

# MARKFIELD PARK





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## Foreword

Dear residents and park users,

I am pleased to share with you the management plan for Markfield Park. This plan has been developed by Haringey Council, in partnership with the Friends of Markfield Park.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, followed by a small, square portrait photograph of a woman with short reddish-brown hair, wearing a red top.

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

## **Open space vision in Haringey**

Our draft vision is that 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 sufficient to deliver the agreed service standards
- Full advantage is taken of the health and wellbeing benefits

The Parks and Green Spaces 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 in 2021. More details are set out in section 10.4 and 10.5.

## **Purpose of the Management Plan**

This management plan detail and guides the management, maintenance, development and improvement of Markfield 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 Markfield 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 Markfield Park - council staff and members, Friends and community groups, partners and residents - should be confident that everything about Markfield 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 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 (28km<sup>2</sup>) in total. The borough population in 2020 was estimated to be 289,000 which is 15% more than ten years ago.



Overall Haringey is the seventh most deprived borough in London (out of 32). However, the borough has extreme contrasts. Areas such as the high hilly communities of Highgate, Muswell Hill and Crouch End in the west are some of the most prosperous locations to live in London, while some wards in the east are classified as being amongst the more deprived in the country.

### 1.2 The demographics of Haringey

The population is very diverse and very youthful. Around a quarter of the borough population is aged 0-19 and only a tenth of residents are over 65. Nearly two fifths of the borough population are from black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) groups and 26% identify as “white other”.

Markfield Park is in Seven Sisters ward. The population density in Seven Sisters ward is 13,900 residents per km<sup>2</sup> (compared to an average of 10,264 in Haringey and 8,697 in London). This highlights the importance of access to parks and open spaces in the neighbourhood.

Seven Sisters ward has one of the largest proportions of people who are Jewish in London (18.1% of the population according to the last population census).

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 Open space provision in Haringey**

Haringey Council manages most of the public open space within the borough, except for Alexandra Park, Highgate Woods and Tottenham Marshes.

Although much greener than some other London boroughs, Haringey is deficient in all types of open space, including public parks. This fact underlines the importance of improving and maintaining sites like Markfield Park to enable more intense and diverse use.

In 2014 about a fifth (21.8%) of the area of Seven Sisters ward (in which Markfield Park is located) was described as “amenity open space”. This is significantly below the average open space across Haringey (28%) and London (39%).



## **2. About Markfield Park**

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

Markfield Park is situated on the south east boundary of London Borough of Haringey on the border of Seven Sisters and Tottenham Hale wards. The 'postal address' is Crowland Road, London N15 6UR.

The park is approximately 18.9 acres (7.64 ha) in size; and is bounded to the north and east by the main Gospel Oak to Barking railway line running along an embankment, to the south-east by the River Lee, to the south-west by Lemsford Close and to the west by Gladesmore Community School and Crowland Primary School. The grid reference of the park is 534326,188714.

The park is close to South Tottenham mainline station and Seven Sisters underground station and the main A10 road which has several bus routes. There are five entrances to the park. They are Crowland Road, Gladesmore Road and under a low railway bridge from Markfield Road to the north; and two from the towpath along the River, making the park accessible to walkers and river users. Because of its location and surroundings it is cut off from land to the east of the River Lee and serves a largely local population.

#### **Map 1: Contextual location of Markfield Park**



The park is a designated floodplain being relatively low lying, only some 2 to 3 metres above the normal water level of the River Lee. On the other side of the river lies the SSSI land around reservoirs which is a part of the Walthamstow Marshes.

Two major tributary watercourses pass through Markfield Park before discharging into the River Lee. These are the Old Moselle Brook which skirts the site to the north and the Stonebridge Brook which passes below in a culvert. In addition there is also the Moselle

Relief Culvert South which takes excess surface water flows directly to the river. Collectively these drain an area of some 10 km<sup>2</sup> containing over 30,000 properties.

Markfield Park is classified as 'Green Belt' open space, a Borough Grade II Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (see section 8.3), an Area of Archaeological Importance and is also part of the Lee Valley Regional Park.

It is the only significant area of public open space in South Tottenham, within a densely developed area with a mix of high density residential and industrial use. We have estimated that around 5,000 people live within 400m of the park and 20,000 live within a kilometre.

Between 2007 and 2010 nearly £4m was invested in Markfield Park, improving the facilities and increasing usage. Funding was secured through various sources including the Heritage Lottery Fund, Football Foundation, DCLG and Big Lottery Fund.

This funded a range of works including the construction of a new cafe, an improved sports pavilion, a playground, the restored beam engine, heritage building works to the Markfield Beam Engine Museum and general landscape improvements throughout the park.

## Map 2: Plan of Markfield Park



The northern area of the park in which the old pump station is located, is the site of a decommissioned sewage works that operated from the mid-nineteenth century until the 1950s. These sewage works served a large catchment area and were used as a lifting station after completion of Jospeh Bazalgette's Victorian sewage improvements. Markfield

Park still serves as a collection point for sewage and foul water all of which are diverted into low level sewers.

The old pump station building houses the Beam Engine Museum, which is open to the public on the second Sunday every month (see sections 2.2.10 and 8.5).

The park is also home to the Markfield Project, a community centre which promotes rights, independence, choice and inclusion for disabled people and their families. Since 1984 the Markfield Project has been based in the old pump house, providing support services which give disabled people and their families' access to everyday and fulfilling life experiences.

The Markfield Project has leased the land surrounding the old pump station building in which lies the decommissioned sewage works.

The park features a range of different landscapes. About two third of the park is grass (including pitches) and about a seventh is paths, roadways or other hard-standing (including the skate park area – see section 2.2.6).

**Table 1: Landscape features at Markfield Park**

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Area (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>
Grass	49,831
- of which pitches	13,236
Paths/hard standing	11,252
Playground Surface	2,743
Shrubs	591
Hedge	40
Rose Bed	225
Bulb	1,095
Spring and Summer bedding	37
Sports Court	1,525
Woodland	5,028
Other (inc former bowls green site)	4,033
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,400</b>

Source: Confirm asset management system

## **2.2 Facilities**

The park consists of a large amenity grassland area used for sport, a children's playground, an outdoor gym, a picnic area, a rose garden, a community garden, formal gardens. There is also an informal skate park/BMX track that has been developed by the local BMX community over the last 20 years or so. These are described in more detail below.

### **2.2.1 Play facilities**

The playground is located between the picnic area and outdoor gym and the pavilion. It comprises an all age playground (for under 16s) containing eight items of equipment and a separate fenced off play area for under-fives comprising a further six items of equipment. Each item of equipment is installed over safety surfacing.



The play area was built as part of the wider park refurbishment that was completed in 2010. The safety surfacing has had patch repairs over the years, but the playground continues to provide a safe, popular and varied play area.

As with each play area in the borough, quarterly safety inspections of the equipment are carried out at the Council's request by the Play Inspection Company. Visual inspections are undertaken as part of regular park inspections and visits by council staff. Repairs are made to the equipment as required.

### **2.2.2 Outdoor gym**

An outdoor gym was installed in the park in February 2019. There are six pieces of equipment that are freely available for community use. These have been very popular since their installation and attract a range of users from children to older adults.



The popular outdoor gym was installed in early 2019

### **2.2.3 Picnic area**

The picnic area is in the fenced area containing the outdoor gym. There are currently three picnic tables in this area. This area is now shared with the outdoor gym. The picnic area needs some improvement work to make it more attractive, but it remains popular and well used.

### **2.2.4 Multi-use games area**

A rubber surfaced multi-use games area (MUGA) is freely available to all park users. It was created as part of the lottery-funded investment in the park about 12 years ago. It has basketball nets and markings for basketball and netball. It is used by the secondary school for PE lessons and by the local community at all other times. The surface is starting to wear, and patch repairs have been required but it still provides a valuable and popular local resource.



