



2019-21



# Wandsworth Park Green Flag Management Plan



<b>Revision</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Approved for WBC by:</b>
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# 1 Introduction

Wandsworth Park is a Grade II Listed park located in the London Borough of Wandsworth. It is an Edwardian park laid out with ornamental shrubberies and sports areas, blending formality with informality. The magnificent avenue of London plane trees along the River Thames provides shade as well as amazing views across the wide open river, offering parks users an opportunity to watch sports, birds, and passing boats.

Designed by Lt. Col. J. J. Sexby, Wandsworth Park was opened in February 1903 and covers an area of 8.2 ha (20.25 acres). The Park's primary asset is its Thameside location and it is listed in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens as Grade II. The site has been little altered during the past 115 years and today primarily offers the sports facilities for which it was designed.

A Strategy Plan for the Park was originally commissioned in April 1995, by Frenckcastle Management on behalf of Prospect Reach Ltd, who developed the adjacent Prospect Reach site now named Prospect Quay, which adjoins the North East Corner of the Park.

In 2004 Wandsworth Leisure and Amenity Services commissioned Land Use Consultancy to update this original report, taking into account the progress made since 1995 to refurbish the Park.

Both the 1995 and 2004 reports have been used by Enable Leisure and Culture which now manages the parks service on behalf of Wandsworth Borough Council to support the production of the 2019-29 Green Flag Management and Maintenance Plan for Wandsworth Park.

This Management Plan is not exhaustive and is to be read in conjunction with the suite of Strategic Wandsworth Council documents relating to Parks, Open Spaces

- Parks Management Strategy 2011-2020
- Parks Maintenance Contract 2013-2021

To ensure consistency of service provision across the whole Borough, services and facilities are managed by the service with the appropriate expertise in the particular field, and in accordance with their own strategies and management goals. For example, buildings maintenance and repairs are managed by the Council's Design Services team across the Council's full property holding; the Council's Parks Events Police are responsible for borough-wide enforcement of bylaws and the safety of park users; sports facilities are managed by the Leisure & Sports Development team; events are managed by the Events Team, whilst the horticultural fabric of parks and open spaces is managed by the Parks Service.

Traditionally, all these services were managed directly by Council employees. However, as of 01 October 2015, the majority of services pertinent to the operation of the parks and open spaces have been transferred to a new Public Services Mutual organisation "Enable Leisure and Culture" which manages these services on behalf of the Council under contract. This change means that with limited exceptions, all services and facilities pertinent to Wandsworth Park are now overseen and managed by a single organisation, with the various operational teams having shared corporate objectives.

Parks management is a continuous process that takes account of issues that arise. Therefore this Management Plan is a "live document" which will be updated annually. As well as being actively implemented it is essential that this Management Plan is reviewed and updated to ensure Wandsworth Park is relevant to users' needs, and is cared for and respected by all.

The objectives for the sustainable management and future development of the Park are structured around the eight key criteria set by the Green Flag Award:

1. Creating a welcoming space;
2. Providing a park that is healthy, safe and secure;
3. A park that is clean and well maintained;
4. Sustainable management of resources;
5. Appropriate management of conservation and heritage features;
6. Encouraging community involvement;
7. Marketing the facility effectively;
8. Implementation of effective management strategies.



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### Wandsworth Park



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## 2 Action Plan Progress Summary

Progress against the action plan projects is summarised below. Projects are added to this list upon completion.

#	Description	Objective	Date Completed	Funding Source	Value
1	Formally constituted Friends of Wandsworth Park (FOWP) commence management and maintenance of the formal bedding area.	20-23	May 2018 ongoing	Parks Capital + Volunteers	£3K
2					
3					
4					
5					

### 2.1 Key Projects in previous year:

FOWP formally adopt formal bedding area



Volunteers from Apple Europe strip old beds 8<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017



Probation Teams dig in organic matter 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018



Volunteers from Apple Europe return to plant 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018



Beds 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

# 3 Strategic Context

## 3.1 Introduction

This Management Plan articulates the vision for the improvement of Wandsworth Park, its management and maintenance, and provides detailed objectives and action plans to direct Enable Leisure and Culture to achieve this vision over the next 10 years. The objectives of the Management Plan are aligned to the criteria for the Green Flag Award administered by Keep Britain Tidy.

Significantly, the objectives for all of the Management Plans for Wandsworth Council's Parks, Open Spaces and Commons have been developed with the wider strategic objectives across the Borough in mind. These objectives are defined in the Wandsworth Council Local Plan.

The Local Plan consists of a series of documents. The most important of these is the Core Strategy, which sets out the spatial vision for Wandsworth and a strategy for how this vision will be achieved. The Development Management Policies Document (DMPD) and Site Specific Allocations Document (SSAD) support the strategic objectives set out in the Core Strategy.

The current adopted development plan for the Borough comprises:

- The [Core Strategy](#), adopted March 2016
- The [Development Management Policies Document \(DMPD\)](#), adopted March 2016
- The [Site Specific Allocations Document \(SSAD\)](#), adopted March 2016
- The [Policies Map](#), adopted March 2016
- The [London Plan](#), adopted March 2015

As well as the Wandsworth Council Local Plan reference will also be made to other Strategic reports including

- Wandsworth Council [Open Spaces Study 2006](#)
- Wandsworth Council [Playing Pitch Strategy](#)
- Wandsworth Council [Play Strategy](#)
- Wandsworth Council [Tree Strategy](#)
- [London Biodiversity Partnership](#) Species and Habitat Action Plans

## 3.2 Wandsworth Council Local Plan

### Core Policies for Places: Policy PL 4

The Council will protect and improve public and private open space and Green Infrastructure in the Borough, including Metropolitan Open Land, such as the major commons, parks, allotments, trees and playing fields, as well as the smaller spaces, including play spaces, as identified in the Open Space Study and Play Strategy.



Map 1 | 2: Public Open Space Network and Cycling & Walking Routes

Playing fields will be protected and opportunities for participation in sport, recreation and children's play will be promoted. Where there is no future demand for playing fields or other outdoor sports use, other open space uses will be sought.

The Council will require the provision of open space and/or secure public access to private facilities, in appropriate developments, and as a priority in areas identified as deficient in open space, play space or sport and recreation facilities and/or to meet priorities identified in the Council's Play Strategy, Active Wandsworth Strategy, Parks Management Strategy and All London Green Grid (ALGG) Area Frameworks.

The requirements for open space provision are set out in the Planning Obligations SPD.

The Borough's green chains and the open spaces along them will be protected and enhanced taking into account opportunities identified in the ALGG Area Frameworks.

The biodiversity value of the Borough will be protected and enhanced including that of the River Thames, River Wandle and Beverley Brook and species and habitats identified in the London Biodiversity Action Plan and through Local Nature Partnerships.

New development should avoid causing ecological damage and propose full mitigation and compensation measures for ecological impacts which do occur. Where appropriate new development should include new or enhanced habitat or design and landscaping which promotes biodiversity, and provision for management, particularly in areas identified as deficient in nature conservation.

The Council will work with partners to develop and implement proposals for the Wandle Valley Regional Park.

### 3.3 Significance of Wandsworth Park

As one of the Borough's Local Parks Wandsworth Park has a variety of facilities and features that assists Wandsworth Council in delivering its Strategic Aims.

The table below illustrates how Wandsworth Park contributes to Wandsworth Council's Local Plan Core Policies for Places.

Visual relief in a built up area	Tackling crime and antisocial behaviour	Climate change mitigation and encouraging biodiversity	Places for formal and informal recreation	Community Cohesion
Traditional Edwardian Town Park	Parks & Events Police	Accessible by Public Transport	Community gardening opportunities.	Developing Friends Group
Picturesque riverside views	Inspected and well-maintained facilities CCTV where appropriate	Sustainable planting schemes introduced	Safe and accessible path network	Wealth of events offered throughout the year
Mixed of horticultural interest	Collaborative working with park stakeholders, SNT Events Police	Prominent bat roosts in park trees protected	NEAP Playground	Community Partnerships with Schools Sports Clubs
Mature tree avenues	CRC Probation Service Partnership		Summer & winter grass pitches and hard court	Corporate volunteering opportunities for local businesses
Sprawling grass areas for picnics and games	Community engagement activities		Golf putting concession & cafe	

**Table 1: Wandsworth Park delivering Wandsworth Council's Local Plan Objectives**

## 4 Wandsworth Park Key Site Information & Description

### 4.1 Site Details

<b>Name</b>	Wandsworth Park
<b>Address</b>	Putney Bridge Road, SW18
<b>Contacts</b>	Tel: 020 3959 0060 Email: parks@enablelc.org
<b>Web</b>	www.enablelc.org
<b>Grid Reference</b>	TQ 24853 75245
<b>Designation</b>	Park & Open Space
<b>Ownership</b>	Wandsworth Council
<b>Size</b>	8.2 hectare
<b>Type</b>	Local Park
<b>Legal Interest</b>	Land registered to Wandsworth Council
<b>Byelaws</b>	Wandsworth Park covered by GLC Bye Laws
<b>Access</b>	Open 24/7
<b>Local Facilities</b>	Planted Gardens Summer and Winter Grass Sports Pitches & Changing Rooms Public Toilets NEAP Children's Playground Putt in the Park Putting Green and Fully Licenced Cafe 1 Tennis Courts Thames Riverside Promenade
<b>Transport</b>	Nearest Tube Station: East Putney or Putney Bridge (District) Nearest Rail: Putney or Wandsworth Town Station Bus Routes to the Park: 220 / 70 TFL Cycle Docking Station Putney Bridge Road
<b>Parking</b>	No Parking on site. Limited on street parking on Northfields (Pay&Display)

### 4.2 Location

Wandsworth Park is situated along the south bank of the River Thames.

