



Albert Road Recreation Ground Management Plan 2006 – 2010 Executive Summary *(Reviewed January 08)*

Introduction

The 6.4hectare Albert Road Recreation Ground, also known as Albert Rec, was first opened in the early 1900's. The site has been managed by the London Borough of Haringey since its formation in 1965.

Albert Rec has undergone considerable changes with the addition and removal / replacement of several facilities. In its present state it now offers a café, tennis courts, basketball courts, a recently renovated playground and a bowling green. The two sports pitches are well used and beautifully maintained. The café owner, under the umbrella of Haringey Tennis, offers tennis coaching throughout the year. The adjacent privately owned Sunshine Garden Centre, located on what was formally a lido, has been involved in parks and open spaces in Haringey for some years.

Park Management

Albert Rec is managed by the Parks Service, a division of Recreation Services in the Directorate of Adult, Culture and Community Services in the London Borough of Haringey. A Parks Service Neighbourhood Manager, responsible for all sites in the west of the borough, oversees the maintenance and management of Albert Rec. He is assisted by a Neighbourhood Officer and the site itself has a permanent gardener, who uses a mess-room located in the café building. Grass cutting of the sports pitches is carried out by the borough gang-mowing team who cut the grass on a fortnightly basis as required. The gardener is assisted by agency staff at peak times, and there is capacity for an apprentice to work alongside him. Events, marketing and other administrative tasks are carried out by the Parks Service in-house administrative team.

Albert Rec is strongly supported by the local community with an active 'Friends' group who have their own website www.farrg.org.uk. The Friends, along with the café owner, have been instrumental in helping to improve the park, organising community events and taking positive actions towards reducing any anti-social behaviour in the park.

Our Vision for Albert Rec

To deliver in partnership with Haringey Tennis, a park with high quality sports and recreation facilities that the local community deserve and expect.

To achieve this vision we aim to follow the eight Green Flag Award criteria in creating a welcoming, well used park, which is clean and well maintained.

A Welcoming Place

The Parks Service aims to place welcome signs at each entrance to the park detailing the name of the park, contact details for the Parks Service and Friends group, as well as symbols detailing 'good' behaviour in the park. Current signage tends to be more negative and these signs will gradually be replaced over time.

Albert Rec also has two notice boards; one at the main entrance on Durnsford Road, and one near the café. These notice boards display the bye-laws, environment policy, a map of the park, and any relevant information regarding events and activities in the park.

We aim to ensure that the park is accessible to all members of society and undertake audits and user surveys on a regular basis to monitor this provision.

Cleanliness, Health and Safety

The Parks Service takes a very serious approach to Health and Safety on its sites. Staff are given relevant training and are provided with relevant safety clothing and appropriate equipment for the task they are undertaking. Any accidents or incidents that occur on site to either staff or members of the public are reported to the management team and are followed up.

The Parks Service maintains two mobile hygiene teams; one based in the west of the borough and the other in the east of the borough. Litter is collected from Albert Rec on a daily basis and the on-site gardener works alongside them to litter pick the park. Dog bins are emptied at least once a week by a mobile hygiene operative. Graffiti is removed within 24 hours by the on-site staff member.

Toilets for the public are provided in the café building and as such are available during café opening hours. There is also a disabled toilet available.

Safe and Secure

The Parks Service has a Parks Constabulary which regularly patrols the boroughs parks and open spaces in the borough.

Security in the park is boosted by the presence of the on-site gardener, who walks the park every morning to carry out safety checks on all facilities, particularly in the playground. The café staff and Haringey Tennis coaches also provide a presence, and they are also aware of whom to call in any situation.

Summer activities such as football coaching, tennis and basketball coaching are offered by both Recreation Services and Haringey Tennis. These provide

local children with activities during the summer holidays and contribute to reducing anti-social behaviour in the park.

Maintenance of Buildings, Equipment and Landscape

In September 2003 the London Borough of Haringey launched the Better Haringey Improvement Programme, the primary objective to make Haringey Cleaner, Greener and Safer. Through this programme £1m in 2005/06 was provided to allow for major improvements in many of the Council run parks and open spaces. The Parks Improvement Programme, run since 2005/06, has received £250,000 from the Haringey Capital Fund as well as monies from numerous other funding agencies.

