

# **Godley Gardens Management Plan 2009 – 2014**

Index  
Timetable  
Site description  
Wandsworth Open Space Study  
Current management  
Future management  
Action plan

**Written for and on behalf of Wandsworth Council Parks Service by:**

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To be approved by Wandsworth Council Environment and Leisure Committee  
in June 2009

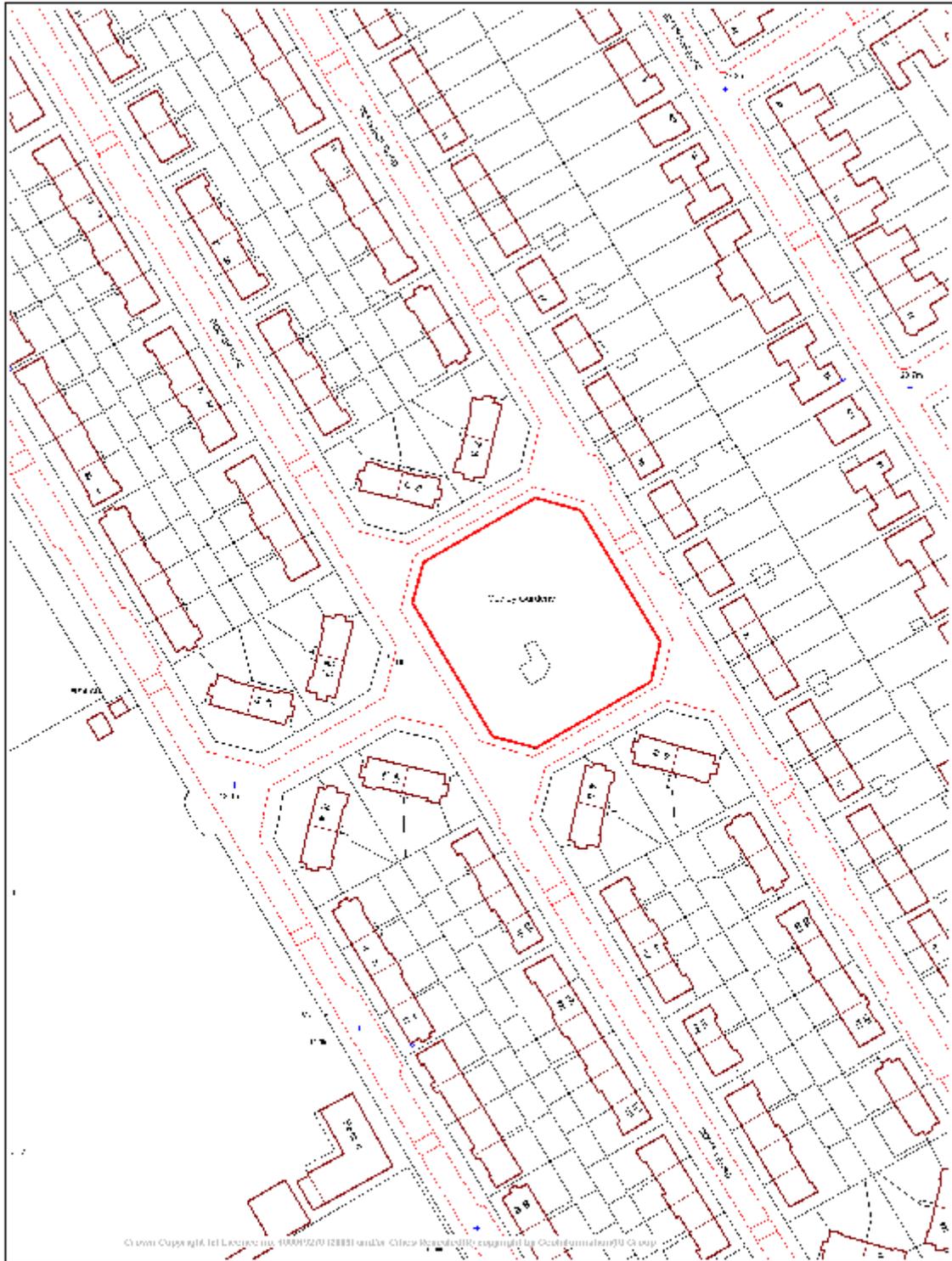
Progress against action plan to be monitored annually via the Parks Service  
AQPR.