The **Northern Boundary** has iron railings and features a riverside promenade lined with a single line of mature London Planes (*Platanus x acerfolia*).

The **Southern Boundary** onto Putney Bridge Road has iron railings and three pedestrian entrance gates and one shared pedestrian access gate and one vehicular access.

The **Western Boundary** onto Deodar Road through Blades Mews shared one pedestrian entrance gate into the park.

The **Eastern Boundary** onto Northfields is primarily park railings with one pedestrian entrance as well as a riverside entrance gate.

There are six pedestrian access points and one combined pedestrian and vehicle access located around the perimeter of the Park.



Map 3: Location Map of Wandsworth Park

### 4.3 Soils

Most of the Borough of Wandsworth is flat, lying on the flood plain of the Thames, with the land rising very gradually northwards.

Wandsworth Park is situated mainly on London Clay from the Eocene, however most of the topsoils are made ground.

### Hydrology

The Park falls under the general River Thames water basin. There are no surface water courses, but it is not far from the old Counters Creek course. Maps suggest that there may have been a history of surface water accumulation towards the centre of the Park.

### 4.4 Flora, fauna and Nature Conservation

The Grade II listed landscape of Wandsworth Park hasn't changed much since the original park was laid out by Lt. Col. J.J. Sexby in 1901.

#### Trees

An avenue of 31 London Planes (*Platanus x acerfolia*) lines the waterfront. At 26m high the trees tower above all other elements in the park and provide shelter from the exposed river edge.

To the south of the planes and lining the northern edge of the sports field is an avenue of 77 Limes (*Tilia sp*) which line the main northern footpath and provide an essential component of Sexby's treatment of the water's edge.

Elsewhere within the Park the following species can be found in smaller numbers:

Tree Common Name	Tree Latin Name
Beech	<i>Fagus Sylvatica</i>
Tulip Tree	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>

Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>
Mountain Ash	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Indian Bean Tree	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>
Ginkgo Tree	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>
Evergreen Oak	<i>Quercus Ilex</i>
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>
Horse Chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Poplar	<i>Populus spp</i>
Laburnum	<i>Laburnum anagyroides</i>

**Table 2:** Prominent tree species found in Wandsworth Park

The Park's tree canopy provides roosts for a host of birds and bats that call Wandsworth Park home, including Rooks and flock of Redwing thrushes en-route to residences in Scandinavia (Winter 2017). Recent bat surveys (Winter 2017) have shown roosts of Pipistrelles, Greater Horseshoes, Daubentons, Leisler and Noctule bats in Wandsworth Park which is a handy location to hunt along the Thames.

### Perimeter Shrubberies

These are primarily located on the eastern and western perimeters of Wandsworth Park as well as in the South Eastern Areas near Putt in the Park.

These perimeter shrubberies were originally planted with primarily Bay (*Laurus nobilis*), Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*), Holly (*Taxus*), and Yew (*Taxus baccata*) that were favoured during the Edwardian period, but this more traditional planting has been more recently bulked up with structured shrub and herbaceous plants, primarily on the eastern and western perimeters of the park using tiered planting with a variety of foliage interest and colour.



**Photos 1:** Perimeter shrubberies at Wandsworth Park

### Decorative Display Beds

These are located in the South Eastern area of the Park, comprising one large circular seasonal bed with a range of mixed grass and herbaceous beds, recently introduced by the Friends of Wandsworth Park (Spring 2018).

The new display bed planting provides a variety of habitats and foraging opportunities for invertebrates.



**Photos 2:** Display Beds planted and maintained by Friends of Wandsworth Park

#### 4.5 Park Facilities

Wandsworth Park provides a range of facilities and services for both formal and informal recreation for all ages, these facilities include

- Fully licensed Café with Crazy golf putting concession
- Public toilets (Including Disabled Toilets)
- NEAP play area for toddlers and juniors
- Two Senior Football pitches
- One Cricket Table
- One Tennis Court / Netball Court
- Riverside promenade.



**Photos 3:** Facilities found at Wandsworth Park

#### Parking

Wandsworth Park has no dedicated car parking on site, although there is limited pay and display parking available on Northfields on the Eastern perimeter of the Park.

#### Toilets

Wandsworth Park has public conveniences on site including male, female, and disabled toilets.

#### 4.6 Recycling Facilities

Currently the volume of general waste generated in Wandsworth Park would not be enough to warrant recycling facilities on site.

General Litter (Green Bin) and Dog Waste (Red Bin) are currently collected in separate bins on site.

All green waste generated on site at Wandsworth Park is taken to Battersea Park Depot where *idverde*, Wandsworth Council's grounds maintenance contractors, process the green waste into mulch which is re-used on beds within parks and open spaces across the Borough.



**Photos 4:** *idverde*'s green-waste processing operation at Battersea Park

#### **4.7 Children's Facilities**

The Children's Play area is located on the Eastern perimeter of the central playing field. The Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play has a range of facilities for toddler and junior play including;

- Swings
- Climbing frame
- Slide
- Roundabout
- Seating and picnic tables

Daily play area inspections are done by Wandsworth Council's grounds maintenance contractor *idverde*, whose staff is ROSPA Trained Inspectors. A quarterly inspection is then carried out by ROSPA Playground Inspection Company followed by an annual play area inspection.

Copies of the current playground inspection report are included in **Appendix 9**.

#### **4.8 Youth Facilities**

Currently there is no formal youth provision on site at Wandsworth Park.

#### **4.9 Present User Profile**

Wandsworth Park is an extremely popular park with local residents.

With wide paths running around the perimeter of the central playing field, and a no cycling policy within the park, dog walking and running are two of the most popular uses of Wandsworth Park, and the Thames-side location means the Park's Northern path is a popular place to promenade.

The formal sports pitches on the central sports field are heavily used in the winter by local football teams and in summer by the local cricket team on the weekend. During the week these facilities are also used by local schools, many of which have little or no playing fields of their own.

The popular children's play area is the most significant addition to the Sexby 1903 design and is popular with young families during the day, after school, and weekends.

**Putt in the Park** and the associated **Café** concession was opened in Wandsworth Park in August 2013 and provides a great spot for a coffee or an afternoon with family and friends for a spot of golf.

#### **4.10 Management**

Enable Leisure and Culture (ELC) manages the parks service of behalf of Wandsworth Council.

Enable Leisure and Culture is a not-for-profit organisation.

Company no. 09487276

Registered with the Charity Commission no. 1172345

Established in October 2015, ELC provides leisure and cultural services for the benefit of local communities. ELC's responsibilities to its client, Wandsworth Council, include; arts and culture, bereavement, events, filming, leisure and sports, parks, public halls, Putney School of Art and Design and the management of the Parks and Events Police.

ELC is an organisation committed to 'doing things differently', putting health, wellbeing and community at the centre of everything it does.

### ***Our values***

Enable Leisure and Culture believes everyone can live a healthier, happier life through leisure and cultural activities. ELC is a charitable organisation delivering leisure and culture services on behalf of Wandsworth Council. The organisation aims to enrich lives and strengthen communities through leisure and culture.

Enable Parks manages and develops parks, deals with general queries and monitors the grounds maintenance, arboriculture and sports pitch bookings contracts on behalf of Wandsworth Council.

Many ELC teams work to provide services in local parks:

- **Parks** – for general queries, fishing permits and commemorative benches.
- **Development** – plans improvements to parks, liaises with Friends groups and raises funding.
- **Arboriculture** – inspects trees in parks and streets and some Wandsworth Council establishments; manages the arboriculture maintenance contract.
- **Allotments** – manages 450 allotments on 8 sites, maintains the waiting lists, and works with volunteer site managers.
- **Playgrounds** – inspects the playgrounds in parks, inspects play equipment regularly; develops playgrounds.
- **Operations** – manages the horticultural maintenance contract.
- **Biodiversity** – advises Wandsworth Council on its responsibilities with respect to wildlife legislation; advises on best practice in ecological maintenance of parks.

**idverde** undertakes grounds maintenance contract and grass sport pitch bookings for Enable Parks.

**City and Suburban** undertakes arboriculture maintenance contract for Enable Parks.

## **4.11 Leases, Covenants and Legal Interest**

Wandsworth Council holds the freehold registered title for Wandsworth Park.

“**Putt in the Park**” café and putting concession leases the café building and the land where the putting greens stands. Putt in the Park have a separate maintenance contractor that looks after the grounds within the fenced facility.

“**Friends of Wandsworth Park**” under the terms of the group's constitution now manage both the Sunken Garden display beds and Terrace Garden.

“**All Win Tennis**” lease the single tennis court at Wandsworth Park.

## 5 Vision

*“At Enable Leisure & Culture we believe everyone can live a healthier, happier life through leisure and cultural activities. We’re a charitable organisation delivering leisure and culture services on behalf of Wandsworth Council. We aim to enrich lives and strengthen communities through leisure and culture.”*

## 6 Aims, Objectives and Management Actions

This section presents the aims and objectives for Wandsworth Park from 2019 – 2029. The format is closely aligned to the key criteria set by Keep Britain Tidy’s Green Flag Award Judging Criteria.

