



FEEDBACK REPORT: 2022-23

Name of Site	Chestnuts Park
Managing Organisation	London Borough of Haringey
Date of Assessment	16/06/2022

OVERALL RESULT	Pass <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>
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NOTES ABOUT THIS REPORT
<p>Strengths and recommendations are provided for each criteria.</p> <p>Photographs are included, where appropriate, to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations.</p> <p>Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual here for further information on the criteria.</p>

DESK ASSESSMENT

(Management plan and supporting documentation)

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Presentation	<p>The Management Plan is well laid out with a clear contents page for easy navigation through the plan. It makes it particularly easy for judging purposes as it is laid out according to the Green Flag criteria.</p> <p>Excellent to see the political commitment in the foreword from the Cabinet Member responsible for the parks.</p> <p>Excellent that Cllr Hearn is addressing the foreword to the local people and</p>	<p>It would be good to have all the maps labelled.</p>

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	<p>encouraging them to become involved in the park.</p> <p>The additional note from Cllr Mike Hakata shows the commitment by the Council to the restructured parks service in Haringey and the increase in investment along with the adoption of Parks and Green Space Strategy from 2023.</p> <p>The plan is well illustrated with relevant plans and photographs which helps the understanding of the management of the park. The labelled plans with all the facilities marked.</p> <p>There are excellent links through to relevant strategies, the Friends Group and partners who work together for the park.</p>	
<p>Health, Safety & Security</p>	<p>Having the community centre and the café on site helps with site security with the frequent coming and going of people.</p> <p>There is good plans and progress on projects to keep unauthorised cars out of the park.</p> <p>Notices at every entrance give the restrictions of each area e.g., dog control, shared use and also emergency contact numbers.</p> <p>Smoking is not allowed in the play area.</p> <p>Good health and safety section with use of appropriate risk assessments and method statements for all proposed works and operations.</p> <p>There is a good reporting system for all health and safety concerns for staff, the friends' group and the general public.</p>	<p>It would be good to have a rear vehicular entrance to the community centre to prevent vehicles driving through the open parkland.</p> <p>It is worth considering stopping alcohol drinking and smoking throughout the park.</p> <p>There is a good section on designing out crime page 33 but it does not say what has been done for this in Chestnuts Park.</p>

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	<p>There is a good reduction in crime and partnership working with the Neighbourhood Policing Team.</p> <p>There are excellent provisions for the control of dog and dialogue with dog walkers as key users of the park.</p>	
Maintenance of Equipment, Buildings & Landscape	<p>There are good descriptions of the facilities on site. It is commended that the management plan is very truthful about the state of the facilities and what needs attending to and how these are translated into the action plan.</p> <p>Projects have been done to improve access for disabled people although further improvements are needed to allow access to the rear of the Community Centre.</p> <p>Good quarterly inspections of outdoor gyms and play areas.</p> <p>4.9 says the responsibility for the building, equipment and landscape but gives no details of the monitoring, or timetable for maintenance prescribed except for the play equipment.</p> <p>There are excellent regular monthly community gardening sessions in the park.</p>	<p>It would be good to see how often the gym and play are checked/inspected the management plan says they are inspected every three months (by a registered play inspection company), and by staff as part of routine maintenance but the timings of that are not specified. It would be good to make this more specific i.e., daily/every other day/weekly etc.</p> <p>Under the tree maintenance section 4.7 it would be good to see how dead, dying and dangerous trees are prioritised for urgent work.</p>
Litter, Cleanliness, Vandalism	<p>Good litter picking and collection schedules in the maintenance section.</p> <p>Good plans for the management of graffiti.</p> <p>There are some excellent volunteers helping the Hygiene Team.</p>	
Environmental Management	<p>Good links to the Greenest Borough Strategy.</p> <p>There are good public transport links to the park and good provision for cyclists.</p>	<p>It would be good to see the reduction of herbicides to follow the good practice of other parks services.</p>

