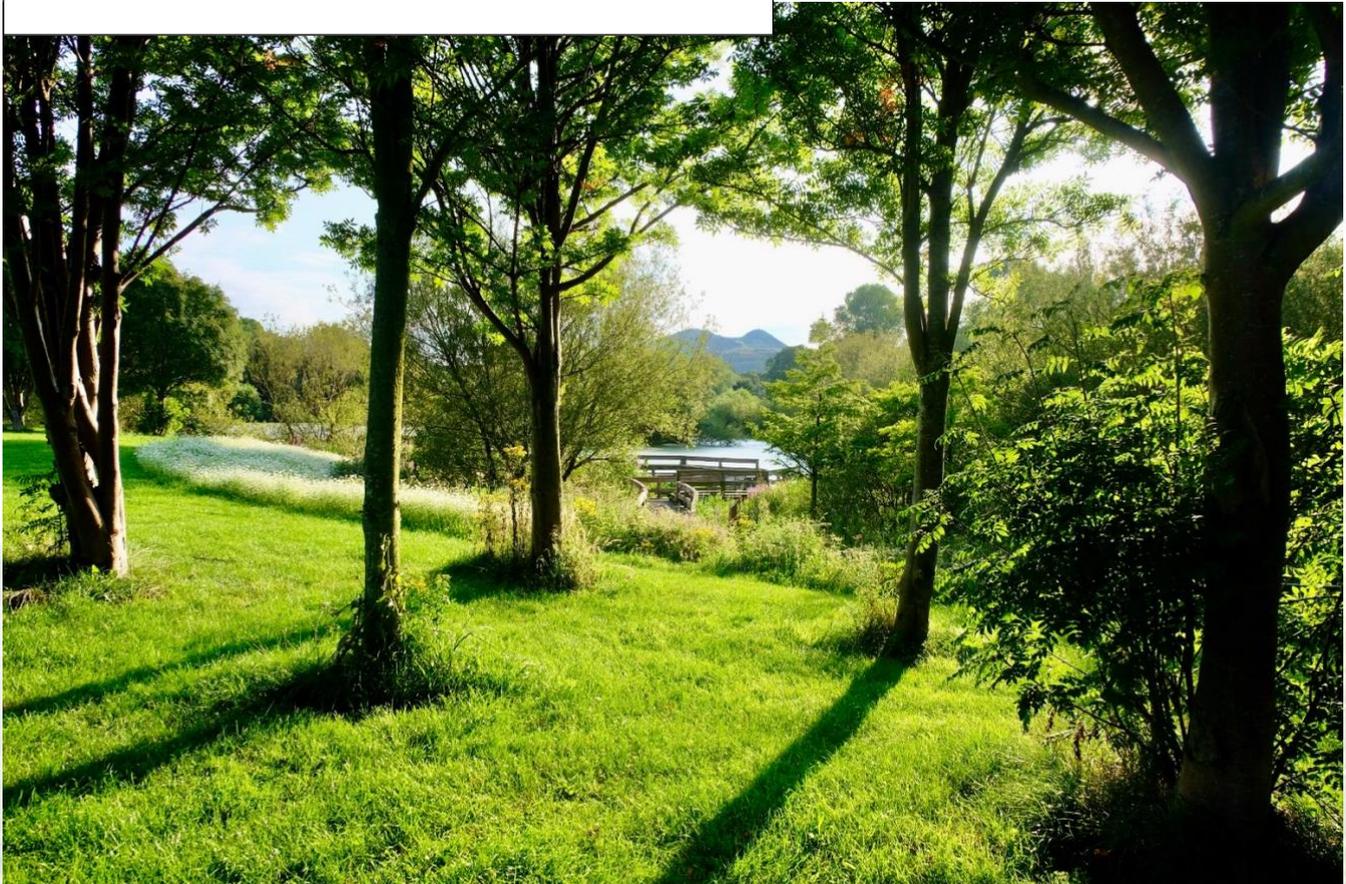




Figgate Park
Management Plan
2021-2025



Our vision is...