The current status of the Park, measured against the Green Flag Criteria, highlights current condition, recent development and areas for improvement.

Objectives have been developed based on an assessment of the current status of the Park. They define Wandsworth Council’s intentions for achieving the vision for the Park.

The management actions that follow the objectives describe how funding and resources will be allocated and how progress towards achieving the vision will be monitored.

*The Key Green Flag Criteria are:*

1. Creating a Welcoming Space
2. Ensuring the Park is Healthy, Safe and Secure
3. Keeping the Park Clean and Well Maintained
4. Sustainable Management of Resources
5. Appropriate Management of Conservation and Heritage Features
6. Encouraging Community Involvement
7. Marketing the Facility Effectively
8. Implementation of Effective Management Strategies

The Management Actions described in the following section include likely timeframes, responsibility for implementation, cost estimates and funding sources. Most of the Management Plan objectives have specific actions against them. In some cases the objective relates to *how* we work. In these cases there will be no related actions.

This information will be reviewed regularly and is expected to evolve as opportunities arise.

An Annual Actions Summary will be produced each year of the plan outlining key achievements in each year of the Plan.

## 6.1 Creating a Welcoming Park

The overall impression for someone approaching and entering the site should be positive and inviting.

Features of particular importance are:

- Good and safe access
- Effective signage to and in the Park
- Something for everyone.



**Photographs:** Showing views into the Park from key entrances

### 6.1.1 Background and Issues

#### Access and Transport Options

Wandsworth Park is accessible to the wider community using a variety of transport modes.

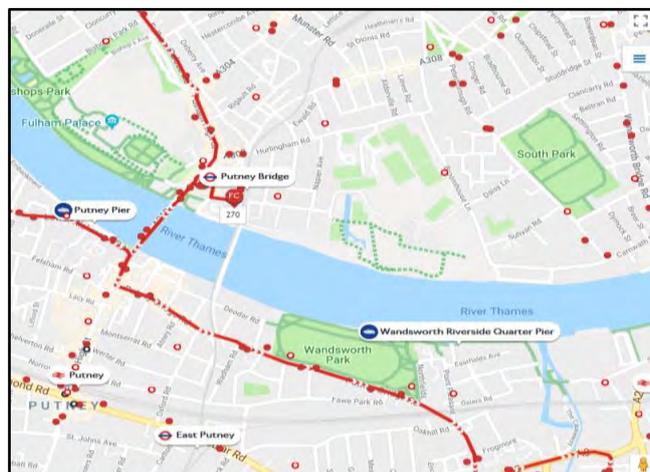
There is limited pay and display parking available on Northfields.

Visitors travelling by London Underground have a 10 minute walk from East Putney Tube Station, which is on the District Line.

The nearest bus stop (Skelgill Road) is approximately one minute's walk to Wandsworth Park. Bus routes (220, 270, and 485) run frequently Monday to Sunday.

Pedestrian access to Wandsworth Park is through entrances at seven points around the Park. The main pedestrian entrance is located on the junction of Putney Bridge Road and Northfields, with one further access on Northfields, two accesses on Putney Bridge Road, one access via Deodar Road, and one via the Thames Towpath.

Careful consideration of the Disability Discrimination Act has been taken to improve access on this site. All entrances are wheelchair accessible and footpaths link all major areas and points of interest in Wandsworth Park.



**Transport Map:** Showing Tube Stations and Bus Routes in proximity to Wandsworth Park

## Signage and Information

To ensure visitors know where they are and what facilities are available for their enjoyment, park signage and notice boards are located at all key entrances to Wandsworth Park. The signs provide information about the site with facilities and features of interest, policies on litter, dogs, and acceptable behaviour in the open space, and contact details for the Parks Service and the Parks Police.



**Photographs:** *Parks Signage Information and Instructions.*

The size, layout and variety of features in the open space require careful consideration of directional signage to guide visitors to various facilities and destinations in the open space.

Over the years, as signage design and messages have changed, more signage has been added. Unfortunately signage, mostly highlighting prohibited activities, has contributed to visual clutter throughout the Park. The Signage Improvement Project aims to remove this unnecessary clutter to improve the welcoming feel of the park and encourage responsible park use through a consistent information format.

## Site Facilities and Furniture

The management of the Park's assets falls under the responsibility of Enable Leisure and Culture.

The standardisation of all park furniture is important to provide a consistent approach to maintenance and to make the site more welcoming. Good quality benches and waste bins are located conveniently around the site.

The condition of facilities and features, shrub beds, planting, and trees in Wandsworth Park all contribute to the visitor experience and satisfaction with the Park.

### 6.1.2 Objectives

1. Maintain boundary fencing, hedging, gates and access paths to a consistently high standard.
2. Improve signage in the surrounding neighbourhood to the Park and provide more directional and interpretive signs within the Park.
3. Meet the accessibility requirements of all park users.
4. Provide everybody with a range of high quality, well-maintained and relevant facilities that are accessible, safe, and clean.

### 6.1.3 Management Actions

6.1	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 1. Maintenance of boundary fencing, hedging, gates and access paths to a consistently high standard</b>						
1	Maintain existing seven Park entrance points to ensure access, site lines, furniture and site is welcoming to users Paint railings and gates with CRC Wandsworth	2019-20	Enable FOWP Idverde	£5K	Parks Revenue Design Services	X
2	Review of existing planting beds on site particularly at site entrance points	2019-20	Enable FOWP	Staff Time	Parks Revenue	X
3	Maintenance of paths and assets and upgrade where necessary	Annually	Enable	Staff Time	Parks Revenue	X
<b>Objective 2. Improve signage in the neighbourhood surrounding the Park and provide more directional and interpretive signs within the Park</b>						
4	Look at potential to introduce interpretive signage in the Park to highlight flora and fauna interest to be found in the park	2019-20	Enable FOWP	Staff Time	Parks Revenue Volunteers	✓
<b>Objective 3. Meet the accessibility requirements of all users</b>						
5	Carry out DDA audit for site to ensure all points of the Park are currently accessible	NA				
<b>Objective 4. Provide everybody with a range of high quality, well-maintained and relevant facilities that are accessible, safe and clean.</b>						
6	Reviewing and responding to user feedback	NA				

## 6.2 A Healthy, Safe and Secure Parks and Open spaces

The Park or green space must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Relevant issues must be addressed in management plans and implemented on the ground. New issues which arise must be addressed promptly and appropriately. Particularly important issues include:

- Equipment and facilities must be safe to use;
- The Park must be a secure place for all members of the community to use or traverse;
- Dog fouling must be adequately dealt with;
- Health and safety policies should be in place, in practice and reviewed; and
- Toilets, drinking water, first aid, public telephones and emergency equipment where relevant (e.g. lifebelts by water) should be available on or near the site and clearly signposted.



**Photographs:** Healthy Safe & Secure Equipment and Facilities

### **6.2.1 Background and Issues**

The most sustainable solution for future safety and security in the Park is to ensure that Wandsworth Park is a well-used and respected facility. With trained mobile staff and sensible management of planting and trees, the Park will provide a safe and secure facility for the local community. Incorporating the local knowledge and expertise of our partners is essential to ensure effective management and development of the open space. Partners in this goal include:

- idverde - term grounds maintenance contractor
- City Suburban - term arboriculture contractor
- Parks / Events Police
- Friends of Wandsworth Park
- Safer Neighbourhood Teams
- Regular Sports Club and Organisations
- Will to Win Tennis coaches
- Putt in the Park staff

Collaborative partnerships between service providers, enforcement agencies, and customers are very important for the continued effective management and enjoyment of Wandsworth Council's open spaces by all.

Maintenance work is undertaken all year round to ensure that the site is kept clean and safe.

### **6.2.2 Inspection Regime**

Inspections and monitoring is a collective responsibility. Parks Officers, Parks Police, Service providers, and the local community all report any issues to the relevant Enable Parks Service through agreed communication channels.

Parks Officers perform more formal inspections of the site on a regular basis.

Unsafe facilities are repaired or replaced immediately to ensure user safety and to discourage vandalism. idverde is contracted to report defects on a weekly basis.

### **6.2.3 Signage**

Signage is an important tool for communicating to the public and sharing information.

There is signage installed at Wandsworth Park entrances and within the open space, mostly to ensure safe and responsible use of the open space: They outline the open space dos and don'ts (Bylaws), such as keeping the open space tidy, and the requirement that park users use the bins and dog bins provided. The Parks Constabulary's contact details and other relevant services are also displayed.

## 6.2.4 Dogs

Dogs and dog owners are an important part of the park community as dogs bring life and energy to a park and their owners provide surveillance during early mornings and late evenings. It is extremely important, however, that dogs are controlled in the open space as they can also cause problems if their owners are irresponsible.

## 6.2.5 Tree management

There are over 150,000 trees in Wandsworth. Parks are one of the few locations where minimal intervention is advocated as trees should be encouraged to develop to maturity and have a natural canopy form.

Where management is necessary the priority for management of the Borough's trees is public safety. Tree pruning, felling and planting will always be guided by the health and safety of the public, Council officers and contractor's employees.

Management of the tree population (the number, density, species choice and location) is important to ensure the safety and perceived safety of park users (e.g. trying not to obscure lamp columns or obstruct emergency access routes).

