



people spaces places



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Northala Fields Management & Maintenance Plan 2020 - 2025

Issue number: 1

Status: FINAL

Date: 21 January 2020

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1. Introduction

1.1. About the Plan

Intent / Concept

This plan intends to bring together the management, maintenance and development of Northala Fields in an overall framework. The plan is intended to be both a working document and a reference document:

- A working document that contains actions and timetables that will need to be implemented and reviewed.
- Also, a reference document that provides references to other documents, policies and strategies and explores their implications for the park. As such the plan must be read in conjunction with these documents to manage, maintain and develop the site.

Audiences

The plan has been prepared for a number of audiences;

- London Borough of Ealing staff
- London Borough of Ealing elected members
- Partner organisations and stakeholders, including Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park Society
- Green Flag Judges

It also has the potential to be of interest to

- Funding bodies
- Other award schemes

In order to try to make the document accessible to a wide range of audiences we have tried to produce it in a readable and straightforward style.

Need

Whilst the need for this plan is driven by the authority's decision to maintain a Green Flag Award for the site it is also an invaluable tool to:

- Provide a clear vision for its park and its development
- Provide a basis for identifying priorities within the park

- Guide future management and ensure continuity of management plans
- Identify all the issues that affect the management of the park and assist with their resolution
- Set a scheduled programme of work
- Ensure Councillor, stakeholder and community involvement in the park
- Assist in successfully attaining other relevant awards and accreditations.

Style

The Plan is based on best practice guidelines outlined in *A Guide to Producing Parks and Green Space Management Plans (CABE Space 2004)*. The analysis in Section 3 brings in elements of the *Green Flag Award* – the national standard for quality in green spaces – so that we can set some aspirational targets for future development of the park within a framework that is easily digested by Green Flag judges who are likely to come from a broad cross-section of the green space sector.

1.2. Management Vision

The management vision helps guide the day-to-day management of the Park and its strategic development. A ten-year vision was developed between council staff and the Northala Fields Steering Group in 2008:

"To bring to fruition the landscape and habitat potential of Northala as a setting for outstanding community recreational facilities and the conservation of biodiversity."

Key components of the vision are to:

- Conserve and promote the heritage value of the Park and maintain the historic landscape character, whilst ensuring provision for current users with relevant events and activities;
- Positively welcome people into the site, in terms of both physical and social access;
- Ensure a healthy, safe and secure experience for site users;
- Provide a well-maintained and clean site with landscape, buildings and infrastructure maintained to consistently high standards;
- Improve the environmental quality and sustainability of practices carried out on the site, in particular managing and developing the biodiversity value of the Park;
- Provide opportunities to increase community use and involvement in the management and development of the Park, particularly through events, activities, education and interpretation;
- Ensure effective promotion of the site as a community resource;
- Ensure there is a recognisable staff presence to liaise with and respond to the needs of the people visiting the Park and its facilities; and
- Ensure all those involved in the management and maintenance of the Park work in co-ordination and effectively use the Management Plan as a working document.

2. Site Details and Context

This chapter establishes the current situation. It describes the location and local context of the Park, how it is used and how the Park is currently managed and maintained.

2.1. Location

Northala Park is located in both Northolt West End and Greenford Broadway Ward of Ealing in west London.

Northala Fields lies close to a number of other green spaces which, collectively, are known as Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park. They offer a range of opportunities for recreation and for wildlife which enable their classification as a Metropolitan Park.

2.2. Site Description

Size: over 27 hectares



The extent and character of the park is illustrated in the following figures:

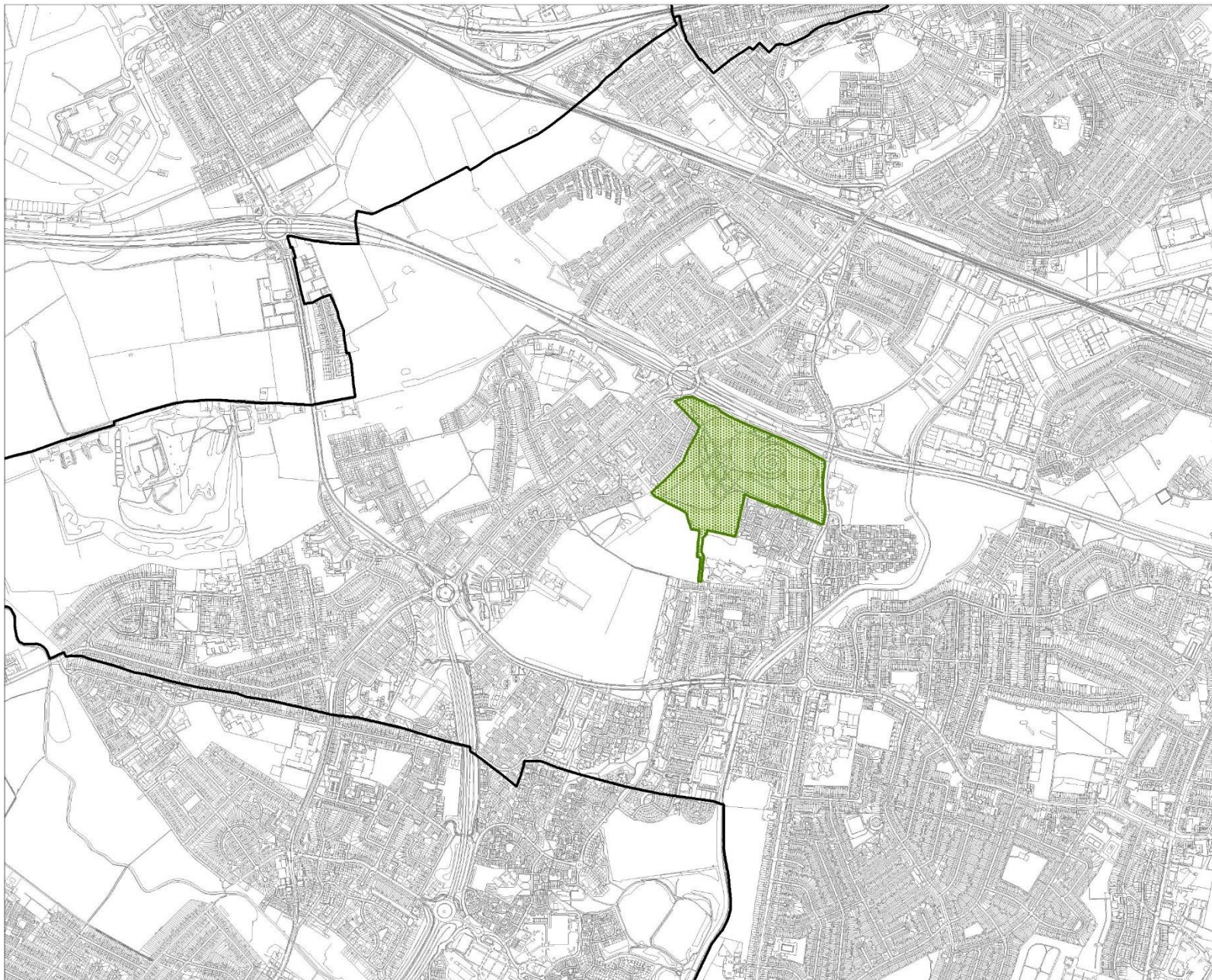
- Figure 1 shows the location of Northala Fields in relation to the surrounding communities;
- Figure 2 shows Northala Fields and its relationship to the wider green space network;
- Figure 3 is a plan of the Park marking its boundary and key features, and
- Figure 4 is an aerial photograph of the same space which reveals further landscape elements such as trees and the iconic mounds.

Northala Fields Management & Maintenance Plan

Figure 1 Context Map

LEGEND

-  Northala Fields
-  Borough Boundary

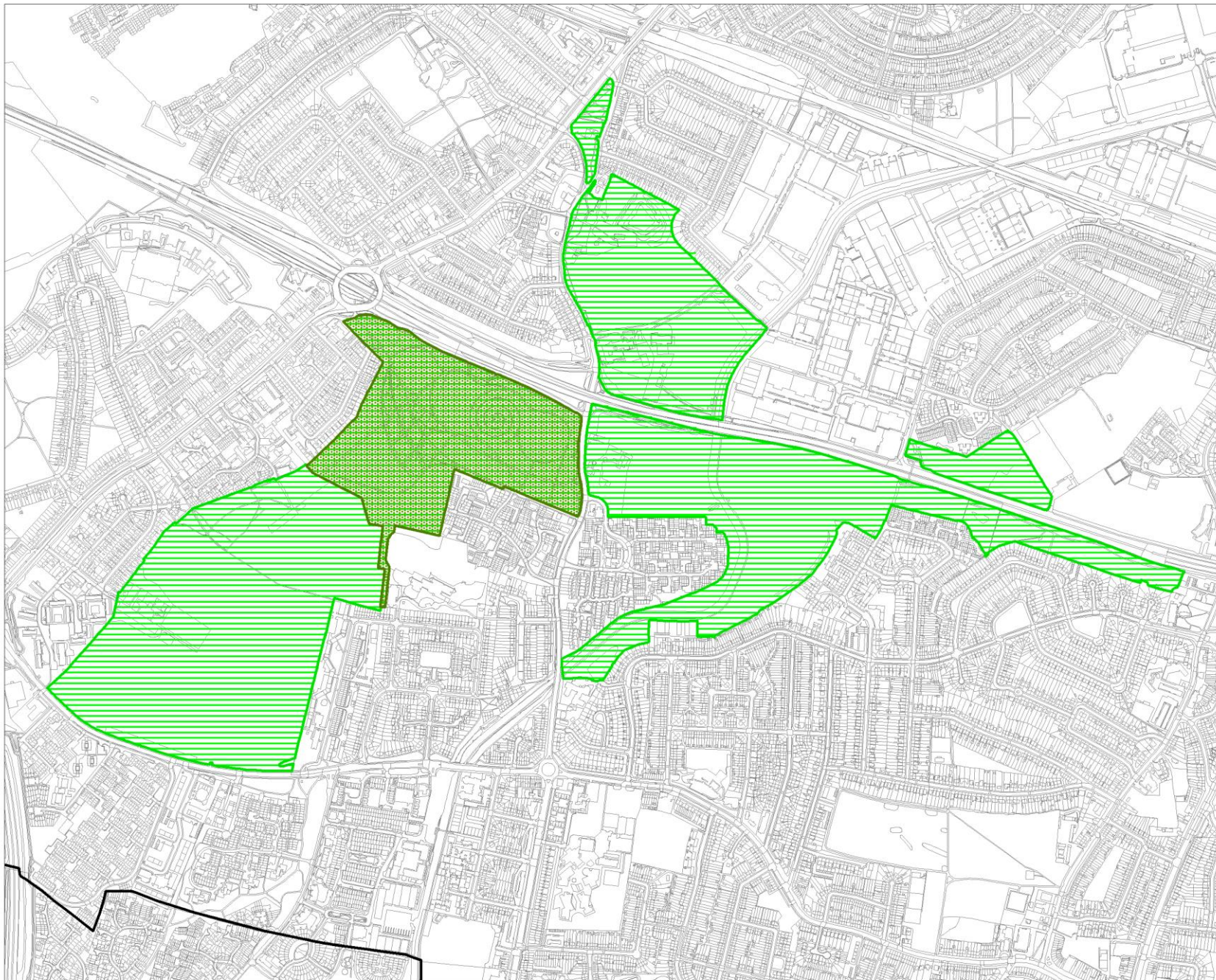


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Northala Fields Management & Maintenance Plan