### 2.2.5 Floodlit MUGA and pavilion

The former bowling green had been unused since 2013. In 2019 the site was re-developed into a floodlit, outdoor, multi-use games area (MUGA) with markings for tennis, football and netball and with the scope to play mini-tennis.

The facility is used by the two local schools, local clubs and organised sports coaching and events. It will be available for community use on a pay-and-play basis from 2021 with bookings made online and access to the MUGA gained via a keypad by the entrance gate. A key code is given to the user when a booking is made. At night the floodlights are activated when the code is entered and shut off 15 minutes after the booking ends.

The pavilion building provides changing facilities for the school during the week but not for public use.

Funding for this facility was provided by the council, the two local schools, the London Marathon Trust and Sport England.



The new floodlit MUGA was completed in Autumn 2019

### 2.2.6 Skate Park and graffiti walls

There is an informal skatepark in the area formally occupied by the sewage filter beds. Although it is not a designated council facility, skateboarders and BMX bikers have used this site for over 20 years. It has been developed by the skateboard and BMX community.

This part of the park, with its long, low concrete walls from the now defunct filter beds is also a place where art graffiti has been tolerated since the 1990s. Time Out magazine highlighted this site in it's [things to do in London](#) feature in July 2018 describing it as "home to an ever-changing array of colourful street art".



The colourful skateboard and BMX track

### **2.2.7 Community garden**

The community garden is also located among the old filter beds. In recent years it has become rather overgrown and neglected and a site for anti-social behaviour. It is planned to develop the garden so that it is more connected to the rest of the park and attracts more people into this area of the park than has been the case in recent years.

A public meeting took place in December 2019 to reimagine the community garden and to make plans for rejuvenating the space. Two planned community gardening sessions that were scheduled in early 2020 had to be cancelled but a socially-distanced volunteer event took place in November 2020 with more planned for 2021.

### **2.2.8 Café (and toilets)**

The café is an important resource, next to the museum. It is open 365 days a year. More details about the café and toilet facilities can be found in section 3.5.

### **2.2.9 Rose garden**



In front of the café is a fenced, formally planted rose garden. As well as providing a spectacular show of blooms in summer it is popular with young children who like to use it to ride scooters and pedal-along-cars.

### **2.2.10 Beam Engine Museum**

The Beam Engine Museum is located within Markfield Park. The museum is a charity run by a board of eight trustees and supported by a team of volunteers. Its purpose is to provide information about the original Markfield sewage treatment works site, to showcase its beam engine and the old pump station and to provide displays about the engineering and public health heritage.

The museum is open on the second Sunday of each month all year round. In the summer it is also open on the fourth Sunday of each month. In addition there are eight days on when the Beam Engine operates under steam power.

The museum attracts close to two thousand visitors to the site from the local area and further afield. The museum website is at [www.mbeam.org](http://www.mbeam.org). See section 8.5 for more information.

### **2.2.11 Football pitches**

During the football season three pitches are marked out, two full size and one a junior sized pitch. These are used by Park View Rangers football club, the local schools and by park users when not otherwise in use. In the summer this is a popular sunbathing and picnicking area.

## **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.

Markfield Park has a range of deciduous and coniferous tree species. The playing fields at the heart of the park are mainly surrounded by mature lime trees that are planted in avenues on either side of the perimeter path. There is also an avenue of beech trees adjacent to Gladesmore School. New trees were planted in 2017 in cooperation with the Friends group, species including silver birch, hornbeam and wild cherry.



### 3. A welcoming place

#### 3.1 Visiting Markfield Park

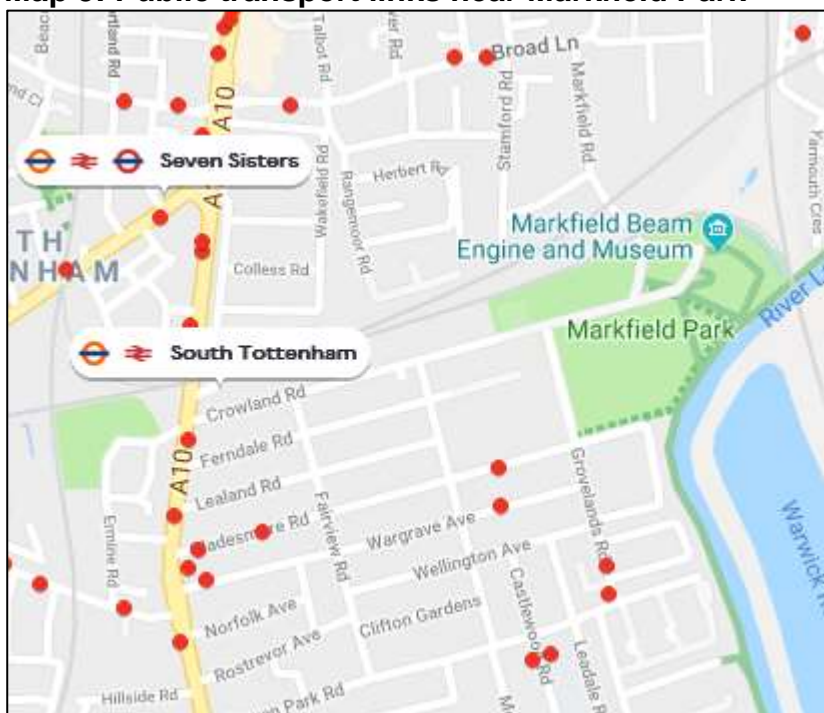
As well as being a destination in its own right the park provides a pleasant through-route for people using the adjacent local schools and leisure centre to the residential areas to the north and south. It is on a national trail used by walkers and is accessible to people using the River Lee towpath.

##### 3.1.1 Public transport

Markfield Park is approximately half a mile from Seven Sisters tube and rail station and South Tottenham Overground station is approximately a quarter of mile away.

London Bus 318 operates a hail and ride route along Gladesmore Road and Wargrave Avenue which brings people within just a few metres of the park. A host of other London buses stop along High Road (76, 149, 243, 476) and Broad Lane (41, 123) leaving a short walk to the park.

**Map 3: Public transport links near Markfield Park**



##### 3.1.2 Vehicles

Vehicles are generally discouraged from parks, but there is a limited amount of parking outside the Markfield Project and the Beam Engine Museum. Access is via Markfield Road. The low railway bridge means that access is limited to cars and other low vehicles. The headroom is about 2.5m.

Until recently historic problems with commuter parking during the week had been solved, but it became a problem again in the latter part of 2020. As a result there can be severe congestion and users of the Markfield Project are unable to park if they had driven there.



Resolving this problem to the satisfaction of all stakeholders is one of the challenges in 2021.

Vehicles are still able to use the car park at the weekends. This is particularly important for the Beam Engine Museum which attracts some visitors from considerable distances and to the football teams that use the sports pitches at weekends. The Markfield Project also hosts events and hires its facilities to local community organisations who sometimes require vehicular access.

### 3.1.3 Bicycles

Bicycles are permitted in Markfield Park though cyclists are expected to be attentive to other park users on the shared use paths. Four new cycle stands were installed by the café in 2020 to encourage visits by bicycle.

There have been problems with cyclists using the eastern path between the two towpath gates to avoid the very bumpy section of towpath. Unfortunately many of them travel at speed which presents a hazard to park users on this path. Advisory 5mph signage for cycles has been put up. The council is also in discussion with the Canal and Rivers Trust, who are responsible for the towpath, with a view to improving the surface. It is hoped that this will reduce the amount of traffic cutting through the park.

