

SOCIAL SPACES

A PARKS STRATEGY FOR HACKNEY

INDICATIVE ACTION PLAN 2008/2009 to 2012/2013

The Council recognises and acknowledges the valuable contribution made by Parks User Groups, the Hackney Parks Forum and other voluntary and community groups in the development of Hackney's Parks and Open Spaces. The Council will work with such groups in delivering the individual projects detailed in this Indicative Action Plan.

Strategic Theme	Action	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	Lead
Key Aim 1:	To provide children & young people with green spaces which meet their needs and enhance their quality of life						
Objective 1: To encourage children & young people to actively use parks	Create a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) in London Fields		✓				LBH P&L
	Refurbish Basketball facilities at Millfields	✓					LBH P&L
	Upgrade Hackney Downs facilities to include a MUGA & new Changing Rooms	✓					LBH P&L
	Undertake feasibility into the creation of an Urban Sports Park		✓				LBH P&L
	Develop & implement a programme of Arts, Sports & Environmental activities in Parks during School Holidays		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Work with User Groups to develop activities for children & young people in Parks		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L PUG's
Objective 2: To facilitate opportunities in Parks for children & young people to learn about the environment	Develop an annual programme of 'Green Learning' opportunities in Parks		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Work with Education Providers on the development of curriculum related activities & materials		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L LT
Objective 3: To ensure that all children within the Borough have access to formal & informal play provision within 400m of their homes	Undertake feasibility into the creation of a Children's Play Facility at Mabley Green	✓					LBH P&L
	Re-install a Children's Play Facility at Springfield Park		✓				LBH P&L PUG
	Install a new Children's Play Area at Clapton Common	✓					LBH P&L PUG

Strategic Theme	Action	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	Lead
Objective 3 cont'd:	Undertake feasibility into provision of covered areas within Children's Play Facilities		✓				LBH P&L
	Implement rolling programme of Children's Play Equipment renewal	✓	✓				LBH P&L
	Contribute towards the implementation of the Play Strategy Action Plan	✓	✓				LBH P&L
Objective 4: To engage children & young people in the future management of Parks & Green Spaces	Establish a Junior Ranger & Gardener Scheme		✓				LBH P&L
	Hold Open Days for Volunteering		✓				LBH P&L
	Positively link to the Hackney Volunteering Strategy		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Develop on-site training programmes to enhance young people's skills		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
Key Aim 2:	To protect & develop high quality Parks & Green Spaces and enhance facilities across the Borough						
Objective 1: To engage all Communities in the future management of Parks	Formalise User Groups and underpin with appropriate agreements & support	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L CC
	Investigate Funding Opportunities with/for User Groups	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L PUG's
	Stage a Parks Conference in partnership with the Hackney Parks Forum		✓				LBH P&L CC
	Increase the awareness of Parks and their benefits	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Objective 2: To secure & develop New Parks to assist in addressing deficiencies in Green Space	Ensure that Parks are actively considered for Section 106 contributions as part of the Development Control process	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L N&R
	Implement a Planning Framework for Parks based on the Assessment of Open Spaces in response to PPG 17 (the Atkins Report 2004)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L N&R

Strategic Theme	Action	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	Lead
Objective 2 cont'd:	Develop & implement Planting Schemes to respond to Climate Change e.g.:- low watering requirement & tolerance to arid conditions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Investigate alternative means of water supply (e.g. boreholes) to parks so as to reduce costs and reliance on the mains supply	✓	✓				LBH P&L
Objective 3: Develop & preserve areas within Parks that are of Historic Interest	Refurbish the White Lodge, Stables & Glasshouses at Springfield Park	✓					LBH P&L
	Undertake Heritage Lottery Funded (HLF) refurbishment of Clissold Park & Mansion, subject to a successful bid for stage 2 HLF funding in October 2008	✓	✓	✓	✓		LBH P&L
	Investigate sources of funding to allow the development of cafeterias in Parks		✓				LBH P&L
	Re-open Cow Bridge at Hackney Marshes		✓				LBH P&L
	Implement a programme of Environmental & Heritage activities at St John's Churchyard		✓	✓	✓		LBH P&L
	Develop & submit a bid to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) relative to the refurbishment of Abney Park Cemetery. Implementation of the refurbishment proposals will be dependant on the success of the HLF bid	✓					LBH P&L
	Complete preparations and planning work and ensure the delivery of Public Squares at Hoxton and Dalston	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L N&R
	Work with User Groups on the development & submission of bids for funding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L

