre number and email address are displayed prominently on all park entrance signs, and on any signs attached to buildings.

As a condition of its HLF restoration programme, Myatt’s Fields Park has a ten-year maintenance schedule which runs into the period of the new Lambeth Landscapes in-house arrangements. The new system accommodates these schedules and outputs to ensure coherency and continuity. The maintenance specification for Myatt’s Fields Park is written around service objectives and outputs. Appendix 2 details schedules pertinent to the park broken down by subject and category along with costs and expected frequencies of action.

8.4 Myatt’s Fields Park – Maintenance Objectives

Lambeth Landscapes expects that maintenance and management of their parks will enable all or most sites to progress towards Green Flag Award. Myatt’s Fields Park is managed to Green Flag Award standard, but sections of this plan identify further actions to retain an Award and still improve standards (see Appendix 1).

Table 4 shows the breakdown of maintenance allocations on the basis of service function as a percentage of the total spent on the site. The primary allocations are in the order: a) bed, shrub and border maintenance, b) litter collection, dog faeces and graffiti removal (e.g. ‘cleanliness’), c) infrastructure maintenance, d) play and sports equipment, and e) grass management. The emphasis on shrub and flower beds is due to a high labour input. A high litter collection charge reflects the fact that cleanliness is a major issue in this park.
Table 4. Breakdown of maintenance allocations at Myatt’s Fields Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Area</th>
<th>Percentage of Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beds &amp; Border Maintenance</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Litter &amp; dog waste collection</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure maintenance</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play area maintenance</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports feature maintenance</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass Cutting</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This ranking matches well with what the park requires; it also corresponds to what user groups feel are priority issues such as keeping it free of dog waste and litter, removing graffiti, keeping grass short, ensuring footpaths and hardstanding are free of dirt or weeds, and maintaining areas for wildlife and relaxation. These following sections summarise the key maintenance objectives for Myatt’s Fields Park. It is not exhaustive, but a snapshot of what is in the schedules. Core maintenance objectives for hard and soft landscapes are:

**Hard Landscapes – Core Maintenance Objectives**

- Maintain secure boundaries and ensure entrances are welcoming and unobstructed.
- Maintain paths in a safe and clean condition.
- Keep paths free of weeds and maintain original construction profiles.
- Keep drainage gullies and inspection covers clear and address drainage problems to ensure durability of paths.
- Maintain condition of new internal fencing.
- Keep site furniture and signage clean and graffiti free.

**Soft Landscape – Core Maintenance Objectives**

- Maintain the integrity and formality of the avenues as key landscape features.
- Establish programme of tree works with aim of perpetuating historic planting design.
- Prune and coppice shrubs with respect to their natural form and growth habit of the species. Pruning must be done sensitively and to high horticultural standard to ensure the planting design intention is realised.
- Manage shrubs to give varied height structure, to provide visual interest and for increased species diversity.
- Shrubs must not reach a height or spread where they become a security issue.
- Ensure soil is ameliorated and cultivated appropriately.
- Ensure an evenly thriving and diverse range of planting.
- Provide seasonal interest in planting, varying the current scheme as required to establish a coherent and horticulturally pleasing effect.
- Lift and divide perennials annually or biennially as required to prevent plants becoming overgrown/control inconsistent rates of establishment.
- Keep bed cut outs neatly edged and maintain a consistent profile to bed edges.
- Provide double rotation seasonal bedding display (spring and summer interest) for maximum impact throughout the year.
- Planting should be planned in advance and plant choices reflect a coordinated approach across the seasonal bedding areas.
- Keep beds free of weeds at all times and watered in dry conditions.
- Maintain perimeter hedges as semi-formal.
- Maintain amenity grass sward generally throughout the park.
8.4.1 Entrances

Trees and vegetation will be pruned back or removed at or close to all entrances, internal and external, to present a more open feel and prevent damage or blocking of access. This supports key objectives in Chapter 7 to keep the park safe and welcoming.

8.4.2 Paths

All paths must be in a safe and clean condition, free of weeds and their profiles maintained. Main paths must be regularly swept either by mechanical sweeper or by hand as necessary in between or where paths are not accessible to automated machinery. Any defects or faults in any paths must be reported so repairs can be undertaken or the problem made secure.

8.4.3 Drains & Covers

All drain gullies and inspection covers must be kept secure and free of leaf litter, weeds and debris. Any blockages of drains must be reported so that an inspection can be carried out and repairs or cleaning undertaken. Any poorly-fitting, raised, broken or defective inspection covers must be reported for action to be taken.

8.4.4 Walls, Fencing, Railings and Gates

All internal/external fencing and gates must be kept maintained and free of defects or corrosion. All boundary fencing must be in a secure condition and accumulations of weeds, vegetation and debris on boundary walls or metal work removed, and damage to gates, fencing or walls reported.

8.4.5 Signage

All internal/external signage must be kept clean and free of defects; any permanent damage or defects must be reported so signage can be replaced or upgraded.

8.4.6 Infrastructure, Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings

The grounds maintenance staff are responsible for maintaining furniture, fixtures and fittings as specified in Appendix 2. They are also responsible for maintaining and updating these items, and recording condition, status and quantities on a database that can share information with the parks management so that action can be taken.

Where items of furniture or fittings have been damaged, lost or deteriorated, the Park Manager is responsible for commissioning their replacement through an approved supplier, or commissioning the PIT to replace these items.

8.4.7 Park Buildings

The principal buildings are the Park Depot, Bandstand, Kiosk and Roundhouse. All of these buildings are in a good condition which must be maintained. The public have access, albeit limited, to all of these buildings and have access if visiting, seeking advice, on business or as a trainee or volunteer. All buildings to which the public have access must be maintained in a condition appropriate to public use. Staff must open and visit each location as frequently as necessary to maintain buildings in a clean and hygienic condition, ensuring that any essential consumable items are available at all times.
Lambeth Landscapes is currently responsible for the structure, external fabric and curtelage of the Park Depot and the Mulberry Centre which includes repairs to roofs, fencing, gates, lighting and security measures. Part of the depot is used by Lambeth Landscapes and the social enterprise ‘Streetscape’, who are responsible for internal upkeep of occupied facilities and storage space. The terms of their leases oblige them to keep the inside of their areas in good order, ensuring rooms and storage are tidy, free of litter and secure when not occupied and to pay for any damage they are responsible for.

Repairs to or upkeep of these buildings is funded through service budgets, and a contract is in place with a facilities maintenance contractor to commission programmed repairs or structural works, which also covers buildings and specialist works such as asbestos testing and removal, electrical and plumbing repairs, welding, roofing and fencing.

8.4.8 Tennis Courts

Nets and posts in the tennis courts must be correctly adjusted, and the courts kept free of litter and leaf fall, and report problems to the Park Manager for attention.

8.4.9 Multi Use Games Court

Staff are required to keep the ‘Astroturf’ MUGA (court and fencing) free of litter and leaf debris, remove graffiti, and report any problems to the Park Manager for attention.

8.4.10 Children’s Play Area

The play area offers children access to exciting and colourful equipment and this, along with it being close to and shared with the Mulberry Children’s Centre, means it is well used by children and guardians throughout the day (Figure 25).

Appendix 2 details specifications for maintenance of the playground and play equipment, which should be read in conjunction with a Park Risk Assessment. The main priorities are to ensure equipment in the playground, including the wet play area, should be safe, clean and well maintained, and that any items requiring replacement or removal should be immediately isolated or replaced as soon as possible.

Each year playgrounds and play equipment identified for upgrading are identified through weekly and annual inspections and the Park Manager will then allocate budgets or bid for capital funds to either upgrade or replace items as required.

8.4.11 Grassland

The schedule for Myatt’s Fields Park (Appendix 2) identifies approximately 29,900 square metres of grass specified as “general amenity” or “naturalised bulb” and maintained at between 40mm and 80mm, with arisings remaining on site. This regime is standard for most public parks and gardens as it provides an acceptable balance between cost and quality. Staff are required to ensure a good definition of paths and grass edges through edging during winter periods when permanent staff have relatively low workloads.

In the current maintenance schedule only 566 square metres of grass is classified as rough meadow grass, mainly in the new nature conservation area but with some small areas around games courts and boundary features.
The general intention is to create further areas of wildflower rough meadow grass in Myatt’s Fields Park to increase the site’s biodiversity interest and provide an educational resource. Long grass regimes in linked contiguous strips, especially associated with other connecting features, are likely to deliver better results in terms of nature conservation (Figure 26). Planning for where these areas will be, their creation and maintenance, is included in the Management Work Plan (Appendix 1), as will costs compared to amenity or fine lawn grass.
8.4.12 Trees

Myatt’s Fields Park contains many trees that are well cared for (Figure 27). In the past there were a number of inappropriate plantings, such as poplars and conifers with no purpose, but this has been rectified and is discouraged in all future planting proposals.

One key aspiration for Lambeth Landscapes and MFPP is a Tree Management Strategy which assists in planning how existing trees in the park are retained and managed, which trees need removing, and where new trees should be planted (Appendix 1). This document would support decisions and allocations of resources to manage the tree stock. A Tree Strategy was developed in 2008, and is attached as Appendix 4 with modifications pertinent to Myatt’s Fields Park. The Tree Strategy provides some guidelines as to how the tree stock in the park should be managed to protect its heritage character and enhance its landscape and biodiversity value.

Figure 27. Trees in the picnic area at Myatt’s Fields Park

However, some issues include a need to remove dead or dying wood (unless this can be translocated to the nature garden to provide dead wood habitat), carry out remedial tree surgery and crown lift where necessary; restore the Chestnut Avenue; address missing trees and existing trees which are the wrong species or in poor health and need to be replaced with new semi-mature species; the 18th century Mulberry requires a strategy to maximise its lifespan; and new tree plantings for the nature conservation area focusing on fruit and nut trees in an ‘orchard’ to help make reference to the site’s early market gardening history.

The maintenance of semi-mature or newly planted young trees is undertaken for three years after being planted. A “semi-mature” tree is defined as a tree with a trunk circumference of less than 52 cm at 1 metre above ground level. All new trees are staked with either single or double stakes as directed, and tree guards, strimmer protection or irrigation tubes are fitted as directed by the Park Manager. The grounds maintenance team must replace any new tree that fails for any reason within three years of being planted.
Maintenance of mature trees, that is trees with a trunk circumference of more than 52 cm at 1 metre above ground level, is the responsibility of a specialist arboricultural contractor who maintains council-owned trees in parks, on streets and in housing estates. Whilst trees on the public highway or estates are maintained on a three-year cyclical basis, trees in parks are maintained on the basis of site inspection by a tree officer following a request from the Park Manager or grounds maintenance staff. Therefore, the amount of money allocated to tree works in Myatt’s Fields Park varies according to local requirements.

8.4.13 Shrubs and Hedges

Large sections of the park contain boundary, border or linear areas of shrubs and hedges which are managed to good horticultural maintenance standards (Figure 28). Appendix 2 details the specifications for maintaining these features but priorities include renovation of any shrub plantings which have been retained through the park’s restoration phase, to prune and cut back over-mature, dead and dying specimens, and cultivate and ameliorate soils to allow plants to regenerate and improve their condition.

Shrubs and ground cover should be introduced to bare areas within shrub borders, and existing retained planting needs filled out with appropriate species. For shrub beds in shady areas of the park, species such as Box, Holly, Viburnum, Geranium and Hemerocallis will be preferred. In the Quiet Garden the existing shrub beds have been reinstated, along with new perimeter hedging and path realignments, and replacement of the existing rockery with grass. As regards perimeter hedges in the park, gaps are prioritised and are filled in with new planting especially in the east perimeter privet hedge and south laurel hedge.

8.4.14 Rose and Other Planted Flower Beds

Appendix 2 contains detailed specifications and outputs relating to the maintenance and improvement of existing rose, herbaceous and planted beds. The priority is to ensure all bed edgings are neat and have a consistent profile, beds are free of weeds at all times, and are watered in dry conditions (Figure 28).

Staff are required to provide double rotation seasonal bedding display for spring and summer interest for maximum impact throughout the year; all planting should be planned in advance and choices should reflect a coordinated approach across the seasonal bedding areas. Close liaison between the Park Manager, volunteers and staff are essential to ensure plant selections are appropriate to location and effect required.

8.5 Cleanliness and Waste Removal

Lambeth Council places significant emphasis on maintaining a high level of cleanliness at Myatt’s Fields Park including keeping the site free of litter, flytipping and dog waste. Normally all enquiries and complaints about cleanliness or nuisance at open spaces are made via the Lambeth Call Centre on 020 7926 9000 (or email to parks@lambeth.gov.uk), and are sent to the Park Manager to inspect and instruct staff to rectify or address any problems. The public can telephone or email in a complaint, but the council also receives complaints through Councillors or the MFPP.

8.5.1 Litter, Flytipping and Clinical Waste

The removal of all waste is covered under the grounds maintenance specification; staff on site undertake waste removal during inspections or as instructed by the Park Manager.
In terms of cleanliness, Lambeth Landscapes is required to maintain Myatt's Fields Park to Grade A standard for Zones 1 and 2 as defined in the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This means the site should be free of litter and other debris on the ground by noon each day, with special emphasis placed on ensuring playgrounds, toilets, entrances and paths are clean and safe to use. Where required, staff perform additional cleaning duties or visits where littering is abnormally heavy, such as after weekends or events.

Over 15 litterbins are located within the park. Each bin is checked daily each morning after the park opens for content and condition and emptied daily, but this frequency can be increased if requested by management or site staff if they feel it advisable, especially during the summer season or around ‘honey pots’ like the café and playground.

In order to help address issues relating to environmental offences such as litter being dropped by the public and not being picked up or disposed of responsibly, Lambeth Council implemented a new initiative to target ‘envirocrime’ offenders. A team of ‘environmental crime’ enforcement officers was created in partnership with NSL, an enforcement contractor (Figure 29). Under the scheme, anyone caught by the enforcement officers will face on-the-spot fines of up to £80 for littering, spitting or urinating, and fines of up to £50 for failing to pick up and dispose of dog wastes. More information on the scheme can be found at (http://love.lambeth.gov.uk/asb-enforcement-officers/).
Figure 29. Lambeth’s new envirocrime enforcement team (London Borough of Lambeth)

The envirocrime enforcement scheme, which runs for one year initially with the option of a two year extension, are empowered to operate in any of Lambeth’s parks and open spaces, including Myatt’s Fields Park.

Flytipping is not a regular event in the park because of the constant presence of staff, Police, surveillance, fencing and strict vehicle controls. However, if flytipping is found it is quickly removed. Flytipped or bulky waste up to 5 cubic metres is removed at no additional cost to the council within 48 hours of being reported. Volumes over 5 cubic metres might require a variation order to be sent to the council’s waste operator to cover the cost: once raised the waste is normally removed within 48 hours.

Clinical waste is removed as found or reported by the public or parks staff. These are placed in special containers using safety equipment, and stored as clinical waste until they can be removed and incinerated. As with other wastes, a rectification will be issued if clinical waste is not removed within 24 hours.

8.5.2 Dog Waste

There are metal heritage dog bins located around the park, each coloured black with a clear logo to show it is for dog waste, with a secure lid and a bag liner. Bins are checked every day for content and condition, and emptied weekly but this frequency can be increased if requested or if staff feel it advisable. Under new waste regulations, dog waste can now be deposited in standard litter bins, although any dog bins in the park are checked regularly for content and condition, and any dog waste is disposed of as for standard wastes.

8.5.3 Graffiti and Flyposting

The park is inspected regularly for flytipping and graffiti. Graffiti and flyposting, including on buildings, fences, boundary railings and even paths, is covered under the grounds maintenance specification, and staff undertake graffiti and poster removal. Normal flyposting or graffiti is removed within 7 days, but usually much quicker as on-site staff can deal with it when seen or reported. Graffiti or posters deemed obscene, racist or otherwise offensive is removed within 24 hours of being reported by the public, Police or Parks Manager.
8.5.4 Toilet Cleansing

Myatt’s Fields Park contains two sets of toilets, one set for general use next to the Park Depot in the south and another set integral to the Mulberry Centre which are also used by children and carers using the playground.

Toilets in parks are inspected by staff who visit and clean urinals, toilet pans, sinks, floors and walls, replenish toilet paper, soap and paper towels, and ensuring hand dryers and soap dispensers are working. Should use of toilets be heavy, such as during hot weather or when the playground is open, management can instruct for additional visits to maintain cleanliness or replenish consumables. Any defects or damage to toilets is reported to the Park Manager who then instructs minor repairs or temporarily closes toilets until substantive repairs are undertaken. Should toilets be closed temporarily, notices are installed to inform the public.
9. **Myatt’s Fields Park is a Sustainable Park**

9.1 **Objectives**

To be sustainable, the following objectives have been developed for Myatt’s Fields Park:

9.1.1 It is managed to minimise consumption and waste of non-renewable resources.

9.1.2 It is managed to increase the use of sustainable resources and to reduce adverse impacts upon the natural and human environment.

9.2 **Current Status and Management Actions**

Myatt’s Fields Park must be managed using methods that are environmentally sound and rely on best available practice. Both management and community should be aware of techniques available to reduce the park’s impact upon the environment, demonstrate they are putting these into practice, and reviewing their effectiveness.

