

Royal Greenwich

Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

Action Plan 2018 - 2023

Royal Greenwich Parks and Open Spaces Strategy – Action Plan 2018 -2023

Theme I: Parks Management

Aim: Ensuring our parks and open spaces are well managed, in good condition and are safe to use

| Ref | Action | Responsibility | Timescale | Resources | Key Stakeholders |
|-----|--|--|---|--|---|
| 1.1 | To improve performance and monitoring of park cleansing and grounds maintenance by the introduction of robust systems and processes. | PEOS Management Team | Continuous Review | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets | PEOS Management Team and PEOS staff |
| 1.2 | We will implement a monthly inspection schedule aimed at highlighting hazards and repairs for attention in all our Parks and Open Spaces sites. | Operational Teams/ Strategy & Development Team | April 2018 | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets, DRES Maintenance Budgets, External Funding, S106 & CIL | Directorate of Regeneration Enterprise & Skills (DRES) & Park Friend Groups |
| 1.3 | To improve accessibility we will introduce an ongoing review of paths and access points in our parks and open spaces to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring our parks are safe and welcoming to all residents. | Park Ranger and Strategy & Development Teams | Annual Review | DRES, Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets, External Funding, S106 & CIL | DRES & Park Friend Groups |
| 1.4 | Delivery of regeneration projects in our Parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rockliffe Gardens – Continued landscape improvements & pond restoration • Queenscroft Park – Boating pond conversion into wildlife pond • St.Alfege Park – Landscape improvements including playground • Plumstead Gardens – Flood prevention & landscape improvements. | Strategy & Development and Communities & Cultural Services Teams | June 2018 May 2019 May 2019 2020 -2021 | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets, External funding, S106 & CIL | DRES & Park Friend Groups |
| 1.5 | To ensure our parks are kept to a nationally recognised standard by maintaining the 12 Green Flag Awards and encourage and support Park Friends Groups to seek Community Green Flag Awards. | Grounds Maintenance, Park Ranger and Communities & Cultural Services Teams | On-going | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces and DRES Maintenance Team Budgets | DRES & Park Friend Groups |

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Theme 2: Community Engagement

Aim: To ensure we actively engage and work in partnership with local residents to provide good quality parks that meet the need of the local community.

| Ref | Action | Responsibility | Timescale | Resources | Key Stakeholders |
|-----|---|---|----------------------|---|---|
| 2.1 | <p>We believe that we need to modernise the way Parks and Open Spaces interact with the community and to do this we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update the Parks web pages on the Royal Borough of Greenwich website. Create a forward thinking Communications plan with the aim of further interaction with the wider community. Create a parks twitter account | Communities & Cultural Services Team | 2018 - 2019 | Communities & Cultural Services and Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Team Budgets | PEOS Management, Communications and Web teams Greenwich Parks Forum and Park Friends Groups |
| 2.2 | <p>We are continually seeking ways to make online booking systems more efficient and easier to navigate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current system is being reviewed and if necessary redesigned to meet the current and future needs of customers to make bookings in our parks e.g. tennis courts, pitch bookings, meetings rooms, educational / Maryon Wilson Animal Park visits | Sport and Leisure Commissioning, Communities & Cultural Services Business Support Teams | 2018 - 2019 | Communities and Cultural Services and Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budget | Communications and Web Teams Community Engagement, Sport and Leisure Commissioning Team, |
| 2.3 | <p>We will work with existing Friends Groups and the Greenwich Parks Forum to review our constitutions and develop a Friends Charter to help guide our joint working.</p> <p>We will support the development of new Park Friends Groups.</p> | Communities and Cultural Services Team | 2018 On-going | Communities and Cultural Services Team and Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets | Park Friends, Greenwich Parks Forum, Community Groups and Residents |
| 2.4 | <p>We believe that it is essential to involve young people in the decisions that we make regarding our open spaces and will actively engage at Young Peoples Better Together meetings. We are also committed to running a pilot 'Young Friends' scheme in one of our parks and help this feed into our work with friends groups across the borough.</p> | Communities and Cultural Services Team | 2018 - 2019 | Communities and Cultural Services Team and Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budget | Young residents, Children's Services, Young Peoples Council, Schools, Greenwich Parks Forum and Park Friends Groups |