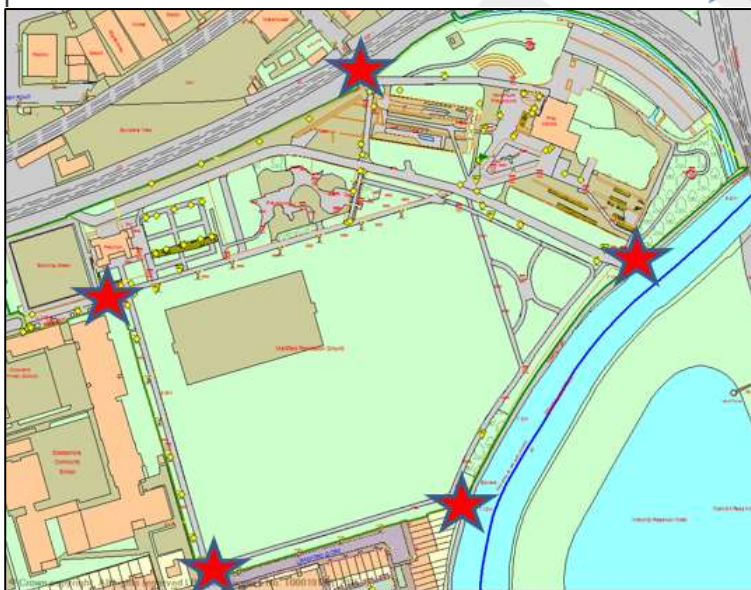
### 3.1.4 Mopeds and motorcycles

The park suffers from mopeds and motorised scooters using it as an unauthorised short cut. This is difficult to prevent as the pedestrian entrances are often used. Some of these vehicles are food delivery drivers. It appears that some satnavs recommend routes through the park. The action plan addresses this concern.

## 3.2 Entrances

Markfield Park is a public site which is always open. It has five entrances. The Crowland Road, Gladesmore Road and Markfield Road entrances currently offer vehicular access.

**Map 4: Entrances to Markfield Park (shown as ★)**



The Crowland Road vehicle gate is locked at all times except for access, but there is pedestrian and cycle access to the side. Markfield Road gate is open during the day (see 3.1.2 above) but is locked at night. The Gladesmore Road gate has is protected by a lockable bollard to prevent unauthorised vehicles at all times. It is planned to install a more robust permanent bollard here to prevent any behicle access.

There are two narrow entrances from the River Lee towpath.

### **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 Markfield 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 can 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**

The welcome signs at each entrance to the park show an individual gate name for ease of identification as well as contact numbers for the council, police emergency and non-emergency numbers and for the Friends of Markfield Park.

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

- Shared use walking / cycling symbols (with pedestrian priority)
- no unauthorised vehicles
- keep your park tidy
- three dog control orders with potential penalty for failing to adhere to these orders.

The entrance signs also include the Neighbourhood Watch logo to show the partnership the Council has with the Haringey Neighbourhood Watch Association (see section 5.7).

As well as the entrance gate signs, the play areas have signs which include:

- 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

A café has been open in the park since 2010. It is located adjacent to the Beam Engine Museum and the Markfield Project in the north east quadrant of the park. The café standard hours are from 9am until at least 6pm, 365 days a year. It often stays open into the evening when the park is busy. However, during 2020 it was closed during lockdown and operated a takeaway service for most of the time since. At the time of writing it only offers a takeaway service because of the current 'Tier 4' arrangements.

The café offers a range of hot and cold drinks sandwiches and light meals, including a range of healthy options.

There is an outdoor seating area beneath a pergola trained with vines by the café owner.



The Markfield Park café with the beam engine museum behind it

Toilets, including an accessible cubicle with baby change facilities, are available for public use immediately outside the café. Unfortunately due to vandalism in the past these are locked when the café is closed.

A key is available from the café to gain access to the accessible toilet. If the toilets need supplies, park users can ask the café staff to replenish them. Maintenance issues can also be reported to the café staff or 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 Markfield Park. The [outdoor events policy](#) sets out the types of events that are encouraged and those we do not allow.

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.

Markfield Park has the potential to host larger events in the grassy area in the centre of the park. Those interested in holding an event of any size can refer to the [Events Brochure](#).

Money generated from major events in any of Haringey's parks 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. 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.



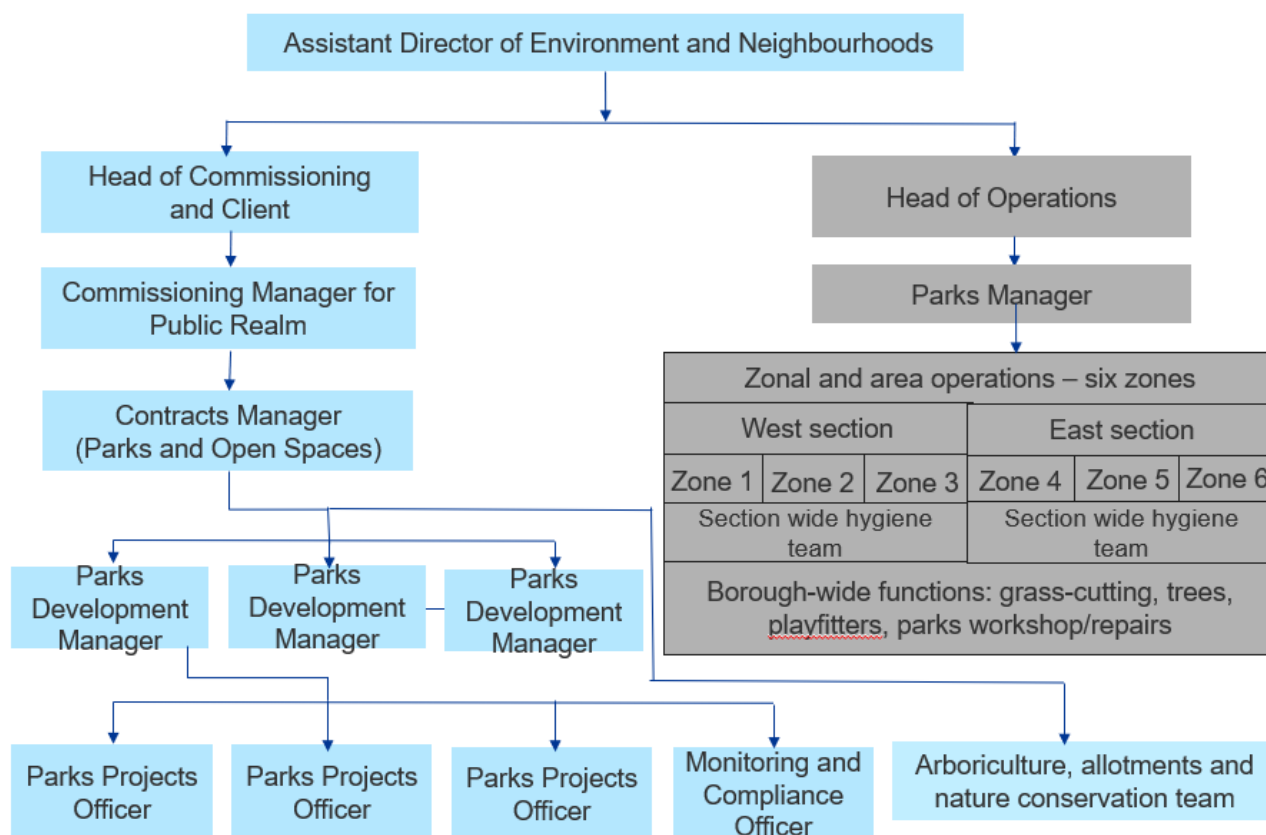
## 4. A Clean and Well-Maintained Park

### 4.1 Operational and management responsibility for parks

Responsibility for the management of maintenance of all the borough's parks is split between two 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 and the management of projects within parks, and for arboriculture, allotments and nature conservation.

#### Simplified parks structure chart



A more detailed structure is shown in section 10.2.