The trees in Wandsworth Park were last internally inspected in 2015 and all priority recommended works carried out.

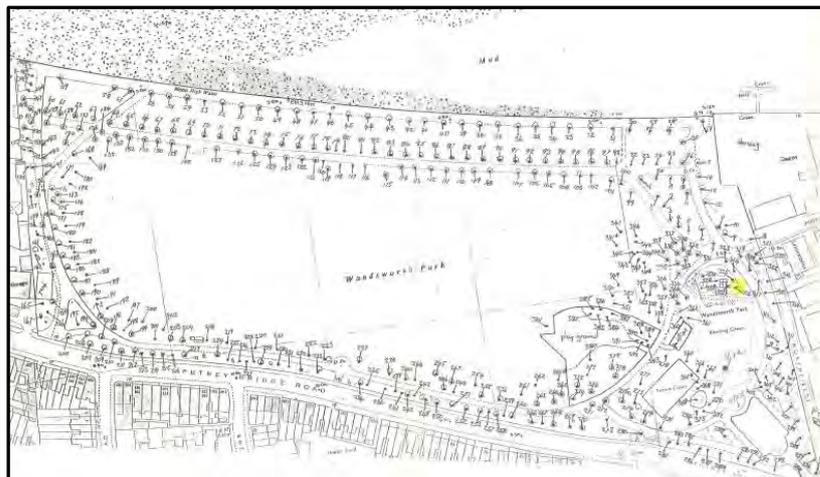
The management of individual trees is also important to ensure the safety of the public (e.g. checks are made to ensure they have no major defects such as fungal decay that might cause structural failure of the trunk or branches).

Pruning of trees branches where these might obstruct the adjacent highway or paths and play areas within the park is done routinely.

Basal growth (tree shoots that grow at the bottom of some types of tree) is cut periodically to help keep sight lines clear; in Wandsworth Park consideration is given to Bat Surveys.

Risk assessments are made by the Arboriculture Officer when specifying work and by the contractor before carrying it out.

During the year contractors will also carry out reactive works, which include urgent or emergency works e.g. as a result of tree or branch failure during storms. Wandsworth Council's contractors City Suburban are on permanent call 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, to cover incidents involving trees in the Park.



**Park Tree Map:** See Appendix 4 for full tree survey

## 6.2.6 Parks and Events Police Service

The parks and events police are responsible for the routine patrolling of the parks, commons and open spaces within Wandsworth, the enforcement of byelaws, dog control orders and other park regulations, and the policing of events.

Wandsworth Council's officers are attested as constables by a Magistrate and have powers within the parks, commons and open spaces. They also have a specific duty to ensure that these spaces remain safe and welcoming places for everyone to visit.

All parks and events police receive training in, and regular updates on:

- legal and enforcement processes;
- conflict resolution;
- personal safety training; and,
- first aid, including the operation of defibrillator machines which are carried in all our vehicles.

In addition, the service has highly-qualified dog handling and cycling proficiency officers who are able to give advice and provide instruction.

### **Enquiries about our Parks and Events Police Service**

Patrolling mobile: 07500 95 94 42 / General Enquiries: 020 8871 7532

Email: [parkspolice@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:parkspolice@wandsworth.gov.uk)



*Photographs: Wandsworth Parks & Events Police*

## 6.2.7 How Wandsworth Council's contractors manage safety

In line with Parks Maintenance Contract 2013-2021, Health & Safety is amongst the measurable indicators of overall business performance, and Wandsworth Council's contractors will therefore constantly seek to improve their Health & Safety performance.

Employees also have a statutory duty to take care of themselves and others who may be affected by their acts and omissions. To enable these duties to be carried out, it is our intention to ensure that responsibilities for Health and Safety matters are effectively defined, assigned, accepted, understood and fulfilled at all levels within the Council and users of its services.

The Company's Health & Safety Policy will be reviewed at least annually, and revised as and when necessary. All employees have a responsibility to comply with the provisions for the organisation and arrangements for health and safety as set out in the Company's Health & Safety Policy manual.

Copies of our contractors' Health and Safety Policies can be found in the Appendix 7.

### 6.2.8 Safety Information

Information for emergency contacts, public telephones, hospital, and local services is provided on the main Park signage.

Where there are any defects or dangerous structure the public will be informed by a public notice and area cordoned off to prevent access or use if necessary.

### 6.2.9 Objectives

1. All open space facilities and features to be maintained providing a safe, secure and inclusive space.
2. Work with local residents, rangers, police and other stakeholders to increase informal surveillance of the Park and enforce open space byelaws.
3. Address all safety issues promptly and effectively through timely monitoring and reporting.
4. Encourage responsible dog ownership through education, provision and maintenance of dog bins, and active enforcement by Parks and Events Police.
5. Enforce safe working practices to protect all open space staff and visitors.
6. Ensure effective Implementation of the Health and Safety Policy.

### 6.2.10 Management Actions

6.2	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 5. All park facilities and features to be maintained providing a safe, secure and inclusive space</b>						
1	Inspections of trees	3 Yearly	Enable Arboriculturist	£6K	Parks Revenue	✓
2	Inspection of Playground	Daily Quarterly	idverde Enable	£2K	Parks Revenue	✓
3	Audit of park buildings	Annual	Wandsworth Design Services	£3K	Parks Revenue	✓
4	Audit of park furniture	Annual	idverde Handyman	Staff Time Volunteers	idverde	✓
<b>Objective 6. Work with local residents, rangers, police and other stakeholders to increase informal surveillance of the park and enforce park byelaws</b>						
5	Establish and manage formally constitute The Friends of Wandsworth Park	2015	Enable	Staff Time	Parks Revenue	✓
<b>Objective 7. Address all safety issues addressed promptly and effectively through timely monitoring and reporting</b>						
6	Ad hoc issues reported	Ongoing	Enable	Staff Time	Parks Revenue	✓
<b>Objective 8. Encourage responsible dog ownership through education, provision and maintenance of dog bins, and active enforcement by Parks Constabulary;</b>						
7	Education of park users	Ongoing	Parks Events Police	Staff Time	Parks Revenue	x
<b>Objective 9. Ensure safe working practices to protect all park staff and visitors</b>						

8	Review all vehicles and plant used by contractors	Ongoing	Term Contractors	Staff Time	Revenue	Yes
<b>Objective 10. Implement the Health and Safety Policy</b>						
9	Review all staff training and update as necessary.	Annually	Term Contractors	Contract	Revenue	Yes

### 6.3 A Well Maintained and Clean Park

For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be addressed, in particular:

- Litter and Green Waste must be adequately dealt with
- Grounds, buildings, equipment and other features must be well maintained
- A policy on Litter, Vandalism and Maintenance should be in place and regularly reviewed



*Photographs: Clean & Well Maintained*

#### 6.3.1 Background and Issues

For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be addressed in line with Parks Management Strategy 2011-2020 and Parks Maintenance Contract 2013-2021.

#### 6.3.2 Inspection and Maintenance operations

To ensure that Wandsworth Park maintains a high standard of grounds maintenance the site has its own work plan. These activities are summarised in the *idverde* Annual Maintenance Schedule see Appendix 3.

Routine inspections specifically to address whether Wandsworth Park is safe, secure and tidy are undertaken by Enable Parks Operations Staff.

Litter can be classed as a serious management issue in the park, which is intensified at weekends and school holidays. Section 6.3.3. describes the litter and waste management in Wandsworth Park.

#### 6.3.3 Litter and Waste Management

Wandsworth Park is used by a variety of groups and individuals throughout the day. Enable Parks Operations work closely with the Constabulary and Communications team to educate, inform and enforce the Council's litter policies. Numerous litter trials have been implemented (e.g. changing collection routes, and times) to try and address this issue.

A quality standard has been set in the grounds maintenance contract specification which is based on the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) grades and also provides response times to return a site to acceptable standards.

Aside from the EPA standards, litterbins are emptied on a daily basis by 10am and are not permitted to remain full for more than 24 hours by *idverde*. *idverde* staff also litter pick across the Park.

Managing dog waste is also a significant issue across the Borough's parks and open spaces. Dog bins are emptied by *idverde* and regular inspections address the disposal of dog waste.

Sustainable waste management is a high priority for the Council and Wandsworth Park has a role in demonstrating its feasibility across the parks and open spaces network.

A green waste recycling facility operates at Battersea Park which is the central recycling facility for all green waste generated through grounds maintenance operations, and for which *idverde* has a Waste Exemption Notice to store and process 60 tons of green waste at any one time.

### **6.3.4 Graffiti**

Damaging property with graffiti is a criminal offence under the Criminal Damage Act 1971. Like all criminal offences it can be reported to the local police. In Wandsworth:

Telephone: 020 7350 1122 or (the police non-emergency number) 101

#### **Report it to Wandsworth Council**

Wandsworth Council can remove graffiti free of charge for properties within Wandsworth that can:

- Be seen from the public highway, or
- Inside communal areas of housing department managed property.

#### **How to request a graffiti removal**

- [Request removal of graffiti via Wandsworth Borough Council's website](#)
- Use the [Report It app](#) from your smartphone
- Call 020 8871 8871

Wandsworth Council aims to remove offensive, racist or obscene graffiti within 24 hours and non-obscene graffiti such as tags within three days.

