

# BRUCE CASTLE PARK



**Park Management Plan 2020**

(slight amendments January 2021)

**Haringey**  
LONDON

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## Foreword

Dear residents and park users,

I am pleased to share with you the management plan for Bruce Castle Park. This plan has been developed by Haringey Council, in partnership with the Friends of Bruce Castle Park stakeholders in and around the park and with input from your local ward councillors.

Residents have told us that our parks and green spaces are one of the things they love the most about Haringey, and as a council, we agree. We are proud of our green spaces and are committed to doing all we can to make our parks the very best they can be.

Most of Haringey's district and local parks have been nationally recognised through the Green Flag Award scheme, and we continue to work with Friends groups to maintain and improve our parks for our community and visitors alike. In a recent resident survey 80% of people told us they were satisfied with parks and greenspaces in the borough.

It is no secret that Haringey – like all local authorities – has been affected by austerity, but we continue to work hard to fund and maintain our parks, as well as bringing in external investment to provide a much-needed boost.

Green spaces in Haringey play so many different roles - from a retreat from the busy city, or a place for sport and play, to sites for nature conservation and world-renowned events. Each management plan seeks to balance the many competing demands for each park to allow our community to enjoy the park their way.

This management plan looks to show how the council is meeting and addressing the criteria of the Green Flag Award scheme and sets out the priorities for action and improvement of the park over the coming years.

I hope you find this document useful and I would encourage you to make the most of your local park. If you want to get more involved in the future management of the park why not consider joining a Friends group, attending an event or simply just send us some of your thoughts?

Thank you,



Cllr Kirsten Hearn  
Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Equalities and Leisure

## **Draft open space vision in Haringey.**

Our draft vision is that by 2023 Haringey's parks and green spaces will be places where:

- Residents' lives are being improved by access to quality green space.
- Communities take an active role in the decisions about the future of parks and green spaces.
- Civic pride and community ownership of parks are encouraged, through a diverse range of volunteering opportunities.
- A diverse range of events is offered, providing a backdrop for communities to celebrate together and enhance the borough's cultural offer.
- Wildlife flourishes and habitats are maintained, expanded and connected.
- Spaces are protected and future proofed for the next generation.
- Funding for parks is sustainable and at no cost to the Council.

The strategy is in development and will be subject to consultation with a range of partners and stakeholders before the Council is asked to formally adopt it later in 2019-20. More details are set out in sections 10.4.

## **Purpose of the Management Plan**

This management plan detail and guides the management, maintenance, development and improvement of Bruce Castle Park now and over the next three years.

In developing this management plan, we particularly want to stress the importance we place on our commitment to involve the whole community in shaping the future of Bruce Castle Park. This is because we recognise that open space affects the lives of almost everyone who lives and works near the park. We believe that the combination of effective management and community involvement of all our open spaces offers considerable potential for helping to make Haringey a thriving and more cohesive community.

This management plan should be treated as a living and evolving document. It is open to review and adaption in an ever-changing environment.

This document is the primary location where all those with a connection to Bruce Castle Park, Friends and community groups, partners and residents, Members and Council staff - should be confident that everything about Bruce Castle Park can be found and is set out here.

It also tells a little of the history of the park, how it is today and details future plans and aspirations and how these are to be achieved.

## 1. Setting the scene

### 1.1 Haringey in a nutshell

Haringey is one of 33 London boroughs, and is located to the north of the capital covering 11 square miles in total.



Image 1: London Borough of Haringey shown in London context

Fig 1: London borough of Haringey

It is home to some famous landmarks including Alexandra Palace, birthplace of television, that can be seen from all over London perched high up on its hill. Bruce Castle Museum and Park, the ancestral home of Robert de Bruce, and the new Tottenham Hotspur football stadium are found in the east of the borough.

The borough has extreme contrast areas such as the high hilly communities of Highgate, Muswell Hill and Crouch End in the west being some of the most prosperous locations to live, while some wards in the east are classified as being amongst the 10% most deprived in the country.

#### 1.1.1 The demographics of Haringey

The Haringey website has detailed information about the population of the borough and individual wards within the borough. This can be found at <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/about-council/state-of-the-borough>

#### 1.1.2 Population

- Haringey has a total population of almost 283,000 people, an increase of 15% in the last 10 years
- Just over half (50.7%) are female and 49.3% are male
- There are 66,500 young people (aged 0-19) living in the borough. This is almost a quarter (24.5%) of the total population.<sup>1</sup>
- Two thirds of the population – over 178,000 people - are aged 20-64
- A tenth of the population – 26,600 people are aged over 65
- Bruce Castle Park is in White Hart Lane ward. The ward has a population of 13,485 of which almost a third (30%) are aged 0-19. Only 9% of the population is aged over 65.

- White Hart Lane ward (in which Bruce Castle Park is located) is one of the least densely populated in Haringey. The population density is over 8,105 residents per km<sup>2</sup> (compared to an average of 10,264 in Haringey and 8,697 in London).

## 1.2 Ethnicity and religion

Haringey is a highly diverse borough. Almost two thirds (38%) of residents are from (black, Asian or minority ethnic) BAME groups and 26% identify as “white other”.

Data from the last census shows that well over a quarter (28%) of the population of White Hart Lane ward (in which Bruce Castle Park is located) described their ethnicity as black. This is much higher than the borough average. The ward also has a significantly lower than average white population (23%). White Hart Lane ward has among the largest proportions of residents identifying as Christian (51%) or Muslim (24%) of all Haringey wards.

The Haringey website has detailed information about the population of the borough and individual wards within the borough. This can be found at <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/local-democracy/about-council/state-of-the-borough>

## 1.3 Deprivation

The Indices of Deprivation are widely used for identifying areas with high levels of deprivation. These figures are used to provide evidence for regeneration policy in England and to help target often limited resources more effectively.

Haringey is the 30<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority area in England (out of 326 local authority areas) and is the 6<sup>th</sup> most deprived in London (out of 33 boroughs). These figures take into account a range of deprivation types, including income, employment, education, health, crime, barriers to housing and services and living environment.

## 1.4 Open space provision in Haringey

Haringey is a relatively green borough in comparison with London as a whole. An open spaces study conducted in 2005 identified 382.9 hectares of open space in Haringey, representing 12.8% of the total area.

This green space is made up of:

- public parks
- commons
- heaths and woodland
- cemeteries
- nature reserves
- green rail corridors
- private open space (with restricted access)



Haringey Council manages and continues to provide grounds maintenance for the majority of the public open space within the borough, with the exception of Alexandra Park, Highgate Woods and Tottenham Marshes.

Although much greener than some other London boroughs, the 2005 assessment noted that Haringey was deficient in all types of open space. This fact underlines the importance of improving and maintaining sites like Bruce Castle Park to enable more intense and diverse use.

In 2014 White Hart Lane ward (in which Bruce Castle Park is located) comprises 21.8% open space. This is below the Haringey (25.2%) and London (27.2%) averages.

## **2. About Bruce Castle Park**

### **2.1 Site location and description**

Bruce Castle Park covers an area of 8 ha. It is in the ward of White Hart Lane, one of 19 wards within the London Borough of Haringey and is located within a densely populated area.

Bruce Castle Park was the first public park in Tottenham and was officially opened on 13 August 1892, by Mr Henry Moore Esq. It is an amenity park, situated in a densely populated area and a diverse community.

The park is surrounded to the north, south and east by designated conservation areas, providing protection to some of the most historical parts of the borough. The park lies on the northern side of Lordship Lane at its junction with Bruce Grove. To the west are the protected Tower Gardens and Peabody Cottages Housing Estates and to the north is Tottenham Cemetery. Haringey's mortuary opened in 2009 and sits opposite the northwest corner of the park, along with the Church of All Hallows (14th Century) and Church Lane skirts the western and northern boundaries. Risley Avenue Primary School is located just to the west of the park and Lancasterian Primary School to the east. The park together with neighbouring Tottenham Cemetery is designated a Borough Grade II Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, Metropolitan Open Land, and an area of Archaeological Importance. The grid reference of the park is 599732, 074494.

### **2.2 Facilities**

The facilities in the park are numerous and wide ranging, encouraging a wide and varied use of the park to all sectors of the community.

FIG 2. Bruce Castle Park Key features:

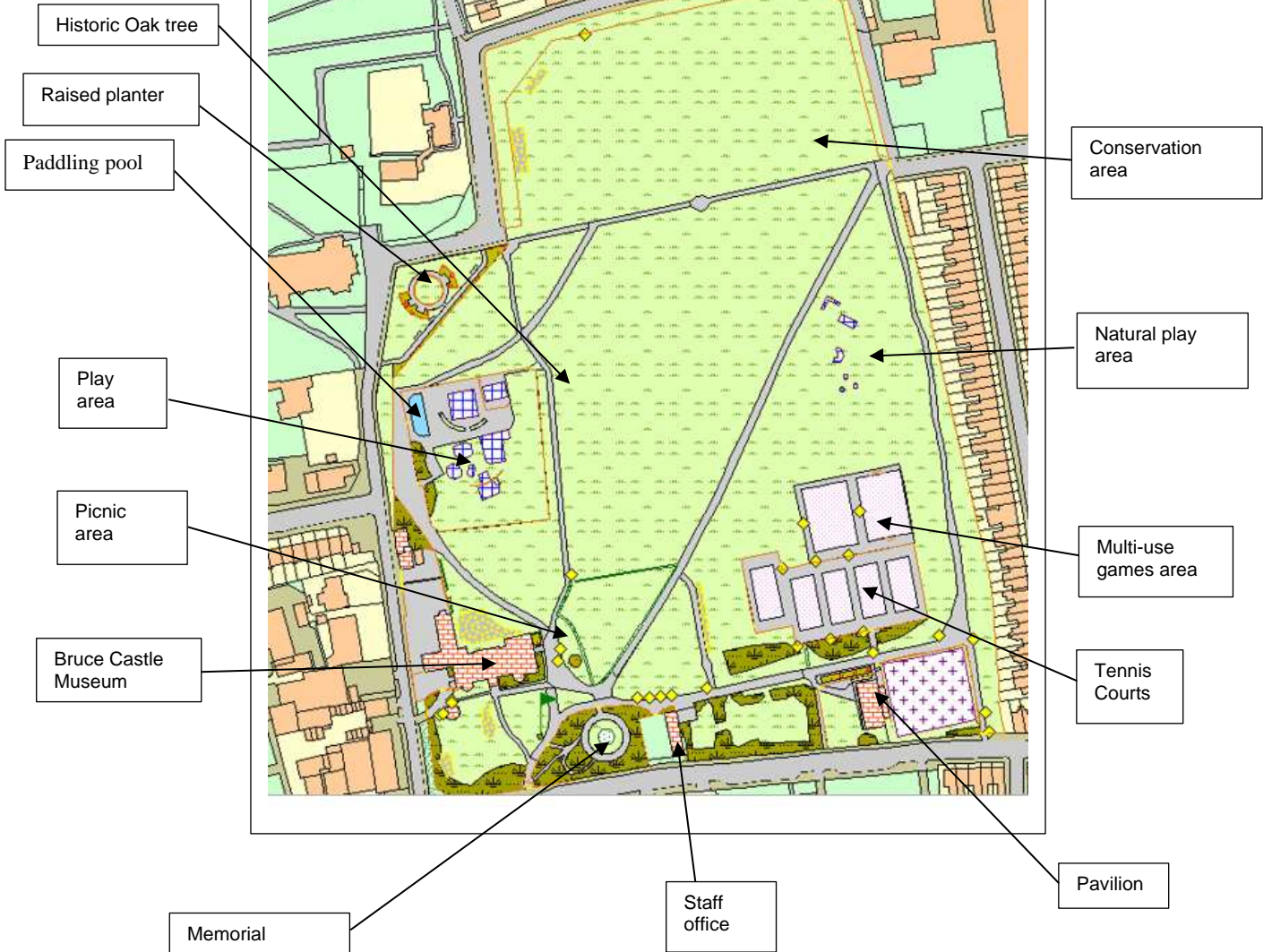




Table 1: Bruce Castle Park hard and soft features

Row Labels	Length (Metre)	Number	Square Metre
Bench		35	
Bulb Planted Areas			639.9
Children's Safety Surface			452.9
Fencing	1858.5		
Floodlight		5	
Grass All Types			53326.2 (5.3 ha)
Green Flag and Pole		1	
Hedge - all types			212.9
Litter Bin		30	
Paddling pool		1	
Park Gate		23	
Park Sign		26	
Parks Building - General		6	
Path			8918.9
Picnic Tables		2	
Posts		15	
Recycling Bin		2	
Rose Bed			317.8
Shrub Bed			3181.5

Sports Courts			1778.8
Spring and Summer Bedding			29.4
Street Light Column		5	
Telegraph Pole		1	
Wall	269.7		

### 2.2.1 Bruce Castle Museum

Bruce Castle Museum is a Grade I listed 16<sup>th</sup> century manor house located in the heart of Bruce Castle Park. This historical landmark building is one of the oldest buildings in Haringey and a rare survivor in the built-up urban environment of North London; it is acknowledged as one of two of the largest and most important Elizabethan houses in the Greater London area. Today's boundaries of the park and its historical landscape has remained unchanged for over 400 years.

The building opened as a museum in 1906 and now exhibits and houses the local history and special collections as well as the official archive for the borough of Haringey. Owned and managed by Haringey Council, the Archive and Museum Service sits in the Commissioning Directorate, and has a close relationship with the Parks Service which manages the Park.

