

# FINSBURY PARK



Park Management Plan 2023

**Haringey**  
LONDON



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## Foreword

Dear residents and park users,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,



Cllr Kirsten Hearn  
Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability

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 2022. More details are set out in sections 10.4 and 10.5

## **Purpose of the Management Plan**

This management plan details and guides the management, maintenance, development and improvement of Finsbury Park.

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 Finsbury Park. This is because we recognise that open space affects the lives of almost everyone who lives and works nearby. 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.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1869 – 2019)**

First opened in 1869, Finsbury Park will have celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August 2019. To celebrate the occasion, the Haringey Council hosted a wide range of events and activities by working with the local community. The celebrations included a year-long programme of celebrations, with a focused ten-day events programme from 1 to 10 August 2019. The council also allocated £20,000 in small grants toward an open-access programme to encourage local people to get involved. This offered local groups and organisations the opportunity to apply for funding to organise events that formed part of the overall annual events programme.

### **Consultation exercise**

In 2019, there was a significant consultation exercise launched around some of the issues raised in an Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) of Finsbury Park that was undertaken in 2018. This was to 20,000 properties in Haringey, Islington and Haringey and there was also a consultation events in the café in the park. The consultation included issues such as whether we should lock the park, whether cars should be allowed to access the park, future possible cycle routes, introducing CCTV and lighting in the park.

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

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

## 1. Setting the scene

### 1.1 Haringey in a nutshell

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



Image 1: London Borough of Haringey shown in London context

Map 1:

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

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

### The demographics of Haringey

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

- Haringey has a total population of almost 283,000 people, an increase of 15% in the last 10 years
- A quarter of the population is under 20, nearly two thirds are 20-64 and a tenth are over 65
- Haringey is a highly diverse borough. Almost two fifths (38%) of residents are from black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) groups and 26% identify as “white other”.
- Finsbury Park is in Haringay ward. The ward has a population of 14,175 people of which about a fifth are aged 0-19.
- Haringay ward is slightly less densely populated than the borough average, but the population density is still nearly 9,600 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.
- Almost a third (32%) of the population of Haringay ward described their ethnicity as ‘white other’ which includes a sizable Turkish and Kurdish community along Green

Lanes. The ward has a slightly lower than average proportion of people of black and Asian ethnicity.

## **1.2 Deprivation**

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

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

This provides a context for the importance of green space but also to some of the underlying issues within the local community.

## **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 Finsbury Park to enable more intense and diverse use.

45% of Haringay ward (in which Finsbury Park is located) is described as “amenity open space”. This is above the average across Haringey (28%) and London (39%). Finsbury Park accounts for the vast majority of this open space. However neighbouring wards (such as Stroud Green and Seven Sisters) have much lower proportions of amenity space.



## **2. About Finsbury Park**

The 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019 was the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of Finsbury Park, which was originally designed and laid out by Alexander McKenzie and opened in 1869.

Finsbury Park has since undergone many changes. From the 1970s, the lack of capital investment resulted in a run-down site, much of which attracted anti-social and criminal behaviour. A Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Grant, along with match funding from a variety of other sources, has seen £4.9million spent on it between 2001 and 2006. The restored Park is now a major attraction for local and wider-based communities, for many types of both formal and casual recreation.

Public events have taken place at Finsbury Park since it first opening in 1869. In recent years the park has been the prime location for many international music acts, playing to large audiences within the open arena of the park. The summer events programme sees over 300,000 people visiting the park and enjoying the music and attractions each year.

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

Finsbury Park is located on the southern boundary of the London Borough of Haringey, adjacent to the London Boroughs of Islington and Hackney. It sits in Haringay ward, and is bordered by Seven Sisters Road to the east, Green Lanes to the north-east, Endymion Road to the north-west and Stroud Green Road to the south-west. The western boundary is formed by a railway line that links Central London with Hertfordshire and Cambridge.

The park covers 46 hectares (115 acres), sits in a densely populated and culturally diverse part of London and attracts over 1.5 million visits each year.

The site lies approximately 40m above sea level, in a bed on London Clay. From the lake at the centre of the park the land falls away to the north, south and east. It is thought that the gently sloping hill is caused by an underlying chalk stratum. There are limited views from the lake and the higher ground to the north-east and southwards over the Thames Valley.

Finsbury Park is laid out in a style typical of mid-nineteenth century urban parks, with railings encircling a relatively symmetrical composition, formal entrance gates, a perimeter carriage drive and several areas of formal planting with more open parkland. Curving paths cross the park, linking the entrances, drives and various features.

Haringey Council holds the freehold for the site with the exception of the New River corridor and a large underground reservoir that is owned by Thames Water.

### **2.2 Facilities**

Finsbury Park contains a wide variety of facilities, reflecting its size and importance for local residents.



Map 2: Facilities (NB: Buildings are included at Map 3 and Entrances are included at Map 4)

**Access to Parkland Walk**

The Parkland Walk Local Nature Reserve is a footpath and cycle path running along the disused railway line from Alexandra Palace to Finsbury Park. The entrance to Parkland Walk is on the other side of the railway lines on the western edge of the park near the Oxford Road Gate.

The Parkland Walk Extension running along the western perimeter of Finsbury Park was completely re-landscaped as part of the 2006 HLF restoration project. The area underwent complete site clearance and infill and mounding was achieved using the dredged material from the lake. The Walk was re-integrated with the park through removal of retaining walls and protected along the western perimeter of the Park with high palisade fencing. A new footpath and cycle path was constructed and native trees, meadow grasses and flowers were introduced.

Parkland Walk is a Green Flag site in its own right and has its own active Friends Group. <https://www.parkland-walk.org.uk/>

### **American Baseball Field**

The northern end of Finsbury Park, to the north of the New River, is laid out for the playing of American baseball/softball.

The London Mets, who are the premier baseball team in the UK, rent the pavilion and use the pitch on a regular basis throughout the year for training and league matches.

Works were successfully undertaken in 2013/14 by the club to address waterlogging during periods of high rainfall.

The London Mets undertook further pitch resurfacing upgrade works in 2021.

### **American Gardens**

The American Garden is an area of significant horticultural interest, providing informal recreation, a playground and picnicking area. It once consisted of formal shrub beds made up of species from the New World, but prior to restoration was made up of rhododendrons and unsuitable species. The Garden has received extensive soft landscaping and the shrub beds now reflect their original intention.

The **play area** in the American Garden offers play opportunities for children aged 8 to 12 years.

### **Athletics Track and Gym**

By 1936 the original Finsbury Athletics Track had been laid out in the northern central section of the Park. Original plans indicate that the current gymnasium and changing accommodation was built in 1972 with some upgrading in the mid 80s.

The gym comprises a concrete structure housing an indoor gymnasium, male and female changing areas with showers and toilets (including disabled), meeting room, reception area, and storage areas. The floodlit track comprises an all-weather spike top 6 lane 400m running track (10 on home straight) accommodating multi-sport use; shot-put area, discus and hammer throwing, javelin, long and triple jump, and an American football pitch. The use of the facility is for both public and organised sports user groups.

The Finsbury Park Sports Partnership, who manage the facility, invested £1m in 2015 which enabled the upgrading of the athletics track, floodlighting and a range of other athletics-focused improvements.

### **Boating Lake**

The lake is an informal recreation area with boating facilities and fishing stations, it is characterised by shrub borders, aquatic planting and mature trees with a wildfowl habitat island at its centre and a promenade feature between the playground and lake. Prior to the 2006 restoration the lake was heavily silted and had low oxygen levels. Restoration to the lake included extensive dredging, aeration fountains, tree works, bank stabilisation and complete replanting of bank vegetation and reed beds. The lake is surrounded by heritage style fencing and RoSPA approved access gates. Forming an inner boundary is a fence of protective netting for wildfowl using the lake. The promenade alongside the boating house was also refurbished.

## **Bowling Green**

The bowling green is located between the staff depot and the lake and boating facilities, close to the facilities in the hub of the park.

## **Bike Park**

A secure 125 capacity bike park, funded by TfL, is located at the Stroud Green Gate entrance, opposite Finsbury Park Station. A new park entrance was installed here to allow easy access to the bike park and park.

## **Cafés**

There are two cafés in the park which provide refreshments and toilet facilities.

The original park design included a refreshment house as a central feature, replacing the Victorian Tavern that existed previously. The Tavern was replaced with an 'off the shelf' café design in the 1950s, which remained popular owing to its proximity to the Park's major amenities, despite its worsening state. The building was subsequently demolished and replaced with a modern café, which provides public toilets and a storage facility.

There is another café at the Manor House gate entrance to the park.

## **Carriageway**

The original feature of the carriageway dominates the park's perimeter and permits vehicular access to a number of areas, allowing public parking and making the Park suitable for large scale events.

Refurbishment of the carriageway was undertaken as part of the 2006 HLF works and included upgrading it to cope with heavy vehicles used for events; upgrade of the footpaths running alongside and replanting of the avenue of trees lining it around the Park. Barriers and a pay & display system were installed to help control the flow and amount of traffic. Dropped kerbs at key points throughout the Park were installed to facilitate wheeled access. In keeping with Victorian tradition, the footpaths are now wide and sweeping creating a sinuous network across the green open space.

Further carriageway and other pathway repairs have been undertaken as budgets allow over the intervening years and will continue to be required due to the heavy traffic associated with the annual events programme.

## **New River and Path**

The New River is an artificial waterway culverted in 1609 and opened in 1613 to bring clean drinking water from the River Lea at Amwell Springs in Hertfordshire. The New River and its path run into Finsbury Park at the northern end, offering a 28-mile waterside walking route from Islington to Hertfordshire.

During the extreme weather events in the summer of 2021 the New River flooded onto the baseball pitch and the junction of Green Lanes and Endymion Road. Since then Thames Water have undertaken works to address downstream blockages and revetment repairs to reduce the likelihood of further flooding events.

## **Main Play Areas**

Designed with local school children, and possibly the biggest single attraction in the Park, is the extensive playground to the south of the lake, constructed in three phased age

zones. There is a wide variety of equipment on offer with the added bonus of having the café and public toilets immediately adjacent. Opened in March 2006, the playground regularly attracts over 150 children at peak times.

The play area consists of swings, rope play, sand pit, multi-play, a roundabout, balancing equipment and a water play feature. All the equipment is underlain with wet-pour and surrounded by grassed shady areas and beds of flowering shrubs. The playground is enclosed with fencing and there are four RoSPA approved gates.

The safety surfacing for the Under 8s Play was re-laid in August 2019 to address the intervening 13 years of active use and resulting deterioration.



Fig 1

### **Over 8s Play**

A new over 8s play area was commissioned and installed next to the under 8s play area, following extensive consultation with a wide range of local people, schools and groups. The play area was constructed in June and July 2019 and includes the UK's first 'frisbee', a number of swings, slides, climbing equipment, parkour equipment and a zip wire, all underlain with TigerMulch safety surfacing.

### **McKenzie Flower Garden**

This is the only formal ornamental area within the Park, comprising thirty flower beds and fine lawn grass. The area is bordered with box hedge, with large shrub surrounds. The Flower Garden was restored to its former glory in 2007 and received a make-over in advance of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in August 2019, including a refresh of the planting scheme, metal edges installed to the beds, re-tarmacking the path, new benches, entrance arches and a granite interpretation plinth.





### **Outdoor Gym**

An outdoor gym was installed very near to the play area in the American Gardens and since its installation the Council has become aware of an issue where fitness enthusiasts, as well as using the outdoor gym, use the neighbouring children’s play apparatus for pull-ups and other exercises. This unplanned and unauthorised activity has subsequently made genuine users of the play area feeling uncomfortable and intimidated, despite the Council installing signage discouraging this misuse. As a result, this matter has been included in the Finsbury Park Consultation, to determine whether people would prefer the play equipment to be relocated into the main play area hub near the café and boating lake.

There is also an informal picnic area located nearby, giving opportunities for parents to supervise their children, while socialising in a very relaxed atmosphere.

### **Steel Warriors Gym**



Fig 2

The Steel Warriors gym was commissioned and completed in November 2019 next to the play area near the American Gardens. Steel Warriors is a charity that aims to reduce the number of young people carrying knives in the UK. Steel warriors take all seized and surrendered knives from London’s streets, melt them down, and recycle the



steel into free outdoor calisthenics gyms. The Steel Warrior gym helps to address issues related to knife crime by allowing young people to:

1. Gain more confidence both mentally and physically.
2. Expend their energy and 'flex their muscles' in a healthy way
3. Provide a location that gets young people organically discussing the issue of knife crime
4. Provide free access to exercise for people of all ages and socio-economic groups

By installing the gym in Finsbury Park, it gets young people talking about knife crime, and allowing them to build strength, confidence and discipline, whilst making new friends.

### **Richard Hope Play Space**

Richard Hope was a young playwright and actor who died in May 1998 while out jogging in Finsbury Park. Formerly known as 'the Pit', the play space was renamed in his honour, and re-opened by the actor Warren Mitchell in August 2000.

'The Pit' was the site of a former GLC adventure playground and provides a casual, dog-free, picnic area and a natural-feel climbing boulder wall, all with a very rural feel.



Fig 3





The Richard Hope Play Space benefitted from a significant upgrade, with new play facilities, new picnic facilities and a new power and Wi-Fi-enabled performance space. Phases 1 and 2 were completed during 2021 and phase 3 will take place in spring 2022.

### **Seven Sisters Road frontage**

The area of the Park that runs along the Seven Sisters Road is regularly used for casual football and events. Prolonged wear and tear on the area was addressed during the restoration project, with the area infrastructure being overhauled. The most important improvements to the area have been the rebuilding of the carriageway to highway specification to withstand large vehicles. Mature limes run along the Park's perimeter while an avenue of poplar trees have been planted along the carriageway to reflect the former layout. All newly planted trees are suitably protected with cages and have their own irrigation system.

In 2019 an upgraded fibre-optics cable was installed to provide better Wi-Fi, ready for the 2019 spring/summer events programme.

### **Shelters**

Three timber shelters were installed at Finsbury Park as part of the 2006 HLF scheme.



Fig 4

The shelters were given a deep cleanse in 2021 to address pigeon damage, plus 'ceilings' were installed to prevent further access by pigeons.

### **Skate Park**

The Skate Park was funded by the Finsbury Park Partnership and remains an extremely popular facility. Vandalism in the form of fire damage in 2021 to the facility was repaired swiftly. A group of local skaters and BMXers have commenced a cloud funding initiative to raise money for expanding the facility, which the Council supports.

### **Tennis Courts**

The tennis courts were completely refurbished, extended and redesigned so that the courts are now sufficiently spaced. There are seven adult courts and two junior courts all operating on a first come, first served basis. Community tennis programmes are delivered by Access to Sports.

Access to Sport carried out further upgrades to the surfacing, replacing the fencing and providing power for floodlighting in 2020. A phase two project to create a new tennis pavilion remains an aspiration subject to funding options.

### **Thames Water Reservoir**

Thames Water own an underground reservoir between the boating lake and the carriageway on the Seven Sisters side of the park.

Thames Water undertook significant remedial works in 2018 to address movement in the roof of this structure and boulders were installed on the ground to prevent vehicle access to this part of the site.