### 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.

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



### 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 Markfield Park is Alistair Smith, Park Projects Officer.

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

#### 4.3.1 Contact details

The key staff and people involved in the management of Markfield Park are:

Name	Responsibility	Email
Alistair Smith	Physical assets; community liaison; capital projects	alistair.smith@haringey.gov.uk
Stuart Hopking	Grounds maintenance	stuart.hopking@haringey.gov.uk
Sahina Choudhury	Litter and hygiene	sahina.choudhury@haringey.gov.uk

#### 4.3.2 Park asset inspections and Spotlight visits

In 2018 the council adopted the Mayor of London's typology for parks. Under this typology Markfield 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 site' park Markfield Park is inspected at least once a quarter.

The inspections cover hard assets, including (if present in the park):

- 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 and 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 2021 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 Our Haringey 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 Markfield Park every 3-4 months. This is an opportunity to look at the park together to identify issues and opportunities within the park and by the stakeholders. The first of these was held in April 2019.

#### 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.

During 2019 a major capital project took place to create a floodlit multi-use games area on the former bowling green by the Crowland Road entrance. During 2020 its use was limited to pre-booked, organised sport and during lockdown it was closed). It will become available for community use (when not otherwise booked for school or club use) on a pay-and-play basis in 2021.

#### 4.4 Scheduled Maintenance

The table overleaf provides a summary of the maintenance regime within Markfield Park.

**Table 3: Scheduled maintenance in Markfield Park**

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<b>Grass cutting:</b>  To achieve grade A at each maintenance visit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grass has been uniformly cut and is 35mm or less.</li> </ul>	Approximately Fortnightly	During the growing season (Mar-Oct approx.). May extend into



Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edges are trimmed and not growing onto hard surface or bedding.</li> <li>Litter picking prior to mowing.</li> </ul> <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>		November subject to prevailing climatic conditions.
<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>	One occasion plus regular litter picking	Works required where bulbs are present in grass on site.
<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>	One or more occasions subject to type. Plus regular litter picking.	Guidance on maintenance schedule to be drawn from the conservation management plan for each park.
<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> <li>Wide variety of plants.</li> <li>Roses deadhead as required.</li> <li>Shrubs pruned as required.</li> <li>Edging well maintained.</li> </ul>	Two to four occasions as required per location.	Herbicide application will take place on two occasions a year via controlled droplet application.
<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</li> </ul>	Up to ten occasions	Gapping up of bedding to take place in response to vandalism.

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<p>have plants that are not yet established).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Edging maintained.</li> <li>• No deadheads.</li> </ul>		Drought tolerant planting to reduce need to water.
<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> <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>	One occasion per year plus watering for new 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> <li>• Leaf fall removed.</li> <li>• Litter picking as per hygiene schedule.</li> </ul>	<p>A minimum number of visits as required to achieve the grass height required for football.</p> <p>Weekly line marking during playing season</p> <p>Winter season work as required</p>	Seeding and fertilising as required.

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<b>Bins, Litter and Dog Fouling</b>  To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit: <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.
<b>Other</b>  Fly tips and other hygiene issues  Sweeping of hard surfaces (e.g. tennis courts, hard standing etc)  Gate locking (Markfield Road gate)	Reactive  Reactive  Daily	In response to emergency call-outs.   Opened about 8.30am on weekdays by Markfield Project to deter commuter parking on site.

#### 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 staff. 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>EXCELLENT</b></p>	<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>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>GOOD</b></p>	<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>UNACCEPTABLE</b></p>

The boroughwide targets and performance for these KPIs are as follows.



Category	Target A/B	Achieved 2018-19
Grass	90%	83%
Shrubs	60%	71%
Hygiene	55%	65%
Seasonal and other	90%	n/a

As part of the development of the Parks and Green Spaces Strategy a set of service standards will be developed. The standards and the performance that is achieved will be published, where possible for each park.

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

Since January 2019 a Park Projects Officer also carries out a regular site inspection of the physical assets in Markfield Park. These take place at least once every three months. 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. They conduct detailed quarterly 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**

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.

Trees in Markfield Park 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.

New trees were planted in 2017 in cooperation with the Friends group, species including silver birch, hornbeam and wild cherry.

#### **4.8 Graffiti**

Markfield Park has historically suffered from unwanted graffiti. The area under the Markfield Road bridge has been particularly targeted but other areas are frequently tagged. 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.

As noted in section 2.2.6 art graffiti is welcomed within certain areas of the park. One of the challenges in Markfield Park is managing the nature of the graffiti and the area of the park in which it is considered acceptable. This is monitored by the Park Projects Officer.

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

Parks buildings are split into two categories:

- properties that are leased or otherwise let to third parties. These fall under the responsibility of the council's strategic property team;
- properties that are used by the Council's Parks Operations team as offices or for storage, such as the parks depots. These fall under the responsibility of the council's corporate landlord team.

Within Markfield Park the café, the buildings occupied by the Markfield Project and the Beam Engine Museum are subject to leases let by the council's strategic property team.

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

Landscape maintenance is carried out by the Parks Operations team.

#### **4.10 Hygiene**

The Hygiene Team is managed by Parks Operations, covering borough wide hygiene responsibilities. Within Markfield Park waste bins and dog waste bins are emptied daily, and any dumped rubbish that is reported to the service will be removed.

Three new dual-use waste and recycling bins were installed in the park in 2020, and two existing bins were moved away from the Towpath south and Gladesmore Road gates. This was to discourage household waste being left by these bins.

Five dog waste bins were removed in 2020. This is in keeping with parks policy to remove dog waste bins. Dog owners can put bagged dog waste in any litter bin.

## 5. Healthy, Safe and Secure

### 5.1 Smoking

Smoking is permitted (though discouraged) in Markfield 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 Markfield Park. Signage at playground entrances highlights this.

### 5.2 Alcohol

Alcohol is permitted in Markfield Park but an Alcohol Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Seven Sisters 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.

The Seven Sisters PSPO has been operation since October 2017 and last for three years. It is likely to be renewed for another three years after it expires in late 2020.

Further details can be found at [www.haringey.gov.uk/community/community-safety-and-engagement/anti-social-behaviour/public-spaces-protection-orders-pspos#alcohol](http://www.haringey.gov.uk/community/community-safety-and-engagement/anti-social-behaviour/public-spaces-protection-orders-pspos#alcohol)

### 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.

There is a walking route around Markfield Park. This is half a mile (800m) long and will take on average 7 minutes to complete, burning around 42 calories. The route has recently been signed with orientation boards (see photo).



In 2018 a booklet called *A Walk in the Park* showcases several walks through Haringey parks including the Tottenham Park Café Trail which passes through Markfield Park.

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, and staff and contractors working in Markfield 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**

The Friends of Markfield Park can report issues within the park in the same way as members of the public, but they also have close links with the link Park Projects 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 Development 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 unexploded ordnance, and measures to protect the public during any works. Contractors are further required to undertake CAT scans prior to excavations.

The 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' phone app**

The 'Love Clean Streets' phone 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, park users 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 remain relatively safe places, especially during the hours of daylight. Over the whole of 2019 there were 728 reported crime or incidents reported to the police across all the parks and open spaces in Haringey.

The most commonly reported crime in parks in 2019 was robbery, which accounted for about 40% of reported crimes in parks. Three in five of these robberies took place after dark. There were also over 80 reported thefts and over 60 cases of possession of cannabis.

About two thirds of crimes in parks were reported during British Summer Time (April to October) when the evenings are longer and the parks are more heavily used. Over two in five of all reported crimes took place when it was dark and a fifth happened late at night (between 10pm and 5am).

In Markfield Park there were 61 reported crimes in 2019. This was a significant increase on 2018. The explanation for this increase was a spate of robberies, almost all after dark, in the autumn of 2019. This was an unusual and sudden spike. As well as undertaking case by case investigations the police increased patrols in the park after nightfall. The council and the Friends are monitoring the situation and are in contact with the police. At the time of writing the December figure had significantly dropped from the autumn peak.