9.3 **Sustainability in Parks and Open Spaces**

Lambeth Council is committed to improving sustainability in all of its parks and open spaces: not just financial and economic sustainability, but also environmental. This borough wide commitment includes Myatt’s Fields Park, demonstrated by a number of practical actions seen in the park or the surrounding environment. Lambeth Council adopted its ‘Lambeth Sustainability Charter’ in February 2007 which sets out how the council manages assets and resources to minimise its impact upon the local and global environment.

Opportunities to conserve energy and water and reduce pollution should be taken, pesticide use should be kept minimal and fully justified, and the use of horticultural peat eliminated. Waste plant material should be recycled on site, and used as compost and mulch for bedding and weed suppression. High horticultural and arboricultural standards certainly help reduce pollution, waste and environmental impact, and these should be in evidence.

The next sections describe some of the practical actions undertaken by council staff and Park Manager in Myatt’s Fields Park to deliver the Sustainability Charter.

9.4 **Recycling of General Wastes**

Given that managing waste is the single biggest cost item for maintaining Myatt’s Fields Park, Lambeth Landscapes is committed to all opportunities to not only reduce the amounts of litter deposited in the park but also increase the proportion that is recycled. In terms of recycling of general wastes, e.g. bottles, packaging, plastics, a number of actions are being implemented through the life time of this plan. These include:

- The installation of prominent ‘recycling points’ at key locations in the park which feature large green bins which are labelled specifically for recyclables with ‘feather flags’ promoting the bins. These will be placed at key intersections or entry points into the park in order to maximise awareness and use, and their contents will be incorporated into the current recycling waste management systems operated by the council.
- Working with all leaseholders, such as cafes, and those organising both commercial and community events, to ensure that a) they are selling goods that have minimum packaging or in containers that can be recycled, and b) that they include recycling facilities and bins in all of their waste stream processes. These requirements will become conditions of any leases or licence agreements and will be appropriately monitored for compliance.
• Maximising the proportion of equipment and consumables used by Lambeth Landscapes staff which can be recycled or reused, and minimising packaging, so that their net contribution to the park’s overall waste stream is as small as possible.

• Installation of drinking water fountains at strategic locations so as to encourage the public to use and replenish their own water bottles rather than buying and then disposing of single-use bottles of water.

Concurrent with actions to increase recycling of wastes is encouraging those using the park to reduce the amounts of waste they generate or leave on site, which is a challenge. However, a number of actions will be implemented to try and improve the awareness of the public to leave less litter or to increase what they do to recycle wastes:

• Use of publicity in the form of posters and ‘key messages’ on notice boards, entrance signage and on all bins, asking people to not only put their litter in any bins rather than on the ground, but to take it home or recycle it where this is possible.

• Ongoing publicity, on service vehicles, websites and other printed/online materials, highlighting the fact that ‘over one third of the money spent in the park goes on dealing with your litter and waste’, so as to make users think about the consequences of littering and what benefits would result from less waste and more recycling in terms of additional resources for playgrounds, sports and providing toilets, etc.

• Targeting local businesses, especially supermarkets or food outlets, so as to increase the amount of bins they provide on their premises (including recycling points) so that customers can dispose of this on site, or displaying publicity asking them to dispose of litter responsibly or to recycle at home.

• Working with organisations such as WRAP, Keep Britain Tidy and the Mayor of London to deliver events and activities in the park or local area, e.g. in schools and colleges, to increase awareness of the impacts of litter and waste, and the importance of both recycling and reducing the amounts of packaging when buying goods.

9.5 Recycling, Composting and Peat Policy

The Lambeth Grounds Maintenance Specification specifies that Lambeth Landscapes must purchase and use peat-free materials for all horticultural activities, and use compost derived from recycled green waste produced from the borough’s open spaces or from a reputable local source, of sufficient quantity and quality to undertake mulching and weed suppression.

The council has a policy that all plants put into any parks and open spaces are grown and supplied in peat-free compost. A range of commercial plant and bedding contractors are used who guarantee peat-free stock and officers monitor compliance when inspecting bedding or planting schemes. Many of the plants used in parks are bred to cope with peat-free medium.

There are occasions when some plants are supplied in a peat-based medium when it is difficult to get such species to grow in an alternative medium or where the cost of providing plants in peat-free material is expensive. In such cases the policy is to minimise the selection and supply of such plants, and to ensure that they are planted out in the park in a non-peat based material that allows for normal growth – the peat medium they were supplied in is then composted in greenwaste.

When trees, shrubs and scrub are cut back or removed the resulting green waste is chipped up and spread on shrub beds or boundary lines as mulch, or the excess allowed to rot down until it can be composted. Only green waste produced in the park should be deposited back on beds, unless demand is greater than supply, and additional material must be acquired from other suitable locations to fulfil maintenance requirements.
Under the terms of the Grounds Maintenance Specification Lambeth Landscapes are obliged to roll out a programme of greenwaste recycling across the borough to progressively reduce the amounts of greenwaste stored or sent to incineration or landfill, and maximise the amount of green waste which can be composted and reused back in parks and open spaces or offered to local school and community garden projects free or at zero profit.

Myatt’s Fields contains its own secure greenwaste recycling area in the south western corner of the site which is designated for storing, processing, turning and distributing composted greenwaste and mulch back into the park (Figure 30). This means staff are able to produce compost on site which they can use as mulch or soil conditioner as required or at the instruction of the Park Manager. Staff are also able to obtain additional material to supplement what it produces on site from other sites in the borough or from larger composting facilities in other parts of London. Therefore, Myatt’s Fields Park is well supplied with compost and mulch to meet its ongoing needs.

Figure 30. Greenwaste Depot containing leaf litter for recycling

The depot area at Myatt’s Fields Park is designed to accommodate sufficient greenwaste to be stockpiled, chipped, windrowed and composted, as well as for the equipment needed to do this. A portable shredder is used on site to reduce greenwaste, which is then stored in purpose built composting bays, with the aim to produce quality compost that is used on flower beds and in the greenhouse and community growing area at the rear of the Park Depot.

9.5 Pesticides and Fertilisers

Lambeth Landscapes actively pursues the reduction of chemicals in its open spaces. Staff are not permitted to use pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, molluscicides, rodenticides) in any public area without prior permission and only to address a specific problem which affects site integrity, public safety or contravenes the law (e.g. Weeds Act).
Systemic herbicides are approved for the control of pernicious weeds like Japanese Knotweed; the principal herbicide used is glyphosate (‘Roundup’) in stable preparations for spraying, weed wiping or spot application. As a general rule weed wiping and spot spraying is the preferred method of application; staff prefer these methods as they are economical in terms of cost and time and reduce the risk of spray drift so minimising side effects on non-target plants or habitats, or placing the health of the public or operators at risk.

A new ‘Integrated Weed Management Policy’ was developed for Lambeth Landscapes in 2019, which sets out clearly how weeds and other pests are managed within open spaces. Staff – including the volunteer gardeners and their own supervisors - are required to comply with the policy and its protocols at all times on all sites including in Myatt’s Fields Park.

Lambeth Council requires staff to produce sufficient composted waste from tree chipping, greenwaste recycling and leaf clearing to undertake weed suppression by mulching rather than using herbicides. Staff must consider the use of biodegradable matting or mulch on semi-mature trees and other means of weed suppression; this is practiced on site, especially in the nature and ornamental garden areas or around the bases of young and mature trees.

9.7 Water Conservation

It is inevitable water has to be used in Myatt’s Fields Park given the number of features that require watering, especially flower beds or new bedding. However, the park’s annual water bill has not been excessive relative to its area and complexity. There are some key actions undertaken by parks staff which have helped to minimise water use and wastage.

The use of mulching and compost on bedding helps minimise water use. All new bedding is kept shaded and away from direct sunlight in sheltered parts of the depot until planted out; if watering is needed this is using a fine mist spray nozzle and only to dampen pots. Once planted out where bedding needs additional watering self-regulating spraying heads are used to provide water to plant bases in a mist rather than just pouring water on using a hose. New trees have mulching or matting around bases, and only watered when necessary.
Buildings and other services (e.g. water points) are regularly reviewed to check water use. All water bills are profiled across buildings and deviations from the norm inspected to remedy if necessary. New polypropylene pipes are installed where resources permit to replace old ironwork pipes and reduce leakage. Other conservation measures include percussion taps for all bed watering equipment, and non-return valves on all new pipe work.

Prior to 2008 Myatt’s Fields Park contained a small but popular paddling pool in the northern end of the park within the playground. However, this paddling pool was in poor condition and leaking water from many cracks; regular ‘patch up’ repairs were required both before it opened in the summer season and during that season. In addition, the pool’s design meant it had to be drained and refilled each day which also wasted large volumes of water.

The new children’s playground contains a ‘wet play’ area where children can play in water or with water fountains but where demand for water is activated by touch and water on the ground is captured and recirculated, albeit with suitable treatment (Figure 31). This facility has radically reduced water demands whilst still offering children an exciting experience.

Finally, selection of plants for use in the park follows the principle that disease, frost and especially drought tolerant species or varieties are always preferred. This is to reduce the amount of watering needed at critical times of the year or that the water demands of plants are naturally low and can cope with water stress. The selection of plants for the nature area, hedges, and shrub and planted bedding is on the basis of attempting to reduce the need for watering with areas that are low maintenance.

Figure 31. The water play feature, Myatt’s Fields Park
10. Myatt’s Fields Park is a Conservation and Heritage Flagship

10.1 Objectives

To be and remain a conservation and heritage flagship, the following objectives have been developed for Myatt’s Fields Park:

10.1.1 Trees are managed to protect them from loss or inappropriate removal, and opportunities sought to plant new trees suitable to the park’s character.
10.1.2 It is managed to ensure existing wildlife habitats are protected and enhanced, and opportunities to create new ones taken.
10.1.3 It is managed to maintain its heritage character, to protect and raise the profile of existing heritage features, and provide them with new sustainable uses.

10.2 Current Status and Management Actions

Particular attention will be paid to conservation and management of the wide range of landscape features on site, and buildings or structural features relating to its original creation.

Likewise the park contains features important for biodiversity and protection of wildlife such as the numerous trees, which are of different ages, heights, shapes and suitability to birds, insects, fungi and mammals. The park offers considerable opportunity to increase and enhance its biodiversity value, through appropriate management and habitat creation.

10.3 Protection and Enhancement of Heritage Character

Myatt’s Fields Park is registered Grade II in English Heritage’s "Register of Historic Parks and Gardens", which indicates it ‘being of a sufficiently high level of interest to merit a national designation’. Myatt’s Fields Park’s place in the register is due to it being a good example of a smaller-scale Victorian urban park, and also for having been designed for the Metropolitan Gardens Association by the first ever female landscape architect, Fanny Rollo Wilkinson. It is also significant for the important part it plays within the Minet Estate.

The register itself entails no additional statutory controls but the historic interest of a park or garden is established as a material planning consideration and provides the means by which sites of special historic interest can be identified. It draws attention to the fact that sites included should receive special consideration if changes or development are contemplated.

Although there is no formal requirement for the council to consult English Heritage over planning applications related to Myatt’s Fields Park as it is not graded 1* or 2* they are directed to consult the Garden History Society on applications which may affect any site on the Register, regardless of its grade. Nevertheless, all of the conservation assets in Myatt’s Fields Park, including all listed structures, are recorded on Lambeth Planning’s Conservation Register and information on their condition and use are shared with English Heritage.

The octagonal Bandstand is a Grade II listed structure which indicates that the building is ‘of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve it’. The listing ensures any alterations respect the character of the structure and its preservation is taken into account during any development proposals. The park’s Roundhouse has also been added to Lambeth’s list of buildings of local architectural and historic interest to recognise its interest and ensure this is considered when changes are proposed to either park or the actual building (Figure 32).
Whilst the Bandstand is always open, the Roundhouse is not because it is not presently realistic to keep it open all the time when the park is open, as this could expose it to misuse or damage. Local residents are also reluctant to see such a unique asset left open unless it could be permanently manned or covered by passive/active surveillance.

10.4 Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment

Myatt’s Fields Park contains a number of features important to wild plants and animals, and to local people to experience and appreciate wildlife (Figure 32). As well retaining and enhancing existing features, management should aim to increase the areas of nature these natural features, or create new ones in locations where wildlife is deficient. This section describes actions to protect and enhance Myatt’s Fields Park as a biodiversity resource.

Figure 32. The Roundhouse at Myatt’s Fields Park; a view of not just an important listed heritage feature, but wildlife-friendly planting in the foreground around it.

10.4.1 The Lambeth Biodiversity Action Plan

The Lambeth Biodiversity Action Plan (Lambeth BAP) is Lambeth’s statement on actions the borough will undertake to protect, promote and enhance wildlife. The BAP was revised and updated in 2019 to take into account changes in UK and regional planning policy. The Lambeth BAP can be downloaded from the Lambeth Council website at www.lambeth.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-libraries/parks/lambeth-biodiversity-action-plan.

The Lambeth BAP consists of a set of ‘Habitat Action Plans’, one for each habitat and/or species identified as important for Lambeth. Myatt’s Fields Park is included in the ‘Parks and Open Spaces Habitat Action Plan’. Each Action Plan describes why the council has chosen a particular habitat or species, and what it intends to do to protect and promote it, and so help raise the profile and status of biodiversity in Lambeth.
Myatt’s Fields Park makes a clear contribution to delivery of the BAP as a number of features of biodiversity value such as trees, gardens - especially the nature conservation area and the quiet garden, boundary hedges and shrub borders. In addition the sustainable management and use of the site is compatible with the needs of nature and biodiversity such as pesticide avoidance, greenwaste mulching/composting and water conservation.

10.4.2 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation

Across Lambeth sites are identified for their importance for biodiversity and nature conservation. These are called Local Wildlife Sites or ‘Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)s’; SINC`s can have Metropolitan, Borough or Local importance for nature conservation. SINC’s are formally recognised and protected in Lambeth’s Local Plan from inappropriate use, development or loss. Information on Lambeth’s SINC sites can be found on the Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL)`s website at http://www.gigl.org.uk/online

Prior to 2007 Myatt’s Fields Park was not a designated SINC but following a borough-wide ecological survey that year it was eligible to become a Local SINC. Species diversity in the park had increased since it was last surveyed in 1994 which reflected improvements in site management, creation of wildlife-friendly features (especially trees, new nature and relaxed grassland areas), and reduced use of chemical means of pest control.

As a result Myatt’s Fields Park is now a Local SINC (Code SINC33), and is included in the proposals map for the Lambeth Local Plan.

Myatt’s Fields Park is also within an ‘Area of Deficiency for Access to Nature’ (AOD) for Greater London, which are regions where free access to and enjoyment of nature is limited or restricted – in fact it is within one of the largest AODs in London, which covers most of northern Lambeth and Southwark. The GLA recommends that local authorities and communities should work to increase the number of sites within existing AODs with good biodiversity interest, and manage them to increase people’s awareness of wildlife, and increase use for education and relaxation.

Lambeth Council is committed to reducing or removing any AODs in the borough, so the fact that Myatt’s Fields Park has received a SINC designation is seen as proof positive that this objective is being delivered through appropriate management of the park, as well as increasing people’s awareness of this fact through signage and practical events.

10.4.3 Naturalised Area Creation and Management

Whilst Myatt’s Fields Park has significant heritage value with a new SINC status the general impression can be that features of biodiversity interest are limited. The park is used by wild animals, especially birds and invertebrates, and contains plants attractive to them. However, many ornamental plants and trees in the park, e.g. Portuguese laurel, privet and conifers, are not attractive to wildlife as they don’t offer food sources, shelter and connectivity, and rarely produce flowers, fruit and seeds or at those times when wildlife requires them.

Therefore, there is strong consensus that the number, distribution and quality of features of biodiversity interest needs to be increased in the park. The Management Work Plan, Maintenance Schedule and Tree Management Strategy support this objective and include appropriate management guidance to deliver it.

There are a number of locations in Myatt’s Fields Park that could be modified or created to benefit biodiversity. The main ones are:
a) ‘Relaxing’ the normal grass cutting regime to create areas of meadow grassland, with complimentary planting of native trees and shrubs; it may be necessary to spray out or strip off existing amenity grass and seed with wildflower/grass mixes;
b) Planting native bulbs in ‘drifts’ under trees or around entrances to the park;
c) Planting of native hedges around the boundaries of park especially along the eastern and western walls;
d) Planting of native hedges in the nature garden particularly along perimeter fencing and fencing around the Park Depot, playground and greenwaste depot;
e) Creation of wetland features in the nature garden with associated marginal plantings in the pond plus refugia for amphibians (Figures 33 and 34);
f) Planting of native tree species including orchard (fruit and nut) varieties in clusters or lines to encourage habitat connectivity – the greenhouse area and nature garden are principal sites for such projects;
g) Replacement of over-mature Portuguese laurel and privet hedges along boundaries with native or variegated hollies or mixed hedges;
h) Installation of bird and bat boxes to trees in the park
i) Retention of tree stumps and burial of tree logs in discrete areas to create ‘stag beetle hotels’, which are also attractive to other ground invertebrates and fungi.