**Site Description:**

- Site Name: Godley Gardens
- Location: Godley Gardens is bounded to the north and east by Tilehurst Road; to the south and west by Godley Road.  
  
Map showing location is shown on the following page.
- Grid reference: The grid reference of the site is TQ2676.7306
- Council Ward: Wandsworth Common Ward, Elected members for this area are:  
Cllr Henry Pugh (Cons)  
Cllr Maurice Heaster (Cons)  
Cllr Kathy Tracey (Cons)
- Site Area: The area of the site totals 2700 square metres (0.27ha /0.66 acres).
- Tenure: The site is owned by Wandsworth Borough Council.
- Management: The site is managed and maintained by Wandsworth Borough Council, with responsibility for the site taken by the Parks Service, part of the Leisure and Amenity Services Department. Playgrounds are managed by the Play Services section of the Childrens Services Department.
- Designations: The council has adopted planning policies, which aim to protect and enhance the quality of life, and improve economic and social opportunities. They are the basis for promoting and controlling development in the borough. The current statutory development plan for the borough comprises the Wandsworth Unitary Development Plan (UDP), adopted August 2003.

The gardens are designated as “Canine Faeces Removal /Poop Scoop” under the Councils Dog Bye Laws

# Godley Gardens Park Management Plan 2009



**Godley Gardens**

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Scale 1/1250

Date 3/6/2009



## **History:**

The public green was designed as part of the Fieldview Estate, laid out by Wandsworth Council in the 1930s. The Estate was designed on a grid of streets with groups of maisonettes designed to look like semi-detached housing, with wide footpaths, grass verges now tarmaced and street trees.

During the nineteenth century land between Magdalen Road, Burntwood Lane, Garratt Lane and Wandsworth Common was owned by Magdalen College Oxford. The Magdalen Park Estate was planned in the early twentieth century as a Garden Suburb designed by E P Warren. Only the roads at the top of the hill between Lyford Road and Ellerton Road were developed and any building stopped with the First World War.

At the bottom of the hill, houses between Garratt Lane and Swaby Road had been built before the First World War. Post war there was great demand for land for housing with the 'Homes Fit For Heroes' campaigns. In the 1920s Wandsworth Borough Council purchased the area between Swaby Road and Open View for the Openview Estate, and in the 1930s the area between Fieldview and Ellerton Road for the Fieldview Estate.

Some original designs indicate the open green as building plots but this never happened. The Godley Road Open Space was provided as a central area of public open space.

During the 1960s, this open space and the one by Swaby Road had been permanently locked shut due to vandalism. The gates were re-opened and the facility of public green space was again made available to local people. A playground was installed in Swaby Road.

**Site Features:**

Godley Gardens is a small, enclosed area of mown grass with trees and shrubs. A small raised bed stands in one corner of the site.

Original metal railings and gates, with all spikes removed, form the boundary to the park

There are four pedestrian gates, with no separate service gate for vehicles.

There are 4 seats and 1 litter bin and 1 dog waste bin.

There is no internal lighting and the park is not locked at night.

The overall impression is of a small open space, with limited features, providing a useful open area in a built up area.

Safe & Secure:

All areas of the park are visible from both outside and inside the site, with little obstruction caused by trees or shrubs.

Welcome:

Signs at three of the four entrances have recently been replaced as part of an ongoing programme to replace signs with more welcoming ones. A further sign is needed at the fourth gate.

The empty raised planter in the south west corner adds an air of neglect

Planted areas provide limited colour and some interest, and could be improved.

Clean and well maintained:

The grass is mown regularly to maintain a short dense sward. Shrub beds are weeded regularly, and plants trimmed as needed. There is a regular litter collection programme.

Occasionally, drugs paraphernalia is found in some parks. A system has been devised to ensure safe removal and recording of each incident. This helps to ensure staff and park users are protected, and Metropolitan and Parks Police informed. Steps to minimise drug use in parks can then be undertaken using this information. Drugs paraphernalia has not been found at Godley Gardens.

Seats and litter bins are in good condition, although the four metal seats may need replacing as the legs are liable to corrosion.

Routine tree inspection and maintenance is undertaken on a three-year rotation. There is no significant Pest or Disease problem and no evidence of recent vandalism.

Health and well-being

The park provides a useful venue to get a breath of fresh air and is used by dog walkers regularly.

Community involvement:

There is no known community involvement currently.