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| 2.5 | Our Parks Friends groups play a crucial role in the improvement of our Parks and Open Spaces. We will commit to helping all affiliated groups ,with offering training on preparing funding applications, identifying suitable funding streams and providing advice and support with funding applications to take proposals agreed with RBG forward. | Communities & Cultural Services Team | June 2018 and onwards | Communities & Cultural Services and Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budget | Greenwich Parks Forum, Park Friends, Community Groups and GAVS |

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Theme 3: Nature and Biodiversity

Aim: Ensuring that areas and habitats are provided for wildlife and that we protect them from inappropriate development

| Ref | Action | Responsibility | Timescale | Resources | Key Stakeholders |
|-----|--|--|-------------|---|--|
| 3.1 | We are fortunate to have a Greenwich Parks Forum, active Friends Groups and a Greenwich Wildlife Advisory Group. We will use their knowledge and expertise and will ensure that our priorities are based on priorities that are important to the community. In order to help improve our partnership working with regards to bio-diversity in our parks, we will formalise the process for these groups to feed into our future plans. | Communities and Cultural Services and Strategy & Development Teams | 2018 - 2019 | Communities and Cultural Services and Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budget | DRES Sustainability Team, Greenwich Parks Forum, Park Friends Groups, Greenwich Wildlife Advisory Group (GWAG) and Residents |
| 3.2 | We are passionate about improving the maintenance of our SSSI and SINC sites and commit to crucial conservation and maintenance works including restoration work on the Twinkle Park Pond in partnership with the Twinkle Park Trust by 2018. We have also identified the need to ensure that our SSSI and SINC locations are promoted to residents of the Royal Borough. | Strategy & Development and Communities & Cultural Services Teams | 2018 - 2020 | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces and Communities and Cultural Services Team Budgets, External Funding, S106 and CIL | DRES, Natural England, RBG Communications Team, Greenwich Parks Forum, Park Friends Groups, GWAG, Residents, |
| 3.3 | We believe our Parks are an important educational resource and to ensure this continues, we are committed to providing online tree trails that schools, groups and the public can download online and follow at a range of parks across the Borough. | Communities and Cultural Services & Tree Management Teams | 2018 - 2019 | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budget, External Funding, and S106 | Web and Communications Teams, Children's Services, Schools, Greenwich Parks Forum and Park Friends Groups |
| 3.4 | To continue to grow the number of sites registered in the borough as having an important scientific or geological interest, we will be applying for Locally Important Geological Site designation for Vanbrugh Pits in Blackheath. | Strategy & Development Team | 2018 - 2019 | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budget | DRES Sustainability Team and London Biodiversity Group |

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| 3.5 | <p>We are committed to helping deliver specific bio-diversity projects in our parks. By 2020 we will have undertaken the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A replacement tree programme in Sutcliffe Park • Provide educational information for nature and biodiversity at Gilbert’s Pit, The Tarn and Eltham Park North and installing interpretation signage. • The creation of a new wild flower conservation area in Queenscroft Park • An ecological survey on our key conservation grass areas to ensure that they are being managed in a way that supports wildlife and bio-diversity • Review the maintenance regimes at all of our sites to identify opportunities for new conservation areas | Strategy & Development , and Grounds Maintenance Teams | <p>2017 - 2018</p> <p>2018 - 2019</p> <p>2019 - 2020</p> <p>2019 - 2020</p> <p>2019 - 2020</p> | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budget, External Funding, S106 and CIL | Greenwich Parks Forum, Park Friends Groups, GWAG, London Geodiversity Group, Residents and Natural England |
| 3.6 | <p>We are proud to be supporting Greenwich Schools establish Forest Schools within our parks and will work with Wide Horizons (Eltham). To strengthen this link we will formalise these agreements and will support and commit to helping at least 5 more schools establish Forest Schools within our Parks and Open Spaces.</p> | Communities and Cultural Services and Strategy & Development Teams | On-going | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budget | Wide Horizons (Eltham), Children’s Services, Schools and Park Friends Groups |

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Theme 4: Environmental Management

