

# LAMBETH LANDSCAPES – 3YR MANAGEMENT PLAN

## VAUXHALL PLEASURE GARDENS 2018-2021



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## Foreword



# 1. Introduction

This is a three year management plan for Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, providing an account of its history and development, current recreational, educational, ecological and social value, along with its present management and future opportunities for improvement. The plan runs from April 2028 to March 2021, and will be reviewed in late 2020.

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens has a rich and fascinating history, and its unique heritage character is both recognised and being brought back to life where possible through various improvements and additions. However, it also contains other features which are more recent and modern in style and function, and serve the needs of a wide range of user groups.



**Figure 1. A view of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, looking north**

The community have been instrumental in helping Lambeth Landscapes, which is Lambeth Council's new in-house grounds maintenance service, manage and develop Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, and this plan acknowledges their contribution and is a reflection of their own visions, so that what it proposes considers their needs as well as those of the council.

The plan aims to demonstrate:

- How the site's fabric and infrastructure originated, and how they are being protected;
- How the site and its local value are promoted;
- How the needs of the community, and challenges and opportunities to meet those needs, have been and are being addressed;
- How coherent, comprehensive and achievable aims to meet these community needs, and of other stakeholders, have been provided and are being delivered;

- The importance of the site as a 'community victory' - taking ownership to regenerate their local open space and create a thriving and sustainable community asset, as well as inspiring others to do the same for their own local greenspaces;
- The input of volunteers, fundraisers, the Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens and Lambeth Landscapes in formulating a strong and cohesive partnership to achieve success, and how this has been and is continuing to be both recognised and delivered.
- How these achievements came together to enable it to be in a position to be a Green Flag Award site, and how the partnership intends to plan for and manage it on the basis of maintaining this status in future years to come.

The plan should be read in conjunction with the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens Three Year Management Plan, which is included in Section 12, which provides a detailed breakdown of how the site is managed and what actions are delivered on site to maintain it to or above Green Flag Award standard.

The plan should also be read in conjunction with Appendix 1 which is a summary of the 'Cherry Avenue' project, a major restoration and environmental enhancement project in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in partnership with the Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens.

Appendix 2 detailed the current grounds maintenance specification for Lambeth Landscapes, which provided additional detail as to the service actions undertaken on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens and, which are included in the three year plan in Section 12.

## 2. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens – General Site Information

### 2.1 Name, Address & Location

Name: Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens,  
Address: Vauxhall Walk, Vauxhall, London SE11 5HL

Web Address (Google):

<https://goo.gl/maps/ZvwftTbi3tQ2>

A general introduction to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens can be found at Lambeth Council's website at [www.lambeth.gov.uk/places/vauxhall-pleasure-gardens](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/places/vauxhall-pleasure-gardens)

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is close to the 'Vauxhall Cross' transport interchange hub, which consists of both Vauxhall Railway Station (South Western Railways) and Vauxhall Underground Station (Victoria Line) which is approximately 100 metres from the south western corner of the site. It is also very well served by buses, with a network of routes and stops arranged along the eastern and northern sides of the interchange hub at Vauxhall Cross. Figure 2 shows the general location of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in relation to major centres.

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is surrounded by a network of public roads: Goding Street and Albert Embankment to the west; Kennington Lane to the south; Tyers Street to the east; and Vauxhall Walk and Glasshouse Walk to the north.

Figure 3 shows the geographical layout of the site and Figure 4 shows the principal features of the site such as a multiuse games area (MUGA), the paddocks within the site which are used by Vauxhall City Farm (VCF) for their horses and other animals, the Hugo Bugg Garden, and the nearby Royal Vauxhall Tavern and Tea House. These key features are described in more detail in Section 3 under 'Current Status and Features'.

### 2.2 Physical & Geographical Details

#### 2.2.1 Area of Site

The total area of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is 2.81 hectares

#### 2.2.2 Grid Reference

The Ordnance Survey Grid Reference for the centre of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is TQ 530562 1781777.

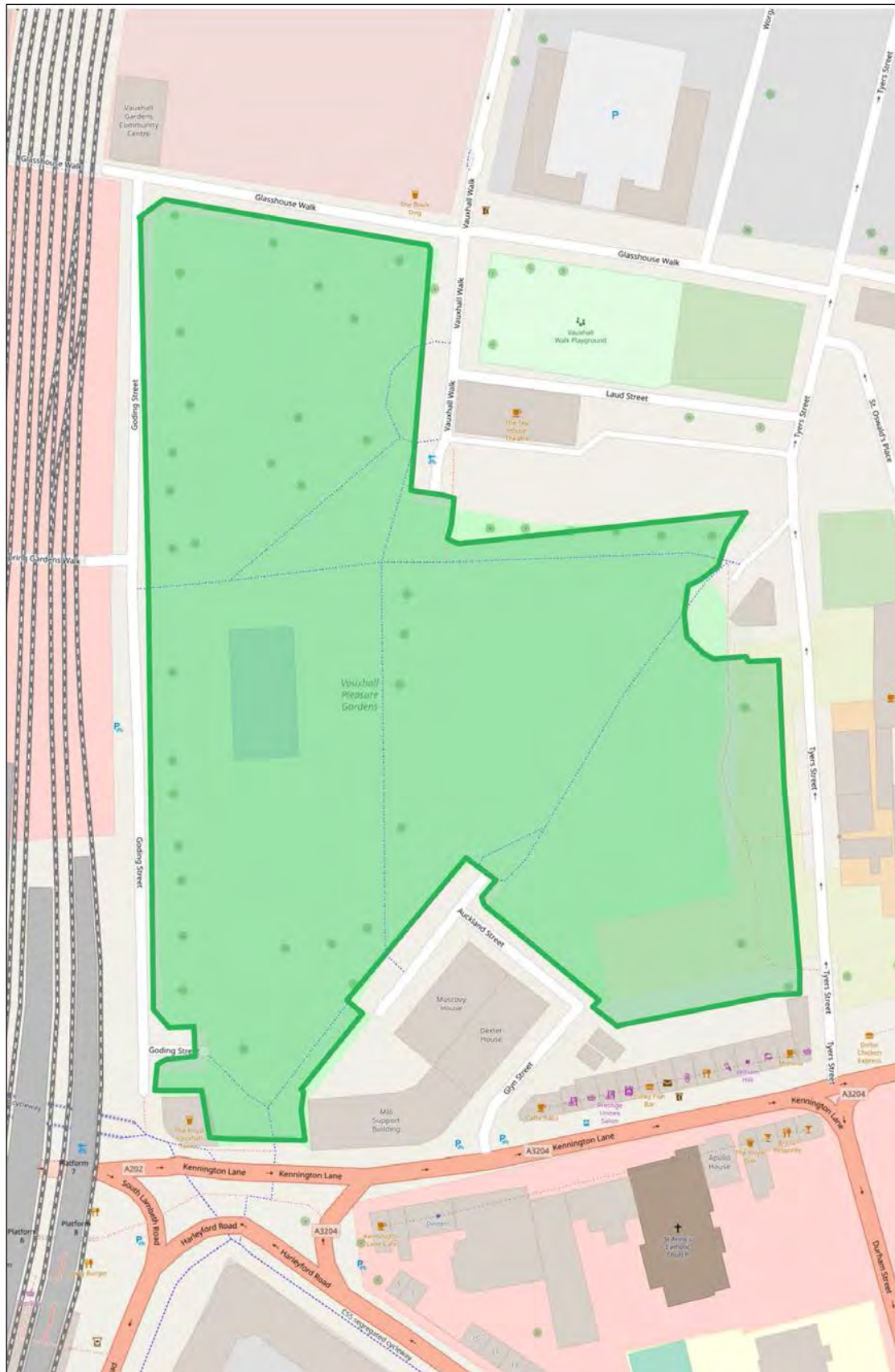
#### 2.2.3 Access

There is free pedestrian access to all parts of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens around the clock, as it has no surround fencing or gates. The principal pedestrian access points, however, are from the south off Kennington Lane, via a wide path to the immediate east of the 'Royal Vauxhall Tavern', and from the north via Vauxhall Walk.

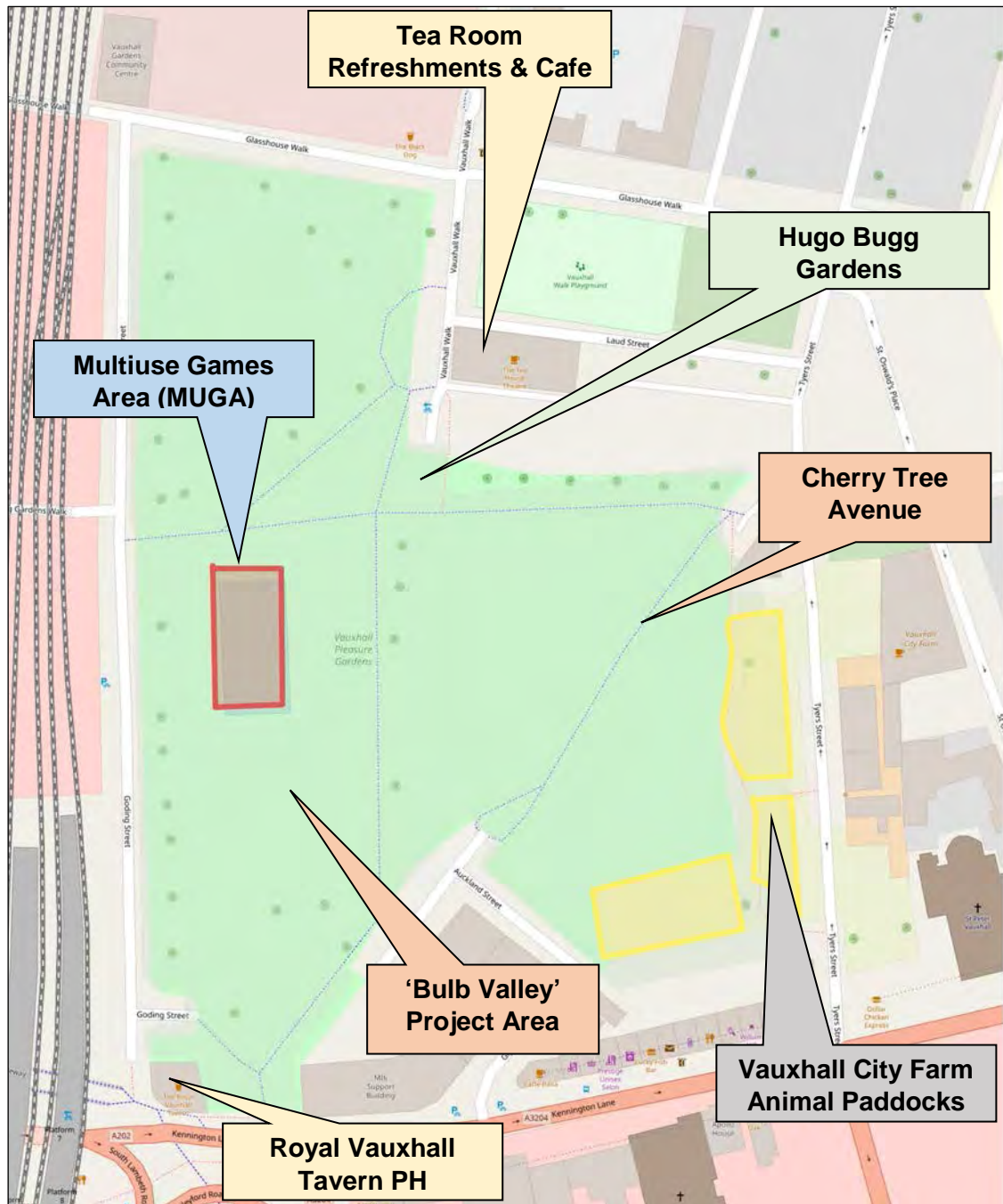
Vehicle access to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is for operational staff and those servicing its facilities, and is normally from Vauxhall Walk, Goding Street and Glasshouse Walk on the northern and western sides of the site. Police cars and ambulances can access the site but like service vehicles must comply with movement rules, and if on an emergency to alert the public by use of sirens and flashing beacons.







**Figure 3. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens showing boundary and surrounding roads**



**Figure 4. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens showing key features and facilities**

## 2.2.6 Public Rights of Way

No public rights of way are known to exist within the actual park, and all paths are permissive.

### **2.2.7 Geology**

The underlying soils are 'made ground', as the site is sited on old amenity grassland or the foundations of older demolished buildings and pathways. The deeper strata are a combination of London Clay and Kempton Park Gravels, the former a heavy silty clay and the latter an intimate mixture of gravels, sands and clay silts.

Though not normally exposed on surface they influence the drainage, hydrology and landform of the site. Surface soils are relatively free draining in most places but impeded in others, especially on parkland areas due to the dominance of clay under frequently compacted soils.

### **2.2.8 Hydrology & Drainage**

Although dominance by London Clay suggests impeded drainage, there are places where layers of sands and gravels, derived from the Kempton Park Gravels, allow water to drain into upper soils from deeper layers. Therefore, its hydrology is rather complicated and any changes to or use of areas needs to be aware of fluctuating groundwater and assess whether preparation or new drainage may be necessary to prevent waterlogging.

### **2.2.9 Planning Authority**

The London Borough of Lambeth is the Local Planning Authority. However, given their relative proximity, the Boroughs of Southwark and Wandsworth may be consulted on certain planning matters which have strategic implications.

### **2.2.10 Electoral Information**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is in the Princes Ward for the London Borough of Lambeth, and represented by three elected Councillors.



## 3. History and Evolution

### 3.1 History of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens

The site of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens has a very long and varied history, and has also come a long and roundabout way to the welcoming and attractive open space that is currently presented to the general public.

Rather than providing the reader with excessive detail as to the site's origins and evolution, an excellent overview can be found on the Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (FoVPG)'s website at [www.fovpg.com/the-gardens](http://www.fovpg.com/the-gardens).

Originally known as 'New Spring Gardens', the site of the present open space is believed to have opened before the Restoration of 1660 and was first mentioned by the famous Stuart period writer and diarist Samuel Pepys in 1662. It would appear that the original 'Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens' consisted of a few acres of manicured trees and shrubs with a network of attractive walks, music and even integrated mechanical birdsong, which could be heard through the trees as the public walked by. Admittance to the site was initially free of charge, with the sale of food and drink proving an income to service it (Figure 4).

However when the site evolved to 'Vauxhall Gardens' in 1785, admission was charged for the public to see it. The Gardens drew all types of people and supported enormous crowds, and it became known as a place for 'romantic assignations'.