Strategic Theme	Action	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	Lead
Objective 3 cont'd:	Ongoing renewal of Parks Infrastructure – Benches, Litter Bins, Fencing etc	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Provide Public Toilet facilities to all Regional, Metropolitan and District Parks		✓	✓			LBH P&L
	Develop & implement sustainable Travel Plans to and from Parks & Open Spaces		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L N&R
Objective 4: Ensure the opportunities presented by the 2012 Olympics & Paralympics are realised	Develop & submit Football Foundation & other bids for major improvements to pitches & changing accommodation at Hackney Marshes. Implementation of the improvements will be dependant on the success of the funding bids	✓	✓	✓	✓		LBH P&L
	Develop & implement environmental improvement projects through the REAP process in the Wick area	✓	✓				LBH P&L
Objective 5: To provide high quality Parks & other Green Spaces across the Borough	Work with Hackney Homes and other Landlords to improve provision & meet environmental standards		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Retain the four Green Flag Awards already achieved by the Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Achieve Green Flags for two additional Parks within the Borough & thereafter retain	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Achieve a Green Flag for a further additional Park within the Borough & thereafter retain		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Work with User & Community Groups to Achieve Green Pennant Awards	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L PUG's
	Enhance regimes relative to basic litter picking, bin emptying and dog faeces removal in Parks; especially at weekends and late evenings in summer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L

Strategic Theme	Action	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	Lead
Key Aim 3:	To Ensure that Parks & Green Spaces make a positive contribution to Conservation & Biodiversity						
Objective 1: To ensure Parks make a significant contribution to nature conservation	Produce and thereafter update & maintain Management Plans for sites of Metropolitan, Borough & Local importance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Develop, implement and maintain under review a boroughwide Diversity Action Plan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	Identify sites where new or changed management practices can be implemented to protect & enhance wildlife interest & implement such changes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Review current management of all meadow & acid grassland areas in designated open space & establish appropriate mowing regimes		✓				LBH P&L
	Investigate & implement alternative methods of weed control to reduce use of herbicides		✓				LBH P&L
	Create additional sites for Nature Conservation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Include Nature Conservation & Biodiversity principles in site Management Plans	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Undertake audit of staff skills relative to Nature Conservation & Biodiversity	✓					LBH P&L
	Implement Learning & development programmes relative to Nature Conservation, Biodiversity, Trees & Woodlands and Ponds	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
Objective 2: To raise awareness of & promote Biodiversity in Parks	Identify examples of Key Habitats	✓					LBH P&L
	Identify Key Species through site audits		✓				LBH P&L
	Renew and monitor site specific data		✓				LBH P&L

	Provide Environmental Education Programmes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
Strategic Theme	Action	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	Lead
Objective 2 cont'd:	Develop & implement a training programme aimed at schools & volunteers on Biodiversity		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Provide accessible data on Biodiversity & related issues in all appropriate media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Increase active community involvement in parks through the organisation of Guided Walks & Volunteer Work Days	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Co-ordinate Conservation Tasks across the Borough	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
Objective 3: To increase knowledge & understanding to protect Hackney's Waterways & Wetland Areas	Undertake an audit of Ponds and Wetland Habitats in Parks		✓				LBH P&L
	Create further links with Partner Agencies to extend & enhance wetland habitats		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Monitor the management of threatened species in Parks and review actions taken	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
Key Aim 4:	To Protect & enhance the Borough's Tree Stock						
Objective 1: To Manage & Maintain the Council's Tree Stock	Implement ongoing survey programme of existing parks trees so as to identify required works, inputting findings into database, ensuring compatibility with all linked systems	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Embed sound Tree Management practices in all agencies working for the Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Ensure that Trees are properly watered & maintained	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Ensure Tree Protection measures are in place	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L

	Develop and implement a sponsorship scheme to fund the planting of trees in Parks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
Strategic Theme	Action	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	Lead
Objective 2: To promote the value of Trees, Woodlands & Hedges	To work in partnership with the Development Control Service relative to the making of Tree Preservation Orders	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L N&R
	To raise awareness by the production of information material in both hard copy & electronic formats	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L CC
	Maintain access to Wick Woodland & the Tree Nursery for local Schools & Community Groups	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L PUG
	Establish a tree planting/aftercare programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
Key Aim 5:	To ensure Hackney residents of all ages & abilities have the opportunity to enjoy a range of Activities & Events in Hackney's Parks & Open Spaces of major Outdoor Events						
Objective 1: To ensure that events held in Hackney Parks contribute to Community Objectives and the Cultural Olympiad	Deliver an Annual Programme in Hackney's Parks that will contribute to Hackney's Community Objectives and the Cultural Olympiad	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Consult with Parks User Groups on the staging of Events within 'their' sites	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L PUG's
Objective 2: To provide opportunities for people to participate in Events & Activities in Parks	Working in partnership with the Culture and Sports/Physical Activity teams and The Learning Trust develop & implement an ongoing programme of Arts, Sports & Environmental activities in Parks & Open Spaces	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Develop a Playing Pitch Strategy for Hackney		✓				
	Improve walking & cycling opportunities in Parks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L