Aim: Maximise resource efficiency by increasing recycling opportunities, establish better use of essential energy sources and controlling the use of pesticides and chemicals

| Ref | Action | Responsibility | Timescale | Resources | Key Stakeholders |
|-----|--|--|--|--|---|
| 4.1 | We are committed to recycling as much of our green waste as possible and as part of this we will offer mulch, made from our recycled green waste, free of charge to allotment tenants within the Borough. | Grounds Maintenance Team | On-going | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets | Allotment holders and community groups |
| 4.2 | We will update the Environmental Management System to the new ISO 14001:2015 standard to ensure our horticultural and arboricultural services continue to minimise waste and control the use of pesticides and fuel. | Strategy & Development, Grounds & Tree Maintenance & Teams | June 2018 | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets | Friends Forum, Park Friends Groups and residents |
| 4.3 | We will ensure that all of our staff are fully trained and educated on sustainability and environmental awareness and have a good understanding of our Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). | Grounds & Tree Maintenance Teams and Park Rangers Team | 2018 - 2019 | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets | Parks management and staff, Human Resources and Hadlow College |
| 4.4 | We will support delivery of the Mayor of London Plans and Air Quality Strategies. We will encourage sustainable travel by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not allowing event visitor parking on our green spaces Providing details of public transport, the Green Chain walk and Cycle Network Maps on the Greenwich Website for all of our parks. Reviewing opportunities to install 'cycle parking' in 5 of our sites most regularly used by commuters. Working in partnership with colleagues in Highways to create new cycle paths in our Parks. | Strategy & Development Team | On-going 2018 - 2019 2018 - 2020 On-going | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets and LIP Funding | DRES Highways and Transport Teams, Communications and Web Teams, Greenwich Parks Forum, Park Friends Groups and residents |

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| 4.5 | We understand the effect that development and improvement work has on the Borough's environment. To help offset this, we will initiate five projects across our parks every year that have a positive effect on the environment and we will publicise these projects in the community. | Strategy & Development Team | On-going | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets | DRES, Greenwich Parks Forum, Park Friends Groups and residents |

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Theme 5: Recreation, health and wellbeing

Aim: To ensure that parks provide spaces for active recreation and quiet reflection and contribute to the health and well-being of the local community

| Ref | Action | Responsibility | Timescale | Resources | Key Stakeholders |
|-----|---|---|-------------|--|--|
| 5.1 | <p>Our Parks can make an important contribution in combatting inactivity in the Borough and we will review our current sports and recreational facilities and will create a programme of priority improvements to help encourage residents to be more active.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a Tennis Court audit • Work with LTA / London Sport on demographic insight relating to increasing participation of tennis in parks • Following audit and insight research, identifying priority facilities, working with tennis providers and seeking additional external funding resources for improvement of facilities | PEOS Management and Sports and Leisure Commissioning Teams | 2017 - 2018 | External Funding, S106, CIL, Public Health, Sports and Leisure Commissioning Team and Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets | Public Health, Sports Commissioning Team, LTA, Sport England, Sports Clubs, University of Greenwich, Third Party providers, Parks Friend Groups, Greenwich Parks Forum and residents |
| 5.2 | <p>We will support the delivery of priority one in the Health and Well Being Action plan, namely</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Physical Health – providing an environment, services and support to enable people of all ages to eat good, healthy food and to be physically active in their daily lives • We will develop and implement an Allotments Strategy, support existing community food growing groups and encourage new opportunities for food growing in appropriate locations. • Working with Park Run which currently takes place in Avery Hill, expand to other parks across the borough | Public Health, Sport and Leisure Commissioning Team, PEOS Management Team | 2018 - 2020 | Public Health, Sports and Leisure Commissioning and Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets | Sports and Leisure Commissioning Team, Park Run, Run Together, University of Greenwich, Third Party providers, Parks Friend Groups, Greenwich Parks Forum and Allotment Groups |

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|-----|---|---|--------------------|---|--|
| 5.3 | <p>As identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy 2015, support the development of new facilities in Charlton Park where there is an identified need and associated funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the playing pitch areas Potential refurbishment /remodelling of current pavilion | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces, Sport and Leisure Commissioning Teams and DRES, | 2018 – 2023 | Public Health, Sports and Leisure Commissioning Team and Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets, S106, CIL and External Funding | DRES, Sports and Leisure Commissioning Team, Sport England, Sports Clubs, University of Greenwich, Third Party providers, Parks Friend Groups, Greenwich Parks Forum |
| 5.4 | We want to improve the suitability and accessibility of our park play areas in the Borough. We will carry out an annual audit of all our park playground facilities in the Borough and commit to the improvement of 1 play facility every year. | Strategy Development & Park Ranger Teams | April 2018 onwards | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets, S106, CIL and External Funding | Children and young people, Schools, Public Health, Park Friends Groups |
| 5.5 | We are committed to making our Parks and Open Spaces 'Breastfeeding Friendly'. We will be working with the Public Health and Wellbeing Team to ensure that our sites and the businesses located within them are encouraging and welcoming to this initiative. | Communities and Cultural Services, Strategy & Development Teams and Public Health | 2018 - 2019 | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces and Public Health | Public Health, local residents, local businesses |
| 5.6 | Parks and Open Spaces have an important role to play in supporting mental wellbeing within the borough by providing quiet spaces for reflection and relaxation. We will work with local mental health trusts and community groups to develop at least 3 areas within sites with this specific focus. | Communities and Cultural Services and Strategy & Development Teams | 2019 - 2021 | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets, S106, CIL and External Funding | Public Health, Oxleas and Other Mental Health Trusts, Parks Friend Groups and Greenwich Parks Forum |