**Figure 4. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in 1785 showing its key attractions at the peak of its popularity as a recreational venue (courtesy of Lambeth Archives Department)**



Various entertainment was also provided such as tightrope walkers, hot air balloon ascents, concerts and fireworks. Its rococo "Turkish tent" in the interior of the Rotunda became one of Vauxhall's most viewed attractions, along with the *chinoiserie* style which was a feature of several buildings on site. A statue depicting the composer George Frederic Handel was erected in the Gardens, which is now on show at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

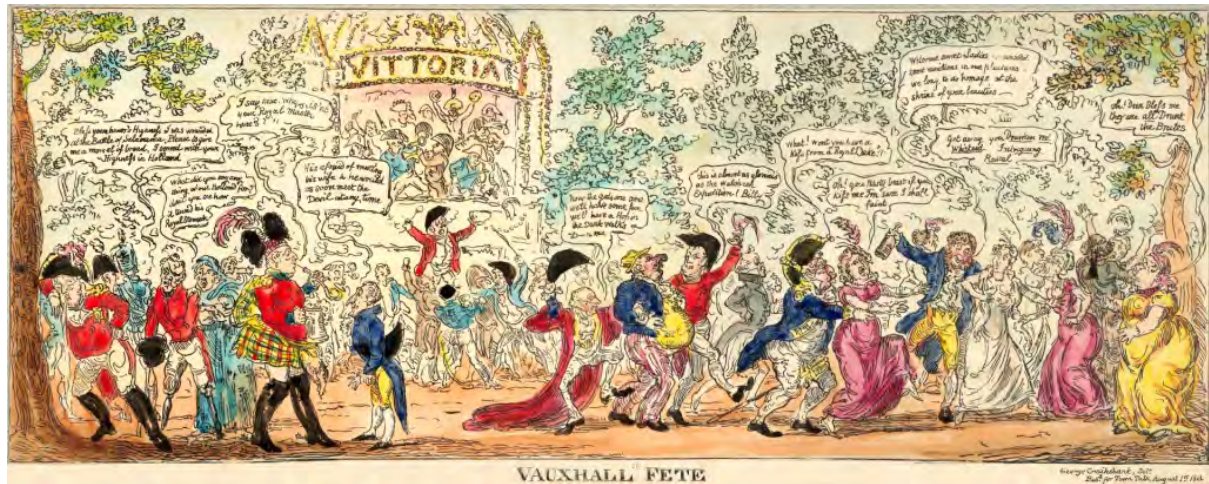


Figure 5. Caricature of the 'Vauxhall Fete' showing the activities associated with Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens at its peak (courtesy of Lambeth Archives Department)



Figure 6. Poster of a 'Grand Masquerade Night' in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in 1852 (courtesy of Lambeth Archives Department)



In its heyday Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens inspired many imitations around the world and the Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen still exists to this day and are a testament to how magnificent and inspiring the Vauxhall Gardens once were.

Originally Vauxhall Gardens was reached from the City and central London by ferry and the Thames, but the erection of Vauxhall Bridge in 1810 made them more accessible by road. Unfortunately the advent of the steam train and the building of the railway viaducts that subsequently ran through Vauxhall caused the gardens to start to decline in popularity, as the public could also travel further to find new places to visit and associate with; the gardens finally lost the battle for survival and closed in 1859.



**Figure 7. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in its heyday in 1809 and as it approached its decline in 1950, respectively (courtesy of Lambeth Archives Department)**

Inevitably the grounds of the gardens were built over, mostly with social housing, which unfortunately deprived the growing local population of a much needed park or open space for recreation. In the 1970s the flats on the site were gradually demolished as a result of 'slum-clearance' landscaping, which was affecting many parts of London at this time, and the gardens were re-established in Vauxhall but as an open space called 'Spring Gardens'.

The first two decades of Spring Gardens' existence were not particularly eventful or attractive, as it became a rather bland and unwelcoming site bounded by the Network Rail viaducts, large amounts of mixed quality social housing, a site occupied by Vauxhall City Farm to its immediate east as well as constant rush hour traffic around it. The site also suffered years of neglect, and anti-social behaviour was rampant.

In 1996 a group of local residents and community representatives formed the 'Friends of Spring Gardens' to defend the site against potential loss to inappropriate development, and work with Lambeth Council to make Spring Gardens a safe and pleasant environment for the whole community. The Friends developed a vision for the park that exceeded its daily utilitarian use, which mostly consisted of commuter foot traffic.

The Friends' vision was to revitalise the site, including renaming it from Spring Gardens to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens to fully acknowledge the site's history, making them relevant not only for local residents but for London as a whole. This included the Friends changing their name to the 'Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens' (FoVPG). Their shared vision is now delivering a series of actions and changes, initiated by the Friends but with the support of and collaboration with the London borough of Lambeth and many other local groups (Figure 8).



**Figure 8. Landscaping and access improvement works in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in 2015, at its northern end, including the establishment of the 'Hugo Bugg Garden' and new cycle stands and paths (LB Lambeth)**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, now its permanent name, is a colourful place with an architecturally significant new entrance, multi-purpose sports facilities, a series of year round events, and provides users and visitors with an atmosphere that is both safe and inviting.

A series of new landscaping activities have been adding steadily to a sense of welcome and wellbeing, and designed to boost the perceptions of visitors as a place of safety (Figure 9). The site has become a popular location for all its users and in particular the children of the neighbourhood. The Friends' new ambitions is to re-landscape Goding Street and the Victorian rail viaduct, so that it becomes a pedestrianized street, encouraging a 'cafe-culture' and inspiring safer access and a brighter ambiance for the gardens.

The major ambition for the Friends and Lambeth Council is to continue the improvements that have been made to date and connect Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens to other local open green spaces in Lambeth and Southwark via a network of 'green routes' and 'green walkways'.

This will eventually see the site connected to places like the River Thames, as well as Vauxhall Park, Archbishops Park, Kennington Park and even Battersea Park, along with a host of smaller parks. The ultimate aim is to ensure that a huge section of the south bank of the Thames is dominated by a web of open spaces all interconnected by traffic-free green routes from as far south as Battersea all the way to Waterloo.





**Figure 9. View looking south-west through new herbaceous boundary landscaping in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in 2016 (LB Lambeth)**



**Figure 10. Spring crocuses in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in 2018, as part of a 'spring hare' motif on the raised mounds (Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens)**



## 3.2 Current Status and Features

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens has witnessed a timeline of various physical and environmental improvements which have gradually transformed this important public open space into a colourful, safe and welcoming place that is now valued and well used by local residents and the wider community. This section summarises some of the principal features or attractions found in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens that contribute to it being a quality open space.

### 3.2.1 Kennington Lane Entrance

Although Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is unfenced and is open around the clock, there are a number of locations which are treated as 'principal entrances' to the site, in that they contain features that advertise or attract the visitor, or are in close proximity to main roads, traffic crossings or transport hubs. The principal entrance to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is its southern one off Kennington Lane, and the closest to the main transport interchange complex at Vauxhall Cross. (Figure 11).



**Figure 11. The Kennington Lane entrance to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, looking north (Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens)**

The entrance has been significantly improved with new low profile hard and soft landscaping to make it feel open and welcoming. The Kennington Lane entrance was officially opened in 2011 by the TV celebrity Paul O' Grady, aka 'Lily Savage' (Figure 12). He was joined by the Leader of Lambeth Council, Cllr Steve Reed, MP for Vauxhall Kate Hoey and the Chair of the Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, Eamonn McMahon, in cutting a ribbon to mark the restoration and opening of the entrance. The ceremony also marked the official name change of the site from "Vauxhall Spring Gardens" to "Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens".



**Figure 12. Plaque erected in the Kennington Lane entrance to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in 2012 to celebrate its restoration (LB Lambeth)**

In 2013 Lambeth Council commissioned local artist Paola Piglia to produce two sculptures which were installed on top of the two large cement columns which now site at the Kennington Lane entrance to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (Figure 11). The artwork depicts the figures of a lady in 18<sup>th</sup> century garb being offered a flower from a young man from the present day. The sculptures show a representation of a silent conversation between the past and present in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens.

The Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens' website contains an excellent description of the restoration of the site and improvements to the Kennington Lane entrance, which can be found at [www.fovpq.com/the-gardens/#/entrance](http://www.fovpq.com/the-gardens/#/entrance).

### **3.2.2 Vauxhall Lane Entrance**

The other principal entrance into Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is its northern one off the southern (bottom) end of Vauxhall Walk. Originally a very run down and poorly accessible point of entry to the site, it has been transformed through a major highways and public realm enhancement scheme which was designed to improve cycle and pedestrian access to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, whilst also calming down and controlling vehicle traffic.



The result has been an open and welcoming vista into Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens from surrounding roads, including a new Mayor of London cycle hire docking station, attractive paving and new soft landscaping that allows excellent sightlines into and across the site (Figures 13 and 14). This entrance also contains a large entrance sign identical to the one installed at the southern Kennington Lane entrance.



**Figure 13. View looking south into Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens from the Vauxhall Walk entrance, showing landscaping and new entrance sign (LB Lambeth)**

### **3.2.3 Hugo Bugg Garden**

The northern entrance off Vauxhall Walk also contains the attractive ‘The Hugo Bugg Garden’ (Figure 15). The Gold medal winning garden at the Chelsea Flower Show 2014 (Waterscape category) of Hugo Bugg ([www.hugobugg.com/chelsea-2014](http://www.hugobugg.com/chelsea-2014)), which was based around a theme of ‘sustainability’, was installed in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in autumn 2014.

The initiative was spearheaded by Vauxhall One, the Vauxhall Business Improvement District (BID) in cooperation with Lambeth Council, the Royal Bank of Canada and Hugo Bugg.

The new Hugo Bugg Garden was officially opened in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens by Cllr Jenny Brathwaite (Lambeth Cabinet Member for the Environment) in September 2014, alongside with a planting day in which Royal Bank of Canada employees helped plant the garden. More information can be found at [www.fovpq.com/the-gardens/#/hugobugg](http://www.fovpq.com/the-gardens/#/hugobugg).

### **3.2.4 Multiuse Games Area**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is predominantly managed as a ‘public recreational space’ and this means that although it does not contain facilities such as playgrounds, water play areas or toilets, it still has an important role in terms of promoting and delivering the ‘health and wellbeing’ agenda for the London Borough of Lambeth and enabling local residents and site users to have access to free and safe sports, free play and exercise.





**Figure 14. View looking north-east from Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens of the recently restored 'Tea House Theatre' and new boundary landscaping (LB Lambeth)**



**Figure 15 View of the new Hugo Bugg herbaceous garden at the northern end of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (LB Lambeth)**



In order to help deliver this agenda a modern Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) was installed in 2010, in the central-western side of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. Since installation the MUGA has become extremely popular for the local community, and especially young adults, to safely enjoy playing ball game sports such as football and basketball (Figure 16).



**Figure 16. The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, looking south-west (Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens)**

### **3.2.5 Elm Avenue and Outdoor Games Area**

The south, eastern and northern sides of the MUGA are bounded by a wide surface of compacted bound gravel, which was created to provide an informal outdoor games and recreational area for Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (Figure 17).

As well as containing heavy yet attractive stone seating the area also contains avenues of semi-mature elm trees. These elm avenues consist of two single lines on the western and northern sides of the MUGA, and a double line on the eastern side. More will be said of the elms later in the plan as to their ecological importance.

Since 2014 and in the winter months, the MUGA has been transformed into an ice skating rink through an initiative promoted by Vauxhall One. This has proved extremely popular with the local community and tickets are regularly donated to local schools. The MUGA ice rink also hosted ice hockey games and has continued to expand over each and every year.

The rest of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is also used for various sports such as kick about football to tai chi and even boxing! The site is also used for fitness lessons for local office workers, mothers and residents, and there are ongoing proposals for a new outdoor fitness trail in the site designed for older people or less active ages. More information on the MUGA and sports on site can be found at the Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens website at [www.fovpg.com/the-gardens/#/sports](http://www.fovpg.com/the-gardens/#/sports).

The outdoor games area around the MUGA is also used by the London Petanque Club for playing games every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon and participation in this game is open to all (Figure 17). The club hold a tournament on the first Saturday of each month, and are proposing to help co-fund further improvements to the games area to make it useable around the year and in all weathers. For more information they can be contacted at [www.londonpetanque.co.uk](http://www.londonpetanque.co.uk) and followed on Twitter at [@LondonPetanque](https://twitter.com/LondonPetanque).



**Figure 17. Local residents and enthusiasts playing Petanque on outdoor games area beside the MUGA in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens)**



## 4. A Welcoming Place

### 4.1 Objectives

The following objectives ensure Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is a welcoming place:

- 4.1.1 It will be maintained to create a positive effect in keeping with its heritage, community and community character.
- 4.1.2 It will be managed so it is accessible to all sectors of the community.
- 4.1.3 It will benefit from signage of a coherent consistent design which contains relevant information about the site, its status and community.

### 4.2 Current Status and Management Actions

Visitors to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens should be impressed by how welcoming it is; with repeat visitors the impression should be that the site continues to remain that way and there is no measurable deterioration in overall quality.

Features of particular importance for the community and council are good and safe access, effective signage within the site, and it offering something for everyone, being busy throughout the day with a healthy spread of different user groups in all areas.



**Figure 18. Welcoming in the broadest sense! A temporary public art display on the northern edge of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, which was part of a Vauxhall-wide arts programme in 2017-18 (LB Lambeth)**

### **4.3 Accessibility**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is managed as an open access site in that it is open around the clock. Even so, access and entry points into the site are kept open and sightlines maintained to ensure people feel safe by being able to see in and out, particularly close to entry and exit points. Vegetation surrounding any access points is kept low or back from paths to improve views and remove any sensation of being ‘closed in’.

Vehicle access is heavily restricted and only permitted to move across the site on certain internal paths and areas to provide a safe pedestrian environment and avoid damage to monuments or boundary features. An annual audit will be carried out to ensure any barriers to normal safe access are addressed and quickly resolved.

### **4.4 A Visible Presence**

Being a small site, Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens does not qualify for permanent staffing by the council’s grounds maintenance service, as all necessary works are undertaken by mobile teams. However, staff allocated to duties on site are well known to all users, so that problems and issues are addressed. Staff are always uniformed so they are identifiable to all.

### **4.5 Signage**

Signage is critical to informing and educating the public as to the name, history and function of any open space. However, just as with web pages and promotional material, signage relating to any public open space also has to be regularly reviewed and updated or upgraded as appropriate, to take account of any site or management changes.

#### **4.5.1 Park Entrance Signs**

Vauxhall Pleasure has large and prominent signs at the main entrance points, and complies not only with the council’s style guide and Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) but also gives the site a ‘warm green’ feel. This signage has proved popular with many site users, and is easy to amend, update and relocate as required to take account of changes in facilities, accessibility and site layout.

These signs inform the public of:

- a) The name of the site – so that users have a standard name;
- b) Basic history on the site and how it has developed over time
- c) A description or list of facilities and features present on site;
- d) ‘Good rules’ – asking the public to respect the site and use it appropriately (e.g. no dogs in a dog-free area or not dropping litter);
- e) Contact details – how to obtain further information or report a problem
- f) Acknowledgements of any funders and partners, including logos.