Image 1: Bruce Castle Museum



The park and historical building form the core of the original medieval manor for Tottenham. There has been a building on or near the present site for almost 1,000 years, with the earliest lords of the manor being members of the de Bruce family. Special and national importance is attached to the historic and architectural interest and significance of Bruce Castle and its associated structures, and to the relationship between the house and surrounding park

The building has a long, rich and distinguished heritage, with its ownership associated with many nationally- important historical figures. Sir William Compton, the Groom of the Bedchamber in Henry VIII's court, built the oldest surviving parts of the building. Over the centuries, it has been modified several times by subsequent owners including the Lords Coleraine in the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries. One of the wives of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Coleraine is said to haunt the building.

The Hill family ran a progressive school for boys at Bruce Castle from 1827. In 1840, Sir Rowland Hill left the school and went on to reform the British postal system, introducing the Penny Post.

Bruce Castle Museum is an Accredited museum with Arts Council England (which sets national standards for UK museums). The museum and archive is free to all visitors, offering a number of services to include educational visits, family activities programme, research facilities, and an engaging event and exhibitions throughout the year. The facilities are also available to hire for meetings, conferences and wedding receptions.

### 2.2.2 Holocaust memorial garden of remembrance

The holocaust memorial garden was first established in 2001 in a quiet part of Bruce Castle Park, to honour those who died in the Holocaust of the second world war and other genocides.

The garden is surrounded by iron railings with an ornate iron archway over the main gateway. Signage to the garden provides an explanation on the creation of the garden and the commemorative artwork found inside.



Image 2: Memorial garden central shrubbery

In 2008 following a borough wide competition on the theme of 'Imagine, Remember, Reflect, React', sculptor Paul Margetts constructed the winning entry by local designer Claudia Holder. The sculpture challenges us all to imagine the unthinkable. It is situated directly opposite the entrance to the garden. In 2019, the sculpture forms part of the national collection public art on the Art UK website: <http://artuk.org/discover/artworks/imagine-remember-reflect-react-244186>



Image 3: Imagine, Remember, Reflect, React

Just survivor originally from Lodz in Poland, died. Some and was actively involved in educational work Holocaust Memorial Day. In Haringey. As you enter the has been re-designed in his memory. The design deeper sculpture which symbolises the rail tracks that their deaths. There is one sleeper for every million

Jewish people who died during the Holocaust – six sleepers in total. The outside of the sleepers are the names of young people who designed the garden.



Image 4: Roman Halter memorial

Haringey Council commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day in January each year by working with local councillors, Holocaust survivors, community religious representatives and council officers from the Holocaust Memorial Day Working Group.

Since it was formed the working group has developed partnerships to develop a number of projects such as creating this Memorial Garden, commissioning sculptures for the garden and has brought the Anne Frank, Kindertansport and Janusz Korczak exhibitions to Haringey.

From 2001-2017 each year at the end of January a public event was held at Bruce Castle and in the Garden to mark Holocaust Memorial Day. Since 2018 this main event has been held at Haringey Civic Centre in Wood Green due to growing numbers at the event. At Bruce Castle Museum and the Memorial Garden, there is now a children's service for local schools to commemorate the day.

The Committee regularly works with a number of organisations such as the Youth Offending Team, bringing people into the Garden to make improvements and carry out maintenance and litter picking sessions.

The memorial gardens are kept locked to reduce the level of vandalism it has been subjected to.

Within the Park also sits the blue sculpture to the north of the museum. This sculpture of two interlocking rings is made of steel and enamelled blue. When the artist Jack Gardner reached his 90s, this sculpture was one of a number of pieces that he set about having installed around different parks in Tottenham, North London. He wanted to place as many of his works as possible in open spaces for the people of Tottenham

to enjoy. Tottenham was where he had grown up and had worked. Full details can be found below:

[https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/interlocking-rings-244213/view\\_as/grid/search/keyword:jack-gardner/page/1](https://artuk.org/discover/artworks/interlocking-rings-244213/view_as/grid/search/keyword:jack-gardner/page/1)

### **2.2.3 Pavilion Cafe and Tennis**

In 2011 the Bowls club based in the park relinquished their lease due to dwindling membership.



Image 5: Tennis pavilion

To coincide with the improvements made to the tennis courts it was decided to lease the pavilion and tennis courts as one.

The pavilion provides users with refreshments and toilet facilities but the Pavilion will in the future be the hub of sports development, outreach and activities provided by the leaseholder and team. More information on this can be found in the Community Involvement section of this management plan.

### **2.2.4 Tennis courts**

In May 2011 the refurbished tennis courts were opened. The £300k refurbishment was funded approximately 50/50 by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and the Council. The parks tennis facilities were greatly improved with the provision of five macadam courts complying with LTA size and general playing requirements. Two of the courts are floodlit. Junior and adult tennis courses are provided and casual play has significantly increased since the improvements.



Image 6 & 7: Bruce Castle Park tennis courts

### 2.2.5 Picnic area

Two picnic tables are provided in an area north of the Holocaust Memorial Garden of Remembrance.

### 2.2.6 MUGA

Multi use games area allow for a number of games to be played



Image 8: hard standing games area

The park's ball courts are in need of some minor improvements. Both football and basketball are popular, but the facilities do not lend themselves particularly to either sport. The football area has a macadam surface in a reasonable condition but needs a ball retaining fence along its west boundary and preferably another along the east boundary.

The existing basketball equipment is not regulation height. These should ideally be replaced. The surface is macadam and in a reasonable condition to promote play.



## 2.2.7 Natural play area

To provide more natural, imaginative play for children a new, natural play space was created on open land, close to the MUGA in 2011. Two fallen trees were used to form an informal unit, boulders, stepping and climbing logs installed and wildflower plugs planted.



Image 9 & 10: Natural play area in Bruce Castle Park

## 2.2.8 Play area

The play area was partly refurbished with money from the PlayBuilder project in 2011. The play space was dull and uninspiring and most of the equipment was in very poor condition, requiring extensive renovation.



Image 11 & 12: Children's play area

New equipment was installed including a double width embankment slide, an inclusive roundabout, a double seesaw, picnic tables with seating. Some existing items were refurbished. To softening the site, new trees and planters were installed.

Extensive consultation work took place to bring the improvement of the play areas to fruition. Children from the local schools were consulted as to what equipment they would like to see, which in turn was incorporated into the school's learning curriculum.

The renovation of the playground has created a far more natural, playable and usable space. By softening up the playground and creating more space for users, it has been formed into a much more family orientated space. The popularity of the park has increased.

In 2019 further repairs were carried out in the play area, this included the replacement of 2 damaged self-closing gates, the replacement of a broken piece of play equipment – chosen by the Friends of Bruce Park Group- and replacement of damaged railway sleepers.

### 2.2.9 Paddling pool



Image 13: Paddling pool summer fun

The most visited attraction during the summer months has to be the paddling pool, visited by people from all over the borough and beyond.

The paddling pool is open from the last bank holiday in May, through to the beginning of September, weather dependant.

Parks staff drain the paddling pool each day in the evening and then clean and refill again the following morning. A contractor visits to chlorinate the pool, and parks staff are trained to check on the chlorine and ph levels three times a day.

Although a well loved feature of the park, the maintenance, design and age of the paddling pool have been causing operational problems when filling and draining.

Haringey Council has in the past and is still examining the feasibility of relocating the paddling pool or water play on to the old bowling green outside the cafe.

There is huge potential for this to take place including the possibility of handing over the management of the water play, to the leaseholder of the cafe. In return the cafe's business would increase with the added facility, making it a focal point for the park.

The redundant paddling pool area within the play area could then have additional play equipment installed to enhance the area, creating an even greater play experience in the park.

### **2.2.10 Nature conservation area**

An area to the north east of the park is designated a wildlife conservation area.



Image 14: Tree whips in the conservation area

During 2014 conservation charity The Conservation Volunteers and their members concentrated The Green Gym efforts in this area, carrying out conservation task days including tree planting, meadow creation and wild flower seed sowing, removing dock and putting in stag beetle loggeries. Currently no activities take place in this area, however, the development will be explored in the future.

### **2.2.11 Northern field**

The most northern section of Bruce Castle Park accommodates a grass field which is used for informal football matches, played every Sunday throughout the year.

### **2.2.12 Main grass area**



Image 15: Main grass field

The main open grass field of Bruce Castle Park is an ideal space for formal events or casual activity. Whatever time of day and year you go there is always some kind of activity taking place.

### 2.2.13 Staff yard



Image 16: Staff yard in Bruce Castle Park

Bruce Castle Park is substantial enough in size to have its own staff yard onsite to accommodate parks staff and maintenance equipment. The yard is used as a base for the zonal team who cover the maintenance of Bruce Castle Park and other parks and housing sites in the nearby vicinity.

### 2.3 Trees

Parks and open spaces are of significant arboricultural importance as they contain some of the largest and oldest trees in the borough. Trees are an essential feature in parks providing shade and structure, making them a more attractive environment to visit.

There is a planned inspection programme for which we aim to inspect each tree every four years. Trees in parks usually only require maintenance to mitigate risks to site users and adjacent properties.

One of the most significant trees in the borough is the large Oak that is found in Bruce Castle Park, believed to be approximately 500 years old.



Image 17: Glorious oak

Over the past twenty years it has suffered from the loss of two major limbs. This prompted a decay detection test in 2011 which identified a significant decay in the trunk, currently being monitored. Props were installed to two horizontal branches to reduce the likelihood of them failing. During the winter of 2015 the crown was reduced,

limiting the weight being borne by the trunk. The large Oak was recently nominated for the Woodland Trust's Tree of the Year award by Tottenham Trees and was voted runner-up. As part of the award, the Woodland Trust have appointed an Arboricultural Consultant to prepare a management plan for the tree to ensure it is maintained appropriately to encourage an extended life expectancy.

The park also contains numerous other mature Oaks, Beech and Lime trees. An avenue of London planes runs along the path running east to west through the park. Some mature Cedars are found towards the southern end of the park, near to the tennis courts.

Bruce Castle Park has benefited from significant tree planting in recent years, with a variety of species being planted including some edible varieties, Gingko's, Scots pine and Hornbeams.

A significant number of Birch has also been planted over the last twenty year, but as to why this many of this particular species is unclear.

A few years ago the Museum and Parks Service produced a tree trail for the park, detailing an exciting trail for children to follow. This is available to download from the Council's website and from the Museum: [www.haringey.gov.uk/treetrail](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/treetrail) and is part of the museums educational programme. The Friends of Bruce Castle working with the museum have secured funding recently to update the tree trail. In addition, Tottenham Trees holds several tree walks per year in Tottenham including Bruce Castle.

### **3. A welcoming place**

#### **3.1 Visiting Bruce Castle Park**

As well as being a destination in its own right, Bruce Castle Park also provides a pleasant route for people accessing the near-by schools. While not directly connected to other parks and open spaces, it is a short walk to the nearby historic Tower Gardens and a little further to Lordship Recreation Ground.

Bruce castle provides a wide range of sporting and recreational facilities. There are two Children's playgrounds, one more traditional while the other more natural, a paddling pool, and the historic Oak tree amongst many more trees and shrubs.

The Pavilion, now used as a café (T on the Green Tea Rooms), provides meals and snacks and is involved in community activities.

Bruce Castle Museum is also situated in the Park with interesting displays and exhibits, and within this area you can also see the memorial features, such as the Holocaust Memorial Gardens and many other events and activities including film showings, and falconry displays reflecting the sites historic connections.

### 3.1.1 Public transport

Bruce Castle Park isn't served by a tube station, but is in close proximity to Bruce Grove and White Hart Lane train stations.

Trains from both stations go into Liverpool Street Station in the heart of London, and north towards Enfield.

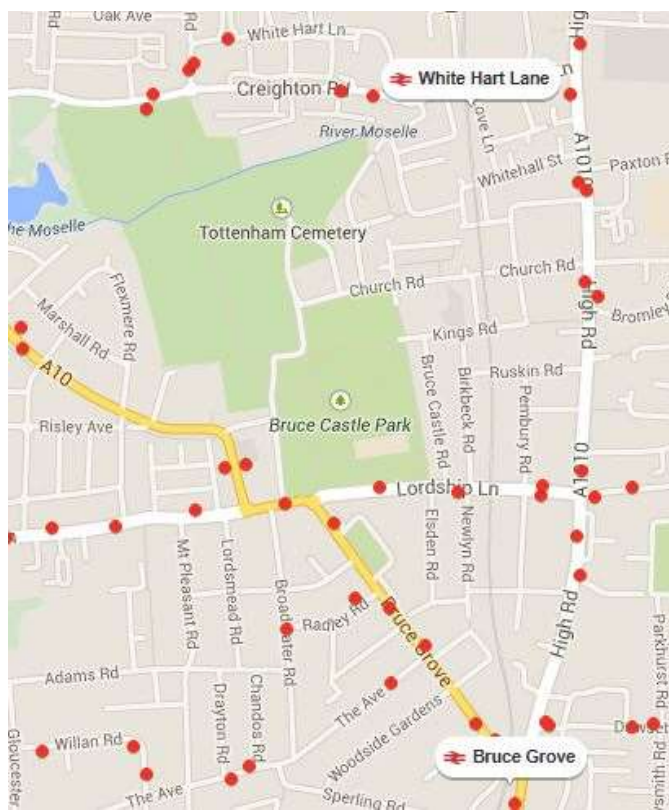


Figure 5: Map showing closest tube stations and bus stops to Bruce Castle Park

A number of buses stop at the front of the park on Lordship Lane and Bruce Grove. These include:

- 123 – Wood Green to Ilford
- 243 – Wood Green to Waterloo
- 318 – Stamford Hill to North Middlesex Hospital

### 3.1.2 Vehicles

There are no public parking facilities within Bruce Castle Park.