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	<p>It is good to see that there is a pilot scheme in one of the parks to trial a no-pesticide approach.</p> <p>Five new bins for recycled and non-recycled waste have been installed. All waste from the bins is sorted and recycled where possible at the North London Waste Authority depot.</p> <p>Green waste is recycled on the park as a mulch where possible and the rest of the green waste is also taken to the depot where it is composted and then reused in the park.</p> <p>Excellent first stage feasibility plan for the daylighting of Stonebridge Brook and SUDS options.</p>	
<p>Biodiversity, Landscape & Heritage</p>	<p>Opportunities have been made by the Friends Group to increase biodiversity with a willow garden and orchard and this is maintained by the Friends Group.</p> <p>The beautiful historical gates at the Black Boy Lane Entrance have been refurbished.</p> <p>There is an excellent schedule of maintenance for the park and this is assessed by the Parks Quality Scoring System which is easy for parks operatives and the public to assess whether the standard specified has been achieved.</p> <p>The Conservation and heritage section is very good and there is an excellent conservation action plan in appendix one. If this is integrated into the grounds maintenance operations the park will have good conservation value for biodiversity.</p>	<p>Plans are needed for the flower beds outside the community centre, the adjacent hilly area and flower beds by St Anne's road.</p> <p>It would be good to see trees being inspected more regularly than every four years and the "aims to" removed from the management plan Page 13.</p>
<p>Community Involvement</p>	<p>There is an excellent Friends of Group who have contributed to improvement projects in the park including the work</p>	<p>Under the events section it would be good to see what events occurred last year</p>

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	<p>with the TCV planting a native hedge along the boundary to help protect the park from the surrounding hustle and bustle and for wildlife, the willow garden and orchard and a tree guide walk leaflet. They also found the funding for the new entrance to enable the primary school to have easy access to the park. There are excellent regular volunteering opportunities with the Friends, TCV and Haringey Goodgym. There are also good corporate volunteering opportunities.</p> <p>The park is used as a green classroom by the local primary schools and for sports programmes by local coaches for football and basketball.</p> <p>An excellent encouragement for local people to walk with Chestnuts Park linked to the Tottenham park café trail, with routes around the park and also different walking groups.</p> <p>It is good that the future potential is flagged up in the management plan for example the potential for the Community Centre to get involved in the area of the park adjacent to them, for more sports groups to put on programmes in other areas of the park and for opportunities leading from the development of St Ann's Hospital site.</p>	<p>and a provisional programme for this year.</p>
<p>Marketing & Communication</p>	<p>Very good section on marketing and communication with links to relevant websites information on how social media, publications, notice boards, campaigns and consultation are used to improve the park.</p>	
<p>Overall Management</p>	<p>It is great to have an overall Master Plan for the park and improvements and to be considering updating this with</p>	<p>The Management Plan should be updated. The date at the top of the page says Jan 2022 but it says</p>

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	<p>consultation with all the suggested improvement projects listed on page 52.</p> <p>There are good links to the relevant strategies.</p> <p>Good to see the recent improvements and the next steps detailed.</p> <p>There is an excellent section on the local demographics for Chestnuts Park and showing how important the park is for the young population, for a densely populated area and one where the provision of green space per population is below the average. The facilities on the site including the café, community centre, play areas, gym, sports provision, grass areas, horticulture, willow garden and orchard are all appropriate for the situation. The section on access for all shows that the plan has been carefully considered for so everyone can access the park.</p> <p>If the management plan is carried out on site the park will be of a very good standard.</p>	<p>the café is still doing takeaways and is covid-secure café. Page 18 referring to the toilets in the community centre it says “it is hoped that services will be able to resume early in 2021. On page 43 “funding bids and further detail must be developed during 2021”. Page 46 “we are hoping to survey users of Chestnut Park in 2021”. Page 53 “this plan will next be reviewed at the end of 2021”.</p> <p>There are many actions in the Action Plan for 2021 which are “not started”.</p>

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	<p>There are some good signs welcoming people to Chestnuts Park with a list of all the contact numbers for the parks staff, the police and the Friends Group.</p> <p>There is a very good new entrance opposite the primary school funded by the Friends Group. Children come straight into the park after school and enjoy sitting on the logs along the route to wait for their friends and family.</p> <p>There are good facilities for bicycles.</p> <p>The park has good flat access paths suitable for wheelchairs and buggies.</p>	
Healthy, Safe & Secure	<p>CCTV has been installed near the Cornwall Road entrance.</p> <p>The Friends, park staff, the Community Centre and café all work together on any antisocial behaviour issue. There are regular patrols on site.</p> <p>Several people with disabilities were using the site with wheelchairs.</p> <p>Rough sleepers are being dealt with in line with the welfare guidelines. Sightlines are kept clear along all the site boundaries.</p> <p>There are good dog control orders and illustrations to inform people about the six dog limit and picking up after your dog.</p>	<p>There are a few areas where the paths need repair mostly because of damage by tree roots.</p>
Well Maintained & Clean	<p>The site had very little litter or dog mess on the day of the site visit.</p> <p>There are good signs reminding people to keep the park tidy.</p> <p>Most of the paths were in good order and clean.</p>	<p>There was some litter in the hedge which needed clearing up.</p> <p>The cycle rack by the visitors centre needs to be cleaned out.</p>