Figure 2
Context Map

LEGEND

-  Northala Fields
-  Northolt & Greenford Country Park
-  Borough Boundary

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Northala Fields Management & Maintenance Plan

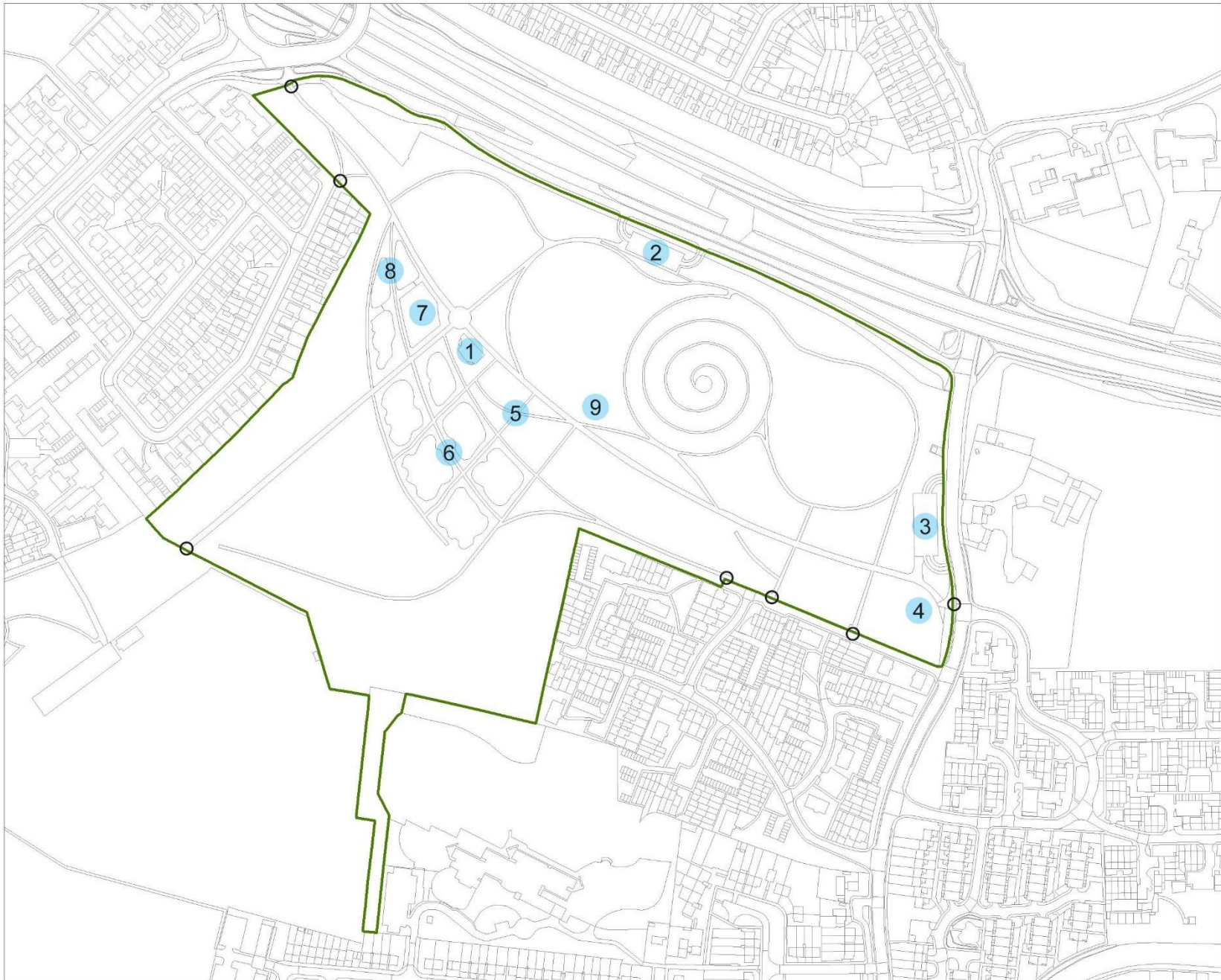
Figure 3
Plan of Northala Fields

LEGEND



Northala Fields

- 1 Visitor Centre
- 2 North Car Park
- 3 East Car Park
- 4 Play Area
- 5 Natural Play Area
- 6 Fishing Lakes
- 7 Boating Pond
- 8 Wetland
- 9 Amphitheatre
- Pedestrian Entrances



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Northala Fields Management & Maintenance Plan

Figure 4
Aerial Photo of Northala Fields

LEGEND

 Northala Fields

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The site can be divided into four zones of more or less homogenous character:

2.2.1. Zone 1 – The Mounds

Along the northern edge of the park are four enormous sculptural landforms which help raise the site out of the flood zone as well as shielding the main part of the park from a lot of the noise, pollution and visual distraction of the adjacent A40 (a very busy dual carriageway). The most western conical mound is 12 metres high and, moving east the others are 18m, 22m and 18m.

Each mound overlaps the next and they are covered in a mix of grass and wild flowers; whilst the tallest mound also features a spiral path edged by a gabion retaining wall feature. The design of the footpath took into account people who experience problems with mobility; resulting in a gently sloping 850-metre-long path which has frequent rest points along the way.

The mounds and gabions were created using spoil arising from the construction work at Wembley and also other sites such as the Terminal 5 building at Heathrow and the White City shopping centre; reducing the carbon footprint of these projects and providing a source of funding for the Council to enable the project to be delivered.

2.2.2. Zone 2 – Play areas and Avenue

On the corner of Dolphin Road and Kensington Road a well-equipped play area has been established for under 14's. The nearby roads are buffered by shrub planting whilst beyond, along the perimeter of the site, it is edged with a mix of mature trees. The play area is connected to the wider path network by level, firm footpaths. New items of play equipment were installed in to a natural play area near the café in the Summer/Autumn 2015

2.2.3. Zone 3 – Ponds, wetland and visitor centre

Located at the foot of the conical mounds, directly adjacent to the fishing lakes, is the park's single-storey 'visitor centre'. It has been designed to allow the structure to blend easily into the landscape; with a green sedum roof, solar panels, gabion and recycled timber cladding and timber doors together with a fully accessible ramp. The centre provides services for users of the park including external toilets, a café facility providing both internal and external seating under a covered canopy, and a teaching classroom for the Get Hooked group.

The fishery, to the south of the visitor centre, is a large body of water that has been divided into six smaller lakes by causeways and boardwalks. Each is stocked with a good mix of freshwater fish and there is an ample supply of fishing platforms (60 in total) provided for anglers. The proximity to Northolt Aerodrome (RAF Northolt) and the potential risk to aviation safety caused by attracting large numbers

of wildfowl dictated not just the design for the lakes but has slightly limited the scope for enhancing the park for biodiversity (e.g. there are no islands for nesting).

To the northwest of the fishery are a model boat pond and wildlife ponds (x3) / wetland matrix. The latter have been designed as an educational resource with dipping and observational platforms. Like the fishing platforms, these have been constructed with recycled plastic; which is also used as path edging across the park.

2.2.4. Zone 4 – Southern Meadow and other habitat areas

To the south of the lakes is a patchwork meadow of grassland, shrubs, trees and swale (stream) known as Southern Meadow. There is easy access through this zone as a primary path links the visitor centre to the north of the meadow with a junction consisting of an entrance into Medlar Park, a pedestrian entrance off Huxley Close and a path to Northolt Golf Course.

Close to this entrance is a small wooden fence and gabion structure that is used as the waste storage area for the visitor centre café. Behind this, along the western perimeter, is a thick shelterbelt of semi-mature trees which pre-date the recent landscaping. This woodland screen the properties along Lilliput Avenue from the park.

To the west of the visitor centre and lakes is a strip of land linking the entrances from Church Road, Target Roundabout and Gulliver Close to the visitor centre and wider park.

2.3. Access

9 step free entrances are off Church Road, Target Roundabout, Gulliver Close, Huxley Close, Dolphin Road (x3) and Kensington Road, leading to primary and secondary paths that enable access around the site and connect adjacent open spaces that make up the rest of the Countryside Park.

There are no public rights of way over the site, but the Council grants access to the entire area.

Northala Fields is free to access and has two car parks, which are locked overnight.

The site lies east of the Target Roundabout and directly south of the A40 Western Avenue, a main artery through west London into central London. There are two main car parks: to the north a car park is located off the slip road from Kensington Road to the A40; and to the east there is a car park off Kensington Road. Kensington Road links to Ruislip Road, one of the main streets through Greenford. To the west, the site is bordered by the A312, named Church Road at this point, which runs from Harrow to Hampton.

Northolt Underground station on the Central Line is approximately an 800m walk. Bus access is also good, with routes serving Church Road, nearby Northolt and Greenford Broadway including bus numbers 90, 120, 140, 282 and E10.

2.4. Hydrology

Whilst the design of the park was, in part, to reduce flooding and thereby protect nearby houses, water was a central part of the blueprint for the site and has remained so ever since.