Figure 33. Planting of the pond with marginal plants, spring 2011

The nature conservation area, located in the western section of the park contains, or will in time as it develops, many of the above features that have wildlife value and which are accessible to park users (Appendix 2). The nature area was created and laid out in 2008 and includes a small pond with marginal habitats.
Recognising the need to have a structured scheme to improve biodiversity a wildlife management plan was produced for the nature conservation area. This sets out what habitats and other aspects need to be conserved, and how these will be developed over time. As a consequence, volunteering or standard grounds maintenance activities in the nature area follow the plan which has helped reduce confusion, given staff and volunteers a structure and timeline to follow, and set priorities for action.

The nature conservation plan has already provided tangible benefits in terms of securing funding to manage the nature area. In 2012 over £5,000 of funding was secured by MFPP from the WREF Landfill Tax scheme for biodiversity improvements in the park, including the nature area, which resulted in planting more bulbs and woodland plants, adding fruit shrubs to the hedge line and planting around the edge of the pond. New information boards for the nature area and pond have also been installed, along with new fencing around the pond itself.

Following adoption of the nature conservation plan, volunteer events take place in the park to deliver it. This includes marginal aquatic plants around pond banks, sowing wildflower seed around the nature area, and removal of invasive species like field thistle (Figures 33 and 34).

![Figure 34. The pond showing marginal vegetation and the café and bandstand in rear](image)

Finally a new apiary area has been created in the greenwaste depot, which contains six beehives that are regularly attended and are producing sufficient honey for this to be packaged and sold in Little Cat Café (Figure 36).
10.4.4 Tree Management and Protection

It is recognised the biodiversity value of a park lies in what’s on the ground but also in the trees it contains. It is the diversity of trees in terms of species but also age, growth form, height and proximity to each other that provides this value and is reflected in the number of wild animals using trees as habitat for shelter, feeding and breeding, as well as ‘transport networks’ to move across the site and out to surrounding gardens and other green spaces.

Many of the trees in Myatt’s Fields Park have wildlife interest or value, especially for birds and possibly for bats in terms of feeding, roosting and breeding habitat. However, these trees also need managing to ensure they provide appropriate natural habitat, and introduction of new trees is appropriate to wildlife and park heritage. A Park Tree Management Strategy has to influence how existing trees are retained and managed, which ones need removing, and where new trees are planted, to maximise biodiversity value or retain it. The Myatt’s Fields Park Tree Management Strategy is shown as Appendix 4.

Where entire trees are removed, stumps can be left in situ to provide habitat for wood-dwelling fungi and invertebrates, particularly the stag beetle (*Lucanus cervus*), which is found in Lambeth. However, stumps still need to be cut down to the ground to minimise trip hazards and avoid ‘spoiling’ the park’s open character.

Figure 35. Colourful planting schemes using pollen and nectar rich species provide benefit for wildlife and people together in Myatt’s Fields Park

10.4.5 Environmental Information and Interpretation

One key action of the Lambeth BAP is increasing local awareness of biodiversity, involving schools in site visits, wildlife hunts and in-school activities, producing web- and paper-based information and leaflets, organising guided or self-led wildlife walks, and activities that entertain and educate the public, such as beekeeping (Figure 36). Myatt’s Fields Park is an ideal venue for these activities given its size, location and active support from the user community to make more of its natural character and education potential.
In order to inform visitors about biodiversity and landscapes, information leaflets have been produced with HLF funding on the park’s nature interest and history. A new wildlife educational pack has also been created for use by schools or groups of adults and/or children. Members of the public are also encouraged to help assess the park’s wildlife and provide information by taking part in online survey accessible from the MFPP website. This is used to ensure that management of the park’s biodiversity is based on evidence, both before changes are made, and afterwards to evaluate progress or success.

Another opportunity to increase awareness of the park’s wildlife is a ‘Nature Trail’, attractive to visitors and schools (Appendix 1). This is centred on the nature conservation area but incorporates other features providing an informative balance of history, wildlife and park management. People walk a route around the park guided by a leaflet, and at each point have information about the park, looking and listening for wildlife or touching key objects.

Figure 36. Beekeeping in Myatt’s Fields Park, showing the beehives in the greenwaste resource area – a fantastic educational resource as well as their ecological benefits
11. Community Involvement in Myatt’s Fields Park

11.1 Objectives

To ensure it meets the needs of its user and local community, the following objectives have been developed for Myatt’s Fields Park:

11.1.1 Its management will actively involve park users.
11.1.2 Community activities will be encouraged and supported.

11.2 Current Status and Management Actions

Lambeth Council is committed to supporting involvement of members of the community in its parks. Management must demonstrate it understands and is responsive to the needs of the park’s user base and aware of changing patterns of use, as well as being able to show community involvement, and that facilities are appropriate to their needs.

11.3 Community Involvement

Myatt’s Fields Park is surrounded by a diverse community in an area where there is a lack of accessible open space. For residents living in this part of Lambeth the park provides access to facilities that are free or available whilst open, particularly important for a borough where net incomes are at or below the national average. To ensure it is managed to meet the needs of its users Myatt’s Fields Park ensures there is a strong visible community involved in its management, the community are consulted in developments or proposals, and encouraged to devise and deliver projects of their own compatible with the parks character and content.

Figure 37. Inside the greenhouse at Myatt’s Fields Park, a superb example of a successful community led and focused enterprise with enormous social benefits.
The population of the Vassall Ward, in which Myatt’s Fields Park is located, is extremely multicultural in character and the population includes over 6,000 people from ethnic minority groups and a large number of these would term themselves refugees. The presence of these people contributes greatly to the vibrancy of the community in the ward and around the park. Vassall Ward is perhaps best known for its African and Afro-Caribbean communities.

As part of the HLF restoration of the park an Audience Development Plan was written, informed by public and stakeholder consultation. The plan recommends actions to ensure the park is used by a wide audience and identifies target groups for whom actions are described. Both the Park Manager and MFPP are responsible for ensuring these actions take place, and some of the key ones are described below. Each year MFPP produce a summary of events that have taken place in the park; this shows the impressive scope and creativity of MFPP and their working with an ever expanding range of partners.

11.4 Myatt’s Fields Park Project

Myatt’s Fields Park Project (MFPP) is the official user representative body for the park, in terms of consultation with the council and others. As well as a charity and limited company, it operates on behalf of groups and residents working in partnership with Lambeth Council, and is instrumental in driving forward the park’s restoration and future management.

The MFPP is a formally constituted body with a committee, constitution and policies that make it inclusive and open to all. It has a website (http://www.myattsfieldspark.info) which contains information on the park’s history, news and forthcoming events, and who to contact for more information. They carry out consultation with local people, produce quarterly newsletters, and organise regular events, which are detailed in newsletters and the website.

MFPP is delivering a multi-stranded community programme designed to improve the physical and mental health of local people, to meet their recreational needs, improve educational attainment and to improve cohesion. It carries out consultation with young people, older people and families and designs services based on that consultation. The group’s activities are targeted to include key groups: elderly people, families with young children, young people and people from black and minority ethnic communities.

MFPP has a vision plan for improving health based around:
- Developing a programme of entertainment based around the bandstand;
- Developing a new café for the park as a social enterprise run by local people;
- Developing a growing programme in the greenhouses, in order to produce a year round supply of salad and other produce for the café.

The new café (The Little Cat Café) is now firmly established and is being run as a social enterprise by MFPP as a place where people have quality healthy food and can meet up. Furthermore, MFPP rents out buildings using income generated by such lettings to cover other activities in the park. Two recent successes actively promoted by MFPP have been the continual use of the Mulberry Centre for family and commercial events, and the licensing of the Bandstand for weddings and civil partnerships, where income is put back into the park.

11.5 Education and Myatt’s Fields Park

Myatt’s Fields Park is at the heart of a community where children achieve below the national average at school. It is close to a number of schools, primary and secondary, and there is a commitment by MFPP and Lambeth Landscapes for the park to become an educational resource for schools and to play its part in raising educational attainment (Figure 38). The park is used by many families during recreation time and educational opportunities are also offered through the Young Friends programme (see below 11.6).
A range of programmes is being led by the development officer, which include:

- A information pack for primary schools so that school children can access information about biodiversity in the park;
- An inter-generational project, which first ran in 2008 and included Year 4 children from St John the Divine Primary School, working with a group of older people, to explore memories of the park since the 1940s. Banners were produced at the end of the project and children and the older people attended a celebration in the park;
- A primary schools music festival is organised every year with a performance on the bandstand, and schools are positively encouraged to organise their own events;
- Schools are offered opportunities to take part in lessons based in the greenhouses so that children help to grow vegetables and fruit for sale in the café (Figure 38).

The closest primary school to the park is Loughborough Primary, no more than 10 minutes walk to the south. The closest secondary schools are St. Gabriel’s College and Sacred Heart RC, with the former being literally across the road on the western side of the park, and the latter only 10 minutes walk along Knatchbull and Camberwell New Roads.

The key project opportunities for local schools, where practical involvement is both appropriate and sustainable, include ‘environmental enhancement’ actions described in the previous sections and there are locations in Myatt’s Fields Park that could be modified or created by schools to benefit biodiversity. The park’s close proximity to schools, being easily accessible by foot, offers an ideal opportunity for excursions by small or large groups of students for field-based activities in a safe and stimulating location.

Figure 38. Activities involving children and young adults in Myatt’s Fields Park
11.6 Young Adults and Myatt’s Fields Park

Although Myatt’s Fields Park does not contain buildings specific to young adults, it is close to the Marcus Lipton Youth Club, popular with many who use or have grown up around the park. The MFPP and park management work to increase the degree of involvement with young adults and local youth groups. A consultation exercise carried out in 2008 asked young people aged 11 to 18 why they do or do not use the park, and it highlighted concerns about personal safety in young adults and children, and a desire for more activities in the park. As a result of this consultation, a Young Friends group was launched and local 16 – 19 year olds operate as play rangers on Saturday afternoons and during school holidays, acting as a point of safety for children aged 6 – 13 years.

A principal interest area for young adults is the level and quality of sports, especially tennis and ball games; for example, the Lambeth Tigers make regular use of the new Astroturf pitch in the south eastern corner of the park are all young adults from nearby housing estates and local schools, and this has helped create a strong sense of both ‘ownership’ of these facilities and involvement in the park’s overall management and direction.

11.7 Training and Skills Development

A key objective has always been to make maximum use of the Park Depot by as a training and skills development base. Priority would be to help manage the nature conservation area, but also to provide young adults with training and skills in horticulture, landscaping, wildlife habitat management and design/construction skills across the whole of the park.

The facility involves provision of an office, training room, stores and secure parking for vans, and use of the greenhouses and cold frames to meet, training and enterprise needs. Because a management plan has been produced for the nature garden this also helps direct activities undertaken there by volunteers and apprentices, ensuring that they gain relevant practical skills that actually deliver what the park and community need.

11.8 Voluntary Organisations & Volunteering Opportunities

Because it is a safe and welcoming place, Myatt’s Fields Park offers numerous opportunities for local residents as well as those from local or London-wide businesses to volunteer to help maintain and improve the park through a range of practical activities.

11.8.1 Community Volunteering

The MFPP have been developing a range of volunteering projects in the park, centred on horticulture, biodiversity, events and the park café. These include:

**Greenhouses:** Local people are growing a range of fruit and vegetables in and around the greenhouses which are for sale or use by the café or personal consumption. MFPP works to develop use of the greenhouses through the year. In 2018 volunteers grew 500kg of vegetables and fruit for the community, the Little Cat Café in the park, and for various events and activities – this was the equivalent of £3,609 worth of food - or 7,000 individual meals

**Little Cat Café:** Since 2010 a team of volunteers have run the café as a social enterprise. It is open at weekends or weekdays during busy periods alongside a programme of music or events around the bandstand (Figures 39 and 40). The café offers fresh, authentic food each weekend to take away cooked by the park’s ‘Food Heroes’. The cafe has also offered work experience placements to people on low incomes, which included accredited food safety and barista training.
Wildlife Garden: Volunteers are involved in planting schemes in the wildlife garden, for example planting a hedge along the outer railings and planting the pond. Further work is planned with volunteers for other habitats or features in each year because of the nature area management plan which directs what is needed and when (Figures 41 and 42).

The park’s management work with MFPP and ground maintenance staff to identify activities to be undertaken by small groups, and how these are supported with staff supervision, tools and materials. This programme was initiated in 2009 and currently runs through an annual programme with regular reviews and site assessments.

11.8.2 Business Volunteering

Lambeth promotes its parks as locations for ‘business volunteering challenges’. These are volunteering days, organised by the council which allow staff from a business to undertake practical activities that improve a park for the benefit of the community. Activities offered to volunteers are essential and compatible with a park’s management plan, are supervised by staff, and tools and safety equipment, as well as materials like plants, facilities for refreshments and personal care, are provided along with risk assessments, safety inductions, debriefs after the event and press releases/publicity.

Figure 39. The Little Cat Café, Myatt’s Fields Park
Figure 40. Customers using the Little Cat Café during the annual Summer Fair

Figure 41. Community volunteering – planting a new wildlife hedge
11.9 Community Events and Projects

MFPP actively promote the park as a venue for community events and activities, provided they are in keeping with its size and character, in order to widen awareness of it and provide opportunities for residents and visitors to the borough to become more involved. In addition MFPP runs activities and events as part of a strategy to improve the wellbeing of key groups such as older people, children and families with young people. Previous consultation asked people what activities they wanted in the park which is used as the basis for events such as people’s lunch clubs, arts activities, gentle exercise, and tailored activities for families.

Lambeth Landscapes and Events work with MFPP and local community groups to run a programme for the park in keeping with this intention. This is structured around is an Arts and Events Strategy, which aims to deliver events and activities that cater for a diverse audience in terms of age, tastes and ethnicity, and conforms to Lambeth Council’s events policies which regulate the planning, licensing, management and monitoring of events. This ensures a wide range of people within the community are kept informed about events and activities within the park and are able to participate in them or propose and run their own.

As a result, MFPP runs a varied annual events programme which aims to bring new audiences to the park. As well a popular Summer Fair each June, the park plays host to such events as a Pancake Day in February, Primary Schools Music Festival in June, a ‘Sleepover’, a Harvest Festival in September, the ‘Big Draw’ in October, and a ‘Christingle’ carol concert and winter market in December. Music for these events is funded from a range of sources including the original HLF grant, but many are now self-supporting. A quick glance at the MFPP website (http://www.myattsfieldspark.info/bandstand--events.html) will reflect how popular the park is for an increasing variety of events right through the year – and this is anticipated to keep growing if the community is managing the park in future.
Figure 43. Dancers at the Summer Fair and family breakfast club, the Mulberry Centre

Myatt’s Fields Park has now built up a reputation for innovative and entertaining events; one example is the “Myatt’s Fields Park Sleepover” which takes place overnight and involves campfires, unamplified music and a free full cooked breakfast in the morning! Another example is events which act as a showcase for growing and food projects around the borough. This builds on the park’s heritage as a market garden and focuses on the work mentioned below to develop the growing and food projects at the park.

Figure 44. The ‘Big Draw’ – puppet making
Figure 45. ‘Christingle’ – carols in the bandstand at night

The Bandstand is promoted as a venue for musical performances, and a programme for events is promoted (Appendix 1). The Strategy also promotes information and small exhibitions in the Roundhouse, and the building is available for hire by art and community event groups. The bandstand also hosts an annual Christingle carol service, a Big Draw and a programme of music running each Sunday from April to October.

One recent success has been licensing of the Bandstand as a venue for weddings and civil partnerships in 2015, a unique attraction for Lambeth and the local area (Figure 46). The bandstand saw its first ceremony in 2015, and more are booked, helped no doubt by the close proximity of the Little Cat Café, which can cater for celebrations, plus availability of the Mulberry Centre as a reception centre. Information on the Bandstand and how it is booked are found at http://www.eventlambeth.co.uk/organising/street-parties-weddings/.

11.10 The Cooperative Council – Greenhouse Growing Project

Following restoration of the park and development of the Park Depot, there was significant interest in using the old greenhouses are rear of the depot for training and educational projects, focused on growing food (Figure 47). To take forward a ‘Greenhouse Growing project’ was established to secure required support, funding and community engagement

a) Aim of greenhouse growing project

The aim is to grow a variety of salad vegetables in the greenhouse are year round including cut and come again salad vegetables, along with fruit - including from orchard trees; these fruit and vegetables supply the Little Cat Café and sold locally if there is a surplus. The project offers a number of cook and eat sessions for local people using food grown in the greenhouse or from other sustainable and healthy sources.
Figure 46. A wedding ceremony on the bandstand in Myatt’s Fields Park

Figure 47. Exterior view of the community greenhouses, Myatt’s Fields Park
b) Scope of work

An organisation was set up to manage growing, including germinating, pricking out, potting on, and maintaining plants year round. There are usually two planting seasons in the spring and autumn and enjoys a high level of volunteer involvement at all stages. The project also targets older people and families, which is a key priority for MFPP and the council.

Outputs:
- A series of planting workshops involving volunteers in germinating, pricking out and potting on plants in spring and autumn;
- Managing a volunteer rota;
- Supervision in maintaining the plants: supporting volunteers with expertise;
- At least four cook and eat sessions during the spring/summer and two cook and eat sessions in the autumn.