One of the most significant and troubling issues for Markfield Park in 2020 was unlicensed music events (UMEs) during between May and September. These usually took place in the skate/BMX area, starting late at night. Residents living behind this area were kept awake all night, as were some living in neighbouring areas.

Eventually, as a short-term measure, security guards were hired to patrol the site at night on the days when such an event was anticipated. A CCTV camera will be installed overlooking this site to provide an early warning of a UME being set up in this area in future.

## **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 issues or concerns they have relating to crime or safety in the park.

Markfield Park has been adopted by three Neighbourhood Watch groups:

- Crowland Road
- Stonebridge Road
- St Peter's House.
- 

The Haringey Neighbourhood Watch officer 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.



Dog Watch walk in Markfield Park

The walks are held in a different Haringey park every month and are open to all. Markfield Park had a dog walk in 2019, but the 2020 walk was cancelled due to Covid-19. It is hoped to hold at least one in 2021.

## **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.

Lighting by the Markfield Road entrance was improved in 2020 with the reinstatement of a lamp by the bridge with a high powered LED bulb.

## **5.9 24-hour access**

The Markfield Park vehicle gates are locked overnight but pedestrians can still gain use each of these entrances as the gates do not prevent pedestrian and cycle access.

The Markfield Road vehicle gate is unlocked at about 8.30am on weekdays to deter commuter parking (see section 3.1). In the winter months it is sometimes locked after nightfall if there are scheduled activities at the Markfield Project after dark. This is to enable participants' parents to pick them up at the end of the activity. The Markfield Project take responsibility for locking the gate on these occasions.

## **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.

We recognise that most 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 across 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 Markfield Park. This promotes healthy exercise for dogs and takes into consideration the needs of the borough's dog owners and the welfare of dogs.

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 to
- 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.

PSPOs are made under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The current PSPS is in force for three years from October 2017 and may be renewed for a further three years from October 2020.

Full details can be found at <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/environment-and-waste/noise-and-animal-control/dog-control-orders>



## **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 Markfield 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 enough 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 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.

The use of pesticides and chemicals will be reviewed as part of the development of the new parks and green spaces strategy.

### **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 these 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.

### **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 hedge laying.

TCV took a leading role in 2019 in engaging stakeholders and local people about the rejuvenation of the community garden. This included developing and giving a presentation about community gardens at two stakeholder events as a stimulus to generating creative ideas and buy-in to the project.

During 2020-21, TCV will be delivering several volunteer conservation days at Markfield Park. These are likely to focus around the community garden as the project to improve and enhance this area of the park develops.

#### **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 offered depending on the site, 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 Markfield Park**

The Friends of Markfield Park meets monthly. During lockdown Zoom meetings have been held, usually once a month at 5pm on a Monday. It is hoped that meetings in the café can resume in early 2021. It is best to check with the Friends if you are planning to come.

The Friends main aim is to discuss views about the park and promote a more effective, beneficial usage of the park to the wider community. Membership and participation grew in 2020. Participants include local residents and representatives of stakeholders including the Markfield Beam Engine Museum, the Markfield Project, the Markfield Park café and Tottenham Jewish Association. Local residents and park users are very welcome to attend meetings and participate in activities.

The Friends organise occasional gardening sessions in which the wider community are encouraged to get involved and are planning to work closely with the Haringey Conservation Volunteers in the future to establish the neglected community garden as an integral and well-used part of the park. In the past they have also arranged activities in the park and in the café including a Christmas party in the café, though not during 2020.

The Friends of Markfield Park website is at [www.friendsofmarkfieldpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofmarkfieldpark.org.uk).



## 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 2020 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 Markfield Park. See section 8.4.

### 8.2 Habitat representation and nature conservation interests

Markfield Park provides a range of habitat types. The table below sets out the different types of habitat.

Habitat type*	Coverage (%)	Coverage (ha)
Amenity grassland	53%	4.09
Semi-improved grassland	13%	1.02
Scattered trees	13%	1.01
Bare artificial**	11%	0.85
Ruderal	6%	0.43
Scrub	3%	0.19
Tall herb	<1%	0.05
Non-native hedging	<1%	0.05
Wet marginal	<1%	0.03
Total		7.72

Note1: \*Habitat type defined as per the London Survey Methodology. See [www.gigl.org.uk](http://www.gigl.org.uk) for information.

Note2: Total area quoted by GIGL varies slightly from the figure quoted in section 2.1 (7.64ha)

Note 3: \*\*This total is lower than the figure derived from the Council's Confirm system (section 2.1)

Markfield Park forms an important link in a larger green corridor incorporating surrounded designated sites. There are nationally and locally scarce plant species found including wall bedstraw and several fern species.

### 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. Markfield Park is designated as follows:

Designation	Information
Borough Grade II SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation)	A good diversity of habitats with a mosaic of scrub, young woodland, tall herbs, grassland and ruderal vegetation. Locally and nationally scarce plant species present including wall bedstraw, rustyback ferns and maidenhair spleenwort.

There are additional designated sites close to Markfield Park:

Site	Area (ha)	Location	Designation
Tottenham rail sides	18.22ha	Adjacent to the site to the North	Borough Grade II SINC
Lea Valley	950ha	Adjacent to the site to the East	Metropolitan SINC
Tottenham Hale and Northumberland Park rail sides	7.55ha	North of the site	Borough Grade II SINC

## 8.4 Conservation Action Plan (CAP)

Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) 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 2021, 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 Markfield Park which can be found in Appendix 1. This continues to form the basis for conservation activities within the park and will be updated to reflect new priorities, actions and projects – specifically the community nature garden project that is being developed.

To date, key actions delivered under the existing CAP at Markfield Park include:

- bulb planting
- bramble management
- sapling removal.

## 8.5 Site history and heritage

The Markfield Park site has a long and interesting history. The following information is an edited extract from the Conservation Statement prepared by Chris Blandford Associates for the Heritage Lottery Fund bid in July 2006. It provides a rich and interesting insight into the history and social history of the site.

Markfield Park is situated in the Lee Valley which is designated as a Site of Archaeological Importance. The site forms part of the floodplain of the River Lee and is at relatively low level between 7-9m above sea level.

In the eighteenth century the area had marshes to the east beyond the River Lee and numerous small watercourses and tributaries of the River Lee meandering through the river meadows and agricultural land of the floodplain to the west of the river.

Two of these watercourses are still present in the park; the Old Moselle and the Stonebridge Brook. At this time there was a small sewage works situated between the two water courses and a large house and gardens, Markfield House, lay to the west. The remainder of the site comprised fields with some trees on the boundaries.

The development of the sewage works at Markfield was a direct result of the rapid growth of urban and industrial development in London during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. With the growth of Tottenham the amount of sewage and wastewater increased and the traditional system of open culverts leading into existing watercourses could no longer cope.

In 1843 the riverside lands were generally malarial and by 1848 some 800 houses discharged their waste into the Moselle alone. The 1848 Public Health Act enabled Tottenham to establish a permanent Local Board of Health with financial powers. It was one of the first areas of Middlesex to do so and following this the first sewage disposal works was built at the Markfield site.

The initial works consisted of a 45-horsepower steam engine to lift the incoming sewage and discharge it into the two deposit tanks, located along the north-east boundary of the works. The effluent would then pass through a sand filter before being discharged down the 'effluent race' to the River Lee. Two cottages were built to accommodate the operators. The building which housed the original engine house remain today as part of the Beam Engine Museum and the Markfield Project.

After the contractor's death in 1858 the sewage works were not maintained and sewage was dissipated into the land around Page Green, to the anger of residents, and discharged directly into the Lee.