Not visible when visiting the park, the cavernous chamber beneath is frequently used as a location for TV and film, including the tube crash scene in the 2012 James Bond film 'Skyfall'.

### **Volleyball, Basketball and Netball Courts**

A series of ball courts are located adjacent on the western boundary of the park just south of the Hornsey Gate entrance, between the railway line and the carriageway opposite the café and boating lake. These include dedicated spaces for basketball, netball and volleyball. Works have taken place in 2019 to upgrade the netball and volleyball with new surfacing, fencing and nets.

The remaining hardstanding area between the courts and the Oxford Road entrance are also used by film crew units when filming in the park or the neighbouring area.

### **Jamboree hut play area and McKenzie**

This building is currently let out to an important Haringey arts organisation called FurtherField.

## **2.3 Buildings**

Finsbury Park contains the following 14 buildings in two categories:



Map 3: Buildings (NB: Entrances are included at Map 2 and Facilities are included at Map 4)

**Buildings leased or rented to third parties**

Finsbury Park Café	Family run business
Park View Café	Family run business
McKenzie Art Pavilion	FurtherField
Jamboree Play Hut	FurtherField
Art Hut	Drum Jam
Boat Hut	Finsbury Park Boats
Track & Gym	Finsbury Park Sports Partnership
Baseball Pavilion	London Mets
Bowls Pavilion	Finsbury Park Bowls Club
Manor House Lodge	Friends of Finsbury Park, Edible Landscapes and Access to Sports
Dog Training Centre	Alpha Dog Training

Table 1





Fig 5

**Buildings used or occupied by Council staff**

Staff Depot and Yard
Toilets and Storage
Plant Nursery

Table 2

**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, where we aim to inspect trees every four years. Trees in parks usually only require maintenance to mitigate risks to site users and adjacent properties. We have planted over 150 new trees in parks in 2017 and 2018, for which we have funding from the GLA.



Fig 6

We will be reviewing and updating policies on tree management as part of the new parks strategy. It is likely to include changes to inspection regimes and details on a more planned approach to new tree planting in parks.

McKenzie's designs for urban parks were informal and intended to provide a rural or park-like atmosphere. Shade was important and carriage drives, paths and open spaces were lined with trees. Plane trees (*Platanus x hispanicus*) were a favourite species for this purpose. The recent tree planting within the restoration project reflects the original design and species selection. The southern carriage drive is now flanked by a continuous avenue of black poplars; and the southern perimeter to the Park is planted with a single line of young lime trees, intended to replace the diminishing line of the existing over-mature tree stock.

Other key areas of relatively recent planting include the American Garden (*Arbutus unedo*, *Crataegus*, *Liquidambar*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, *Magnolia*, *Populus*, *Quercus*), the former Parkland Walk Extension (*Betula*, *Prunus* and *Malus*), and lake surrounds (*Cytisus*, *Salix*, *Ilex*, *Ulex*, *Eunymous* species).

Consideration of future tree maintenance vandalism and over mature- tree stock, influenced the extent of the new planting.

To prevent tree damage from soil impaction during events, the Finsbury Park Events' 'Contract for Hire', contains the requirement of a 3metre minimum distance for any equipment sited within close proximity to any tree(s).

To continue with the works done during the restoration project, another survey of the trees within the Park will be required and a programme of tree maintenance put in place.

Negotiation for some pollarding to trees on the island via Shuttleworth College Countryside Department, as part of a work experience project for students, was undertaken a few years ago.

Although London Plane and Lime are the dominant species, there are some notable conifers including redwoods. The historic poplar avenue was replanted as part of the Heritage Lottery funded works in 2006.

An additional 40 London Plane and Lime trees were planted in Finsbury Park in winter 2015/16 with the Friends Group. Various new sustainability approaches have been undertaken over recent years at this site such as mulching around mature trees, planting new trees in the park, planting an edible hedge along Seven Sisters Road, leaving some areas around trees un-mown.

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

#### **3.1 Visiting Finsbury Park**

Finsbury Park has something for everyone, with a lot to offer in terms of recreation and access to nature.

The facilities include two cafés, a boating lake, a large amount of formal and informal children's play opportunities, an outdoor gym, basketball, tennis, netball and volleyball courts, a skatepark, picnic areas, an athletics track, formal gardens and vast areas of open parkland for quiet enjoyment.

The site is well connected for pedestrians and cyclists, linking up as it does with the seventeenth century New River corridor to the north, with Parkland Walk (London's longest nature reserve) and Capital Ring to the west.

##### **3.1.1 Public transport**

Finsbury Park is an intermodal interchange station which serves a number of National Rail, London Underground and bus routes.

Underground: Both the Piccadilly Line and Victoria Line

Overground: National Rail and Tramlink services

Buses: 4, 19, 29, 106, 153, 210, 236, 253, 254, N19, N29, N253, N279, W3, W7

##### **3.1.2 Vehicles**

The only public vehicle access to the site is via to the Hornsey Gate entrance on Endymion Road. Public parking is allowed but is ticketed and limited to specific sections of the carriageway. A consultation was planned for June 2019 where one of the questions will be about whether local park users want car parking to continue or be further limited.

The Finsbury Park Consultation also asked whether local park users would like to see the introduction of rapid charging points for electric vehicles.

Disabled parking bays have been installed at the Hornsey Gate entrance on Endymion Road in November 2020. Further improvements to the Hornsey Gate entrance in 2022 will provide for increased disabled parking whilst ensuring there is no unauthorised vehicle access.

##### **3.1.3 Bicycles**

Bicycles are permitted in Finsbury Park though cyclists are expected to be attentive to other park users on the shared use paths.

A bike park facility for 125 bicycles is located at the Stroud Green Road entrance where it abuts Finsbury Park underground and rail station interchange. This is linked to the Oxford Road entrance by a cycle path.



At the time of writing this update to the management plan, other possible future cycling routes and facilities such as cycle parking, cycle repair stands and water refill points are about to be consulted on both by the Council and TfL, including possible new routes though the park linking Bowes Park with Farringdon and Camden with Tottenham Hale.

The following cycling activities take place in Finsbury Park to encourage walking and cycling:

Saddle & Sole, festival of cycling and walking. Taking place on Sunday 14th June, 12-6pm. Public event celebrating cycling and walking, including stalls, interactive activities (Dr Bike, cycle training). This event is in partnership with Hackney & Islington. Last year approx. 2000 people attended.



Fig 7

Park to Park, junior cycle ride. Taking place on 12th June. A number of schools take part a cycle ride around Haringey. They will stop in Finsbury Park for lunch around 11.30-12.30. During lunch there will be an O'Donovan van to show cyclists how they are invisible to truck drivers. There will also be games for the children to play.

Dr Bike, bike maintenance workshops for the public. These are free sessions for public to attend and bring their bikes to be fixed.





Fig 8

Free cycle training is also offered in Finsbury Park. Residents can call and book their cycle training sessions and they will choose the nearest park to them. We also have booked a few cycle training sessions with Islington.

Cycle skills for juniors during the summer holiday. A week of cycle training for young people during the school holiday.

Pedal Power, mentioned in more detail in section 7.4, provide regular cycling training for people with a range of impairments from the Athletics Track.

### 3.2 Entrances

There are 8 entrances to Finsbury Park.

These are:

- Hornsey Gate, Endymion Road: This is the only vehicle entrance, but also accommodates pedestrians. Includes disabled parking provision.
- New River Gate, Endymion Road
- Green Lanes Gate, Green Lanes
- Manor House Gate, Seven Sisters Road/Green Lanes junction
- Hornsey Wood Tavern Gate, Seven Sisters Road
- Finsbury Gate, Seven Sisters Road
- Stroud Green Gate, Stroud Green Road
- Oxford Road gate, Oxford Road



Map 4: Entrances to Finsbury Park (NB: Facilities are included at Map 2 and Buildings are included at Map 3)

### 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 Finsbury Park. The council is also committed to meeting its obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty with regard to ensuring that those with and without protected characteristics under the Equality Act are able to enjoy the park’s facilities.

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

An Access Audit was undertaken in 2017/18 which made 80 recommended access improvements to Finsbury Park for people with a range of physical, sensory and cognitive impairments. The report contains 7 recommendations suggesting changes to equalities policies & standards, 28 concerning provision of more accessible information, 10 concerning involving disabled people in decision-making, 3 concerning inclusive activities and reasonable adjustments and 32 concerning physical changes of which 15 relate to footpath amendments.

These have been added in bulk to the Action Plan in section 12. A budget of £28k has been identified to enable implementation of the some more deliverable improvements.

Disabled parking has been provided at the main vehicle entrance during November 2020. During 2021 and 2022 the Richard Hope Play space will be turned into an extension of the recently installed Over 8s play area, making this London's best play spaces. Particular focus has been give to ensure that the new play area can be enjoyed by children with a range of disabilities. These improvements to the park alongside the proposed Changing Places welfare facilities will hopefully make Finsbury Park a wonderful and more accessible place for people with a range of disabilities and difficulties to feel welcome ad catered for, so they can visit more often and stay longer for each visit. Further disabled parking improvements will be undertaken at the Hornsey Road gate in 2023/24.

### **3.4 Signage**

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 Finsbury 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

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

Fingerposts are used throughout the site to waymark to the key facilities and issues of specific interest have their own interpretation boards, such as at the McKenzie Garden.

The 2018 Access Audit made a number of recommendations to improve signage for people with a range of physical, sensory and cognitive impairments, which are included in the Action Plan at Section 12.

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

There are two cafes in Finsbury Park offering toilet facilities and refreshments.

**Park View Café** is located at the Manor House Gate in an upgraded former toilet block. This 4-star hygiene-rated café is open from 6am to 10pm each day apart from Saturdays when it is only open until 8pm.

**Finsbury Park Café** is located next to the boating lake in the norther hub of the park, near the play facilities.

This 5-star hygiene-rated café is open from 9am each day until 5pm except for Saturdays when it stays open until 6pm.

Both cafés have publicly accessible toilets. The lakeside café now also benefits from a Changing Places welfare facility.

### **3.6 Events**

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

Finsbury Park has the potential to host events for up to 50,000 people in the designated event area on the bandstand field. Those interested in holding an event of any size can refer to the [Events Brochure](#).

During the 2019/20 Coronavirus pandemic the entire Events programme for Finsbury Park was cancelled following Government guidelines. The loss of income during that period resulted in a number of planned improvements to the site being postponed.





Fig 9

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

Money generated from events held in the borough 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.





Fig 10

The annual events programme for Finsbury Park includes regular large scales events such as:

**Community Festival, June**

A one-day festival, celebrating the best in new music. Highliners include up and coming performers and bands.

**Wireless, July**

Wireless Festival is the UK's biggest and most famous urban music festival, held for three days each year inside London's Finsbury Park.

**Hospitality in the Park, September**

The UK's first outdoor event dedicated solely to drum and bass. Hospitality In The Park is a London drum and bass festival, curated by Hospital Records as well as a number of other established clubbing brands.

**Pretty Muddy and Pretty Muddy Kids, September**

Race for Life Pretty Muddy is a 5k and 10k muddy obstacle course to raise money to help the fight against cancer. A kids version

**Rough Runner, September**

Rough Runner is an obstacle course challenge, combining distance running with a variety of obstacles along the way, each inspired by game shows such as Total Wipeout, Takeshi's Castle, Gladiators, and Fun House. Expect sweeper arms, gym rings, big balls and yes, The 'Travelator'.

**Fairs & Circuses**

Manning's Amusements has a long and successful history of operating family funfairs in numerous Haringey parks for over 100 years. In Finsbury Park they operate their biggest funfair over the Easter and summer bank holidays and have done so for over 40 years. The multiple ride funfair is based on part of the carriageway and grass field, close to the Finsbury Gate.

**Smaller scale events**

A range of smaller scale events take place throughout the year on an adhoc basis.

## 4. A Clean and Well-Maintained Park

### 4.1 Operational and management responsibility for parks

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

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

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

#### Simplified parks structure chart

### Haringey park structure chart (April 2019)

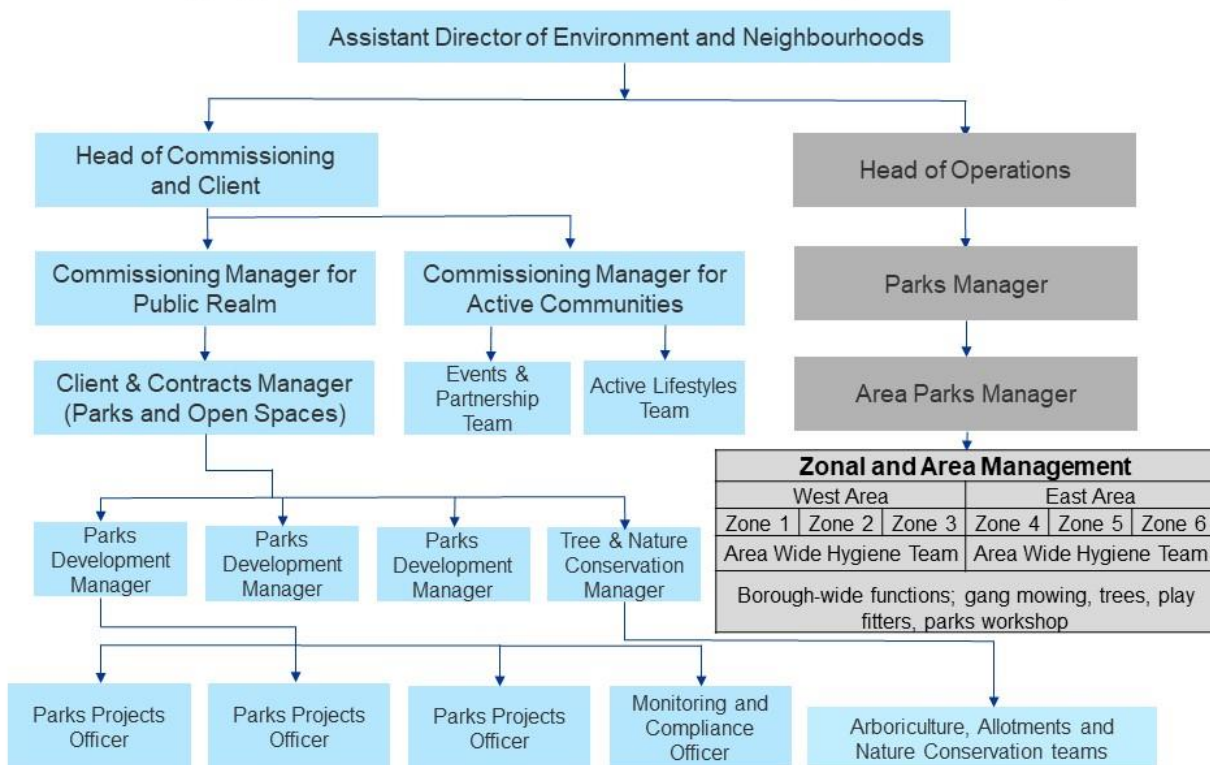


Fig 11



## 4.2 Current maintenance by Park Operations

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

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

Each zone has a six grounds maintenance staff: a team leader, a senior operative and four gardeners, but team sizes are altered to meet operational demands by transferring staff between zones and by bringing in seasonal agency resource as necessary. Finsbury Park is in operational zone 1.

