



Priory Park Management Plan **2006 – 2010 Executive Summary *(Reviewed January 08)***

Introduction

The 6.5 hectare Priory Park was first opened in 1891 when the Hornsey Lane Board bought two pieces of land off Middle Lane. In 1926, the western section of the park was added following the purchase of land known as Lewcock's Field from the Lewcock family; and renamed Priory Park.

Priory Park provides a wide variety of facilities for users, from sports usage to relaxation. There is a large play area with paddling pool; six tennis courts, a large ball court, and informal recreational use. The peaceful Philosophers Garden is an enclosed wildlife garden situated to the south west of the park.

Park Management

Priory Park 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 Priory Park. He is assisted by a Neighbourhood Officer and the site itself has a permanent gardener, who uses a dedicated mess-room and staff yard located near the museum. The grounds maintenance team for the area is also based in this staff yard and, along with agency staff where necessary, provide assistance at peak periods. Grass cutting of the main areas is carried out by the borough gang-mowing team who cut the grass on a fortnightly basis as required. Events, marketing and other administrative tasks are carried out by the Parks Service in-house administrative team.

Our Vision for Priory Park

To improve the quality of life for the people of Haringey by making Priory park a park we can all enjoy and be proud of.

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.

Priory Park also has a notice board located just inside the main entrances by the café and play area. The notice board displays 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. An accessibility audit was carried out in 2005 and the majority of recommendations arising from this have been addressed. All entrances to the park are wheelchair accessible.

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. Litter is collected from Priory Park 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 and as such are available during park opening hours. There is also a disabled toilets available.

Safe and Secure

The Parks Service has a Parks Constabulary which regularly patrols the boroughs parks and open spaces in the borough. They are able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

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 also provide a presence, helping to empty overfill bins during busy weekends, and they are aware of whom to call in any situation.

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 both internal and external Capital funds £70,400 in 2004/05 was spent in Priory Park and the following works were undertaken:

- relining of the paddling pool
- pathway resurfacing
- improvements to the disabled toilets

From 2005/06 to 2007/08 a further £179,500 of Capital funds was spent in Priory Park on:

- pathway resurfacing
- adventure fort repairs
- external signage directing users to the park
- fencing repair to the basketball fence
- repairs to the water fountain near Middle Lane gate
- repairs to the gate in the staff yard
- refurbishment and expansion of the play area in 2008 (with a £140,000 grant from BIG Lottery Play)

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 re-paint of the boundary railings
- 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 renewing shrub beds around the park
- rolling program of tree planting to replace vandalised / old / diseased trees
- rolling program of repair to play, tennis and basketball fencing as required
- rolling program of pathway resurfacing
- repairs to the staff yard
- renewal and reposition of gate by tennis courts
- subject to receipt of major specific funding:
 - o replacement of fencing and resurfacing of tennis courts

The London Borough of Haringey runs an In Bloom competition and Priory Park has been successful in achieving awards such as Best Park and Best Bedding on several occasions.

Environment and Sustainability

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

- uses bedding plants grown in peat-free soil as supplied by Faith Nursery
- requests plants to be grown in peat-free soil when supplied by other contractors
- not use chemicals unless all cultural (manual) methods have failed
- aims to reduce transport emissions through better scheduling of work

- reduces transport emissions through recycling green waste on site instead of taking it to North London Waste
- provides a location for residents to bring their Christmas trees for recycling
- procures materials and furniture made from sustainable or recycled sources
- uses drought resistant plants to cope with climate change and reduce water use
- aims to ensure machinery procured has low emission levels
- continues to assess ways of reducing our impact on the environment

Conservation of Nature and Heritage

Priory Park is listed as a Local Ecologically Valuable Site in the UDP for hedgerow habitat with associated mistletoe, birds foot trefoil and spiked sedge species. Planting of hawthorn, blackthorn and wild rose took place in spring 2005 to help maintain the wildlife habitat in the area. Bat and bird boxes have also been installed. Both activities have worked to maintain Priory as a vital stepping stone for wildlife between Alexandra Palace and various sites to the south.

The Philosopher's Garden is a key wildflower area, holding a pond and a variety of wildflower and native plants. The Friends, in conjunction with the Park Service, work to maintain the area, carrying out regular activities such as cleaning the pond and planting wildflowers.

Priory Park has two old fountains; the Obelisk Fountain in the south-eastern area of the park, which was recently restored through funding from English Heritage; and the large fountain in the north-eastern part of the park, which is used as a planter. The Hornsey Heritage Society, in partnership with the BTCV Outreach Officer, produced a heritage trail in the park approx 1km long. The trail is marked with plaques and signs detailing points of interest.

Marketing

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

- a specific leaflet on Priory Park with a map and details on its facilities
- through the Priory Park Heritage Trail
- 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

Priory Park is also advertised beyond the borough boundaries through:

- the Haringey website under parks and leisure, which also features a virtual tour of the park
- 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 Priory Park to the local and wider community.

Community Involvement

Priory Park is strongly supported by the local community with an active 'Friends' group. The Friends, along with the café staff 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.

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.

Tell us what you think or get involved

Users of Priory Park 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 at parks@haringey.gov.uk
- or by writing to us at Parks Service, 1st Floor, Contract House, Ashley Road, Tottenham, N17 9AY

Users of Priory Park can also get involved in the maintenance, management and future vision for the park by joining the Friends group. They can be contacted through visiting <http://www.fopp-n8.org.uk/>.

Summary

Priory Park continues to provide a number of facilities for the local community who may wish to exercise, relax or just visit the museum. 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