The Moselle and other streams were also becoming increasingly contaminated from neighbourhoods higher up. The result was a rise in Tottenham's death-rate to 21.4 per thousand in 1871. This was worse than anywhere at the time other than the poorest parts of east London

By the mid-nineteenth century the pollution level of the Thames and subsidiary watercourses (including the River Lee) had become so great that it was perceived as an intolerable nuisance and a health hazard. The 'Great Stink' of 1858 and a succession of outbreaks of cholera led to the Metropolitan Board of Works seeking a London wide solution.

Joseph Bazalgette's scheme was implemented during an 18-year period from 1858. Several very large west-east intercepting sewers were built through north and south London roughly parallel to the line of the Thames. These redirected London's wastewater to outfall works well downstream at Beckton in the north and Crossness in the south. At these points the waste was pumped up into holding reservoirs and discharged twice a day on the ebb tide so that the waste went out to sea.

With the completion of Bazalgette's scheme in the late 1870's, Markfield sewage works were considerably enlarged due to the need for an interim pumping station in order to provide the required gravity for effluent to flow towards the Thames.

The vertical beam engine, still present on the site (see historic photo), was installed and formally started on 12 July 1888. To accommodate it the engine house was extended, and the new filtering beds and precipitation tanks were built in 1894. To provide the necessary space, the route of the Moselle and Stonebridge Brook were diverted. A small hospital labelled as a 'smallpox hospital' was built north-west of the engine house. The earlier workmen's cottages remained and there were additional buildings for storage. A new outfall race was built connecting the extra filter beds to the River Lee.



A 1915 map shows the site named 'Pumping Station and Depot', with the area to the north densely developed with a mixture of housing and factories. Markfield House had been demolished and new school buildings erected together with new residential development to the south. The roads are named and laid out, but housing is piecemeal. Land immediately west of the Lee is undeveloped. A new reservoir has been constructed east of the site (Warwick Reservoir West).

By 1936 the park was enclosed by housing and all the land west of the Lee was developed by Wharfs. Maps show the site with the north half as Allotment Gardens and the south as 'Markfield Recreation Ground'. Stonebridge Brook formed the boundary between the sewage works and the Allotment Gardens. The area west of the current boundary was shown as open land with a series of straight paths.

The Markfield Recreation Ground was opened by the Mayor of Tottenham on Monday 25 July 1938. The recreation ground was established as part of the National Memorial to his late majesty King George V.

By the late 1950s it was decided that the site was too small to have a digested sludge system and the sewage works were decommissioned in the 1950s. They were formally closed and incorporated into the park in February 1964.

The outdoor works and buildings were either demolished or modified to form an adventure playground. Only the Old Pump House and the Beam Engine remained in situ as built. A new access point to the Park was made by cutting a path through the west precipitation tanks to link with Markfield Road to the north. Mounds of spoil were placed around the sewage works during the building of the Victoria Line, and the Stonebridge Brook was culverted. Historic maps of the park show it has changed little in layout from 1949.



In 1984, Haringey granted a lease on the disused sewage works to the Markfield Project, and one of the former engine houses (the Old Pump Station) was converted for their use. Part of the Old Pump House containing the beam engine is today a small museum run by volunteers. This along with the former filter beds provides an interesting and informative insight into the workings of a Victorian sewage station.

### **8.5.1 Future plans**

The Bean Engine Museum is planning to make a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to substantially improve the site and the offer to visitors. This is in development. As a forerunner to this they are planning a heritage trail in the park to explain and showcase the industrial (and sewage) history of the site. Discussions are underway with the parks service, conservation officers and others. It is hoped to establish this in 2021.

## **9. Marketing and communications**

### **9.1 The marketing approach**

Marketing Markfield 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 Markfield 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 Markfield 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 council site can be viewed.

The Friends of the park have a website at [www.friendsofmarkfieldpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsofmarkfieldpark.org.uk). At the time of writing it was being updated.

### **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](https://www.facebook.com/haringeycouncil)

[www.youtube.com/haringeycouncil](https://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 Noticeboards

There are three noticeboards located in Markfield Park. These are used to display information about the Friends and council services and/or campaigns and events. Some information about local community services are also displayed when noticeboard space allows.

A set of guidelines was developed 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. These are present in all three noticeboards.

## 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.

## **9.7 Awards**

In 2020 a total of 22 parks managed by Haringey Council were awarded Green Flag status, an external recognition for quality parks and open spaces. One of these is Markfield Park.

A reapplication for Green Flag status will be made in 2021.

## **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 cuts have hit 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 2020 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 service seeks to add to this sum and has secured further investment from the following sources over recent years including:

- Section 106
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- National Lottery
- London Marathon Charitable Trust
- Environmental Funds
- Greater London Authority
- 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

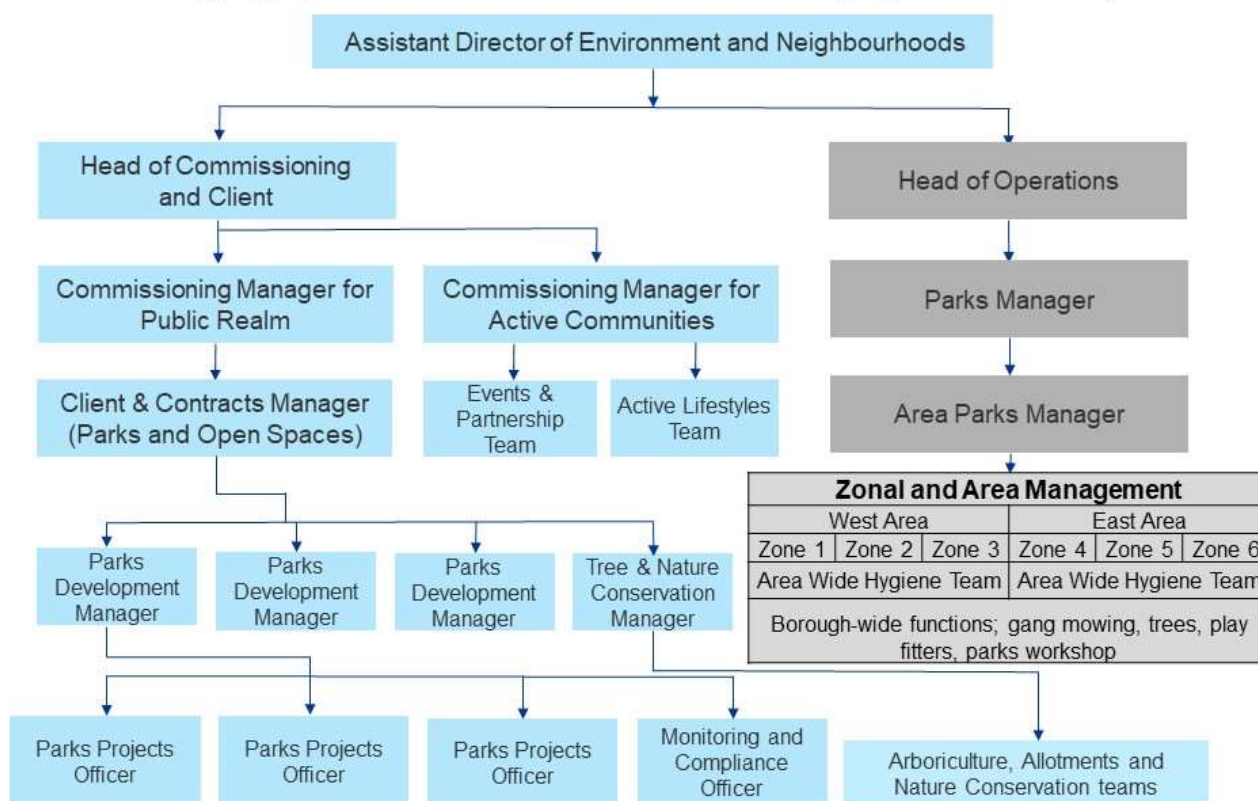
The Council continues to face significant financial challenges with many millions of pounds of savings to find over the coming years. A goal therefore for the service over the coming years is to maintain a stable budget position and therefore continuing with a strategy to generate additional income will 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 (see structure charts below).