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

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

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

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

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

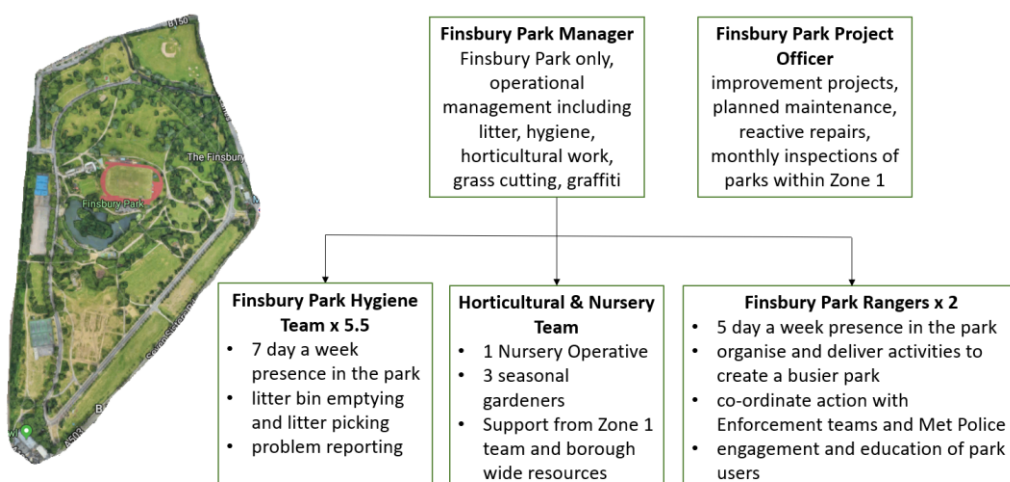
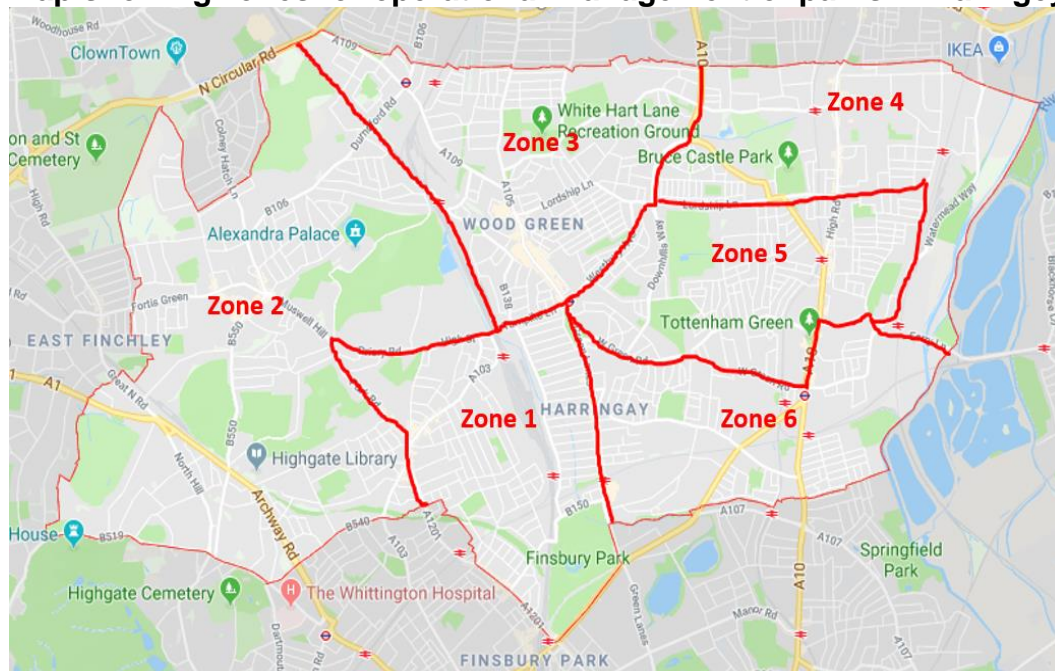


Fig 10

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



Map 5

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

The Parks Development team now works to the same six zones as the Operations team. A new Parks Zonal team has been created, with three Officers each covering two zones. 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 Finsbury Park is Glynis Kirkwood-Warren, the Parks Zonal Manager.

A Nature Conservation Officer has responsibility for parks and open spaces across the whole borough, including Finsbury Park.

#### 4.3.1 Park asset inspections and Spotlight visits

In 2018 the council adopted the Mayor of London’s typology for parks. Under this typology Finsbury Park is described as a district park site (A2) as it is 20-60 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 district park Finsbury Park is inspected every month.

The inspections cover hard assets, including:

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

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

A: Excellent: No action required

B: Good: No action required

C: Acceptable: No action required

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

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

From 2021-22 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 Finsbury Park every 2-3 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.

Because the spotlight meetings are a site walkabout and involve other stakeholders and councillors rather than just the Friends, we feel that this adds considerable value over and above the regular Friends meetings.



### 4.3.2 Capital projects

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

Capital projects planned for implementation for 2022/23 at Finsbury Park, also listed in the Action Plan in section 12 are summarised here:

- Completion/phase 3 of the Richard Hope Play Space refresh: £379k
- Nursery polytunnel upgrade
- Skatepark expansion (subject to crowd-funding)
- Review of boundary treatments (initial scoping phase)

### 4.4 Scheduled Maintenance

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

**Scheduled maintenance in Finsbury Park (Table 3)**

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<p><b>Grass cutting:</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grass has been uniformly cut and is 35mm or less.</li> <li>• Edges are trimmed and not growing onto hard surface or bedding.</li> <li>• Litter picking prior to mowing.</li> </ul> <p>Grass remains at grade B or above prior to maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grass is 35-60mm long but looks tidy.</li> <li>• Edges are slightly untidy</li> <li>• Litter picking as per hygiene schedule.</li> </ul>	<p>Approximately Fortnightly</p>	<p>During the growing season (Mar-Oct approx.). May extend into November subject to prevailing climatic conditions.</p>
<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</li> </ul>	<p>One occasion plus regular litter picking</p>	<p>Works required where bulbs are present in grass on site.</p>

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<p>after flowerings ceases, or when foliage dies back or turns brown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Litter picking as per hygiene schedule.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Meadows</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meadow grass is cut at correct times of year for species type.</li> <li>Area surrounding the meadow is well maintained.</li> <li>Litter picking as per hygiene schedule.</li> </ul>	<p>One or more occasions subject to type. Plus regular litter picking.</p>	<p>Guidance on maintenance schedule to be drawn from the conservation management plan for each park.</p>
<p><b>Shrub and Rose bed maintenance</b></p> <p>To achieve grade A at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bed free of weeds.</li> <li>No litter.</li> <li>Mulched where appropriate.</li> <li>Wide variety of plants.</li> <li>Roses deadhead as required.</li> <li>Shrubs pruned as required.</li> <li>Edging well maintained.</li> </ul>	<p>Two – four occasions as required per location.</p>	<p>Herbicide application will take place on two occasions a year via controlled droplet application.</p>
<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> </ul>	<p>Up to ten occasions</p>	<p>Gapping up of bedding to take place in response to vandalism.</p> <p>Drought tolerant planting to reduce need to water.</p>

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adequate variety of plants (more could be added – excluding beds that have plants that are not yet established).</li> <li>• Edging maintained.</li> <li>• No deadheads.</li> </ul>		
<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>	<p>Two occasions per year except Privet hedges requiring three occasions.</p>	<p>Account of bird nesting to be taken each year and site specifics.</p>
<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> </ul>	<p>One occasion per year plus watering for new trees during first two seasons</p>	

Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>		
<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 / rugby.</p> <p>Weekly line marking during playing season</p> <p>Winter season work as required to optimise playing period.</p>	<p>Seeding and fertilising as required.</p>
<p><b>Bins, Litter and Dog Fouling</b></p> <p>To achieve grade B at each maintenance visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All bins are emptied</li> <li>• The site is litter picked but may have a small amount of scattered litter in low traffic areas.</li> <li>• Predominately free of detritus except for some light scattering.</li> </ul>	<p>Daily</p>	<p>Dog fouling dealt with when reported.</p>
<p>Fly tips and other hygiene issues</p>	<p>Reactive</p>	<p>In response to emergency call-outs</p>



Activity	Frequency	Notes/comments
Sweeping of hard surfaces (e.g. tennis courts, hard standing etc)	Reactive	
Gate locking	Daily	Not applicable to all parks

#### 4.5 Setting and measuring service standards

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

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

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

This system has since been adopted by the London Parks Benchmarking Group who have updated the manual and are working hard to get this recognised as an industry standard within the grounds maintenance trade both on a London-wide and on a national level.

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

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

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

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

## Illustrative service standards for grass cutting

<p><b>EXCELLENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Grass has been uniformly and evenly cut including perimeter edges and obstacles.</li> <li>✓ Length is longer than 25mm and shorter than 60mm.</li> <li>✓ Edges are trimmed and not encroaching hard surfaces, hedge lines or bedding areas.</li> <li>✓ Adjacent paths and bedding areas are kept clear of clippings.</li> <li>✓ There are no bare patches.</li> <li>✓ There is no weed infestation.</li> <li>✓ All litter was removed prior to mowing.</li> <li>✓ No leaf fall, litter, debris or dog fouling.</li> </ul>	 <p><b>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>

Fig 11

The boroughwide targets and performance for these KPIs are as follows (Table 4).

Category	Target A/B	Achieved 2018-19
Overall Site Standard	90%	61%
Grass	90%	83%
Shrubs	60%	71%
Hygiene	55%	65%

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

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

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

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

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

Tree works in parks, open spaces and woodlands are usually undertaken to mitigate risks to site users and adjacent properties. For example works to trees in Finsbury 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. Removal of dead, dying and/or dangerous trees has also been undertaken.

#### **4.8 Graffiti**

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

Park users can report graffiti using the Love Clean Streets smart phone app, and the council website. The Council also has a 'hotline' number (020 8885 7700) direct to Veolia (the council's waste management contractor) to report obscene or offensive graffiti in parks and other public places.

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

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

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

A list of the buildings in Finsbury Park is included in Section 2.2

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

Landscape maintenance is carried out by the parks service.

#### **4.10 Hygiene**

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

A new waste strategy has been approved for Finsbury Park that introduces larger branded 'Euro cart' bins in new bays at key locations around the carriageway. It also involves the removal of dog waste bins (which has been done) and an overall reduction in the number of Sentinel bins, to be focused at junctions, entrances and key facilities



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

### **5.1 Smoking**

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

### **5.2 Alcohol**

Alcohol is permitted in Finsbury Park but an Alcohol Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Haringey 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 Haringey PSPO has been in operation since October 2020 and lasts for three years. It may be renewed for another three years after it expires.

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

### **5.3 Walking**

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

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

In 2018 a booklet called A Walk in the Park showcases several walks through Haringey parks.

The health benefits of Finsbury Park for just sitting in are also not to be underestimated.

Image: Walking trail information board (Fig 12)



Finsbury Park has a marked walking route around the park to encourage regularly walking and jogging.

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

Parkland Walk, a former railway line converted into a Local Nature Reserve, and part of the Capital Ring, is in two parts, ie Parkland Walk South, which provides a wonderful walking environment from the Oxford Road entrance of Finsbury Park to Holmesdale Road in Highgate, and Parkland Walk North which links Cranley Gardens in Muswell Hill to Alexandra Park.

Overall Parkland Walk, at 4km, is the longest linear Nature Reserve in the UK and is managed by the Council in partnership with the Friends of Parkland Walk. <https://www.parkland-walk.org.uk/>

The New River is an artificial waterway opened in 1613 to bring clean drinking water from the River Lea at Amwell Springs. The New River and its path runs into Finsbury Park at the northern end, offering a 28-mile waterside walking route from Islington to Hertfordshire.

#### **5.4 Health and safety**

The health and safety of visitors to, and staff and contractors working in Finsbury 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

CCTV was one of the items included in the Finsbury Park Consultation planned for June 2019. The Council is currently seeking views on whether cameras should be installed at the main entrances.

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

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

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

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

### **5.4.2 Friends**

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

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

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

### **5.4.3 Risk assessments**

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

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

### **5.4.4 Safety representatives**

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

### **5.4.5 Staff reporting**

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

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

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

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

## **5.6 Community safety and policing**

Parks in Haringey remain relatively safe places, especially during the hours of daylight. Over the whole of 2020 there were 767 reported crime or incidents reported to the police across all the parks and open spaces in Haringey – an average of 63 incidents per month.

The breakdown of stats for 2021 is only available for January to September. During this period a total of 492 incidents were reported to police across all parks in Haringey – an average of 54 per month. This is a decrease of 16% and could be due to parks being much busier and therefore deterring some criminal and asb activity.

The most commonly reported crime in parks in 2021 remains robbery, which accounts for about 22% of reported crimes, but this is a seven percent decrease from the previous year. The majority of these took place after dark. Reports nearly trebled over the spring/summer months compared to the rest of the year due to the higher footfall in parks.

Between January and April 2021 in Finsbury Park there were 139 reported crimes. Finsbury Park accounted for 28.2% of all reported crimes in Haringey parks.

Over the years there have been a number of initiatives the Council has implemented to make the parks safer for all who use them. However, reductions in budgets in the last decade have limited these initiatives. Recent initiatives of this nature in Finsbury Park include the appointment of a park-specific Park Manager with a dedicated site team, regular joint activities between the police and the Council's Outreach & Community Safety teams, works to address overgrown foliage and fence repairs, plus as the park is a priority discussed at the monthly Police Partnership Tasking Group meeting, police are tasked to patrol on a regular basis and for example undertake midnight sweeps to inspect night-time activity and rough sleeper numbers.

The Neighbourhood Policing Team for Haringey ward has strong links with Finsbury Park and aims to patrol the park each day. Police officers are in regular contact with council officers and often attend Friends meetings.



## 5.7 Extending Neighbourhood Watch into parks

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

The Neighbourhood Watch Officer has also set up a Haringey Dog Watch scheme. This is an initiative for dog walkers to meet with other dog owners and police in an enjoyable, relaxed atmosphere. The walks are held in a different Haringey park every month and everyone is welcome to come along.

## 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.

An **Environmental Visual Audit (EVA)** was carried out in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police's Crime Prevention/Designing Out Crime Group in March 2018, which made the following 15 recommendations:

### 1. Full Closure Policy

It is recommended that a new policy is implemented to ensure that the park is closed and fully secured at a single designated time. There should be no fluctuations in this time irrespective of the time of year as is currently the case. The local authority will also need to revise its current practices to ensure that the park is fully closed at the specified time. Signage indicating the closing time will need to be clearly displayed around the park and all interested parties/groups will need to be aware. With regards to the usage of the athletics facilities, signage should indicate the safe and lit route towards the Manor Gate which must be the last gate closed. All gates will be required to be fully lockable to ensure the security of the park is maintained and all lighting will be extinguished 10 minutes after the closing time.

### 2. Stroud Green gate

The current installation is not fit for purpose. If the entrance is purely for pedestrian purposes then a smaller, more manageable gate can be installed. Where a vehicular option is still required then a larger gate can be installed encompassing a smaller pedestrian/cyclist gate within its framework. Either option should not impinge on access or egress from the adjacent cycle hub. The gate should be of a design and construction that maximises visual permeability and incorporate a good level of security. It should not have the ability to be used as a climbing/scaling aid nor have sufficient ground clearance to allow a person to pass under. Finally there is a real need for the gate, in either guise, to be operable by a single person. It is also recommended that the Design-Out Crime Team are consulted if this recommendation is implemented.