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Theme 6: Regeneration and local economy

Aim: To ensure that our parks are attractive to visitors and encourage enterprise and employment of local people

| Ref | Action | Responsibility | Timescale | Resources | Key Stakeholders |
|-----|--|--|--------------|---|--|
| 6.1 | In order to help grow local business and make the best use of all our facilities, we will complete a feasibility study for renovating disused park buildings and look into alternative options for their use. | Strategy and Development Team and DRES Property Services | January 2018 | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets, S106, CIL and External Funding | DRES and Small Local Businesses |
| 6.2 | We want to involve the community in our service and help to improve the lives and career opportunities of local people. We will ensure that we: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer at least three apprenticeships to local people every year • Offer at least four work experience placements for pupils from Greenwich Schools/Colleges every year • Offer ten GLLaB placements each year (during the life of the programme) | PEOS Management Team | On-going | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets | RBG HR, Greenwich Schools/Colleges, DRES, GLLaB Local residents and Local businesses |
| 6.3 | We will carry out a review and identify potential sites to develop and trial the implementation of 'pop up café' pitches. To achieve this we will work in partnership with the Good Food in Greenwich Network, the GCDA and local businesses in at least three of our Parks and Open Spaces that do not have Café's. | Strategy and Development Team | 2018 - 2020 | External | DRES, GCDA, GSPLus, Park users and Local businesses |
| 6.4 | In order to increase the number of visitors to Maryon Wilson Animal Park, we will develop an Improvement Plan to increase the number of tours, improve the experience for visitors and investigate ways in which we can ensure its sustainable future. We will also continue to work with Hadlow College to provide work experience placements for their students that also provides benefits for the running of the animal park, | PEOS Management Team | 2018 - 2020 | Parks, Estates & Open Spaces Budgets, S106, CIL, External Funding and Sponsorship | Hadlow College, Park Friends Group, Local community and Third party partners |

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Theme 7: Culture and heritage

Aim: To ensure our parks are well designed, are places for culture and that their heritage is preserved and celebrated

| Ref | Action | Responsibility | Timescale | Resources | Key Stakeholders |
|-----|--|--|-------------|--|---|
| 7.1 | <p>We will support the use of our parks for cultural events and activities and help support the Borough's Cultural Sector.</p> <p>We will undertake a review of our events policy to ensure there is consistency for event bookings across the Borough.</p> | Communities and Cultural Services and PEOS Management Teams | On-going | Events Team Budget, External Funding | Parks, Estates and Open Spaces, Communications/Events & Licencing Teams, G&DF, Local Cultural Organisations, Schools, Greenwich Parks Forum and Park Friends Groups |
| 7.2 | We will work with partner organisations to preserve our heritage assets and features in our parks and open spaces. | Strategy & Development Team | On-going | Parks, Estates and Open Spaces and DRES Budgets, S106, CIL, External Funding | DRES, Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust, English Heritage Greenwich parks Forum and Park Friends Groups |
| 7.3 | We will work in partnership with the Royal Borough Heritage Trust and will update the information we hold on heritage assets, historic monuments and war memorials on the Royal Borough's website to heighten the visitor experience and encourage more residents to learn about the local history of parks in their area. | Strategy & Development Communities & Cultural Services Teams | 2018 - 2019 | Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Budgets | RBG Webteam and Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust |
| 7.4 | We want to help preserve our open spaces and will obtain 'Fields In Trust' protection for at least two of our parks and open spaces and we will be dedicating our first site as a 'Centenary Field' to commemorate those who lost their lives in World War I. | Strategy & Development Team | 2018 - 2019 | Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Budgets | Fields in Trust and Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust |