



# FEEDBACK REPORT: 2022-23

<b>Name of Site</b>	Finsbury Park
<b>Managing Organisation</b>	London Borough of Haringey
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> June 2022

<b>OVERALL RESULT</b>	<b>Pass</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Fail</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>NOTES ABOUT THIS REPORT</b>
<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 <a href="#">here</a> for further information on the criteria.</p>

## DESK ASSESSMENT

(Management plan and supporting documentation)

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>Presentation</b>	<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>There is some minor updating needed to the plan for example page 29 Saddle and Sole only mentions 2020, the Haringey PSPO may be renewed for another three years (2020) page 43.</p>

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
	<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 beautiful photographs which helps the understanding of the management of the park. The labelled plans have 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><b>Health, Safety &amp; Security</b></p>	<p>Good health and safety section with use of appropriate risk assessments and method statements for all proposed works and operations.</p> <p>It is excellent that smoking is banned from children's play areas.</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>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 with Alpha Dog Club having a training facility located in the park and run regular sessions of training and agility.</p> <p>The health benefits of walking and jogging in the park are encouraged through detailed routes on notice board</p>	<p>It would be good to see the annual crime figures for Finsbury Park so that measures to ensure it reduces can be assessed.</p> <p>It would be good to see more detail in the action plan on the progress of the 15 EVA actions.</p>

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	<p>and through walking groups and links to longer routes through adjacent green spaces for example the Capital Ring Walk and the New River Walk.</p> <p>The health benefits of just being in the park and sitting there are included in the plan.</p> <p>All new projects and plans are assessed and designed with health and safety in mind and the risk assessments, (including underground), monitoring and reporting with follow up actions are carried out.</p> <p>Crime figures are in the management plan (however just for a three-month period in 2021) and it is good to see that crime has been reducing across the Borough.</p> <p>The Environmental Visual Audit that has been carried out with the 15 action points is a good overview of making sound recommendations in partnership with the Metropolitan Police's Designing Out Crime Group.</p> <p>CCTV is being consulted on for the entrances.</p> <p>The park is locked at night however the arrangements are being looked into to ensure a more robust and consistent timescale for this.</p>	
<p><b>Maintenance of Equipment, Buildings &amp; Landscape</b></p>	<p>There is a good section detailing the wide range of facilities on the site with their management and maintenance.</p> <p>There is a good inspection of hard assets every month that is prioritised and feeds into an action programme.</p> <p>There are good quarterly inspections of the play areas and gyms.</p>	<p>It would be good to have a more regular tree risk assessment programme and it is good that this is being looked at as part of the new park strategy.</p> <p>The plan is not clear on the play area inspections. Are these included in the monthly inspections it says</p>

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	<p>Excellent partnership working for example with the Finsbury Park Sports Partnership, Finsbury Park Bowls Club and the London Mets to ensure the facilities are kept up to date and well maintained.</p> <p>The trees have an inspection every four years and they are protected with a three-metre zone from damage during events. There are also good practices of mulching around trees, leaving long grass around their bases and an edible hedge planted.</p>	<p>“play safety surface and minor repairs.”</p> <p>It is not clear which building have which lease, repairing or non-repairing page 41.</p>
<p><b>Litter, Cleanliness, Vandalism</b></p>	<p>Good litter picking and collection schedules in the maintenance section and there is a good new waste strategy with new bins at specific locations and the removal of dog waste bins and some of the sentinel bins.</p> <p>Good plans for the management of graffiti.</p> <p>Excellent reporting channels including the Love Clean Streets smart phone app.</p> <p>There are good responses to vandalism for example the Skate Parks quick repair following fire damage.</p>	
<p><b>Environmental Management</b></p>	<p>Good links to the Greenest Borough Strategy.</p> <p>There are fabulous public transport links to the park and good provision for cyclists including the new Stroud Green Gate entrance and bike park. There are more good cycle initiatives being consulted on.</p> <p>It is good to see that there is a pilot scheme in one of the parks to trial a no-pesticide approach.</p>	

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	<p>All waste from the bins is sorted and recycled where possible at the North London Waste Authority depot. 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>Recycled materials are used where possible.</p> <p>Vehicles meet the low emission zone criteria and all new machinery is required to have low emissions and be serviced regularly.</p> <p>Excellent recycling of knives into the Steel Warriors Gym.</p>	
<p><b>Biodiversity, Landscape &amp; Heritage</b></p>	<p>The conservation and heritage section is very good. The history of the site is clearly detailed and the Friends of the park won an Awards for all to research, write and publish “A Park for Finsbury”. The historical importance is reflected in the Grade 11 designation on the register of Parks and Gardens and this is monitored by the Garden History Society who evaluate all projects that may affect the historical nature of the park.</p> <p>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>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>There is nothing in the Action Plan about a Biodiversity Action Plan or the work being done by the TCV and Nature Conservation Officer to explore the opportunities for expanding the nature areas within the park.</p>

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	<p>There has been a good programme of tree planting to ensure there is a legacy going forward.</p> <p>Excellent workshops to raise awareness of the park's historical and environmental significance and video installation and heritage trails detailed on information boards.</p> <p>The TCV and Nature Conservation Officer are exploring opportunities for expanding the nature areas within the park.</p> <p>Edible Landscapes run training sessions on identifying, eating and caring for about 200 edible plants and they show case sustainability with their compost bins, compost toilet and rainwater harvester also contributing to the wider park through the maintenance of an ornamental and edible flower bed near the Manor House Entrance.</p>	
<p><b>Community Involvement</b></p>	<p>There is a good description of the demographics in Haringey Ward showing the importance of this green space for people's quality of life in the area.</p> <p>There is a wonderful commitment to involve the whole community in the park right from the beginning of the management plan and excellent consultation on all improvement works for example the schools and local children being involved in the play area designs. A further example of this is the New Roz festival in the park with close connections with the Kurdish community.</p> <p>There is a wonderful active and very successful Friends of Finsbury Park. They have raised funding for projects and events and even a member of staff for a year. Ways to increase the number of active Friends and widen the</p>	<p>It would be good to see the details of the help to increase the number of active Friends and to widen the demographic representation that is stated in the action plan.</p>

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	<p>demographic representation are being sought.</p> <p>Fabulous 150-year celebration event that was enhanced by good planning of community events funded by the small grants programme throughout the year.</p> <p>The park provides a good venue for the internationally important arts and music events, fairs, sports events and there is a good partnership with neighbouring authorities in events like Saddle and Sole and cycle training.</p> <p>Excellent that the Environmental Visual Audit was undertaken and the local community was consulted on the measures to be taken forward.</p> <p>Excellent that the green spaces are viewed as a whole across Haringey with the links through to Parkland Walk, and the biodiversity and conservation on Parkland Walk being improved with the Heritage Lottery improvements to Finsbury Park. Great to see joined up working across the green spaces.</p> <p>An excellent partnership with many different organisations is supported in the management plan for example the BMXers crowd funding project to expand the skate park, with Steel Warriors and the gym to help prevent knife crime, with the London Mets and baseball, Pedal Power, Military Fit, Access to Sports for the tennis courts and activity programmes, the Finsbury Sports Partnership for the athletics track and the gym, Alpha Dog Club for teaching responsible dog ownership, TCV for their conservation work in the park including the Community garden at Manor House Lodge, Edible Landscapes for their work with plants, and Furtherfield for their arts voice and collaboration.</p>	

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	<p>There is a sports development plan to guide the future development of sport on the site and ensure it is broad, throughout the week and as part of the holiday programme.</p> <p>Testament to this partnership working is the Hound Watch initiative to help prevent dog stealing.</p> <p>Buildings provide a base for community organisations who work in partnership with the parks team to deliver activities and improvements to the park for example Access to Sports and the Friends Group have a base at Manor Park Lodge.</p> <p>It is good to see that the actions from the Access Audit have been added to the action plan and progress has been made to address them. Disabled parking bays have been installed at the Hornsey Gate entrance and management to exclude other vehicles is in train. The Richard Hope play area is being developed with facilities for the disabled and there is a Changing Places welfare facility on site.</p> <p>Good regular spotlight meetings to involve stakeholders and councillors on the site.</p> <p>The site's catchment area includes Hackney and Islington and it is good to see the aspiration in the management plan to work in partnership and see what joint funding for the park could be possible in the future.</p>	
<p><b>Marketing &amp; Communication</b></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>	

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	<p>There are waymarker finger posts and interpretive signs on site.</p>	
<p><b>Overall Management</b></p>	<p>There are good links to the relevant strategies and these are reflected in the management plan.</p> <p>Good to see the consultations, recent improvements and the next steps detailed.</p> <p>Fabulous to see that there is the appropriate staff team dedicated to running this site and there is a seven-day presence in the park. This will ensure the quality of Finsbury Park going forward.</p> <p>The partnership working throughout the management plan is to be commended as this enables the site to continually improve.</p> <p>If the management plan is carried out on site the park will be of a very good standard and contribute to many people's quality of life.</p>	<p>It would be good to update the plan in some areas for example page 55 the TCV conservation days refer to 2018-19 and it would be good to have an up-to-date record of conservation days and the events under community involvement on page 94 of the action plan.</p> <p>Several actions in the action plan are not completed according to the timetable. It is suggested the table is up dated with an explanation and a new target date for the action.</p> <p>There should be a date for the target completion for all the actions in the Action Plan for example the projects to address the actions from the consultation and the lease of Manor House lodge to the Museum of Homelessness.</p>

# FIELD ASSESSMENT

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
<p><b>A Welcoming Place</b></p>	<p>This is a wonderful park providing a great range of attractive facilities for local people. The park is easy to find and the entrances have clear signs and it is good to see there are plans to update these when the budget comes available.</p> <p>The different areas of the park are also made to welcome people and give a distinctive character for example the Mackenzie Gardens have a lovely archway at entrance and there are plans for the other entrance to have a similar archway.</p> <p>Having the site-based staff helps to give a welcoming place. They are eager to help visitors and solve any queries.</p>	
<p><b>Healthy, Safe &amp; Secure</b></p>	<p>The many people who use the site help to make it a safe place for a whole range of people.</p> <p>There has been a recent investment in a security team on site from 3pm to 11pm daily. The staff were seen engaging local people on site.</p> <p>There is excellent partnership working with the police. At present there is a special operation with regular patrols for drugs activity and antisocial behaviour with fines being issued.</p> <p>There is a good lit way through the park and CCTV around the café area.</p> <p>There has been an excellent reduction in rough sleepers on the site and a good partnership working with social services and the police. In addition, the grounds</p>	<p>Keep up the good partnership with the police and all the targeted work on challenges.</p>

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	<p>maintenance team has worked hard to improve site lines through shrub areas and to remove undergrowth and crown lift trees in challenging areas.</p> <p>There are good facilities on site for local people for example lockers to put their personal things safe in whilst they do classes.</p> <p>There are innovative rocks to keep the feel of the park and vehicles off the water tank area.</p> <p>Contractors working on the site are securely fenced off.</p> <p>There is a good dog training area on the site which has a building and enclosed hard area which is helps responsible ownership.</p>	
<p><b>Well Maintained &amp; Clean</b></p>	<p>The litter problem can be seen although the site was mostly clean there was litter in some of the hedge bottoms and near some benches and bins. All the bins were well managed and none were full. Most of the paths and grass areas were litter free. The staff work hard to keep up the standards and innovative methods have been trialled with the compacting bins. It was good to see staff picking up the odd bit of litter on our way round.</p> <p>The Richard Hope Play Area has had a good investment and the contract is underway for its completion.</p> <p>No dog mess was seen at all on the site.</p> <p>The Japanese knotweed was being dealt with appropriately, was fenced off with good signs for the public.</p> <p>The new benches are excellent, robust and look appropriate to the heritage of the park.</p>	<p>It will be good to see the improvement in grounds maintenance when the recruitment is completed. It is understood how difficult it is to recruit to these positions. The pruning of the shrubs could be improved to ensure the specific plant is correctly pruned. It is understood that much of the pruning has been done to improve sight lines.</p> <p>A litter education programme with all the local schools, clubs, a campaign on the streets and transport links and for all events should greatly improve local people's responsibility to litter. This would enable staff to spend more time maintaining the plants and cultivating a</p>

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		<p>horticulturally beautiful park with less time picking up litter.</p> <p>The Bowling building roof is in need of repair.</p> <p>Picnic tables at the café needed replacement, many of the signs need the perspex to be cleaned or replaced and some of the benches need to be repaired and cleaned.</p>
<b>Environmental Management</b>	<p>Good recycling in the new bins across the site.</p> <p>Good recycling of green waste across the site and composting toilet on the Edible Landscapes Section.</p> <p>Good use of dead hedges from prunings on site. These are good barriers and increase biodiversity.</p> <p>No glyphosate is used in the park.</p> <p>Good bicycle for staff to collect rubbish so no emissions in the park.</p>	
<b>Biodiversity Landscape &amp; Heritage</b>	<p>A cut and collect machine is used for the wildflower areas and this will help to increase the biodiversity over the years as the fertility decreases.</p> <p>Good use of rocks across the site as part of the heritage. Keeping rocks in the restoration of the play area.</p> <p>The McKenzie Gardens bring a bright area with horticultural interest into the park. Some of the beds are beautifully designed with a lovely range of plants and they are being well looked after with no weeds and being watered in this hot weather. Gardeners are using cloud pruning to good effect here.</p>	<p>There are some attention to detail needed for example some dead plants (for example replacing the box hedges) and repairing the 150 year commemorative stone in McKenzie Gardens and moving the rose beds from under the trees to an area where they will thrive.</p>

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	<p>The division of the lake into two is good with one area for boating and the allowing the public to view the area and lake but not enter has led to increased biodiversity and water fowl feel safe to nest. There is also good biodiversity on the island.</p> <p>Log piles are provided for wildlife and some are buried to provide an increase in habitat. Some dead trees are left standing when they have been made safe. New trees are planted with a protective guard and all were well tended.</p> <p>Wild flower areas are carefully roped off and provide a good contrast to the close-cropped grass over the majority of the site.</p> <p>The Black poplar plants are part of the national BAP for this species.</p> <p>There is a good tree trail with signs around the park.</p> <p>Edible Landscapes have a delightful garden on part of the site which is open twice a week. It is used to grow edible and flowering plants and to keep bees as well as engage and educate people. There is a Forest School there so that young people can engage in the outdoors. They are also now helping to maintain the surrounding borders.</p> <p>There are good information boards on the restoration and history of the park.</p> <p>Wonderful “If trees could talk” live action with masks where the trees species (no humans invited” tell their story.</p> <p>A park user told the judge “The play area is stunning and very well thought out”.</p>	

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<p><b>Community Involvement</b></p>	<p>Wonderful that so many different people are engaged in providing different activities for the park. The café is a good hub in the park and was very busy from early in the morning.</p> <p>Michael Hickey Finsbury Park Sports Partnership (FPSP) has 800 members from 10year olds to a 80year old they work with four schools and provide a wonderful access to sport for all.</p> <p>Jo Roach is the Founder and Director of the Pedal Cycling Club and have sessions at least three times a week for people with disabilities of all ages. Around one hundred disabled people came this last Tuesday and seventy-five on Wednesday.</p> <p>Gavin Smith has worked giving the boating experience on the lake for very many years.</p> <p>The new recruitment is concentrating on employing local people and there are 8 placements for people with learning disabilities. The bowling green has got a grant to provide sessions for people with disabilities and the paly area has a wheel chair trampoline and wobbly bridge.</p> <p>There are some exceptional large events in the park and an excellent events policy which ensures the investment back into the site. Local groups can bid for small grants for example recently FPSP had £10K to update the toilets and the Pedal Cycling Club £3.5K.</p> <p>There is a Finsbury Park Stakeholder Group which involves the neighbouring boroughs and all user groups. They have a few meetings before big events and debriefs following the events so that all improvements and actions are</p>	<p>Keep the support for the Stakeholders Group going.</p>

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	<p>consulted on creating a co-production way of working.</p> <p>The Richard Hope Play area has access and facilities for children with disabilities, WIFI, an event space and natural play and is being brought up to an excellent standard.</p> <p>There are volunteers from 10years old to 80 who contribute on a regular basis.</p> <p>The Park Ranger is to develop the education role for school groups.</p> <p>There is a park run every Saturday.</p>	
<b>Marketing and Communication</b>	<p>Good signs throughout the site for example explaining why you shouldn't give bread to the ducks, giving the history of the site, saying the responsibilities in the play areas, and directional finger posts.</p> <p>Good use of social media by stakeholders and particularly for events. Excellent events posters on site.</p> <p>The park events are on the "What's On" publicised on the Piccadilly Line.</p>	
<b>Management</b>	<p>It is good to hear about how the Council has invested into the parks service as there are so many visitors to Finsbury Park this investment will need to be kept up or increased to keep the Green Flag Standards on site.</p> <p>The onsite staff and particularly having a ranger for the site is what is needed and Haringey is to be commended for this.</p> <p>Stakeholders said "Finsbury Park is well run and it is a great team with great communication". "Tony and his team are fantastic".</p>	<p>It will be excellent when the Parks and Open Space Strategy is in place and everything is brought together, the funding is sustained over many years and all the staff recruitment is in place.</p> <p>The key improvement needed on site is the standard of maintenance and horticulture.</p>

**Summary and additional comments:**

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

Finsbury Park is assessed as Green Flag Standard.

The contribution by the stakeholders and the site-based staff provide wonderful opportunities for local people in a good green space.

There are some maintenance challenges for example the litter, cleanliness and horticultural standards.

Future funding and hard work will need to continue to build on all the good partnership working to take the park to the next level.