



Green Flag Award 2019

Name of Site: Bruce Castle Park
Managing Organisation: Haringey Council

Desk Assessment Feedback (Management Plan and supporting documentation)

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Presentation	The document reads well and is much clearer in the section on open space provision in Haringey. Nice use of pictures and maps.	It is important, in such a public-facing document, to make sure 'the reader' is informed for example can we assume 'the reader' will know who Robert de Bruce was? Are Images 1 and 19 meant to be the same? 4.7 refers to Albert park. 2.2 facilities says there is 53326m of Grass. 8.2 tells me there is 3.6 ha, figures included need to be consistent.
Health, Safety & Security	Good section, aware of issues. Plan contains a comprehensive synopsis on the core objectives and actions to promote public safety and wellbeing.	Designing out crime 5.8: Make sure the plan is regularly reviewed to include any new initiatives in this park, this could be a reference saying 'we have

		cut down.....” or “ we have put in lights..” etc. In order to highlight any issues and actions to manage risk and promote public safety.
Maintenance of equipment, buildings & landscape	Plan contains a good summary of the core priorities and actions to maintain the required standards for grounds maintenance and how these are both monitored and improved e.g., Trees have regular inspections and good schedules for litter picking and horticulture maintenance.	The plan could be clearer as to why it has 4 classifications of service standards, perhaps this could be simplified to just acceptable or reducing this down to 2 classifications. It would be useful to understand where this Park sits in the borough wide KPI's perhaps breaking it down to this area or zone? Not sure at 12 if the plan needs the table about inspections, as this was picked up in the reading of the plan. It is useful to know how they are maintained and to what outcomes and standards.
Litter, cleanliness, vandalism	A good overview of the core actions and protocols to address litter and waste, and a good response to deal with issues like graffiti. Schedule appears to be good	Important challenges such as the location, type and design of litter bins, or methods to prevent or deal with graffiti, can be included in the plan as these develop, along with evaluating their outcomes and impacts.
Environmental Management	A very good description of a range of appropriate techniques and methods to reduce the park's impact upon the environment, and maximise use of sustainable resources.	New techniques or tools to increase sustainability on site will arise through the lifetime of the plan, and if they are applied to the site this can be reflected in it, along with assessments of how they work and what benefits they have had.
Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage	Good approach it is difficult to fully cover the numerous ecological and heritage qualities of a site and this plan does very	As key heritage, landscape and ecological assets mature or age, plan should

	well in providing an appropriate overview with priority actions.	evaluate what changes are required in protecting or maintaining them, or what might be required to remove or replace them if this is felt to be more appropriate.
Community Involvement	Good community involvement. A very good summary of who is involved in the management and development of the park, and what their functions and capabilities are.	As new user groups become interested and involved in the park, plan, when being reviewed, to identify these and assess how they can be engaged with and what roles they can play in future management.
Marketing & Communication	Good use of social media.	
Overall management	<p>Nice to see both structures as the dep't goes through change. Consider putting section 10 to the start of all new management plans.</p> <p>Good to see links to other initiatives within the council and how parks move the corporate agenda forward.</p> <p>Nice to see action plan with comments, which talk about when resources become available.</p> <p>Consider having a comments box and put more actions down. Have a day of identifying projects, wishes with friends, officers etc.</p>	<p>2.2.4 Explains tennis not be offered at moment, why? Isn't the parks structure due to change?</p> <p>Ensure the current number of operational staff is sufficient to maintain the parks and housing areas.</p> <p>Consider some data gathering e.g. actual work hours, outside contractual could equate to hours equivalent of full-time work for X amount of people.</p> <p>Or comparing that with old work study records to see what can be achieved order to make a business case?</p> <p>5.9 Understand safety of staff, but the approach contradicts the locking of the park. You either lock or put measures in to achieve or leave open?</p>

Additional comments

This is a good management plan, which gets across what happens in the park. There is some duplication which is inevitable. The major comment would be that there appears to be very little aspiration for the park bearing in mind that 900,000 people visit the park each year to use its many facilities. I understand that this is difficult whilst you go through restructure and austerity, but there needs to be something for the space to aspire to.