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	<p>Larger bins are being trialled to see if this helps more people put their litter in the bin.</p> <p>People from the community centre and the friends group help to keep the park clean by picking up litter regularly.</p>	<p>If all the graffiti was removed from around the back of the Community Centre the park would look more welcoming in that area.</p> <p>There is more budget this year for cleaning and sweeping and this will be much appreciated in this park.</p> <p>It would be good to engage all the schools near the site in a litter and respect your park campaign.</p>
Environmental Management	<p>There are good recycling bins in the park that are regularly emptied.</p> <p>There are some lovely and very popular places to sit in the shade for example on the circular seat under the weeping willow tree.</p> <p>Dead wood is left on site for seating and for wildlife.</p> <p>Green waste is recycled. Litter goes into the recycling system.</p>	
Biodiversity Landscape & Heritage	<p>The two play areas have been joined with an entrance through the dividing hedge meaning families can play in both play areas without having to go out and all the way round.</p> <p>The master plan for the daylighting of the brook and SUDS drainage is going out to consultation. Parks staff are working with the Consultant and the Environment Agency to progress the project. When the scheme is complete there will be a basin to collect the excess water, a swale across an area of the park, and a lovely biodiverse wetland edge to the park. It will also prevent the</p>	<p>Continue to progress the SUDS and tennis projects, and the maintenance of the willow weave areas.</p> <p>The horticulture in the park could be improved. Additional planting of drought resistant species with year-round interest and colour at the entrances and around the Community Centre could really help to lift Chestnut Park. Staff could be trained in the</p>

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	<p>flooding of houses and make the park more usable in the winter months.</p> <p>The LTA have agreed to the plans to upgrade the tennis.</p> <p>The Friends Group work with TCV to improve the site for wildlife.</p> <p>The Landscape Manager has just been appointed and they will be looking with the team at the beds around the Community Centre to make them into “jewels of horticulture”. Plants that are sustainable and adapted to the changing climate are being considered. The existing roses and summer bedding areas bring some lovely colour to the park.</p> <p>The long grass, savanna and wild flower areas add good divisions in the park and create quiet area to sit as well as improve the biodiversity.</p>	<p>year-round maintenance of these beds.</p> <p>The willow weave area with the tunnel and little willow house are very well used and great additions to the park. They could do with some work weaving in the new growth to ensure they keep in fine order.</p>
<p>Community Involvement</p>	<p>There is a marvellous Friends Group started in 1999. They have got the funding for the willow garden, the outdoor gym and removing the Bowling Pavilion. They work on site picking up litter, gardening, raising funding for projects, having an influence to the future direction of the park, and they also work with the TCV. They have made a real difference to the site.</p> <p>The Community Centre brings many people into the park and has been a hub for the local people with a food bank operating there over recent times. They have many programmes and events for local people.</p> <p>There is also a very well used and friendly café.</p> <p>There were many families using the park and one mother told the judge that the</p>	<p>Keep the support for the Friends Group and the good partnership working.</p>

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	park was “my lifeline. I am here everyday with my five children”.	
Marketing and Communication	There are good signs in the park letting people know what is going on.	Further interpretation signs would help to explain the history, the different areas of the park and what can be found there. Perhaps this can be a key feature of the SUDS project?
Management	There is some good management and ambitious plans to make this park a good quality park for the many people who use it.	Keep on top of the action plan and the daily maintenance schedules.

Summary and additional comments:

(Highlighting the result, and the main areas of strength and recommendation)

When all the plans come to fruition the park will be of a very good standard.

The parks staff, Friends Group, local schools, police and community centre should continue to work in partnership. The Friends are a wonderful group of people who have worked hard to transform the site.

There are some excellent projects which will improve the park and the local flooding issues and these need to be completed. Wonderful that the money has been found for them.

The horticulture in the park could be improved to bring a sense of pride to the park especially around the entrances, the café and the Community Centre.

Finally, the Community Centre could do with a good clean-up of the graffiti and the bike storage area.

The park is Green Flag Standard.