Additional Targets:
- Workshops supporting home gardeners to grow a variety of herbs and vegetables, which would include giving seeds, compost, pots etc.
- Workshops at the Myatt’s Fields Park Fair showing people how to make, amongst others, self-watering pots, children’s workshops planting herbs which can be taken home, etc. Cook and eat sessions will be run during the fair using produce from the greenhouse, in order to raise awareness of the project.

c) Resource Provision

The greenhouse is now refurbished and operational, and has access to large tables, hosepipes and taps, pots and volunteers (Figure 48). New electric heaters are also installed to heat sensitive plants or support germination and potting out.

Figure 48. Interior view of the community greenhouses, Myatt’s Fields Park
Volunteers include team leaders with high levels of expertise such as running gardening projects with children or gardening projects for people with mental health problems. There is a local team of volunteers who are actively looking for gardening projects to be involved with, and make considerable use of the site for a whole range of activities and duties. The greenhouse area also receives support from Streetscape in terms of maintaining glasshouses, paths and structures, and in horticultural maintenance.

d) Success and Progress

Significant funding has been secured to deliver the greenhouse project which has allowed various parts of the area to be restored or improved, but also to pay staff or volunteers to undertake supervisory, training or maintenance activities. The Park Manager supports the project and oversees project/volunteer management and other community development activities as required.

There are monthly open days in the greenhouse which welcomes volunteers coming every day to help grow vegetables and fruit. The greenhouse project is now part of the Lambeth Growing Hubs project which aims to enable community growing groups in Lambeth to share skills and resources to support one another.

In 2013 MFPP secured £24,000 to employ a part-time community gardener to help with garden planning and growing at the greenhouse and support smaller groups close to the park. As a result ten local community gardens on surrounding estates, schools and community spaces have been supported, which has brought new audiences to the park and widen local awareness of working together to grow and use food. By taking part in these events, people have also gained accredited horticultural qualifications by giving five hours work in the greenhouse each week in return for sponsorship of their studies.

In 2010 £55,000 was secured from the Big Lottery Fund’s Local Food scheme which ran until May 2013. This enabled a Food Manager to be appointed to coordinate and launch a wide range of popular food sessions in the park. This included supporting the Little Cat Cafe to become a financially sustainable business using a menu based on local recipes and locally grown food from the greenhouses (Figure 49).

Figure 49. Produce from the community greenhouses and the Little Cat Café, where some of it is used to produce food for sale on site
The Local Food scheme also included a number of other activities such as:

- **Family Breakfast Club** – this takes place weekly at the Mulberry Centre, and sessions allow children and adults to cook and eat healthy food together;
- **Food Heroes** – a weekly cook and eat together for local people; food heroes teach other people about the food they know and love – over 320 food workshops were run, and healthy takeaway food is sold in the café produced by the Food Heroes;
- **Retired People’s Lunch Club** – weekly sessions at the park depot where retired people come and eat lunch made with vegetables and fruit from the greenhouse, which has been funded through the Peter Minet Trust;
- **Young Food Heroes** – cook & eat sessions for pupils of local primary schools, allowing children to share favourite receipts with their colleagues; these sessions take place at the park depot every week during the school term.
- **“Cook Like a Caribbean”**: local people contributed their knowledge and skill to a map showing the history of Caribbean food and a set of attractive recipe cards (Figure 50);
- **The Myatt’s Fields Park Intergenerational** also employed experienced parents and grandparents to teach young parents their favourite recipes; this was very successful in reaching a wide range of people including young fathers (Figure 51).

The innovative nature of this exciting project was publicly recognised by a visit from Duchess of Cornwall to Myatt’s Fields Park on 6th September 2011 to celebrate the success of the community greenhouse and social enterprise programme. As of 2013, over 400 kg of healthy nutritious food has been grown and used on site, which is estimated to be worth almost £1,850 and the equivalent of 4,690 meals. The success of the programme was recognised in August 2013 when it won first place in the ‘Best Edible Space’ category in the London in Bloom Awards 2013, as an example of exemplary best practice in how open spaces can be used to grow food and promote sustainable living (Figure 52).
Figure 51. ‘Intergenerational’ cooking project in Mulberry Centre

Figure 52. Creating new growing areas and preparing healthy food, Myatt’s Fields Park
12. Myatt’s Fields Park is Suitably Marketed

12.1 Objectives

To ensure it is being marketed to the right audiences, the following objectives have been developed for Myatt’s Fields Park:

12.1.1 It is well provided for with information and interpretative materials appropriate to the site and its character.

12.2 Current Status and Management Actions

A Marketing Strategy was drawn up for the park as included as Appendix 5, which is designed to reach users and non-users and to encourage greater use of the park by a larger number of people at more times in the year. It is particularly focused on older people, young people, young families and people from black and minority ethnic communities. The marketing includes consultation, newsletters, e-bulletins, posters, leaflets and press coverage and signage. The aims are to:

1. Inform people about developments in the park
2. Allow debate and comment on developments;
3. Include people in decision making, particularly from marginalised communities;
4. Ensure those involved in decision making represent the whole community;
5. Develop new audiences for the park, particularly from marginalised communities;
6. Allow people to become involved in a programme of events and activities;
7. Encourage investment in the park;

Marketing involves all community organisations including MFPP, schools, nurseries and churches, Tenant and Residents Associations, and Police, to build up a programme of work to improve access to those who may be excluded from enjoying the park and its facilities.

12.3 Lambeth Council Website Information

Lambeth Council uses its website to promote and publicise Myatt’s Fields Park to the wider community. This information is in the form of dedicated web pages, accessible to the public and other partners. Attached below are web ‘hyperlinks’, which if clicked on when the reader has internet access operating, takes them to the page in question or they can be typed into an internet search engine to direct it to the correct destination.

12.3.1 Myatt’s Fields Park Web Information

Myatt’s Fields Park has its own dedicated web page which can be found here. This contains information about the park, its history and key features and qualities, along with information on how to travel to the park by rail, tube and bus. It also provides links to other useful websites or pages, and can be quickly updated to provide news on the park.

Complementing the Lambeth Council web page, Myatt’s Friends Park Project has its own website, which contains information on the park, its history and events.

12.3.2 Lambeth Landscapes – General Information

Lambeth Landscapes has a page providing the public with information on its services and sites: the web link for this site, from which other pages can be navigated to, is: http://lambeth.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-libraries
12.3.3 Lambeth Landscapes – Additional Information

Information on the new [byelaws for Lambeth’s parks and open spaces](#).

12.4 Other Marketing Information

Through the Park Marketing Strategy (Appendix 6) there are a number of practical opportunities available to maximise awareness of Myatt’s Fields Park and widen its user base. As well as website-hosted information, the principal actions are as follows:

a) Park Entrance Signs

Large signs are prominently displayed close to all principal entrances to the park, giving site name, a clear map, a list of facilities, basic history and contact details for more information or to report problems.

b) Public Notice Boards

Boards installed at main entrances for displaying notices such as those from the council or for local events or activities either based in the park or local centres (e.g. Fair, meetings and fetes). These allow the public to display material, and can be cleaned to remove graffiti or wash off defunct notices.
c) Street Directional Signs

These are attached to lamp and signposts around the park, and guide the public from key transport hubs to the park along the quickest safest routes. These signs are easy to maintain, and can be taken down and relocated as new routes become popular.

d) Building Signage

All principal buildings in the park need signs near their entrances, informing the public what the building is called, and if appropriate its history and future proposals, as well as who to contact for information. This signage is cheap and easy to replace or update.

e) Park Staff Presence

Staff working in and visiting the park must regard welcoming the public and telling them what facilities are present, or what's happening, as fundamental to their job. Staff on or visiting site are regularly updated as to new developments so these can be passed on to the public and any feedback from the public conveyed back to management.

f) Lambeth Contact Centre

Information on Myatt’s Fields Park must be available to staff in Lambeth Council’s Contact Centre, so that enquiries by phone, email or post about the park, how to get there and what's happening can be quickly answered. The Park Manager regularly updates the information held by Contact Centre on the park.

g) Park Newsletters

The MFPP produce a quarterly newsletter which is distributed widely to park users, council offices and funding agencies. This provides information on past and forthcoming events in the park, which are aimed at users of all ages and interests.

h) Event Posters

MFPP co-ordinates events which take place in the park each year; most of these are publicised in the park and local area, especially using the public notice boards in the park or in the nearby library and community centres. Some examples of these posters are included in Appendix 6 in the Marketing Strategy.

i) Interpretative Signage

The inclusion of interpretative signage in the park, containing colourful information on the park’s history, facilities, ecology and community activities. This will be used to promote the park to and attract in a wider audience, especially from local schools, estates and businesses. Existing signage, such as wildlife information boards are updated and replaced with signs with new information as necessary.

j) Web and Internet Based Applications

The development and use of internet tools or smartphone apps to communicate the location, contents and attractiveness of the park to new audiences, especially young adults, including information on how to find the park by geo-mapping tools.
13. Myatt’s Fields Park is a Well Managed Site

13.1 Objectives

To ensure it is well managed, the following objectives are developed for Myatt’s Fields Park:

13.1.1 It is managed to Green Flag Award standard, and its daily management and condition assessed against the Award criteria.
13.1.2 It is managed using a plan which is responsive, realistic and achievable, in partnership with its community.

13.2 Current Status and Management Actions

The Myatt’s Fields Park Management Plan is a 10 year maintenance and development plan which sets out what assets and features must be conserved and protected to ensure resources are targeted to have maximum effect, and opportunities to enhance and improve its quality and use are recognised and implemented.

To be credible the management plan must be reviewed to see if actions were realistic or what prevented them being achieved. In the case of the park, implementation and review is evident and can be demonstrated under scrutiny. The plan must be financially sound and based on good management practice, so that what is done, as well as what is proposed, is realistic, achievable and easy to manage, improve or add to as required.

The Management Plan is an evolving document reviewed annually; the recent restoration programme and current plan has generated a Management Work Plan in Appendix 1, which lists targets and achievement milestones. The management plan is compatible with priorities set out by the London Borough of Lambeth, as well the Service Plan for Lambeth Landscapes, the Lambeth Landscapes Strategic Plan and the community’s own vision.

The management of the park also conforms to the Service Standards for Lambeth Landscapes, which are as follows:

**Lambeth Landscapes – Service Standards**

In terms of service priorities, Lambeth Landscapes:

- a) Manages and maintains the Borough of Lambeth’s parks and green spaces on behalf and for the benefit of the communities we serve, and will perform these duties in partnership and consultation with them.
- b) Recognises the importance of parks and green spaces as community assets, and work with the community and other partners to secure resources which can be invested in them.
- c) Recognises the importance of universal access to Lambeth’s parks and green spaces, and ensures all communities have equal opportunities to use them.
- d) Recognises the importance of parks and green spaces as places for leisure, sport, recreation and play, and works to encourage their use for activities which provide social, community, health and educational benefits for our communities.
- e) Recognises the unique historical, heritage and landscape character of many of Lambeth’s parks and green spaces, and will work in partnership with others to protect these important cultural assets.
- f) Wants Lambeth’s parks and green spaces to be places where people feel safe and secure, and will come back or encourage others to use them.
In addition, we aim to comply with the following baseline service standards:

- The removal of litter, management of waste and emptying of bins is in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice (Litter)
- Seasonal flower displays, herbaceous plants and bulbs, shrubs, climbers and hedges and rose beds are maintained weed-free at all times, using manual cultivation practices
- Daily inspections of children's play areas are carried out by 9.00 am to ensure that they are safe to open and use
- A thorough certified and documented safety inspection is carried out every week on play areas and other sensitive facilities, e.g. paddling pools
- All paved areas are cleaned and swept in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act 1990
- All fenced parks are opened by 7.00 am, and closed within 15 minutes of sunset.

13.3 Staffing and Management Structure

Figure 54 summarises the management arrangements for Lambeth Landscapes, which is responsible for the maintenance of Myatt’s Fields Park, as well as the borough’s other public open spaces, cemeteries and recreation grounds. Whilst the Myatt’s Fields Park Manager sets overall policy and determines the use of resources, day to day responsibility for maintenance lies with Lambeth Landscapes’ Operations Manager (North Area), who oversees a team of staff, including two Operations Supervisors, who operate a mobile maintenance service that regularly visits the site.

This means, coupled with ongoing negotiations as to full or partial independent management of Myatt’s Fields Park as alluded to earlier, the information below will change in newer versions of this management plan, but until then the scheme is operational.

Working together the Park Manager and Landscapes Operations Manager monitor service performance in terms of standards of cleanliness, horticulture and general repairs as set out in the specification and service standards. The Operations Manager and Supervisors meet with the Park Manager on a regular basis to discuss work plans and priorities for the park, and to address any maintenance or safety issues.

Working alongside the Park Manager, Operations Manager and Supervisors are the Parks Development Team, made up of four staff responsible for supporting the operational side of the service, undertaking specific projects, and monitoring service performance and compliance with service standards and policies.

The management team undertake a range of capital and other projects at Myatt's Fields Park and are the direct point of contact with MFPP in terms of issues relating to site maintenance, responding to councillor enquiries or those from the Police, adjacent landowners and other members of the public.

All Lambeth Landscapes staff undertake an annual appraisal with their line manager, where key performance issues are raised and assessed, along with any barriers to improved or continuous performance. This provides an opportunity for identifying training or recognising acquired skills, and the staff have taken full opportunity for additional training or support.
Figure 54. Lambeth Landscapes staffing structure 2016-17
13.4 Training, Apprenticeships and Community Cooperation

As part of its new structure, Lambeth Landscapes has signed up to the Government’s apprenticeship scheme, whereby funding and other support is available to take on new employees and provide them with training and ‘on the job’ supervision. The plan is to start with two apprenticeships, one in parks and the other in cemeteries, and after these two posts have been filled, the apprentices have qualified, and this initial phase has been evaluated, to then extend the scheme so as to take on more trainees across the whole service.

The advantage of apprenticeships is that it ensures that, as older staff retire or move on to other jobs, sufficient new staff are being recruited and in those fields where the service has a clear need for skilled employees. It also ensures the service is recruiting new employees at the local level, preferentially within Lambeth, and from local schools and colleges, which makes sure the council is delivering on its core commitment to supporting the local economy and helping its own residents find and stay in rewarding employment.

Streetscape also provide apprenticeships at Myatt’s Fields Park in landscape gardening to young people who are long-term unemployed, which complements the work done through Lambeth Landscapes, and ensures that there is a regular through put of young trainees who are familiar with the management of public open spaces, and whom Lambeth Landscapes can recruit if required to provide staff and skill continuity.

13.5 Arboricultural Contract – Tree Maintenance

The maintenance of all mature trees at Myatt’s Fields Park is carried out by a specialist arboricultural contractor based locally. The Tree Maintenance Contract is based on schedules and outputs specified in this contract. Lambeth Tree Officers are responsible for regularly visiting and assessing parks for their tree stock and its condition, inspecting trees in need of attention, and raising orders with the tree contractor specifying the tree, type of work required and the disposal of wastes. For minor or newly planted trees, on site staff are responsible for essential aftercare activities such as removing basal growth and watering.

13.6 Management, Monitoring and Review

Myatt’s Fields Park is managed according to Green Flag Award standards and in accordance with the Myatt’s Fields Park Management Plan. To be effective and to assess how the core objectives have been met, as well as the criteria for Green Flag Award, this management plan needs to be continually reviewed, revised and re-written.

The cycle for the Management Plan is to:

- Write and adopt the Management Plan
- Operate according to the aims and objectives held within the plan
- Monitor the operation of the Management Plan
- Review the working of the Management Plan
- Revise and improve the Management Plan where necessary to reflect on-going developments such as visitor survey feedback and revised financial projections

Lambeth Council, through the Park Manager, with support from officers from Lambeth Landscapes, is responsible for reviewing and updating the plan, to ensure that maintenance work has been carried out satisfactorily according to the plan.
Following completion of the HLF restoration programme the aim is to carry out a visitor and results compared to previous quantitative and qualitative data collected prior to the start of the restoration, to assess how this has met proposed outcomes. This serves as a measure of the success of the park’s restoration and identifies key issues that the management plan, when it is reviewed and updated, needs to accommodate and address.

Myatt’s Fields Park will be audited annually and assessed against the criteria used by Green Flag Award, and will be submitted to the scheme, not only to ‘test’ compliance but also to secure and retain a Green Flag over each successive year of assessment. Annual feedback from these assessments and any Green Flag Award judge’s feedback is used to guide the annual review of the management plan.

13.7 Cooperative Management for Myatt’s Fields Park – The Future?

As described in Section 5.7, MFPP has submitted proposals to move management of the park into a community-led structure, whereby users and residents make and take key decisions on how assets, facilities and resources are used or maintained. It is accepted that successful implementation of this model could take up to three years, but if successful it will have far reaching implications for how the park is managed and by whom.

At the moment the existing management structures remain in place, but these are being subjected to review and refinement as the new model is developed by MFPP and the council, with the involvement of Lambeth Landscapes as the preferred maintenance provider. However, on-site performance monitoring, and rectification of service failures is continuing to ensure facilities and assets are protected and maintained. When this plan is formally put in place, the new or interim management structure will be updated along with any revisions to performance monitoring or decision making processes.

As mentioned previously, concurrent with the new management model being formulated are proposals to redevelop and improve the existing depot buildings and greenhouses, so as to increase their space provision and flexibility for community and commercial activities and secure increase income for the management and upkeep of the whole park.

MFPP have sought pre-planning advice, and have secured significant funding to take forward this project; information can be found on the MFPP (https://www.myattsfieldspark.info/park-depot-redevelopment.html) where a PDF copy of the plans is also available.