“To maintain Figgate Park as a distinctive, attractive and well cared for space for the enjoyment of citizens and visitors alike”

CONTENTS

1 Introduction	5
1.1 Summery Information	7
2 Where are we now?	18
2.1 wider policy Context	18
2.2 Park Management Rules and Marketing	20
2.3 Summery of Management Issues	24
2.3.1 Healthy, Safe and Secure	26
2.3.2 Sustainability	28
2.3.3 Community Involvement and Engagement	29
2.3.4 Figgate park highlights	35
3 Where do we want to be?	36
3.1 Vision statement	36
3.2 Parks Quality Assessment	37
3.2.1 Green Flag Scheme	38
3.2.2 Tree Survey	38
3.2.3 Community Consultation	38
3.2.4 SWAT analysis	39
3.3 Aim of this management plan	39
4 How will we get there?	40
4.1 Park Improvement Plan	40

4.2 Finance	45
4.2.3 External Grants	45

5 How will we know when we have arrived

5.1 Management plan	47
5.2 Performance measures	47
5.3 Survey and Feedback	47

Appendices

1 Parks and Greenspace Survey results	49
2 Biodiversity species list	53
3 Operational and maintenance features	55
4 East Environment team Structure Chart	56
5 Stakeholders and Contact List	56
6 SWOT Analysis	60
7 Corporate Strategies	68
8 Parks Quality score 2019	72

1 INTRODUCTION

This management plan sets the future management, maintenance and development of the Figgate Park and has been produced by the city of Edinburgh council and friends of Figgate Park to provide not only a long-term vision but also details on both development and operational duties required to achieve that vision.

With its distinctive pond and river these provided a unique habitat for wildlife Figgate Park provides an attractive green space connecting Portobello to Duddingston in the East neighbourhood of Edinburgh

The management plan covers the period 2019 to 2025 and has a detailed plan of works for that period.

Like any Management plan, its purpose is to provide a framework within which all future management is carried out. It will enable anyone involved with the park to understand how the park is to be managed and improved to achieve the vision in line with our agreed policies. This plan target audience is the local community, park stakeholder, elected members and council officers. Its style and content should ensure continuity of purpose and consistency in service delivery. It is intended to be flexible, working document that will be reviewed and updated annually

The plan is set out in four distinct sections:

The first section, “**Where Are We Now?**” describes Figgate Park; highlighting its features, listing stakeholders involved with its management and providing information about the park.

The second section, “**Where Do We Want to Be?**” develops the vision for Figgate Park stating the aims and objectives for improving the park and how these were identified.

The third section, “***How Will We Get There?***” describes our Park Improvement Plan for Figgate Park, which sets out how the aims and objectives details how these will be achieved.

The fourth and final section, “***How Will We Know When We Get There?***” explains how the Park Improvement Plan will be monitored and reviewed.

1.1 Summery information

With its distinctive burn running through the park, large pond with animated wildlife and stunning pictorial meadow Figgate Park provides an attractive and much-loved green space in the heart of Edinburgh's East Neighbourhood. The park is managed by the City of Edinburgh Council's Cemeteries Parks and Greenspace Service. It is one of 144 parks managed by the City of Edinburgh council, who are committed to developing the quality of all its local parks and green spaces.

Main contact details

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Waverly court 4 Market Street Edinburgh
Tel 07785530695
Stephen.Cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk

Scott Thomson, Community Parks Officer, Parks, Greenspace & Cemeteries
Tel: 0131 529 3481
Scott.thomson@edinburgh.gov.uk

Site information

Grid Reference: NT 325 673

Size: 11.26 hectares (27.83 acres)

Ownership: City of Edinburgh Council (since 1933)

Location map:





Aerial view of Figgate Park

summary of Stakeholders

The management and maintenance of the park is carried out by the city of Edinburgh Council and is strategically overseen and supported by the Parks and Greenspace & cemeteries Service. Figgate Park is the responsibility of the Parks Programmes Manager, who manages the Parks and greenspace officer and Park Rangers. The Parks and Greenspace Service provides support with strategic and policy issues specifically relating to parks and green spaces, and manages central services such as the Grounds maintenance, Forestry Service, Play Team, Maintenance Workshops and the Inch Nursery.

The Parks and greenspace Officer and Park Rangers monitor the park and work with several different departments to report issues and concerns ranging from cleansing issues (Waste), dog fouling problems (Environmental Wardens), infrastructure issues (workshops) and tree safety (Forestry Service). They check that play areas are in good working order with any issues being raised with the specialist play team. General Day to day maintenance and safety within the parks are tackled where possible immediately by the Park Ranger. Any other works that cannot be dealt with directly are recorded and formally requisitioned through the appropriate maintenance section.

The Park Rangers also provide a local presence for the local community to contact either directly when on site patrolling, or through the Friends group and schools who have an ongoing working relationship with the Rangers and the Greenspace Officer and discuss any issues that they experience or developments they would like to see in their local park.