### **6.3.5 Flyposting**

Unauthorised flyers advertising commercial and community events and services regularly appear tied to railings and attached to trees. This practice is unsightly and contributes to a sense of clutter and untidiness in the open space.

Unofficial notices will be removed immediately by Parks and Event Police and *idverde* who regularly visit the site.

A Friends of Wandsworth Park notice-board has been installed near the middle entrance on Putney Bridge Road to publicise relevant park news and their activities.

### **6.3.6 Buildings and Assets**

There are a range of buildings and assets in the open space all of which are managed and maintained by Enable Leisure and Culture or under license to third party operators.

All buildings and assets are surveyed by Enable Leisure and Culture and registered on the Council's database which provides accurate description and enables it to be identified for periodic maintenance visits.

### 6.3.7 Small Works

Small works that are identified in Wandsworth Park are actioned by Enable Leisure and Culture teams via idverde's handyman team.

### 6.3.8 Objectives

1. Ensure high standards of maintenance for play areas, tennis courts, lawns, bedding areas, trees and shrubs, user facilities and park features.
2. Provide adequate facilities for the disposal of visitors' rubbish.
3. Discourage vandalism and graffiti through education, innovative design of facilities and building community alliances.
4. Develop a proactive approach to managing hard assets.
5. Monitor the maintenance programme to ensure improvements can be celebrated and weaknesses addressed.



### 6.3.9 Management Actions

6.3	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 11. Ensure high standards of maintenance for play areas, lawns, bedding areas, trees and shrubs, user facilities and park and water features</b>						
1	Review the 1 <sup>st</sup> years progress made by FOWP in maintain the Display Bed since incepted in March 2018	2019-20	Enable	Staff Time	Parks Revenue	✓
<b>Objective 12. Provide adequate facilities for the disposal of visitors' rubbish and dog waste</b>						
2	Review the capacity of RED Dog Waste bins on site.	Annually	Enable Idverde	Staff Time	Parks Revenue	X
<b>Objective 13. Discourage vandalism and graffiti through education, innovative design of facilities and building community alliances</b>						
3	Encourage corporate and sports club volunteers to help maintain standards in Pavilion changing rooms	2019-20	Enable FOWP Idverde	Staff Time	Parks Revenue Volunteers	✓
<b>Objective 14. Monitor the maintenance program to ensure improvements can be celebrated and weaknesses addressed</b>						
5	Park User satisfaction survey of park facilities	2019-20	Enable FOWP	Staff Time	Parks Revenue Volunteers	X

## 6.4 Achieving a Sustainable Park

Methods used in maintaining the green space and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying on best practice according to current knowledge. Management should be aware of the range of techniques available to them, and demonstrate that informed choices have been made and are regularly reviewed, specifically:

- Environmental Policy and Management Strategy should be in place and reviewed
- Pesticide use must be minimised and justified
- Horticultural peat should be eliminated
- Waste plant material should be recycled on site
- High horticulture and arboriculture should be demonstrated
- Energy Conservation and Pollution Reduction should be used.



**Photograph:** idverde and CRC Probation Teams support the Friends of Wandsworth Park mulching beds at Wandsworth Park with recycled green compost from Battersea Park

### 6.4.1 Background and Issues

#### Policy Context

Parks are the lungs of urban developments. They play a key role in many aspects of sustainability.

Many of Wandsworth Council's environmental policies with regard to protecting local biodiversity, amenity, air, soil and water quality are contained within Wandsworth Local Plan.

Enable Leisure and Culture's Corporate Vision underlines the importance of environmental sustainability in the achievement of the Council's wider objectives which are based on the principles of Reduce, Re-use, and Recycle.

As the ground maintenance for Wandsworth Park is outsourced, most of the implementation of its sustainability policies are built into its contracts for service providers including Waste, Grounds Maintenance, Tree Maintenance and Facilities Management.

idverde, as grounds maintenance contractor, and City and Suburban, as tree maintenance contractor, were chosen as Wandsworth Council's contractors for their similar attitudes to sustainability. Both organisations are ISO 14001 accredited which assures compliance with an approved environmental management system.

Contractors' Environmental Policies are included in Appendix 8.

### 6.4.2 Pesticide and Peat Use

Wherever possible plants will be procured peat free or with reduced peat during plant production.

In keeping with Wandsworth Council's aspirations to reduce the use of chemical treatments and to achieve Green Flag status, alternative methods of weed and pest control are used wherever possible.

The aim is to reduce reliance on chemicals by adopting more ecologically sound methods of pest, disease and weed control. While chemical pesticides may be successful in the short term they can

cause more problems than they solve. Using chemicals is becoming increasingly ineffective and inappropriate for a number of reasons. For example, most pesticides also kill beneficial natural predators which would otherwise eat pests and keep their populations under control. Pests have also become resistant to some pesticides. Chemicals can cause environmental and human health problems.

The use of pesticides has been significantly reduced from all areas of Wandsworth Park. Cultural methods have significantly reduced the need for pesticides by hand weeding, hoeing and mulching within the Park areas.

Chemical treatment for pests and diseases should be the last resort. However some noxious weeds are best managed by chemical treatment to minimise their potential to cause more serious impact, such as Japanese Knotweed where controlled and regulated management is required.

It is important to prevent pest outbreaks rather than treating them as they occur. Plants need to be maintained at peak health, as stressed plants can easily succumb to pests. Many alternatives to chemical control are simply good gardening practice.

### **6.4.3 Weed control**

Keeping mulch topped up is also vital in the fight against weeds. Green waste generated from grounds maintenance operations is taken to the central store at Battersea Park, where it is processed under EA License and used as mulch in Wandsworth Council's parks and open spaces.

### **6.4.4 Arboriculture**

Trees in parks and open spaces are important and their benefits are widely known and listed below:

- Help to give character to a site, contributing to local distinctiveness and the visual amenity.
- Ameliorate environmental extremes by reducing air temperature in summer and increasing air temperature in winter as well as its quality. This intercepts rainfall, slow run-off and reduces the risk of floods.
- Play a crucial role in sequestering the atmospheric carbon dioxide that fuels global warming.
- Encourage wildlife.
- Can be used as an educational resource.
- Provide shelter and shade for park users and are often the largest trees in neighbourhoods.
- May have historic or commemorative value.
- Improve mental and physical health.
- Increase the value of adjacent property (e.g. House prices can be between 10 to 25% higher when near a park).

### **6.4.5 Tree Policy and Management**

The management of the trees takes into account national and local government policies that relate to trees and adheres to legislation affecting trees such as the Highways Act, the Town & Country Planning Act and Health & Safety at Work Act. More information See Section 6.2.7. Policy and principles have been developed to guide the management of trees throughout Wandsworth:

#### **Tree Policy**

- Maintain the existing tree cover in park and open spaces.
- Plan for the replacement of old trees with new tree planting.
- Where appropriate increase tree cover with new tree planting to provide trees for the future.
- Recognise that trees in parks are a valuable wildlife habitat and ensure that tree management contributes to biodiversity.

- Ensure that trees are considered as part of development proposals in parks, or when management plans are created or reviewed, to reflect the importance of trees within the parks.

Trees are important to the character of the Borough's parks. Therefore removal is only an option if it is dead, diseased or dangerous. During new planting schemes the replacement of these trees is made a priority.

Some trees are mature and will soon need replacing. Wandsworth Council will review its tree stock replacement plan to ensure that there is continuity of trees in the Park.



Photograph: The majestic avenue of Limes and dominant London Planes

#### **6.4.6 Biodiversity and Environmental Issues**

Parks and green spaces offer people the opportunity to interact with the outdoor and natural world, and Wandsworth Council works to manage its parks sustainably and in line with the needs of people and wildlife.

Biodiversity is taken into account at the design stage of any parks improvement schemes.

Where appropriate Wandsworth Council will try and increase the diversity of varieties to provide greater interest and wider habitats for wildlife. The immediate environment, landscape and soil conditions are also taken into account. Native species will be used where appropriate.

Trees are not pruned unless strictly necessary and tree work is timed to avoid disturbing wildlife, particularly in the bird nesting season (i.e. no tree work is undertaken from March to September).

#### **6.4.7 Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)**

The London Biodiversity Partnership Species and Habitat Action Plan provides strategic directions for protecting and improving biodiversity and conservation in the Borough.

Wandsworth Park is (locally) a Site of Nature Conservation, but not regionally/nationally, but holds great potential locally in an area of green space deprivation and its large London Planes and Limes have provided important bat roost in the past.

The basal growth on the parallel rows of trees adjacent to the riverside in Wandsworth Park is to be retained during the summer months and not cut back until late autumn/ winter.

Enable investigated Bat usage of the area in 2015 and identified use of the riverside walk and the foreshore by a number of bats species. The results showed us that that bats are dependent on the park for foraging throughout the night and that the treelines in the park are important for them. Following this investigation we now know that the basal growth in particular (being young and sappy) supports a great number of invertebrates which in turn are food for the bats. The basal growth also has a subtle effect on the microclimate which may also be important for bats. Lastly but by no means least, the vegetation affords further screening from light a spill - a feature which is especially valuable at this site, being one of the few remaining dark sky areas along the Thames in central

London.

These features are actively managed on this basis. To prevent the basal growth inadvertently forming a low level hedge effect, it is cut back during winter months only (Dec-Feb) with alternate trees being addressed in alternate years to retain some vestige of the light shield and the microclimate."

#### **6.4.8 Local Development Framework (LDF) / Unitary Development Plan (UDP)**

The LDF has recently superseded the UDP policy but retains the goals of enhancing and improving Wandsworth Council's green spaces as an organisation.

#### **6.4.9 Sustainable use of Vehicles and Machinery**

Vehicle use in Wandsworth Park is kept to a minimum. All machinery used by contract staff in the Park is used correctly and is maintained to a very high standard in line with the contractor's commitment to ISO14001, the Parks Management Strategy 2011-2021, and Parks Maintenance Contract 2013-2021.

Wandsworth Council also encourages its contractors to use plant, machinery, and vehicles which use energy from sustainable sources.

idverde uses Category 4 diesel engines on all vans and uses a tracker system on each vehicle to monitor usage and better track rounds to minimise fuel consumption.

Replacement park furniture and fixtures are made from sustainable and recycled resources where available. The emphasis is on maintaining existing facilities to a high standard to avoid waste.

Water, electricity and gas bills are closely monitored to ensure leaks and inefficiencies are addressed promptly.

#### **6.4.10 Environmental Procurement**

Wandsworth Council promotes financial procurement and seeks suppliers who reduce the global environmental footprint and who are affiliated with accredited schemes such as the Forestry Stewardship Council and Fairtrade.

#### **6.4.11 Water Management**

Wandsworth Park's use of water is minimal.

Much of the formal seasonal bedding in the park has been replaced with more drought resistant varieties of grass, fern and herbaceous perennials.

Irrigation is also kept to the very minimum, with all standpipes and other associated water pipes regularly inspected for leakage.

All standpipes are capped over the winter to prevent damage caused by extreme cold weather conditions.

#### **6.4.12 Objectives**

1. Ensure environmental policies are in place, implemented and reviewed annually.
2. Minimise the use of pesticides on site.
3. Recycle all green waste at central facility at Battersea Park.
4. Review the use of energy, water and other materials on site.

### 6.4.13 Management Actions

6.4	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 16. Ensure environmental policies are in place, implemented and reviewed annually.</b>						
1	Maintain habitats within Wandsworth Park	Annually	Idverde FOWP	Staff Time Volunteer Time	Park Revenue	✓
<b>Objective 17.Reduce on site pesticide use</b>						
2	Monitor and review pesticide usage	Annually	Idverde	Staff Time	Contract com	✓
3	Ensure all mulching of site is completed from Battersea Park Green Waste facility	Winter Works	Idverde	Staff Time	Contract com	✓
<b>Objective 18. Recycle green waste</b>						
4	Where possible wood from arboriculture works are chipped on site for mulching					
5	If the opportunity were to arise we would like to retain standing dead wood for wildlife habitat and to create sculptures within the Park					
<b>Objective 19. Review the use of energy, water and other materials on site</b>						
6	Audit of resource consumption particularly building utilities / vehicles by idverde (ISO 14001 commitment)	Annually	WBC Design Services		Park Revenue	✓

### 6.5 Conservation and Heritage

Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of:

- Natural features, wildlife and flora
- Landscape features
- Building / landscape features

These features should serve their function well without placing undue pressure on the surrounding environment.



*Photograph: Prominent hard and soft landscape features of Wandsworth Park*

### **6.5.1 Background**

Wandsworth Council recognises the importance of conservation and heritage of green spaces to people living in the Borough. The Council pursues policies to protect sites of interest from development, and manages its open spaces with nature conservation and preservation of historic buildings and features in mind.

Wandsworth Park is listed in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens as Grade II. The site has been little altered during the past 115 years and today primarily offers sports facilities for which it was designed.

### **6.5.2 Heritage of Wandsworth Park**

In 1897 the Wandsworth District Board was given the opportunity to buy 19 acres of land between the river bank and the Putney Bridge Road. In partnership with the London County Council the land was bought for £33,000 in December 1898, the London County Council contributing £15,429 and the Wandsworth District Board £11,727, with the rest made up from public subscription.

The purchased site consisted of allotments interspersed with public footpaths with unprotected River to the North and Putney Bridge Road to the South.

The design and construction of Wandsworth Park was under the supervision of Lt Col J.J. Sexby the superintendent of the London County Council Park Department. The first project was the camp shedding of the river frontage, which at the time of purchase was natural river bank exposed to the tidal river. In 1901 softwood piles were driven into the riverbed and backfilled to form a river promenade with iron railings following the piled edge.

In his design for Wandsworth Park, Sexby responded to two key influences at the beginning of this century. Firstly, the increase in maintenance cost and gradual disappearance of the battalions of garden staff that epitomised the Victorian era. Secondly the rise in interest in organised sport from the 1880s onwards, which was just beginning to be accommodated in London's parks.

Sexby's vision for Wandsworth Park consisted of a central 3.5ha (9 acre) playing field bordered by a roughly oval pedestrian path, a condensed form of the carriage drive which had featured prominently in 19<sup>th</sup> century Park design and typified by Battersea Park in 1845.

*Northern Boundary:* Featured a riverside promenade, lined with a single line of London Planes (*Platanus x acerfolia*) and a parallel path to the South, lined with Limes (*Tilia Sp*).

In Sexby's original layout the Park's primary decorative features were concentrated in the South East area of the park. Here he located a sunken area of bedding, ornamental shrubberies and a series of sweeping paths which extended off the formal oval path which surrounded the playing field. Sexby designed the Park with an obvious orientation towards Wandsworth.

The primary bedding display was located in the Eastern corner, as well as the choicest shrubs and tree planting. The Park was formally opened on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February 1903 for the "Use and enjoyment of the people of London forever".

Since the 1903 opening ceremony the history of Wandsworth Park has been unspectacular, leaving its original character intact. A shelter and public convenience in vaguely the romantic vernacular style (popularised by Lutyens) were added in 1910, and in 1920 The Bowls Green Pavilion was added as well as two hard tennis courts: one in the North East corner (now removed) and one just to the South of the public conveniences.

Within the Park the majority of path edging was fenced, with either knee height hoop top railings or waist height horizontal stained wire fence.

### **6.5.3 Ecology and Conservation**

As with all parks and open spaces in the borough, Wandsworth Park is invaluable habitat with a variety of local important features for fauna, and as part of the environmental corridor that open spaces provide across the borough and regionally.

The Park no doubt supports a wide range of wildlife which may go unnoticed by the casual visitor. However, the assessments of wildlife, including bats carried out in 2015, have shown roosts of

Pipistrelles, Greater Horseshoes, Daubentons, Leisler and Noctule bats in Wandsworth Park, which is a handy location to hunt along the Thames.



**Photograph:** Popular Wandsworth Park Bat Walk and TICL Tree Trail

Other more obvious inhabitants are the 200 or more rooks which frequent the Park and roost in the London Planes and Limes along the northern boundary along the Thames, with birds flying between Wandsworth Park, Bishop's Park, and Battersea Park, and making full use of the dominant 26m high tree-lined avenues as hunting spots.

Working with the Friends of Wandsworth Park, Wandsworth Council is keen to enhance the ecology and conservation value in Wandsworth Park and ensure that this is in keeping with the important historical landscape and built environment. Methods include

- Planting more native trees and shrubberies in Wandsworth Park
- More native under planting to increase habitat and feeding opportunities for birds and insects.

There have been numerous improvements to the ecology of the park already. Opportunities for future improvements to the park ecology include:

- Maintaining tree cover in accordance with the tree management and replanting strategy
- Increasing community awareness of ecological issues using interpretation signs
- Continuing to reduce reliance on chemical herbicides and pesticides and using more ecologically sound methods of control
- Making leaf piles that can be used for compost. It is suggested these might be located under mature trees.

#### **6.5.4 Management of Trees**

Enable Parks manages and develops parks, deals with general queries, and monitors the arboriculture contract on behalf of Wandsworth Council.

**Arboriculture** – inspects trees in parks and streets and some Wandsworth Council establishments; manages the arboriculture maintenance contract with City Suburban.

Wandsworth Park has many notable trees of interest. These provide the main structure and form of the open space giving it its unique character which users are familiar with today. Prominent specimens include:

- 31 London Planes (*Platanus x acerifolia*) on the waterfront
- 77 Limes (*Tilia Sp*) on the Northern edge of the playing fields.

Generally the age structure of the trees in Wandsworth Park is good and only minor tree planting is needed to ensure a varied age profile of tree.

Following the storm of 1987 which damaged a considerable number of trees in Wandsworth Park a lot of new trees were planted in the Park, mainly in the eastern edge.

It is important that the grandeur of the 1903 scheme should not be diluted by the introduction of inappropriate trees. Wandsworth Council's Tree Strategy ensures the correct decisions are made linked to the important landscape history of Wandsworth Park.

### 6.5.5 Objectives

1. Protect and enhance the biodiversity value of Wandsworth Park.
2. Conserve the historic character, design, layout, and relationship to surrounding environment.
3. Educate the public on the habitats, species and features of the nature conservation area around the open space.