Service delivery:

Landscape maintenance, including maintenance of seats and bins, is carried out by contractor and monitored by the Parks Operational team based at Wandsworth Common.

Structural maintenance of paths and railings is the responsibility of the Premises section of the Leisure and Amenity Department..

Staff skills & knowledge:

Skills required to manage this site include basic horticultural maintenance including the use of mowing and strimming machinery. A higher level of knowledge is required for maintenance of trees. Building and engineering skills are required to maintain structures, paths and railings.

Sustainable approach:

The site is generally managed without the use of pesticides or watering.

Weeds are occasionally controlled with glyphosate.

Organic material, collected from all sites during maintenance operations, is composted and used, when suitable, for mulching and soil improvement of ornamental planted areas.

Finance:

Maintenance costs are met from Parks budgets covering all small parks.

There is no separate budget for this site within the Parks Service.

**Current Management:**

All horticultural maintenance and litter clearance is as specified in the Parks Service Horticultural Maintenance contract, which includes all routine grass cutting, litter collection, weed clearance, shrub pruning and other routine horticultural tasks. All work that does not fall under this contract is carried out under additional works programmes by order, with the main contractor or outside contractors depending on the scope of the work entailed.

Trees:

This site contains several large mature trees as well as many smaller trees. There is a mix of native and non-native tree species with a good age class diversity. Routine tree inspection and maintenance is undertaken on a three-year rotation, with trees being in general good health at the last inspection. There is no significant Pest or Disease problem and no evidence of recent vandalism.

Ornamental planting:

Shrubs are pruned or trimmed as required.

Seats:

There are 4 metal seats, manufactured by Macemain plc in good condition.

Bins:

There is 1 litter bin, model HG66, manufactured by Earth Anchors plc in good condition. This is installed with a matching dog waste bin.

Hard / paved surfaces:

Footpaths are surfaced with black tarmac and are in reasonable condition

Lighting:

There is no lighting within the park.

Fencing:

Original iron-railings and gates are in reasonable condition. There are four gated entrances to the park, with no separate service gate.

Services:

There are no electric, gas or water services to the park.

**Future Management:**

Safe & Secure:

Routinely prune shrubs to maintain views through the site.

Welcome:

Install a further sign at the fourth entrance.

Consider options to remove or improve the appearance of the empty raised planter.

Investigate options to improve planted areas in the park

Clean and well maintained:

Ensure ground fixings to metal seats are sound – replace seats if necessary

Health and well-being

Consider features which might promote more activities in the park

Community involvement:

Investigate whether any local groups exist.

Sustainable approach:

Maintain restriction on use of chemicals. Use composted materials for mulching planted areas. Use recycled plastic seats etc where possible

Godley Gardens Park Management Plan 2009

**ACTION PLAN**

| Code   | Aim  | Objective                              | Action / task  | Target date  | Who                                       |
|--------|--|--|--|--|---|
| GoG101 | To make Godley Gardens a place where people feel safe and secure | Ensure users can readily see all areas | Maintain routine pruning and hedge trimming.               | Ongoing  | Parks Service                             |
| GoG201 | To make Godley Gardens welcoming and define a sense of place     | Improve information signs              | Install fourth entrance sign                               | As part of wider signage review of parks and open spaces(partial completion by April 2009) | Parks Service<br>Graphics<br>Parks Police |
| GoG202 |  | Improve visual appearance              | Investigate options to remove or refurbish empty planter   | March 2010   | Parks Service                             |
| GoG203 |  |  | Create additional planted areas as appropriate             | Ongoing  | Parks Service                             |
| GoG301 | To provide a clean and well maintained Park                      | Improve use of seats and bins          | Check seat bases for corrosion. Replace seats as necessary | March 2010   | Parks Service<br>Premises section         |

Godley Gardens Park Management Plan 2009

| Code   | Aim   | Objective  | Action / task  | Target date | Who                                      |
|--------|---|--|--|-------------|--|
| GoG401 | To provide a park which contributes to the health and well-being of all who use it.                 |  | Consider additional facilities                           | Ongoing     | Parks Service                            |
| GoG402 |   | To increase cycle facilities to and within parks   | Investigate the potential for cycle parking              | March 2010  | Parks Service<br>Technical Services Dept |
| GoG501 | To effectively engage with, and involve, the community in decisions made relating to Godley Gardens | To carry out consultation with different user groups to influence the enhancement of this park | Contact any local residents associations and schools etc |             | Parks Service                            |