The principal community stakeholders and users are the residents of the Northfield, Duddingston and Portobello areas. The park sits between these communities and is well

used by residents from these areas. The park is fortunate enough to have a local community volunteer group called the Friends of Figgate Park www.figgatepark.org.uk The group is formed from residents who have a strong interest in the management and improvement of the park and who actively dedicate their time carrying out practical environmental improvement works within the park and support the Council in seeking external grant funding to support improvement initiatives.

Summary of main uses

Although its facilities are relatively simple, the Figgate Park can proudly boast to being one of the most attractive and popular in the neighbourhood. The many entrances are commonly used by local walkers, joggers and cyclists as a convenient access to areas between Duddingston and Portobello. The design of the park provides fine views of Arthur's Seat; several bridges cross the Figgate Burn and allow access for walkers. Seats are strategically placed along main path routes. The park is also an important arterial route for school children who utilise the paths for safe access to school.

The boardwalk has made the park a perfect setting for Outdoor School Programmes giving them first-hand experience with the freedom to appreciate and explore the surrounding wildlife. Due to the location of Figgate Park it was not until recently seen as a destination, however, this has changed since the opening of boardwalk, the creation of the pictorial meadow and several other enhancement projects initiated by the Friends Group

A brief assessment of the typical users of the park includes a wide sector Edinburgh resident:

- Users for passive recreation – office workers and school children taking lunch, older people taking gentle exercise through the park.

- Users for informal recreation – parents with young children use the park as it is a safe environment away from busy roads and like many areas of open space it is used for exercising dogs.
- People interested in ornithology and other wildlife
- The park gives an area for informal play and formal play
- A safe place to bike ride
- Local Nursery, Primary schools and High schools visiting the park as an outside classroom.

Assessment of culture and aesthetic value

There is great value in the recreational use of the area for the users of Figgate Park and particularly for those living in the adjacent Community areas of Northfield and Portobello. The area provides users with a generous area of green space for health and recreation use. The topography of the park provides fine views of Arthur seat and the east coast main railway line.

The design of the park provides different views and feelings as you travel along the footpaths from the pond following the river provision is made to allow you to sit and take in the view. There is a network of tarmac paths around the pond that connect with circular path that crosses the river at several points linking most of the residential areas

Topography, drainage and soils

The park resembles the shape of a tadpole with the pond as the head and the park as its elongated body and is approx. 0.5 km long.

The site was originally an open clay pit that provided clay to the local brick works and lately for ceramics, all that remnants of this industrial past are the pond.

The area was transformed in the early 1930s and has not changed drastically since then. Due to the underlying soil being a heavy boulder clay drainage on some areas is poor.

The creation of the land formation within the park were created using local waste products

from the local industry in and around Portobello, i.e. ash from the local power station, train depot and glass from the local glass factory.

The large mound which runs parallel with Baileyfield Road was part of the railway line that transported coal from Newcraighall to the city of Edinburgh.

Planting and layout

Approx. 40% of the park is made up of grass areas. Most of the grass in the park is cut as amenity. The grass around the tree belts can grow during the summer season and in some places is planted with a variety of bulbs.

Woodland takes up most of the rest of the space with tree belts along the edge of the park provide a great wildlife corridor and give privacy to the residents who properties back on to the park.

The pond margins have been planted up with Iris and Sedge Grass

Planted areas

Informal planting has been created around the park with a variety of flowering bulbs, plants
Trees and aquatic plants around the pond

The informal beds have been created around the edge of the wildflower meadow at the main entrance at Baileyfield Road

Wildlife features

Figgate Park provides people with an opportunity to enjoy wildlife in the city.

The size of the site creates a breadth of habitats to sustain a varied mix of flora and fauna.

The Figgate Park is designated a Local Nature Conservation Site, with the main interest being the riparian (bank side) habitat and pond and the breeding and over-wintering birds. The trees, woodland areas, riparian areas and water all provide habitats which benefit wildlife.

While mown amenity grass areas are of less value for wildlife, areas of low maintenance grass provide suitable habitat for some invertebrates, birds and small mammal species. Continuous uncut strips of riparian vegetation provide shelter for a range of species and cover for animals moving through the landscape.

The variety of trees and small woodland areas in Figgate Park offer a range of habitat types for wildlife. The relatively undisturbed woodland area at the western boundary of the park, any trees forming part of the riparian corridor and any other larger woodland areas or linear strips of woodland will benefit wildlife.

In the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan (2010 – 2015) the Lowland and Urban Habitat Plan specifically covers urban parks such as Figgate Park, there is also information in the Freshwater and Wetlands Habitat Action Plan and Woodlands Habitat Action Plan which is relevant to the management of Figgate Park. In addition, Species Action Plans for Otters and Bats are also relevant to the park, as these species have been observed in the park.