If the park is independently managed, then having buildings and operational spaces that can accommodate both the staff and equipment needed to maintain the park, and to generate additional income, will be critical to long-term success. Managing such a small but complex site will not be easy, so it ensuring that the existing buildings are able to maximise income and meet customer needs and expectations has been at the heart of MFPP’s proposals. As these proposals and designs for the depot area evolve, further information will be included in the management plan.
Appendix One

Myatt’s Fields Park

Management Action Plan 2016-2021
APPENDIX ONE: MYATT’S FIELDS PARK MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN 2016 - 2021

This programme will be carried out to satisfy the vision for Myatt’s Fields Park. It identifies management objectives, how they will be achieved and who is responsible for achieving them; where appropriate a timescale is given, otherwise all actions are ongoing, annual or biannual. The programme will be reviewed annually, and targets monitored to ensure timescales have been achieved.

Responsibility Key
GMS  Grounds Maintenance Service – Lambeth Landscapes
LST  Lambeth Sustainable Transport
LCS  Lambeth Community Safety & Lambeth Borough Police
MFPP  Myatt’s Fields Park Project
PM  Myatt’s Fields Park Manager

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Management Action</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Timescale/Frequency</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>MYATT’S FIELDS PARK IS A WELCOMING PLACE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6.1.1</td>
<td>Myatt’s Fields Park is maintained to create a welcoming effect in keeping with its surroundings which respects its natural, heritage and community character</td>
<td>All entrances maintained to have an ‘open’ feel; surrounding vegetation is kept back, paths free of obstructions</td>
<td>Vegetation maintenance, removal of obstructions</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>PM, GMS Service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Maintain visibility across the park, especially around key or popular areas</td>
<td>Vegetation maintenance, removal of obstructions</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>PM, GMS Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Entrances into and areas within park have a consistent style providing a welcoming effect</td>
<td>Furniture or signage at entrances and in park complies with Park Style Guide</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM, GMS Officer time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.2</td>
<td>Myatt’s Fields Park will be managed and developed to ensure it remains accessible to all sectors of the community</td>
<td>Ensure the park is accessible to all and is DDA compliant</td>
<td>Audit to identify issues and actions to remove access barriers</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM Officer time</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Promote links to other green spaces for pedestrians, through ‘walking trails’ and information in the park</td>
<td>Develop a ‘green walking’ strategy and identify opportunities to fund leaflets, signage and web information</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM, LST, MFPP Officer time</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ensure access to and use of the park by cyclists is appropriate and safe</td>
<td>Liaison to improve cycle routes to park, and appropriate information about safe cycling</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM, MFPP, LST Officer time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.1.3</td>
<td>Myatt’s Fields Park will benefit from signage of a coherent consistent design which contains up to date and relevant information</td>
<td>Signage in the park must be accurate, relevant and informative</td>
<td>Annual site inspections and replacement programme</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM Officer time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Main entrances have signage which is clear and informative, with correct contact details</td>
<td>Install signage at main park entrances; review after 5 years</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM £20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areas within park have signage which informs public on their purpose and restrictions on access or use</td>
<td>Install signage at key areas or access points; review after 5 years</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park is free of signage which is obsolete, confusing or incorrect, or which creates hazards or obstruction</td>
<td>Remove outdated or obsolete signs</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM, GMS</td>
<td>Service</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park is easy to find from local estates or transport centres by pedestrians and cyclists</td>
<td>Install street directional signage to guide pedestrians and cyclists between estates, transport hubs and park; review after 5 years</td>
<td>2012, 2015, 2018: 2018 audit completed</td>
<td>PM, MFPP, LST</td>
<td>£2,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information is available about buildings or other features of interest in the park, including wildlife or history</td>
<td>Install attractive interpretative signage on key buildings or features (e.g. playground, nature conservation area); review after 5 years</td>
<td>2012, 2015, 2018: 2018 audit completed</td>
<td>PM, PPO</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
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7 MYATT’S FIELDS PARK IS HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

7.1.1 Myatt’s Fields Park will be managed to ensure the personal safety and wellbeing of all park users is given the highest priority

<p>| All park staff to be visible whilst on site | Staff to wear uniforms or carry identification | Ongoing | PM, GMS | Service |
| Ensure all risks in the park are adequately assessed and action taken to reduce risk | Adopt a Risk Assessment for Myatt’s Fields Park, with clearly identified actions and lines of responsibility; review every 6 months | Annually: 2018-19 review completed | PM, GMS | Officer time |
| Ensure the park is free of any slip, trip or fall hazards | Weekly inspection of steps, ramps and paths; repairs or replacement where necessary and as resources permit | Ongoing | PM, GMS | Service, Officer time |
| Ensure play facilities are safe to use | Daily inspections of all play area equipment, weekly structural inspection, and annual independent inspection | Ongoing | PM, GMS | Service, Officer time |
| Ensure wet play facility in playground is safe to use | Daily inspection of wet play facility, weekly structural inspection, annual inspection | Ongoing | PM, GMS | Service, Officer time |
| Ensure all buildings in the park are safe to use by public and staff | Weekly inspection of all buildings, ensure first aid and fire protection equipment is in place and serviceable | Ongoing | PM, GMS | Service, Officer time |
| Encourage responsible dog ownership and address any dog fouling or dog-related offences | Enforcement of Dog Fouling Regulations Attendance by dog warden to improve management and use of dog exercise area, and encourage use of dog bins | Ongoing | PM, LP, GMS, PM, MFPP | Officer time |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensure crime or disorder is minimised or eliminated from the park</th>
<th>Weekly liaison with Lambeth Police as to local issues and exchange of intelligence</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>PM, LP, LCS</th>
<th>Officer time</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual crime and community safety audit with Police and MFPP to identify issues and programme in remedial measures</td>
<td></td>
<td>PM, LP, LCS, MFPP</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual inspection and repairs to CCTV units in park; identify any changes or improvements to system</td>
<td></td>
<td>PM, LP</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fisheries management to identify any fishing issues and programme in remedial measures</td>
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**Weekly PM, LP, LCS Officer time**

**Annually crime and community safety audit with Police and MFPP to identify issues and programme in remedial measures**

**Annually: 2018-19 review completed**

**Annual inspection and repairs to CCTV units in park; identify any changes or improvements to system**

**Annually: 2018-19 review completed**

**7.1.2 Myatt’s Fields Park will be promoted as a place for physical activity, including play, sports and exercise, as well as for promoting mental wellbeing and social confidence**

| Use of the park for exercise and walking for health is supported and promoted through the council, local community centres, hospitals and GP surgeries | Update and promote the Myatt’s Fields Park Healthy Walking Route; on signage, website and through local GP surgeries and hospitals | Annually: 2018-19 review completed | PM, MFPP, Lambeth Sports | Officer time |
| Use of the park for exercise and walking for health is supported and promoted through the council, local community centres, hospitals and GP surgeries | Promote use of sports facilities to schools, youth centres and sports clubs through website, signs and publicity | Ongoing | MFPP, PM, Lambeth Sports | Officer time |

**8 Myatt’s Fields Park is well maintained and clean**

**8.1.1 Myatt’s Fields Park is free of litter, littering is quickly dealt with**

| Ensure that the park is kept clean and free of litter | Daily litter collection and responsive flytipping removal | Ongoing | GMS | Service |
| Ensure that graffiti and vandalism in the park is managed or prevented | Respond to graffiti and vandalism as per maintenance specifications | Ongoing | GMS | Service |
| Ensure the park is free of dog waste and dog bins are available to use at all times | Daily dog waste inspection and removal, weekly dog bin cleaning | Ongoing | GMS | Service |
| Ensure the public are able to use bins to deposit litter or wastes | Annual audit of bins (dog and litter) – location, condition and use | Annually: 2018-19 review completed | GMS, PM | Officer time |
| Ensure park furniture and fittings are clean and well maintained, and do not attract debris or graffiti | Programme to refurbish or replace bins, benches and fencing, in makes and colours complying with Style Guide | Annually: 2018-19 review completed | GMS, PM | 2,000 |

**8.1.2 Grounds and tree maintenance is carried out to a high standard**

| Grounds maintenance to be delivered to the highest standard throughout the park with consideration to specialised items of grounds maintenance | Maintain all pathways to Service specification | Ongoing | GMS, PM | Service |
| Grounds maintenance to be delivered to the highest standard throughout the park with consideration to specialised items of grounds maintenance | Maintain all grass and meadow areas to Service specification | Ongoing | GMS | Service |
| Grounds maintenance to be delivered to the highest standard throughout the park with consideration to specialised items of grounds maintenance | Annual bedding programme with seasonal schemes | Ongoing | GMS | Service |
| Grounds maintenance to be delivered to the highest standard throughout the park with consideration to specialised items of grounds maintenance | Maintain all shrub and hedge areas to Service specification | Ongoing | GMS | Service |
### 8.1.3 Buildings and infrastructure are maintained to a high standard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensure all furniture, buildings and structures in the park are well maintained. Remedial repairs to all buildings as identified in condition surveys; seek additional funding to upgrade paddling pool and playground</th>
<th>Maintain all buildings and structures to Service specification</th>
<th>Ongoing</th>
<th>PM, GMS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual building inspection and cleaning programme</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM identified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure all drains are maintained and flooding or waterlogging is minimised</td>
<td>Annual inspection of drains; clean out drains or replace broken ones as required or resources permit</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM, GMS 7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure all sports facilities in the park are available and safe to use</td>
<td>Maintain all sports facilities or pitches to Service specification</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>GMS Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual inspection and repairs programme</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 9 MYATT’S FIELDS PARK IS A SUSTAINABLE PARK

#### 9.1.1 Myatt’s Fields Park will be managed to minimise the consumption and waste of non-renewable resources

| Ensure the Lambeth Environmental Charter is applied in all decisions and actions relating to the park | Implement and monitor compliance with the Charter through annual audits. Compliance with ISO 14001 through Service method statements | Ongoing | PM, MFPP. GMS Service, Officer time |
| Training for parks staff on Environmental Management Systems, ISO 14001 and good practice in sustainable site management | Annually: 2018-19 review completed | PM, GMS Service |
| Ensure the park is energy and water efficient, and impacts upon limited natural resources is minimised | Compliance with ISO 14001 through Service method statements. Annual utilities audit: measure water and electricity consumption, fix leakages or remove redundant services | Ongoing | GMS, PM, PPO Service Officer time |

#### 9.1.2 Myatt’s Fields Park will be managed in order to increase the use of sustainable resources, and to reduce adverse impacts upon the natural and human environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimise and prevent pollution issues in the park, especially from water runoff</th>
<th>Compliance with ISO 14001 through Service method statements</th>
<th>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</th>
<th>GMS, PM, PPO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual audit and weekly monitoring to identify pollution sources and measures to mitigate or remove problem</td>
<td></td>
<td>GMS, PM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Compliance</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Responsible Parties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimise the use of pesticides and artificial fertilisers in the park</td>
<td>Compliance with ISO 14001 through Service method statements</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>GMS, PM, PPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Audit pesticide and fertiliser use in park – identify opportunities to minimise use and applications through alternative methods</td>
<td></td>
<td>GMS, PM, PPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximise the recycling of greenwaste generated in the park, especially for composting and mulching in the park</td>
<td>Commission and operating of greenwaste recycling; monitor use of mulch and compost on beds and boundaries and in tree pits</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>PM, GMS, PPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximise opportunities for park users to recycle waste in the park</td>
<td>Cost-benefit analysis of installing and servicing recycling bins in key locations</td>
<td>Ongoing discussion with Lambeth. Recycling bin for depot in use</td>
<td>PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 MYATT’S FIELDS PARK IS A CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE FLAGSHIP

10.1.1 Myatt’s Fields Park will be managed to maintain its heritage character, raise the profile of its heritage features, and provide them with new and sustainable uses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Protect the fabric and historical integrity of the park</td>
<td>Annual inspection all heritage buildings and structures</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Programme of repairs or refurbishment to features at risk of deterioration or loss</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10.1.2 Myatt’s Fields Park will be managed to ensure existing wildlife habitats are protected and enhanced, and opportunities to create new ones taken

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Responsible Parties</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park is managed to protect its natural features, especially existing flora and fauna, and landscapes with biodiversity value</td>
<td>Maintain all habitats and features of interest to Service specification</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>PM, PPO, GMS, MFPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure there is accurate and relevant information on the park’s biodiversity and wildlife interest, and is available to assists in the site's management</td>
<td>Review Lambeth Biodiversity Action Plan; integrate the Plan and actions into the park’s management policies, schedules and promotional materials</td>
<td>BAP being reviewed in 2018</td>
<td>PPO, MFPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Habitat and species survey of Myatt’s Fields Park by Greater London Authority (GLA) and London Wildlife Trust (LWT)</td>
<td>2008, 2018 – 2018 survey done</td>
<td>PPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review and update the SINC status of Myatt’s Fields Park</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>PPO, PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Integrate GLA survey and SINC data into management plan, operating procedures and Service specifications</td>
<td>Plan updated; review in 2020</td>
<td>PPO, PM, GMS, MFPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximise opportunities for ecological enhancement in the park, especially creation of new features currently deficient in local area or Lambeth</td>
<td>Identify if mowing regimes can be relaxed to increase rough meadow grass cover</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>PM, PPO, GMS, MFPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create wildflower-rich meadow grass areas, by improving existing rough grassland sites or creating new ones by turf removal/seeding</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>PM, PPO, GMS, MFPP</td>
<td>£5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create new ‘wildlife corridors’ in the park, by planting new native hedges or mixed tree/hedge lines</td>
<td>Biannually; works done on NCA in 2016</td>
<td>PM, PPO, GMS, MFPP</td>
<td>£2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate maintenance of new meadow grass areas, orchards or hedges through compliance with Service specifications</td>
<td>Biannually; works done on NCA in 2016</td>
<td>PM, PPO, GMS, MFPP</td>
<td>Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install bat and bird boxes, add loggeries for stag beetles and fungi, and refugia for reptiles and amphibians in appropriate locations in the park; review after 5 years</td>
<td>Ongoing: bat walk and other events in each year</td>
<td>PM, GMS, MFPP</td>
<td>£2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote wildlife protection, biodiversity management and environmental education/awareness in line with Biodiversity Action Plans</td>
<td>Develop new Myatt’s Fields Park wildlife leaflet with nature trail, markers and web-based information</td>
<td>Planned for 2019-20</td>
<td>MFPP, PPO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and publicise a ‘Lambeth Walking to Wildlife’ route or programme which will include the park</td>
<td>Ongoing: park now used for wildlife walks/talks</td>
<td>PPO, MFPP, MFPP</td>
<td>Officer Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliver programme of wildlife walks, talks and training to members, key officers, schools, community and park users</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>MFPP, PPO</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 10.1.1 Trees will be managed to protect them from loss or inappropriate removal, and opportunities sought to plant new trees suitable to the park’s character

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensure the trees in the park are safe and well maintained</th>
<th>Annual inspection of trees to identify risks and priorities for treatment or replacement</th>
<th>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</th>
<th>PM, GMS</th>
<th>Officer time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ensure the removal and planting of trees is compatible with the park’s heritage, natural and community character</td>
<td>Commission a Myatt’s Fields Park Tree Management Strategy; review every 5 years or as required</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>PM, PPO, GMS, MFPP</td>
<td>Officer time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 11 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN MYATT’S FIELDS PARK

#### 11.1.1 Management of Myatt’s Fields Park will actively involve park users

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foster a sense of community ownership and responsibility, thereby increasing respect and care of the park</td>
<td>Establish clear reporting procedure between public and management. Maximise projects with joint working opportunities. Monitor progress in managing nature conservation area and other community activities</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen involvement of user groups in decision-making, activities and events</td>
<td>Continue and improve focus of park user meetings</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assess number and profile of users, patterns of use and users perception of safety and enjoyment of the park</td>
<td>Carry out user and household surveys around park. Evaluate and implement information in management objectives</td>
<td>Ongoing and as required for projects or funding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 11.1.2 Community activities in Myatt’s Fields Park will be encouraged and supported