### 6.5.6 Management Actions

6.5	Description	When	Who	Budget (£000)	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 20. Protect and Enhance the Biodiversity value of the park</b>						
1	To promote biodiversity and nature conservation while sympathetically managing the existing landscape where opportunities arise					
2	Encourage Flora and Fauna in line with London BAP targets	March 2018	FOWP	£3K	FOWP & Parks Revenue	✓
<b>Objective 21. Conserve the character, design, layout and relationship to the surrounding environment</b>						
3	To ensure any new planting is sympathetic to the surrounding environment of the Park and is in keeping with the existing structure of the Park	March 2018	FOWP	£3K	FOWP & Parks Revenue	✓
<b>Objective 22. Educate the public on the habitat, species and features of the nature conservation area of Wandsworth Park OS</b>						
4	Improve publicity of local environmental initiatives in or around Wandsworth Park	Tree Trail Bat Walks	Enable FOWP	£1K	FOWP & Parks Revenue	✓

## 6.6 Community Involvement

Park management authorities should actively pursue the involvement of members of the community, with representation of as many park user groups as possible.

Management should be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of the user community and levels and pattern of use;
- Evidence of community involvement in park management and / or development and results achieved; and
- That there are appropriate levels of provision or recreational facilities for all sectors of the community.



**Photograph:** Recent Friends of Wandsworth Park Events & Activities in Wandsworth Park

### 6.6.1 Background and Issues

Wandsworth Park is a well-loved community asset with local residents, schools, sports clubs, commuters, office workers, and societies all actively using the space throughout the working week and weekend for active and passive recreational pursuits.

### 6.6.2 Community involvement

Enable Parks manages and develops parks, deals with general queries and monitors the grounds maintenance, arboriculture and sports pitch bookings contracts on behalf of Wandsworth Council.

Part of Enable Parks' Development function is to plan improvements to parks, liaise with Friends groups and raise funding to support improvements to parks.

The Friends of Wandsworth Park (FOWP) is the most recent Friends of Parks group to be established in Wandsworth and the group were formally constituted in February 2015.

The group's Objectives are below.

*"The objective of the Friends shall be for the public benefit to secure the preservation, protection and improvement of Wandsworth Park ("the Park") as a place of historic and ecological interest, beauty, rest and recreation; to promote the conservation of the natural plant, animal and bird life of the Park, and in particular, its retention as a semi-natural habitat for wildlife; and to educate the public in the history, natural history and other aspects of the Park and to meet the needs of users of the Park."*

In line with the group's constitution and agreed objectives the FOWP have been working hard with Enable Parks' Development Officer to take an active part in supporting Wandsworth Park over the last 4 years, including;

- Establishing regular meetings
- Establishing roles and responsibilities of the FOWP members
- Growing the membership to 120 members
- Establishing a Tree Trail app for the Park
- Agreeing a Service Level Agreement to take on the management and maintenance of the planting beds in the South Eastern Quadrant of the Park
- Agreeing a Service Level Agreement to take on the management and maintenance of the River Terrace Garden



**Photograph:** Corporate volunteers from Apple Europe working hard at Wandsworth Park ahead of the company's move from UK Global HQ to Battersea Power Station in 2021

Enable Development and the FOWP support continued community involvement through:

- The provision of information to them about activities, features and ways to get involved
- The provision of information to users about changes in the Park or to management strategies that might affect them
- The involvement of members of the community who represent as many park user groups as possible
- The development of community partnerships through outreach, events and volunteering programmes encompassing local schools, community groups and businesses
- Continued to develop a formal Friends Group to pro-actively create a cohesive group, representative of the local population
- Active promotion of the use of the Park as a community, educational, ecological, sporting and recreational resource for the whole community
- A customer focused quality open space service
- The development of regular events for and with the community.

### **6.6.3 Stakeholders and Volunteers**

Wandsworth Park is a well-used community facility that provides opportunities for local people to take part in a number of open space activities. The support of local people, user groups, partners and other stakeholders is recognised by the Council as fundamental to the success of the facility as a safe, healthy, clean and sustainably managed open space.

The Friends of Wandsworth Park is the principal stakeholder group for the site. It is a well-established group which has been the focal point for community engagement in the Park.

There are also other stakeholders and volunteers in the Wandsworth Park area who are involved (directly and indirectly) in the use, management and promotion of the Park. Wandsworth Council is seeking to further develop partnership opportunities including:

- Local ward councillors; Cllr John Locker, Cllr Michael Ryder, Cllr Rosemary Torrington
- Recreational and Sports Organisations; Regular football and cricket teams
- Educational establishments; schools and colleges that use the sports facilities
- Local businesses; Relationships with Apple Europe (regular corporate volunteers)
- Community and voluntary groups; Hands on London Volunteer Brokers
- Police and Community Safety Agencies; Thamesfield Police and SNT Team.

### **6.6.4 Park User Consultations**

Enable Parks' Development Team are currently developing updates to the existing 2004 management plans for Wandsworth Park. Whilst an informal revision was made in 2014, this was not formally adopted but does contain more current and relevant information.

Wandsworth Council consults the community in a variety of ways including carrying out events where people can contribute ideas for planting, and encouraging people to contact them by letter, telephone or email.

Enable is working on launching the Park Roadshow events during the "Keep Britain Tidy's Love parks week (24th July -2nd August 2019)", involving key partners and contractors to showcase what goes on behind the scenes to keep parks and greenspaces in the borough of Wandsworth looking great

Wandsworth Council also encourages people to use their online reporting systems to report a problem using the Wandsworth Council 'Report It' app

**Wandsworth Report It** makes it easier for anyone to report problems like fly tipping, graffiti and other environmental issues. Users reporting problems through Wandsworth Report It receive an email notifying them of the timescales in which they can expect the problem to be resolved.

A report can be made in four easy steps:

1. See the problem and take a photo
2. Check the location (which is detected for you automatically)
3. Write a description of the problem or add further details
4. Pick a report category, and submit.

### Feedback and Complaints

Wandsworth Council is aware that general enquiries and feedback are essential to the process of ensuring services and facilities meet public expectation.

#### How to make a comment or a suggestion

If parks users are happy with the service they have received, or have a suggestion about how Wandsworth Council can improve its service, it would like to receive feedback. This can be done via its [complaint, comment or a suggestion](#) form.

#### How to make a complaint

Complaints about the service can be made to a member staff or with one of the Reception Managers.

Complaints, comments or suggestions can also be made online. Wandsworth Council's target to respond to complaints is 10 working days.

You can read Wandsworth Council's guide to its complaints procedure on its website.

### 6.6.5 Objectives

1. Work closely with existing stakeholders and partners to address local residents' needs, aspirations and concerns and encourage a sense of ownership.
2. Identify potential users and encourage them to participate in the development and management of the Park.
3. Consult the wider Wandsworth Council community about future plans, proposals and current projects in the Park.
4. Provide support to the Friends of Wandsworth Park to ensure support for capacity building within the group.
5. Foster closer relationships with local schools and other institutions.
6. Encourage a complementary working relationship between the council and community volunteers.

### 6.6.6 Management Actions

6.6	Description	When	Who	Budget	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 23. Work closely with existing stakeholders and partners to address local residents' needs, aspirations and concerns and encourage a sense of ownership</b>						
1	Establish SLA with FOWP to take on management of Display Beds Establish SLA with FOWP to take on management of the Thames Side Terrace Garden	2017-18	Enable FOWP	Staff Time	Parks Revenue	✓

6.6	Description	When	Who	Budget	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 24. Identify users and encourage them to participate in the development and management of the Park</b>						
2	Work with FOWP to ensure the group is truly representative of the community it speaks for	Annually	Enable	Staff time	Parks Revenue	✓
<b>Objective 25. Consult the wider Wandsworth Park community about future plans, proposals and current projects in the Park</b>						
3	Work with other community organisations in the area. Establish weekly CRC tasking to tackle Riverside Railings	2019	Enable FOWP Idverde	£2K	Contract Support	✓
<b>Objective 26. Provide support to Friends of Wandsworth Park OS to ensure successful grant applications for improvements</b>						
4	Work with FOWP to support their grant applications for Drinking Fountain	2019	Enable Idverde	£6K	Park Revenue Contract Support	X
<b>Objective 27. Foster closer relationships with local schools and institutions</b>						
5	Develop more formal collaboration with local schools on request	2018-19	FOWP	£1K	Volunteer Time	✓
<b>Objective 28. Encourage a complementary working relationship between the Council and community volunteers</b>						
6	Develop new ways of promoting and supporting volunteer work days with idverde 'Get Volunteering'. Hands on London to support projects in Wandsworth Park	2018-19	Idverde	Staff Time	Contract Support	✓
<b>Objective 29: Establish "Love Parks Week" Park Roadshow at a key Wandsworth Park Open Space or Common each year to showcase what goes on behind the scenes.</b>						
7	"Love Parks Week" Roadshow @ Wandsworth Park	2019	Enable	Staff Time	Contract Support	✓

## 6.7 Marketing

Is there:

- A marketing strategy in place? Is it in practice and regularly reviewed?
- Good provision of information to park users
- Effective promotion of the park as a community resource.



Screen Grabs: Wandsworth Council, Enable Leisure & Culture, Friends of Wandsworth Park

### 6.7.1 Background and Issues

Wandsworth Park is currently marketed, along with Wandsworth Council's other parks and leisure facilities, through the following web pages:

#### Wandsworth Council Parks and Open Spaces page

[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/parks](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/parks)

Twitter: @wandbc

#### Enable Leisure & Culture Parks page

[www.enablelc.org/parks/about/](http://www.enablelc.org/parks/about/)

Twitter: @EnableParks

#### Friends of Wandsworth Park page

[www.friendsofwandsworthpark.com/](http://www.friendsofwandsworthpark.com/)

Twitter: @WandsworthPark

Other means of marketing facilities and events within Wandsworth Park include on-site signage and notice boards, and pamphlets available in libraries and community facilities.