The six lakes are clay-lined and up to 2.5 metres deep. Like the other water features in the central part of the park they capture rainwater and surface water from the surrounding landform and this is augmented by a borehole (housed in a locked structure to the west of the lakes) which supplies groundwater from a deep aquifer. The borehole allows a constant flow of water to be maintained, particularly useful during periods of low rainfall, which helps preserve the water quality and health of the fish stocks. From its source the water is split into two; with one part heading to the recreational bodies of water whilst the other supplies the wildlife ponds and wetlands.

The outfall from both the central catchment as well as the storm water drainage for the whole site is a swale (watercourse) which flows southwest through the Southern Meadow into an existing one lying to the south of the site. The swale is only wet seasonally, but it is damp enough all year round to attract a selection of aquatic ditch vegetation which marks its route.

2.5. Historical Context

Seizing a strategic opportunity in 1997, the London Borough of Ealing acquired 18.5 hectares of Northala Fields for a prominent new open space but was unable to redevelop it due to lack of capital funding. A solution to this and to the delivery of the last and central piece of Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park, a 100-hectare network of open spaces in West London was provided by the self-funding redevelopment of Northala Fields site.



During a period from 2000 to 2003, FoRM Associates design team developed designs for Northala Fields through a comprehensive public consultation process. Ideas and comments were actively sought from the Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park Society, the local community, other user and interest groups, statutory consultees, and officers and elected representatives of Ealing Council.

The resulting masterplan put water at the heart of the recreation and ecological gains; although arguably the most significant feature being a proposal for a new large-scale landform, utilising substantial volumes of imported inert construction spoil. This innovative concept, through a comprehensive risk assessment and detailed procurement strategy, successfully secured £5.3 million of income enabling:

- The delivery of a wide range of recreational benefits not currently available elsewhere in the generally flat Countryside Park
- Provision of a comprehensive path network into and through the new park linking into the surrounding cycle and public transport networks
- The delivery of new ecological opportunities through new topography and soils
- Fishing, a major new recreation provision not only for the park but also for west London
- The mitigation of the environmental impact of the A40, particularly noise, visual and air pollution
- A new green edge to the A40 Western Avenue
- The delivery of a major piece of 'land art,' a landmark/icon for the Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park, Ealing Borough and London

Northala Fields hosted two high profile Olympics related events during summer 2012. The first marked the arrival of the Olympic torch in Ealing, where large crowds gathered to watch tennis champion Boris Becker carry the flame down from the summit of Northala's highest mound on the first leg of the relay. A second key London 2012 event in July celebrated the arrival of the Paralympic torch in Ealing, attracting hundreds of residents. Northala's natural setting was transformed into a live art show of sound and fire, featuring stunning natural greenwood towers sustainably felled in nearby Horsenden Hill. The show was produced by environmental arts group Red Earth and Arts agenda, and part of the free Mayor of London SECRETS: Hidden London programme.

2.6. Ownership and Management

The site is owned & managed by Ealing Council.

Site management is delivered through the council's Parks Service, part of Leisure Services, Place Directorate.

Figure 5 illustrates the operational management structure for Parks, showing where the different areas of site management, maintenance and development sit within the council.

2.6.1. Financial Management

The London Borough of Ealing's budget process is designed to ensure that it is priority led so that resources are aligned with council priorities, which are outlined in the Future Ealing Corporate Plan 2018-22. Managing parks sits under one of these priorities:

A healthy and great place: Working with residents to build strong, fair communities and to keep the borough a clean, safe and attractive place to live. That includes keeping people physically active, well and independent; helping those who need care to live better lives; encouraging sport and leisure; and striving to improve our air quality and reduce crime. It also means working with others to maintain the excellence of our parks and open spaces, and the streets we live in.

Driving forward these new priorities and Future Ealing outcomes will achieve better results for residents and help us to save money. For instance, more affordable homes mean that we spend less on costly temporary accommodation. And helping older people to stay independent longer by giving them the equipment and support they need means we spend less on care homes.

The Council sets its budget for the forthcoming financial year at the end of February, although its well-established Budget Review Process begins long before this; starting with a report to Cabinet and issuing of budget guidance in June the year before.

Despite the backdrop of a difficult economic period and significantly reduced funding, the parks and green space service has continued to play a valuable role in delivering the required outcomes for local communities, although those involved in making strategic and operational decisions have had to make some tough choices in order to remain effective and achieve value for money from limited available resources. Like many parks services, its financial resources are pooled into a single, coordinated budget and any expenditure for repairs and renewals are allocated on a prioritised basis; each item being informally assessed against Health & Safety issues, statutory requirements, operational need and efficiency. Therefore, Northala grounds maintenance is paid for out of our general grounds maintenance fund and building repairs are covered by our general building fund.

2.6.2. Leases and Licences

We have 2 leases on site, both of which are for the visitor centre.

- ***San Remo Catering*** (www.sanremocatering.co.uk) has had the lease on the café since November 2010 and has signed a new, 10-year lease in 2017.

- ***Get Hooked on Fishing*** has had a lease on the offices and a tackle shop since March 2013 and there is also a formal partnership agreement in place between Ealing Council and Get Hooked on Fishing. The lease and partnership agreements are currently being renewed.

2.6.3. Grounds Maintenance

Since 30 January 2012, the contractor Amey have been undertaking grounds maintenance aspect for Ealing Council. The contract is for a period of 15 years with a break clause after 7 years available. This will end the 5th July 2020 with Greener Ealing Ltd, a local authority trading company taking over. This will provide the Council with greater flexibility in how it delivers services.

The current contract is a hybrid of performance and frequency items – see **Appendix 2 Grounds Maintenance Schedule**. The scope of the general maintenance contract covers the continuous routine maintenance of grass areas, seasonal and permanent plantings, trees, sport and play areas and hard surfaces, including litter collection, sweeping, cleaning of site furniture, reinstatement and repairs, weed control and soft landscape works. A schedule of works for each 13 periods throughout the year is developed and shared with the contractor. Period end review meetings takes place throughout the year to review items that need addressing and discuss any disapprovals that are to be applied through non-conformance. A few items to highlight from the schedule are:

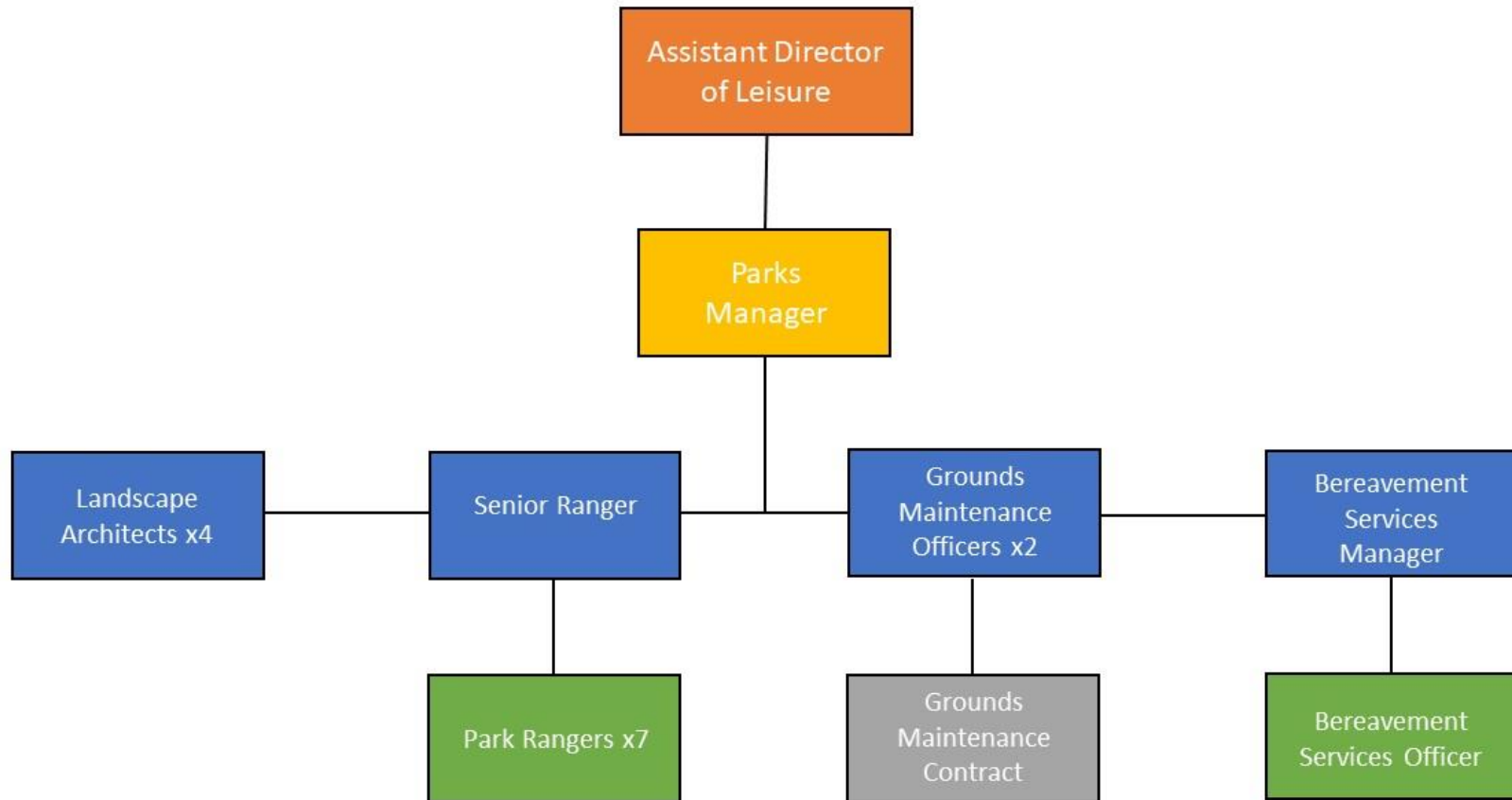
Grass

Rather than adhering strictly to the prescribed GM schedule, in 2016 the parks team began a programme of gradual change in maintenance regimes to improve our parks. As a general principle it is best described as a method of looking after parks by working with nature rather than against it and a de-intensification of our maintenance regimes to a more informal approach.

For park users the differences they will notice will be more shrubs flowering in parks, some areas of grass being cut later to allow plants to flower in the Spring, areas of grass not being cut under trees to allow a diversification of species and more flower meadows in our ornamental Parks. The underlying framework of this approach remains the enjoyment and use of our Parks by residents and these changes will be tailored to each site and how it is used. This is a methodology that the local authorities and landscape managers are starting to adopt in the UK and internationally. It will also take time for these improvements to appear as new plant communities need to establish over many years. We inform park users about these changes through the use of publicity and signage/consultation. The difficult aspect to explain this is that the improvements are generally cumulative and will take place over 5-10 years (with careful management) so we present it as a strategy and vision of where we want to be.