There is however a car park located to the west of the Museum and is only open to Museum and Park staff and visitors with prior permission. This is accessible through an entrance off Church Lane.

Much of the surrounding roads to the north, northeast and east of the park are covered by a Controlled Parking Zone which is only in operation when Spurs are playing at home: Monday to Friday – 5pm – 8.30pm; Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays – 12 – 8pm. Those wishing to park would need a residents or visitor's parking permit.

There are no parking restrictions in the roads to the south of the park.

### 3.2 Entrances

Pedestrian access to Bruce Castle Park is via any of the eight entrances located on Lordship Lane, Church Lane or Kings Road.

All entrances are identified by individual gate names, making meeting points and identification for maintenance easier for the user and operative staff.



Figure 6: Map of Bruce Castle Park and the gate names

The two entrances on Lordship Lane are both wheelchair and pushchair accessible.

One is situated directly in front of the museum and is the most prominent, linking users to Bruce Castle Museum, Holocaust memorial garden, picnic area and the staff yard. This gateway is framed by a locally listed ornate iron archway.



Image 18: Park and Museum Lordship Lane Gate

A historic Grade 2 listed brick wall runs the length of the southern park boundary, from the Park and Museum gate to the Lordship Lane gate. There is also a grade 2 listed wall along the Western boundary of the park, this wall has recently had works carried out as part of the recent major museum building works as it was on Historic England's Building at Risk Register. The second entrance on Lordship Lane leads directly to the Pavilion, tennis courts and hard standing multi use games area.

Church Lane has three entrances, all of which are wheelchair and pushchair accessible. These gates provide access to facilities such as the Bruce Castle Museum, playground, paddling pool and large grassed area.

The Church Lane Museum gate is located to the west of the museum. Access through here offers a view of the historic brick tower that sits to the front of the museum.





Image 19: View from Church Lane Museum gate

Access to the Museum car park is also off Church Lane.



Image 20: View from Kings Road gate

Kings Road entrance leads directly to a grassed area that is home to the historical Oak Tree and links to the central axis pathway. This entrance is also wheelchair and pushchair accessible.

### **3.2.1 Vehicle access**

Operations staff in vehicles, such as the Hygiene Team access the park through the Lordship Lane gate. There is a bollard in place here so only vehicles with the appropriate key can get access.

Other entrances such as Kings Road gate and Church Lane gate both have gates that are kept locked at all times, unless authorised vehicles need access.

### **3.2.2 Bikes**

There are no national cycle routes running through Bruce Castle Park, although bikes are welcome to use the paths.

There are bike stands located by the Museum, playground and tennis courts.

## **3.3 Access for all**

The Equality Act 2010 defines a disabled person as someone with ‘a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal, day-to-day activities’.

Haringey Council and its partners are required by law to ensure that disabled people are not discriminated against with regard to access to public places, such as Bruce Castle Park. The council is also committed to meeting its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty with regard to ensuring that those with and without protected characteristics under the Equality Act are able to enjoy the park’s facilities.

This commitment is considered whenever changes or improvements are made to the park. This not only benefits disabled users of the parks and their carers/companions, but also benefits those with small children and older people.

## **3.4 Signage**

At the beginning of 2013 a signage audit was conducted following the implementation of the borough’s new dog control orders. To enable enforcement of the dog control orders it is required that relevant dog control order information is displayed for people to view.

The opportunity was taken to review all the signage onsite and update where necessary. All welcome signs found at the entrances to Bruce Castle Park were redesigned and installed. New corporate branding was initiated in 2016 and all parks in the borough will be upgraded to the new signage as larger projects are undertaken.

The welcome signs now show an individual gate name for ease of identification as well as contact numbers for the council, Police emergency and non emergency numbers. The signs are scheduled to be updated and will reflect the contact details for the Friends of Bruce Castle Park.

Symbols are also shown to highlight initiatives and make users aware of restrictions in place.

For Bruce Castle Park these include:

- Neighbourhood Watch logo – for which Bruce Castle Park is adopted by local watches
- pedestrian priority over cyclists
- no unauthorised vehicles
- keep your park tidy
- 3 dog control orders in effect and potential penalty for failing to adhere

As well as the welcome signs, the signage found at the entrances to all play areas and sports courts was also updated in 2013.

Playground signs show:

- contact details for the Council
- any relevant age restrictions
- no alcohol symbol
- no smoking symbol
- no dogs allowed
- no glass bottles
- a message that children must be accompanied at all times

### **3.5 Toilet facilities and refreshments**

Toilet facilities are available within the T on the Green Tea Rooms and the Museum and are managed by the respective organisations.

Refreshments are available in the T on the Green Tea Rooms (<https://www.tonthegreen.co.uk/>) located in the pavillion, and the museum offer basic refreshments such as tea and coffee, during opening hours.

The current café lease is being reviewed with the expectation that the new lease holders will manage the tennis courts and other new sports facilities as they are integrated.

Maintenance issues can also be reported via the Council's 'Love Clean Streets' smart phone app or by reporting via the website or by telephone.

### **3.6 Events**

The council welcomes and encourages events put on for the community in Bruce Castle Park. The [outdoor events policy](#) sets out the types of events that are encouraged and those we do not allow.

Bruce Castle Park has the potential to host events for up to 13,919 people in the designated event area. Those interested in holding an event of any size can refer to the [Events Brochure](#).

Small community events and activities are particularly encouraged so we have made the application process easier and events for under 100 people are free of any charge.

Money generated from major events contributes to providing support for community events to take place in parks. This includes more than £20,000 from the [Parks and Open Spaces Small Grants](#) 'community events' theme which is available for anyone to apply for.

An Environmental Impact Fee is set out within the events fees and charges. This is charged to hirers on a sliding scale with the price dependent on the size and scale of the event. For 'major' events – with attendance or 10,000 people - a fee of £10,600 is charged. This is specifically set aside for the Friends and recognised stakeholders of the park the event took place in, to bid for.

Event management training is also held each year for groups who want to learn how to put on a safe and exciting event in a park.

Current events include Falconry displays, Film events, and in June of 2019 a range of events to celebrate Windrush Day.

## **4. A Clean and Well-Maintained Park**

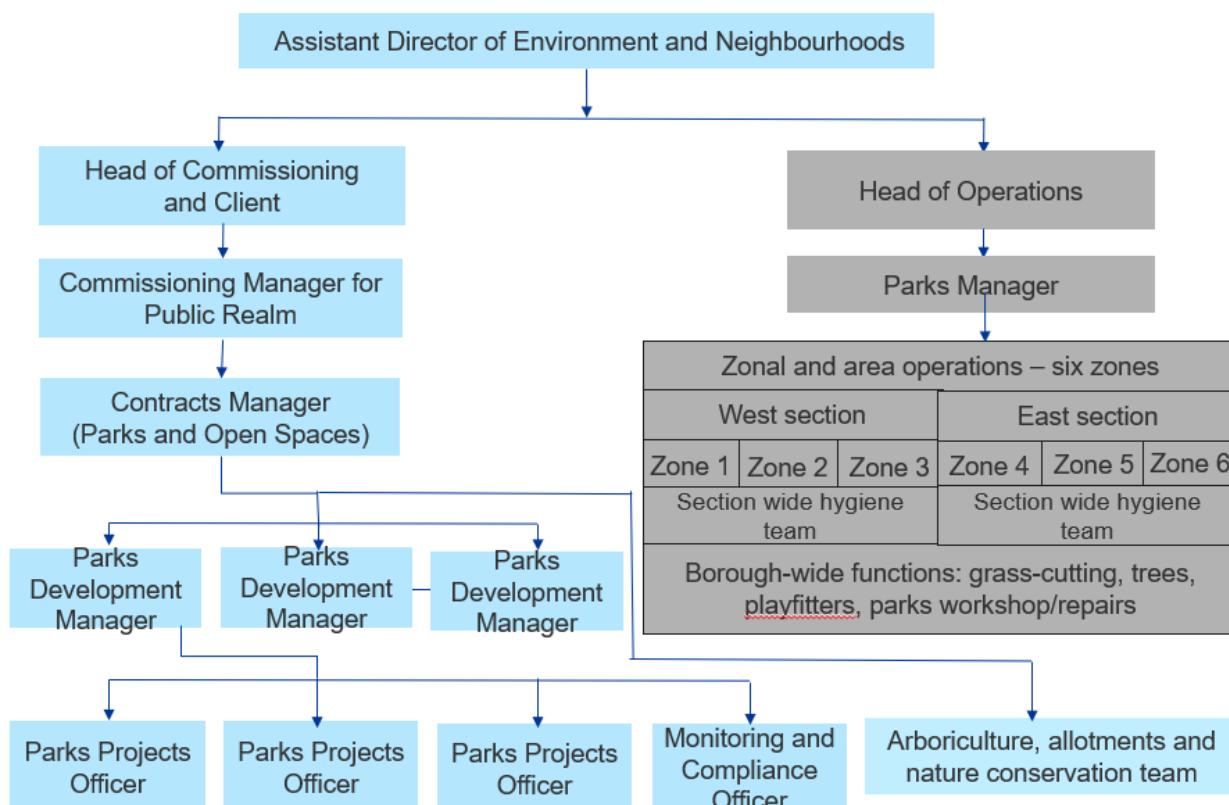
### **4.1 Operational and management responsibility for parks**

Responsibility for the management of maintenance of all the borough's parks is split between three council teams.

The Parks Operations team is responsible for the grounds maintenance and management of litter and hygiene within the park, while the Commissioning and Client Team is responsible for the physical assets within parks, arboriculture, allotments, nature conservation and the management of projects within parks.

The Active Communities Team is responsible for the management of events in parks, activation of parks through cycling, walking, and other fitness initiatives. The team is also responsible for the management of the council's small grant scheme and its partnerships with Neighbourhood Watch and the Conservation Volunteers.

## Simplified parks structure chart



### 4.2 Current maintenance by Park Operations

The structure chart in section 4.1 shows a simplified overview of the work of the Park Operations Team (shaded in grey).

As shown, the borough is divided into two geographic sections (east and west), each of which is divided into three zones, giving a total of six zones across the borough. The zones are shown in the map overleaf.

Each zone has a six grounds maintenance staff: a team leader, a senior operative and four gardeners, but team sizes are altered to meet operational demands by transferring staff between zones and by bringing in seasonal agency resource as necessary. Bruce Castle Park Park is in operational zone 4.

The Parks Operations structure is the total resource available for all parks and open spaces. This not only includes council parks and open spaces, but also all the Homes for Haringey sites across the borough.

In addition to the zonal operations, the hygiene function is organised at a section-wide basis, one team operating in the east section of the borough and the other in the west. The hygiene teams empty litter bins across all parks and open spaces to an agreed schedule. They also respond to emergency cleansing and hygiene requests.

At a borough-wide level there are also two play fitters who undertake maintenance and repair of playground equipment and outdoor gyms, and a team of two in-house arboricultural staff who carry out tree planting and supplement the use of external contractors for tree maintenance and responsive arboricultural work. Tractor-based mowing of larger areas of grass is also carried out as a borough-wide activity.

There are also two parks workshop fitters who carry out regular servicing of equipment and reactive repairs to parks machinery. They are based in dedicated parks workshop at Ashley Road depot.

Most park operatives work Monday – Thursday 7.30am – 3.30pm and Friday 7.30 to 1.30pm. However, limited weekend work also takes place with pitch marking and hygiene activities for example.

### Map showing zones for operational management of parks in Haringey

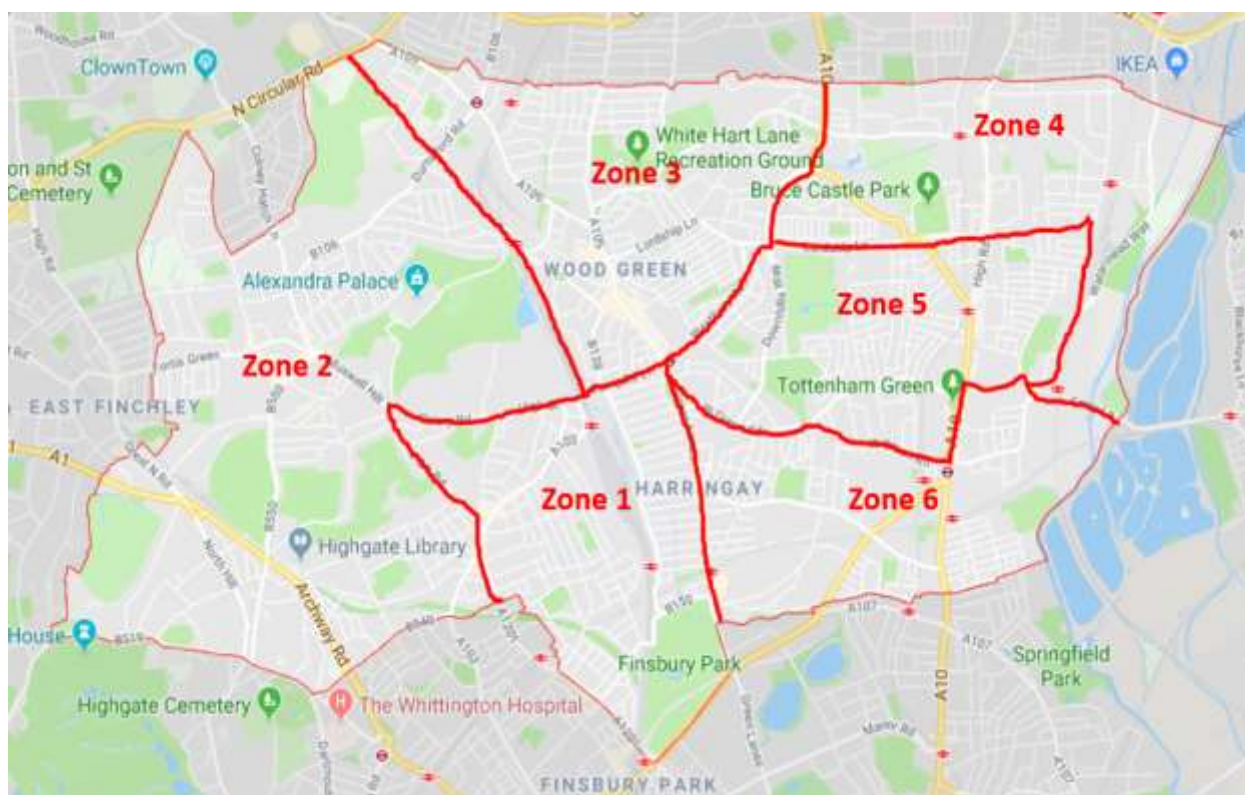


Figure 7: Map of Haringey zones

### 4.3 Asset management and management of projects in parks

The Parks and Open Spaces team now works to the same six zones as the Operations team. One officer has been allocated to lead on projects, asset management and community liaison in each zone. Each zonal officer has responsibility for:

- Regular asset inspections
- Asset related enquiries
- Non-emergency asset repairs
- Management Plan input
- Project identification
- Friends Groups liaison
- Support for Friends-led development work
- Councillor liaison
- Identification of volunteering opportunities

The allocated officer for Bruce Castle Park is Christopher Patterson.