Word of mouth is also important. Marketing of the Park currently concentrates on effective signage leading potential users to the Park and the promotion of specific events and sports facilities availability on site.

The Enable Leisure & Culture Marketing and Communication Manager is Amy Curtis

Tel: 020 8871 5686

Email: [ACurtis@enablelc.org](mailto:ACurtis@enablelc.org)

To view news feeds from Enable Leisure & Culture view link: [www.enablelc.org/news/](http://www.enablelc.org/news/)

### 6.7.2 Events and activities

Wandsworth Park hosted the following events in 2017-18:

- Tea Party on the Terrace **9<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

- Batty for Bats Bat Walk with Barnaby Coleman **29<sup>th</sup> September 2017**
- National Tree Week Tree planting event with The Roche School and Brandlehow school **5<sup>th</sup> December 2017**
- Friends bed mulching with CRC Probation **22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018**
- Brandlehow Run (WWP) – **29 March 2018**
- Friends Bed Plant Out with Apple Europe Volunteers **2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018**
- Launch Explore The Tree app @ Wandsworth Park **12<sup>th</sup> May 2018**
- Chelsea Fringe Great Wellie Competition Judging MP Justine Greening **25<sup>th</sup> May 2018**
- Putney Riverside over the Centuries talk Wandsworth Heritage Festival **30<sup>th</sup> May 2018**
- Cats Grin Theatre presents 'The Wind in the Willows' **10th June 2018**
- Friends of Wandsworth Park AGM **3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018**
- Lula Cinema @ Putt In The Park Café **25-26 July 2018**
- Drakes Funfair **2 August – 12 August 2018**

### **6.7.3 Signage and Information**

All corporate signage in Wandsworth Park follows the same corporate layout as signage in all parks and open spaces in Wandsworth.

Enable Leisure and Culture has installed a noticeboard in Wandsworth Park for the Friends of Wandsworth Park so that community information can be displayed and up-coming friend's events and meetings advertised.

### **6.7.4 Marketing and Communication Plan**

The Enable Parks Marketing and Communication Plan is available on request.

Key objectives of the plan are:

- To increase the responsible usage of Wandsworth Council's parks and open spaces by providing timely and accurate information about parks and open spaces, their features and facilities, and their management;
- To effectively advertise events in Wandsworth Council's parks and open spaces and attract other activities appropriate to the Park and surrounding community;
- To promote positive news about the parks and open spaces to a wide audience through use of traditional and social media;
- To ensure all parks staff and volunteers receive adequate marketing training;
- To regularly review customer satisfaction with the condition of equipment and facilities within Wandsworth Council's parks and open spaces.

### **6.7.5 Objectives**

1. Implement Borough-wide parks Marketing Strategy for parks, open spaces and commons across Wandsworth.
2. Provide information about the Park in a variety of media, both on and off site
3. Actively promote the features and facilities of the park and encourage community ownership.

### 6.7.6 Marketing Actions

6.7	Description	When	Who	Budget	Source	Secured
<b>Objective 29. Implement Borough Wide Park Marketing Strategy</b>						
1	Benchmark other Authorities' park marketing strategies	Annually	Enable	Staff Time	Events Budget	✓
<b>Objective 30. Provide information about the Park in a variety of media both on and off site</b>						
2	Display local relevant information about park matters on Wandsworth, Enable, FOWP, Contractors web pages and social media	Annually	WBC Enable FOWP Idverde	Staff Time	Parks Revenue	✓
<b>Objective 31. Actively promote the features and facilities of the Park and encourage community ownership</b>						
3	Ensure continuity of promotion between Wandsworth Council, Enable Leisure & Culture and Friends of Wandsworth Park message					

## 6.8 Management

A Green Flag site must have a Management Plan.

It must set out the balance between all the priorities, policies and partners that apply to a particular green space. It should establish a timescale for putting the objectives into practice. It should also identify the contribution the site is making towards an area's wider strategic aims. It must be actively implemented and regularly reviewed.

### 6.8.1 Current Status and Issues

Wandsworth Park is owned by Wandsworth Council.

The Park is managed by Enable Leisure and Culture (ELC), a not-for-profit organization registered with the Charity Commission.

Enable Leisure and Culture was established in October 2015 to provide leisure and cultural services for the benefit of local communities. ELC's responsibilities to its client, Wandsworth Council, include arts and culture, bereavement, events, filming, leisure and sports, parks, public halls, Putney School of Art and Design, and the management of the Parks and Events Police.

This Management Plan for Wandsworth Park has been developed to advance the aspirations of Wandsworth Borough Council and those of our local communities.

The Management Plan has been developed around the commitment to the objectives of Green Flag Award which is the key to the implementation of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

It provides a clear and coordinated management strategy based on the characteristics of the site and the communities that use it. It will be a living document, which will be updated annually.

#### Arboriculture – Management of Trees

Trees in the Borough's parks open spaces and commons are managed by the Enable Arboriculture Team.

The diversity of types of trees and their habitats mean that they are managed in different ways. The tree stock is managed to ensure that all individual or groups of trees are kept in a safe condition.

Consideration is given to Health and Safety foremost but environmental and visual considerations are important factors in the management of this valuable resource.

The management of the trees takes into account national and local government policies that relate to trees, and adheres to legislation affecting trees such as the Highways Act, the Town & Country Planning Act, and the Health & Safety at Work Act.

### **Tree Inspections/Surveys**

The Council fulfils its legal obligations to regularly inspect and maintain trees in public places by carrying out a full survey of all trees in parks bi-annually.

There are also more frequent, less detailed inspections in areas of higher public use such as along footpaths and around sports pitches and play areas.

A contracted tree inspection was last carried out in Wandsworth Park in 2015 and all works recommend are subsequently carried out.



Friends of Wandsworth Park actively engage with Community Payback and Corporate Volunteers to further activities in Wandsworth Park.

### **6.8.2 Objectives**

1. To continue to bid for capital, Section 106 and CIL funding toward improvements. When it is available, it will be allocated on a basis of priorities for improvements.
2. Ensure sufficient budget allocated to maintain the park to the standards of this Management Plan.
3. Encourage greater community ownership and involvement in the management of the Park and to promote responsible use.

### **6.8.3 Management Actions**

<b>6.8</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Budget (£)</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Secured</b>
<b>To continue to bid for Capital, Section 106 and CIL funding for money toward improvements. When it is available, it will be allocated on a basis of priorities for improvements</b>						
1	Cost out list of priority Capital Projects for Wandsworth Park	Annually	Enable FOWP	Staff Time	Parks Revenue Contract support	✓
2	Capacity build with Friends of Wandsworth Park to support funding application for projects	Annually	Enable FOWP Idverde	Staff Time	Parks Revenue Contract support	✓
<b>Ensure sufficient budget allocated to maintain the park to the standards of this Management Plan</b>						
3	Work with FOWP to agree specification of maintenance for the Friends Planted Beds and River Terrace	208-19	Enable FOWP Idverde	Staff Volunteer Time	Parks Revenue Contract support	✓

## **7 Monitoring and Plan Review**

This management plan has been adopted in 2019 and will act as a working document for the management of Wandsworth Park over a ten-year period.

The day-to-day management of the Park and the progress of individual development projects will be monitored regularly with Wandsworth Council, the Friends of Wandsworth Park, idverde, and other stakeholders.

The Action Targets presented in this Management Plan are reviewed annually in October/ November with stakeholders and updated to reflect recent developments. Information and Identified action areas will inform the budget process in December.

A formal review of this Management Plan will be undertaken in 2021 when the Plan will be amended to advance the development and management of the Park in line with the Parks Maintenance Contract 2013-2021.

## 8 References

- Wandsworth Council Core Strategy, adopted March 2016
- Wandsworth Council Development Management Policies Document (DMPD), adopted March 2016
- Wandsworth Council Site Specific Allocations Document (SSAD), adopted March 2016
- Wandsworth Council Policies Map, adopted March 2016
- The London Plan, adopted March 2015
- Wandsworth Council Open Spaces Study 2006
- Wandsworth Council Playing Pitch Strategy
- Wandsworth Council Play Strategy
- Wandsworth Council Tree Strategy
- London Biodiversity Partnership Species and Habitat Action Plans
- Wandsworth Council Parks Management Strategy 2011-2020
- Wandsworth Council Parks Maintenance Contract 2013-2021

## 9 Appendices

All of the below appendices will be made available to Green Flag Judges on the day of judging visit.

APPENDIX 1:	Strategy Plan for Wandsworth Park 1995
APPENDIX 2:	Management and Maintenance Plan Wandsworth Park 2004
APPENDIX 3:	Grounds Maintenance Annual Schedule of Works
APPENDIX 4:	Tree Survey & Tree Management Plan
APPENDIX 5:	Enable Leisure & Culture Park Management Structure
APPENDIX 6:	Park Byelaws
APPENDIX 7:	Contractor Health and Safety Policy
APPENDIX 8:	Contractor Environmental Sustainability Policy
APPENDIX 9:	Playground Inspection
APPENDIX 10:	Asset Condition Survey Park Buildings
APPENDIX 11:	Crime statistics 2018-19
APPENDIX 12:	Friends of Wandsworth Park Activities 2018-19
APPENDIX 13:	Events 2019-20