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ensure user groups and local community make maximum use of the park for events and activities</td>
<td>Promote and support events, e.g. Myatt’s Fields Park Summer Fair, Sleepover, Christingle</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure community are able to promote their activities and events in the park to maximise audience capture</td>
<td>Install new community notice boards at key points in park</td>
<td>2009 – done; reviewed 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bandstand promoted by Lambeth Events and MFPP</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>MFPP, GMS Events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen links with schools and improve the park as an educational resource (biodiversity, history and environmental management)</td>
<td>Participation by schools in nature walks, wildlife studies, hedge and bulb planting</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits to schools to support pupils in projects in local history, arts, heritage and biodiversity</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>MFPP, PPO, Third Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myatt’s Fields Park is a successful volunteer resource</td>
<td>Volunteer training days for local residents and user groups</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run Friends volunteer days</td>
<td>Run Business Team Challenges</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redevelopment of Parks Depot to extend footprint and increase capacity for community and commercial activities</td>
<td>Develop a business plan for Parks Depot improvements, including securing capacity funding and consultation</td>
<td>2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure funding for redevelopment of Parks Depot building</td>
<td>2020-21</td>
<td>MFPP, PPO, PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission redevelopment of Parks Depot building</td>
<td>2018-19</td>
<td>MFPP, GMS, PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
12 **MYATT’S FIELDS PARK IS MARKETED AND PUBLICISED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12.1.1</th>
<th>Myatt’s Fields Park is well provided for with information and interpretative materials appropriate to the site and its character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ensure information and interpretation is available and kept up to date (activities, features, ways to get involved)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Promote the park as part of the wider greenspace network – linkages</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain Myatt’s Fields Park page on Lambeth Council website</td>
<td>Annually review of information held on park by Contact Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFPP, Lambeth Comms, PPO Officer time</td>
<td>PPO, Lambeth Comms Officer time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13 **MYATT’S FIELDS PARK IS A WELL MANAGED PARK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13.1.1</th>
<th>Myatt’s Fields Park is managed to Green Flag Award standard, and its management and condition assessed against Award criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ensure Myatt’s Fields Park is managed to Green Flag Award standard</strong></td>
<td><strong>Secure and retain a Green Flag Award for Myatt’s Fields Park</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation of site management against Green Flag Award criteria; benchmarking with other Green Flag Award sites</td>
<td>Myatt’s Fields Park submitted to Green Flag Award programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM, PPO, MFPP, GMS Officer time</td>
<td>PPO, PM Officer time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13.1.2</th>
<th>Myatt’s Fields Park is managed using a plan which is accessible, realistic and achievable, and in partnership with its user community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ensure effective monitoring and application of the management plan</strong></td>
<td><strong>Participation in Lambeth Cooperative Parks Programme to increase community involvement in park’s overall management and development, including self-management</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual review and amendment of management plan</td>
<td>Increase the degree of community participation in evolution of the Lambeth Cooperative management and development of Myatt’s Fields Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annually: 2018-19 review completed</td>
<td>Initiated 2013, and involvement ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PM Officer time</td>
<td>MFPP, PM, MFPP, GMS Officer time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13.1.2</th>
<th><strong>Submit and develop proposals for independent management of park by community enterprise (Level 2 Management Model) under the Lambeth Cooperative Parks Programme</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage One business case submitted 2013; independent management phase planned for 2017-18</td>
<td>Approval of Level 2 management model and implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MFPP, PM, GMS Officer time</td>
<td>2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix Two

Myatt’s Fields Park

Lambeth Landscapes
Grounds Maintenance
Specification Schedules
Grounds Maintenance Specification
April 2019-March 2020

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Introduction

This specification refers to grounds maintenance operations at the parks, open spaces and cemeteries listed in Appendix 1. Work will be undertaken by Lambeth Landscapes, part of Lambeth’s Environment and Streetscene Division.

Questions or concerns over grounds maintenance operations within Lambeth’s parks and open spaces should be directed to:

Web: lambeth.gov.uk/forms/parks-enquiries
Email: parks@lambeth.gov.uk
Tel: 020 7926 9000

RHS Standards

Within the specification where references are made to RHS standards, work will be performed as detailed within: RHS Pruning & Training. ISBN Number: 9781405315265.

Performance Management and Key Performance Indicators

This document is publicly available and we invite Friends groups and other stakeholders to use it for performance monitoring purposes. Lambeth Landscapes’ Operations Managers and Supervisors will follow a scheduled and ad-hoc inspection regime to ensure all aspects of the specification are being met, and this will be supplemented by inspections from other officers as appropriate. In addition, the following Key Performance Indicators will be monitored against targets on an ongoing basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Key Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Target 19/20</th>
<th>Data capture/source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Number of Green Flags awarded (all categories)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Keep Britain Tidy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>London in Bloom – Silver Gilt and Gold awards</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>London in Bloom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Number of Stage 1 complaints upheld</td>
<td>&lt;30</td>
<td>Internal records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Number of Stage 2 complaints received</td>
<td>&lt;4</td>
<td>Internal records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Satisfaction levels – users considering Lambeth’s parks to be good or excellent overall</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>Face-to-face and online surveys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Income generated (within parks budget only, excludes events and sports income)</td>
<td>£350,000</td>
<td>Accounting systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>External grants successfully applied for</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Internal records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Volunteer hours (commercial groups and organised activities within parks)</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>Internal records and from stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Carbon footprint from vehicle fleet</td>
<td>&lt;150 tonnes</td>
<td>Internal records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Percentage of local wildlife sites being positively managed for biodiversity (national KPI)</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>Internal records</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Area of land managed by Lambeth Landscapes primarily for nature conservation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>GIS assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Staffing levels</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Establishment data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Agency staffing hours</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Matrix</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>NI195 (detritus). Transects surveyed at B- or C</td>
<td>&lt;10%</td>
<td>Internal and external</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

~ 2 ~
These KPIs have been chosen to give a broad representation of the service and because the data are relatively easy to monitor and collect. A benchmarking exercise identified a large number of potential measures and these were reduced to provide a practical list which wouldn’t represent an unachievable burden on reduced staff resources. The KPIs are intended to measure outcomes.

All performance data behind the KPIs will be compiled and made available as quarterly and annual reports. Officers will review and assess success in meeting targets and develop an action plan where targets are not being met. As all data will be openly provided to the Parks Forum and Friends groups it is anticipated that Friends groups and Management Advisory Committees will be involved in reviewing performance. Qualitative data will also be derived and published from KPI 5 (user satisfaction).

Where comparative external data can be obtained, benchmarking will take place and be included within performance reports. The collection of data will vary by KPI, but where park-specific data is collected, this will be compiled in the quarterly and annual monitoring reports.

In terms of KPI 3, the council only upholds complaints if there has been a recognisable failure in service delivery. Where expectations exceed our specification or issues are not within the remit of Parks, concerns would not be upheld as a complaint. Complaints analysis will form part of the performance monitoring work with the aim of identifying trends or underlying themes and exploring what can be done to prevent future complaints arising (where resources permit).
Section 1 – Grass Management

Desired outcomes:

- Well-maintained amenity grassland, kept short throughout the year
- Appropriately managed sports pitches
- A significant increase in the area of grassland managed for biodiversity.

Service outputs:

1.1
So far as is reasonably practical, all litter and debris will be removed in advance of mowing operations.

1.2
All reasonable care will be taken to avoid damage to ground, grass sward, emerging bulbs, trees, features, furniture or infrastructure during mowing.

1.3
Close mowing or strimming will take place around all furniture, features and obstructions, including tree protection guards, in order to produce a consistent height of cut.

1.4
Soft grass edges will be trimmed flush with their defined edge and reformed as necessary each time they are strimmed.

1.5
Any mown litter and debris will be removed shortly after completion, so far as is practical. Paths and hardstanding areas will be left free of grass clippings on completion of cutting.

1.6
All mowing and strimming will be completed within two working days at any given location.

1.7
All amenity grass will be cut a minimum of 10 times throughout the year. Between April and September sites will be cut at least monthly, unless there is prolonged dry weather when cutting frequencies will be reduced.

1.8
Between 1 October and 31 March, weather permitting, amenity grass will be cut at least twice.

1.9
Grass surfaces will be mown to a consistent height, with clippings evenly dispersed across the mown area or mulched within the sward. Mulching configurations will be used wherever possible.
1.10 Naturalised bulb areas will be mown and maintained as amenity grass once bulb foliage has fully died back.

1.11 Rough and meadow grass scheduled for a yearly cut will be mown once annually, between 1 September and 31 October each year. All grass clippings will be collected and removed within seven days of cutting. The arisings will either be composted or used for energy production.

1.12 Additional ad-hoc cuts will be made where necessary in response to safety or other concerns.

1.13 Areas of rough and meadow grass subject to annual or infrequent cutting which border paths or internal roadways will be clearly demarcated to indicate they are part of an active management regime. This will be achieved using a border strip of between 30cm and one metre in width, which will be maintained as amenity grass and mown approximately monthly between 1 April and 30 September. In certain circumstances, and in agreement with Friends groups, no margin will be left, for example where wildflower areas are relatively small, or there is the risk of damage to sensitive species, fruit bushes or other features.

1.14 Differentiated cutting regimes will be discussed and agreed with key stakeholders on an ongoing basis. There will be a presumption in favour of maximising the area of land managed for nature conservation. As well as environmental benefits this will allow the reduced resources to be focused more intensively on the key areas of amenity grass, ensuring a higher frequency of cutting. It may be that some areas are cut two or three times a year; or small areas cut every two years on rotation to enable maximum benefits for invertebrates. Some areas may also be left permanently uncut. Cutting regimes will be reviewed with key stakeholders at least annually and immediate changes will be made if circumstances dictate. The successful trial of a non-intervention area in Brockwell Park during 2018 has resulted in the decision to leave both conservation areas uncut on a permanent basis. The conservation areas on Clapham Common will also be left permanently uncut in order to maximise benefits for wildlife.

1.15 For each site where the grass-cutting regime has been fully reviewed, detailed maps will be produced and provided to key stakeholder groups.

1.16 Highway verges will be cut monthly between March and October (conditions permitting) unless they have been created or designated as wildflower verges, in which case they will be cut annually in autumn and the cuttings removed.

1.17 Cemeteries will, in the main, be cut under three different regimes. High profile areas will be cut to
a very high frequency with mulching push mowers to create a quality finish. During the main growing season these areas will be cut weekly, and during the rest of the year they will be cut fortnightly, ground conditions permitting. High profile areas include entrances and crematorium grounds.

The bulk of the cemeteries will be cut on a five to seven week cycle, the exact length of which will be dependent on ground conditions and the weather. The cutting period will cover March to December, ground conditions permitting.

Lambeth’s cemeteries all date from the nineteenth century and some areas still contain densely packed Victorian graves with no or very few graves still visited by living relatives. This applies to certain areas within West Norwood Cemetery and Streatham Cemetery. The reduction in resources and the desire to manage our sites to increase biodiversity where possible, means that it makes sense to manage these areas for wildlife and cut them on an infrequent basis. At both sites the wildlife areas will be cut annually in late autumn/early winter. All areas managed for wildlife will be marked with signs and a register will be kept of visited graves. Access to these graves will be cut as part of the regular cutting cycle. A verge of approximately 50cm to one metre in width will also be cut as part of the regular cycle where wildlife areas border internal roadways.
Section 2 – Waste Management

Desired outcomes:

- The removal of litter and detritus in line with legal requirements.

Service Outputs

2.1

Legal obligations for keeping land clear of litter and other waste are set out in the 2006 Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (CoP). The CoP requires local authorities to zone their land as high, medium or low intensity of use and manage sites accordingly to designated standards and response times. The specification is summarised below and a list of sites with their classification is provided in Appendix 1. Some larger sites have split zoning and maps are included within Appendix 1. Some sites are cleaned by Veolia as part of Lambeth’s waste services contract and details are also provided in Appendix 1. Shrub beds and woodland areas are mostly treated as low intensity of use areas. The aim is to empty litter bins at sufficient frequencies to prevent them overflowing, whatever the use category of the site they are located in.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High intensity use</th>
<th>Medium intensity use</th>
<th>Low intensity use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peak season</td>
<td>Once a day (Monday-Sunday)</td>
<td>Three times a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday)</td>
<td>Once a week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1 April-30 September)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low season</td>
<td>Once a day (Monday-Friday)</td>
<td>Once a week</td>
<td>Once a month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1 October-31 March)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum response time</td>
<td>1/2 a day</td>
<td>1 day</td>
<td>14 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to restore to grade A</td>
<td>This means by 6pm if reported before 1pm or by 1pm the next duty day if reported between 1pm and 6pm on the previous day</td>
<td>This means by 6pm the following day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>standard if it falls</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>below grade B</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade A definition</td>
<td>No litter or refuse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade B definition</td>
<td>Predominately free of litter and refuse apart from some small items</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade C definition</td>
<td>Widespread distribution of litter and/or refuse with minor accumulations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade D definition</td>
<td>Heavily affected by litter and/or refuse with significant accumulations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Peak season may be extended on a small number of very high usage sites such as Brockwell Park and Clapham Common.

2.2

Bagged litter will be placed into vehicles and removed from site, or left next to litter bins for removal on the same day. Waste will then be stored in appropriate refuse containers in areas to which the public do not have access. In larger parks waste will also be collected directly from bulk wheeled bins located in areas of high footfall. All waste is disposed of via Western Riverside Waste Authority and is sent to a modern energy-from-waste facility in the London
Borough of Bexley. The site generates electricity for the National Grid and all solid outputs (metal and ash) are reused or recycled into usable products.

2.3
All vegetative waste removed from site will be separately shredded and composted, with the exception of certain pernicious or scheduled weeds.

2.4
Fly-tipped waste will be removed for disposal within 48 hours of being reported and will be disposed of at Western Riverside Waste Authority transfer stations. Wherever possible fly-tipped waste will be separated for recycling at the transfer station.

2.5
Syringes and sharps will be collected and placed immediately into purpose made sharps containers and disposed of as clinical waste. All such drug-related paraphernalia will be removed within 48 hours of a report being received.

2.6
All litter bins with accumulated residue will be jet-washed inside and out at least once every two years. Bins will generally be emptied in accordance with the litter-picking zones in which they are situated. However, scheduling will aim to ensure that all litter bins are emptied with sufficient frequency to prevent them overflowing. At sites without static park attendants emptying bins more than once a day will not be possible.

2.7
Accumulations of leaves, vegetative matter and detritus will be cleared and composted. Paths and roadways within the following parks are scheduled to be mechanically swept at least once a month: Agnes Riley Gardens, Archbishop’s Park, Brockwell Park, Clapham Common (including play areas), Hillside Gardens, Kennington Park, Larkhall Park, Loughborough Park, Max Roach Park, Myatt’s Fields Park, Norwood Park, Old Paradise Gardens, Rush Common, Ruskin Park, Streatham Common, Streatham Vale, Tivoli Park, Vauxhall Park and Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. Metalled roads in all three cemeteries will be mechanically swept at least once every three months.

2.8
Accumulations of leaves will be cleared as part of a scheduled programme over the autumn/winter period to prevent detriment to grass or planted areas. Seasonal leaf clearance will be completed by the last day of February each year. Clearance may involve mulching the leaves in situ with ride-on mowers at those locations where this technique is able to produce a satisfactory result.

2.9
In order to manage litter on the larger sites, 1100 litre wheeled bins will be placed out at strategic locations between 1 April and 31 October, and in some areas all year round. The existing stock is currently being refurbished so that all bins are of a standard colour (RAL 6008 ‘browngreen’) and clearly labelled for public use. Bins will be left with lids open for ease of use.
2.10
Recycling bins have been placed into a number of parks and a separate recycling run is made weekly with the dustcart. All recyclables will be tipped separately at Western Riverside Waste Authority. Lids will be locked to try and reduce contamination and flaps will be left open to make the bins easier to use.

2.11
A Parks Waste Management Action Plan is being implemented and a range of trials and education campaigns may be initiated to encourage users to take greater responsibility for their litter. This may include removing litter bins at one or two sites or moving all litter bins to the periphery of sites. Any changes will involve consultation with key stakeholders and will be combined with an education and awareness campaign.

2.12
A Parks Enforcement Plan is being developed and includes a range of measures to try and reduce littering, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour. This will be consulted on with key stakeholders before any initiatives are implemented.
Section 3 – Herbaceous Beds

Desired outcomes:

- Providing vibrant and colourful horticultural features
- Achieving wildlife benefits through the provision of native, nectar-rich plants.

Service Outputs

3.1 Herbaceous and mixed beds will be attended monthly to remove weeds and control any invasive or fast-spreading plants as appropriate. The soil surface will be cultivated to prevent soil capping.

3.2 Soil structure and soil fertility improvement will be undertaken as necessary to maintain plant health.

3.3 Plant division, pruning, staking, irrigation and dead-heading will be carried out as necessary to maintain plant vigour and in accordance with good horticultural practice.

3.4 No chemical methods will be used to control pests and diseases. Non-chemical methods may be used in extreme circumstances, otherwise serious infestations will be dealt with by removing diseased plants and replanting at an appropriate time.

3.5 All beds will be mulched at least every two years during the winter with appropriate organic material. Mulch will be applied to a depth of no less than 50mm by 31 March each year.

3.6 All vegetative waste will be removed for composting (please see Section 16 for more detail).

3.7 As the opportunity arises, existing plants will be replaced with native, nectar-rich, drought-resistant species.
Section 4 – Shrub and Hedge Maintenance

Desired outcome:

- Well-managed specimen ornamental shrubs, hedges, shrub beds and climbing shrubs.

Service Outputs

4.1 All shrubs, hedges and climbing shrubs will be pruned and maintained according to species requirements, RHS standards and by avoiding forms and shapes unrepresentative of the species.

4.2 Soil structure improvement and fertility improvement will be undertaken as necessary to maintain plant health.

4.3 Weeds within shrub beds will be managed in accordance with Lambeth’s Integrated Pest Management Policy and herbicides will not be used except in extreme circumstances. Selected shrub beds will receive a winter application of a suitable mulch to suppress weed growth and supplementary hand weeding will take place as required. It won’t be possible to maintain all shrub beds in a completely weed-free condition, however the aim will be for at least two visits during the growing season which will include weeding. Involvement from Friends groups and volunteers will be welcomed and encouraged in order to increase maintenance interventions.