A Nature Conservation Officer and a Monitoring and Compliance Officer have responsibility for parks and open spaces across the whole borough, including Bruce Castle Park.

#### **4.3.1 Park asset inspections and Spotlight visits**

In 2018 the council adopted the Mayor of London's typology for parks. Under this typology Bruce Castle Park is described as a local park site (A3) as it is between 2-20 hectares in area.

Since January 2019 the council has also instigated a programme of park asset inspections with the frequency dependent on the type of park. As a local park Bruce Castle Park is inspected every month.

The inspections cover hard assets, including:

- Bins, benches, bollards, lighting columns
- Signage, noticeboards, interpretation
- Paths, steps, handrails, areas of hardstanding, car parking and roadways
- Railings, fencing, gates, walls
- Play area safety surfacing and minor repairs
- Outdoor gyms
- MUGAs, tennis courts, hard sports courts
- Football goalposts
- Paddling pools
- Historic/heritage features/War memorials
- Fountains, artworks, structures, pergolas
- Waterbodies, SUDs, water leaks, drain covers
- Cycle stands, raised beds
- Bird & bat boxes

Parks assets are inspected and rated according to their condition, as follows:

A: Excellent: No action required

B: Good: No action required

C: Acceptable: No action required

D: Improvement required: Defects will be addressed as budgets allow

E: Emergency repair required: Make-safe within 24 hours. Full repair within 28 days.

From 2019-20 we will use the Confirm database system to record the outcomes of all inspections, defects and customer enquiries. Confirm Connect handheld devices will be the main tool for recording site inspections.

Defects can also be reported by the public, Friends, councillors and stakeholders online via the Council’s website at [www.haringey.gov.uk/park-problem](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/park-problem) or by using the Love Clean Streets smart phone app or by calling the council.

As part of our zonal approach we have also started to hold ‘Spotlight meetings’ with Councillors, Friends and key stakeholders of Bruce Castle Park every 2-3 months. The spotlight meetings have been developed to focus on specific Bruce Castle Park issues within a small group and to communicate through a “face-to-face” contact with a Haringey Parks Officer. This is in contrast to both the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum and The Friends of Bruce Castle Park meetings, both of which have a much broader remit and audience.

#### 4.3.2 Capital projects

A parks capital project commences once a project brief has been approved by the council’s Commissioning and Client Board and a capital budget and project manager has been allocated. The project manager is usually but not always the zonal lead.

Capital projects for Bruce Castle Park are listed in the Action Plan at Section 12.

#### 4.4 Scheduled Maintenance

The following table provides a summary of the maintenance regime within Bruce Castle Park.

Scheduled maintenance in Bruce Castle Park (Table 2)

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<p><b>Grass cutting:</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grass has been uniformly cut and is 35mm or less.</li> <li>Edges are trimmed and not growing onto hard surface or bedding.</li> <li>Litter picking prior to mowing.</li> </ul>	<p>Approximately Fortnightly</p>	<p>During the growing season (Mar-Oct approx.). May extend into November subject to prevailing climatic conditions.</p>



Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<p>Grass remains at grade B or above prior to maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grass is 35-60mm long but looks tidy.</li> <li>• Edges are slightly untidy</li> <li>• Litter picking as per hygiene schedule.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Bulb areas in Grass</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas where bulbs are present should remain uncut from time of bulb emergence, until 6 weeks after flowerings ceases, or when foliage dies back or turns brown.</li> <li>• Litter picking as per hygiene schedule.</li> </ul>	<p>One occasion plus regular litter picking</p>	<p>Works required where bulbs are present in grass on site.</p>
<p><b>Meadows</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meadow grass is cut at correct times of year for species type.</li> <li>• Area surrounding the meadow is well maintained.</li> <li>• Litter picking as per hygiene schedule.</li> </ul>	<p>One or more occasions subject to type. Plus regular litter picking.</p>	<p>Guidance on maintenance schedule to be drawn from the conservation management plan for each park.</p>
<p><b>Shrub and Rose bed maintenance</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bed free of weeds.</li> <li>• No litter.</li> <li>• Mulched where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p>Two – four occasions as required per location.</p>	<p>Herbicide application will take place on two occasions a year via controlled droplet application.</p>

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wide variety of plants.</li> <li>• Roses deadhead as required.</li> <li>• Shrubs pruned as required.</li> <li>• Edging well maintained.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Summer Seasonal Flower Beds</b></p> <p>To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bed free of weeds.</li> <li>• No litter.</li> <li>• Adequate variety of plants (more could be added – excluding beds that have plants that are not yet established).</li> <li>• Edging maintained.</li> <li>• No deadheads.</li> </ul>	Up to ten occasions	<p>Gapping up of bedding to take place in response to vandalism.</p> <p>Drought tolerant planting to reduce need to water.</p>
<p><b>Hedge Maintenance</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well shaped and trimmed hedge.</li> <li>• Level sides and top.</li> <li>• No missed areas.</li> <li>• Base weed free.</li> <li>• No arisings present</li> </ul>	Two occasions per year except Privet hedges requiring three occasions.	Account of bird nesting to be taken each year and site specifics.
<p><b>Staked Tree Maintenance</b></p>	One occasion per year plus watering for new	

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<p>To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth is healthy and vigorous with little sign of disease.</li> <li>• Branches have been correctly pruned for species, purpose and location.</li> <li>• No dead or hanging branches.</li> <li>• Small amount of basal or sucker growth.</li> <li>• Base has been mulched where applicable.</li> <li>• Tree stake in good condition, firm in ground and</li> <li>• not rubbing tree where applicable.</li> <li>• Tree tie holding tree firmly but not tightly to stake where applicable.</li> <li>• No damage to base of tree during maintenance.</li> <li>• No dead material or cuttings left in area.</li> </ul>	trees during first two seasons	
<p><b>Sports Pitch Maintenance</b></p> <p>To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface in good condition.</li> <li>• Grass is cut to standard.</li> <li>• Line markings are well maintained and may be slightly faded.</li> <li>• Where net supports exist, in good condition.</li> </ul>	<p>A minimum number of visits as required to achieve the grass height required for football / rugby.</p> <p>Weekly line marking during playing season</p>	Seeding and fertilising as required.

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaf fall removed.</li> <li>Litter picking as per hygiene schedule.</li> </ul>	Winter season work as required to optimise playing period.	
<p><b>Bins, Litter and Dog Fouling</b></p> <p>To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All bins are emptied</li> <li>The site is litter picked but may have a small amount of scattered litter in low traffic areas.</li> <li>Predominately free of detritus except for some light scattering.</li> </ul>	Daily	Dog fouling dealt with when reported.
Fly tips and other hygiene issues	Reactive	In response to emergency call-outs
Sweeping of hard surfaces (e.g. tennis courts, hard standing etc)	Reactive	
Gate locking	Daily	Not applicable to all parks

#### 4.5 Setting and measuring service standards

The quality of grounds maintenance and cleanliness of parks and open spaces is assessed via a simple four-point assessment system, called the Parks Quality Scoring system. The scoring categories are:

- A – Excellent
- B – Good
- C – Acceptable
- D – Unacceptable

These service standards are set out in a booklet that is made available to all grounds maintenance and hygiene operatives. The aim of the booklet is to clearly and visually illustrate the different standards. Photographs, alongside brief and simple text, provide staff with a clear means of assessing the standards they are expected to achieve.

This system has since been adopted by the London Parks Benchmarking Group who have updated the manual and are working hard to get this recognised as an industry

standard within the grounds maintenance trade both on a London-wide and on a national level.

The key performance indicators (KPIs) within this scoring system are for three main areas of activity and a fourth more seasonal category:

- Grass (which includes the grass cut height, follow up and final finish)
- Shrubs (which includes pruning, weeding of beds and general appearance)
- Hygiene (which is made up of 3 separate scores of litter and bins, detritus and graffiti)
- Seasonal and other categories (horticultural seasonal work such as hedges, leaf clearance, rose bed maintenance and seasonal bedding as well as nature conservation and some infrastructure points such as pathways).

The Monitoring and Compliance Officer visits each park and open space on a regular basis to assess these aspects of the park against the service standards.

An overall score is calculated based on the percentage of A (Excellent) and B (Good) scores achieved across all categories.

### Illustrative service standards for grass cutting

<p><b>EXCELLENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Grass has been uniformly and evenly cut including perimeter edges and obstacles.</li> <li>✓ Length is longer than 25mm and shorter than 60mm.</li> <li>✓ Edges are trimmed and not encroaching hard surfaces, hedge lines or bedding areas.</li> <li>✓ Adjacent paths and bedding areas are kept clear of clippings.</li> <li>✓ There are no bare patches.</li> <li>✓ There is no weed infestation.</li> <li>✓ All litter was removed prior to mowing.</li> <li>✓ No leaf fall, litter, debris or dog fouling.</li> </ul>		<p><b>ACCEPTABLE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Grass is longer than 60mm and not scheduled to be cut in the next week, or has been unevenly cut.</li> <li>✓ Edges are untidy and encroaching hard surface or bedding.</li> <li>✓ Adjacent paths and bedding areas are mostly kept clear of clippings.</li> <li>✓ There are some areas of bare soil.</li> <li>✓ There are some areas of unsightly weed infestation.</li> <li>✓ All litter was removed prior to mowing.</li> <li>✓ Small amount of leaf fall, litter, debris or dog fouling.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>EXCELLENT</b></p>	<p><b>ACCEPTABLE</b></p>		
<p><b>GOOD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Grass has been uniformly and evenly cut including perimeter edges and obstacles.</li> <li>✓ Length is longer than 25mm and shorter than 60mm.</li> <li>✓ Edges are slightly untidy or encroaching hard surfaces, hedge lines or bedding areas.</li> </ul> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Grass is longer than 60mm but due to be cut or has been unevenly cut across area.</li> <li>✓ Edges are uniformly cut.</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Adjacent paths and bedding areas are mostly kept clear of clippings.</li> <li>✓ There are no bare patches.</li> <li>✓ There is no unsightly weed infestation.</li> <li>✓ All litter was removed prior to mowing.</li> <li>✓ No leaf fall, litter, debris or dog fouling.</li> </ul>		<p><b>UNACCEPTABLE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Grass is not uniformly cut, or very long.</li> <li>✓ Edges very untidy and grass is growing onto hard surfaces, hedge lines or bedding areas.</li> <li>✓ Significant amounts of clippings present on adjacent paths and bedding areas.</li> <li>✓ Significant areas of bare soil.</li> <li>✓ Significant weed infestation.</li> <li>✓ Litter not removed prior to mowing.</li> <li>✓ Leaf fall, litter, debris or dog fouling present.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>GOOD</b></p>	<p><b>UNACCEPTABLE</b></p>		

The boroughwide targets and performance for these KPIs are as follows (**table 3**).

<b>Category</b>	<b>Target A/B</b>	<b>Achieved 2018-19</b>
Grass	90%	61%
Shrubs	90%	83%
Hygiene	60%	71%
Seasonal and other	55%	65%

#### **4.6 Monitoring the condition of equipment and physical assets**

Since January 2019 a Parks Project Officer also carries out a monthly site inspection of the physical assets in Bruce Castle Park. The condition of each item is noted and where applicable repairs (or replacements) are requested. Any grounds maintenance or hygiene issues that are observed, such as overflowing bins or dumped rubbish are raised with the appropriate officer within Parks Operations.

The asset inspections do not include play and outdoor gym equipment which are inspected by the RPII registered Play Inspection Company on a quarterly basis. They conduct detailed quarterly and annual inspections on all play equipment and outside gym equipment to ROSPA standards. Each item of equipment is risk assessed and a written report is provided to the council. Where equipment is deemed to represent a medium or high risk it will be repaired, and if necessary taken out of use until the repairs are completed.

Two council officers within Parks Operations are also trained and qualified ROSPA inspectors and can sign off any repair to play and gym equipment.