From the Capital funds £160,000 in 2005/06 was spent in Albert Rec and the following works were undertaken:

- refurbishment and replacement of some play kit
- repair and painting of the play area fence
- installation of safety surfacing in the play area
- resurfacing of one third of the pathways
- fencing, railing and gate repairs
- soft landscaping
- tree planting
- 11 new bins and 7 new benches
- new signage and a second notice board for the entrance

In the two years since then a further £45,000 of Capital funds has been spent in Albert Rec and the following works were undertaken:

- replacement of remaining play kit
- installation of cycle racks
- completion of pathway resurfacing
- internal signage

For the remaining two years (April 2008 – March 2010) of this management plan further maintenance works will be undertaken, subject to receipt of funding, and will largely comprise the following:

- rolling program of repair and paint of the boundary fence
- enhancement of each entrance to increase welcoming feel
- replacement of benches and bins as they come to the end of their life
- rolling program of hedge gapping as required
- rolling program of tree planting to replace vandalised / old / diseased trees
- rolling program of repair to play and basketball fencing as required
- replacement of the two sets of goal posts
- subject to receipt of major specific funding, improvement to the drainage on the sports pitches.

The Parks Service will continue to support Haringey Tennis in their bid to install flood lights and to refurbish the tennis courts. The arrival of Haringey Tennis in 2001 has done a lot to boost morale and usage of the park and its facilities. The café has been refurbished and transformed

from a state of disrepair to a popular and well used facility. With the provision of flood lights the park will be better used in the long winter evenings.

Environment and Sustainability

The Parks Service aims to reduce its impact on the environment and as such aims to:

- use bedding plants grown in peat-free soil
- not use chemicals unless all cultural methods have failed
- reduce transport emissions through better scheduling of work
- reduce transport emissions through recycling green waste on site instead of taking it to North London Waste
- provide a location for residents to bring their Christmas trees for recycling
- procure materials and furniture made from sustainable or recycled sources
- use drought resistant plants to cope with climate change and reduce water use
- ensure machinery procured has low emission levels
- continue to assess ways of reducing our impact on the environment

Conservation of Nature and Heritage

Albert Rec has three key conservation areas; the woodland area to the west of the bowling green; the meadow area around the Oliver Tambo memorial; and the oak trees growing along the northern boundary of the park. These sites form important locations for native wildlife to inhabit and as such will be maintained appropriately. Maintenance of these areas is assisted by the Alexandra Park School Conservation Club and by the Friends group.

Of the nearly 400 trees growing in Albert Rec, approximately 70% are native species. There is a tree maintenance program which will seek to replace old and dying trees with young native species. Where safe to do so, dead trees are left in situ to create further habitats for wildlife.

The adjacent Rhodes Avenue Spinney, located next to the Oliver Tambo memorial garden is maintained by the Rhodes Avenue Primary School Conservation Group and BTCV during its task days.

Marketing

The Parks Service carries out extensive borough wide marketing of its parks and open spaces. Albert Rec is advertised in the following ways:

- a specific leaflet on Albert Rec with a map and details on its facilities
- on the Haringey website under parks and leisure
- through the quarterly Recreation Services stakeholder newsletter
- through articles in the Haringey People monthly magazine
- events are listed on the 'what's on' page of the Haringey website

Albert Rec is also advertised beyond the borough boundaries through:

- the Good Parks Guide

- the 'YourLondon.gov.uk' website
- on the 'VisitLondon.com' website with a special article in 2007

The Parks Service will continue to assess ways in which to further advertise Albert Rec to the local and wider community.

Community Involvement

Albert Rec has a strong Friends group which is actively involved in the parks management and improvement. The Friends group in conjunction with Haringey Tennis carry out numerous community events and activities ranging from quiz nights to sports days. The Friends also assist the Parks Service in bulb planting days and meadow creation days.

The Parks Service carries out an annual park user survey through which they can gauge the improvements desired by the local community and whether the direction the park is heading is satisfactory.

The local community has also pulled together in recognising the importance of the park. Attendance and support for the Green Flag Award continues to be strong. The unveiling of the memorial to Oliver Tambo in October 2007 was the result of partnership working between the local communities, the London Borough of Haringey and the South African Embassy.

Tell us what you think or get involved

Users of Albert Rec can tell us what they thought of their visit to the park by:

- going online and completing the 'yourvisit' survey found on the Parks Service pages
- calling the Parks Service Customer Care line on 020 8489 5662
- by emailing the Parks Service parks@haringey.gov.uk
- or by writing to us at Parks Service, 1st Floor, Contract House, Ashley Road, Tottenham, N17 9AY

Users of Albert Rec can also get involved in the maintenance, management and future vision for the park by joining the Friends group. They can be contacted by emailing friendsalbertrec@hotmail.com, visiting www.farrg.org.uk, or by writing to them at FARRG, The Pavilion Café, Albert Road Recreation Ground, Wood Green, N22 7XL.

Summary

Albert Rec continues to provide a number of facilities for the local community who may wish to exercise, relax or just visit the café. The vision is to keep the Green Flag Award and thus maintain the high standard within the park.

The full management plan can be viewed on the Councils website at www.haringey.gov.uk/greenflag