The Kennington Lane entrance sign contains images of the original ‘Vauxhall Gardens’ as well as a summary history of its origins and evolution (Figure 19).

To add further identification and make a clear statement, the name ‘Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens’ is also etched into new stone facings along the edges of the entrance off Kennington Lane (Figure 20).



# Welcome to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens



Figure 19. Design print of signage erected at the main entrances to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (LB Lambeth)



Figure 20. 'Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens' etched into new low stone bed edging on eastern side of Kennington Lane entrance (LB Lambeth)



#### **4.5.2 Environmental and Heritage Interpretation**

In addition to entrance signage, Lambeth Parks aims to include signage that conveys information about the importance of its open spaces, including history, wildlife interest or sustainability. Installation of such signage is subject to consultation with the user community, and of a style and design sensitive to the site's heritage and cultural character. This action is identified in the Maintenance Management Plan.

#### **4.5.3 Directional Signage**

Given the size of the site, there is no need for internal 'fingerboard' style signs within Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. However, given its closeness to transport hubs, such as train/tube stations and bus stops in Vauxhall, directional signage fixed to lampposts or street furniture is one opportunity to encourage the public to be directed to and locate the site.

In response to this staff undertake an evaluation exercise every five years as to the need, impacts and benefits of attachment directional signage to lampposts on streets close to the site to help pedestrians and cyclists find their way to it. Should the use of such signage be seen as an effective tool, this has been factored into the Action programme in subsequent years with an appropriate budget.

#### **4.5.4 Behavioural Notices and Signs**

Signage can be used to inform and educate users about 'good rules of behaviour' and avoid conflict with either others or management activities undertaken by council staff. Examples of behavioural notices which have been used or proposed for the site include:

- 'No Dogs Allowed' signs on entrance gates to the site;
- 'Public Notice' acrylic holders on gates to present important information.

This form of signage is erected as required, and can either be left in place as permanent reminder or removed once an issue or problem has been dealt with. The five year signage audit looks at signage provision and includes the need to commission behavioural signage to either pre-empt a particular issue or deter any repeat offences. Lambeth Parks liaises with the Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens as to what signage would be beneficial.

## **5. Healthy, Safe and Secure**

### **5.1 Objectives**

The following objectives ensure Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is a healthy, safe and secure place to be in:

- 5.1.1 It will be managed to ensure the personal safety and wellbeing of all users.
- 5.1.2 It will be promoted as a safe place for exercise, including informal play, promoting mental wellbeing and building personal or social confidence.

### **5.2 Current Status and Management Actions**

Of particular importance for the public in using Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is a) facilities which are safe to use, b) people can enter, leave and move in relative safety, c) dog damage/fouling is prevented or kept under control, d) unsafe features are quickly repaired or removed, and e) there is signage on what to do in an emergency or to report problems.

### **5.3 Risk Reduction and Management**

Audits are undertaken annually to identify safety issues, which generate a set of risk assessments along with actions to reduce the risk or likelihood of accident, injury or crime. The current risk assessment runs annually for 12 months and identifies actions to be implemented to balance the needs of personal safety and wellbeing against normal use. All officers who work in the park are issued with the assessment and required to perform their duties to comply with actions in it and minimise risks to themselves and the public.

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

Because there are no on-site staff, vandalism and antisocial behaviour will always be a risk. Nevertheless, incidents are immediately reported by phone or radio to the Lambeth Landscapes Operations 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 to the public.

### **5.4 Lambeth Police and Community Safety**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens comes under the authority of the Lambeth Borough Command of the Metropolitan Police. As well as officers attending parks in response to emergencies or special operations, a local policing initiative is in place within London to increase safety and perceptions of the public realm, including parks, known as 'Safer Neighbourhoods'.

This is based around electoral wards, with officers having local, ward-based knowledge. Working alongside the Police is 'Lambeth Community Safety', a division of the council tasked with delivering the Lambeth Community Safety Strategy to reduce crime, improve quality of life and help to make Lambeth a safer place. The Safer Neighbourhoods Team, the Friends and Lambeth Parks and Community Safety share intelligence and information not just on antisocial issues but also on more positive ones and support each other to help 'design out crime' or respond quickly to vandalism or damage.

Two particular issues that can impact upon the site are problems with homelessness and abuse of alcohol or illegal drugs. There have been incidents in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens with abuse of drugs, which have caused annoyance and concern for legitimate users as to the site's safety and popularity as a place for children or social activities (Figure 21). The Police, Friends and Lambeth Parks take these incidents seriously and ensure appropriate procedures are in place to deter illegal activities and for action to be taken.

#### **a) Lambeth Safer Neighbourhoods Team – Tasking and Actions**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens comes under the Princes Ward Safer Neighbourhood Area and patrolled by officers from Lambeth Police. Each Neighbourhood has a Community Panel on which residents or businesses sit or make representation to, and raise issues relating to crime or antisocial behaviour in that ward. The Panel then 'task' the Police and Lambeth Community Safety to focus on addressing issues identified as priority for that ward.

The Community Panel identified preventing drug and alcohol misuse as priorities, and the Safer Neighbourhoods Team and Lambeth Council focus efforts on preventing alcohol and drug abuse in public areas including Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. Police Officers and PCSOs patrol to monitor use and challenge behaviour that is illegal or deemed inappropriate, especially drugs, drinking or aggressive behaviour. Specialist operations are carried out to identify places used to store or sell drugs, or target drug dealers to carry out arrests or disrupt the supply and sale of drugs in the borough.



**Figure 21. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens experiences irregular incidents and peak periods of homeless rough sleeping often linked with alcohol abuse (LB Lambeth)**



Lambeth Council operates a Drug and Alcohol Team (DAT) alongside the Police to challenge misuse of drugs and alcohol in the borough. The DAT co-ordinates intelligence with the Police to make Safer Neighbourhood Team work more effective, and includes members of Lambeth Street Care, Lambeth Housing and Highways.

## **b) Designing Out Crime**

Lambeth Council, Lambeth DAT and the Safer Neighbourhoods Team have access to resources to deter crime and antisocial behaviour by 'designing out crime', so features or areas that attract misuse are removed, reduced, relocated or made visible to surveillance.

One action being undertaken to secure this approach has been to ensure any proposed or new landscaping is designed to be relatively low and open, so as to create and maintain sightlines into and across the site, which promotes natural surveillance and the ability to see what is happening (Figure 22). In addition, this prevents 'dens' and 'hideaways' being created in isolated corners of the site, which helps manage rough sleeping and the build-up of any associated debris or hazardous materials.



**Figure 22. An example of the open landscaping policy in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens which provides good sightlines and high levels of natural surveillance (LB Lambeth)**

## **5.5 Lambeth Parks & Open Spaces Byelaws**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is covered by a set of 'local laws' specific to Lambeth's parks and open spaces, which are known as the 'Lambeth Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws', which are normally displayed at main entrances to the park. Byelaws 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.

The new Byelaws came into force on 6<sup>th</sup> 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 the park, like:

- the children's playground and play equipment
- travel and transport, including the use of cycles and motor vehicles
- public shows and performances, including trading and sale of goods

The site 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, including Parks officers, and the Police. The first objective is to inform and educate, so that an offence is not committed or not 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. Members of the public can phone Lambeth Call Centre (020 7926 9000) for a copy of the Byelaws, or download a set from the [Lambeth Council Byelaws web page](#)

## **5.6 Dogs and Dog Control**

Dogs are not banned in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens but they must be kept under close control at all times and any dog waste must be removed and safely disposed of. The Lambeth Parks Byelaws do not mention dogs, either prohibition of fouling or keeping 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 in force.

It has long been realised that the scope of orders made under current rules are limited, and do not attract sufficient penalties to deter persistent offenders, nor compel a person in charge of a dog to give an accurate name and address to allow fines or prosecutions to be enacted.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 includes powers to replace orders made under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act and allow authorities to introduce a system of "Dog Control Orders" (DCOs). DCOs cover fouling by dogs, but gives greater powers in terms of fines and obtaining names and addresses of offenders. DCOs can also be made to cover other types of dog-related offences such as keeping dogs on leads in designated areas, exclusion of dogs from sensitive areas, and setting a limit to the maximum number of dogs a person may walk in a designated area.

The council is evaluating the making of DCOs or other legislation to provide powers that extend its remit with respect to managing dog offences, including in parks. A decision on whether to proceed with making DCOs is dependent on financial, legal, political and social implications being addressed. In the meantime, the council is taking a proactive approach to report dog offences, including notices advising the public where to anonymously report antisocial behaviour, including aggressive or uncontrolled dogs, which are displayed in the site at various locations, usually on noticeboards.

The Operations Manager and staff keep detailed records of incidents where dogs are involved, or where damage is caused to items on site that can be attributed to dogs; these records are regularly shared with the Police and Lambeth Community Safety to identify trends or patterns that warrant increased surveillance or action 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.



One other action has been to be proactive in terms of engaging with dog owners and walkers so as to 'win hearts and minds' by encouraging them to have a sense of ownership of the site and to be responsible for their pets and also for their own behaviour. Many of the Friends are dog owners and often take a 'meet and greet' attitude to other dog walkers when they encounter them on site, reinforcing positive messages and attitudes, as well as encouraging them to join the Friends as well!

Another mechanism to secure responsible dog ownership has been a series of regular 'Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens Dog Shows', organised by the Friends. These are either run as part of larger events, e.g. the annual St. George's Day Festival or as a stand-alone activity if there is demand for it or to help target and resolve a particular issue of concern. These dog events have been an enormous success (Figure 23), and have helped make dog walkers more aware of their own responsibilities to help keep the Gardens clean and free of dog problems/

More information on the Dog Shows and what people are doing to help promote responsible dog ownership on the Gardens can be found at [www.fovpg.com/news/2018/4/22/22-april-2018-friends-of-vauxhall-pleasure-gardens-dog-show](http://www.fovpg.com/news/2018/4/22/22-april-2018-friends-of-vauxhall-pleasure-gardens-dog-show)



**Figure 22. Part of the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens Dog Show, which is regularly run by the Friends and council either alone or as part of other events on the site (FoVPG)**



## **6. Well Maintained and Clean**

### **6.1 Objectives**

The following objectives ensure Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is well maintained and clean:

6.1.1 It will be free of litter, graffiti and vandalism.

6.1.2 Grounds maintenance will be sensitive and carried out to a high standard.

### **6.2 Current Status and Management Actions**

The general public take the need for clean and tidy open space seriously. This is not just for aesthetic and social reasons but also for health and safety considerations, especially where children or cultural/ethnic minority groups are involved. Therefore litter and other waste management issues must be adequately dealt with, the grounds and equipment must be well maintained, and all policies relating to litter, vandalism and maintenance in operation.



**Figure 23. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens at the peak of summer 2019 during a film screening event – a major challenge to keep the site clean and well maintained (FoVPG)**

### **6.3 Grounds Maintenance – Practical Management**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is managed by Lambeth Council as a ‘public open space’ for access to and use of during normal opening hours or for organised events; its management and maintenance is therefore focused on delivering this function.

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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 called ‘Lambeth Landscapes’. As all grounds maintenance staff are now employed directly by the council this offers 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 site is patrolled to remove litter and graffiti. Staff also carry out daily inspections of buildings and structures on site; 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 on site 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 structural defects found by any member of the public can also be reported to Lambeth Parks via its Customer Call Centre on 020 7926 9000, out of hours on 020 7926 1000 or by email to [parks@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:parks@lambeth.gov.uk). The Call Centre number and email address are displayed prominently on all entrance signs, and on any signs attached to buildings.

### **6.3.1 Service Specifications & Performance Management**

The Lambeth Landscapes grounds maintenance specification is written around a set of clearly defined service objectives and outputs. Appendix 2 details these, many of which are pertinent to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, broken down by subject and category, along with expected frequencies of action.

Service performance is measured internally against these specifications, which consists of the completion and submission by staff of daily work plans, as well as regular site inspections by senior operational staff to ensure compliance, and to request any rectifications if required to bring sites or areas to the required standard. Information from these work reports and inspections is then used to measure service performance against the key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in the specification, as described in Appendix 3.

## **6.4 Additional Capital and Revenue Investment**

Additional works take place in each Financial Year to keep the site safe and ensure facilities are operational. The sum of works varies from season to season, year to year, based on need set against competing demands from other sites and pressures on budgets.

### **6.4.1 Repairs & Maintenance Budget Allocations**

Lambeth Parks currently operates a 'repairs and maintenance' budget which is for ad-hoc works across the borough's parks and open spaces, mainly to provide materials and equipment for Lambeth Landscapes' 'Parks Improvement Team' (PIT).

This budget is not broken down by individual site, but officers managing the Gardens put in repair requests to the PIT who then purchase materials to undertake the required works. About 20% of the budget is used annually to commission specialist repairs by external contractors where the PIT cannot do the work, e.g. do not have the required qualifications or training.



### 6.4.2 Capital Investment Opportunities

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is not within one of the more heavily deprived electoral wards for Lambeth, and so does not attract funding designed to address issues of deprivation. However, the site is close to a number of significant developments taking place along the Albert Embankment, South Bank, Vauxhall and Waterloo, in both Lambeth and Wandsworth.

These developments have the potential to ‘trigger’ significant funding being released in the form of Section 106 agreements which offset or mitigate for potential impacts a development on public amenities, including open spaces. Funds secured from major developments local to the site can be allocated to and invested in delivering improvements to the gardens to address some or all of the priorities identified for the site. Lambeth Council scrutinises all planning applications within the proximity of the site, to identify and argue for any opportunities for investment, or changes to make it more welcoming.

Three key issues which the council and Friends wish to see addressed are refurbishment of paths and entrance points, additional signage both inside and outside, improvements and repairs to walls, boundaries and fencing, and improved hard and soft landscaping – especially horticultural standards (Figure 24). These would have a significant impact upon the site’s integrity, safety and image, and address issues relating to safe access and protection of any conservation or heritage assets.



**Figure 24. Part of the soft landscaping in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens: a priority to maintain and improve through both capital and revenue investment (LB Lambeth)**

### 6.5 Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens Management Outcomes

This section summarises key issues identified as priority for improving Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. These originated from earlier site meetings but added to by subsequent discussions with the community, site users and other key partners. It highlights what actions have been achieved and how, or are still ongoing.



### **6.5.1 Entrances and Fencing**

Entrances are maintained so that good access and open views into and out are maintained. Vegetation is pruned back or removed where it encroaches upon entrances, and trees and tall shrubs are not planted close to edges or paths in case they obscure access.

### **6.5.2 Paths and Hardstanding**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens contains a mixture of paths of differing ages and materials, such as areas of hardstanding made up mostly of tarmac or bonded aggregates. The priority is to ensure surfaces are clean and safe, and maintenance comprises sweeping or blowing paths of leaf litter, grass and soils, and jet-washing if essential. Any paths showing damage or wear, especially uneven surfaces or raised edges, are addressed through the PIT on instruction by the Operations Manager if the defects are deemed a risk to safety and access.