Figure 5: Operational Management Structure

2020 Ealing Parks Service Team Structure



Litter and debris clearance

Northala Fields is litter picked to standard 1, which is defined as:

- Summer period: Twice daily including Saturdays and Sundays (first between 08.00 and 11.00 and second after 14.00)
- Winter period: Daily including Saturdays and Sunday

In 2016, Cabinet approved £200k towards bin investments as an invest-to-save initiative to improve the efficiency and effective of bins infrastructure in Parks. This proposal would see an investment of new bins with greater capacity, recycling options, and less likelihood of wildlife/vermin removing contents in the night. Investment into new bins paralleled with education and enforcement campaigns to influence public behaviour around litter.

Play equipment maintenance, inspection and reporting

A formal weekly visual inspection of the play equipment and play area surfaces to identify any obvious hazards resulting from vandalism, usage or weather is carried out by the contractor. Any minor repairs or cleansing is carried out during these inspections or the item is made safe until repairs can be carried out.

An annual inspection of the play areas is carried out by an independent body and includes inspection of the equipment, surfacing and fencing where appropriate. They also carry out a risk assessment of the equipment and areas.

Path maintenance

All paths and hard surfaces are treated with herbicide 'Gallup Biograde amenity' for weed control. Quantities are minimised with 2 applications a year on.

Paths are swept on a performance basis, with a deep clean being undertaken monthly.

Maintaining and pruning of shrubs

Shrub beds will be maintained substantially free of litter, debris and weeds.

A copy of the schedule will be retained by the Contracts Manager, Grounds Maintenance Monitoring Officer and Parks Operations Manager. A summary of its contents will be shared with the park ranger so that informal monitoring of the contract can be undertaken as part of their patrolling.

The park ranger is responsible for the on-going monitoring of alien / pest species. Appropriate action by mechanical, physical, chemical, cultural or biological means is taken as and when required depending on the pest and its environment and the best available pest control methods.

Park gates: locking and unlocking

Our contractors visit to lock the car park gates in the evening and return to reopen them in the morning. The locking times change over the course of a year to reflect the changing times of dawn and dusk.

[Park opening and closing times](#)

2.6.4. Facilities Management, Repairs and Maintenance

Visitor Centre

The Council's Parks Operations Manager is responsible for the management of the visitor centre and its associated maintenance budget, but the Council's Facilities Management (FM) contract carry out the repairs and maintenance. This includes the envelope of the building (e.g. the gabion cladding / shutters / green roof etc) and internal fittings such as heating and electrics.

Planned Preventative Maintenance of the visitor centre is also undertaken as part of the FM contract.

The toilets are currently cleaned on a daily basis by staff from the café.

Park Infrastructure

The repairs and maintenance of structures within the park, including gabions, car park, footpaths and drainage swales is the responsibility of Parks Operations Manager, but their repairs are undertaken by a variety of in-house and procured contractors:

General inspections of infrastructure are carried out as part of any on-site inspections, such as one of the ranger patrols or Grounds Maintenance Monitoring Officer inspection. Our contractor is also contractually required to report any defects to us as part of their daily report.

Members of the public are also encouraged to report any vandalism, graffiti and defects to the Council via the Love Clean Streets app. or report to the council's Customer Services via phone or online.

2.6.5. Arboricultural Work

At a strategic level the [Ealing Tree Strategy](#) was written and adopted in 2013. It will be reviewed and updated in 2020.

At present trees in parks are routinely inspected for health and safety and legal nuisance issues, which are then addressed. In Green Flag Parks they are formally inspected on a 3-year cycle. The Tree Service Manager and Tree Officers monitor this work and Rangers carry out further inspections.

Replacement trees are planted each winter as required by the Council's Arboricultural contractors.

2.6.6. Environmental Crimes and Anti-social Behaviour

The Ranger service can enforce relevant legislation to cover irresponsible dog ownership, dog fouling, dangerous dogs and stray dogs within the park. Whilst the rangers try to encourage responsible dog ownership, they are also trained to issue fixed penalty notices.

Park users can report environmental crime on the Love Clean Streets App.

Rangers work closely with the Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) and the Council's Community Safety Team. The site straddles 2 ward boundaries so is consequently covered by 2 SNTs: Greenford Broadway SNT and Northolt West End SNT.–There is CCTV on-site, this predominantly monitors the visitor centre but can also be used for ASB purposes. The cameras on site are infrared. The CCTV Control Room in Ealing Town Hall monitors the CCTV cameras; the operators there having a direct line to the Metropolitan Police.

A Council contractor, **Park Guard**, is tasked with patrolling parks in the borough based on reports of ASB from members of the public via the Ranger Service and Council call centre and will patrol Northala Field outside normal hours as required.

2.6.7. Signage

Ealing Council has installed new Parks signage to create a new, distinctive and coherent identity that will be visually easily understood improving the visual identity and providing information for visitors and residents to each of Ealing's parks.

horizontal



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vertical

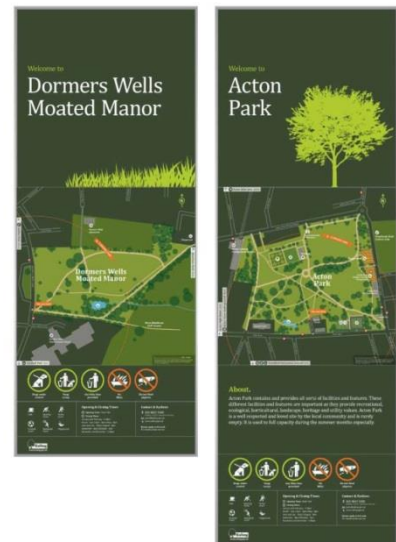


Figure 6: example of new signage

2.7. Policy Context

A more detailed review of the strategic framework in relation to parks and green spaces is contained in the Ealing Green Space Strategy 2012 – 2022, but a summary of some key documents which relate to this park is provided below:

2.7.1. National context

Some supporting documents that provide strong evidence to the positive impact that well managed parks and green spaces make to improve the outcomes for local people; health and wellbeing, the local economy, stronger more engaged communities and a greater sense of satisfaction with where people live (sense of place):

- CABE's Urban Green Nation: Building the Evidence Base (2010)
- The Department for Communities and Local Government's introduction of the Localism Act (2011)
- The Community Infrastructure Levy
- The Open Public Services White Paper (2011)
- The London Plan 2016

2.7.2. Local context

Local Plan

The Local Plan (formerly known as the Local Development Framework) is the spatial planning strategy introduced in England and Wales by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 that sets out how the borough will develop up to 2026.

The Local plan exists in conformity with the London Plan produced by Mayor of London. The existing development plan for Ealing currently comprises the following documents (together with an associated [Adopted Policies Map](#)):

- [London Plan](#)
- [Development \(or Core Strategy\) DPD, April 2012](#)
- [Development Sites DPD, December 2013](#)
- [Development Management DPD, December 2013](#)
- [Joint West London Waste Plan, July 2015](#)
- [Planning for Schools DPD, May 2016](#)

Parks and green spaces are protected, enhanced and promoted under the Core Strategy DPD policies 2.18, 2.18C, 7.18C(a), 7.18C(b), 7.19F(e) and in the Development Management DPD 2.18.

The Local Plan is currently being reviewed and we expect the new Local Plan in 2021.

A strong, diverse Future Ealing Corporate Plan 2018-2022

Future Ealing's goal is to make the borough a better place to live at a time of drastically reduced budgets. Ealing has identified 3 priorities: Genuinely affordable housing; Opportunities and living incomes; A healthy and great place, with parks clearly sitting under the third priority:

A healthy and great place

Working with residents to build strong, fair communities and to keep the borough a clean, safe and attractive place to live. That includes keeping people physically active, well and independent; helping those who need care to live better lives; encouraging sport and leisure; and striving to improve our air quality and reduce crime. It also means working with others to maintain the excellence of our parks and open spaces, and the streets we live in.

- The priorities are supported by nine aims that the whole council is working together to achieve and we incorporate these outcomes and fair community
- An environmentally friendly borough
- Keeping young people safe
- A growing economy, creating jobs and opportunities
- Helping residents to stay active, healthy and independent

- More affordable housing
- Helping young people to achieve their potential
- A clean and great place to live
- Reducing crime and helping residents to feel safe

To get better results with less money, we are changing the way that we work; operating in a smarter, efficient and more flexible way that makes the best use of technology. To aid this transformation we will:

- Focus on preventing problems before they happen
- Be as efficient, innovative and collaborative as we can be
- Increase community involvement
- Make better use of digital technology
- Grow our income
- Work together with our local partners as one public sector

A key part of delivering Future Ealing lies in active citizenship, which will be explored further under 2.8 Community Context.

Green Space Strategy 2012 – 2017 - scheduled to be reviewed and updated in 2020-21

The Green Space Strategy provides the council with a context, vision and strategic direction for the management and improvement of parks and open spaces and the development of new public open spaces.

Ealing Health and Well-being Strategy 2016 – 2021

Sets out the health priorities for Ealing and emerging health themes for the borough. The Strategy defines priorities which include creating and sustain environments that helps people to make healthy choices and also supporting residents and communities to manage their health and build resilience. Therefore access to parks and green spaces allow people to make healthy choices. Sign-posting residents to ways in which they can get active and volunteer in parks, also helps sustain and manage health and well-being.

Biodiversity Action Plan – due to be launched in July 2020

States how Ealing Council, residents, businesses and stakeholders will protect, manage and enhance the Borough for biodiversity.

2.8. Community Context

2.8.1. Key stakeholders

Key community stakeholders for this site include:

- Get Hooked on Fishing

- Parkrun
- Ealing Wildlife Group
- Forest school providers
- Northala Fields Steering Group
- Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park Society

Northala Fields Steering Group

Cabinet agreed in October 2006 a range of proposals relating to the completion of Northala Fields. One of the decisions was to set up a new board (steering group) to oversee the development and maintenance of the park. Comprising of 9 representatives from the public as well as relevant council staff and elected members, the board acts in an advisory capacity; providing comment on any proposals to develop the park further and discussing issues on management and maintenance of the park. The board is made up of Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment, three other councillors appointed with regard to ensuring local representation, one representative nominated by the Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park Society, three local community representatives and the Assistant Director of Leisure. The board also have the power to co-opt one additional member selected to bring additional profile or expertise to the board.

Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park Society (NGCPS)

Established in 1995, NGCPS was born out a group of local people who came together to campaign for public access to a large area of green space which had been fenced off due to being 'contaminated' land. This land was later to become Northala Fields, and the 70 members of the Society continue to campaign for improvements across the whole of the Metropolitan Park as well as being a community sounding board for council officers.

The Society is governed by a Board, consisting of the usual Chair and Secretary etc, which provides strategic guidance that filters down the Executive Committee which is responsible for the more operational aspects of the group. The Committee holds regular meetings with councillors and council representatives, such as the park rangers, where issues and ideas are discussed collectively.

Get Hooked on Fishing Ealing

The original Get Hooked scheme was set up in 2000 by Mick Watson, then a policeman in County Durham who used angling, his own passion, to engage local young people in a rewarding activity that would divert them from anti-social behaviour. Get Hooked on Fishing (GHoF), a charity and limited company, now provides an umbrella structure for the twenty or so Get Hooked on Fishing schemes that now run in England, Scotland and Wales, including the one in Ealing.

GHoF Ealing was established as a community fishing project at Northala Fields in 2009 through a partnership agreement with the national charity. As a social enterprise all profits are re-invested back into the scheme, with its objectives including:

- Promote angling and an increase in accessibility to a fishing resource by local people.
- Create a marginal aquatic habitat to help support a sustainable fishery and provide protection from cormorant predation.
- Create a sustainable mixed coarse fishery suitable for angling development by stocking of native fish.

GHoF Ealing aims to deliver fun and interactive training for children and young people aged 10 to 25. Its programme is especially designed to give the participants more confidence and to demonstrate that there are alternative pathways and better opportunities available to them. Part of this is to train and develop peer mentors at the same time as encouraging young people to take an active part in how the scheme is run.

As well as providing an on-site fishery and angling intervention programme, GHoF Ealing also deliver an educational programme for local schools, who can book their services. Media coverage including articles in the Ealing Gazette, Angling Times and Anglers Mail and a mini-series for Sky Sports

2.8.2. Active Citizens

In recognition that traditional models of local authority funding are no longer likely to provide sufficient resources to maintain and enhance the public realm, Ealing Council is exploring how local residents, businesses and community groups can become more influential within the public realm, helping to secure not just volunteer hours but access to funding streams, and playing an active role in the management of local spaces.

At the neighbourhood scale, varying degrees of management could be devolved to ward or community based organisations. This has been an objective of Central Government policy pursued through the 'localism' agenda enshrined by the Localism Act 2011. This allows local authorities to consider transferring assets with a financial endowment to help support long-term management, using their discretionary power to promote community well-being.

Therefore, the London Borough of Ealing needs to reduce demand for public services by activating citizens to participate in environmentally-beneficial activities, including the maintenance of our parks and open spaces and shunning detrimental activities, such as littering and fly-tipping. It hopes to achieve this by deploying innovative approaches that cause sustained changes in behaviour.

The aim of Active Citizens is to recruit and engage further volunteers to help manage aspects of site management such as maintaining flower beds and litter picking.

We are looking at different ways to attract volunteers, including innovative events to promote litter-picking such as 2 minute litter picking boards, Plogging and campaigns with key partners such as Litter Action Group for Ealing Residents ([LAGER Can](#)). The Rangers also use their own and the Council’s social media and comms channels and sharing to other partner’s social media to promote volunteering opportunities.

The volunteering activity in our parks has been recorded from 2019 and includes litter picks, biodiversity enhancement tasks, horticulture, site management (including work by Friends groups and gate locking) and citizen science (often in conjunction with key partners and groups such as Ealing Wildlife Group, the Greenwayers, Thames 21 etc.)

During 2019, the Parks Service and community groups initiated over 32,000 hours of volunteering.

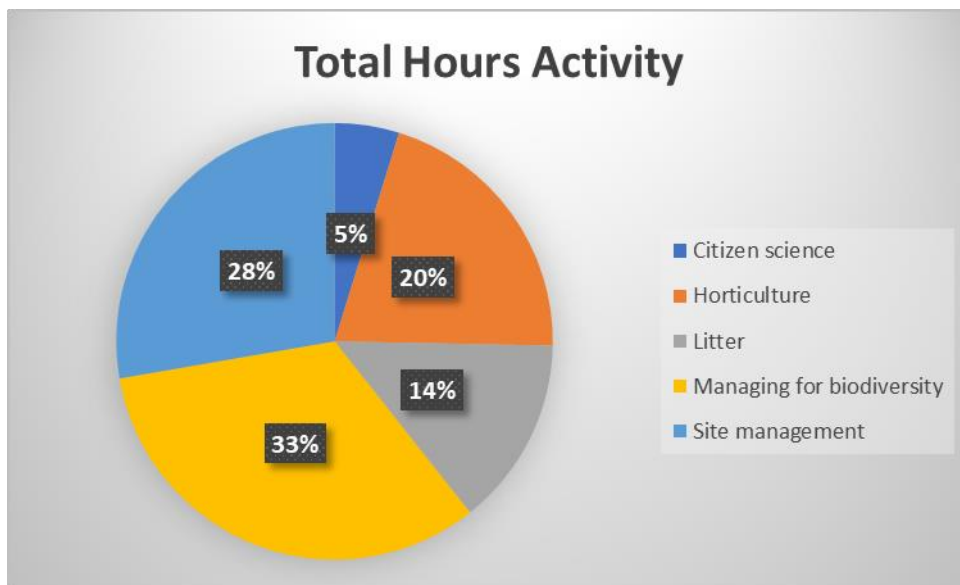


Figure 7: Volunteering hours 2019

We are looking at ways of working to enable our communities to do even more. The Council has created a volunteering website [Do Something Good](#) and [Facebook](#) page to help residents see what they can do in their local area and make our borough a better place.

Northala Fields is included in a bid to NESTA’s innovation grant with a view of using app technology to encourage more use and participation within Northala Fields.



3. Analysis and Actions

A range of sources have been used in order to arrive at the key issues facing Northala Fields, including:

- Sections above;
- Community consultation;
- Discussions with the staff involved in the park

In order to provide a framework for the analysis the key criteria of the Green Flag Award have been used. The award is a national quality standard for parks and green spaces assessed on the following criteria:

1. A Welcoming Place
2. Healthy, Safe and Secure
3. Well Maintained and Clean
4. Environmental Management
5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
6. Community Involvement
7. Marketing and Communication
8. Management

In the following pages we will demonstrate how we manage Northala Fields to meet each of the Green Flag Award’s key criteria.

An action plan for each criteria has been compiled to set out what the council needs to do to continue to improve the overall quality of the site – i.e. the action plan is about delivering improvements, not detailing the on-going maintenance of the site.

3.1 Green Flag Criteria Analysis

Key	
POM	Parks Operations Manager
PR	Park Ranger
MC	Marketing and Communications
VOL	Volunteers
Parkrun	
GHoF	Get Hooked on Fishing

Table 1: Key to Action Plan Table

3.1.1. A WELCOMING PLACE

The overall impressions for any member of the community approaching and entering the park or green space should be positive and inviting, regardless of the purpose for which they are visiting. Features of particular importance are:

- Good and safe access
- Good signage to and in the park
- Equal access for all members of the community

Where are we now?

Welcoming

Looking into the park the landscape in general appears open and attractive.

A limited palette for street furniture helps create a unified feel to the park.

Use of gabions at the entrances, and across the site, helps to provide a clear sense of place.

The car parks are free until 2020 & are well-used, but the lack of signage and choice of materials along the perimeter - whilst in-keeping with the rest of the park –can make them difficult to find for first time visitors.

Good and Equal Access

The park is surrounded by a good network of vehicular links and bus routes (including a bus stop outside the Kensington Road car park), benefits from having two off-road car parks and has a hierarchy of pedestrian / cycleway entrances around its boundary.

The car parks have a paved area for pedestrians and, along with the one-way system, helps minimise the workload on the driver and avoid confusion as to where to go and what to do.

The park has a diverse range of facilities and features that appeal to a wide range of people.

There are designated parking bays for disabled visitors

The paths are maintained to be free of trip hazards and accessible for most desired routes with heavy footfall. The design of the mound footpath took into account people who experience problems with mobility; resulting in a gently sloping 850-metre-long path which has frequent rest points along the way.

Surfaces around the park are appropriate and maintained to an accessible standard,

There are isolated patches of standing water in wet weather where the path has subsided.

The pedestrian and vehicular entrances to the park are suitable for disabled access and completely step free.

The under 14's playground contains a wheelchair swing

Paths and park furniture are monitored by the Park Ranger & Contractors to ensure it is safe for use.

The park is accessible to pedestrians all day, every day. Car parks are open dawn to dusk daily. This does leave the site vulnerable to anti-social behaviour, but the benefit far outweighs the minor incidents that can affect all green spaces.

The park has two CCTV cameras near the Café & the GHoF areas.

Signage

Ealing Council installed new Parks signage to create a new, distinctive and coherent identity that will be visually easily understood improving the visual identity and providing information for visitors and residents to each of Ealing's parks.

The park signs also hold the relevant contact information for any concerns about the space.

Where do we want to get to?

Recommendation	Timescale	By Whom	Notes / Date Completed
Footpaths	Ongoing	PR/Con	Top up and pothole repairs ordered as required
Monitor & replace signage as necessary	Ongoing	PR	Broken signs replaced 2019
Improve car park signage	2021	Highways/Parks	Subject to budget
Install more bike racks	2020-21	Transport	

Table 2: Welcoming Action Plan

3.1.2. HEALTHY, SAFE AND SECURE

The park must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Relevant issues must be addressed in management plans and implemented on the ground. New issues that arise must be addressed promptly and appropriately. Particularly important issues are:

- Equipment and facilities must be safe to use.
- The park must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse.
- Dog fouling must be adequately addressed.
- Health & Safety policies should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.
- Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones should be available in or near the park, and clearly sign posted.
- Emergency equipment should be provided where required by Council policy and identified in site specific risk assessments

Where are we now?

Appropriate provision of quality facilities and activities

The play areas are visually inspected weekly & inspected externally once a year by RoSPA and recommended works carried out.