### Haringey park structure chart (April 2019)



The structure chart 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.

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 Haringey Friends of Parks 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 has developed a Borough Plan setting out its 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 15 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 15-year strategy to have been agreed, following public consultation in June 2021 and for Cabinet to agree the document in February 2022.

## **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 several 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 Markfield Park sits within the overall Parks Operations budget.

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 to fund capital projects wherever possible.

As previously mentioned Markfield Park benefitted in 2019 from around £250k of capital funding for the new multi-use games area on the former bowling green. This funding included contributions from the council, the London Marathon Trust, Sport England, Gladesmore Community School and Crowland Primary School. The outdoor gym that was completed in early 2019 was also funded from this source.

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

The Parks and Open Space Small Grant Scheme has been running for several 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 2020-21 is £40,000.

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. It was also to realign and invest income from parks events back into park improvements. In January 2014 the Council adopted the [Outdoor Events Policy](#), and each year the [Events Fees and Charges](#) are reviewed to ensure they align with council policy and are comparative and competitive with other similar parks in London.

Income generated from all events in parks and open spaces is used within the park the event took place. In the first instance this will pay towards the management and maintenance of the park. Where significant sums of money are generated from events, this will be reinvested back into the park where the event took place.

All applicants who hold events are charged a fee based on the events fees and charges structure that is agreed by the Council each year. The structure of charges differs from the type of event (ie community, charity or commercial) and by the size of the event proposed.

The environmental impact fee 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 Markfield Park**

### **11.1 Next steps**

Section 12 contains an action plan has been drawn up that sets out the actions to be taken over the next three years.

There are some aspirational one-off improvements such as reinvigorating the community garden and bringing it into the mainstream of the park. Some of the more aspirational improvements will be contingent on identifying suitable sources of funding or resources both from within the council and from external sources.

Other listed actions are more affordable: many will be at nil or negligible cost but will require the energy and contributions of local organisations and individuals.

To achieve this is also planned to broaden the community involvement in the park. Groups and organisations, including the informal skateboarding community, local schools and other community groups will be encouraged to be more active participants in shaping and contributing to the development of the park.

The plan also identifies scheduled activities that will occur on a regular basis. One of these is to update the management plan on an annual basis. This plan will next be reviewed towards the end of the year.

### **11.2 Summary**

Markfield Park is an important green space in a densely populated, deprived area of the borough. It benefitted from a programme of investment 10-12 years ago, but it has been a victim of the budget cuts and austerity of the last decade.

However the park remains well used and has seen more recent investment in the form of a new floodlit, multi-use games area and an outdoor gym in 2019.

The Friends have some ambitious plans for improving the park, especially the community garden which will be transformed over the next couple of years.

Changes to council staffing structures and the strategic importance placed on parks means that Markfield Park has started to get more attention. The action plan that follows overleaf shows there is ambition and a focus for driving further improvements to a much needed, much loved community resource.



## 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 to be undertaken	Quarterly	Park Projects Officer	Feb/May/Aug/Nov
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 management plan annually	Annually	Park Projects Officer	Dec/Jan
Community Involvement	Council officer to attend at least three Friends meetings during the year	3+ per year	Park Projects Officer	Not set
Community Involvement	Lead 'Spotlight' meetings in the park with councillors and Friends	Quarterly	Park Projects Officer	Quarterly
A clean and well-maintained park	On-site parks operative to undertake cleaning, hygiene, maintenance and grounds maintenance tasks as scheduled.	Daily	Parks Operations	Ongoing
Management	Annual boundary inspection to check for encroachment	Annually	Park Projects Officer	August

### 12.2 Markfield Park development plan

This plans how 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 towards the end of each calendar year.

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
A welcoming Place	Resolve flooding in car park outside Markfield Project	M	Tim Pyall	£1000	Repairs budget	June 2019	Completed
	Improve markings and signage in car park	H	PPO	£500	Council	Mar 2021	Partly completed
	Manage vehicle parking in consultation with site stakeholders	H	PPO	Unknown	Council	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Provide more cycle stands in the park	M	PPO	£500	External?	Apr 2021	Completed
	Improve the look and feel of the Markfield Road entrance	H	PPO	£1,000?	Council	Dec 2019	Partly completed
	Review and improve signage within the park	M	PPO	£1000	Council/ Friends	Sep 2021	Not started
	Reinstate people counters in the park to get a better sense of usage volumes and patterns	L	PPO	<£500?	Council	Sept 2021	Outstanding
	Create and maintain new shrub and flower beds	L	Friends/volunteers	<£1000	Council/ Friends	2020-21	Not started
	Explore possibility for refurbishing and re-instating the original Victorian gates (currently at the Markfield Road entrance) somewhere within the park.	M	Friends/PPO	£5,000?	External funding	Mar 2021	Not started
A clean and well-maintained park	Repair damaged tables in picnic area	H	PPO	<£1000	Repairs	Jun 2019	Completed
	Improve surface below picnic tables	M	PPO	£1,500	Council	May 2021	Not started

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
	Improve surface below benches (where worn)	M	PPO	£2,500	Council	May 2021	Not started
	Repair or replace broken and defective waste bins and locate or relocate bins in places of greatest need	H	PPO	£1,500	Council	Dec 2020	Completed
	Identify and repair trip points in paths where old drains are present	M	PPO	Tbc	Council	May 2021	Partially completed
	Draw up a prioritised and costed programme of improvements to park assets	H	PPO	Nil	n/a	Mar 2021	Underway
	Plant up raised beds in front of Beam Engine Museum and Cafe	M	Friends	£250	Friends	Oct 2019	Completed
	Explore scope for using Community Payback teams to clear up skatepark area	L	PPO	Nil	n/a	March 2021	Partially completed
	Remove dog waste bins (subject to discussion with HLF who installed them)	H	PPO	£100	Council	Mar 2020	Completed
	Seek funding (up to £100k) for refurbishment of both playgrounds	M	PPO	Nil	n/a	Jun 2022	Not started
	Explore creation of 'road markings' for under 5's to 'drive' cars and scooters etc within a safe environment in the park	L	Friends/PPO	Nil?	n/a	Sep 2020	Not started

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
Healthy, safe and secure	Complete new floodlit multi-use games area on old Bowling Green site	H	Parks Project Officer	£250k	Council and external funding	August 2019	Completed
	Provide access to multi-use games area to local schools and the wider community	H	Active Communities	tbc	tbc	Jan 2020 and Mar 2021	Partially completed
	Install CCTV camera to provide early warning of unlicensed music events and other community safety issues.	H	Community Safety Team, PPO	unknown	Council	Feb 2021	Underway
	Install temporary CCTV at Markfield Road entrance	H	PPO, Community safety Team	£300	Council	Mar 2021	Underway
	Seek funding for lighting improvements and CCTV (as requested by Friends)	M	PPO	Nil	n/a	Dec 2021	Not started
	Seek funding for LED bulbs and upgrade lights to for old MUGA	M	PPO	£5,000	To be found	Sept 2021	Not started
	Jet wash old MUGA and re-apply rubber surface and lines	M	PPO	£7,500	To be found	Sept 2021	Not started
	Investigate scope for – and implement - improved wheelchair and buggy access via Markfield Road gate whilst managing vehicle access and the safety of park users.	H	PPO	£1,500	Council	Mar 2021	Partly completed