### **6.5.3 Grassland and Horticulture**

The Bills of Quantities for the site and schedules (Appendix 2) identify areas of “general amenity grass” maintained at between 25mm and 60mm, with arisings remaining on site but, some areas of the gardens are now maintained as ‘rough meadow grassland’. These are predominantly boundary features or parcels of land managed to encourage wildlife and biodiversity, and defined by a transition in height and condition of grass from amenity areas.

Maintenance of more naturalised areas is undertaken through a mutual partnership of the grounds maintenance staff and the Friends, so that large areas are managed to maintain access whilst ‘naturalised’ boundaries and sections are attended by volunteers or by staff who know and liaise with on site gardeners.

As mentioned earlier, a priority for the Friends and local residents has been a series of phased projects to improve the horticultural quality and diversity of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. Phase I involved securing donations and grant funding to create new colourful boundary and herbaceous areas around the eastern and southern sides of the site, which have now been completed and are being managed by the Friends and Lambeth Landscapes.

However, Phase II has focused on improving the central areas of the site, which have traditionally been relatively bland and lacking both colour and diversity. The preferred solution, which would be relatively low cost and easy to maintain, was to create a series of dense drifts or ‘washes’ of native and colourful flowering bulbs along the slopes of the mounds which dominate the central-south parts of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (Figure 25).

This project, known as ‘Bulb Valley’, as well as adding colour and form, has been designed to help improve the ecological diversity of the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, particularly important given the current proposals to formally designate it as a nature conservation site (see later). A design and planting plan was developed in partnership with the Friends, and a portion of s106 capital funds allocated to the site were allocated to it in 2019 following a detailed tendering exercise with commercial bulb supplier/planting companies.

In October 2029 £12,000 of s106 funds were spent to plant 128,000 bulbs on the project areas, which involved stripping out the existing grass and topsoil and mechanically inserting the bulbs and recovering them (Figures 26). Interestingly this took place at the same time Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens was temporarily occupied by an encampment as part of the Extinction Rebellion (XR) demonstrations in central London. However, the XR protestors eagerly helped with resettling the turf after the planting, and even clean up their camp so thoroughly that nothing was left after they went!

The excitement is now to see how Bulb Valley develops in 2020 and beyond, and how it transforms the heart of the site. More information on the Bulb Valley project in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens can be found on the Friends website at <http://www.fovpg.com/the-gardens#/bulb-valley/>



**Figure 25. Plan for the 'Bulb Valley' project in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, showing the location of areas to be planted with flowering bulbs (LB Lambeth/FoVPG)**



**Figure 26. Contractors and their equipment planting out the grass slopes in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens with flowering bulbs in October 2019 (FoVPG)**

#### **6.5.4. Trees**

Given its history, the site contains a diversity of trees in terms of species, age, height and spread. The mature trees are appreciated for their shading benefits and giving the site a 'country site' sensation. Nevertheless, trees need to be inspected and managed to prevent them causing damage to pathways, walls, fences and adjacent buildings, and regular work is undertaken on them as instructed by the Lambeth Landscapes Operations Manager.

One concern is a lack of recruitment by young new trees to replace older ones that will die. Therefore, inspection of mature trees identifies if one needs to be removed or reduced, and in doing so create areas of open canopy or to plant new young trees to replace them.

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 secured either with single or double stakes, and tree guards and strimmer protection fitted as required. Staff 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 the Lambeth Tree Service. 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 inspection by a tree officer as required. Therefore, the amount of money allocated to tree works on site varies on an annual basis.

#### **6.5.5 The Cherry Avenue Project**

One of the most exciting projects on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, designed to improve the site's tree stock and diversity, has been planting a double line of ornamental cherry trees from the southern entrance of the site up to its north-eastern edge. This project, called the 'Cherry Avenue' scheme, adds colour and diversity as well as biodiversity to the whole site.

In June 2015 the Friends of the Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens were allocated £250,000 for environmental improvements to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. These funds were provided from the Basaveshwara Foundation, and had been donated and kept by the London Borough of Lambeth in an escrow account to be released upon completion of a "Basaveshwara Statue" on the nearby Albert Embankment. The statue was completed and installed, and the official opening inaugurated by India's Prime Minister, Nerenda Modi, on 14 November 2015.

As a result FoVPG were given the symbolic cheque for a photo opportunity, even though the funds had already been transferred. The donation was intended for planting and general improvements to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. In order to establish how best to invest the donation for improvement works, a questionnaire was distributed by FoVPG to its members and the local community. The three improvements most commonly mentioned were:

- The improvement of the diagonal path that connects Glyn Street to Tyers Street (adjacent to the Cabinet Gallery), which frequently suffers from flooding in winter;
- More planting of trees and shrubs and their improved maintenance;
- More planting of flowers and their improved maintenance.

FoVPG used roughly 40% of the Basaveshwara donation in order to tackle these three priorities. In February 2016 FoVPG commissioned renowned landscape designer Todd Longstaff-Gowan to design a new diagonal path through the site, which was to be surrounded by cherry trees, which was titled the 'Cherry Tree Avenue'.



A detailed public consultation was organised and plans widely circulated among the local community, Lambeth Council officers, local resident associations and the Vauxhall One BID business consortium, and the scheme universally approved. The project was tendered to three contractors, and FoVPG unanimously chose the consultants Landform as the contractor best suited for the project.

Works started on site as scheduled on 17th October 2016 and finished on schedule four weeks later. It was officially opened on 8th May 2017 by the Radio 3 presenter Sean Rafferty ([www.fovpg.com/new-blog](http://www.fovpg.com/new-blog)).



**Figure 27. Volunteers and local schoolchildren helping plant new trees on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens as part of the Cherry Tree project (LB Lambeth)**

Appendix One contains information on the designs for the Cherry Tree Avenue, including landscape and design plans. The ornamental flowering cherry trees were planted in clusters, and are a mix of native and exotic varieties in order to ensure maximum impact in terms of colour variations, flowering times and sequencing to prolong the lifetime of the cherry flowers. This not only maximises the visual effect but also benefit numerous pollinators throughout the spring and summer and allow for greater species biodiversity.

The project has also created a series of 'swale gardens' where surface water and rainwater runoff can be redirected away from paths and surrounding roads, and absorbed by a cluster of willow trees. FoVPG successfully funded the scheme and its ongoing maintenance, but are still engaging with sponsors to match fund this investment. FoVPG use Gift Aid forms and have at least two generous donors including Jeremy Wingate-Saul and Charles Asprey of the nearby Cabinet Gallery.

The Cherry Avenue has proved to be an enormous success and demonstrates what local communities can do in partnership with local businesses and councils to improve the look and feel of a local open space, delivering on key targets for biodiversity, landscape and visual impact with a scheme that is both achievable and sustainable.

Information on the creation of the new Cherry Avenue, including its opening in May 2017, can be found on the Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens website in their regular news blog at [www.fovpg.com/new-blog](http://www.fovpg.com/new-blog).

## **6.6 Cleanliness and Waste Removal**

Lambeth Council places significant emphasis on maintaining a high level of cleanliness at Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens 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](mailto:parks@lambeth.gov.uk)), and are sent to the Operations 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 Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens.

### **6.6.1 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 Operations Manager. In terms of cleanliness, Lambeth Landscapes is required to maintain Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens 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.

Litter bins are checked daily each morning for content and condition and as per the schedule in Appendix 2, but this frequency can be increased if requested by the Operations Manager or site staff if they feel it advisable, especially during the summer season or around 'honeypots' like around cafés and busier areas where the public congregate.

Flytipping is not a regular event in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens because of the 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 public or staff, placed in special containers, 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.

### **6.6.2 Dog Waste**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is used by dog walkers, although the level of use is relatively constant; there are bins on site and staff are required to inspect the whole site for dog waste and remove it. The Operations Manager inspects the site and instructs for the removal of dog wastes, and can specify additional visits.

### 6.6.3 Graffiti and Flyposting

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is inspected regularly for flyposting and graffiti. All structures in on site, including signage, walls and paths are assessed for their risk from graffiti. Some features can be painted in suitable dark colours such as black or dark green to reduce attractiveness to taggers who prefer surfaces that enable their tags stand out at a distance. All signs are finished in a graffiti-resistant coating which is easy to clean with proprietary graffiti-removal solvents or wipes.

Graffiti and flyposting, including on buildings, fences, boundary railings and even paths, is covered under the grounds maintenance specification with a team to undertake graffiti and poster removal. Normal flyposting or graffiti is removed within 7 days, but in reality it is usually much quicker. Graffiti or posters deemed obscene, racist or otherwise offensive is removed within 24 hours of being reported by the public, Police or Operations Manager – again the rate of response is very good, and reflects how seriously both council and contractor take this issue.



**Figure 28. Keeping such areas and entrance points to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens clean and free of graffiti and litter is seen as a high priority (LB Lambeth)**



## **7. A Sustainable Place**

### **7.1 Objectives**

The following objectives ensure Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is a sustainable place to use:

- 7.1.1 It is managed to minimise consumption and waste of non-renewable resources.
- 7.1.2 It is managed to promote and increase the use of sustainable resources, and reduce adverse impacts upon the natural and human environment.

### **7.2 Current Status and Management Actions**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is managed using methods that are environmentally sound and demonstrate best available practice. Both site management and community should be aware of techniques available to reduce their impact upon the environment, and demonstrate they are putting these into practice, and reviewing their effectiveness.

### **7.3 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 commitment includes Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens as demonstrated by a number of practical actions.

Lambeth Council adopted a Lambeth Sustainability Charter in February 2007, which sets out how it manages assets and resources to minimise its impact upon the local and global environment. The Charter applies to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens as it does for all public spaces, so the site's management must enable the Charter to be put into practice, be seen to be operating, and subject to review and challenge.

Opportunities to conserve energy and water and reduce pollution should be taken, pesticide use kept minimal and justified, and the use of horticultural peat is eliminated. Waste plant material should be recycled on site, and used as compost and mulch. High horticultural and arboricultural standards help reduce pollution, waste and environmental impact, and these should be in evidence. The next sections describe some of the practical actions undertaken by Lambeth Landscapes to deliver the Sustainability Charter.

### **7.4 Recycling, Composting and Peat Policy**

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 brought in from a reputable local source, of sufficient quantity and quality to undertake mulching and weed suppression.

Lambeth Landscapes has a strict policy of avoiding use of peat in any plants used on site. In addition, its gardening training programmes provide guidance to both staff and local community volunteers on how to plant without peat and to use alternative and more sustainable methods for growing and maintaining plants and garden schemes.

The policy is that any 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 routinely monitor compliance when inspecting bedding or planting schemes. Many of the plants used in parks are bred to cope with peat-free medium.

When trees, shrubs and scrub are cut back or removed in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, the resulting green waste is chipped up and spread on shrub beds or boundary lines as mulch, or taken to another site to rot down or until it can be chipped up and composted. A mobile chipper is available so that green waste produced on site can be chipped up to provide additional mulch to meet the site's requirements and reduce the need to transport material from a distance.



**Figure 29. Herbaceous beds and boundary hedges are kept well-mulched with greenwaste to minimise weeds and reduce watering demands (LB Lambeth)**

Lambeth Landscapes is rolling out a programme of greenwaste recycling across the borough. This is in order to progressively reduce the amounts of greenwaste produced in open spaces and 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.

Two green waste composting sites are currently operational at Brockwell Park and Clapham Common. Staff are thus able to produce compost for use at these locations or transport to other sites including Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens for use as mulch or soil conditioner. Staff can also obtain additional material to supplement that produced locally from other large composting facilities. Therefore, the gardens are well supplied with compost and mulch to meet its needs.

## **7.5 Pesticides and Fertilisers**

Lambeth actively pursues the reduction of chemicals in its open spaces. Staff are not permitted to use pesticides 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 control of pernicious weeds like Japanese Knotweed; the principal herbicide 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, including in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. Staff are required to comply with the policy and its protocols at all times on all sites including Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens.

Lambeth Council is committed to producing sufficient greenwaste from tree removal and chipping and leaf clearing to undertake weed suppression through mulching instead of using residual herbicides. Staff must also consider the use of biodegradable matting or mulch on semi-mature trees and other approved cultural means of weed suppression. This is practiced at Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, especially in garden areas or around the bases of young or mature trees, and the Operations Manager requests topping up with new material.

## **7.6 Water Conservation and Energy Efficiency**

Water will always be used in the site because it contains features that require watering, particularly planted trees and plant bedding. However, the annual water bill for the site is not excessive relative to its area, due to a number of features which minimise use.

For any trees, shrub and bedding plant schemes in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, the importance of planting species or cultivars which are relatively drought tolerant or have low water demands alongside good establishment and survival rates is seen as mandatory. This policy is applied by the grounds maintenance staff. This approach has made good sense as with no on-site grounds maintenance staff and few watering points, the amount of time staff or volunteers could devote to watering is limited. Therefore, a need to choose species which go for relatively long periods without watering or good at withstanding desiccation until it rained, has been appreciated by all.

The abundance of tough, often drought tolerant or Mediterranean plants in the gardens, as well as trees site like plane, elm, birch, beech and hawthorn, has helped minimise the need to water, and assisted in enabling original planting schemes to survive and be added to with other suitable species over time. The use of mulching and compost on planted areas across the site helps to minimise water use. New trees would also have mulching or matting around their bases, and would only be watered when absolutely necessary.



**Figure 30. Mulched beds on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (LB Lambeth)**



## **8. A Conservation and Heritage Flagship**

### **8.1 Objectives**

The following objectives ensure Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is a conservation and heritage flagship for council and community:

- 8.1.1 Its heritage character is protected and improved.
- 8.1.2 Trees are managed to protect them from loss, and opportunities sought to plant new trees or hedgerows suitable to its natural and landscape character.
- 8.1.3 It is managed to ensure existing wildlife habitats are protected and enhanced, and opportunities to create new ones taken.

### **8.2 Current Status and Management Actions**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens contains features important for biodiversity and protection of wildlife, as well as those which have conservation and architectural value. The site offers considerable opportunity to increase and enhance its biodiversity and heritage interest through appropriate management and habitat creation.

### **8.3 Protection and Enhancement of Heritage Character**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is within the '[Vauxhall Conservation Area](#)' (CA32) for the London Borough of Lambeth, which restricts changes to the appearance, construction and use of buildings and features.

### **8.4 Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment**

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens contains features recognised as important to not only wild plants and animals, but also local for people to experience wildlife. As well as trying to retain and enhance these existing features, site management should aim to increase, where possible, the extent of areas of nature conservation value.

#### **8.4.1 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](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-libraries/parks/lambeth-biodiversity-action-plan).

The Lambeth BAP consists of a set of 'Action Plans', one for each habitat and/or species identified as important for Lambeth. 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.