#### **4.7 Tree maintenance programme**

Tree works in parks, open spaces and woodlands are usually undertaken to mitigate risks to site users and adjacent properties. For example works to trees in Albert Road Rec have in the past been carried out to improve security on site by raising the canopies of the trees to increase sight levels and reducing overhanging branches into adjacent roads.

Removal of dead, dying and/or dangerous trees has also been undertaken.

#### **4.8 Graffiti**

All graffiti of an obscene or offensive nature is removed within 24 hours of being reported. We aim to remove all other graffiti within three working days. Small bits of graffiti can be removed by parks operatives who have access to specialised graffiti removal kits.

Park users can report graffiti using the Love Clean Streets smart phone app, and the council website. The Council also has a 'hotline' number (020 8885 7700) direct to

Veolia (the council's waste management contractor) to report obscene or offensive graffiti in parks and other public places.

#### **4.9 Maintenance of buildings, equipment and landscape**

Building maintenance in parks is shared between lease holders and the council. Most modern leases in the parks have been let on a full repairing and insuring basis relieving the council of this ongoing obligation.

Older leases are internal repairs only and along with the operational buildings in parks are maintained by the council's facilities management service. The budget for building maintenance is held by them and they are responsible for maintaining the buildings and ensuring compliance with legislation.

Equipment maintenance is carried out internally by the parks service for all types of equipment. Play inspections are undertaken internally and through external specialist on a quarterly basis.

Landscape maintenance is carried out by the parks service.

#### **4.10 Hygiene**

The Hygiene Team is managed by Parks Operations, covering borough wide hygiene responsibilities. Within Bruce Castle Park waste bins are emptied on a daily basis, and any dumped rubbish that is reported to the service will be removed. New Council policy is for the removal of all dog bins from parks.

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

#### **5.1 Smoking**

Smoking is permitted (though discouraged) in Bruce Castle Park although priority 2 of the council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy identifies smoking as a key factor in reducing life expectancy.

However, there is a borough wide smoking ban in place in all children's playgrounds including in Bruce Castle Park. Signage at playground entrances highlights this.

#### **5.2 Alcohol**

Alcohol is permitted in Bruce Castle Park but an Alcohol Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for White Hart Lane ward includes the entire area covered by the park.

PSPOs are intended to deal with "nuisance or anti-social behaviour in a particular area that is detrimental to the local community's quality of life". Failure to comply with a request from an authorised person to cease drinking or surrender alcohol within the boundary of the PSPO can result in a fine. An authorised person is a police officer, a police community support officer or an authorised member of council staff.

Bruce Grove PSPO has been in operation since October 2017 and lasts for three years. It has been renewed and is currently in operation.

Further details can be found at <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/community/community-safety-and-engagement/anti-social-behaviour/public-spaces-protection-orders-pspos>

### 5.3 Walking

Walking is an excellent way to adopt a more active lifestyle and the health benefits can really make a difference. It's also a great way to get out and meet people.

The parks service in partnership with other agencies such as NHS Haringey offer regular organised walks in many of the borough's parks.

In 2018 a booklet called *A Walk in the Park* showcases several walks through Haringey parks including The Linear Walk Trail which passes through Bruce Castle Park.



Image 22: Walking trail

Further details on walks and walking groups can be found at <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/travel/walking>

### 5.4 Health and safety

The health and safety of visitors to the parks, and staff and contractors working in Bruce Castle Park is given the highest priority. Health and safety within the park is managed by ensuring that:

- play and outdoor gym equipment is installed safely and inspected regularly, with any repairs identified and prioritised through the inspection process.
- infrastructure items (including games areas, water features and so on) are inspected regularly as detailed elsewhere in this document.
- planting and landscaping is designed to minimise the risk to park users, and the operational maintenance programme keeps these risks managed



### **5.4.1 Raising health and safety concerns**

Anyone visiting a park, and everyone involved in the parks maintenance and management are encouraged to report any health and safety concerns.

Contact phone, email and web details for the Council appear on all welcome signage, as well as the police emergency and non-emergency numbers.

When people call the Council with a concern, these are logged, assessed and assigned to a relevant team/member of staff to deal with and respond to in an appropriate timescale, using the Confirm system.

### **5.4.2 Friends**

Members of the Friends of Bruce Castle Park are able to report issues within the park in exactly the same way as members of the public, but they also have close links with the Parks Project Officer and with Operations staff, so will usually approach them directly.

Council officers also regularly attend the Friends meetings where issues can be raised and discussed.

Friends are also encouraged to report issues of anti-social behaviour and other issues through the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator who will direct these to the most relevant person within the police to deal with them.

### **5.4.3 Risk assessments**

The Parks & Open Spaces team ensures that prior to any works being undertaken on Council land, its consultants, contractors and other organisations prepare for approval all necessary Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS) covering all proposed works operations. In addition to the usual operations, the Council requires consultants and contractors to provide specific RAMS covering potentially contaminated land, underground services and other unforeseen underground matters, such as UXO (unexploded ordinance), and measures to protect the public during any works. Contractors are further required to undertake CAT scans prior to excavations to identify underground services.

The Parks & Open Spaces team ensures that, where excavations are to take place, underground services information is obtained from utility providers and the Council's Pollution team prepares contaminated land desk studies.

### **5.4.4 Safety representatives**

The parks operations service holds a quarterly Health and Safety Working Group, which is chaired by a council health and safety specialist. It is attended by representatives of operational management, staff from both east and west areas, and trades unions. These quarterly meetings provide the opportunity to raise issues that have not been fully addressed elsewhere. The group is also a place to discuss health and safety issues and legislation, and their implications on working practices

and plays a key role in generating continual improvement in health and safety standards.

#### **5.4.5 Staff reporting**

All staff are encouraged to raise health and safety issues with their manager or with the health and safety representative who can raise concerns at the quarterly Health and Safety Working Group.

#### **5.5 Reporting issues with the 'Love Clean Streets' app**

The 'Love Clean Street' app makes it quick and easy to report problems when people are out and about in the borough. Once the app has been downloaded to a Smartphone, the public can take photos of the problem and send it directly to the team responsible for fixing it using the Confirm system. They will then receive progress updates and will be told when the reported issue has been fixed.

Unlike other 'report it' style apps, 'Love Clean Streets' asks the user to choose from a list of Haringey specific categories for the problem, which ensures the report goes to the right team, first time and will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

#### **5.6 Community safety and policing**

Parks in Haringey are relatively safe places. Over the whole of 2018 there were 487 reported crime or incidents reported to the police across the parks and open spaces in Haringey. Two thirds of crimes were reported in period April to September when the parks are most heavily used

The most commonly reported crime in Haringey parks is robbery, which accounts for about 30% of all incidents. Almost a third of these happened late at night (between 9pm and 5am). There were over 50 reported thefts and almost 50 cases of possession of cannabis.

In Bruce Castle Park there were 18 reported crimes in 2018 of which 7 were robberies and 5 were GBH/ABH. Bruce Castle Park accounted for only 4% of all reported crimes in Haringey parks.

Over the years there have been a number of initiatives the Council has implemented to make the parks safer for all who use them. However, reductions in budgets in the last decade have limited these initiatives.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team for White Hart Lane ward has strong links with Bruce Castle Park. Police officers are in regular contact with council officers and often attend Friends meetings.

## 5.7 Extending Neighbourhood Watch into parks

Neighbourhood Watch groups across the borough are encouraged to adopt a local park or green space. Members are encouraged to proactively report issue or concerns they have relating to crime or safety in the park.

Neighbourhood watch associated with Bruce Castle Park.

Bruce Castle Park	BRUCE CASTLE ROAD	Bruce Castle Road
Bruce Castle Park	EDMANSON'S CLOSE	Edmanson's Close
Bruce Castle Park	ELMHURST, RADLEY & WHITLEY	Elmhurst Road
Bruce Castle Park	ELMHURST, RADLEY & WHITLEY	Radley Road
Bruce Castle Park	ELMHURST, RADLEY & WHITLEY	Whitley Road
Bruce Castle Park	ELSDEN ROAD	Elsden Road
Bruce Castle Park	LINLEY ROAD	Linley Road
Bruce Castle Park	PEMBURY ROAD	Pembury Road
Bruce Castle Park	SPERLING ROAD	Sperling Road
Bruce Castle Park	WEIR HALL ROAD	Weir Hall Road
Bruce Castle Park	WOODSIDE EYES	Forrest Gardens
Bruce Castle Park	WOODSIDE EYES	Woodside Gardens
Bruce Castle Park	WOODSIDE GARDENS	Woodside Gardens

The Neighbourhood Watch officer has also set up a Haringey Dog Watch scheme. This is an initiative for dog walkers to meet with other dog owners and police in an enjoyable, relaxed atmosphere.

The walks are held in a different Haringey park every month and everyone is welcome to come along. The most recent of these in Bruce Castle Park on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019 attracted 16 dogs and their owners.

## 5.8 Designing out crime

It is widely recognised that key factors in ensuring park safety and the perception of safety are to ensure high usage, adequate onsite staffing presence, good maintenance of buildings and infrastructure and a high level of community involvement and 'ownership'. These matters are dealt with in other sections.

Sensitive landscape management can also assist in reducing crime. Assessing accessibility and potential crime spots, known as 'designing out crime' may result in the removal of inappropriate tall shrubs and their replacement with a more suitable low growing species. In other instances entrances may be redesigned, or lighting installed.

## 5.9 24 hour access

The park is locked at dusk and opened at dawn. In order to protect the safety of Haringey staff, gates are locked where it is safe to do so, and if there is a risk that there may be members of the public left in the park, or if the Haringey operative feels intimidated or that their safety is in jeopardy, then a gate is left unlocked.

## 5.10 Dogs

Dogs and dog walking are a valuable part of the park scene, and dog carers are probably the main daily user group in many green spaces. Their collective presence is a key ingredient of green spaces being populated and safe to use, especially at quieter times of the day and year. Dog walkers are often described as ‘eyes and ears’ of a green space.

### 5.10.1 Control of dogs

We recognise that the vast majority of dog owners are, responsible and respectful to their local community. However, we receive complaints from residents about dog fouling and the behaviour of some dogs (and their owners).

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is in place cross the borough to control the behaviour of dog owners. The prohibitions have been designed to be as simple as possible, giving clarity and outlining expectations.

Well behaved dogs can be walked or exercised freely off lead in all large parks (over half a hectare) including Bruce Castle Park. This promotes healthy exercise for dogs and takes into consideration the needs of the borough's dog owners and the welfare of dogs.

In addition, the tennis courts are allowed to be used by dogs when not in use for tennis.

The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) covers five areas of dog control:

- Dog fouling
- Keeping dogs under control
- Putting dogs on a lead if directed
- Keeping dogs out of designated areas (such as playgrounds)
- Limiting to six the number of dogs that one person can bring to the park

Failure to comply with the requirements of the order can result in a fine or to court if the fine is not paid within a specified timeframe.

The PSPO is in force for three years from October 2017 and can be extended for a further three years. Full details can be found at [www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/pspo - dog control - with seal 0.pdf](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/pspo_-_dog_control_-_with_seal_0.pdf)

These powers came into effect on the 20 October 2017, introduced under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The Public Space Protection Order will remain in force for three years.

Matters relating to dangerous dogs and dog attacks on people or other dogs should be reported to the Police rather than to the Council.

## **6. Sustainability**

### **6.1 Greenest borough strategy**

Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy was adopted in 2008 in response to growing concerns around climate change.

The Strategy sets out the Council's and its partners commitment to tackle climate change under seven environmental policies to ensure achievement of their 'green' vision over a ten-year period, and details what the council, its partners and the public can do to contribute.

- Improving the urban environment
- Protecting the natural environment
- Managing environmental resources efficiently
- Leading by example
- Encouraging sustainable design and construction
- Promoting sustainable travel
- Raising awareness and involvement

The management and maintenance of parks and how they are used relate back to many of the individual targets within the strategy. Where possible these have been instilled in everyday working practices in and relation to Bruce Castle Park.

### **6.2 Pesticide use**

The council uses a range of herbicides to control weeds in parks. It remains the most effective in terms of the required resources – with two treatments per year often sufficient to prevent weed growth, as opposed to regular treatment by hand or other means

Chemicals are stored, handled, used and disposed in accordance with manufacturer/supplier requirements, and a COSHH assessment is prepared for each of the substances used.

Reliance on mechanical methods of weed control (e.g. strimming) is reducing as this has an impact on both the operator and also does not address the weed at its roots.

The use of herbicides as a principal form of weed control is increasingly under scrutiny, and the parks department is routinely considering alternatives. This is particularly true of weedkillers containing the component glyphosate. This has received a lot of press coverage subsequent to court cases in the United States, but it remains licensed for use in the UK and Europe.

Officers of the council monitor developments in scientific findings. At this stage, glyphosate appears not to cause harm to humans or any animals larger than micro-organisms.

### **6.3 Sustainable use of materials**

The parks service refrains from the use of non-sustainable peat-based products and challenges nursery suppliers to provide alternative supplies. Where plants are obtained from private nurseries we request plants grown in a peat free environment.

Our infrastructure procurement policy is to use recycled materials where possible. We aim to acquire recycled plastic benches where possible; or where timber is required we seek to use those from sustainable sources.

### **6.4 Recycling**

Although some parks have dedicated onsite recycling bins, all waste collected from parks be it from standard waste bins, or recycling bins is taken to the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) depot. Materials that can be recycled are extracted and processed accordingly.

Where possible green waste is recycled on-site; grass cuttings are left on the grass; and hedge cuttings are mulched and placed under the hedge or in other areas of the park.