Field Assessment Feedback

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	<p>All entrances visited are inviting with good and safe access.</p> <p>A level path provides good access for people with different abilities into the site.</p> <p>The entrance signs were all clean and contained relevant information.</p> <p>There is a feature entrance arch with views to the Bruce Castle Museum building a Grade 1 listed 16th century manor house, now houses the borough's local history collections and archives and has been open since 1927.</p> <p>This is also the location for the flag pole and Green Flag.</p> <p>The Park was easy to locate and has good links to public transport. The park is open all year round.</p>	
Healthy, Safe and Secure	<p>The site felt safe and inviting for community use.</p> <p>All equipment and facilities appear well maintained and safe to use.</p> <p>The park is used frequently by dog walkers and there are no dog fouling issues.</p> <p>Regular Police patrols take place and Spotlight meetings take place every 2-3 months between the Police, a local Councillor,</p>	<p>Consideration needs to be given to the café / old bowling green area of the park which appears forgotten.</p> <p>Weeds need removing from the wet pour</p> <p>The bark needs topping up in the play area to</p>

	<p>Friends Group and stakeholders of the park.</p>	<p>cover the exposed concrete</p> <p>The broken play equipment needs removing / replacing</p> <p>The play area gate needs replacing</p> <p>Benches need some maintenance</p>
Well Maintained and Clean	<p>Very well maintained and very clean & tidy. Litter and other waste management issues are adequately addressed.</p> <p>Friends of Bruce Castle Park carry out regular litter picks.</p> <p>Grounds, buildings, equipment and features appear well maintained.</p> <p>The Café 'T On The Green' looked inviting and was open. It offers users of the park a variety of teas in beautiful vintage teapots.</p> <p>Paths are tidy and clean.</p>	
Environmental Management	<p>Good policies in place reducing the park's impact upon the environment, and maximise use of sustainable resources.</p> <p>Good woodland management policies and practices in place.</p>	<p>It would be good to see some information of environmental management improvements where these have been recorded, measured and evaluated against environmental performance.</p>
Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage	<p>The management plan is actively implemented and regularly reviewed. A strong focus towards maintaining and restoring Heritage features.</p> <p>All trees and naturalised areas appear safe and in good condition. Nice veteran Oak tree.</p>	<p>To carry out an assessment of the practicality of a proposed plan to Restore the 18th century kitchen garden. (Now a walled garden) in order to provide additional volunteer and educational opportunities and fresh</p>

		<p>produce for the community café.</p> <p>We would highly recommend making contact with Myddelton House Gardens, London borough of Enfield who have successfully carried out a similar project.</p>
Community Involvement	<p>An excellent Friends group that has obviously invested (and continues to) a great deal of time and effort into the Park grounds holding regular events (music and theatre) throughout the year to promote educational and health benefits around the Park.</p> <p>The Friends of Park Forum Group (an independent network for the 45 local Friends groups of Haringey residents) work closely with Haringey Council in order to protect and improve the Park.</p> <p>A Health initiative take place in the park each year called Parkrun where GPs, practice staff and patients walk, run and volunteer at the park. This is seen as a way to improve health and wellbeing and for everyone to get involved with the local community.</p> <p>During the visit we spoke to Community Safety Officers PC Uddin and PC Michael who carry out regular patrolling of the park and attend the cross park meetings with the Friends of Park Forum Group.</p> <p>Carol Hebbs, runs 'T On The Green Café ' Which also offers guided walks, party and hire services to the local community.</p> <p>Over the summer months the park offers a free paddling pool and water play facilities.</p>	<p>The park managers, and Officers demonstrated clear management and engagement objectives with all users and local community groups.</p> <p>It would be valuable to see some information/data on how the Council have engaged with users of different ethnicities and those with disabilities.</p> <p>Regular input from the community is essential to maintain local support.</p>
Marketing and Communication	Well publicised locally and well known in the area.	

	<p>The Park has a robust marketing strategy with all facilities well marketed and a good web presence with up to date information.</p> <p>The park predominately caters for small-scale community events.</p> <p>Walking routes of the park can also be found on the council website by following this link- https://www.haringey.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/travel/walking/walking-groups</p>	
Management	<p>The Park managers manage the functional areas of the park and demonstrated not only passion but support and knowledge around community involvement in line with the Councils 2023 strategic vision report details recommended approaches where people can lead active and healthy lives in an environment that is safe, clean and green.</p> <p>Although budgets have been affected by austerity the Park hosts a number of local organisations that lease their buildings/assets with the aim of independently sustaining their green space. For example the Pavilion Sports lease the sports pavilion and tennis courts from Haringey Council. They offer an excellent selection of coaching sessions for adults and children.</p>	<p>The Councils strategic vision report has a strong focus on fundraising and maximising the commercial potential of the site based on public benefit, heritage and ecological value.</p>

Additional Comments

It is credit to all staff Parks Staff and the incredible volunteers of Bruce Castle Park (Klaus Kuerner), Clr. Mark White, Clr. John Bevan and Debra Hepcock (Museum Curator) for their commitment, enthusiasm and aspirations to maintain and develop a treasured park with its rich history dating back to the early 11th century, a great community asset in the heart of Haringey. Congratulations to you all and well done.