The Lambeth BAP includes a Habitat Action Plan (HAP) for 'Parks and Green Spaces', into which Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is incorporated. The Lambeth BAP is linked intimately with the 'London Biodiversity Plan' and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan; Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens makes a contribution to delivery of the Lambeth BAP as features within it are of biodiversity value such as trees, mixed gardens and hedges, and management is compatible with biodiversity (e.g. pesticide avoidance).

#### 8.4.2 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 (SINCs)'; SINCs can have Metropolitan, Borough or Local importance for nature conservation. SINCs are formally recognised and protected in Lambeth's Local Development Plan from inappropriate use, development or loss. Information on Lambeth's SINC sites, including maps, can be found on the Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL)'s website at: <http://discover-london.qigl.org.uk/>

Until 2018 Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens was not included within a Lambeth SINC. However, a major review was undertaken that year of Lambeth's wildlife sites by London Wildlife Trust as part of the council's review of its Local Plan and the Local Plan Proposals Map. This concluded that Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens should be incorporated into an existing Local SINC for land within and around Vauxhall City Farm.

This proposal has been accepted by the council and it is now proposed, subject to formal adoption of the updated Local Plan in 2020, for Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens to be part of a new and larger Local SINC ('Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens and City Farm'). Ongoing developments on the site, such as increasing the use of native nectar and pollen-rich grass, flower, shrub and hedge species, as well as trees like cherry, elm and lime, have been identified as having been instrumental in securing inclusion into the new SINC and so significantly enhance its overall ecological value (Figure 31).



**Figure 31. Annual wildflower-rich grassland verges on the approach to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, creating wildlife corridors in the local area (LB Lambeth)**



### 8.4.3 Naturalised Area Management

There are a number of locations in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens which are currently managed to benefit wildlife. This includes areas of formal planting containing species of high wildlife value, native trees and native shrub and ground planting across the site. The boundaries of the site, contain changing topographies, crevices and aspects that are especially attractive as habitat for many invertebrates as well as plants like ferns and creepers.

Maintenance of these areas consists of removal of litter and refuse, control of noxious weeds, appropriate grass management and control of scrub or weeds. In addition an authorised officer can undertake clearance of brush and tree saplings to maintain naturalised areas. The Friends and Lambeth Parks have long accepted there is potential to improve the ecological management and quality of the site, and this is factored into the Maintenance Management Plan in Appendix 1. The main activities include:

- a) Continue to improve and extend naturalised areas and plantings in the southern and western parts of the site, including additional boundary and vertical habitat;
- b) Habitat creation around the boundaries to improve colour, variety and effect: options for planting mixture of native shrubs, hedging, wildflower grass strips;
- c) Planting of more native young trees, including fruit and nut producing varieties in order to create an 'orchard' effect in suitable locations.
- d) The planting of trees of high biodiversity value or which are beneficial to certain uncommon, rare or declining species, especially invertebrates or birds.

An example of these proposals in action on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is the avenues of elm trees planted around the MUGA (Figure 32). These tree avenues are unique in that they are a special form of elm called *Ulmus* 'New Horizon', which is a hybrid originally developed in the United States of America. It was specially bred to give an elm variety that was proven to be resistant to 'Dutch Elm Disease', which is a fungal infection that normally attacks and gradually kills of many species and varieties of elm, including the native English Elm (*Ulmus procera*).



**Figure 32. A view of the New Horizon elms around the MUGA on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, showing their form and distribution (FoVPG)**



The planting of *Ulmus* 'New Horizon' was part of a wider landscaping scheme for the new MUGA in 2010 to give the sports facility some degree of sensitive screening and soundproofing, and the use of a disease-resistant elm variety was designed to ensure a high degree of survivability in a part of Lambeth that was affected by poor air quality and on a site where regular watering of new trees would be relatively minimal.

However, the ecological benefits of the use of *Ulmus* 'New Horizon' was totally unanticipated. The UK charity Butterfly Conservation has found out that these elms on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens are being visited by adults of the 'White-letter Hairstreak' butterfly (*Satyrus alba*), which is a relatively uncommon butterfly species in Greater London and in significant decline in many other parts of the UK.

Additional investigations are planned for 2019-20 to see if the branches of these elms have evidence of the eggs or larvae of the White-letter hairstreak, which if confirmed by Butterfly Conservation, would be a first for Lambeth and so close to the centre of the city.

More information on *Ulmus* 'New Horizon', its origins and disease resistance can be found at: [www.hillier.co.uk/trees/case-studies/resisting-dutch-elm-disease-with-ulmus-new-horizon](http://www.hillier.co.uk/trees/case-studies/resisting-dutch-elm-disease-with-ulmus-new-horizon).

#### **8.4.4 Tree Management and Protection**

It is recognised that a significant element of the value of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens comes from the trees present in or around it. It is the diversity of trees, not just in terms of species but also age, growth form, height and proximity that provides much of this value and is reflected in the wildlife species which use trees as habitat for shelter, feeding and breeding, as well as 'transport networks' to move around the site.

However, like all habitats trees must be retained and managed so they continue to provide appropriate wildlife resources habitat, especially for birds, bats and invertebrates. Therefore, it is clear the site needs some form of guidance to protect and enhance its tree stock, so that its selection, planting and maintenance follows good practice in terms of public safety, nature conservation, heritage and local character.

It is proposed to develop a Lambeth Tree Strategy to provide an overarching approach to management of the borough's tree stock. From this it should be possible to develop tree plans for individual sites, subject to size, but in the case of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens it is likely that the borough one will suffice at this stage. In the meantime, the general plan is to manage the tree stock at Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens so the following objectives are achieved:

- a) Trees lost to disease, damage or neglect, and dead or beyond recovery, are replaced with trees of similar species, age and style commensurate with site character;
- b) Where trees are missing they should be replaced subject to resources being available and provided this does not conflict with current site use or public safety;
- c) A careful balance is struck between ornamental and native species, and issues relating to disease, drought tolerance and damage resistance taken into account during the selection process;
- d) Trees should be inspected and maintained, with pits free of weeds or litter, adequately watered or mulched, and stakes/ties adjusted or removed as required;
- e) Whilst the planting of sponsored, memorial or commemorative trees is welcomed, the selection, location, size and actual planting is at the discretion of and undertaken by the council alone following consultation with the community.

#### **8.4.5 Environmental Information and Interpretation**

Being an example of ‘environmental good practice’, Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens offers opportunities to promote, inform and educate about activities on site, or proposed for the future, to protect the natural environment of the site and Lambeth and London as a whole. Whilst opportunities for marketing are discussed in more detail in subsequent chapters, it is worth reiterating what these opportunities are and how they can include information about the environment and heritage of the site.

##### **a) Signage**

Many open spaces in Lambeth benefit from signage which informs about biodiversity, which range from descriptions of the diversity of trees present, including their geographic and cultural origins (which is often of considerable interest), areas managed for biodiversity and how new habitats and features are created which respond to climate change, pollution or development. Therefore, installation of interpretation signage for Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is factored into the Maintenance Management Plan. As well as informing about existing wildlife habitats in the site in general, signage can cover descriptions of the tree stock on site, and sustainability measures such as water management).

##### **b) Education and Biodiversity**

One action in the Lambeth BAP is to increase local awareness of biodiversity, and includes involving schools close to open spaces. Activity to widen awareness of the site as an environmental resource, including development of educational material for schools, is identified as a key action in the Maintenance Management Plan.

##### **c) Walks and Talks**

There is always potential for organised walks and talks, led by various groups, to learn about wildlife and history. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is ideal as one site to either have an on-site visit and walk, or as part of a ‘chain’ of sites in this part of Lambeth that are of considerable historical and ecological interest.

Lambeth Council is also committed to integrating all of its open spaces into the [All London Green Grid](#) (ALGG), which is designed to connect up public greenspaces to improve their access, use and sustainability. Lambeth is part of the Central London Area for ALGG, and sites like Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens are incorporated into the relevant [Central London Area Framework](#). This helps to raise local and regional awareness of not just this site, but also its biodiversity and landscape interest, as well as helping promote the trail and activity pack to a wider audience. As part of the delivery of the ALGG, Lambeth is committed to securing both funding and projects that will ‘connect up’ all of its greenspaces, and increase public access to and use of its sites, including Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, which provides the opportunity to raise awareness of its biodiversity and educational value

## 9. Community Involvement

### 9.1 Objectives

The following objectives ensure Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens meets the needs of its users and the wider community:

- 9.1.1 Its management will actively involve all users, including the wider community.
- 9.1.2 Community activities will be encouraged and supported.

### 9.2 Current Status and Management Actions

Lambeth Parks is committed to supporting the involvement of the community in the management of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. Management must demonstrate it understands and is responsive to the needs of users and aware of changing patterns of use, able to show community involvement, and that facilities are appropriate to community needs.



**Figure 33. Image from the annual ‘Fire Festival’, a popular community event which takes place on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens every October (FoVPG)**

### 9.3. Community Involvement

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is surrounded by a diverse community in an area where there is a lack of accessible public open space. Therefore, not only is the site important to the community in providing this accessible space, but it also depends heavily on that same community to ensure its success and development.



### 9.3.1 The Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens and other Stakeholders

The Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (FoVPG) are the official user representative body in terms of consultation with the council and other stakeholders. The Friends have been instrumental in driving the need to regenerate the site and securing support for its continued development. The Friends are a formally constituted body with committee, constitution and key policies for it to be inclusive and open to external scrutiny.

The Friends are in regular contact with the Operations Manager, and have site walkabouts if required, and officers attend the Friends meetings and other public events as appropriate. The Friends have excellent working relations with staff working on site and Lambeth Police. Lambeth Parks is working with the Friends during the lifetime of this management plan to develop additional information on the Gardens, and work with the Friends to ensure that available on their excellent website is current and accurate produce a website.

The Friends have excellent links into and across local businesses and charities, organisations working with the homeless community, the Police and a wide range of area-based regeneration and economic for a, and operate an excellent website ([www.fovpg.com](http://www.fovpg.com)). They also support and assist with an amazing diversity of events which take place each year on the Gardens such as the St. George's Day Festival and GFMA/RVT Sports Day, which runs in partnership with the nearby Royal Vauxhall Tavern (Figures 34 and 35).



**Figure 34. Image from the annual 'St. George's Day Festival', which has run on the Gardens for over ten successive years (FoVPG)**





**Figure 35. Image from the wonderful 'GFMA/RVT Sports Day', bringing together communities and stakeholders on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (FoVPG)**

In 2013 working the Friends the Vauxhall Trust instituted the 'Maureen Johnston Memorial Tea Cup', a five-a-side yearly football tournament that takes place in the MUGA, which encourages healthy friendly competition and enjoys a large body of fans and followers.



**Figure 36. Participants in the Maureen Johnston Memorial Tea Cup Football Tournament on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (FoVPG)**

## **9.4 Schools and Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens**

Although not immediately adjacent to local primary and secondary schools, Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is designed and managed to be accessible to children of all ages, and the Friends and Lambeth Parks has a network of links to schools and other groups providing child care and support, in order to encourage use of the site for learning and play.

## **9.5 Volunteering Opportunities**

Lambeth Parks & Greenspaces sees volunteering as a key opportunity for residents to become actively involved in the development of its open spaces. Volunteering can take many forms, including helping organise events.

However, volunteering also involves helping manage or improve the physical and natural landscape of a site through weeding, planting trees, bedding, hedge plants and shrubs, and preparing and seeding areas with native wild or ornamental flower seed. Lambeth Parks has always offered parks and open spaces as venues for volunteering, and encourages local community groups, business volunteers and schools to participate in a wide range of positive activities, all supported and directed by experienced officers.

As part of its annual volunteering plan, Lambeth Parks identified Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens as a prime venue because there are opportunities for helping improve the character and environmental quality of the site which residents and businesses can participate in. With this in mind, Lambeth Parks works to support volunteering in the gardens, including materials for volunteers to work with, e.g. tree logs and mulch, as well as directing persons making enquiries about volunteering to the Friends.

The Gardens are also identified as a location for hosting 'business team challenges'. These are volunteering days, organised by the council which allow staff from a London business to undertake practical activities that help improve the site. In consultation with the Friends a number of activities have been identified for volunteers. The following list is not exhaustive, but gives an idea of what kind of opportunities are available:

- a) Maintenance of the existing formal beds including the memorial garden;
- b) Maintenance and enhancement of the mosaics, as well as creating new ones;
- c) Additional planting to extend or improve naturalised areas in the site, including additional boundary and vertical habitat;
- d) Cleaning up and planting walls, fences and raised features, and planting areas to enhance the flora on the monuments and walls,;
- e) Planting of bulbs, native young trees and hedges, including fruit and nut producing tree varieties in order to create an 'orchard' effect in suitable locations.

These activities might require some initial preparation, but the planting of hedge whips, bulbs and low ground plants, scattering of seed and remedial pruning and trimming is ideal for 'novice' community groups or supervised schoolchildren, even nursery groups; likewise aftercare is simple and can be done by schools and volunteers.

All these activities are deemed achievable and compatible with the plan. They would be supervised by Lambeth Parks and others. Tools and safety equipment would be provided by Lambeth Parks, and facilities for refreshments and toilets organised locally. Risk assessments, safety inductions, debriefs and publicity would also be organised to suit events and outcomes.



## 10. Marketing and Publicity

### 10.1 Objectives

The following objectives ensure Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is marketed to the right audiences to widen its use and popularity:

10.1.1 Suitable information and interpretative material, appropriate to its character, is used to promote the site and its facilities.

10.1.2 It is marketed to widen its user base, and develop new activities on site



**Figure 37. Spectators at a recent and popular Summer Film Screening on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (FoVPG)**

### 10.2 Current Status and Management Actions

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is treated as an open access resource marketed to those who would not otherwise use or are unaware of it. Marketing involves all organisations including schools, nurseries and local tenant/residents associations to encourage access for those could feel excluded from enjoying the site.

Whilst many larger parks in Lambeth have their own marketing strategy, being a relatively small open space Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens does not need its own. However, the sections below detail actions to promote the site and provide an 'outline marketing strategy'. Future reviews of the management plan, should the site become more popular or if there is a need to increase use, might necessitate production of a full strategy.

A key aim is to raise the site's profile, not just with local residents and businesses, but also wider afield. Vauxhall has experienced a renaissance in terms of visitors from across/outside London and even the UK, helped by the popularity of the Albert Embankment and South Bank and its vibrant day and night life. There is no reason why many of these visitors should not also visit Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, and so the marketing strategy is designed to ensure there is maximum publicity for the site and the maximum audiences are reached and secured.

### **10.3 Information Leaflets**

Because of the site's rich history, the site merits some form of printed or downloadable information to increase public awareness and widen positive use. The commissioning of such a leaflet is identified as an opportunity, developed in consultation with site users as resources permit. Concepts for a new leaflet are currently being developed, which will not only be available as a printed document but also as a download from websites, including the council's.

### **10.4 Lambeth Council Website Information**

Lambeth Council uses its website to promote services to the community. This information is in the form of dedicated web pages. Attached below are web 'hyperlink's, which if clicked on when the reader has internet access open, takes them to the exact page in question or they can be typed into any internet search engine to direct it to the correct destination.