In autumn when a large amount of green waste is generated, that which cannot be used or composted on site is taken to the NLWA depot for recycling. The resulting compost is then collected for use in the parks.

After Christmas the borough has a number of advertised sites where people can drop off their used Christmas trees. One of these is Bruce Castle Park. The old trees are stored in the park before being transported to the NLWA depot where they are recycled.

### **6.5 Pollution reduction**

All new machinery used in parks is required to have low vibration levels and low emissions. Machinery is serviced on a regular basis by our in-house parks workshop, helping to ensure low emission and pollution levels. Vehicles meet current emission requirements, and the fleet will comply with the requirements of the London-wide Ultra Low Emission Zone when that is introduced in October 2021 to include Haringey.

We also aim to reduce vehicle emissions through increasing the amount of on-site composting; and through reducing downtime caused by excessive travelling.

Bonfires are not used for safety reasons as well as health concerns due to the smoke.

## **6.6 Water efficiency**

Drought resistant plants and trees are increasingly being chosen by managers to ensure that they survive the drier and warmer months and require less watering during these periods.

## **7. Community Involvement**

### **7.1 Volunteering in parks**

Haringey Council actively supports and encourages volunteering in our parks and green spaces. There are a range of mechanisms to support volunteering and community involvement.

#### **7.1.1 Community Volunteering**

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) are based at Railway Fields, N4. They deliver conservation volunteer days across the borough on behalf of Haringey Council. They also support delivery of training opportunities as well as development of site-specific conservation action plans.

During 2018-19, TCV delivered 155 conservation days across parks in Haringey, involving over 1,200 volunteers. In addition, 6 training days were provided for volunteers on the following subjects: leadership training, leading guided walks, winter tree identification, environmental education volunteers, wildlife garden design and hedgelaying.

While in recent years TCV have not been active in Bruce Castle, there is a Conservation Action Plan detailed later in this document created by TCV that in conjunction with the Friends will be explored in the future

#### **7.1.2 Corporate volunteering**

Haringey Council actively supports companies and corporate volunteers within our parks and green spaces. Corporate volunteering provides an opportunity for employees to be involved in a different experience whilst supporting our management and improvement of green spaces.

During 2018-19, TCV supported 14 corporate volunteer days across the borough with tasks ranging from habitat creation and vegetation management, to creating countryside furniture and nature trails. Additional corporate volunteer days were delivered at parks across Haringey, facilitated by Friends groups.

Specific opportunities for corporate volunteers are included within site Conservation Action Plans (section 8.4) to ensure that the sessions support wider management of the site whilst providing an engaging and rewarding opportunity for the volunteers.

### **7.2 Haringey Friends of Parks Forum**

The borough-wide Haringey Friends of Parks Forum was set up by Friends groups as an independent network in 2002. It is a coalition of over 40 Friends of parks groups

and is committed to protecting and improving open space within the borough. The Friends of Parks Forum meets six times a year.

The Forum provides an opportunity for Friends Groups to work together for the benefit of Haringey's green spaces and green space users. The Forum's '[What We Do and How We Do It](#)' document describes the work of the forum and of individual friends' groups.

Amongst other things the Forum has been effective in lobbying and campaigning for

- better planning policies as they affect open spaces
- more ambitious and effective open space standards
- greater levels of on-site staffing
- giving support to individual Friends' groups

Friends Groups communicate and co-ordinate through the Forum's email list. The Friends Groups liaise closely with all council park services and have been key agents in helping to bring in millions of pounds in external funding to improve facilities for local people.

Over the years they have worked with the Council on achieving Green Flag status for many parks and open spaces. The Forum is supported by the Council and park officers attend a session during the Forum's meetings to take note of each local Friends group's issues, and to discuss wider issues of common concern. The Council is publicly committed to active partnership working with Friends groups and the Forum. Minutes of all Forum meetings are published on the Forum website.

The Forum also works with Haringey Federation of Residents Associations and the Haringey Allotments Forum. It also links up with similar grass-roots residents' Forums and networks throughout the UK through the London Friends Groups Network and the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces.

### **7.3 Friends of Bruce Castle Park**

The Friends of Bruce Castle Park is a voluntary not for profit community group made up of local residents working for the whole community

The group was founded in 2015 after some members of the Friends of Bruce Castle Museum wanted to focus specifically on the park. The group have a keen interest in delivering improvements to the park and involving the local community and other groups in its future.

The FoBCP endeavours to play a significant role in ensuring that local community views and aspirations in relation to Bruce Castle Park and its facilities are taken into account by the Council and other relevant agencies and partner organisations. For this reason, we strongly encourage:

- The active involvement of the local community in the affairs of the Park through a range of meetings, feedback activities and events within Bruce Castle Park.



- Local residents and families to support our work by becoming a friend of FoBCP

## 7.4 Other community involvement

Dogwatch hold regular dog walk days in parks throughout Haringey including Bruce Castle Park. The Friends of Bruce Castle also work with both the FoBCP and to support activities and events across both the Museum and Park.

Currently the FoBCP hold a monthly litter pick and in the past have had music events, carried out surveys, tree plantings and a sunflower competition. In the future they have expressed an interest in doing much more planting in the park.

## 8. Conservation and Heritage

### 8.1 Biodiversity and the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

The term biodiversity refers to the variety of life around us, including plants, animals and the ecological interactions that take place in our environment. Haringey supports a wide diversity of wildlife and habitats ranging from woodland and wildflower meadows to ponds, streams and wetlands.

Haringey's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is currently under review. During 2019-20 a new BAP will be produced, aligned with the new Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. The new BAP will include detail on priority habitats, development of high value ecological corridors and the integration of biodiversity conservation into wider council initiatives.

Priorities within the BAP will help support updating or developing Conservation Action Plans for parks in Haringey including Bruce Castle Park. See section 8.4.

### 8.2 Habitat representation and nature conservation interests

Bruce Castle Park covers just over 8ha ha of green space with a range of habitat types represented.

Habitat type*	Coverage (%)	Coverage (ha)
Amenity grassland	45%	3.68ha
Scattered trees	35%	2.86ha
Bare artificial	17%	1.39ha
Shrubbery	3%	0.25ha

Note: Habitat type defined as per the London Survey Methodology. See [www.gigl.org.uk](http://www.gigl.org.uk) for information.

Bruce Castle Park forms part of a Borough Grade II Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, along with the adjacent Tottenham Cemetery. Bruce Castle Park has a wonderful array of mature specimen trees and tree lined paths This includes a 500-year old sessile oak tree that was runner-up in the public vote for the 2018 Tree of the Year competition.

### 8.3 Designation status

Natural England and Local Authorities have a system of designating greenspace depending on certain characteristics and their value - locally, regionally and nationally. Bruce Castle Park, along with adjacent Tottenham Cemetery and All Hallows Churchyard is:

Designation	Information
Borough Grade II SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation)	A large area of open parkland, with some fine old oak trees in both the park and the cemetery. The site attracts numerous migrant birds in spring and autumn. Small areas of grass are managed as meadow. The cemetery contains a large pond and the Moselle Brook, runs through the site.

There are additional designated sites close to Bruce Castle Park:

Site	Area (ha)	Location	Designation
Tower Gardens Park	1.33ha	West of site	Local SINC (Site of Importance for nature conservation)
Lordship Lane Recreation Ground	12.12ha	South west of site	Local SINC (Site of Importance for nature conservation)
Bruce Grove Wood	0.78ha	South of site	Local SINC (Site of Importance for nature conservation)

### 8.4 Conservation Action Plan (CAP)

Conservation Action Plans (CAP) provide a framework for ongoing management of sites for their biodiversity value. They provide guidance on conservation actions and activities that can be carried out throughout the year and form a basis for the conservation work of TCV, Friends groups and other community organisations.

CAPs detail site specific opportunities as well as supporting borough wide conservation efforts and requirements, such as contributing to habitat creation targets or demonstrating the positive management of SINCs.

With the development of a new Biodiversity Action Plan during 2019-20, existing CAPs for parks will be updated to ensure they are aligned with the new BAP. They will detail conservation actions and requirements, including maintenance, enhancement opportunities and potential future projects.

There is a CAP in place for Bruce Castle Park which can be found below. This continues to form the basis for conservation activities within the park and will be updated to reflect new priorities, actions and projects.

To date, key actions delivered under the existing CAP at Bruce Castle Park have included:

- Bulb planting
- Tree planting
- Wildflower meadow management.

## Conservation Action Plan

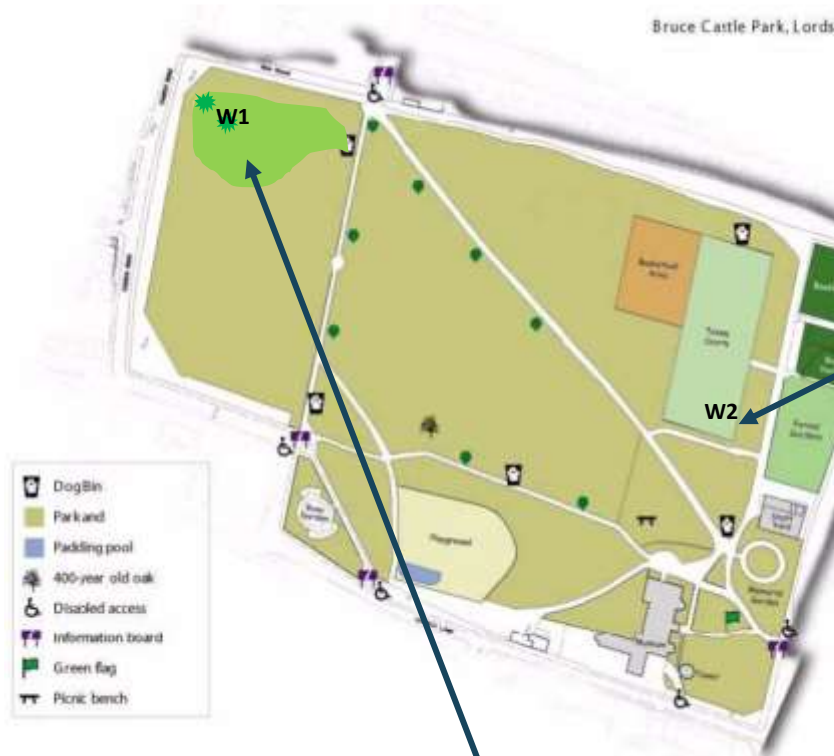
# Bruce Castle Park

### Reclaiming green spaces since 1959

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) is a trading name of BTCV  
Registered in England as a company limited by guarantee (976410)  
and as a charity in England (261009) and Scotland (SC039302)  
Registered Office: Sedum House, Mallard Way, Doncaster DN4 8DB



# Woodland Habitats



**W2: Formal Garden**

**Hedge:**

- Reduce height of hedge along footpath to encourage visitors into the garden
- Trim hedgerow Feb/March (again in July-Aug along path)
- Under-plant with wildflower perennials.

**Trees:**

- Inspect, repair and clean bird boxes. Feb
- Under-plant with woodland bulbs. Oct-Nov

**W1: Woodland Pasture**

- Maintain newly planted, Silver birch, Hazel and Crab Apple. Water and weed. March to Sept. Mulch
- Under-plant with beds of ramsons, bluebells, lesser celandine, wood anemones, herb robert, stinking iris, red campion, wood crane's-bill, woodruff, yellow archangel, pendular sedges and hellebores. April-June
- Mow grass paths. Every 4 weeks
- Maintain wildflower patches around the borders and small central glade. Water and weed. March to Sept
- Control dock and creeping thistles across the pasture. April to June
- Build, maintain, and monitor bat boxes. Ongoing

## Woodland Management Timeline

Activity	Trim Hedges. Use clippings to make habitat piles	Underplant with Wildflower perennials. Under plant trees with bulbs	Monitor and record ground flora. Inspect Trees , ties and guards	Mulch, weed and watering new trees	Pruning Orchard Trees	Other non emergency Tree pruning work.	Maintain wildflower patches	Monitor and record fauna and flora	Inspect, repair and clean bird boxes	Control thistle and dock	Build, maintain, and monitor bat boxes
January			W1 W2		W2		W1		W2		All
February	W2		W1 W2		W2		W1		W2		All
March	W2	W1 W2	W1 W2	W1	W2		W1	All			All
April		W1 W2	W1 W2	W1			W1	All		W1	All
May		W1 W2	W1 W2	W1			W1	All		W1	All
June			W1 W2	W1			W1	All		W1	All
July	W2		W1 W2	W1			W1	All		W1	All
August	W2		W1 W2	W1			W1	All		W1	All
September			W1 W2	W1			W1	All	W2		All
October		Bulbs	W1 W2					All	W2		All
November		Bulbs	W1 W2						W2		All
December			W1 W2		W2				W2		All

## Grassland Habitats

### G1: Grassland

- Mow grass every 4 weeks from May onwards to produce a softer gradient into the wildflower meadow. Raise cut height to 5-7cm, to allow the development of natural lawn herbs
- Mow a metre strip along footpath every 2-3 weeks

### G3: No-mow strip (boundary side of path)

- Leave a 2 metre wide strip of grass to grow. Allowing long grasses and perennials to flower and seed before mowing in October



### G4: Formal Garden

#### Grass and wildflowers:

- Mow to a height of 5-7cm every 3-4 weeks, this will allow low growing lawn perennials to flower
- Under-plant hedge with wildflower perennials.
- Leave a 2 metre wide strip of grass to grow. Allowing long grasses and perennials to flower and seed before mowing in October

### G2: Wildflower Meadow

- Sow summer wildflower seed and/or plant plugs if required. April-May
- Monitor and record plant species.
- Cut 75% of the meadow in late Oct/Nov after perennial flowering has died back. The remaining 25% cut back early spring. Rotate this pattern over 4 year cycle. Rake off cuttings
- Mow a metre wide grass strips every 4 weeks along the footpath and desire lines to gates

Grass & Meadow Management Timeline							
Activity	Plant and Sow wildflower perennials and seed	Cut summer flowering meadow and long grass strips, rake off cuttings	Monitor and record plant species	Reduce ruderals and strong invasive species	Mow grass paths and along footpath	Mow Formal Garden	Monitor and record butterflies
January							
February			All				
March	G2	25% G2 G3 G4	All		W1 G1 G2		All
April	G2	25% G2 G3 G4	All	All	W1 G1 G2		All
May	G2		All	All	W1 G1 G2	Late G4	All
June - August			All	All	W1 G1 G2	G4	All
September	G2		All	All	W1 G1 G2	G4	All
October	G2	75% G2 G3 G4	All	All	W1 G1 G2	G4	All
November			All	All			
December							

## 8.5 Site history and heritage

Bruce Castle Park has enjoyed a rich and varied history. Records of the site date back to the 11th Century.