	Develop & maintain Walking Groups in all major Parks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
Strategic Theme	Action	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	Lead
Objective 2 cont'd:	Develop & implement a programme of Guided Walks in Parks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Provide cycle parking facilities in Parks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
Objective 3: To increase awareness of Parks in Hackney	Develop a Marketing Strategy for Parks in Hackney which links with Hackney's emerging work on the Visitor Economy in the Borough	✓					
	Develop information materials about Parks in all appropriate media	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH CC
	Ensure the provision of Press Releases & Parks Interest Stories to the Corporate Communications Unit	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH
Objective 4: To contribute to Community Cohesion	Investigate the Social Needs of Hackney's various communities and build responses to those into site Management Plans	✓					LBH P&L
	Investigate & implement Personal Fitness Opportunities in Parks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
Objective 5: To increase the range of people using Hackney's Parks	Undertake a detailed assessment of Parks Users & Non Users to understand the reasons for non-use and build initiatives and proposals defined from the outcome of that work into individual site Management Plans	✓					LBH P&L
Objective 6:	Undertake a detailed audit of facilities & events in	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L

To ensure Equality of Access for all	Parks against all Accessibility Criteria and develop & implement proposals to address deficiencies						
Strategic Theme	Action	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	Lead
Key Aim 6:	To provide Parks & Green Spaces that are welcoming and safe to use						
Objective 1: To deal effectively with enforcement issues in Parks	Work in partnership with other Agencies to ensure that Parks constitute safe environments	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L CS
	Review Parks Byelaws to ensure their relevance to all parks users and their enforceability	✓	✓				LBH P&L CS
	Build & maintain positive relationships with The Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L CS
	Train all Parks staff to respond to Anti-Social Behaviour	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L CS
Objective 2: To provide Parks that are safe	Review the provision of lighting to Parks		✓				LBH P&L
	Develop & implement 'Park Watch' initiatives		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L PUG's
	Strengthen programmes of Community Events		✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Review the safety considerations of Entry & Exit points to Parks		✓				LBH L&L
	Incorporate 'Secured by Design' principles in the management & improvement of Parks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
	Undertake an audit of signage in Parks		✓				LBH P&L
	Define & implement design changes within Parks so as to 'Open Up' sight lines and reduce closed in areas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	LBH P&L
Objective 3:	Make Parks Ranger bases within Parks more visible	✓					LBH P&L

To address & review security issues	Review incident & crime reporting & analysis regimes	✓						LBH P&L CS
Strategic Theme	Action	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13		Lead
Key Aim 7:	To link all Parks & Green Spaces by the development of Green Corridors							
Objective 1: To encourage the linking of established Parks	Liaise with Local Communities to identify their needs & identify possible physical links between Parks & Green Spaces	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		LBH P&L
Objective 2: To establish cross Borough & inter-agency links in order to identify opportunities	Make positive linkages & contributions to the East London Green Grid, again recognising the possibility for conflict between different groups of users such as cyclists and older pedestrians	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		LBH P&L
Objective 3: Create safe routes through Green Corridors	Incorporate 'Secured by Design' principles in the design & creation of Green Corridors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		LBH P&L
	Where relevant ensure the implementation of appropriate maintenance regimes; to include the pruning & cutting back of hedgerows & shrubs, within Green Corridors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		LBH P&L
	Where relevant remove blockages & obstructions to Green Corridors	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		LBH P&L
	Where relevant remove closed off areas to improve & maintain clear sight lines	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		LBH P&L

✓ = Year of Activity

Key to Lead Column

LBH	London Borough of Hackney	CS	Community Safety	MP	Metropolitan Police
P&L	Parks & Leisure	CC	Corporate Communications	PUG's	Parks User Groups
N&R	Neighbourhoods & Regeneration	HH	Hackney Homes		

Appendix 10 Parks Strategy – Facilities Planning Matrix

	Regional Park	Metropolitan Park	District Park	Neighbourhood Park	Small Local Park/ Open Space	Linear Open Space/Green Corridor
Site Based Staff	X	X	X	-	-	-
Peripatetic Staff	-	-	-	X	X	X
Licensed Venue for Major Events	X	X	X	-	-	-
Venue for Community Events	X	X	X	X	X	X
Specific Biodiversity Area	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fixed Play Equipment for Children/Young People	X	X	X	X	-	-
Sports Pitches/Facilities & Changing Accommodation	X	X	X	X	-	-
Public Conveniences	X	X	X	-	-	-
Cafeteria	X	X	X	-	-	
Notice Boards	X	X	X	X	X	X
Interpretive Materials	X	X	X	X	-	-

NB:- Play equipment to be sited according to 400 metre access standard. In this context, equipment may be sited in a lower order park than a Regional, Metropolitan, District or Neighbourhood Park