#### **10.4.1 Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens Web Information**

A general introduction to Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens can be found at Lambeth Council's website at [www.lambeth.gov.uk/places/auxhall-pleasure-gardens](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/places/auxhall-pleasure-gardens)

#### **10.4.2 Lambeth Parks & Greenspaces – General Information**

Lambeth Parks has a welcome page, providing the general 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/parks>

#### **10.4.3 Lambeth Parks & Greenspaces – Additional Information**

Information on the new [byelaws for Lambeth's parks and open spaces](#)  
Information on [events in parks and open spaces](#)  
Information on [outdoor sports facilities in parks and open spaces](#)

### **10.5 Community Marketing Information**

Information on the Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (FoVPG) can be found on their website at [www.fovpq.com](http://www.fovpq.com); regular news items including announcements of forthcoming events and projects can be found at <http://www.fovpq.com/news>

### **10.6 Other Marketing Information**

The following details opportunities available to help increase awareness of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens and widen its user base. The principal options are:

#### **a) Entrance Signs**

Signs can be displayed at major entrances to the site, giving site name, a list of facilities, basic history and contact details for more information or to report problems. Smaller signs giving the name can be placed at smaller entrances.

#### **b) Public Notice Boards**

Blank 'public notice' boards installed at main entrances for displaying notices, such as those from the council or local events or activities based in the site. These also allow the public to display material of relevance to the site and its locality.

#### **c) Street Directional Signs**

These can be attached to lamp and signposts around the site, and guide the public from key transport hubs along the quickest and safest routes.

#### **d) Staff Presence**

Staff working on site should regard welcoming the public as fundamental to their job. They should be updated as to new developments so these can be passed on to the public and any feedback from the public conveyed back to management.

#### **e) Lambeth Contact Centre**

Information on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens should be available to staff in Lambeth Council's Contact Centre, so that enquires by phone, email or post, how to get there and what's happening in it can be quickly and correctly answered. The Operations Manager should update the information held by the Contact Centre on the site.

#### **f) Leaflet & Printed Materials**

Production of a leaflet for the site, which can be downloaded off websites, is seen as priority. It would contain information on site history, facilities, ecology and community activities, and promote it to a wider audience, especially schools, estates and businesses.

#### **g) Guided Walks and Talks**

Where appropriate, walks and talks to specific interest groups will be organised and delivered to raise awareness, particularly regarding biodiversity, history, present facilities and opportunities for volunteering, events and educational activities.

#### **h) Website Material – History, Ecology & Volunteering**

Websites can also be used to source information on the site's ecology, especially lists, images and maps of wildlife or habitats, and on information relating to volunteering and community events, although there would be a need to ensure such information is kept up to date and regularly reviewed.



## 11. A Well Managed Place

### 11.1 Objectives

The following objectives ensure Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens is well managed to the standards expected by council and community:

- 11.1.1 It will be managed to Green Flag Award standard, and its daily management and condition assessed against the Award criteria.
- 11.1.2 It will be managed using a plan which is responsive, realistic and achievable, in partnership with its community, as well as other stakeholders and third parties.

### 11.2 Current Status and Management Actions

The Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens Management Plan is a 3 year maintenance and development plan which sets out clearly what assets and features need to 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.

The management of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens follows eight core criteria of what is deemed a 'quality public park' as set out by the [Green Flag Award](#) scheme. This plan looks at each criterion in turn and sets out what is done, must be seen to be done, and what is planned, in Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens to reflect the aspirations of the community and the authority without coming into conflict with the site's unique character.



**Figure 38. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens contains many features and areas that need maintaining to the Green Flag Award standard (LB Lambeth)**

The Management Plan is an evolving document reviewed annually; the current document generates a Maintenance Plan in Appendix 2, which lists targets and milestones. The management plan must be compatible with priorities set out by the London Borough of Lambeth, as well the Service Plan for Lambeth Parks, the Lambeth Borough Plan and the Lambeth Community Safety Strategy.

The management of the Gardens also conforms to the Service Standards for Lambeth Parks & Open Spaces, which are as follows:

## **Lambeth Parks & Greenspaces – Service Standards**

In terms of service priorities, Lambeth Parks and Open Spaces:

- a) Manages and maintains Lambeth's parks and greenspaces on behalf and for the benefit of the communities we serve, and perform these duties in partnership and through consultation with them.
- b) Recognises the importance of parks and greenspaces as community assets, and work with the community to secure resources to invest in them.
- c) Recognises the importance of universal access to Lambeth's parks and greenspaces, and ensures all have equal opportunity to use them.
- d) Recognises the importance of parks and greenspaces as places for leisure, sport, recreation and play, and encourages use for activities which provide social, community, health and educational benefits.
- e) Recognises the unique historical, heritage and landscape character of Lambeth's parks and greenspaces, and works to protect these important assets.
- f) Wants Lambeth's parks and greenspaces 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:

- All of our parks and greenspaces are managed to, or will be developed so they can attain, the Green Flag Award standard ([www.greenflagaward.org](http://www.greenflagaward.org))
- 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 displays, herbaceous plants and bulbs, shrubs, climbers and hedges and rose beds are maintained weed-free at all times.
- Daily inspections of children's play and other sensitive areas are carried to ensure that they are safe to open and use.
- All fenced parks are opened by 7.30am and closed within 15 minutes of sunset.

### **11.3 Staffing and Management Structure**

Figure 39 summarises the new management arrangements for Lambeth Landscapes, which is now responsible for Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, as well as the borough's other public open spaces, cemeteries and recreation grounds. Vauxhall Pleasure Garden's maintenance is under the overall responsibility of Lambeth Landscapes' Operations Manager for the North Area, who oversees a team of staff, including two Operations Supervisors, who operate a mobile maintenance service that regularly visits the site.

The Operations Manager monitors service performance in terms of standards of cleanliness, horticulture and general repairs as set out in the specification and service standards, and undertakes rectifications where performance is below target. The Operations Manager and Supervisors meet with staff on an at-least daily frequency to discuss the work plans and priorities for the site, and to address any maintenance or safety issues.

Working alongside the Operations Manager and Supervisors are the Parks Development Team, made up of staff responsible for supporting the operational side of the service, undertaking specific projects, and monitoring service performance and compliance with service standards and policies. Together with the Operations Manager and Supervisors they make up the overall 'management team'.

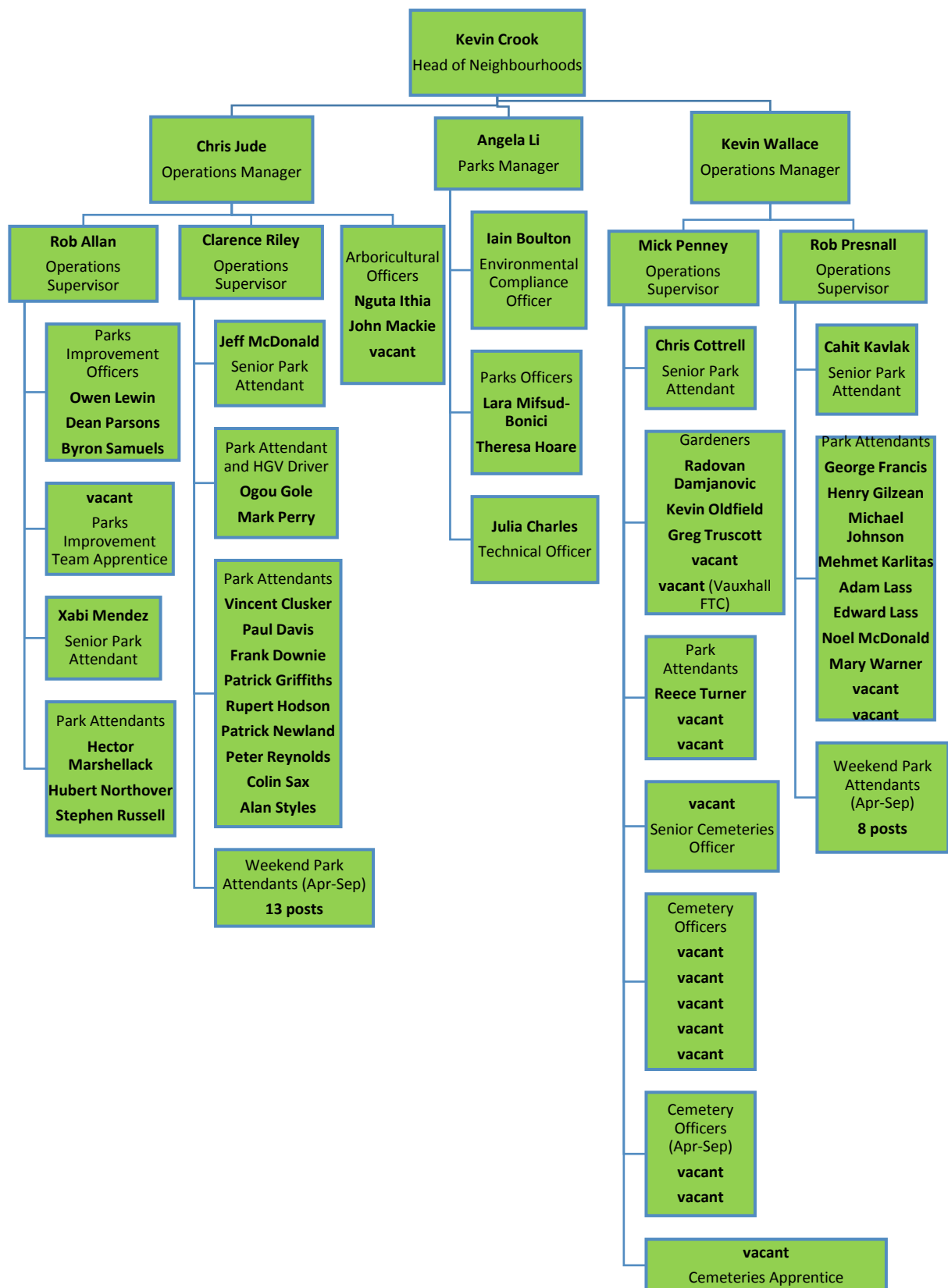


Figure 3(. Lambeth Landscapes staffing structure



The management team undertake a range of capital and other projects at Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens and are the direct point of contact with the Friends in terms of issues relating to maintenance, responding to elected councillor enquiries or those from the Police, adjacent landowners and other members of the public. The management team attend regular meetings at which a range of issues around service performance are raised. This allows issues affecting parks in general to be discussed and resolved, or for a problem at one site like Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens to be raised and solutions that are found be beneficial to other locations.

All staff working at or responsible for Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens 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 and support.



**Figure 40. Regular and increasingly popular events like the Sports Day need to be matched by good management of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (LB Lambeth)**

Lambeth Council is also operating a 'co-operative council' model in terms of managing its community assets, which involves greater participation of users, residents and other groups in management decisions for sites like Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens. This ensures that future allocation of budgets and resources is more closely tied to the needs of users.

Therefore, the above service structure is sufficiently flexible to allow community groups and stakeholders to 'fit in' and add value to how Lambeth Landscapes and its staff deliver the grounds maintenance specification.

For example, the service is committed to supporting volunteers from the community or businesses in fields such as horticulture, wildlife habitat management and creation, and in improving access and safety on site, through providing skilled staff to supervise these activities as well as appropriate tools, materials and protective equipment.

# 13. Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens – Three Year Grounds Maintenance Management Plan

## LAMBETH LANDSCAPES – 3 YEAR MANAGEMENT PLAN

### VAUXHALL PLEASURE GARDENS 2018-21

1. General Information	
<b>Name of Site</b>	Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (VPG)
<b>Address</b>	Vauxhall Walk, Vauxhall, London SE11 5HL
<b>Grid Reference</b>	TQ 530562 178177
<b>Total Area (ha)</b>	2.81
<b>London Plan Hierarchy</b>	Small Open Space
<b>Designations/listed buildings</b>	<p>The site falls wholly within Conservation Area CA32: Vauxhall' (<a href="http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/building-conservation/conservation-area-profiles-guide">www.lambeth.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/building-conservation/conservation-area-profiles-guide</a>)</p> <p>Part of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (about 15%) is currently designated a Local Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in the Lambeth Local Plan. It is proposed to make the whole site a Local SINC as part of proposals in the revision of the Local Plan (ongoing as of December 2019)</p>
<b>Ownership</b>	The bulk of the site in the ownership of the London Borough Lambeth
<b>CLIP</b>	North Lambeth
<b>Neighbourhood/Council Area</b>	Vauxhall and Waterloo
<b>Electoral Ward</b>	Princes Ward
<b>Ward Councillors</b>	<p>a) Councillor Jon Davis <a href="mailto:jdavies4@lambeth.gov.uk">jdavies4@lambeth.gov.uk</a></p> <p>b) Councillor Joanne Simpson (Labour) <a href="mailto:JSimpson2@lambeth.gov.uk">JSimpson2@lambeth.gov.uk</a></p> <p>c) Councillor David Amos (Labour); <a href="mailto:DAmos@lambeth.gov.uk">DAmos@lambeth.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Neighbourhood Lead</b>	<p>Vauxhall and Waterloo: Councillor David Amos (Labour) <a href="mailto:DAmos@lambeth.gov.uk">DAmos@lambeth.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Responsible Officer – Operations</b>	<p>Kevin Wallace, Operations Manager <a href="mailto:kwallace@lambeth.gov.uk">kwallace@lambeth.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Friends Group</b>	<p>Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (FoVPG) – website <a href="http://www.fovpq.com">www.fovpq.com</a></p>
<b>Friends/User Group Contact Details</b>	<p>Paola Piglia, Chair (<a href="mailto:paola@paolapiglia.com">paola@paolapiglia.com</a>)</p>

<b>2. Green Infrastructure (Open Spaces) Strategy – Quality Assessments</b>			
<b>Site Code</b>	<b>Typology</b>	<b>Assessment Date</b>	<b>Assessor(s)</b>
50	Small Open Space	16.01.2019	I Boulton
<b>Category</b>	<b>Score Value (%)</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Score Value (%)</b>
a) Transport	91.3	b) Access	70.0
c) Furniture	82.0	d) Signage	65.5
e) Boundary Features	N/A	f) Vegetation Quality	83.3
g) Footpaths & H/S	76.0	h) Architecture	N/A
i) Maintenance	80.0	j) Biodiversity	85.0
k) Play Facilities	N/A	l) Sports Facilities	100
m) Personal Safety	97.1	n) Vandalism & ASB	100
o) Aesthetics	90.0		
<b>Overall Quality Score</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>Overall Rating</b>	<b>Very Good</b>