During the 13th century this area was the manor of de Bruce, one of four manors in the ancient parish of Tottenham. In 1514 Henry VIII granted the manor to Sir William Compton, who rebuilt the manor house on or near the site of the medieval fortified houses of the de Bruce family. Also dating from this period is the enigmatic circular red brick tower in front of the main house whose original use still remains unknown.

The grounds have been open as a public park since 1892, when Tottenham Local Board took on the estate to protect it from development. The manor house has been a local museum and archive since 1906. Over the past century Bruce Castle Park and Bruce Castle Museum has become a vibrant and valued local resource for schools, the community and visitors to Tottenham alike.

The park and its buildings are recognised for their architectural and historic importance in their Grade I Listed status, which includes the circular tower thought to have been a hawk's mews. The manor house is acknowledged as one of two of the largest and most important Elizabethan houses in the Greater London area. The park is on the Haringey Local Register of Historic Parks and Gardens and is covered by Bruce Castle Conservation Area. Two 17th Century sections of brick boundary wall are Grade II Listed in their own right.



London Borough of Haringey as custodian of the site is fully aware and proud of the historical, architectural, cultural, recreational and educational significance of both Bruce Castle Park and Bruce Castle Museum.

Bruce Castle Manor House and its grounds are remarkable survivors in an area that has undergone massive development over the past 150 years. The venerable country house set in 8 hectares of parkland and the groups of historic buildings along the fringes of the estate are poignant reminders of Tottenham's past.

Further information relating to the site's history can be obtained from Bruce Castle Museum.

### **8.5.1 Heritage**

In 2008 a successful Heritage Lottery Funded Project Planning grant was awarded to Bruce Castle Park and Museum to seek expert heritage advice and to help support the compilation of the following important documents: a full Conservation Management Plan, Maintenance Plan, Access Plan and Audit plus an Audience Development Plan.

These substantial documents have supported council officers in caring for this heritage site to ensure that the historical features in Bruce Castle are maintained for future generations. These documents will also support any future Stage One application to the HLF.

In 2006 the Museum of London carried out a geo-physical survey of Bruce Castle Park to assess the potential for an archaeological dig. Although preliminary surveys suggested the presence of foundations from an old house, the dig was unable to fully realise these surveys. The results of this are available for view at Bruce Castle Museum.

In July of 2006 there was a large community dig involving local schools with over 1,500 school children and members of the local community, which was a great success with lots of discoveries about the Bruce Castle school and the Tudor Round Tower. This dig had major press coverage and has been cited in different archaeological journals.

Bruce Castle Museum & Park celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a formal recognition made on 25 October 2006. Bruce Castle Museum has been a holder of the national Sandford Heritage Award for Education since 2005; it was re-awarded again in 2010.

During 2011 there were four pieces of work completed regarding the Grade 2 listed boundary wall surrounding Bruce Castle Park, as follows:

- Condition Survey – This survey covered the entire length of the wall and provided a specification for each type of repair that would be required as well as the location of identified repairs. Two immediate repairs were noted and these have already been completed (details below).
- Repair 1 – On a section of the wall facing Lordship Lane a number of bricks from a parapet feature on top of the wall had become loose. Because of their angled position, these posed a potential risk to pedestrians. The bricks have now been re-seated, pointed and made safe.
- Repair 2 – A section of wall facing Church Lane had suffered damage following deterioration of the mortar. This had resulted in bricks falling out of the wall to leave

an unsightly gap. Following advice from the Council's conservation officers and an endorsement from English Heritage a repair was made to restore the wall to its original condition with the correct and authentic mortar and pointing materials.

- Repair 3 – During 2010, a pair of gates adjacent to the Museum were damaged by a vehicle. These have now been replaced with new gates, to the original design and using some of the original hardware. In addition, the gate piers have been repaired and restored, again, with the endorsement of conservation officers.

## **9. Marketing and communications**

### **9.1 The marketing approach**

Marketing Bruce Castle Park involves more than simply publicising and promoting the park, it also involves listening to the users of the park. Our main aim is to put the needs and concerns of stakeholders, park users and residents at the centre of business marketing approach.

This section outlines how facilities and activities at Bruce Castle Park are promoted and publicised and how users are positioned at the centre of the business.

### **9.2 Websites**

[www.haringey.gov.uk/greenspaces](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/greenspaces)

The Haringey website contains extensive information on the borough's parks and open spaces, including Bruce Castle Park. Information such as location, facilities and transport links for all Haringey parks and open spaces is available.

Policy information such as the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy which draws upon a range of information and seeks to establish a long- term vision for the borough's parks and open spaces is also available.

Information detailing the Council's partnerships with Friends Groups, The Conservation Volunteers and the Metropolitan Police is available online along with links to their websites.

Detailed information on the Green Flag Award with clear links to the Green Flag park pages within the LBH site can be viewed.

Stakeholders of the park such as the Friends also maintain a website/Facebook page: <https://www.friendsofbrucecastlepark.org.uk/>

### **9.3 Social media**

Social Media is now a regular way of communicating information between relevant parties and beyond. Haringey Council encourages all partners to use social media when communicating with communities.

[@haringeycouncil](https://twitter.com/haringeycouncil)

Haringey Council has a Twitter feed with just under 17,000 followers and is used as a two-fold approach: to proactively release live information to keep people informed and

updated and respond to queries and complaints posted by others. This is checked throughout the day and provides residents and visitors with another communication channel.

The Council also uses other forms of communication such as Facebook and YouTube.  
[www.facebook.com/haringeycouncil](http://www.facebook.com/haringeycouncil)  
[www.youtube.com/haringeycouncil](http://www.youtube.com/haringeycouncil)

We also like to keep our resident's in the loop about the events that are taking place, and regularly ask that stakeholders and park hirers submit details about their event on the Council website for FREE, on our "What's On" listings section at  
[www.haringey.gov.uk/add-event](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/add-event)

#### **9.4 Publications**

Haringey People is the Council magazine, distributed six times a year by direct mail to all households within the borough. The magazine is produced by the Council's Central Communications Team which has editorial control over the content.  
<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/news-and-events/haringey-people-magazine>

Several articles are published each year promoting the borough's parks as well as the work and events that key stakeholders and partners organise in parks throughout the year.

#### **9.5 Notice boards**

There are a notice boards located near to the Kings Road, Playground gate and Lordship Lane entrances in Bruce Castle Park. This is used to display information about the Friends and Council services and/or campaigns and events.

In 2014 a set of guidelines detailing how notice boards within parks should be used, maintained and what information can be displayed were issued with the expectation that all those with an interest and access to the notice boards will adhere to them. In 2019 we developed a simple A2, updateable poster that gives key contact information for council and other public services.

#### **9.6 Campaigns**

There are several national campaigns that Haringey Council support and promote via social media to highlight key issues affecting the borough's parks and open spaces. These include:

- Litter awareness campaign – encouraging users to dispose of their litter responsibly.
- Neighbourhood Watches – encouraging creation of new watches and increased membership
- Trees Awareness – aimed at highlighting tree planting, tree identification, maintenance and removal and why. Along with National Tree Week.
- Volunteering and Friends Groups – promoting the work groups do, the benefits they bring to communities and encouraging volunteering

- Love Parks Week – Encouraging stakeholders and Friends to promote and highlight the borough’s parks and the events that they put on.
- The Big Lunch- supporting and promoting via social media the Big Lunch events happening across the borough, with focus on shared picnics in our parks and green spaces.
- The Great Get Together- supporting and promoting the national campaign to celebrate and promote community cohesion. We have streamlined the application form for this event to make it even easier for residents and park users to take part.
- Play Weekend- supporting the Play Streets initiative to encourage more active play within communities
- Playday- supporting the National Summer event to promote active play for children, young people and families. We work closely with our colleagues in the Active Communities Team to support community involvement and uptake.
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## 9.7 Awards

In 2018 22 parks managed by Haringey Council were awarded Green Flag status, an external recognition for quality parks and open spaces.

Haringey Council is committed to managing its parks under the Green Flag criteria and aim for accreditation for all its parks and in 2016 entered into the Green Flag Group Award application.

In 2018 a total of 22 parks managed by Haringey Council were awarded Green Flag status, an external recognition for quality parks and open spaces. Bruce Castle Park was one of these. However, a subsequent mystery shopping assessment found a number of concerns which jeopardised Bruce Castle Park’s Green Flag status.

The council has responded by addressing the issues highlighted in the report and will submit a reapplication for a Green Flag assessment in the summer of 2019.

Haringey Council is committed to the Green Flag scheme and is seeking to secure Green Flag status for at least 22 parks in 2019.

## **9.8 Tree and bench sponsorship**

A sponsorship scheme is provided where members of the public can sponsor the planting of a tree or the installation of a bench in any Council run park and open space. This can be done to commemorate a loved one or an event.

The sponsor pays for the item and planting / installation, thereafter the Council maintains it subject to certain conditions. Should sponsors wish to, they can also help in maintaining their item.

## **9.9 Consultation and market research**

Haringey is committed to listening to the views and ideas of our stakeholders, park users and residents. Council officers attend the Friends of Parks Forum on a bi-monthly basis and maintain open channels of communication with key stakeholders. This is a good way to listen to concerns and engage in a constructive dialogue about individual parks.

When planning any new project work within parks, we make sure that key stakeholders are included in discussions from the beginning of the process and where possible hold open engagement sessions so we can listen to the thoughts, needs and concerns of the wider park community.

Budget reductions have limited our capacity to undertake regular surveys of park users. We include a question about satisfaction with parks in a borough-wide survey about environmental and waste services. The survey is commissioned by Veolia.

In 2018, four in five respondents to the survey (80%) said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with parks. This is slightly down from 2016 (81%) but in 2018 parks was the service with the environmental and waste service with the highest satisfaction rating.

We are aware that we need more knowledge of user satisfaction with individual parks and local people's priorities for their local park. We are planning to survey park users in 2019-20 to ensure that we are working in the right direction for users and in line with the priorities and outcomes of the Borough Plan.

# **10. Management**

## **10.1 Setting the financial scene**

The parks service gross budget for 2017/18 was a total of £5.1m with a revenue income of £4.5m and operated a net deficit of £600k. According to a survey by Parks for London this represents the second lowest operating deficit in London.

Whilst the service has borne its share of austerity related budget reductions, in recent years the service has chosen to focus on generating additional income to mitigate these reductions rather than impact service delivery on the ground. The service has managed this by growing the amount of income generated through: -

- Increasing the number of park properties let
- Increasing the number paying a market rent,
- Growing the number of commercial events

- Growing the level of filming income
- Increasing the range of services offered to other organisations

A breakdown of the 2017/18 revenue budget is set out below: -

a) Revenue Expenditure – Employees, Premises, Transport, Supplies and Services, Third Party Payments, Support Services etc

a. Total Parks expenditure	£5,142,184
b. Employees	£2,665,995
c. Premises related expenditure	£534,054
d. Transport related expenditure	£144,885
e. Supplies and Services	£398,471
f. Third Party Payments	£662,463
g. Support Services	£583,987
h. Capital Charges	£152,330

b) Revenue Income - Customer and Client Receipts, Recharges etc

a. Total Revenue Income	£4,467,442
b. Customer and Client Receipts	£3,753,447
c. Recharges	£713,995

The council seeks to secure external investment from a number of sources. The council has its own ten-year capital strategy which currently includes over £11m of capital funding for parks.. The services seeks to add to this sum and has secured further investment from the following sources over recent years:

Section 106  
 Community Infrastructure Levy  
 National Lottery  
 London Marathon Charitable Trust  
 Environmental Funds  
 Greater London Council  
 Event Income

Another important part of the overall funding mix is the fundraising carried out by Friends Groups across the borough. A wide variety of groups have been able to secure funds to deliver the priorities they identified. In 2017/18 the council directly invested the following amounts: -

c) Capital Expenditure – names of Capital schemes and expenditure on each scheme.

a. Park Asset Management	£377,288
b. Active Life in Parks	£263,477
c. Parkland Walk Bridges	£126,780

The Council continues to face significant financial challenges with many millions of pounds of savings to find over the coming years. A goal therefore for the service over

the coming years is to maintain a stable budget position and therefore continuing with a strategy to generate additional income will be an important financial focus for the service.

## **10.2 Management structure**

The Parks Service sits within the Environment and Neighbourhoods Directorate and is overseen by the Director and the Cabinet Member for Environment.