### 3. Stroud Green entrance

This whole area leading to the open expanse of the park has created a haven for illicit use and anti-social behaviour. It is recommended that the high banking closest to the entrance is taken back to the fence line and then softened as you progress into the park. Furthermore, all the existing planting should be replaced with defensible type planting, such as berberis or pyracantha, to negate any use for the storage of drugs or other illegal substances. The overall softening of the landscape will ensure a more open space as you enter the park and as such increase the level of natural surveillance in this area.

### 4. Boundary Treatment

It is recommended that the wooden fencing is replaced. An ideal replacement would be the use of 358 weld-mesh fencing with an unfinished topping to a minimum height of 1.8m. This will provide a robust physical barrier, that is not easily scalable, as well as providing a good level of visual permeability into the park. A phased process in replacing the existing fence is a viable option with a further option for removable panelled sections, permitting access and egress during major events within the park, to be part of the installation. All existing wooden gates would also be replaced and would be of the same construction and design as the fencing to maintain a uniform appearance.

### 5. Arboriculture

Although an established maintenance plan exists, it is recommended that the established growth between Manor Gate and the Green Lanes entrance, commonly referred to as 'The Growing Space' is treated to improve the surveillance levels, particularly natural and informal, from the street and the buildings opposite. By reducing the density of the growth, it will reduce the likelihood of the area being used for illegal and sexual activity. This report gives recommendations. Please note that Crime Prevention Advice and the information in this report does not constitute legal or other professional advice; it is given free and without the intention of creating a contract or without the intention of accepting any legal responsibility. It is based on the information supplied and current crime trends in the area. All other applicable health, safety and fire regulations should be adhered to.

### 6. Manor Lodge

The building and adjoining gardens are in need of attention to prevent this area falling into further disrepair. The existing low metal rail fencing does not provide a physically robust boundary from the rest of the park and consideration needs to be given to either its complete removal or the installation of a fence of a similar style to a height of 1.4m. Full-time occupation of the building, during park opening hours, should also be encouraged once the building is in full working order.

### 7. Wooden Shelter removal

This small building near to the inner carriage drive by Seven Sisters gate has been highlighted as a prevalent location for anti-social behaviour and drug use. As there are several seating areas around the park it is recommended that this wooden structure is removed and replaced with either a vandal resistant metal bench or a 'Camden' bench.

### 8. Finsbury Gate seating

It is recommended that the benches near to the Finsbury Gate are removed in order to deter their use by the street drinking fraternity and reduce the impact of anti-social behaviour on legitimate park users entering via this gate. Consideration can be given to re-locating them to other areas of the park to be used as originally intended.

## 9. Waste Bins

The current installations around the park are becoming predominantly used for the storage of weapons and drugs. An option would be complete removal and a re-education of park users to take all their waste with them. Alternatively a bin design that prevents illicit usage should be considered.

## 10. Cricket Pavilion

As the area has become popular with rough sleepers, steps need to be taken to reduce the desirability of the location. The removal of all debris and remnants of any derelict structures along with trimming of the hedgerows/planting should also be considered to minimise the number of opportunities for shelter.

## 11. Exercise Equipment

The inclusion of pull-up bars to the exercise area should be implemented as soon as practicable to negate the use of the nearby children's play area as an alternative.

## 12. Lighting

Vandal resistant bollard lighting has been installed to provide a 'safe route' from the athletics track to the Manor Gate. Bollard lighting is not considered as an effective light source due to the low-level nature. In order to mitigate this and to provide a more uniform level of lighting it is recommended that some of the bollard lighting is replaced with fixed lighting on a pole or fixed to a bulkhead (where available). It is recognised that there is a potential environmental impact with any light installation, however mitigation can be instigated to ensure the minimum light overspill occurs. A photo-electric cell can be used to for illumination and then default to a timer switch to shut-off, operating in conjunction with the park closing time.

## 13. CCTV

Any consideration for the installation of CCTV would require the advice and guidance of a suitably qualified CCTV installer. CCTV in itself can help to detect crime however, unless subject to 24 hour monitoring the chances of preventing crime are minimised. A viable alternative would be the installation of 'commando' points at strategic points around the park that can then be used for temporary installations. These should include entrances and areas of high activity, e.g. Multi-Use games facilities.

## 14. Legislation

The park is not currently covered by any local bye-laws or legislation regarding dog control, alcohol consumption or anti-social behaviour in general. It is recommended that consideration is given to the use of a Public Spaces Protection Order within the park to mitigate against some of the current behaviours blighting it and affecting those legitimate day-to-day users. The use of Community Protection Notices can also be considered as a short-term solution for tackling such behaviour in the first instance.

## 15. Licensing

The prevalence of street-drinking within the park is a significant concern and engagement needs to take place with local licensed premises to provide advice and guidance relating to their obligations in relation to the sale of alcohol. Targeted operations using test purchasing or marked cans can also be considered to identify offending premises.

## **5.9 24 hour access**

Finsbury Park is locked overnight. The park is generally locked at dusk and opened at dawn. However, special out of hours arrangements are made for access to specific sporting facilities, by agreement.

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

Gate-locking was one of the issues covered in the Finsbury Park Consultation which took place in June 2019. Currently, the council is analysing the data and information gathered and will conclude in due course.

## **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.

Finsbury Park is a haven for dog walkers. The Alpha Dog Club provides training sessions in responsible dog ownership from their Dog Training Centre near Manor House Gate.

### **5.10.1 Control of dogs**

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

A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is in place across the borough to control the behaviour of dogs. 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 Finsbury 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
- Keeping dogs out of designated areas (such as playgrounds)
- Limiting to six the number of dogs that one person can bring to the park

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



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

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

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

## **6. Sustainability**

### **6.1 Greenest borough strategy**

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

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

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

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

### **6.2 Pesticide use**

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

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

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

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

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

A pilot study is being undertaken in one of Haringey's parks in 2022, trialling no pesticide use. Subject to the findings, lessons may be applied to other parks.

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

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

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

### **6.4 Recycling**

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

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

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

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

There is a large green waste recycling area at Finsbury Park near the McKenzie Gardens, however this is listed in the Action Plan in section 12 for removal over the next 3 years as funds allow.

### **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.

## **6.7: Geomorphology and climate**

Geology: The site lies about 40m above sea level, on a bed of London Clay. From the lake the land falls away to the north, south and east. It is thought that the gently sloping hill is formed by an underlying chalk stratum.

## **6.8 Land Quality**

There are currently no Haringey parks sites designated as contaminated land under Part 11A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

The historical records held by the Council's Pollution team indicate historical use of the immediate south west of Finsbury Park and surrounding land as 'railway' in 1876 and 1896. The 1876 map also shows an area of 'unknown filled ground' (ie pond, march, river, stream) to the south of the site (at the location that is a current water feature). In addition, the 1876 map shows 'clay brick and tiles works' to the north east boundary of the site. These historical land uses may have resulted in soil contamination. The 1876 map shows that to the immediate south boundary of the unknown filled ground is a tavern which is a public house.

The preliminary searches show potential sources of contamination as a result of historical use of part of the site and surrounding areas and possible pollutant linkages with reference to human health and allotment end usage.

There are no records held by the Council's Pollution team that indicate possible sources of soil or water contamination on the subject site or in the immediate surrounding area (NIHHS, COMAH, explosives, hazardous substances, EPA 1990 p1 A&B, closed landfills, mineral extraction, MoD land).

There are no landfills or waste facilities registered at the subject site or immediate adjacent areas.

Neither the Pollution team nor Development Control hold any records pertaining to previous ground investigations for the subject site.

There are no registrations under the Radioactive Substances Act 1983 for the subject site or adjacent areas.

There are no historical trade directories held by the Pollution team for the subject site and adjacent properties.

The Environment Agency is the authority responsible for water quality designation of controlled waters including rivers, streams, lakes or aquifers, for flood protection zones associated with the site and the possible risk of flooding and enforcing abstractions discharges and/or compliance points of controlled waters. Therefore all enquiries relating to these issues should be addressed to the Environment Agency.



## **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 Local Nature Reserve, 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 training.

At Finsbury Park, TCV delivered 3 conservation days involving 18 volunteers from the local community. Conservation activities included vegetation clearance and scrub habitat management.

TCV along with the Nature Conservation Officer are exploring opportunities for creating wider nature areas within Finsbury Park. It is anticipated that TCV will deliver multiple conservation volunteer days as part of this.

#### **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.

The newly created roles of the Community Engagement and Partnership Officer and the Parks and Green Spaces Volunteering Officer will support and increase of corporate volunteer days across the borough with tasks ranging from habitat creation and vegetation management, to creating countryside furniture and nature trails.

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

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

Haringey residents have proved to be committed to protecting and improving open space within the borough and there over 50 separate Friends of Parks Groups, as well as a borough-wide Haringey Friends of Parks Forum which meets six times a year.

The Forum was set up by Friends Groups as an independent network in 2002, one of the first to be established in London. The Forum provides an opportunity for Friends Groups to work together for the good of Haringey's green spaces. The Forum's 'What We Do and How We Do It' document describes the work of the Friends Groups as such:

Friends Groups do a huge amount and put in thousands of hours of volunteer time to:

- help develop maintenance and management plans for our parks and green spaces
- raise funds for improvements needed
- prevent inappropriate development in parks and green spaces
- plant trees, shrubs and flowers and help create play areas, seating and other facilities
- conduct regular walkabouts with parks staff and produce maintenance updates
- organise activities that encourage local residents to safely use their local open spaces, including festivals involving up to thousands of local people

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.

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, and minutes of all Forum minutes are displayed on the Council's website.

The Forum 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 Finsbury Park**

The Friends of Finsbury Park was established in 1988 (formerly Finsbury Park Action Group) Registered Charity number: 1104450, with a membership of approximately 100.

Since formation the Friends of the Park have been successful in achieving grant funding for many and various projects. These include the 12 month appointment of a part-time environmental worker, funding for events such as the annual community festival, Finfest, a children's day, climate change workshops, a community garden at Manor House Lodge, the research and publication of 'A Park for Finsbury', and various photography and drumming workshops. The HLF approved an application to fund the delivery of workshops to raise awareness of the park's historical and environmental significance. The project culminated in a video installation and wildlife and heritage trails detailed through information boards located in key areas of historical interest.

A small number of FoFP members are active in the group, and there is a desire to expand membership and seek a more demographic representation of the local community.

The Friends' Group has a permanent office in Finsbury Park. They hold public meetings on a quarterly basis and committee meetings on a monthly basis. Their AGM is generally held in November of each year.

The Friends have their own website [www.thefriendsoffinsburypark.org.uk](http://www.thefriendsoffinsburypark.org.uk)

## **7.4 Other community involvement**

### **7.4.1 Other community involvement: Sporting**

The Sports Development Plan for Finsbury Park focusses on working with the various sporting clubs based at the site to offer a broad and regular sporting and coaching offer throughout the week and as part of the Holiday Programme.

Informal activities such as walking, children's play, skating, skateboarding, cycling, boating, dog walking, orienteering, jogging and 'pick up' casual team sport play are also encouraged.

#### **Access to Sports**

Access to Sports is a highly successful organisation initially funded via the Finsbury Park Partnership. Access to Sports (A2S) is a community led sports development project. It is led by local community organisations including sports clubs, schools, tenants associations and voluntary youth groups who together with representatives of the three local authorities sit on its management committee. Since September 2001, a successful project to train coaches to achieve nationally recognised accreditations has been run. Furthermore the project provides an array of sports activities including holiday projects for children and young people throughout the area. The new community tennis development programme on the newly refurbished tennis courts in Finsbury Park is delivered by A2S, which has a permanent office within the Park at Manor House Lodge.

Access to Sports aims to:

- improve health - through a range of sporting and physical activities, providing children and young people with the physical literacy and skills, which will remain throughout their lives.
- reduce crime - by providing constructive and creative activities.
- increase social inclusion - by providing opportunities for participation by males and females, people from minority ethnic backgrounds, people with disabilities and people who are economically disadvantaged.
- develop people - through building self-confidence, skills and abilities and participation with others.
- build communities - promoting social cohesion through volunteering and shared activity.

increase employment - through the operation of new opportunities.

#### **Museum of Homelessness**

The council is currently negotiating a lease for the Museum of Homelessness to operate out of Manor House Lodge, sharing the space with Access to Sport, who utilise part of the site for office space. Founded in 2015, Museum of Homelessness (MoH) is a

community driven social justice museum, created and run by people with direct experience of homelessness.

### **Be Military Fit**

British Military Fitness is a recent concept in outdoor fitness training for individuals. Be Military Fit offers training to local city dwellers who prefer to train outside the more usual indoor fitness centres. Sessions are currently held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (20 attendees) and Saturday mornings (30 plus attendees).

These are mixed ability fitness sessions, combining, mobility, activation, strength, anaerobic and aerobic elements and a release and recover phase. The sessions have a real community spirit and encourage members to really work hard to their best efforts.

<https://www.bemilitaryfit.com>

The organisation also holds 'Active' classes which are less dynamic and aimed at over 50 age group (some younger do attend) on Mondays and Wednesdays at 09:30am, Thursdays at 12:00pm and Saturday morning at 10:30am. This is a slightly less dynamic group where the clientele are more mature. They are generally coming in at a base level of fitness and really do make great results as they're not always from an exercise background and they often find that this can create fast results improving people's lives to an extent they had never thought possible.

<https://www.bemilitaryfit.com/active-by-bmf>

### **Finsbury Park Bowls Club**

Finsbury Park Bowls Club was established in 1900. The bowls club is one of the more successful Haringey clubs, favoured for its attractive location. The Club has a good partnership relationship with the Park staff, and members are keen to preserve and enhance the facilities on site. Approximately 35 members meet daily throughout the season and play in the following leagues: Tottenham and District Prescott League; Cornish Cup League (2nd in 2006); Wednesday Triple League (2nd in 2006). The public are always welcome and the club promotes Tuesdays as specific public 'open' evenings, from 6.30pm.

### **Finsbury Park Sports Partnership**

Finsbury Park Sports Partnership (FPSP) are a volunteer run organisation, formed in 2012 to create a well-connected, proactive facilities management partnership. FPSP manage the Athletic Track and Gym, overseeing the fundraising and re-development of the new athletics track and infield; alongside the management of the tennis courts in partnership with Access to Sport.

The founding members of the FPSP were from the following organisations: [Access to Sport](#), [Dynamic Sports Academy](#), [London Blitz American Football Club](#), [London Heathside Athletics Club](#).

Their objective is to not only maintain current access to the facility for existing users, but to get funding to improve the facility and increase the facilities use, aims that complement the Councils goals to get more people more active.

With the proactive assistance of the Council the partnership has drawn in over £1M of investment for the refurbishment of the athletics track, new floodlights, a refurbished

gym and new athletics equipment. The partnership's longer term ambition is to achieve funding for a new pavilion

### **Fitness Squad UK**

Fitness Squad UK run fun, equipment-based 'boot camp' fitness sessions in Finsbury Park on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

The sessions are designed to bring a group and individual sense of solidarity and common goals which cater for everyone, no matter what shape, size or fitness level.