<b>3. GM Specification - Site-Specific Service Activities</b>	
<b>Section</b>	<b>Output(s)</b>
Grass Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) 12 cuts a year for amenity grass areas using a combination of ride-on and stand-on mowers</li> <li>b) bulb areas to be cut after plants have died back – these areas have been increased as part of ongoing bulb planting and now constitute approximately 25% of the total site area.</li> <li>c) there are no conservation grass areas, although this option is kept open and is being reviewed.</li> </ul>
Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) classed as a High Use category site: i) litter picking once a day Monday – Sunday during April to September; ii) litter picking once a day Monday Friday during October to March</li> <li>b) regime includes edges of shrub beds - specification allows for full litter picking of shrub beds weekly in April to September, and monthly in October to March</li> </ul>
Herbaceous Bedding and Plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) herbaceous planting around paddocks: monthly check and basic maintenance including weeding and mulching with greenwastes</li> <li>b) FoVPG carry out regular maintenance throughout year, beds will be mulched in winter</li> </ul>
Shrub Beds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) shrub beds around paddocks, next to Tea House Theatre to be mulched in winter</li> <li>b) beds will receive two maintenance visits during the growing season to include weeding</li> <li>c) winter maintenance programme includes appropriate pruning and shaping</li> </ul>
Small Tree Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) epicormic growth and low-hanging branches causing obstructions removed over the winter</li> </ul>
MUGA COURT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) all hard surfaces to be cleaned annually to remove weeds, moss, algae and detritus</li> </ul>



	b) MUGA to be litter-picked at the same time as the rest of the site
Furniture and Fittings	a) inspected every three months for health and safety purposes b) benches washed annually c) wooden benches stained annually d) waste bins washed annually if required
Graffiti	a) graffiti removed within seven days of being reported/discovered b) offensive graffiti removed within 24 hours of being reported or discovered (Monday to Friday)
Paths and Hard Surfaces	a) hard surfaces mechanically cleaned annually to remove moss, algae, liverwort and other debris b) all surfaces checked weekly for health and safety issues c) hard edges mechanically cleaned annually d) soft path edges edged up at least once every two years
Boundaries	a) boundary shrub lines to be cleared annually as part of the winter programme, as far as is practical

#### 4. Repairs and Maintenance Schedule – Requested Works

For all repairs and maintenance items, identified works will be assigned a priority from 1 to 5 (low to high) and scheduled in accordingly. Any issues relating to items needing repair or issues needing maintenance can be emailed to [parksoperations@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:parksoperations@lambeth.gov.uk)

Date	Source	Details	Priority	Completion Period
	Site Walkabout	There are no current PIT Team works or other related maintenance works scheduled before end of March 2020		

#### 5. Planned Capital Works and Funding

Planned Activity	Details (with completion dates)
a) Parks Capital Improvement Programme	<p>VPG has been confirmed as Number 11 on the overall priority list for the Parks Capital Investment Plan, with a scope of works covering improvements to paths, landscaping and enhancing biodiversity.</p> <p>A total of £73,000 of S106 planning allocations has been provisionally ringfenced for these works, are now being applied for, for spend in 2020-21.</p>
b) Neighbourhood CIL and DIFS Funding	VPG is set to benefit from additional Lambeth Landscapes operational staffing which is being funded through Neighbourhood CIL and DIFS.

	<p>One additional Lambeth Landscapes Park Attendant will be ringfenced to parks in the Vauxhall area and should be spending one or two days a week at VPG, focusing on horticultural work.</p> <p>In addition, three Park Attendants are funded through Neighbourhood CIL to cover the North Lambeth CLIP (which includes VPG). They will focus on improving litter-picking and waste management, but able to undertake a range of improvement works as well</p>
c) S106 funding	<p>Please see above (£73,000 has been earmarked for VPG from existing banked S106)</p> <p>An additional £12,000 of s106 was allocated from capital receipts to deliver the 'Bulb Valley' horticultural enhancement project in 2019 – this has now been completed.</p>

<b>6. Planned Tree Works</b>	
<b>Planned Activity or Actions</b>	<b>Details (with completion dates)</b>
a) Update all tree records and mapping on 'Ezytreev' tree management database	Outstanding
b) List of 22 mixed cherry trees – 'Cherry Avenue'	Planted February 2016 – See Appendix 1 attached
c) List of 10 <i>Salix alba</i> 'Chemesina' (pollarded) Swale Garden	Planted February 2016 – See Appendix 1 attached
d) Create a work plan for tree maintenance	Ongoing
<b>Tree Work Justifications (e.g. where trees to be felled, removed or radically reduced)</b>	<b>Tree Number/ID, with brief description of justification or evidence</b>
	No major works proposed
Request from FoVPG to plant 4 additional multi stemmed Cherry trees ( <i>Prunus avium</i> or <i>Prunus spinosa</i> )	As extension to the Cherry Avenue planted 2016, additional 'clusters' on 4 x cherry avium to be planted on site close to Cherry Avenue, outstanding

<b>7. Volunteer and Community Work Programme</b>	
<b>Planned Activity</b>	<b>Details (with completion dates)</b>
Cherry Tree Avenue and Swale Garden (Appendix 1)	FoVPG commissioned Todd Longstaffe-Gown Landscapes to implement a new design, planting scheme and pathway improvements for a project called 'Cherry Tree Avenue'. Project successfully completed 2016-17.

	Review of current condition of the avenue trees, with replacement of those which had prematurely failed, fully implemented in April 2018
Friends of Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens – Bulb Planting Days	8,000 crocus bulbs donated to FoVPG from Rotary Club of Britain, as part of a 'Purple for Polio' scheme which was planted out in 2016 10,000 spring bulbs purchased and planted by FoVPG in November 2017 128,000 bulbs planted on central area and mound banks as part of the 'Bulb Valley' project using s106 in October 2019
Litter Picks and Herbaceous Bed Maintenance	Members of FoVPG conduct occasional litter picking events, including regular maintenance to existing herbaceous shrub beds on site
Fundraising	FoVPG raised significant funds for VPG enabling pathway improvements, a new cherry tree avenue and swale garden; completed 2016 FoVPG purchased/planted 18,000 spring bulbs:- completed November 2017

#### 8. Forward Aspirations or Opportunities – Council and/or Community

Title	Details
Installation of new drinking fountain	Considered as number one priority. Original VPG Masterplan recognised a need to reinstate a drinking fountain on site. Strong community support for re-commissioning original design or a newer version to meet all community needs  Potential for shared council-community responsibility for compliance testing  Water fountain meets sustainability objective with the reduction of the use of plastic bottles
On-site standpipe connections	Currently three on site but only two working, and all need urgent repair. Fire hydrant outlet opposite the Vauxhall Gardens Estate has a water leak
Main entrance to VPG from Kennington Lane: planting improvements to base of circular columns and planting beds at either side	Significant planting improvements or an updated design required to existing planting schemes at main entrance around the base of columns and shrub beds. FoVPG have expressed an interest to volunteer to deliver these maintenance improvements including additional shrub planting  Assessment of tree works for minor lifting/thinning and or canopy reduction.
Herbaceous shrub beds	FoVPG adopted responsibility to maintain herbaceous bedding area next to Vauxhall City Farm paddocks including funding the installation of improved low rise fencing or steel edging to prevent trampling or other damage to plants, as well as litter prevention.



	Tree pits: FoVPG to take responsibility to make improvements to tree pits where appropriate with improved steel edging. Funding as part of Future Capital works – see above
Boundary access bollards	Number of access areas into the site where bollards need to be replaced with more robust alternatives in order to provide better and controlled access for management for maintenance vehicles and event-related vehicles. Completed March 2018
Areas at base and top of mounds planted with wildflowers, or larger drifts of naturalised spring bulbs	As expressed by community to improve the whole biodiversity of the site, also extending flowering season. This is coupled with relaxed mowing regimes, and preparation of areas of scrapes for wildflower sowing (see Section 6). This project was successfully delivered in 2019 and the associated grassland maintenance has changes to a 'spring bulbs with grass' cutting regime.
Signage	<p>Current internal signage and information is in need of repair and/or updating</p> <p>Additional street directional or 'fingerpost' signage required in order to connect to other parks and greenspaces in local area</p> <p>Cycling issues – requirement for 'pedestrian priority' signage to be installed at priority locations, including main entrance points</p>
Path and hardstanding repairs	<p>Programme of path repairs or path replacement, with priority for any damaged or sloped areas in order to minimise accidents and improve accessibility for all</p> <p>'Desire line' pathways – significant improvements required, in terms of new surfacing or 'barriers' (planting or fencing) to restrict access.</p>
Upgrading and repairs to benches, bins and other site furniture	<p>Joint programme with FoVPG of both repairing/repainting existing public benches and, where benches are beyond repair, replacement with comparable models</p> <p>Improvements to surrounding pathways where footfall erosion is significant</p>
Planting in the bed in front of the Tea House on Vauxhall Walk	<p>Planting in existing bed to be improved to match new flowerbeds around the area. Beds require increased weeding and infill where shrubs have failed</p> <p>Friends and local community willing to maintain in partnership with Vauxhall One (Vauxhall BID).</p>
Extended base area and foundations around existing	Areas surrounding two wooden benches on mounds require general improvements, including extended hardstanding or surfacing to prevent further erosion

wooden benches and rubbish bins	Proposed extended bases will need to be robust yet decorative; designs and proposals currently with contractors
Improved maintenance standards for existing horticulture, including planting of perennial beds	Potential for additional staff resources for the Vauxhall area, which will focus on improvements to horticulture standards in VPG, including additional planting of beds or improved planting schemes
Vauxhall City Farm	Repairs to muddy grass patches adjacent to existing paddocks on eastern side of site
Other actions	Proposals for environmentally friendly ground lighting along new pathway which runs through the Cherry Tree Avenue

## 9. Other Confirmed Projects or Developments

Title	Details
Vauxhall One BID	<p>Improved engagement with Vauxhall One to clarify forward planning and potential use of site including any investment which meets with management plan objectives and which mutually benefits VPG site and its users.</p> <p>This has begun in 2019 and has resulted in better understanding of responsibilities of Vauxhall One and Lambeth Parks in maintaining areas like the Vauxhall Street frontage, hanging baskets and proposed changes to the Hugo Bugg Garden and modifying the associated swale</p>

## 10. Awards, Prizes or Other Public Recognition

Title	Details	Date Awarded
Green Flag Award	Not presently a holder of a Green Flag Award. However, the site is identified as a priority for an award, and this action plan will address any defects or issues which could hinder securing an award. The aim is to have the site to the required standard for a first application to be made by 2019-20	2019
London in Bloom	<p>Site included in borough-wide 'City Category' applications for Lambeth in 2017 and 2018.</p> <p>VPG has merit to be considered for an individual 'Large Park' category application, and this was implemented in 2019, winning a 'Silver Gilt' award for the first time.</p>	<p>2017 &amp; 2018</p> <p>2019</p>

11. Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) and Community Safety Issues	
Title	Details and Actions
Rough sleeping, minor ASB issues.	<p>During daylight hours VPG is deemed very safe due to being a major thoroughfare to Vauxhall train and bus transport links, commuters, numerous cafes etc. Night time economy from surrounding nightclubs has impacts on VPG, some of it negative, particularly during summer months including rough sleeping, drinking, litter, minor drug paraphernalia</p> <p>Any additional improvements or capital spend must consider this including an aspiration for a professional park patrol service to focus on preventing unwanted night time ASB activity. Lambeth is also consulting on a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for all of its parks, which would make enforcing Byelaws much easier via Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs)</p>
Crime data	Lambeth is the process of obtaining all crime data for all of its parks, including VPG, which can be added to subsequent Action Plans

12. Lambeth Biodiversity Action Plan – Objectives and Outcomes	
Action Plan Objective(s)	Site Specific Activities and Outcomes
<b>Parks and Open Spaces</b> a) At least 20% of total area of open space is managed and maintained for biodiversity and educational benefit by 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approximately 25% of the site is presently managed for biodiversity and educational benefit; this includes the new Cherry Tree Walk, additional native trees, extensive naturalised bulb areas and boundary features with native species</li> <li>There is significant potential to increase the ecological quality of the site's boundaries by some selective relaxed grass maintenance (in areas less heavily used for sports or dog walking), but also by additional planting of native hedge and shrub species, although temporary protective fencing will be necessary until establishment</li> <li>Action 1: increase the biodiversity value of site boundaries through additional native shrub, perennial, hedge and tree planting. Outcome – ecological diversity of boundaries increased by 2025, resulting in an additional 10% of site being classified as 'of ecological and educational benefit' – this will be of value for the ongoing use of the new educational resource building, and offer opportunities for community ownership</li> <li>Site is well used by birds and bats (mainly Pipistrelles) around existing elm trees, but additional features required to promote longer residence times and improved foraging</li> <li>Action 2: ensure all new boundary and planted bed improvement schemes include species that</li> </ul>



	<p>promote bat and bird feeding and foraging, e.g. increase invertebrate diversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Action 3: install at least 5 bat and 5 bird boxes in existing trees – potential for some boxes to contain passive IR cameras and data can be pre-recorded or live-streamed onto Friends website.</li> <li>• Action 4: install one passive bat detector in existing trees –data from detector can be pre-recorded or live-streamed onto Friends website.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Trees and Woodlands</b></p> <p>a) Native tree cover, as a proportion of a site's total tree population, is increased by 5% by 2023</p> <p>b) Maintain and increase proportion of elm (<i>Ulmus</i>) species planted and present on site by 25% by 2025</p>	<p><b>Conservation of Notable Species.</b> A colony of White-letter Hairstreak butterflies (<i>Satyrrium w-album</i>) was recorded on elm trees next to the MUGA in July 2017 by Butterfly Conservation. The planted elms being exploited by the adult butterflies and their larvae are a new cultivar, <i>Ulmus New Horizon</i>; this is the first time White-letter Hairstreak have been recorded breeding on this variety of elm, and the first time they have been recorded in Vauxhall.</p> <p>Action 5: a) retain all existing elms on site wherever possible in order to retain existing colonies of White-letter Hairstreaks; b) plant additional elms, especially Wych Elm (<i>Ulmus glabra</i>) and <i>Ulmus New Horizon</i>, as part of future tree and hedge planting/replacement schemes, especially along internal/external site boundaries; c) appropriately maintain existing and new elms and all hedges in order to improve and extend habitat cover/density, and provide additional green linkages for the butterfly to migrate in or colonise new locations around the local area.</p> <p>For more information on the White-letter Hairstreak and its conservation, please refer to <a href="http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/679-709/white-letter-hairstreak.html">www.butterfly-conservation.org/679-709/white-letter-hairstreak.html</a> or the Factsheet <a href="http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/files/white-letter-hairstreak-psf.pdf">www.butterfly-conservation.org/files/white-letter-hairstreak-psf.pdf</a></p>

## **Appendix 1: Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens**

**Cherry Avenue and Swale**

**Project Proposals and Delivery Programme February 2018**



Cherry Avenue, Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens (Revised)