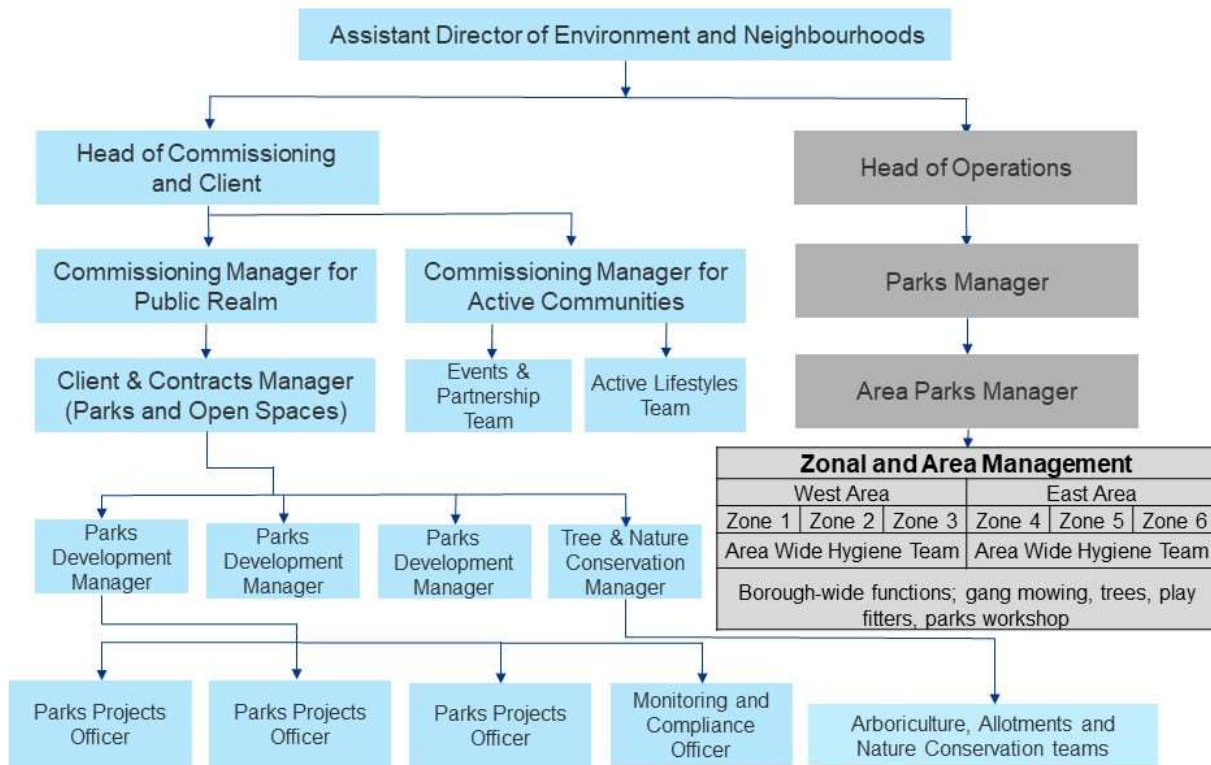
The service is organised across Commissioning and Client Services and Operations business units.

Responsibility for the service falls to the respective heads of each business unit and they are supported by two commissioning managers and a parks manager.

The structure chart (below) shows the three core strands of the parks service which are:

- Park Operations Team – this team takes the lead on all day to day operational aspects of maintaining each green flag park.
- Active Communities Team – this team takes the lead on all event management, community activation in the park, partnership working and small grant awards. This team also secures sport related external funding
- Public Realm Team – this team takes the lead on asset management, investment in parks, policy development, nature conservation and arboriculture.

## Haringey park structure chart (April 2019)



1

These three core teams are supported internally by colleagues across Community Safety and Enforcement, Planning Services, Regeneration, Adults and Children’s services on a variety of issues from homelessness, to new cycle routes, to improvement in existing green spaces and access and activities for older and young people.

External support for the service comes through the Friends Forum, our partners within the Police and The Conservation Volunteers alongside organisations such as Parks for London, Keep Britain Tidy and APSE.

### 10.3 Borough Plan 2019-2023

Following the local elections in May 2018 the new council and its partners have developed a Borough Plan setting out their vision and priorities for the next four years. Following extensive public consultation, it was agreed by Cabinet in February 2019.

The plan sets out the council’s priorities and the outcomes it seeks to achieve. Outcome 10 of the plan is for “a healthier, active and greener place”. The plan places importance on the role of parks and open spaces in delivering this outcome through four objectives.

Objective 10a is to “Protect and improve parks, open space, and green space, promoting community use”.



The Plan identifies several ways in which this will be achieved:

- Continue with partners to invest in our parks with over £15 million of improvements planned over the next five years, including new playgrounds and sports facilities.
- Develop a new Parks and Open Spaces strategy and consult with partners and local communities about how we will work together to protect, enhance and, where possible, extend green and open space in Haringey.
- Promote the use of our parks for a wide range of events and activities, including more community use.
- Plant more trees to make our streets and open spaces greener.
- Work with partners, including Environmental Community Groups, to maintain the borough's watercourses, maximising their environmental and health benefits

Parks are also important in delivering Objective 10b of the plan. It is to “increase the levels of physical activity across the borough” by “creating healthier places, including parks and open spaces, in line with the Mayor of London’s Healthy Streets plan...”

However, we cannot achieve the priorities in the plan on our own. We trust that our partners locally and our residents will work together with us on achieving them.

The Borough Plan 2019-2023 can be found at:

[https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/borough\\_plan\\_2019-23.pdf](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/borough_plan_2019-23.pdf)

#### **10.4 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy**

The last open space strategy was adopted in 2006.

Work has begun on developing a new strategy for parks and open spaces. The importance of a new parks and open spaces strategy is underlined by the explicit reference to it in Borough Plan 2019-2023.

The new strategy will build on the Parks Scrutiny Review that took place in March 2018. It will be co-produced with Friends, residents and councillors. As part of the process there will be a series of workshops and a period of public consultation.

The strategy will set out the ambitions for the service over the next 10 years. It will set out approaches to the maintenance, management and usage of parks. It will also set out clear policy positions on issues relating to parks and open spaces. In some cases new policies will need to be developed (such as security in parks and licensable activity).

The strategy will also describe the funding landscape. One key element of this will be to balancing revenue funding for the service against the agreed service standards. It will also provide a context to inform the long-term capital strategy including mapping out the external funding opportunities that can be used to the benefit of the service

The timetable is for a draft strategy to have been agreed, following public consultation by the end of 2019 and for Cabinet to agree the document early in 2020.

## **10.5 The Greenest Borough Strategy**

Haringey's Greenest Borough Strategy responds to growing concerns around climate change. The Strategy sets out the Council's and its partners commitment to tackle climate change under a number of key environmental policies to ensure achievement of their 'green' vision over a ten year period, and details what the council, its partners and the public can do to contribute.

More information can be found here: [www.haringey.gov.uk/greenest-borough](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/greenest-borough)

## **10.6 The Health & Wellbeing Strategy**

This strategy aims to reduce health inequalities through working with communities and residents to improve opportunities for adults and children to enjoy a healthy, safe and fulfilling life, through a number of key outcomes.

Those that specifically relate to parks include increasing physical activity and improving health and mental wellbeing.

More information can be found here: [www.haringey.gov.uk/hwbstrategy](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/hwbstrategy)

## **10.7 Finance and funding**

The revenue budget for Bruce Castle Park sits within the overall Parks Operations.

Capital expenditure on parks and open spaces is planned at a borough level rather than at an individual park level. Match funding and other sources of external funding are sought wherever possible.

### **10.7.1 Parks and open spaces Small Grant Scheme**

The Parks and Open Space Small Grant Scheme has been running for a number of years. The scheme offers community groups associated with parks and open spaces - such as Friends of Parks groups – to bid for funding of up to £1000. The funding is to support and develop community activity to help meet the council's aims and priorities for improving the borough's parks and open spaces. The budget available in 2018/19 was £40,000 and is expected to be again in 2019/20.

More information can be found here: [www.haringey.gov.uk/parkssmallgrants](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/parkssmallgrants)

### **10.7.2 Events income**

At the end of 2013 a review of the parks events policy was conducted to inform and guide changes of how events would take place in the borough's parks, and also realign and invest income from parks events back into park improvements.

Income generated from events in parks and open spaces will be used in the first instance to meet the parks event income target in each year.

The application and booking fees will be utilised to fund the staffing costs of the booking and event management process.

Surplus income will initially be used to support and develop community led festivals and events in parks across the borough and offer training opportunities for community event organisers. £20,000 additional funding will be made available as part of the small grants scheme, as detailed above.

Any additional income generated will be ring fenced to be reinvested back into parks maintenance across the borough. Where significant sums of money are generated in individual parks the reinvestment needs of that park will be addressed first before redistributing the remainder of any funds to other parks.

All applicants to hold event will be charged a flat rate fee dependent on their event to cover the cost of the environmental impact on the park.

The environmental impact income will be kept separate from other income received in respect of events. This additional income can be used by the Friends of the park in which the event was held to address their immediate priorities for the park.

## 11. Improving Bruce Castle Park

Over and above scheduled maintenance operations at Bruce Castle Park, a number of reactive asset improvement works have recently been completed or commissioned:

Heading	Action	Target completion
A welcoming Place	Updating noticeboard information	May/Ongoing
	Straightening, cleansing and graffiti removal of bins, benches and signage	May
	Play area seats repainted	May
A clean and well-maintained park	Removal of all dog bins	May
Healthy, safe and secure	Path repairs to address tripping hazards	May
	Play area improvements to address deteriorating features	May
A sustainable place		
Community Involvement	Basketball net replacement	May
	Play area – new piece of community chosen equipment	May
	Friends given key to noticeboard to put information in.	April
Conservation and Heritage	Works to Bruce Castle museum and walls	2018
	Updated noticeboard information	May

<b>Heading</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Target completion</b>
Marketing and communication	Straightening, cleansing and graffiti removal of signage	May
Management	Allocation of a dedicated member of the Client & Commissioning/Parks & Open Spaces team as a zonal lead for Zone 4, in which Bruce Castle sits, with responsibility for regular asset inspections, non-emergency asset repairs, management plan input, project identification, liaison with Friends Groups, Councillor liaison and identification of volunteering opportunities	In place

## 12. Action Plan

### 12.1 Maintenance and scheduled work programme

**This is a schedule of annual or routine tasks which are neither developmental nor fall within the remit of routine grounds maintenance or hygiene functions**

Heading	Action	Frequency	Responsible	When?
Clean and well maintained	Site inspection asset condition survey	Monthly	Parks Project Officer	Monthly
	Site inspection: grounds maintenance issues	Monthly	Parks Area Manager	Monthly
	Site inspection: performance monitoring of all grounds maintenance works.	Monthly	Parks monitoring and compliance Officer	Monthly
Healthy, safe and secure	Play Inspection Company to inspect and risk assess all play and outdoor gym equipment	Quarterly	Play Inspection Company	Jan/Apr/ Jul/Oct
Management	Review the Park Management Plan annually	Annually	Parks Project Officer	Dec/Jan
Community Involvement	Lead 'Spotlight' meetings in the park with councillors and Friends	Quarterly	Parks Project Officer	Quarterly

## 12.2 Bruce Castle Park development plan

This plans the work we would like to carry out. Budget availability and more urgent unplanned work may mean that it cannot be fulfilled. Other repairs and general maintenance may have to take precedence. The content will be reviewed at least annually at the end of each calendar year.

Longer term future development for both the museum and the park have been explored within Haringey Council for some time and have and will continue to review the current offerings and facilities in both. The plans are ambitious and will seek to improve all areas of the museum and park and will require the submission to the Heritage Lottery Fund and possibly other funding streams.

Currently, there is a dedicated member of staff assigned to explore options for the above through a series of meetings and surveys, the first of these is scheduled for Later in 2019.

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
A welcoming Place	Improved access for smaller entrances. This should include a review of DDA compliance.	L	Project Officer (PO)	£10k	Parks capital and revenue	As budgets allow
	Upgraded entrance signage to include updated Friends of Bruce Castle contact details.	L	PO	£6k	Parks Capital and revenue	As budget allows to be completed as same time as major project
A clean and well-maintained park	Removal of dog bins	M			Parks Capital and revenue	

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
	New bins incorporating signage for use for dog waste					
Healthy, safe and secure	New Play area	M	PO	£200k	External funding Council capital	Within 5 years
	New Splash Pool	L	PO	£200k	External funding Council capital	Within 5 years
	Renovated/new muga	M	PO	£140k	External funding Council capital	Within 5 years
A sustainable place	Lease for Pavillion to be explored with sustainability regarding community interaction a focus.	H	Property and Parks	£0	n/a	2020
	Development of Heritage Lottery Fund to improve museum and Park	H	Client and Commisioning team	Million plus	HLF and others	Unknown as yet
Community Involvement	Work with the friends to plant native bulbs in the park.	L	Biodiversity Officer	£150	Small external funding streams	Autumn 2019

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion
	Review integration of café lease with sport area management and involvement	M	Property and Parks	£0	n/a	Autumn 2019
Conservation and Heritage	Work with Friends Group and TCV to examine current and future nature conservation requirements.	M	Biodiversity Officer	£0	n/a	2020
	To explore improvements throughout Park with regard to conservation in particular entrance improvements	L	PO	£5k	External funding Council capital	Within 5 years
Marketing and communication	All site signage to be upgraded to reflect new corporate style	M	PO	£6k	Parks capital or revenue	2021
Management	Commence using ConfirmConnect for site inspections, once back-office set-up is complete	H	PO	£0	n/a	May 2019