### **London Blitz American Football Club**

London Blitz American Football Club has recently relocated to Finsbury Park and is very popular with the local community. London Blitz train every Sunday and hold their home match fixtures on the track infield. A significant team in the British American Football Premier league, they are the second team in the championship and aspire to reach first place next year. The membership currently stands at 65, with 85 recruits in training. Approximately 50% are under the age of 18.

### **London Heathside Athletics Club**

London Heathside Athletics Club was formed in 2000 from the merger of North London Athletics Club (NLAC) and Muswell Hill Runners. It exists to promote participation and excellence in road running, track and field athletics and cross-country. The origins of the club can be traced back to 1904 when the then Hornsey St Mary's Harriers was formed. As such they are the only athletic club that originated within the borders of the London Borough of Haringey and currently the only club whose base is entirely within the Borough. The proximity of their home track at Finsbury Park to the London Boroughs of Hackney and Islington means that many members are spread over these three London boroughs as well as some in the boroughs of Barnet and Camden.

The Club has approximately 400 members, 275 of whom are over 18 with approximately a 70/30 split between male and female members amongst the seniors and a 50/50 split amongst the young athletes. The annual club member subscription (£20 for young athletes and £30 for seniors) is kept deliberately low to encourage people to join. For this they get a club running vest when they first join, the free use of all club facilities, free entry into all league competitions and in the case of cross country running, championship events, free coaching and access to all members through the Club web site [www.londonheathside.org.uk](http://www.londonheathside.org.uk)

Training sessions are held in Finsbury Park on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings. Various other athletics' events are held throughout the year at the Park. London Heathside Athletics Club also holds training and events at other venues around Haringey.

Together with Access to Sports (see below), London Heathside Athletics Club is a key provider of athletics training for adults and young people in the three Boroughs of Islington, Hackney and Haringey.

### **London Mets/Meteors Softball & Baseball Club**

London Mets/Meteors Softball & Baseball Club occupies the former cricket field and pavilion in the north-east corner of the Park. Cricket was abandoned on the site as a result of the poor drainage, soil conditions, and inappropriate use by the public. The Council created an Annual License for the Club in 1994.



Providing softball and baseball, the club has a thriving youth section (7 – 16 year olds), and has reciprocal arrangements with use by similar teams. The Club is looking at grant funding sources for future development, and has a good working relationship with Access to Sports.

The leagues they belong to include the GB Fastpitch League, Greater London Softball Mixed League, BBF Senior Leagues South, London Big League and London Seniors League.



Fig 13

London Mets are the premier baseball club in London, the only club in London with teams at every level from age 10 to adult and the only club in London with its own diamonds with dirt cut outs, fixed backstops and a clubhouse. They also have one of the only Fastpitch Softball teams (for girls between 13-18) in the UK.

### **Pedal Power**

Pedal Power cycling club for people of all ages with learning disabilities runs free drop in sessions.

Pedal Power has a fleet of approximately 250 cycles including a wide range of specialised cycles which allows us to cater for the whole range of people with disabilities. From moderate to profound and complex. Our members are diverse and Pedal Power is truly inclusive. Our members have a great number of health issues associated with learning disability and an inactive lifestyle, through the fun of cycling we aim to improve fitness.

Specific sessions are provided for 24 students with 20 support staff are provided for children aged 4-10 and for ages 10-16 with sever autism from the Garden SEN School.

Other cycling for fun and fitness sessions are provided for the Tikva orthodox Jewish women carer's group and to the Misgav orthodox Jewish women's with learning disabilities group. After school sessions are provided for Stormont SEN School sessions for physically disabled children training for a triathlon, as well as a session for a Learning Development college.

### **Try Tag Rugby**

Try Tag Rugby run Tag Rugby leagues for adults across London.

In Finsbury Park they run leagues on Monday and Wednesday evenings on the Seven Sisters Road pitches during the summer and when possible in the athletics stadium during spring/autumn.

### **Sports Development Plan**

The Sports Development Plan for Finsbury Park is lead by the overall strategy for the Council relating primarily to 'Well Being' and 'Better Haringey'. The strategies developed by Leisure Services; 'The Sport and Physical Activity Strategy' and 'The Open Space Strategy' and the accompanying action plans have a number of specific objectives which underpin the sport and physical activity plan for Finsbury Park. These include:

- providing a range of opportunities and facilities for active and passive recreation which can contribute to improved mental and physical health and wellbeing
- improving access to local provision so that participants can enjoy activities that are of high quality and in a safe and secure environment
- increasing participation in sport and physical activity and encourage an active lifestyle, in particular by those community groups who do not traditionally use sports and leisure facilities
- developing a range of opportunities for casual and formal participation in physical and cultural activity as a measure for reducing crime and anti social behaviour.
- developing a range of quality and accessible recreational opportunities and sporting facilities available to all

Certain other factors need to also be taken into account when considering sports development at Finsbury Park. These are:

- the lack of alternative outdoor facilities in this part of the borough
- the role that 'Access to Sport' has at Finsbury Park acting as the Council's key sports development agency in the Park
- the potential Finsbury Park has as a 'community sports hub'.

### **Basketball, Netball and Volleyball**

The basketball, netball and volleyball facilities at Finsbury Park are well used by groups and individuals throughout the year.

Basketball tournaments are held every year. South American teams regularly use the volleyball pitches and the Council is in discussions with a group interested in running regular netball coaching sessions.





Fig 14

### **Football**

While football is one of the Borough’s priority sports, historically Finsbury Park has not been a venue for organised club football. The overall regeneration of the Park including the reinstatement of trees along ‘Seven Sisters Strip’ leaves an area for non-bookable

casual football to be played. This provision is extremely popular and ensures the 'football' area can still be used for many other activities at different times during the year.

### **Holiday Programming**

Recently a more consistent effort has been made by the Council to provide a good range of physical activity holiday programming across the Borough. The key to the success of the programme at Finsbury Park is the strong working relationship with Access to Sport.

With Access to Sport's strong history of community work using sport and sports qualification training as the vehicle to improve cohesion, they are the ideal partner for the Council. An additional benefit Access to Sport provides is the ability to tap into funding from Hackney and Islington institutions, due to the organisation's unique set up, history and the location of Finsbury Park. The Council will be seeking to progress funding applications from all three authorities and other institutions in order to build capacity into the programme over time.

### **Sports Events**

Many successful sports events are held at Finsbury Park. For example the London Nike 5k run (with Paula Radcliffe in attendance) in 2006, mini marathon trials and a number of other athletics events. For a number of years the park has hosted both the 5k and 10k popular Cancer Research charity runs.

'Staff 5k My Way' is a tri-borough activity for Council staff from Haringey, Hackney and Islington to walk, jog or run the marked 5k route.



Fig 15

These sporting occasions have the capacity to inspire people to participate and the Council will continue to seek such events for this benefit, as well as the income they generate. In considering which types of sporting events to approve for the park the Council will take a balanced view ensuring that casual, club and other users are not unduly encroached upon.

## **7.4.2 Other community involvement: Non-sporting**

### **Alpha Dog Club**

Alpha Dog Club offers classes in responsible dog ownership. It transferred from an indoor venue in 1999 and started Park-based training at the site of the former horticultural project, near Manor House Gate. Winning prestigious gold and silver Crufts' awards for

the Club training programme, the Sunday sessions are attended by over 60 dogs and their owners. The installation of a specially fenced compound was funded by Tubelines contractors, who were based in the park during the upgrading of Manor House station as an expression of support to the Dog Club, who had been displaced by the contract works. Alpha Dog Training are self-sufficient and work with, and train volunteer helpers and monies raised pay for their overheads, equipment and staff training. Their fees are kept really low, to be affordable for all, and all profits are given to related charities to generally promote education and animal welfare. Over £7,500 was donated at the end of 2018 to 15 charities including Friends of Finsbury Park.

Dog training sessions take place every Sunday and Thursday, based on the Kennel Club's Good Citizen Dog Scheme. Fair weather agility training takes place every other Saturday afternoon between April & September, and some individual sessions, occasional workshops and canine events. All their work is designed to help owners have well behaved dogs that are a pleasure to own and mix in society. Alpha also deal with many dogs referred for anti-social behaviour and as such, they make a real difference to the wider public.

Alpha has been running for 25 years this year and in Finsbury Park for 20 years next year, having seen many thousands of dog owning families benefit from the centre.

### **Cafés**

There are two cafés in the park that provide refreshments, toilet facilities and a place for people to recuperate after all the activities on offer.

These are the Park View Café, located at the Manor House Gate and the Finsbury Park Café, next to the boating lake.

### **Edible Landscapes**

Edible Landscapes London showcases about 200 edible plants and teaches people how to identify, eat, care for and propagate them

<http://www.ediblelandscapeslondon.org.uk/section/about>

They are located in Finsbury Park near the Manor House entrance to the park, here:

<http://www.ediblelandscapeslondon.org.uk/FindingUs>

The organisations currently undertakes volunteer days on Sundays with 5-10 people per session, giving away about 300 plants to 30 community groups each year.

Links have been established with local schools and outreach work is undertaken with 5 community projects in Haringey and Hackney.

Edible Landscapes maintain a large, fenced-off garden which includes a pond, 15 beds containing edible plants, a propagation area, an edible hedge, compost toilet, compost bins, rainwater harvester, greenhouse and tool-shed. They also maintain an ornamental and edible flowerbed near the Manor House entrance.

### **Furtherfield**

Furtherfield.org is an artist-led online community, arts organisation and online magazine. It creates and supports global participatory projects with networks of artists, theorists and activists and offers "a chance for the public to present its own views and enter or alter various art discourses". Their lab-office and gallery operates out of in Finsbury Park.



Approximately 600 people are regular contributors and collaborators in Furtherfield activities, with an estimated global readership of 26,000.

Notable artists and curators that Furtherfield has worked with, in various capacities, include Shu Lea Cheang, Thompson and Craighead, Ben Vickers, They Are Here, James Bridle, Katriona Beales, Holly Herndon, Gretta Louw, Helen Varley Jamieson, Carla Gannis, and Anna Dumitriu amongst many others.

FurtherField occupy the Jamboree Play Hut and the McKenzie Art Gallery within the park.

### **Hound Watch (Hands Off Us – Neighbourhood Dog Watch)**

Hound Watch (Hands Off Us – Neighbourhood Dog Watch) is a new initiative co-ordinated by the local park-users who are also dog owners. Following a nation-wide increase in dog stealing and ransom demands, local dog owners have responded by creating a system whereby dog-owners who use Finsbury Park with great regularity, exchange mobile phone numbers and name of their dog. Using the 'text-all' facility, owners make others aware of missing dogs or suspicious circumstances to alert each other. Notices displaying the initiative are being posted around the Park to deter would-be thieves.

### **Independent boating operators**

Independent boating operators have leased the boating operation since 1990. The current License holder has managed the operation for a number of years, and has made many small and eye catching enhancements to the landing area. These attract members of the diverse communities in the Finsbury Park area. The operation is a great asset to the park and its visitors.

### **Kurdish Community Centre**

The Kurdish Community Centre has strong links with Finsbury Park which is widely used by the local Kurdish community. The annual New Roz (New Year) festival is held in Finsbury Park at the end of March and attracts up to 5,000 people.

### **TCV**

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) is a community volunteering charity that works to create healthier and happier communities for everyone through environmental conservation and practical tasks undertaken by volunteers. Whether improving wellbeing, conserving a well-loved outdoor space or bringing people together to promote social cohesion, combat loneliness or enhance employment prospects, TCV works together with communities to deliver practical solutions to the real life challenges they face.

TCV has been instrumental in co-ordinating several bulb planting sessions with the local community, and more significantly, the recent development and creation of the community garden at Manor House Lodge, within Finsbury Park.

## 8. Conservation and Heritage

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

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

Haringey's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is currently under review. During 2020-21 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 Finsbury Park. See section 8.4.

### 8.2 Habitat representation and nature conservation interests

Finsbury Park covers nearly 47ha of green space with a wide range of habitat types represented. Table 5 sets out the different types of habitat.

Table 5: Habitat types in Finsbury Park

Habitat type*	Coverage (%)	Coverage (ha)
Amenity grassland	56.8%	26.68
Scattered trees	14.8%	6.97
Bare artificial	8.4%	3.94
Shrubbery	6.4%	3.01
Non-native hedging	0.1%	0.03
Semi-improved grassland	1.3%	0.59
Roughland	1.9%	0.87
Still water	2.6%	1.22
Tall herb	1.5%	0.72
Ruderal	0.9%	0.41
Bare ground	0.7%	0.34
Native wood	0.2%	0.08
Scrub	4.0%	1.87
River	0.5%	0.25

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

The principle habitats at Finsbury Park include mature trees, scrub and shrubberies, lake and grassland. The New River (Metropolitan SINC) runs through the park. Several species of bat have been recorded and a range of resident, migratory and visiting wildfowl species frequent the lake and water bodies including Canada geese, herons, cormorants, mute swans, pochards, tufted ducks, coots, moorhens and terns.

### 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. Finsbury Park is:

Designation	Information
Borough Grade II SINC (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation)	Finsbury Park is the largest open space in a substantial area of central North London. There are plenty of mature trees and some areas of grassland support an interesting range of spring ephemeral plants which are rare in London or uncommon in Haringey. There is potential to enhance the site of nature conservation.