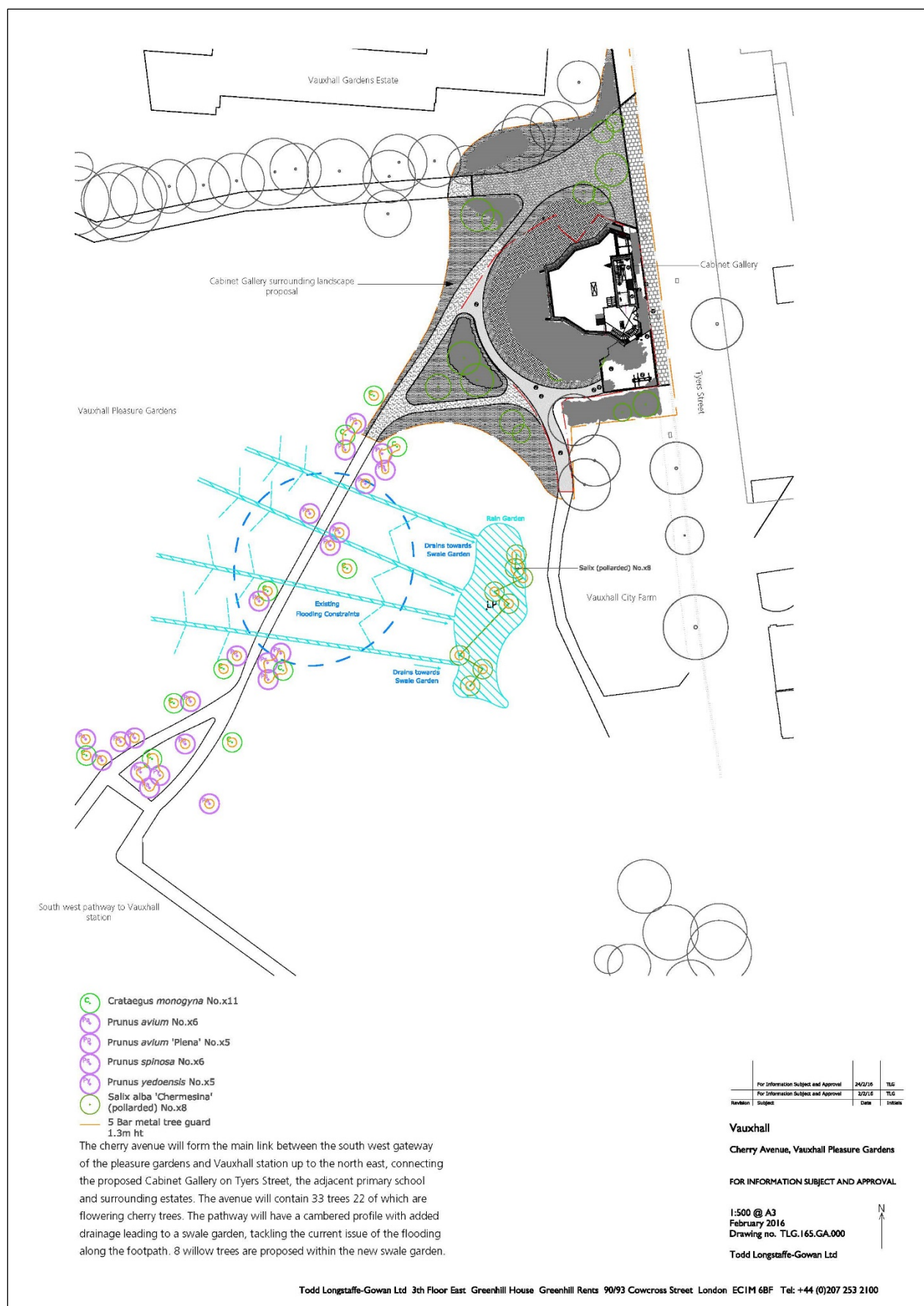
February 2016

Todd Longstaffe-Gowan

[www.tlg-landscape.co.uk](http://www.tlg-landscape.co.uk)

Tel +44(0) 207 253 2100





**Page 2: Detailed plan for Cherry Avenue proposals for Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens**



*Crataegus monogyna* No.x11



*Prunus avium* No.x6



*Prunus avium* 'Plena' No.x5



*Prunus spinosa* No.x6



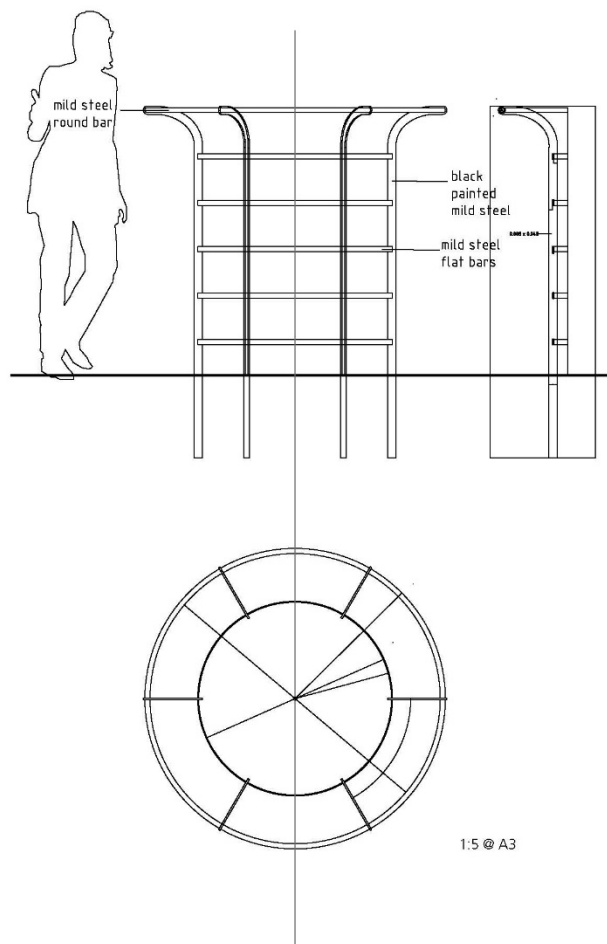
*Prunus yedoensis* No.x5



*Salix alba* 'Chermesina' (pollarded) No.x8

Choice of prunus/cherry tree

Cherry Avenue, Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, February 2016  
Todd Longstaffe-Gowan [www.tlg-landscape.co.uk](http://www.tlg-landscape.co.uk)

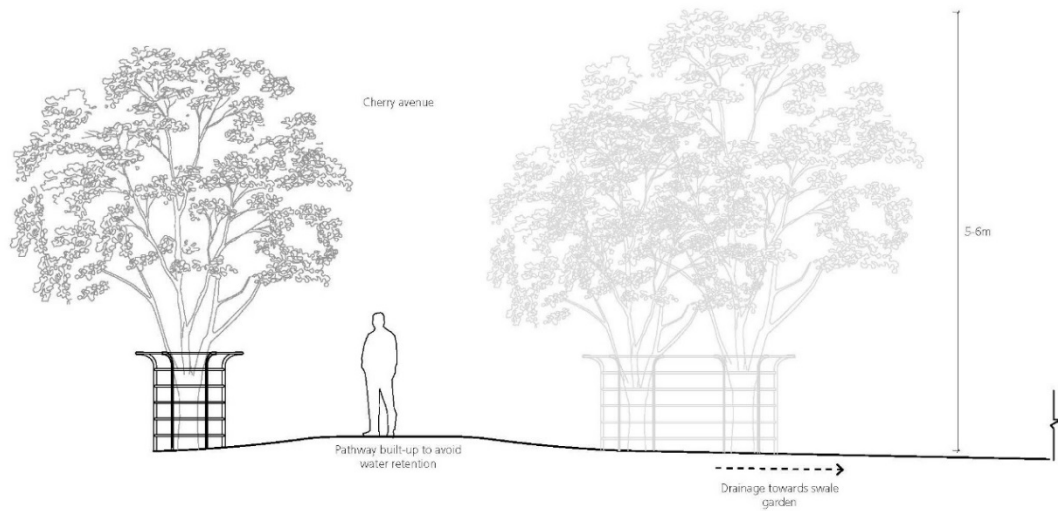


5 bar metal tree guard

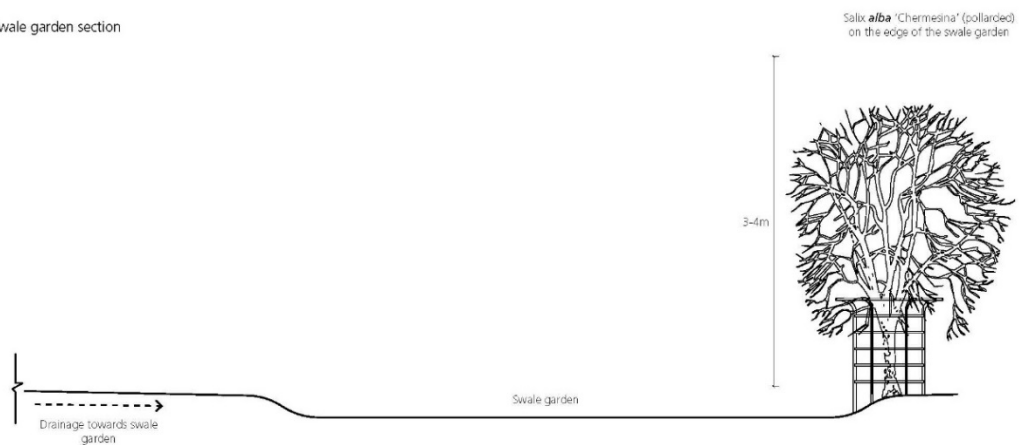
Cherry Avenue, Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, February 2016  
 Todd Longstaffe-Gowan [www.tlg-landscape.co.uk](http://www.tlg-landscape.co.uk)



Cherry avenue section



Swale garden section



Pathway and swale garden section

Cherry Avenue, Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, February 2016  
 Todd Longstaffe-Gowan [www.tlg-landscape.co.uk](http://www.tlg-landscape.co.uk)



## 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](http://lambeth.gov.uk/forms/parks-enquiries)

Email: [parks@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto: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:

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



No.	Key Performance Indicator	Target 19/20	Data capture/source
			tranche surveys
15	NI195 (fly-posting). Transects surveyed at B- or C	<10%	Internal and external tranche surveys
16	NI195 (graffiti). Transects surveyed at B- or C	<10%	Internal and external tranche surveys
17	NI195 (litter). Transects surveyed at B- or C	<10%	Internal and external tranche surveys
18	Play area repairs classified as 'immediate risk' addressed as advised on the same day as notified	100%	Internal database
19	Play area repairs classified as 'high risk' addressed as advised within the recommended three months	90%	Internal database

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.

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

\* 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 be 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, groundworks, 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.

Priority	Timeframe to respond	Timeframe to resolve
P1	1 hour	24 hours
P2	4 hours	4 working days
P3	3 working days	7 working days
P4	7 working days	14 working days
P5	Project as agreed	Project as agreed

#### 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.

## Appendix 1

## Sites Covered by this Specification and their Litter Zoning

Site	Intensity of Use	Site	Intensity of Use
Agnes Riley Gardens	Medium	Oval Triangle (aka Kennington Oval)	Veolia <sup>1</sup>
Albert Embankment Gardens	Veolia <sup>1</sup>	Palace Road Nature Garden	Low
Archbishop's Park	High	Pedlar's Park	Medium
Becondale Road Open Space	Veolia <sup>1</sup>	Reedworth Street Open Space	Veolia <sup>1</sup>
Brixton Orchard	Brixton BID	Rush Common	Medium
Brockwell Park	High/Low <sup>2</sup>	Ruskin Park	High/Medium/Low <sup>2</sup>
Clapham Common	High	Sherwood Avenue Open Space	Veolia <sup>1</sup>
Claylands Road Open Space	Veolia <sup>1</sup>	Slade Gardens	High
Cleaver Square	Medium	St John's Church Gardens	High
Coldharbour Lane Open Space	Low	St Luke's Church Gardens	Veolia <sup>1</sup>
Dumbarton Court Gardens	Veolia <sup>1</sup>	St Mark's Church Gardens	Medium
Eardley Road Sidings	Low	St Mary-at-Lambeth Grounds	Veolia <sup>1</sup>
Elam Street Open Space	Low	St Matthew's Church Gardens	Veolia <sup>1</sup>
Emma Cons Gardens	Veolia <sup>1</sup>	St Paul's Church Gardens	Low
Grafton Square	Medium	Stockwell Memorial Gardens	Medium
Hatfield's Open Space	Medium	Stockwell Skate Park	High
Hillside Gardens	High	Streatham Cemetery	Medium
Holmewood Gardens	High	Streatham Common	High/Medium/Low <sup>2</sup>
Holy Trinity Churchyard	High	Streatham Green	Veolia <sup>1</sup>
Kennington Green	Veolia <sup>1</sup>	Streatham Memorial Gardens	Low
Kennington Park	High/Medium <sup>2</sup>	Streatham Vale Park	Medium
Kirkstall Gardens	Low	Tivoli Park	Medium
Knight's Hill Wood	Low	Trinity Gardens	Veolia <sup>1</sup>
Lambeth Cemetery	Medium	Ufford Street Recreation Ground	Medium
Lambeth Walk Open Space	Medium	Unigate Wood	Low
Lansdowne Gardens	Veolia <sup>1</sup>	Vale Street MUGA	Low
Larkhall Park	High	Valley Road Playing Field	Low
Loughborough Park	Low	Vauxhall Park	High
Max Roach Park	High/Medium <sup>2</sup>	Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens	High
Milkwood Road Open Space	Medium	West Norwood Cemetery	Medium
Myatt's Fields Park	High	Windmill Gardens	High
Norwood Park	High/Medium <sup>2</sup>	Windrush Square	Veolia <sup>1</sup>
Old Paradise Gardens	Medium	Wyck Gardens	Low

Notes: <sup>1</sup> please see the table below for Veolia cleansing frequencies.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

Site	Litter-picking	Manual sweeping	Scrubber-dryer
Albert Embankment	Twice weekly	n/a	No
Becondale Road Open Space	Twice weekly	n/a	No
Claylands Road Open Space	Twice weekly	n/a	No
Dumbarton Court Gardens	Twice weekly	n/a	No
Emma Cons Gardens	Daily	Daily	Once every two weeks
Kennington Green	Twice weekly	n/a	No
Lansdowne Gardens	Twice weekly	n/a	No
Oval Triangle	Twice weekly	Once every 8 weeks	No
Reedworth Street Open Space	Twice weekly	n/a	No
Stockwell Memorial Gardens	Twice weekly	Once every 8 weeks	No
St Luke's Church Gardens	Twice weekly	Once every 8 weeks	No
St Mary-at-Lambeth Grounds	Twice weekly	Once every 8 weeks	No
St Matthew's Church Gardens	Daily	Daily	No
Sherwood Avenue Open Space	Twice weekly	Once every 8 weeks	No
Streatham Green	Daily	Daily	No
Trinity Gardens	Twice weekly	Once every 8 weeks	No
Windrush Square	Daily	Daily	Once every two weeks

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.