4.4 Dead or diseased shrubs will be removed as part of the annual winter maintenance programme. Friends groups will be consulted on any significant changes proposed.

4.5 Climbing shrubs will be securely tied to the supporting structure or wall using appropriate fixing methods. Supporting structures including pergolas, arbors, and wire supports will be maintained in a secure condition. This work will form part of the winter maintenance programme and supplementary work during the growing season will vary between sites depending on the resources available. For sites with dedicated gardeners ties and other fixing methods will be checked regularly through the year. For other sites there will be at least one comprehensive check and maintenance session during the growing season.

4.6 Mature shrubs or those which have outgrown their position will be coppiced or reduced as appropriate – not exceeding 10 per cent of any area of shrub planting each year.

4.7 Areas of shrubs which are identified as regularly being used for anti-social behaviour will be cleared and removed, preferably as part of the winter maintenance programme. The work will take place at other times of year if the need is urgent and resources can be diverted without
impacting on other core areas of the specification.

4.8
All formal hedges will be evenly cut level and close clipped on the top and on all elevations. Hedges will be maintained to an appropriate height and to a uniform or tapering width, and will not exceed the width of the hedge at its lowest point. Maintenance will form part of the winter programme, with supplementary trimming during the growing period where growth is impeding access or causing a safety issue. All hedges will receive at least one supplementary trim during the growing season.

4.9
Hedge bases will be maintained free of weeds through manual weeding and mulching wherever possible.

4.10
All hedge clippings will be removed for composting.

4.11
All hard and soft grass edges will trimmed flush with their defined edge.
Section 5 – Rose Beds

Desired outcome:

- Appropriately managed species, hybrid, floribunda, climbing and rambling roses.

Service outputs

5.1
All roses will be maintained and pruned according to good horticultural practice and RHS standards.

5.2
On sites with dedicated gardeners the following outputs in 5.3 to 5.9 will be undertaken on a regular basis. On sites without dedicated gardeners the aim will be to try and work with Friends groups to implement an appropriate maintenance regime using a combination of scheduled visits from Lambeth Landscapes staff and volunteer input. On any sites where it is not possible to ensure an appropriate maintenance regime rose beds may be replaced with lower-maintenance features such as herbaceous perennials, wildflower sowings or grass.

5.3
Dead-heading will be undertaken as required to maintain plant vigour and according to good horticultural practice.

5.4
Plants will have root stock suckers and stem suckers removed regularly.

5.5
Climbing and rambling roses will be securely tied to their supporting structure or wall using appropriate purpose made fixings.

5.6
Beds will be mulched annually with an appropriate organic material to a minimum depth of 50mm.

5.7
All rose beds in cemeteries will be attended at least fortnightly for all maintenance purposes and will be weeded on each occasion.

5.8
All dead or inappropriate plants will be removed for composting.

5.9
Soil structure improvement and fertility improvement will be undertaken as necessary to maintain plant health.
Section 6 – Ornamental Gardens

Desired outcome:

- Dedicated staffing and the maintenance of traditional gardens as areas of high quality horticulture. The gardens will contain a mix of roses, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, ornamental grasses and hedging, specimen shrubs and ornamental trees, managed in accordance with the appropriate section of the specification and professional horticultural practice.

Service outputs

6.1 Qualified gardeners will be provided as full-time and dedicated staff from Monday to Friday each week in the following locations:

- Kennington Park Flower Garden
- Brockwell Park Walled Garden
- Vauxhall Park ornamental and lavender gardens.

6.2 Any surplus time will be spent on additional gardening duties within the parks the staff are based in.

6.3 Seasonal bedding will not be used and the gardens will feature herbaceous perennials, ornamental grasses, shrubs and bulbs.

6.4 In terms of species choice there will be a presumption for native, nectar-rich and drought-tolerant species.
Section 7 – Naturalised Areas

Desired outcomes:

- Selected sites or areas within specific parks and open spaces will be managed for the benefit of nature conservation, landscape character and biological diversity.
- Where possible these sites or areas will also be managed to facilitate public access and for educational purposes.
- These sites will be managed in accordance with the London Borough of Lambeth’s Biodiversity Action Plan (LamBAP) and Local Management Plans produced for specific sites.

Service Outputs

7.1 Naturalised grass areas will, in the main, be cut and maintained as ‘meadow grassland’. Grass will be mown on one occasion, to a height of 50mm, between 1 July and 31 October each year, as per section 1.14. The grass-cutting regimes for all parks will be reviewed with the aim of increasing areas managed for biodiversity. For more detail see Section 1: Grass Management

7.2 Weeds classified as ‘noxious’ or ‘invasive’ (e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed) will be removed and eradicated from all naturalised areas, using appropriate techniques.

7.3 Woodland areas will be managed as ‘ecological woodland habitat’ for which an annual programme of work will be set by the Environmental Compliance Officer.

7.4 All naturalised areas will be kept free of litter and fly-tipped waste in accordance with Section 2: Waste Management.

7.5 Woodlands – Clapham Common, Streatham Common, Unigate Wood, Eardley Road Sidings, Knight’s Hill Wood.

All established pathways and boundaries will be kept clear of obstructions up to a height of two metres through an annual winter programme. In addition, paths will also be checked and cleared of overhanging brambles and any other obstructions at least twice between 1 April and 31 September.

7.6 Wetlands – Clapham Common, Brockwell Park, Ruskin Park, Agnes Riley Gardens, Tivoli Park

All bodies of water, islands (floating and static) and surrounds will be kept free of litter, waste and detritus including fishing tackle. Sites will be checked in accordance with Section 2: Waste Management.

7.7 All water channels and culverts will be inspected weekly and will be kept clear of obstructions,
debris, silt and weeds as required with at least two scheduled full maintenance visits per annum. The aim will be to supplement these visits with additional sessions provided by volunteers or Community Payback groups.

7.8
Aquatic and marginal plants will be maintained as appropriate to species requirements to ensure good plant health. Dead, diseased or inappropriate plant species will be removed on a regular basis or as required.

7.9
Oxygen degradation will be prevented by the control and removal of vegetative matter such as leaf litter. Algae will be controlled by cultural or mechanical methods.

7.10
All aquatic weed species will be controlled by non-chemical means.
Section 8 – Sapling and Minor Tree Maintenance

**Desired outcome:**

- The successful establishment of sapling and semi-mature trees through the application of good horticultural and arboricultural practice and standards.

**Service outputs**

8.1  
It is intended that all tree wells for trees less than three years old will be maintained as circular or square pits with a 50-100cm diameter, and will be mulched annually during autumn/winter to a minimum depth of 50mm either with one-year old chippings or self-produced soil conditioner. However, limited staff resources mean that it will take time before this can be achieved and in some areas may be reliant on volunteer help. Tree wells will be maintained through the use of annual mulching, supplemented with weeding where required.

8.2  
All tree wells will be subject to at least one maintenance visit between April and September which will include non-chemical removal of weeds.

8.3  
Tree stakes will be secured by ties. Stakes and guards will be renewed or removed for disposal during winter.

8.4  
Semi-mature standard trees will be feathered to remove any lateral stem growth to maintain a clear stem between the tree crown and ground level unless otherwise directed by the trees team. This work will be undertaken annually in winter.

8.5  
All trees will be kept free of epicormic growth as part of a winter maintenance programme where this is causing an obstruction or is interfering with furniture, fencing or other infrastructure.

8.6  
Where young trees are protected by tree guards and no tree well was established, grass will be mown or strimmed right up to the guard as part of the surrounding maintenance regime.
Section 9 – Sports Facilities

Desired outcomes:

- To support the Active Lambeth Plan through the maintenance of facilities in a safe, clean and accessible condition.

Service outputs

9.1 All courts and pitches will be litter-picked in accordance with Section 2: Waste Management. Large items of debris will be removed at the same time that sites are litter-picked. As part of the winter maintenance programme all facilities will be thoroughly cleaned, including the removal of moss and algae.

9.2 All pitches, courts, nets, equipment and facilities will be inspected weekly to ensure they are in a safe condition for public use. Any defects in surfaces or equipment will be reported to the Parks Improvement Team (PIT), the sports team, or other appropriate body.

9.3 Replacement nets and fittings will be fitted within seven days of being provided by the sports team or appropriate body.

9.4 All sockets and fixtures will be maintained in a sound and secure condition. Sockets will be securely capped outside of the playing season.

9.5 All turf pitch line markings will be accurately measured and marked out in accordance with the relevant sport governing body. Where necessary, additional mowing will be undertaken in order that pitch markings, including those for school sports days, can be applied to suitably short turf and to assist with longevity of the markings. Pitch markings on Clapham Common will include the pitch reference number.

9.6 Additional sports and activities will be accurately measured and marked out in accordance with the relevant sport governing body.

9.7 Goalposts and Australian Rules posts will be securely installed prior to play. All equipment will be left in-situ throughout the playing season.

9.8 On tennis courts all nets and posts will be checked weekly and adjusted to the correct height and tension. Nets will be maintained in position all year round. Tennis court playing surfaces will be
mechanically cleaned a minimum of once per year between 1 October and 31 March in order to remove detritus, weeds, moss and algae.

9.9
Polymeric sport surfaces will be maintained to the requirements of Section 15: *Hardstanding, Paths and Fence line Maintenance*.

9.10
Skateboard facilities will be cleared of litter and large items of debris in accordance with their zoning under Section 2: *Waste Management*. Sites will receive a deep clean as part of the winter maintenance programme.

**9.11 Turf Pitches**
The playing surface will be maintained level, free from holes, undulations, depressions or trip hazards. Pitch repairs will be carried out with a screened loam based soil prior to play.

9.12
Grass will be maintained at a height of 25mm to 60mm during the playing season. At all other times the grass will be maintained to the Amenity grass specification.

9.13
Line markings will be made without the use of additives which may be detrimental to the sward.

9.14
Redgra playing surfaces will be checked monthly to ensure they are free from major trip hazards.

9.15
Tarmac areas will be maintained in compliance with the requirements of Section 15: *Hardstandings, paths and fenceline maintenance*. 
Section 10 – Children’s play areas

Desired outcomes:

- The provision of safe, clean, well maintained and accessible children’s play facilities.
- The application of current European safety standards for fixed play equipment.

Service outputs

10.1
When the ERP-FM software is fully implemented, all fixed play equipment and infrastructure will be visually inspected at least monthly by appropriately trained staff. Any identified faults will be photographed, recorded on the system and passed to the appropriate team for rectification. At high usage sites inspections will be made more frequently.

10.2
All play areas will be inspected quarterly to the requirements of BSEN 1176-1177 and a written or electronic report detailing any defects in equipment, surfaces, furniture or other infrastructure, including landscape play features, will be produced. These inspections are commissioned by the Council’s Facilities Management team and undertaken by an independent company.

10.4
Unsafe or dangerously defective items of equipment will be taken out of service, isolated or otherwise made safe. This will normally be on the same working day that the issue is identified or reported and verified.

10.5
All surfaces, including impact absorbent surfacing, timber steps, ramps, bridges and access decks will be maintained in a clean condition and kept free of weeds, moss and algae without the use of residual chemicals. This will normally be via an annual clean as part of the winter maintenance programme.

10.6
All equipment will be maintained in a clean condition and fit for the intended use.

10.7
All sand pits will be litter picked in accordance with their zoning under Section 2: Waste Management.

10.8
All sand pits will be hand forked or mechanically cleaned to a depth of up to 250mm and disinfected as necessary to maintain clean and safe conditions, using a bleach free sterilising agent to the manufacturer’s recommended dilution. Cleaning will take place weekly between 1 April and 30 September and monthly between 1 October and 31 March.
10.9
Sand levels will be maintained to a depth of no less than 100mm and topped up every six months.

10.10
Where sand pits contain fixed play equipment, the sand levels will be maintained to ensure the equipment base fixings are not exposed. They will be checked and topped up as necessary on a weekly basis between 1 April and 30 September and monthly over the rest of the year.
Section 11 – Paddling Pools / Water Play

Desired outcome:

- The provision of safe, clean and accessible play facilities.

Service outputs

11.1 The service will operate between late May and 30 September at the following locations: Brockwell Park, Clapham Common, Myatt’s Fields Park and Norwood Park. Other paddling pools in Agnes Riley Gardens, Ruskin Park and Streatham Common are being managed by the respective Friends group / SCCoop, with the exception of compliance testing. Self-management is subject to a standard agreement detailing the responsibilities of both parties.

11.2 All paddling pools will be clean and open for use by 10am each day. Paddling pools will be closed to the public by 7pm.

11.3 All paddling pools and their surrounds will be kept clean, hygienic and free from damage, debris, litter, glass, hazardous contaminants or trip hazards at all times of use and maintained to the requirement of Section 2: Waste management.

11.4 All paddling pools and surrounds will be maintained free of algae, moss and weed species. Paddling pools will be drained and the entirety thoroughly cleaned with an appropriate cleaning agent as often as is necessary to prevent the visible presence of algae. Paddling pools will be drained and cleaned no less than every four days.

11.5 When a pool or its surrounds is found or reported to contain any hazardous contaminants such as glass or animal fouling the pool will be drained and cleaned within one hour.

11.6 Each paddling pool will be visited by our contractor no less than once every four hours during periods of use for the purposes of carrying out a safety inspection and a water quality test.
Section 12 – Security

Desired outcomes:
- Ensuring selected locations are opened and closed as per advertised times.
- Ensuring public safety when closing locations.

Service outputs

12.1 All perimeter gates scheduled for locking will be opened by 7.30am (7.00am at Ruskin Park) and all internal gates, toilets and barriers will be opened by 8am.

12.2 Where parks are to be locked at night gates will be locked at or around dusk. For parks with multiple gates, some perimeter gates may be locked at the end of the day’s core working shift (3pm).

12.3 On opening, gates will be safely secured open (wherever possible) either by a locked drop bolt or by the use of a lock and chain.

12.4 Prior to locking each site, reasonable measures will be taken to ensure that all members of the public have left the site.
Section 13 – Furniture and Fittings

Desired outcomes:

- The maintenance of all furniture, fittings and infrastructure with particular attention to structural condition.
- Isolation and repair of hazardous items.

Service outputs

13.1 All furniture, fittings and infrastructure will be inspected every three months and any damage or hazards reported immediately to the Parks Improvement Team.

13.2 Benches will be maintained clean and free from graffiti, bird droppings, sap etc. and in a condition fit for public use. Any sharp extrusions will be removed. Non-wooden benches will be washed at least once a year.

13.3 Wooden benches, seat and tables will be treated with a weather resistant stain every three years as required as part of the winter maintenance programme.

13.4 All park shelters will be jet-washed annually as part of the winter maintenance programme and this will include clearing out all gutters. Wood stain or paint will be applied as required.
Section 14 – Graffiti

Desired outcomes:

- Keeping buildings and other infrastructure clear of graffiti and fly-posting.
- Rapid removal of offensive graffiti, or graffiti on sensitive infrastructure.

Service outputs

14.1 Graffiti and fly-posting will be removed from signage, furniture, buildings and other infrastructure within seven days of it being discovered or reported.

14.2 Priority will be given to the removal of graffiti that may be perceived as being of an offensive nature or in a sensitive location. This will include graffiti of a racist or obscene nature or graffiti on locations such as war memorials or historic buildings. Graffiti within this category will be removed within 24 hours of discovery or reporting (Monday to Friday only).
Section 15 – Hardstandings, Paths and Fenceline Maintenance

Desired outcomes:

- The maintenance of all footways, hardstanding areas, safety surfaces and the floors of open structures in a safe and clean condition.
- The maintenance of clear fence lines and boundaries.

Service outputs

15.1
The cleanliness of all hardstanding areas and polymeric surfaces will meet the standards outlined in Section 2: Waste Management.

15.2
All hardstanding areas and polymeric surfaces will be mechanically cleaned at least once a year to remove weeds, moss and algae.

15.3
All footpaths will be inspected weekly for trip hazards or damage. Any hazards will be immediately isolated and reported to the appropriate team for rectification. Repairs which can be undertaken by the in-house team will be completed within two weeks of being reported.

15.4
During periods of snow or freezing conditions, key pedestrian routes (entrances and some step slopes and steps) will be treated with evenly spread road salt at a rate not exceeding 10 grams per square metre.

15.5
All fence lines and boundaries, including path boundaries, will be kept free of obstruction from trees, shrubs or other vegetation, to a height of two metres. Maintenance will take place between 1 October and 31 March with significant obstructions cleared at other times as necessary.

15.6
All fence lines and boundaries will be maintained free of self-set seedlings, weeds, vegetation and epicormic tree growth. This will be undertaken through a scheduled maintenance programme between 1 October and 31 March each year, with significant issues dealt with on an ad-hoc basis at other times.

15.7
Metalled paths will receive a manual treatment at least once every two years to edge them and remove weeds.
Section 16 – Composting

Desired outcome:

- The composting of all suitable herbaceous non-woody waste.
- The creation of a clean soil conditioner for use within parks on beds and community gardens.

Service outputs

16.1 All non-woody and herbaceous vegetative material arising from maintenance operations will be delivered for composting to the scheduled disposal locations. Where capacity exists this will be to Lambeth Landscapes managed composting facilities, otherwise to the Council’s agreed green waste disposal locations.

16.2 Controlled or notifiable weeds will not be composted.

16.3 Lambeth Landscapes will manage composting sites at Brockwell Park and Clapham Common at the established green waste handling areas.