There are additional designated sites close to Finsbury Park:

Site	Area (ha)	Location	Designation
New River	30.50ha	River runs through north-east of site	Metropolitan SINC
Parkland Walk, Queen's Wood and Highgate Wood	66.93ha	Begins in the park and extends west through the borough to the ancient woodlands	Metropolitan SINC
Gillespie Park	3.45ha	South of site (Islington)	Metropolitan SINC
Isledon Road Railsides	2.53ha	South of site (Islington)	Borough Grade I SINC
Tottenham Railsides	18.22ha	North and north-east of site	Borough Grade II SINC
Railway Fields Local Nature Reserve	0.87ha	North of site	Borough Grade I SINC
Granville Road Spinney	0.30ha	West of site	Local SINC
Stroud Green Railway Bank	2.19ha	North-west of site	Borough Grade II SINC
Harringay Stadium Slopes	1.02ha	West of site	Borough Grade II SINC
St Ann's Hospital Wood	0.71ha	North-west of site	Local SINC
Stoke Newington Reservoirs	21.32ha	West of site (Hackney)	Metropolitan SINC

Table 6

## 8.4 Conservation Action Plan (CAP)

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

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

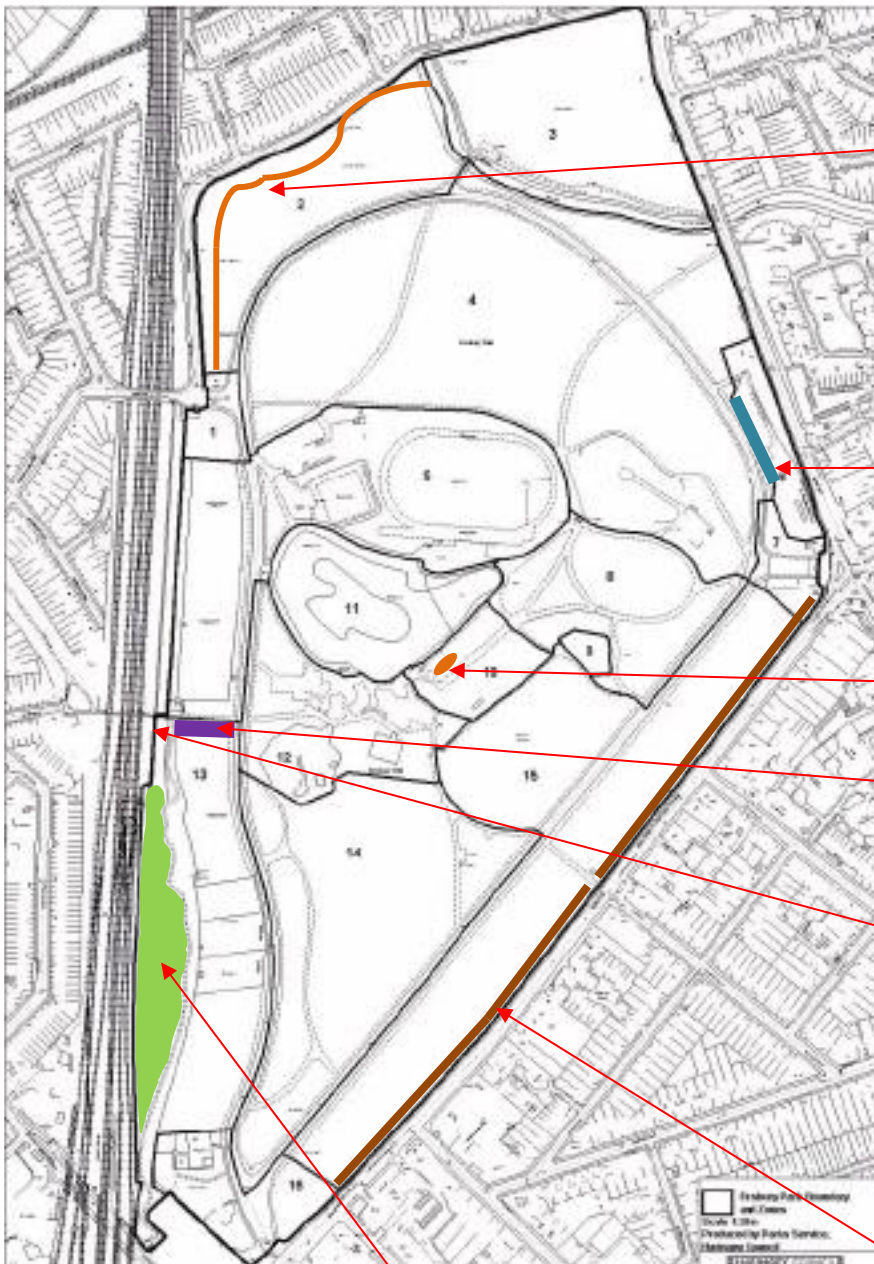
With the development of a new Biodiversity Action Plan during 2020-21, existing CAPs for parks will be updated to ensure they are aligned with the new BAP. They will detail conservation actions and requirements, including maintenance, enhancement opportunities and potential future projects.

There is a CAP in place for Finsbury Park which can be found below. This continues to form the basis for conservation activities within the park. In 2002-21, a new CAP will be developed. This will reflect the development of new conservation areas and features to enhance the biodiversity value of the site.

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

- bulb planting
- tree planting
- shrub maintenance and replacement
- grassland and meadow management.

## Woodland and Scrub Habitats (Fig 11)



### W1. Create a woodland path through the trees

Method 1: cut out edge and lay woodchip or hogging.

Method 2: Mow a 2 mtr wide grass path, every 2-3 weeks

**W2. Replace old shrubs with flowering shrubs and herbaceous plants to attract bees and butterflies. March – May**

Water. March-Nov  
Mulch with woodchip annually. Jan-March

**W3. Build a Stag Beetle Loggery under the trees**

### W4. Coppiced bank

Introduce Lesser Periwinkle and *Liriope muscari*. March to April

### W5. Footbridge entrance

Plant *Hebe andersonii* & *Viburnum tinus* 'Gwenllian' either side of entrance to footbridge. March-May

### W6. Reinststate hedge

- Gap up hedgerow with native species to include;

- Guelder Rose,
- Dogwood
- Dog rose,
- Hawthorn,
- Blackthorn,
- Hazel.

Nov to March

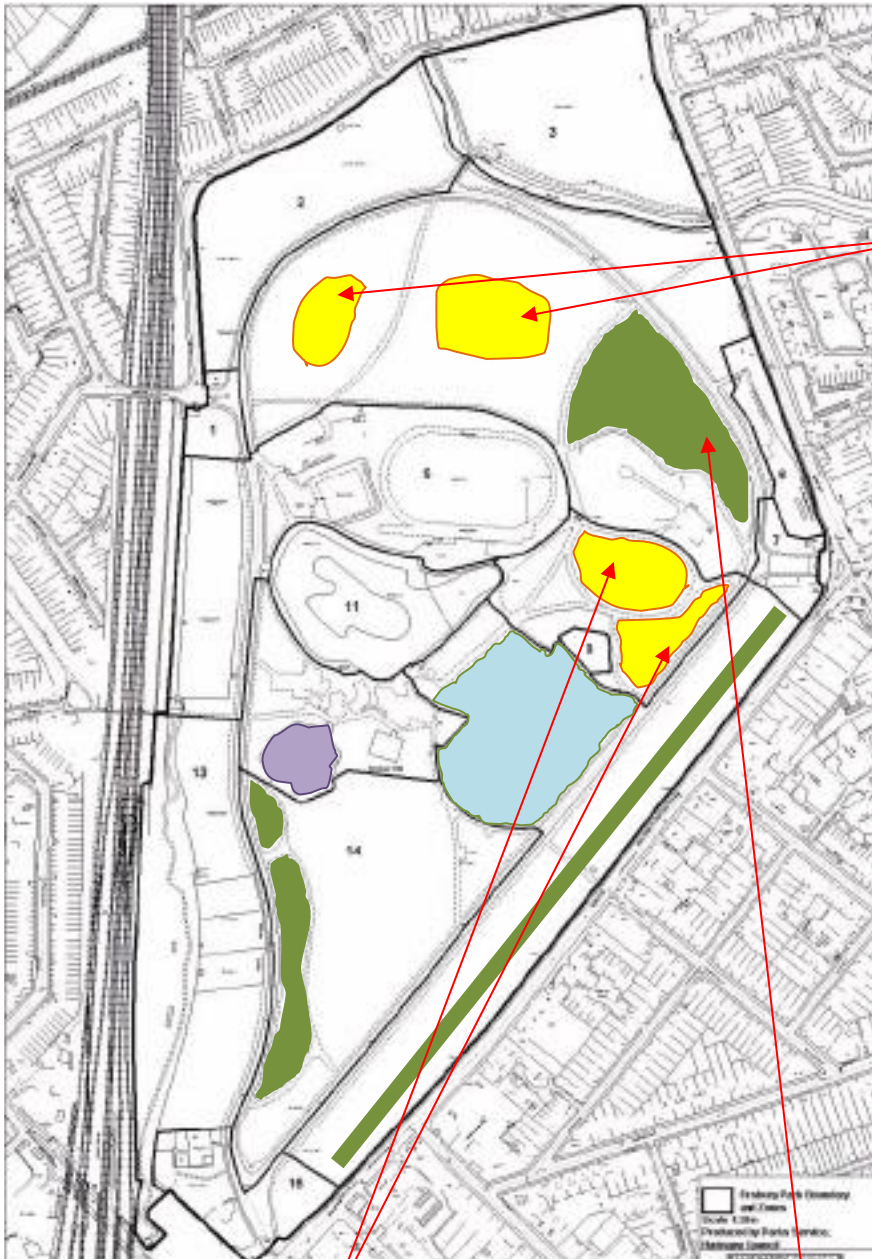
- Mulch new plants for first 3 years. Jan-March
- Water. March-Nov
- Trim 50% of hedgerow alternate years. Dec/Feb
- Trim full length of hedgerow along footpath side. Dec/Feb and June/July

### W7. Grass Scrubland

- Monitor and record plant species
- Cut back Bramble by 25% each year. Oct- March
- Mow 1.5mtr strip along footpath edge. Every 2 weeks
- Plant native flowering perennials such as Crane's-bill, Lucern, Sainfoin and Golden Rod. March-May . Water. March-Nov
- Herbaceous cut back. Oct-Nov
- Plant up the bottom section towards the Station with;
  - *Miscanthus zebrinus*,
  - *Stipa tenuissima*,
  - Blue Fescue,
  - *Sisyrinchium striatum*,
  - *Liriope* and Lavender. March -May



## Wildflower & Grassland Habitats (Fig 12)



**G1. Wildflower meadows**  
Fence off areas and leave the grass uncut for year 1. Monitor and record plant species in this period before deciding upon summer meadow mix

**Method 1.**  
Remove turf and topsoil replace with a low nutrient aggregate. Sow with a cornflower mix and a summer wildflower meadow mix

**Method 2.**  
Scarify turf heavily and sow with a summer wildflower meadow mix and plant plugs

- Sow summer wildflower seed and/or plant plugs if required. April-May
- Monitor and record plant species
- Introduce Yellow Rattle to control pernicious grasses. April-May
- 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

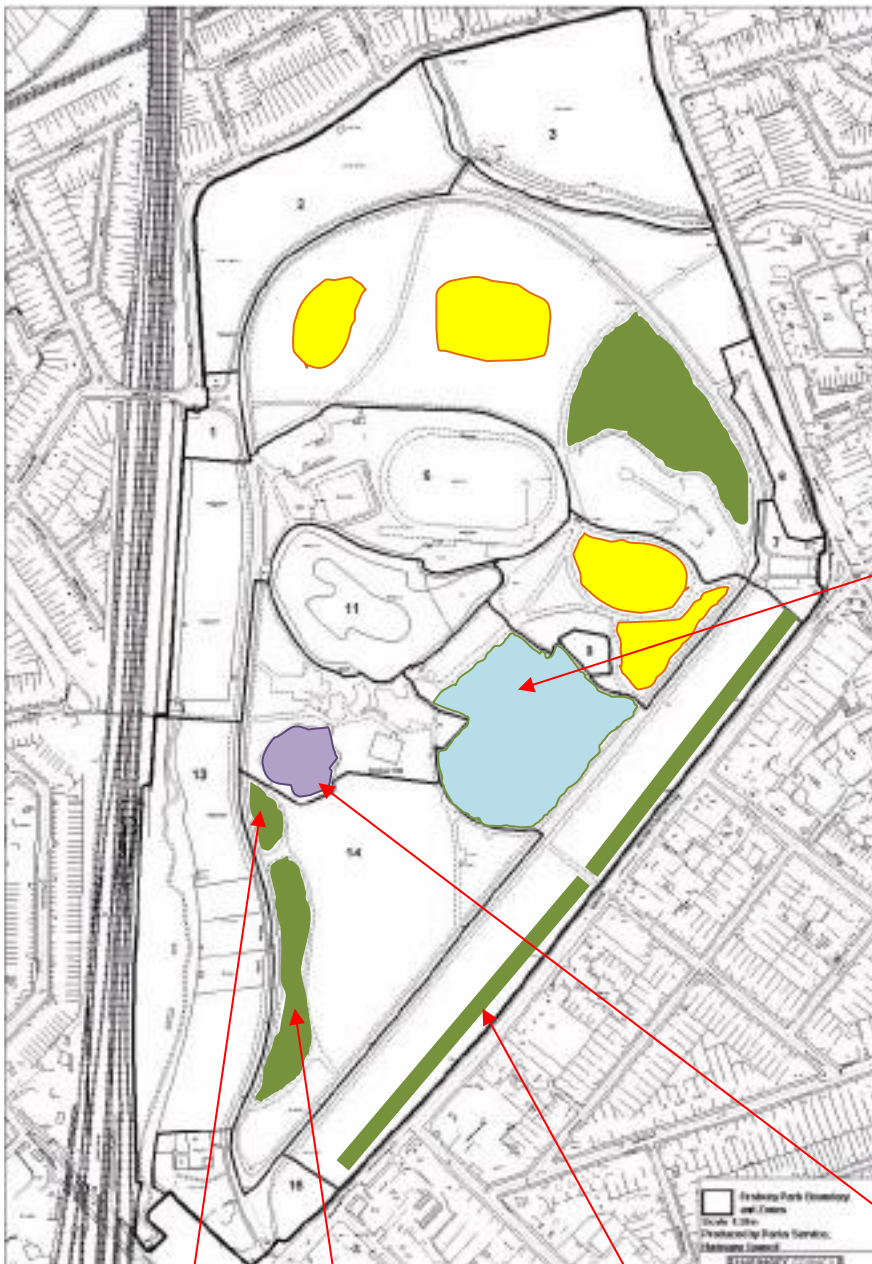
### G3. Bulbs planting

- Scatter bulbs over lawn areas and plant in situ: Oct/Dec
  - Winter/spring flowering Crocus.
  - Snowdrops.
  - Grape Hyacinths.
  - Anemone blanda.
  - Primroses
  - Daffodils
- Monitor Fauna and flora. On-going
- Mow between May and November

### G2. Plant woodland bulbs and perennials.

- Scatter bulbs over grass areas under the trees and plant in situ: Oct/Dec
  - Winter/spring flowering Crocus.
  - Snowdrops.
  - Anemone
  - Primroses
- Reduce mowing to every 4 weeks. Raise cut height to 5-7cm
- Mow between May and November
- Monitor Fauna and flora. On-going

## Wildflower & Grassland Habitats (Fig 13)



### G4. Wet grassland area

- Leave the grass uncut for the first year to monitor and record plant species before the possible introduction of the following wetland species in selected area's;
  - Betony
  - Common Knapweed
  - Cuckoo Flower
  - Feabane
  - Goatsbeard
  - Great Burnet
  - Hemp Agrimony
  - Meadowsweet
  - Ox eye daisy
  - Purple Loosestrife
  - Ragged Robin
  - Tufted Vetch
- Cut 75% 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
- Monitor and record fauna and flora.

### G7. Herb rich grass area

To allow the development of natural lawn herbs such as;

- Daisies
- Self-heal
- Yarrow
- Mouse eared chickweed
- Round-leaved Crane's-bill
- Reduce mowing to every 4 weeks. Raise cut height to 5-7cm

### G6. Long grass strip

Allow for a 5meter wide stripe of long grass along the hedgerow.