Parkguard patrol the area regularly & when requested and enforce bylaws and liaise with the community.

CCTV cameras are in place by the building in the park to help to deter and monitor incidents.

Safety, including equipment and facilities

At a strategic level, health and safety governance is provided via the Place & Safety meeting, chaired by the Executive Director for Place, and below that the Environment and Leisure H&S meeting, chaired by the Leisure Operations Manager. At a more operational level, H&S is a standing item on all our service meetings.

We also encourage a culture of health, safety and security in our staff, volunteers, partners and service providers, for example:

- All activities undertaken by these groups in the park are subject to provision of a suitable risk assessment;
- Volunteers receive 'tool talks' and are closely supervised by trained staff;

Some public concern about water safety despite the apparent low risk that the lakes present (although an understandable response as drowning is the third most common cause of accidental death amongst young people in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, after road traffic and fires).

AED in outside café.

There are 2 CCTV cameras covering the buildings & surround areas of the park.

On site presence for large part of the day with the café, GHoF & in summer a contractor on site.

Personal security

There is evidence of low levels of anti-social behaviour typical of urban parks across the country e.g. snapped trees, vandalised signs etc.

The design and maintenance of the park has meant that there are clear vistas for people using the site.

The extent of satisfaction with the current level of uniformed presence in the park is not known even though the site has a café, get Hooked on Fishing. It is also visited by the Park Ranger & Parkguard on a regular basis

Control of dogs/dog fouling

There are ample litter bins where dog waste can be deposited, and dog fouling is not being reported as being an issue currently. The site is subject to a Public Space Protection Order & Rangers can issue Fixed Penalty Notices if they see an offence being committed

Park Ranger & Parkguard patrol the park and help to liaise with dog walkers to encourage, inform and enforce dog related issues.

Where do we want to get to?

Recommendation	Timescale	By Whom	Notes / Date Completed
Review incidents and listen to recommendations	ongoing	POM/PR/Partners	
Improve water safety	Ongoing	POM	Working in partnership with Get Hooked on Fishing
Improving responsible dog ownership	2020 and ongoing	PR	Ranger pop-up sessions to educate dog owners planned for 2020

Table 3: Healthy Safe and Secure Action Plan

3.1.3. WELL MAINTAINED AND CLEAN

For aesthetic as well as Health and Safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be adequately addressed, in particular:

- Litter and other waste management issues must be adequately addressed.
- Grounds, buildings, equipment and other features must be well maintained.
- A policy on litter, vandalism and maintenance should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.

Where are we now?

Litter and waste management

Maintenance management see section 2.6.3

Northala Fields has numerous bins including 5 Big Belly Bins. There is also a recycling point by the Kensington Rd Entrance

Encouraging people to manage and clear their own (and other people's) litter using campaigns such as the Great British Spring Clean. Encouraging self-led picks and group pick events.

Grounds maintenance and horticulture

Maintenance management see section 2.6.3

There is relatively little in the way of horticultural features within the Park. Having designed the park to have low maintenance demands ensures an open, attractive landscape is maintained with minimal input. Perhaps where this doesn't work so well is the central play area where the shrubs are unintentionally damaged by activity and slopes have been stripped of grass.

Building and infrastructure maintenance

Maintenance management see section 2.6.3 and 2.6.4

Staff are trained in the appropriate safe use and maintenance of equipment.

All staff visiting the site will make a routine visual inspection of the area and report or remove litter and graffiti, for example. Any damage will be reported or dealt with immediately making an area or piece of equipment 'safe' or putting it out of use to the public. This is backed up with a programmed inspection regime and formal methods of reporting any faults or damage

Reports and defects identified by the park users can be reported via the council’s Love Cleaner Streets app. This links directly to the Confirm database which can be accessed by Park Team staff.

Arboricultural maintenance

Management see section 2.6.5

The tree planting has helped to achieve a visually pleasing, functional, and ecologically healthy design.

As noted elsewhere they are prone to vandalism and some of the key trees have had branches broken off which will affect their form and should be replaced.

Where do we want to get to?

Recommendation	Timescale	By Whom	Notes / Date Completed
Ideas to reduce littering: litter pick events; getting volunteers to litter pick on a casual basis (e.g. whilst dog walking); providing training, litter picker and supply of bin bags.	ongoing	PR /SR	Ran 3 litter pick events in 2019. Looking at encouraging school led picks in 2020 Gave out litter pickers to 5 people. Pop up events to encourage participation in parks, including litter picking in 2020
More recycling bins to enable waste from the park to be recycled	2020	POM	
Renovate commercial bin area after fire damage & replace wooden fencing with something more vandal resistant	2020	POM	

Table 4: Well Maintained and Clean Action Plan

3.1.4. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Methods used in maintaining the park or green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practices available according to current knowledge. Management should be aware of the range of techniques available to them and demonstrate that informed choices have been made and are regularly reviewed. Specifically:

- An environmental policy or charter and management strategy should be in place, in practice and regularly reviewed;
- Pesticide use should be minimised and justified;
- Horticultural peat use should be eliminated;
- Waste plant material in the park or green space should be recycled;
- High horticultural and arboriculture standards should be demonstrated;
- Energy conservation, pollution reduction, waste recycling, and resource conservation measures should be used.

Where are we now?

Environmental sustainability

The Council has a commitment to sustainability. The authority recognises the impact its operations have on the environment and is committed to reviewing its working practices and developing policies that protect the environment. This has been shown through the construction of Northala Fields which has included:

- The importation of substantial volumes of construction rubble from local projects
- The design of the visitor centre incorporating an extensive green roof, rainwater harvesting, solar panels and reclaimed / recycled materials
- The range of EcoPave products uses secondary and recycled materials in the manufacture of its precast concrete units. The only virgin resource used in the product was cement and even this has been partially substituted with recycled materials

Waste minimisation

Greenwaste from works such as tree lifting and large reductions are chipped on site and then used as a mulch. If not composted or used on site, green waste is taken to the Sita West Waste centre on Transport Avenue in Brentford for recycling.

Autumn leaves from Northala, Three Bridges and Southall Park are recycled at Bixley Fields allotment in Southall.

Continued maintenance of street furniture and play features to prolong their use.

Recycling available at locations close to the park

Education of park users on litter through forest school, campaigns, pop up events and initiatives.

Christmas tree recycling in January at locations near the park.

Pesticides

Currently the only use of herbicide is 'Gallup Biograde amenity' which is used on weeds growing in hard surfaced areas. Quantities are minimised with 2 applications a year.

Secondary paths around the lakes are not treated.

All application of chemicals is strictly undertaken only by those contract staff who have qualified to a minimum standard of PA1 and PA6.

Peat use

No peat is used on the site.

Climate change adaption strategies

Partial composting on site, leaving grass arisings on site.

Partially porous paths.

Plants selected to tolerate average London rainfall.

Wildflower planting in areas.

Future replanting and enhancement of the existing trees will need take into consideration the 'historical' design of the park, climate change, and the need to encourage native wildlife.

Where do we want to get to?

Recommendation	Timescale	By Whom	Notes / Completed	Date
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Monitor energy and other resource use	ongoing	POM	Herbicide use: 1.6l in 2019 6 tonnes of felled tree material mulched and used on site in 2019
Education of park users through litter awareness initiatives and campaigns.	Ongoing		5 volunteer litter pickers given kit to do their own picks Ran 3 litter pick events and 2 bat walks in 2019. Pop up events to encourage participation in parks in 2020
Install litter recycling bins	2020	POM	
Install drinking fountain		PR/Partners/ Sponsors?	Funding issue

Table 5: Environmental Management Action Plan

3.1.5. BIODIVERSITY, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE

Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of:

- Natural features - wildlife and fauna
- Landscape features
- Buildings and structural features
- These features should serve their function well without placing undue pressure on the surrounding environment

Where are we now?

Conservation of natural features, wild fauna and flora

The park is a relatively newly designed landscape, but aspects have been designed to replicate natural features, including mostly native species of trees and grass mixes.

The work being delivered by Get Hooked on Ealing includes enhancement of the fishery habitats for wildlife.

South facing banks of exposed soil are great for certain insects, such as many species of solitary bees.

Conservation of landscape & built features

Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park is a major green space within London Borough of Ealing and attracts a large number of visitors each year.

A mix of human and physical factors make the mounds susceptible to erosion. As a consequence, there has been a loss of grassland and soil where visitors have climbed the mounds.

Where do we want to get to?

Recommendation	Timescale	By Whom	Notes / Date Completed
Encourage wildlife recording	ongoing	PR	Ealing Wildlife Group ran 2 bat walks in 2019 Wildlife recorders and rangers encouraged to use iRecorder app which uploads data to GiGL
Develop good conservation practices as outlined in Ealing's Biodiversity Action Plan	2020	PR	Biodiversity Action Plan due July 2019.
Investigating remedial actions with gabion design to see if this can prevent them being used as steps up slope	2020	CM/PR/POM	

Table 6: Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage Action Plan

3.1.6. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Management should actively pursue the involvement of a diverse range of people and should be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of user community and levels and patterns of use
- Evidence of community involvement in management and/or developments and results achieved
- Appropriate levels of provision of recreational facilities for all sectors of the community

Where are we now?

There are a number of established community and voluntary groups in the Northolt area which the council has worked with over a number of years; the role of key stakeholders was discussed in section 2.8 above.

The weekly Park Run invites volunteer participation.

Ealing Wildlife Group runs public engagement events such as bat walks.

Public litter-picking events held in the park.

There are many practical volunteer involvement opportunities being offered by Get Hooked on Fishing Ealing.

Where do we want to get to?

Recommendation	Timescale	By Whom	Notes / Date Completed
Increase practical volunteer activities	ongoing	PR	Regular volunteers now working with the GHoF project. Weekly Parkrun organised and run by volunteers, attracting up to 400+ participants. 5 volunteer litter pickers given kit to do their own picks Ran 3 litter pick events and 2 bat walks in 2019. Pop up events to encourage participation in parks in 2020
Explore corporate volunteering opportunities	ongoing	PR	Corporate volunteering opportunities being explored for whole parks service
Develop links with local schools	ongoing	PR	Links made with, Willow Trees Primary School, Northolt High School & Roxbourne Primary School, Harrow. John Chilton School now running Forest School on site
Install storage container for Parkrun	2020	Parkrun	

Table 7: Community Involvement Action Plan

3.1.7. MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

The authority should ensure that there is;

- A marketing strategy in place, in practice and regularly reviewed.
- Good provision of information to users, e.g. about management strategies, activities, features, ways to get involved.
- Promotion of the park or green space as a community resource.