16.4 The appropriate Environment Agency permits or exemptions will be obtained.
Section 17 – Public Toilets

Desired outcomes:

- The provision, opening and closing of public toilets.
- An effective cleansing programme for all toilets.

Service outputs:

17.1
Public toilets in parks will be opened and locked within one hour of the scheduled park opening and closing times.

17.2
Toilets will be cleaned daily (Monday to Sunday) between 7am and 2pm and all consumables will be checked and re-stocked as necessary at the same time.

17.3
All toilets will be inspected at least once during the day.

17.4
If significant issues with cleansing are reported or observed, supplementary cleaning will be undertaken the same day wherever possible. However, this will be dependent on location and time of report and staff may not be available until the following day.

17.5
Maintenance issues will be reported daily. Wherever possible issues will be dealt with internally through the Parks Improvement Team, prioritised accordingly.

17.6
Some toilets may be subject to seasonal closure or mid-week closure during the low-season, with any closures discussed with the appropriate stakeholder groups.
Section 18 – Repairs and Maintenance

Desired outcomes:

- The provision of a responsive, cost effective and good quality repairs and maintenance service
- The ability to perform the vast majority of repairs and maintenance tasks within Lambeth Landscapes.

Service outputs:

18.1 A permanent repairs and maintenance team (the Parks Improvement Team) will operate Monday to Friday and will be supported by other members of staff as required. All officers will be appropriately trained and qualified, or will be apprentices within structured training programmes.

18.2 The maintenance team will undertake the following works themselves wherever possible: bench installation and repairs, blocked drains, bollards, brickwork, building works, carpentry, doors, drain covers, electrical work, fencing repairs, fixtures and fittings, gate repairs, grass reinstatement, groundwork, guttering, noticeboards, paddling pool/wet play repairs, painting and decorating, path repairs, paving, playground equipment and surfacing, plumbing, posts, roof repairs, security measures, signage, tiling and welding.

18.3 All works will be carried out in accordance with a prioritisation system as shown in the table below. The timeframes apply Monday to Friday, and working days are Monday-Friday; however for Priority 1 issues where there is a significant health and safety risk, officers will still aim to respond within one hour of being notified under the emergency call-out service and take interim action to try and mitigate risk as far as possible. The prioritisation system will be developed and refined as the service become established, but will be based on health and safety issues and impact on users.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Timeframe to respond</th>
<th>Timeframe to resolve</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P1</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>24 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
<td>4 working days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P3</td>
<td>3 working days</td>
<td>7 working days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P4</td>
<td>7 working days</td>
<td>14 working days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P5</td>
<td>Project as agreed</td>
<td>Project as agreed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18.4 Repairs and maintenance outside of the scope of the in-house maintenance team will be contracted out, preferably to local companies. Quotes will be obtained in accordance with Lambeth’s procurement regulations and the timescales for rectification will be considerably longer.
## Sites Covered by this Specification and their Litter Zoning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Intensity of Use</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Intensity of Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agnes Riley Gardens</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Oval Triangle (aka Kennington Oval)</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Embankment Gardens</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
<td>Palace Road Nature Garden</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archbishop’s Park</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Pedlar’s Park</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becondale Road Open Space</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
<td>Reedworth Street Open Space</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brixton Orchard</td>
<td>Brixton BID</td>
<td>Rush Common</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brockwell Park</td>
<td>High/Low²</td>
<td>Ruskin Park</td>
<td>High/Medium/Low²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clapham Common</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Sherwood Avenue Open Space</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claylands Road Open Space</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
<td>Slade Gardens</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaver Square</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>St John’s Church Gardens</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coldharbour Lane Open Space</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>St Luke’s Church Gardens</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumbarton Court Gardens</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
<td>St Mark’s Church Gardens</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eardley Road Sidings</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>St Mary-at-Lambeth Grounds</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elam Street Open Space</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>St Matthew’s Church Gardens</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Cons Gardens</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
<td>St Paul’s Church Gardens</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grafton Square</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Stockwell Memorial Gardens</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hatfield’s Open Space</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Stockwell Skate Park</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillside Gardens</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Streatham Cemetery</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holmewood Gardens</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Streatham Common</td>
<td>High/Medium/Low²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Trinity Churchyard</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Streatham Green</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennington Green</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
<td>Streatham Memorial Gardens</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennington Park</td>
<td>High/Medium²</td>
<td>Streatham Vale Park</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkstall Gardens</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Tivoli Park</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knight’s Hill Wood</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Trinity Gardens</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambeth Cemetery</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Ufford Street Recreation Ground</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lambeth Walk Open Space</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Unigate Wood</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansdowne Gardens</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
<td>Vale Street MUGA</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larkhall Park</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Valley Road Playing Field</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loughborough Park</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Vauxhall Park</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max Roach Park</td>
<td>High/Medium²</td>
<td>Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milkwood Road Open Space</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>West Norwood Cemetery</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myatt’s Fields Park</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Windmill Gardens</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norwood Park</td>
<td>High/Medium²</td>
<td>Windrush Square</td>
<td>Veolia¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Paradise Gardens</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Wyck Gardens</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: ¹ please see the table below for Veolia cleansing frequencies. ² please see the maps below showing parks with split litter zoning.
The cleansing details for the sites litter-picked by Veolia as part of the Waste Services contract are listed in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Litter-picking</th>
<th>Manual sweeping</th>
<th>Scrubber-dryer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albert Embankment</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becontale Road Open Space</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claylands Road Open Space</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dumbarton Court Gardens</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emma Cons Gardens</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Once every 2 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kennington Green</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lansdowne Gardens</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oval Triangle</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>Once every 8 weeks</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reedworth Street Open Space</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockwell Memorial Gardens</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>Once every 8 weeks</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Luke’s Church Gardens</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>Once every 8 weeks</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Mary-at-Lambeth Grounds</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>Once every 8 weeks</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Matthew’s Church Gardens</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherwood Avenue Open Space</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>Once every 8 weeks</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streatham Green</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity Gardens</td>
<td>Twice weekly</td>
<td>Once every 8 weeks</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Windrush Square</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Once every 2 weeks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dan Leno Gardens is managed by Pinnacle; The Rookery by SCCoop and Waterloo Millennium Green by Bankside Open Spaces Trust.

Split zoning maps for larger parks are shown on the following pages. As a new regime these will be subject to annual review and feedback from stakeholders is welcomed.
Appendix Three

Myatt’s Fields Park
Maintenance Plan
Appendix Four

Myatt’s Fields Park
Tree Management Strategy
MYATT’S FIELDS PARK TREE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

1. Introduction

This document provides an outline policy regarding the management, protection and enhancement of the tree stock for Myatt’s Fields Park SE5, developed in partnership with the user community and site maintenance/contractor staff. It complements and supports the Myatt’s Fields Park Management Plan as well as other strategic documents such as the Lambeth Local Plan, Lambeth Biodiversity Action Plan and Open Spaces Strategy.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Myatt’s Fields Park Tree Management Strategy are to:

a) Encourage the sustainable management of the existing tree stock, to ensure tree loss to disease, damage or neglect is avoided or minimised, trees lost are replaced, and new trees added where appropriate to extend tree diversity and cover in the park.

b) To manage the existing tree stock through best practice for the benefit of nature conservation, landscape protection and enhancement, and other environmental benefits, such as noise and dust suppression, recreation and education.

c) Promote a greater interest in, awareness of and enjoyment of the benefits of trees within Myatt’s Fields Park.

3. Policies

3.1 General Management

Lambeth Council will:

a) Endeavour to undertake regular surveys and inspections of trees in Myatt’s Fields Park and gather information on the extent, condition and structure of the tree stock.

b) Ensure that provision of trees is considered and integrated within management plans for Myatt’s Fields Park, both during implementation and review.

c) Protect and where possible replace important tree features in the park, especially avenues, copses, specimen and ancient trees.

d) Endeavour to plant a diverse but also suitable range of tree species, especially within areas that have an ornamental or ‘arboretal’ theme, or retain and enhance existing biodiversity value through the use of native species.

e) Where appropriate, seek to increase tree plantings to develop natural landscapes and green corridors within the park, including planting of hedgerows.

f) Consult with relevant groups in advance of significant work to trees in Myatt’s Fields Park, and make use of notices and notice boards to ensure park users and residents receive timely information of the purpose and benefit of such works.

g) Only remove existing trees when there are valid grounds to do so, in order to protect the safety and wellbeing of both park and public, and avoid damage to the reputation of or financial loss to the council.

h) Presume against tree works being undertaken as a result of a complaint unless there is an overriding health and safety reason for doing so.
3.2 Tree Planting and Regeneration

The Council will:

a) Where appropriate plant trees within Myatt’s Fields Park - depending on budgets.
b) Undertake a site appraisal before carrying out tree plantings in Myatt’s Fields Park so that proposed locations are appropriate, and conflict with other uses is minimised.
c) Maintain records of all trees planted within Myatt’s Fields Park, including future management requirements, and monitor the success of newly planted trees.
d) Ensure that new tree planting does not reduce the value of existing landscapes or nature conservation value within Myatt’s Fields Park.
e) Plant tree species appropriate to the conditions and character of the park, as well as avoid planting trees that introduce or spread disease, are invasive, cause damage to the parks infrastructure, or are prone to loss from changing environmental factors, e.g. climate change, waterlogging or drought.
f) Utilise a wide range of tree species and planting sizes according to the original objectives of the planting, and use stock from reputable suppliers.
g) Whilst welcoming the planting of sponsored, memorial or commemorative trees in Myatt’s Fields Park, the selection, location, size and actual planting of tree will be at the discretion of and undertaken by the council alone.

3.3 Community Involvement

The Council will:

a) Encourage involvement of the community in planting and maintaining new trees, including supporting the creation of a “Tree Fund” to finance new trees for the park.
b) Develop programmes of guided walks, talks, open days, presentations and exhibitions to promote the importance of trees in Myatt's Fields Park, with respect to heritage character, biodiversity and their environmental benefits.
c) Provide opportunities for active participation by local residents, park user groups and businesses in the planting and maintenance of trees in the park.
d) Encourage and promote where appropriate initiatives such as National Tree Week to develop a greater awareness and interest in trees.

3.4 Site Specific Issues

a) Remove all dead or dying wood (or relocate to areas for deadwood habitat), carry out remedial tree surgery and crown lift where necessary.
b) Restore the Chestnut Avenue
c) Undertake the removal of inappropriate tree plantings, such as newer plantings of species not appropriate to the park’s Victorian history, or where trees have been planted too closely together.
d) The 18th century Black Mulberry is arguably the most important specimen tree in the park and this requires a comprehensive arboricultural inspection with a view to developing a long-term strategy for its care to maximise its lifespan.
e) The majority of new tree plantings proposed are within the nature conservation area, in particular focusing on fruit and nut trees in the ‘orchard’ to make reference to the early history of the site when it was used for market gardening.
Appendix Five

Myatt’s Fields Park
Marketing Strategy
MYATT’S FIELDS PARK MARKETING STRATEGY

1. Background

Myatt’s Fields Park is a listed Victorian park which has undergone a £3 million renovation, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). It is situated in an area of high deprivation and now offers high quality amenities to people from very varied communities and income levels. It is situated in an area which is a “food desert”, which has very few places that people can meet and socialise, and where many people suffer poor health and poor quality of life. It offers a place:

- to socialise
- to improve mental and physical health
- to enjoy open space and its advantages
- where different communities can meet
- to enjoy high quality play amenity
- to enjoy a range of entertainment and activities
- to volunteer
- to learn new skills and gain training
- to learn

The marketing strategy aims to:

- increase use of the park by people of all backgrounds,
- particularly to ensure that it is used by people who are living in deprivation, in poor health and who do not have access to high quality open space.
- support MFPP and Lambeth by drawing in funding and project support

2. Audiences

a) Local people living around park (Vassall Ward, Coldharbour Ward, LB Southwark)

This is the park’s primary audience as it is a local park serving local people. Marketing to local people is targeted to users and non-users in the following categories:

i) Older people
ii) Young people
iii) Families with young children
iv) People from black and minority ethnic communities

Marketing to these audiences includes:

- Targeted consultation
- Quarterly newsletters sent out by post
- Regular e-bulletins
- Posters in and around the park and in local organisations
- Local press e.g. Lambeth Life, South London Press
b) **Targeting older people, young people, families with young children and people from black and minority ethnic communities**

This is done through:

- Targeted consultation
- Targeted activities and events (based on consultation)
- Door to door deliveries
- Word of mouth publicity
- Specially funded activities targeting those groups e.g. older people’s lunch clubs, art activities and activities for children

c) **Local organisations e.g. schools**

The park is marketed to local organisations to ensure that their clients are able to take advantage of the amenities on offer in the park. Marketing to these organisations includes:

- E-bulletins
- Newsletters
- Annual lunch to show people around the park and inform them about new developments and ways in which they can get involved

d) **Policy makers**

Work carried on in the park is included in national displays or exhibitions but this is ongoing and expanding. The intention is to market the project and its outcomes to national agencies promoting quality greenspaces and design, e.g. CABE and GreenSpace

e) **London-wide and visitors to London**

Although the park is primarily a local amenity, there is potential to market it beyond the local community; examples of projects which have a wider community benefit include the café kiosk and food growing project.

3. **Evaluation of Marketing Strategy**

a) **Quantitative**

An initial head count was carried out in 2004 as part of the original application to the HLF, which measured the number of people visiting the park on several days during summer and autumn. This will be repeated annually to evaluate the success and impacts of the restoration programme and identify further opportunities for ongoing improvement.

A record is kept of people attending events throughout the year, e.g. the ‘Christingle Carol Service’, the ‘Big Draw’ and Summer Fair, in order to measure whether larger numbers of people are attending these events and the park in general.
b)  **Qualitative**

A key aim of the marketing strategy is to ensure that high quality amenities are not just serving people who live around the park in high quality housing, but that it is increasingly meeting the needs of people who live in deprivation on the estates.

The marketing strategy is evaluated by:

- Monitoring the addresses of people on the postal list to ensure that a representative number live in the estates
- Including questions about ethnicity in consultative documents
- Visual checks at activities and events to monitor the ethnicity of participants
- Feedback from participants

4.  **Communications Strategy**

a)  **Aim of Communications Strategy**

- To improve channels of communication between park management, the Myatt’s Fields Park Project Group and the public to facilitate consultation on decisions affecting the park.
- To ensure that a wide range of people within the community are kept informed about events and activities within the park, including current non-users.

This includes:

- Informing people about developments in the park
- Allowing debate and comment on developments, especially during project implementation
- Including more people in decision making, particularly from marginalised communities
- Ensuring that those involved in decision making are representative of the whole community
- Developing new audiences for the park, particularly from marginalised communities
- Allowing people to become involved in a programme of events and activities
- Encouraging investment in the project

Target audiences:

- People living in Vassall and Coldharbour Wards, LB Lambeth
- Partner organisations such as community groups, businesses and appropriate forums

b)  **Budget**

It is estimated that £2,000 per annum is required for the production of quarterly newsletters, other printing, communication expenses, photography and for meetings. This will be included in all ongoing and future fundraising activities so that publicity is supported on an ongoing basis.

Because of budgetary constraints a balance is sought in communicating with different communities around the park. Many people living on estates do not have internet communication and efforts will be made to distribute posters/printed newsletters via estate offices, community groups etc. People living immediately around the park in the Minet Conservation Area will be targeted with notices, email communication and via the website.
c) Delivery Agents

- Development & Education Officer
- Myatt’s Fields Park Project
- Volunteers
- TMOs around the park
- Delivery companies

d) Newsletters

A newsletter is produced quarterly and distributed locally, and is displayed in Myatt’s Fields Park, Minet Library, housing offices and doctors’ surgeries. The newsletter contains information about volunteering, events, etc., to stimulate and support community involvement in the park.

An e-bulletin is also produced containing the information in the newsletters and distributed at the same time via the database.

e) Meetings

Partners’ Meeting

A meeting is to be held once a year with “partner” organisations such as community organisations in the Vassall and Coldharbour Wards, Primary Care Trust, schools, etc., to inform about the project and encourage investment in terms of funding, events and volunteering.

Sub-Committees

Membership of new sub-committees will be developed to help to give a wider range of people a role in shaping the development of activities, facilities and events in the park.

f) Displays

Displays of information about the scheme, events and activities to be mounted in Myatt’s Fields Park. These will be updated at least monthly, or whenever there is a new development or activity/event in the park.

g) Email Lists

E-bulletins and events flyers will be distributed via:

- Minet Conservation Association Neighbourhood Watch
- Myatt’s Fields Park Project Database
- Camberwell SE5 Forum

h) Press and Publicity

News on developments and events will be publicised via press releases etc to newspapers, magazines and community newsletters.
i) Website

The Myatt’s Fields Park Project website (www.myattsfieldspark.com) was launched in January 2008 and contains information about plans, events, activities, ways to get involved etc and will be updated at least monthly.

j) Events and Activities

A range of events and activities will be held to increase people’s exposure to the project. At these events, every effort will be made to obtain contact details and to distribute information about the project.

k) Database

A database of names, addresses and email addresses has been compiled over the years by Myatt’s Fields Park Project. This is currently being managed and updated by the Park Manager. This identifies the method by which people would like to receive information i.e. email or post.