- Cut 75% 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

### G5. Picnic & Play area

- Clear Buddleia and other invasive species from the beds
- Plant Rockery with Ferns and Sedums
- Plant beds with ornamental grasses
- Water. March-Nov

Woodland & Scrub Management Timeline									
Activity	Hedge and shrub planting	Plant Perennials	Monitor and record ground flora. Inspect Trees , ties and guards	Cut back Bramble	Mow woodland path	Build a woodland path	Building stag beetle loggeries and other habitat piles	Monitor and record Butterflies	Trim 50% of Hedgerow Trim full length along footpath side. Mulch new plants first 3 years
January	W6			W7		W1	W3		W6, Path, Mulch
February	W6			W7		W1	W3		W6. Path, Mulch
March	W2, W5	W4 ,W7		W7	W1	W1	W3		W6, Mulch
April	W2, W5	W4 ,W7			W1	W1			
May	W2, W5	W4 ,W7			W1	W1			
June	water	water			W1				Path
July	water	water			W1				Path
August	water	water			W1				
September	water	water			W1		W3		
October	water	water		W7	W1	W1	W3		
November	W6			W7	W1	W1	W3		
December	W6			W7		W1	W3		W6, Path

Grass & Meadow Management Timeline											
Activity	Plant and Sow wildflower perennials and seed	Clear Buddleia and invasive plant species from rocky and beds	Plant up rocky and beds	Cut summer flowering meadow / long grass strips and remove cuttings	Monitor and record plant species	Bulb planting	Mowing naturalised bulb area' s	Cut wetland area	Mow grass paths	Plant Perennials and water	Monitor and record fauna and flora
January		G5									
February		G5			G4						
March	G1		G5	25%	G4			25%	G1		
April	G1		G5	25%	G4				G1	G7	
May	G1		G5		G4		G2,G3		G1	G7	
June					G4		G2,G3		G1	water	
July					G4		G2,G3		G1	water	
August					G4		G2,G3		G1	water	
September	G1		G5	75%	G4		G2,G3	75%	G1	water	
October	G1		G5	75%	G4	G2,G3	G2,G3	75%	G1	water	
November		G5			G4	G2,G3	G2,G3				
December		G5									

Table 7

## **8.5 Site history and heritage**

### **8.5.1: Site history**

Records indicate that in the mid-sixteenth century the land now known as Finsbury Park was part of a large woodland estate called Brownswood, the hunting ground of the Bishops of London. Copt Hall manor house stood within the large estate and in 1750 changed its name to Hornsey Wood House, becoming a popular tea house and pleasure gardens.

By 1796 the woodland had shrunk considerably to an area of about 27 acres and the lake we know today was built. The island at the centre of the lake had a causeway across which a farmer was able to herd his livestock, and a small hut provided shelter.

In the 1860s Hornsey Wood House was demolished allowing for the expansion of the pleasure grounds – a popular destination right up until the mid-nineteenth century.

Finsbury Park as we know it was opened on 9 August 1869 after nearly thirty years of petitioning and political manoeuvring from various local groups and individuals, with Frederick Manable being the driving force. The original goal had been to establish a Royal Park for the north of London similar to Regents Park, Battersea Park and Victoria Park. Finsbury Park was the first municipal park to be authorised by its own Act of Parliament (1857) and only the second to be laid out in London by the recently established Metropolitan Board of Works (MBW).

The Victorians were great park builders with a firm belief in the social and health benefits provided by recreational public open spaces, values that are still espoused today. The Finsbury Park development was set against the now familiar backdrop of safeguarding open space for public recreation in the face of rapid building development and escalating land values.

Compulsory purchase of land by MBW began in 1864. The present boundaries, Seven Sisters Road, Green Lanes and the railway line (formerly Great Northern), remain more or less the same today as when the Park was opened, and enclose a total area of 46 hectares (115 acres).

Landscape Designer Alexander McKenzie produced the plans for the Park, that were approved in 1868. At the time he was the landscape designer for MBW and had previously designed and supervised work at Southwark Park and Victoria & Albert Embankment Gardens. The whole Park landscape, in the McKenzie style, has an expansive, sweeping aspect that conversely projects an image of formal open space.

Although the Park opened in 1869, construction work continued well into the 1890's. Early features included a bandstand, refreshment rooms, cricket pavilion, chrysanthemum house, flower gardens and a rosary.

At this time the Park was characterised by large open swathes of grass, informal shrub beds, broad tree-lined carriageways and a network of footpaths meandering around the site.



In 1889 management of the Park passed to London County Council (LCC) which replaced MBW. The Ordnance Survey map of 1936 records significant changes to the Park's layout such as the development of an athletics track, tennis courts, and new putting greens. These developments reflected the trend of the time away from passive recreation. Horticultural features changed too as new tree and shrub planting moved away from the original design. In 1949 a children's playground was constructed alongside the western carriageway.

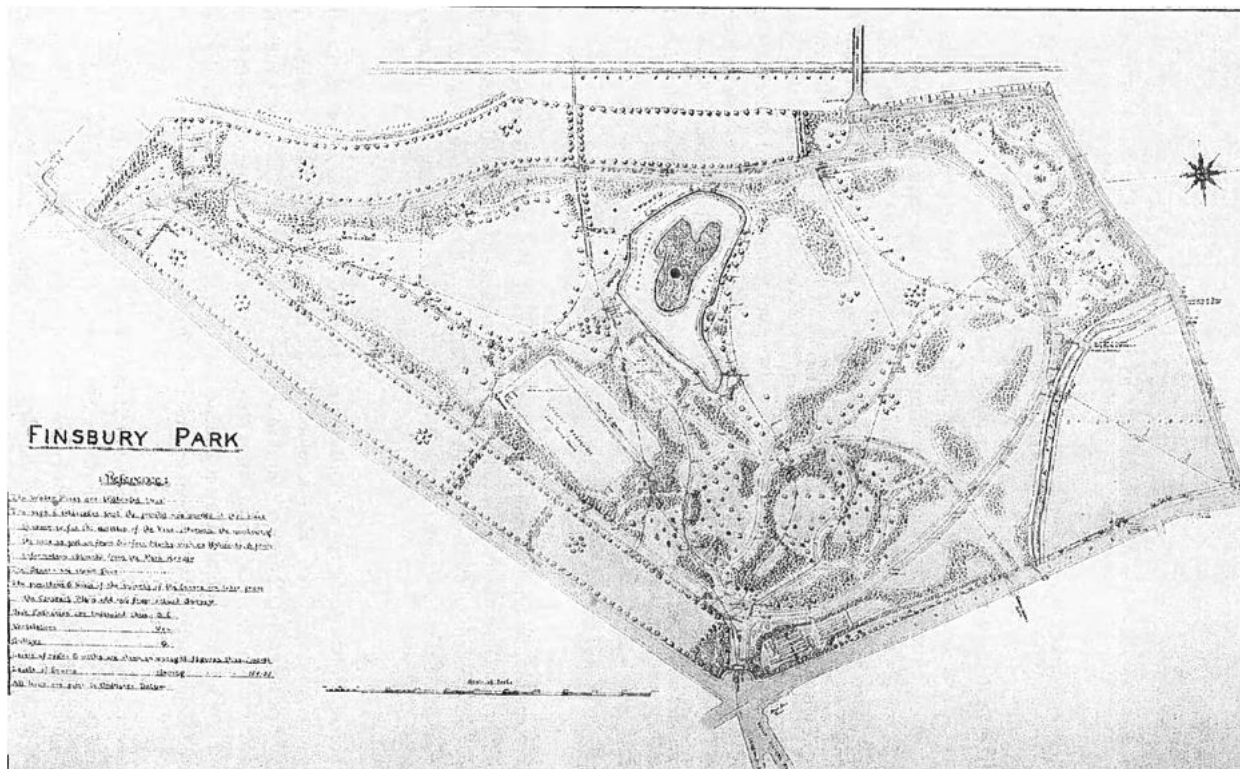


Fig 16

The character of the Park changed dramatically again when the Greater London Council (GLC) inherited responsibility from LCC in 1965. The open air theatre, conservatory and boathouse were demolished and replaced by new public toilets, a football pavilion and 'The Pit' play space.

With the demise of the GLC in 1986, management of the Park passed to the London Borough of Haringey. The period from the 1970's to mid 80's was a period of budgetary constraint within local government nationally, and the Park visibly deteriorated due to the lack of capital investment. The situation was made worse by a widespread growth in vandalism, since funds for many repairs were simply not available. As a result many of the park's notable features disappeared and those that remained, such as the lake and the carriageways, were poor shadows of their former selves.

In an effort to reverse this trend, the Council approached the Heritage Lottery Fund in 1996 to secure capital investment for a programme of improvement works. The bid had a twofold approach, firstly to restore the historic aspect of the landscape and secondly to return the Park to a standard that befits its premier status within the locality. With the aid of several funding bodies, a total of £4.9 million was invested in the restoration project, which was completed in 2006. Completion of these major works was celebrated with a



formal ceremony on 6th October 2006; and a tree was planted near the lake and play area to celebrate the completion of the project.

The Friends of Finsbury Park obtained funding from Awards for All to research, write and publish 'A Park for Finsbury', covering the history and development to date of Finsbury Park and the surrounding area. This book makes a highly valuable contribution to endorsing and promoting the Parks' heritage and integrity.



Fig 17: Finsbury Park 2006 birthday cake

### **Historic Designations**

The historical importance of Finsbury Park has been identified by its Grade II designation on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of special Historic Interest in England. This ensures that English Heritage is consulted on any development issues.

The Garden History Society must be advised of any development proposals that may affect the historic character or setting of Finsbury Park.

The site of the former Hornsey Wood House has been defined as an Area of Archaeological Significance.

## 9. Marketing and communications

### 9.1 The marketing approach

Marketing Finsbury 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 Finsbury 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 Finsbury Park. Information such as location, facilities and transport links for all Haringey parks and open spaces is available.

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

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

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

Stakeholders of the park such as the Friends also maintain a website/Facebook page: <https://psandc.co.uk/farrg/>

### 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)

The Friends of Albert Road Rec have a website that can be found at: <https://psandc.co.uk/farrg/#>, plus have a Facebook page at: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/Pavilion-Sports-and-Cafe-291826137496886/>

#### **9.4 Publications**

Haringey People is the Council magazine, distributed six times a year by direct mail to all households within the borough. The magazine is produced by the Council's Central Communications Team which has editorial control over the content.

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/news-and-events/haringey-people-magazine>

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

#### **9.5 Notice boards**

There are 7 notice boards in Finsbury Park. These are located as follows:

- Finsbury Gate
- Oxford Road Gate
- Outside the café by the boating lake
- By the play areas near the boating lake
- Hornsey Gate
- Manor House Gate (x2)

These are used to display information about the Friends and Council services and/or campaigns and events.

In 2014 a set of guidelines detailing how notice boards within parks should be used, maintained and what information can be displayed were issued with the expectation that all those with an interest and access to the notice boards will adhere to them.

In 2019 we developed a simple A2, updateable poster that gives key contact information for council and other public services.

#### **9.6 Campaigns**

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

Litter awareness campaign – encouraging users to dispose of their litter responsibly.

Neighbourhood Watches – encouraging creation of new watches and increased membership

Trees Awareness – aimed at highlighting tree planting, tree identification, maintenance and removal and why. Along with National Tree Week.

Volunteering and Friends Groups – promoting the work groups do, the benefits they bring to communities and encouraging volunteering

Love Parks Week – Encouraging stakeholders and Friends to promote and highlight the borough's parks and the events that they put on.

The Big Lunch- supporting and promoting via social media the Big Lunch events happening across the borough, with focus on shared picnics in our parks and green spaces.

The Great Get Together- supporting and promoting the national campaign to celebrate and promote community cohesion. We have streamlined the application form for this event to make it even easier for residents and park users to take part.

Play Weekend- supporting the Play Streets initiative to encourage more active play within communities

Playday- supporting the National Summer event to promote active play for children, young people and families. We work closely with our colleagues in the Active Communities Team to support community involvement and uptake.

## **9.7 Awards**

In 2019 a total of 22 parks managed by Haringey Council were awarded Green Flag status, an external recognition for quality parks and open spaces. Finsbury Park retained its Green Flag which it had held ever since its first in 2007, however, a subsequent mystery shopping assessment at the end of 2018 found a number of concerns which jeopardised the park's Green Flag status.

The council has responded by addressing the issues highlighted in the report and re-submitted a reapplication for a Green Flag assessment in June 2019. Following the re-submission, all 22 parks were awarded Green flag status.

Haringey Council is committed to the Green Flag scheme and is seeking to secure Green Flag status for at least 22 parks in 2022.

## **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 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:

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

## Greater London Council Event Income

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

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

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

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

### **10.2 Management structure**

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

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

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

The structure chart in section 4.1 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 Friends Forum, our partners within the Police and The Conservation Volunteers alongside organisations such as Parks for London, Keep Britain Tidy and APSE.

### **10.3 Borough Plan 2019-2023**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Borough Plan 2019-2023 can be found at:

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

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

The last open space strategy was adopted in 2006.

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

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

The strategy will set out the ambitions for the service over the next 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 a number of key outcomes.

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

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

### **10.7 Finance and funding**

The revenue budget for Finsbury 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 wherever possible.

Planned capital projects in Finsbury Park are mentioned at section 4.3.2 and listed in the Action Plan at section 12.

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

The Parks and Open Space Small Grant Scheme has been running for a number of years. The scheme offers community groups associated with parks and open spaces - such as Friends of Parks groups – to bid for funding of up to £1000. The funding is to support and develop community activity to help meet the council's aims and priorities for improving the borough's parks and open spaces. The budget available in 2018/19 was £40,000 and is expected to be £60,000 in 2019/20.

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

### **10.7.3 Events income**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## 11. Improving Finsbury Park

The following table is a list of actions that have been completed in the park since the 2018 management plan.

