



Green Flag Award 2019

**Name of Site: Finsbury
Managing Organisation:**

Desk Assessment Feedback (Management Plan and supporting documentation)

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Presentation	The plan is nicely presented, reads well and is informative. There are good use of pictures, maps and charts. Facilities are clearly identified. There is a clear description of what needs to be managed. There is context within the plan with both historical and demographic information.	In the Action Plan (Section 12) it mentions Albert Road Recreation Ground development plan. It would also benefit from using colour for low, medium and high priorities and also including a column to record when things have been achieved or updates.
Health, Safety & Security	There is good encouragement to use the space for walking both in and outside of the park. There are a number of diverse activities available in the park to promote health and wellbeing including: cycling, tag rugby, American football, bowls, and military fitness programme. Good awareness of conflicts between users and seeking to resolve, gym issues. Congratulations on reducing crime figures. Bike park for 200+ bikes and bike training. Also Pedal power bike club with 250 cycles for people with disabilities operates from this park.	Could just mention health benefits of open space just for sitting in. If you have a policy of shutting gates then you need to staff accordingly, so staff don't feel threatened and can take necessary steps to ensure park is empty, although note issue is ongoing. The EVA is very good, but it would be useful to know which of the 15 recommendations were taken up and what progress there has been.

Maintenance of equipment, buildings & landscape	There is a detailed description of the team responsible for the park and also an explanation of how the team supports the whole of the borough. There is a robust system to identify the current condition of assets and targets to achieve to ensure good standards of maintenance.	
Litter, cleanliness, vandalism	Appear to have it very well covered, special team.	Are the hygiene team working at 100% capacity all the time, consider a job which could be implemented at quieter times for them. Bench painting etc.
Environmental Management	There is a good description of activities undertaken to reduce the environmental impact which ties into the wider Greenest Borough Strategy.	The use of chemicals seems an economic decision rather than environmental one. Records of chemical use should be provided as an appendix.
Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage	There is a clear list of habitats being managed which are supported by comprehensive Biodiversity and Conservation Action Plans	Whilst there is a very clear description of what needs to be managed and how, it would be beneficial to identify who will be responsible for the activities.
Community Involvement	There are good links to TCV and corporate volunteering is focused well. There is a well-established Friends of Group for the site. There are also many sporting clubs who use the site facilities. Dog training sessions take place regularly. Understand that there is a major consultation taking place where some of these issues will be answered	There is a desire to grow active numbers for the Friends of Group and it would be good to know what the approach to doing this is.
Marketing & Communication	There are a number of appropriate options being used to market the park and communicate with the varied user groups.	
Overall management	The plan sets out a good approach to the management of open space, which has been adapted to the specific requirements of Finsbury Park Nice to see the friends and key stakeholders comments.	As this park is on the edge of Haringey, have other councils/do other councils, help support it? This happens in the country where major leisure facilities are helped

	£28k put aside for delivering accessibility projects after a consultation	with funding by neighbouring organisations. Believe principle has been set in London
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Additional comments

Field Assessment Feedback

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	Realised you have carried out disability audit	You could consider an audio way finding app and dropping some kerbs to improve accessibility. Consider developing a strategy to improve signage

Healthy, Safe and Secure	<p>There is CCTV around cafe, and low lighting across park on one path.</p> <p>Crime is reducing, and there is a very good relationship with police.</p> <p>Rough sleeping appears to be an issue but is being appropriately dealt with.</p> <p>Good to see use of industrial fencing to protect contractors work on new play area</p>	Gates into children's play area need attention to work properly
Well Maintained and Clean	<p>Some paths in good state and major renovations have taken place. Litter seems a major problem and resources are used to keep on top of things. Congratulations on trying various ways to manage it even with the use of compaction bins.</p>	<p>Some paths cracked with weeds coming through. Shrub beds need to be better maintained, gorse and other weeds present. Bed outside plant nursery in need of TLC. Rose beds need weeding. Will look forward to the completion of the areas identified being tarmac-ed.</p> <p>Once the McKenzie gardens have been renovated the area will be greatly improved. There is a gate and fencing around the skate park area that needs replacing. A grate is missing from the outdoor gym which needs replacing. A noticeboard is missing from the children's play area near the outdoor gym. Tiles are missing from the roof of the shelter close to the running the track.</p>
Environmental Management	<p>Plans for new wetland conservation area very good.</p> <p>Bird and bat boxes have been erected.</p> <p>Aware of climate change and planting is scheduled to reflect that.</p>	
Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage	<p>Compost toilet in edible landscape section.</p> <p>Where appropriate dead wood have been left.</p>	Would like to see some interpretation on wild life in the area.

Community Involvement	There are a number of good activities organised by community including, Pedal power and Edible landscapes. Access for sport, a good initiative which encourages more usage.	This is obviously the major public open space within Haringey, although it sits on the very edge of the borough and 2 sides, of the parks triangular boundary sits within another borough. It would be interesting to identify where the main casual park attendance is coming from.
Marketing and Communication	There are a number of large events held in the park.	
Management	A very diverse site which has a number of issues which need to be managed, some of which conflict with each other. Having said that with the site conflicts, all of the people spoken to, on the day, Friends, councillor's community providers and users were very positive.	The key area for improvement on this site is the standards of maintenance and horticulture.

Additional Comments

Having assessed the site and management documentation the Judges are pleased to be able to award Green Flag to the site this year. Whilst this is very good news consistent hard work and development will be necessary to ensure this standard is maintained throughout the year and the Judges would recommend further Mystery Shopping to provide further feedback.