Where are we now?

Marketing and promotion

Increasing the marketing and communications around Parks will not only increase local awareness of the services offered and assets available but will aim to improve the customer experience and reduce the correspondence coming to the leisure team by improving the message content and distribution.

As such, a Parks Marketing and Communications Strategy was developed in January 2016. With this strategy, the council aims to:

- Promote Leisure service successes and achievements
- Promote parks assets and services offered
- Reach out to the community via multi-channel communications to increase awareness, improve customer experiences and thus reduce enquiry numbers
- Provide residents with up-to-date information when incidents take place
- Increase volunteer participation

Furthermore, we want to increase the use of Parks for educational purposes. This includes areas for forest school teaching, Primary and Secondary National Curriculum and adult learning opportunities to encourage the benefits of the outdoors and develop a strong bond between people and nature.

In 2018, an Ealing Parks Facebook page, Instagram account and Twitter account was introduced to allow us a more approachable medium of keeping residents and stakeholders informed and engaged with the work and plans taking shape for their local parks. Engagement via social media is high, for example over 75 people attending one of the bat walks in 2019. Cross promotion through key partners such as Ealing Wildlife Group also increases opportunities for promotion.

Appropriate educational and interpretational information

There are information points close to the entrances and this provides details of who manages the site, how to contact them and events and activities taking place in the park. There are also details of key facilities and their location.

The development of Northala Fields has provided the focus for promotional activity in recent years; with council activities typically being large-scale community events tied in with the opening of the park and new facilities; media coverage has been in relation to the design and construction works; and, the park has won numerous awards, including:

- Principal winner in the Land Renewal and Regeneration Scheme category - BALI (British Association of Landscape Industries) National Landscape Awards 2009
- Special Award for use of recycled materials - BALI National Landscape Awards 2009
- Runner-up Local Government Chronicle Awards 2008, and nominated in 2014
- Winner Horticulture Week Awards 2009
- Winner Landscape Institute Awards 2008 – design over 5ha
- Runner-up World Architecture News 2009
- Green Flag winner 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014
- London in Bloom silver gilt award (large park category) 2012

The Get Hooked on Fishing project has also been successful in attracting media coverage, including articles in the Ealing Gazette, [Angling Times](#) and Anglers Mail in 2013. A mini-series [Skysports video](#) for Sky Sport followed the progress of 12 secondary school students as they underwent a 6-week angling and social development course. The series aired in July 2013, showcasing the project to a national audience, resulting in a significant increase in the number of enquiries and interest in the project.

Where do we want to get to?

Recommendation	Timescale	By Whom	Notes / Date Completed
Working in partnership with other groups EWG & Forest Schools etc. to develop and market the educational possibilities on site	ongoing	PR	2 Bat walks 2019 School forest school site set up 2019
Update parks website	End 2020	PR	

Table 8: Marketing and Communication Action Plan

3.1.8. MANAGEMENT

A high-quality park is a result of the successful blending of management, maintenance and development. These combine best where there is strong leadership and community involvement.

Where are we now?

The park is managed in accordance with the guidelines set out above.

The management plan and action plans will be reviewed annually.

A key management issue is making the parks more financially sustainable. This will involve reviewing income generation potential to sustain new and existing activities and maintenance requirements.

Where do we want to get to?

Recommendation	Timescale	By Whom	Notes / Date Completed
Review and update the management plan	Annually	PR	
Review GEL outcomes and explore efficiencies	Annually	POM	
Review business options for Northala Fields, for example, commercially operated Forest Schools run during school holidays	ongoing	POM	Interest from commercial providers Forest school site created 2019 but not paid for use by school

Table 9: Management Action Plan

4. How will we know we've got there?

We will review the Green Flag mystery shopper feedback and the judges feedback on both the site visit and desk assessment to update our management and action plans.

The Action Plans will be reviewed on an annual basis updating actions, completions and reviewing budgets and timescales for items not yet achieved. The amendment sheet at the front of the plan should be used to record this and any other changes to the management plan.

To respond to political and fiscal changes, an annual work plan is to be generated during November / December when the plan is reviewed and will comprise of actions that cascade out from the recommendations. This approach to management will provide a more flexible and realistic approach to realizing the aims of the plan.

Some of the actions can be achieved within existing staff structures and budgets; however, others will only be achieved with additional resources. With limited budgets the actions have been prioritised and set within a timescale which is subject to additional funding or resources.

4.1 Green Flag Desk Assessment 2018

Green Flag Award 2018

Name of Site: Northala Fields

Managing Organisation: Ealing Council

Desk Assessment Feedback



Criteria	Recommendations	Actions
A Welcoming Place	<p>Try and reposition some entrance signs that have been installed in the wrong place-</p> <p>Green Flag car park – on top of the gabion, the information will not be viewable by wheel chair users or children – it's too high up, consider moving beside bin/ramped access.</p> <p>Huxley close – move closer to the entrance.</p> <p>Allocated disabled parking bays?</p>	Done, problem with glass signs being vandalised
Healthy, Safe and Secure		
Well Maintained and Clean	<p>Older interpretation panels are getting tired – panels could be replaced and frameworks painted.</p> <p>Play area surfacing needs condemned and start again.</p> <p>Some trees were struggling to establish and consideration should be made as to whether they will ever succeed – replace with a better pit technique?</p>	Info now on signs
Environmental Management	<p>2018 – should have some form of recycling facilities for the public available.</p> <p>Consider interpreting that great story about building the site from reclaimed materials in some way.</p>	May take place when LATCO takes over the contact in 2020
Community Involvement	<p>Perhaps think about branching out more to the general public – how can they get involved with maintenance or having their thoughts listened to on management. A User group or Friends group may or may not be the solution.</p> <p>So much environmental education resource – could this be celebrated with some basic downloadable sheets for local schools?</p> <p>Orienteering trail across this site and adjacent sites? Buy a pack from the café? Some idea for further engagement.</p>	
Marketing and Communication	<p>Continue improving the interpretation offer and divert into celebrating the waste minimisation aspect of the sites construction. See Masdar City Park (Abu Dhabi) MMP for further ideas which GF will email.</p> <p>A park leaflet might tick a few boxes for first time visitors.</p> <p>A notice board area would benefit the park greatly – somewhere to find out about future events, volunteering interesting facts about the park. At present there is nowhere for this sort of interaction.</p>	
Management	<p>Try and harness some community power to safeguard the park for the future. At some point – money will be required for replacing major</p>	

	elements and a strong community group can help greatly with this.	
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Additional comments

Echoing the previous judges comments – the action plan is hard to pin down. A good way to address this is to be explicitly clear on the timescale and the budget and finally a 'how do we know it has been achieved?' column.

Many of the elements in the current action plan are in fact routine maintenance – if it is happening every year it is maintenance. If it is a one-off project, it is an action/objective.

Research options for using a single radio-beam or laser counter (Chambers Electronics in Scotland do a good range) Can be recessed into a large fence post concreted into the ground. Once one is in place – carry out a manual count of all gates, devise a ration from the counter gate to all gates and then simply continue to calculate the total data

Field Assessment Feedback

Criteria	Recommendations	Actions
Presentation	Management structure doesn't really present who works at the park – more an overall structure for Ealing? Some later sections of the plan are very text heavy – can this be broken up with anything? Try, as always to try and condense things down.	Photos and new maps added, text condensed
Health, Safety & Security	There are improvements planned to address each of the GF criteria which is well organised.	
Maintenance of equipment, buildings & landscape	Combined with the discussions around 'maintaining for biodiversity' much is going on within the site that could be celebrated in the plan – particularly in how the team are considerate of habitats when carrying out operations.	
Litter, cleanliness, vandalism	Recycling recycling recycling – there should be a plan to introduce public recycling into this park as its construction represents forward thinking re-use of materials -yet doesn't recycle at a basic level in 2018. Apply pressure to whoever 'above' to try and get things changed.	May be address when LATCO take over maintenance contract 2020
Environmental Management	As above...	

Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage	More information could be provided on how the site is managed and maintained for biodiversity – there is so much more going on day – to day than is documented here. It is important to document the operations to ensure it happens – whoever is in charge.	
Community Involvement	Visitor numbers are of benefit to any management plan – see additional advice. Include data on volunteer numbers, event attendance and numbers attending fishing.	
Marketing & Communication	A plan of improved interpretation is gathering pace – lots of interesting facets to this site but not much of a plan to communicate them park-wide... so pleased to see it is moving.	
Overall management		

Additional comments

Echoing the previous judges comments – the action plan is hard to pin down. A good way to address this is to be explicitly clear on the timescale and the budget and finally a 'how do we know it has been achieved?' column.

Many of the elements in the current action plan are in fact routine maintenance – if it is happening every year it is maintenance. If it is a one-off project it is an action/objective.

Research options for using a single radio-beam or laser counter (Chambers Electronics in Scotland do a good range) Can be recessed into a large fence post concreted into the ground. Once one is in place – carry out a manual count of all gates, devise a ration from the counter gate to all gates and then simply continue to calculate the total data.