Heading	Action	Target completion	Completed
A welcoming Place	An access audit was undertaken that led to the Finsbury Park Access for All report, which included 80 recommendations to make Finsbury Park more accessible for people with a wide range of physical, sensory and cognitive impairments	February 2018	Yes
	Disabled parking bays were created at the Hornsey Road gate	2020/21	Yes
	Resurfacing works were undertaken between the lakeside café and the Richard Hope Play Space	2021	Yes
	Ongoing management of potholes and wear to the walking paths	2022/23	Yes
A clean and well-maintained park	Bins, benches and signs have been cleaned, straightened, repainted and had the graffiti removed	May 2019	Yes
	Replacement of bins	2018	Yes
	Removal of all dog waste bins	2019	Yes
	Introduction of new branded high capacity Euro Cart bins along the carriageway	2019	Yes
	Repainting works on all the boats	2019	Yes
Healthy, safe and secure	£1m investment into the Athletics Track & Gym, including track and floodlighting works	2015	Yes
	2 new netball courts created with colour spray surfacing and ball-stop fencing (£66k)	April 2019	Yes
	Removal of the red play equipment and creation of a new Over 8s play area, to link to the Richard Hope Play Space	2019	Yes
	Refreshment of safety surfacing in the Under 8s play area	August 2019	Yes
	Created a new play area in the Richard Hope Play Space (phases 1 & 2)	2021	Yes
	Installed CCTV at 6 of the park's entrances	2021	SF

Heading	Action	Target completion	Completed
	Although authorised vehicles such as disabled people, staff and essential deliveries for parks leaseholders and event are still allowed to enter the park, unauthorised vehicles are no longer allowed. Thames Water, as part of a quid pro quo arrangement related to their use of the bone yard as works storage, have throughout 2022 operated a gate security function	September 2023	No
	Baseball pitch resurfacing upgrade works undertaken by London Mets	Summer 2021	Yes
	BMX/skatepark repairs following fire damage/vandalism were undertaken	2021	Yes
	All the site's shelters were deep cleansed and 'ceilings' were installed to prevent further pigeon access and damage	2021	Yes
A sustainable place	6-month trial of self-compacting 'bins' which tell you when they're full, to make servicing more efficient	May 2022 to November 2023	No
	Mulching around mature trees, planting new trees in the park, planting an edible hedge along Seven Sisters road, leaving some areas un-mowed	2018	Yes
	Undertook discussions with the EA concerning aquatic planting and water quality improvements to the boating lake	2018 and 2019	Yes
	Discussions with the Nature Conservation Officer to turn the lake's island into a nature reserve	2019	
	National Grid de-commissioned their obsolete oil-filled high voltage cables and associated assets within the park	2021	Yes
Community Involvement	Multiple stakeholder engagement around events and activities	2018-ongoing	Yes
	Planning to arrange Spotlight Meetings	Quarterly	Yes
Conservation and Heritage	Restoration of Thames Water's underground reservoir to address movement in the roof structure	2018	Yes
	Upgrades to the boat house	2019	Yes
	150 <sup>th</sup> anniversary (7 <sup>th</sup> August) of the creation of the park, including National Play Day and a range of playful activities and celebrations	1 <sup>st</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> of August 2019	Yes

Heading	Action	Target completion	Completed
	Renovation of the McKenzie Garden, to make this into one of the borough's horticultural gems. Replanting to be undertaken by officers and managers from the Parks & Open Spaces team, the parks Operations team, the friends of Finsbury Park and other stakeholder groups	End of July 2019	Yes
	Thames Water undertook revetment works and downstream blockage removal works to the New River to reduce the likelihood of further flooding onto the baseball field	Summer 2021	Yes
Marketing and communication	Cleansing, graffiti removal and straightening of signage and noticeboards	Ongoing	Yes
	New 'welcome to our park' background for noticeboards	Ongoing	Yes
	Preparations and pre-consultations for the Finsbury Park Consultation exercise	2019	Yes
	Major consultation exercise (c20,000 people) to give local park users the opportunity to vote on issues such as safety and security, cycling infrastructure, traffic management and priorities for the future of the park.	2019	Yes
Management	New staffing structure for Finsbury Park, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finsbury Park Projects Officer</li> <li>• Finsbury Park Manager</li> <li>• Finsbury Park Hygiene team x5.5</li> <li>• Finsbury Park Horticulture team x1 plus x3 seasonal gardeners plus support from wider team</li> </ul> Finsbury Park Rangers x2	2019	Yes

Table 8

## 12. Action Plan

### 12.1 Maintenance and scheduled work programme

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

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

### 12.2 Finsbury 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 at the end of each calendar year.

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion	Completed
A welcoming Place	Review of traffic management, subject to consultation, to consider whether	H	Parks & Open Spaces, Communications	tbc	Parks Capital/ Events income	2020 - 2021	The first phase of this is completed.

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion	Completed
	parking should be limited or stopped to all but essential and disabled users						
	80 recommendations from the 2018 Access Audit to make the park more accessible for people with a wide range of physical, sensory and cognitive impairments (Prioritised basis)	M	Parks & Open Spaces	£28k allocated but will require more	Parks/ Events income	2020 - 2024	Ongoing
	Dementia friendly benches	M	Parks & Open Spaces	TBC	Parks Capital/ Events Income	2020 – 2023	No
	Changing Places Toilet (Disabled, child friendly toilets)	M	Parks & Open Spaces	TBC	Parks Capital/ Events Income SEAD Grant	2020-2022	Yes
	Installed new disabled parking spaces at the main vehicle entrance	H	Parks/Highways	£7k	Parks	November 2020	Yes



Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion	Completed
	(plus signage & barriers for the Christmas Forest)						
	Hornsey Entrance improvement- Key fob access only with disabled bay parking moved to outside the entrance way on the Highway	M	Parks/Highways/Stakeholders	TBC	Parks	2025	No
A clean and well-maintained park	New approach to waste management and litter bins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and install EuroCart bins at entrances, key junctions and key facilities</li> </ul>	H	Parks & Open Spaces, Parks Operations, Waste & Community Safety, Veolia	TBC	Parks		Yes Ongoing
	New staffing structure	H	Head of Parks and Leisure	TBC	Council	April 2021	Yes
	Works to address path and carriageway	M	Parks & Open Spaces	£136.5k	Parks		Ongoing

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion	Completed
	repairs throughout the park						
Healthy, safe and secure	Complete makeover of the Richard Hope Play Space, to include an events/performance space	M	Parks & Open Spaces	£250k	Parks capital	Summer 2021-23	Phases 1 & 2 implemented.  Phase 3 taking place in April 2022 Wifi Power, entrance arch complete March
	Installation of Steel Warriors outdoor gym	H	Parks/Steel Warriors	c£75k	Steel Warriors	2020	Completed
	Tennis court surfacing, ball-stop fencing and lighting upgrades, plus new pavilion		Parks & Open Spaces/Access to Sports	£100k	Access to Sports	2020	Completed Autumn 2020
	Upgrade, update & refresh the outdoor gym	M	Parks	£75k	Parks	2023	No, but essential repairs undertaken
	Upgrade the skatepark	M	Parks	£100k	Parks	2023	No
	Life belts and stands for the lake side, plus lake viewing platform and jetty works	M	Parks & Open Spaces	£k	Parks capital	2020 - 2023	No

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion	Completed
	Security improvements, such as upgrading the fence line between Finsbury Gate and the Manor House Lodge, including resolving the entrance at Hornsey Tavern Gate, all allowing for removable sections to accommodate events egress.	M	Parks & Open Spaces team	£180k	Parks capital	2020 - 2021	No, but feasibility studies commenced  Commissioned Sustrans to undertake a review of all the park boundaries (plus entrance) with a view to making them more permeable and accessible consultation April 2023
	Installation of CCTV – Provision of three cameras internal to the park and contribution to three cameras external to the park in line with the 15 recommendations of the	M	Community Safety, Enforcement and Waste	£110,000		December 2020 – July 2021	6 camera posts installed linked into the central hub

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion	Completed
	Environmental Visual Audit (EVA)						
	Lighting – The provision of new lighting between Finsbury Gate and Endymion Road including spurs to Oxford Road and Stroud Green Road		Parks & Open Spaces team	£75,000 - £100,000	Parks Capital	2023	In progress
	Signage – New signage strategy and implementation of new signage scheme. Including accessibility recommendations		Parks & Open Spaces team	£50,000	Parks Capital	2023-25	In Progress
	Numerous repairs required eg to carriageway path defects, play area gates, outdoor gym grates, replace missing play area noticeboard, cracked paths with weeds growing out of them	H	Parks	£10k	Parks	As budgets allow	Ongoing

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion	Completed
In response to issues raised by residents	The bridge over the railway lines between Finsbury Park and the parkland walk at the Oxford Road entrance was repaired through liaison with Network Rail to resolve long-standing flooding and puddling which made the bridge impassable during wet conditions	H	Parks, Highways and Network Rail	£?	Parks, Highways and Network Rail	2019/20	Haringey works undertaken (Highways resurfacing and drain clearance, Parks creation of new drainage) but Maintenance requirement from Highways
	National Grid decommissioning underground cables and removing above ground infrastructure	H	National Grid	At no cost to the Council	National Grid	18 January 2021 to 12 March 2021	Two phases completed, third to take place in 2022
Lighting throughout borough	Project to review and plan for better, more sustainable lighting in parks and greenspaces		Parks, Highways	TBC	Council	2023	Plans have been agreed and further discussion on design are ongoing



Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion	Completed
A sustainable place	Subject to consultation, there is a proposal for two new cycleways running through the park, in partnership with TfL, 'Route between Tottenham Hale and Camden Town' and route between Bowes Road and Farringdon'. These would require 24-hour access and lighting	M	Haringey's Cycling team and TfL	tbc	tbc	2023	No
	Works to address the regular recurrence of water leaks at the site	M	Parks & Open Spaces	£20k	tbc	Ongoing	Ongoing
	Removal of the green waste storage area near McKenzie gardens	H	Parks & Open Spaces	£60k to £120k (Subject to budget availability)	Parks Capital	2021 – 2023	No
	Work with Pankit to design and implement simple	H	Parks and Flood Defence	tbc	Parks and Flood Defence	2021-23	Ongoing

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion	Completed
	drainage scheme to address historic surface water flooding of North Hill affecting 4 locations						
	Parking Controls – Cessation of public car parking and introduction of new controls for authorised park users and blue badge holders	M	Parks & Open Spaces	£35,000	Parks Capital	2020 - 2024	Commenced
	Subject to outcome of Cabinet report, address actions from consultation (including relocating existing gates & barriers to aid better site management)	M	Parks & Open Spaces	£50,000			No
	Improvements to the plant nursery		Parks & Open Spaces	tbc	Parks/Events	2022	No
Community Involvement	Major events programme including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steel Yard (35,000 people)</li> </ul>	H	Events team	Income	Income	Annual program	Annual

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion	Completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Festival (45,000)</li> <li>Wireless Festival (45,000)</li> <li>Slammin' Events (12,000)</li> </ul>						
	Establishment of 2NQ community arts organisation lead by FurtherField and Images & Co to raise c£400k to run an arts programme throughout 2019	M	FurtherField/ Images & Co	£400k	External fundraising	Throughout 2020 – 2023 (Ongoing)	Ongoing
	Park to Park junior cycle ride		Smarter Travel team				Annual
	Saddle & Sole festival of walking & cycling		Smarter Travel team				Annual
	Dr Bike maintenance workshops		Smarter Travel team				Annual
	Free cycle training & cycle skills for juniors		Smarter Travel team				Annual
	Neighbourhood Watch dog walk		Neighbourhood Watch			3 August 2019	Ongoing

Heading	Action	Priority (H/M/L)	Responsible	Approx cost	Funding source	Target completion	Completed
	Lease Manor House Lodge to the Museum of Homelessness	H	Parks & Leisure, Homelessness team, Strategic Property	Minimal	No		
Conservation and Heritage	Replacement of the lake's aerators, ecological survey and Canada geese control measures (Subject to Lake management plan)	M	Parks & Open Spaces (Nature conservation officer)	TBC	Parks	2020-2023	Aerators: Yes  Lake management plan drafted
Marketing and communication	FurtherField/Images & Co: 'Platforming' proposal to create a new marketing strategy for the park using both physical and virtual interpretation	M	Parks & Open Spaces /FurtherField/Images & Co	TBC	TBC	2020 - 2023	No
	Spytar app: A new interactive app for the park providing virtual tours, games, tickets and prizes, all whilst learning about the park	L	Parks & Open Spaces	TBC	TBC	2020 - 2023	No

Table 9

The Friends and key stakeholders for Finsbury Park were asked what their top 3 priorities would be for the park. Their answers are collated here in Table 10

<p>Be Military Fit:</p>	<p>1: Litter There is a massive improvement in the litter collection around the park, but we still need more bins available as often there is rubbish piled up besides the bins and animals and birds often scatter this</p>
	<p>2: 'Undesirables' in certain areas there are congregations of youths who have assaulted members from my group. This is not acceptable in any circumstances and would hope that the park (which used to have it's own constabulary) would be part of routine Metropolitan Police or Community Support Officers patrols. We have also had members bicycles stolen from outside</p>
	<p>3: The cafe area of the park, these were secured using pretty good security devices, but the criminals seem prepared for this. It would be good to have some kind of secure lock up facility.</p>
	<p>4: Homeless there seems to be an ever growing population of homeless in the park, I know that a lot of charities are involved, I would like to know what else is going on with regards to the issue.</p>
<p>PedalPower</p>	<p>1: Storage , we desperately need more storage, we struggle with lifting our cycles.</p>
	<p>2: The back entrance to the Athletics Track, the flooding and resurfacing needs to be done urgently, one of our members who uses a wheelchair fell out of his chair using that gate.</p>
	<p>3: During the summer months the track is unavailable for cycling during the day so schools finish their sessions at the May half term. We have to run our Tuesday and Saturday drop in sessions on the basketball courts, when there are events in the park, we have to limit the number and type of cycles we use.</p>
	<p>4: I know you asked for 3, but a disabled toilet is really important.</p>
<p>Try Tag Rugby</p>	<p>1: The main issue that we have is the events that take place during the summer that mean that we need to relocate to other venues that are a lot further out of reach for players. This has caused a few players and teams to not want to carry on as it's too hard to commute back out from central London in time.</p>
	<p>2: The other main issue is the state of the pitches after - especially after events. With the money that comes in from su and events it would be nice to see a</p>



	<p>little more work done to maintain them. After events there are generally large holes where fixtures have been nailed into the ground as well as churned up mud from large vehicles moving stuff for events that dries and leaves unsafe conditions to run on. The state of the grass is also pretty dire by the end of each event along with bits of debris from them.</p> <p>3: Would like to be able to use what's called the Thames Water pitch. The plateau on the other side of the tree line near the Manor House end. This is large enough for a whole football pitch (or two tag rugby pitches) but the ground tends to be uneven in places and numerous potholes that are covered over by long grass.</p> <p>4: If there would be a 4th thing it would be lighting when going into the athletics stadium. When we do use this venue, most leave over the railway bridge in order to get back to the Faltering Fullback and it's very dark and unsafe. This is lower on our list as we're not sure if we'll be using the stadium at all this year but would be nice to sort when we do eventually use that venue again.</p>
<p>Edible Landscapes:</p>	<p>1: Littering - we don't enjoy having to pick up a large number of condoms that are deposited just outside the railings. It would be good if there were 2 bins attached to the railings, one on the road side and one on the shortest end of the site. If they had a glow-in-the-dark strip on them, so much the better.</p> <p>2: Edible planting. As our name suggests, we would like there to be a greater number of edible plants within the park. We would like Finsbury Park to become part of the National Plant Collection Scheme by engaging us to plant at least 30 specimens from a particular genus, e.g. Zanthoxylum, Elaeagnus or Olea <a href="https://www.nccpg.com/About-us.aspx">https://www.nccpg.com/About-us.aspx</a></p> <p>3: Biodiversity monitoring and targets - we would like there to be a biodiversity action plan for the park because this would cause the park to embrace more environmentally-friendly approaches such as not spraying around tree bases. We believe that our site contributes significantly to the biodiversity of Finsbury Park and a biodiversity action plan would perhaps acknowledge and value this contribution.</p>
<p>Alpha Dogs</p>	<p>1: We spend time clearing and tidying the area, especially bottles, tin cans, food wrappers, used condoms and human faeces around the trees surrounding the venue. We have a separate recycling bin and I take it home to recycle with my own. I would like to see more effort to separate recycling from rubbish in the park and by those picking it up. We are however really pleased to see the litter picking generally has improved.</p>

	<p>2: There are notices about barbecues, but no follow up by staff, which can be quite unpleasant. Highbury fields allows barbecues but give sensible guidelines instead about their use, eg on stands and away from buildings, busy areas etc.</p>
	<p>3: Several smaller events have been held in the park and have been unreasonably noisy eg the Kurdish festival recently (really interfered with our classes) and one of these activities events with stations all over the park (new last year), which really didn't need to clear all the roads as the cars would not have been a problem for the smallish teams crossing over. Would like to see more 'staff' checking in with park users during the events and or at least email requests for constructive feedback following specific events, rather than attracting general moaning.</p>

Table 1