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
	Seek funding to improve the grass pitches	M	Active Communities	Nil	n/a	Mar 2022	Not started
	Consider rotating pitches for 2020-21 season	M	Active Communities	Nil	n/a	Aug 2021	Not started
	Seek funding for and install further outdoor gym equipment	M	Friends/PPO	£5-10k	Fundraising	Subject to funding	Not started
	Assess and make essential repairs to soft play surfacing	M	PPO	Tbc	Council	Mar 2021	Partially completed
	Installed fixed bollard at Gladesmore Road entrance	L	PPO	Nil?	n/a	Mar 2022	Not started
	Develop and implement plan for preventing moped and motorcycles driving through the park	H	PPO	Nil?	n/a	Mar 2021	Not started
A sustainable place	Encourage recycling and reducing waste within the park	L	PPO, Park Operations	Nil	n/a	June 2021	Not started
	Review use of chemicals as part of new parks and green spaces strategy	H	PPO, Park Operations	Nil	n/a	Sept 2021	Underway
Community Involvement	Undertake survey of park users	M	PPO	Nil	n/a	Sept 2021	Not started
	Friends to update their website	M	Friends	Nil	n/a	Mar2021	Underway
	Friends to establish a 'youth Friends of Markfield Park Group'	L	Friends	Nil	n/a	Dec 2021	Not started
	Develop the involvement of local organisations and	M	PPO/Friends/community orgs	Nil	n/a	Mar 2020	Partly completed



Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
	groups in the use, maintenance and development of the park						(community garden)
	Develop a costed plan to re-invigorate the community garden with input from TCV, Friends and other volunteers	H	PPO, TCV, Friends	Nil	n/a	Mar 2021	Underway
	Re-invigorate the community garden with input from TCV, Friends and other volunteers. Phased programme to be developed one year at a time.	H	PPO, TCV, Friends	<£5k?	Council/ Friends/ external	Dec 2021	Underway
	Reach out to the skateboarding community and work with them to improve and promote the skateboard area.	M	PPO/Friends	Nil	n/a	May 2021	Underway
	Support and encourage local community organisations to hold events in the park	M	Events Team	Nil	n/a	Mar 2021	Underway
	Work with Canal and Rivers Trust (CRT) to provide opportunities for park users to be 'safer by water' (in view of proximity to River Lea)	L	CRT , PPO	Nil	n/a	Sept 2021	Not started
Conservation and Heritage	Support Beam Engine Museum with heritage trail	M	PPO, Friends, Beam Engine Museum	Unknown	Lottery	June 2021	Underway

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
	Clear Old Moselle Brook with a view to improving flow and developing wetland area	M	PPO, Thames 21, volunteers	Nil?	n/a	2022	Underway
	Develop and introduce a nature trail in the park	L	PPO, Friends	£250	Grant?	May 2021	Not started
	Review the Conservation Action Plan	H	Nature Conservation Officer, PPO, TCV	Nil	n/a	Jun 2021	Underway
	Consider commissioning a species list of flora and fauna found in the community garden	M	NCO, PPO	Unknown	?	Jun 2021	Underway
	Explore scope for bringing theatrical or artistic events to the amphitheatre (and/or the community garden)	L	Friends	Nil	Grants?	Summer 2021	Not started
	Open Beam Engine Museum to the public at least one Sunday per month (twice in summer) with no entrance fee	M	Beam Engine Museum	Nil	n/a	ongoing	Completed and ongoing
Marketing and communication	Improve appearance, content and relevance of information posted on noticeboards	M	PPO/Friends	Nil	n/a	ongoing	Completed and ongoing
	Establish a clear policy on barbecues (and fires) with communication campaign and enforcement as needed	M	PPO, Friends	£500	n/a	May 2021	Underway

Heading	Action	Priority	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Deadline	Status
Management	Borough wide parks and open spaces plan to be adopted	H	Parks Client and Commissioning	Nil	n/a	Feb 2022	Underway
	Map all park assets on the council's CONFIRM database	H	PPO	Nil	n/a	June 2021	Underway
	Develop performance indicators for Markfield Park for a range of activities in the park and 'publish' targets.	M	PPO	Nil	n/a	Dec 2021	Underway

## APPENDIX 1:



## Conservation Action Plan

# Markfield 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



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE



## Woodland Habitats



### Bramble mound W1:

- Cut back 33% of the Bramble down the slope each year. Oct-Feb.

This will allow other plant species to re-establish but still maintain a safe habitat for nesting birds in the remaining bramble

- **W2:** Build stag beetle loggery and habitat plies. Sept-March

### Shrubs W3

- Spot plant along the bank;
  - Dogwood,
  - Guelder rose,
  - Viburnum davidii,
  - Cotoneaster horizontalis.
- Water March-October
- Mulch and weed around new plants for first 3 years. Jan-March
- Trim when required. Jan-March
- Under-plant with
  - Ramsons,
  - Lesser celandine
  - Dogs mercury
  - Red Campion

### Hedgerow W5

- Plant up the gaps along the hedgerow. Jan-March
- Water March-October
- Mulch and weed around new plants for first 3 years. Jan-March
- Trim 50% of hedgerow alternate years. Dec/Feb

### Shrubberies W4

- Monitor fauna & flora and produce interpretation boards for wildlife area's
- Randomly plant and mulch shrubs in groups of 3-5 in between the trees: Jan-March
  - Dogwood,
  - Spindle Tree,
  - Guelder Rose,
  - Hazel,
  - Dog Rose,
  - Purging Buckthorn
- Water March-October
- Mulch and weed around new plants for first 3 years. Jan-March



## Grassland Habitats



### Herb rich grassland. G1

To allow the development of the lawn perennials on this grassy bank

- Scarify turf heavily annually. Dec/Jan
- Cut 75% of the grass bank in late Sept/Oct after perennial flowering has died back.
- The remaining 25% cut back early spring.
- Rotate this pattern over 4 year cycle. Rake off cuttings

### Long grass strip. G3

- Monitor fauna & flora and produce interpretation boards for wildlife area's
- Allow 2 metre wide strip of no mow long- grass border and introduce wildflower perennials
- Cut 75% in Nov when perennial seeds have set and the remaining 25% in April.
- Under-plant hedge with woodland flower perennial species. March/April
- Monitor fauna and flora throughout the growing season.

### Wildflower bed. G2

- 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

Woodland Management Timeline								
Activity	Trim Hedges and shrubs. Use clippings to make habitat piles	Plant perennials and bulbs	Monitor and record ground flora. Inspect trees and shrubs	Tree/shrub Planting, mulching and watering	Mulching and weeding around new plants	Cut back Bramble	Building stag beetle loggeries and other habitat piles	Monitor and record Butterflies
January	W3,W4, W5			W3,W4,W5	W3,W4,W5	W1	W2	
February	W3,W4, W5			W3,W4,W5	W3,W4,W5	W1	W2	
March		W3		W3,W4,W5	W3,W4,W5		W2	
April		W3		water				
May		W3		water				
June				water				
July				water				
August				water				
September				water			W2	
October		W3,Bulbs		water		W1	W2	
November		W3,Bulbs				W1	W2	
December	W3,W4, W5				W3,W4,W5	W1	W2	

Grass & Meadow Management Timeline						
Activity	Scarify herb rich grassland	Plant and Sow wildflower perennials and seed	Cut summer flowering meadow / long grass strips and remove cuttings to habitat piles	Monitor and record plant species in the long grass strips	Reduce ruderals and strong invasive species	Monitor and record butterflies
January	G1					
February	G1					
March		G2	25%, G1,G2,G3			
April		G2			G1,G2,G3	
May		G2			G1,G2,G3	
June					G1,G2,G3	
July					G1,G2,G3	
August					G1,G2,G3	
September		G2	75%, G1,G2,G3		G1,G2,G3	
October		G2	75%, G1,G2,G3		G1,G2,G3	
November					G1,G2,G3	
December	G1					