4.2 Green Flag Mystery Shop Assessment 2019

Northala Fields Park

Weather Conditions Cloudy, Sunny

Date of assessment 18/11/19

Time 1-05pm -2-35pm

Result: **Green**



			Actions
A Welcoming Place			
1. Is the site welcoming?	✓	A welcoming site	
2. Is the site easy to find?	✓	Site is easy to find	
3. Is signage in good condition?	✓	Good standard of signage at all entrance points	
4. Is the site accessible to all users?	✓	Site is accessible to all users. Need to be fit to tackle the mounds	
Healthy, Safe and Secure			
5. Are facilities on site in good and safe condition?	✓	All facilities on site at the time of visit appeared to be in a safe condition. Soft pour showed signs of shrinkage and area completely missing at top of small play mound	Contractor to repair subject to available funds
6. Did you feel safe during the visit?	✓	Felt safe during visit	
7. Are dogs being controlled and the site free of dog fouling?	✓	A large site with little evidence of dog fouling	
Well Maintained and Clean			
8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed?	✓	Site was clean & tidy at time of visit	
9. Is there a good standard of horticulture maintenance	✓	Good standard being maintained where applicable	
10. Is there a good standard of arboriculture maintenance	✓	Majority of trees in good condition, however, there was signs that some young trees had died	
11. Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good condition	✓	Buildings and paths in good condition	
12. Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition?	✓	Two seating benches showing signs of damage rotten wood and burnt area	
Environmental Management			

13. Is there evidence that the site is managed to have a positive impact on the environment?	✓	Wooded areas to the boundaries of the site being left to establish	
Landscape and Heritage			
14. Are heritage and/or landscape features in good condition?	✓	Overall the site is in a good condition. However, the mosaic is now showing severe signs of disrepair and will need some consideration as to its future	To be considered when funding available or use area for alternative use
Community Involvement			
15. Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement?	✓	Little evidence of community involvement	Park Run Has around 400 participants Get Hooked on Fishing engages with local & wider community Bat Walk with Ealing Wildlife Group Local Special Needs School interested in using site for Forest School
16. Is user feedback positive?	✓	Those spoken to appreciate the openness of the site & the facilities it has	
Marketing and Communication			
17. Is there evidence of marketing and promotion, including events? e.g. notice boards, in buildings, website & social media	✓	Evidence on site of fishing events in the summer	
18. Is the correct year flag flying and certificate on display?	✓	Flag was flying but for the year 2018-19 . No certificate	
Overall Result	✓		

Additional comments:

Although the visit was made very late in the year the site is very well maintained with something to offer everybody visiting the park. Please don't let the infrastructure start to decay

Appendix 1 – Contact Details

Name	Post / Organisation	Tel	Email
London Borough of Ealing			
Tony Clements	Exec Director PLACE	020 8825 8531	clementst@ealing.gov.uk
Gary Alderson	Dir. of Environmental Services	020 8825 5795	Aldersong@ealing.gov.uk
Mark Wiltshire	Director of Community Development	020 8825 8197	wiltshirema@ealing.gov.uk
Chris Bunting	Assistant Director of Leisure	(020) 8825 6429	buntingc@ealing.gov.uk
Chris Welsh	Parks Manager	(020) 8825 7968	welshc@ealing.gov.uk
Vanessa Hampton	Senior Ranger	07976 920562	hamptonv@ealing.gov.uk
Mark Reynolds	Park Ranger	07956 932 054	reynoldsma@ealing.gov.uk
Bradford Decker	Grounds Maintenance Monitoring Officer	07956 932 069	deckerb@ealing.gov.uk
Dale Mortimer	Tree Service Manager	(020) 8825 6685	mortimerd@ealing.gov.uk
Jason Hawes	CCTV Services Manager	(020) 8825 6410	HawesJ@ealing.gov.uk
Darren Bestley	GIS Manager	(020) 8825 9248	Darren.bestley@ealing.gov.uk
Contractors			
Paul Johnson	Amey	07525 583 105	Paul.Johnson3@amey.co.uk
Guy Curtis-Raleigh	Property Ealing	(020) 8825 9000 (option 2)	craleighg@ealing.gov.uk
Daron Mitchell	Advanced Tree Services	01483 210 066	info@atstrees.co.uk

Richard Barber	London Wood Fuels	(020) 8813 2897	richard.barber@londonwoodfuels.co.uk
<i>No specific contact</i>	MPM Graffiti-Solutions	(020) 8825 6000	graffiti_flytipping@ealing.gov.uk
Stakeholders			
Carl	Get Hooked Ealing Coordinator	07951 106 783	
Louise Noakes	San Remo Catering	01753 206033	louise.noakes@hotmail.co.uk
Parkrun	Lindsay		northalafields@parkrun.com
Pastor David Wise (Chair)	Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park Society	(020) 8575 3983	pastordavid@02.co.uk
Suppliers and other contacts			
Phil Belfield	Environment Agency	-	phil.belfield@environment-agency.gov.uk
	Greenford Broadway SNT	(020) 8721 2916	greenfordbroadway.snt@met.police.uk
	Northolt West End SNT	(020) 8721 2770	northoltwestend.snt@met.police.uk

Appendix 2 – Grounds Maintenance Schedule

Northala Fields				
Contender Site Name	Feature Description	New Item Description	Unit of Measure	Total Quantity
PG_Northala Fields	Beds_ShrubsStandard1	Beds_ShrubsStandard1_Prune{P	Square Metres	921
PG_Northala Fields	Beds_Edge_Grass	Beds_EdgesCut{P	Linear Metres	140
PG_Northala Fields	Clean_LitterBin	Clean_Litter_Bin_Standard1{P	Unit	31
PG_Northala Fields	Clean_SiteLitter	Clean_SiteLitter_Standard1{P	Square Metres	207,670
PG_Northala Fields	Static Crew Northala	DayRate_DayN_Mon_Fri	Unit	1
PG_Northala Fields	Static Crew Northala	DayRate_HourN_Mon_Fri	Unit	1
PG_Northala Fields	Static Crew Northala	DayRate_DayO_Mon_Sat	Unit	1
PG_Northala Fields	Static Crew Northala	DayRate_HourO_Mon_Sat	Unit	1
PG_Northala Fields	Static Crew Northala	DayRate_DayO_Sun	Unit	1
PG_Northala Fields	Static Crew Northala	DayRate_HourO_Sun	Unit	1
PG_Northala Fields	Grass_General	Grass_GeneralMaintenance{P	Square Metres	82,956
PG_Northala Fields	Play_Equipment	Play_CleanItem{P	Unit	25
PG_Northala Fields	Play_Equipment	Play_InspectItem	Unit	25
PG_Northala Fields	Play_Surface_Bark	Play_SafetyBark_Maintenance{P	Unit	1
PG_Northala Fields	Play_Surface_Safety	Play_Surface_Maintenance{P	Square Metres	763
PG_Northala Fields	Path_Hoggin_Weed	Path_Hoggin_Weed{P	Square Metres	9,525
PG_Northala Fields	Path_Hoggin_Maintenance	Path_Hoggin_Maintenance{P	Square Metres	9,525
PG_Northala Fields	Path_HardSurface	Path_HardSurface_Maintenance{P	Square Metres	10,028
PG_Northala Fields	Path_HardSurface	Path_HardSurface_Sweep{P	Square Metres	10,028
PG_Northala Fields	Path_HogginSurface_Sweep	Path_HardSurface_Sweep{P	Square Metres	9,525
PG_Northala Fields	WaterFeatures	Water_Ditch_Maintenance{P	Square Metres	795
PG_Northala Fields	WaterFeatures	Water_Pond_Maintenance{P	Square Metres	9,887

Period = we divide the whole year into 13 equal 4-week periods starting from beginning of April through to end of March (columns 'G' to 'S' show the actual dates for the year 2014/2015)

Feature description = describes a category of work

Item description = describes a specific item of work

Quantity = shows the measured quantity of work (this figure is then multiplied by the 'unit of measure' to give a total volume)

Unit of measure = is the unit measurement

Performance Item: where performance items apply they will appear in columns 'G' to 'S' denoted by the letter 'P'. (a Performance item specifies an item of work which is carried out by the contractor on the basis of a standard being maintained, irrespective of the number of visits required to maintain that standard. The following are examples of Performance items with their corresponding standards:

Grass Maintenance – requires contractor to maintain the maximum grass height generally at 70 mm.

Play Surface Maintenance – requires contractor to maintain surface generally clear of accumulations of litter and weeds

Path Hard Surface Maintenance – requires contractor to maintain surface generally clear of weeds

Play Hard Surface Sweep – requires contractor to maintain surface generally clear of accumulations of litter

Frequency Item: these also appear in columns 'G' to 'S' and show a number which represents the total number of occasions the corresponding task should be performed within a 4-week period, e.g. grass edge re-definition is carried out once per year in Period 11, whereas gate locking is generally carried out 28 times in a 4-week period (in other words, every day).

Appendix 3 – Pesticide & Green Waste Policy

Pesticide policy

Statement:

Leisure and Parks Service Pesticide selection

Leisure and Parks Service policy is to implement good cultural practices and management techniques in all aspects of our work to minimise the need for the use of pesticides.

Leisure and Parks Service takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously and therefore makes great efforts not to use pesticides on areas of land within its jurisdiction.

Pesticides will only be used where no other cultural or management control of pests is deemed to be practicable or effective.

When the need to use a pesticide has been identified the safest (to operators, public and the environment), and most effective will be chosen.

All chosen pesticides will be applied by methods/equipment that will minimise risks to untreated areas.

All pesticide application will gain the prior approval of the client.

All pesticide regulatory requirements will be adhered to.

Where used, we ensure that herbicides are applied only according to the manufacturer's instructions, under suitable conditions, using NPTC qualified staff and select the product on the basis of its effectiveness for the job at hand. Typically this means using non-residual, contact herbicides such as glyphosate.

The permission and advice of the Environment Agency is sought under appropriate circumstances, for example, in proximity to river courses. The only other circumstances under which herbicides are used is in the maintenance of hard standing areas (yards and some paths and car parks) and some footpaths where, again, mechanical means are impractical but weeds are a threat to the fabric of the site, the quality of the visitor experience or a threat to visitor safety. Given that many of our sites are given over to wildlife conservation interests, these areas are tiny by comparison with the whole.

Green Waste, Compost and Mulch

The Council is committed to the provision of a Grounds Maintenance, Burials and Associated Service that adopts good practice in terms of environmental sustainability.

The Contractor shall be required to make every effort to reuse (e.g. the direct use of wood chippings produced in the parks either as a plant mulch or as surfacing for paths) or recycle green waste arisings from his operations under this Contract.

The Contractor shall, wherever possible, segregate green waste that cannot be reused directly in the Operational Sites from non-green waste to facilitate the recycling of all remaining green compostable material.

The Contractor shall provide to the Supervising Officer prior to the Commencement Date details of his recycling and/or reclamation initiatives which shall comply with all the requirements of the foregoing Clauses on Waste disposal, green waste recycling and compost/mulch provision. Such details, or any amendments thereto, shall be approved by the Supervising Officer in his absolute discretion prior to the commencement of the provision of the Service under this Contract, or prior to any work undertaken pursuant to the Contractor's recycling and/or reclamation initiatives as appropriate.

The Contractor shall, upon receipt of instructions by the Supervising Officer, submit details of any changes or modifications to his recycling and/or reclamation initiatives that may be required by the Supervising Officer.