Woodlands and trees

In the late 1990 an extensive planting was carried out around the perimeter of the park to this has created a wildlife corridor the length of the park.

This planting has also enhanced the wealth of colour and habitats for wildlife.

The West end of the park is where the more mature trees within the park can be found their numbers have been decreasing over the past few years due mainly to Dutch elm disease. This area is going through a replanting with more evergreens being planted and varieties of Oak.

The trees are maintained and managed by the council's in-house Forestry Department.

The majority of the trees within the park have been surveyed and each has been tagged the information held on the health of the tree is part of the council's ongoing tree management scheme.

Infrastructure of Figgate Park

There is a range of infrastructure items in Figgate Park. These are managed by the City Edinburgh of Council using the asset management database:

- Seating (benches) and litter bins
- 3 bridges
- Linear footpath route with tarmac surfaced paths
- 2 local information notice boards
- 3 site interpretation boards
- 3 picnic benches
- Wooden boardwalk
- Viewing platform
- Play area
- Teenage area
- Football goal ends

Landscape features

The landscape features of Figgate Park are listed below. These are maintained to the standards described in the Landscape Quality Standards handbook.

- Standard amenity grass
- Low maintenance grass
- Pictorial meadow
- Naturalised bulbs in grass
- Play area x 2
- Shrub beds
- Herbaceous perennial beds

- Established woodland area
- Single standard trees

Heritage and history

The area was originally known as Figgate Muir, an expanse of moorland through which the Figgate Burn flowed from Duddingston Loch to the sea, with a broad sandy beach on the Firth of Forth. The name *Figgate* was thought to come from the Saxon term for "cow's ditch", and the land was used as pasture by the monks in 1763.

The lands known as the Figgate Whins were sold by Lord Milton to Baron Mure for about £1500, and afterwards feuded out by the latter to a Mr. William Jameson at the rate of £3 per acre. Jameson discovered a valuable bed of clay near the burn, and built a brick and tile works beside the stream. He later built an earthenware pottery factory, and the local population grew so that Portobello became a thriving village.

The area was originally part of the Abercorn Estate and was one of several clay pits within the area that provided clay for the local brick works and Buchan's pottery.

The upper end of the park at Duddingston was heavily industrialized with 2 mills. Several gallons of water from the burn was diverted to power the water wheels several of these lays can still be seen. The City of Edinburgh Council acquired the park in 1933 which covers an area of 27.83 areas. The park surrounded by housing and several schools. The burn running through the park is locally known as the Figgate Burn but is part of the Braid Burn which originates from the Braid Hills.



Duddingston Mill



Clay pits prior to becoming a Park

2. WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Figgate Park is managed by the City of Edinburgh Council's Parks and greenspace Team. Although management of this park has been guided by local Community Parks Officers' and Park Rangers' yearly work plan. The parks and friends' group are working together and are committed to develop the quality of the parks and green spaces

2.1 Wider Policy Context

The creation of this document has taken into consideration a range of different policies to reflect the complex nature of greenspace management. The five national and local policies which influence this document include the Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy, Parks Quality Assessment, Edinburgh Local Plan, Craigtinny & Duddingston Neighbourhood Partnership's Local Community Plan and Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan amongst others.

Strategic Policy Framework

A number of Edinburgh's corporate strategies and policies apply to the parks and green spaces in the city, aiming to deliver safety and equality of provision, safeguard and enhance local environments and neighbourhoods, and ultimately improve the quality of life for Edinburgh's communities, enabling residents to participate fully in the City's park life.

These policies set the overall context within which parks are managed and developed, and although it is the green space policies, which have primary impact, the other more general policies also have a direct or indirect effect in varying degrees.

A list of these policies are given below. A brief précis of each is provided in the Appendix 7. Copies of these are available on request, many can also be accessed via the Council website (www.edinburgh.gov.uk).

Corporate Strategies and Policies

- Edinburgh councils Business plan
- North East localities plan
- Development Plan
- Edinburgh core path plan
- Climate Change Framework
- Energy Policy
- Play Strategy

Park and Environmental Policies

- Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy
- Edinburgh sports pitch strategy
- Edinburgh Open Space Strategy
- Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan
- Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto

Local Drivers

- Locality improvement plan 2020 - 25

This section provides further information about the strategic management for Figgate Park.

2.2 Parks Management Rules

Until recently the Council operated a set of management rules using powers available under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. A review of these rules was undertaken in 2007 to remove those rules which conflicted with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Our new approach is to move away from administering a list of rules to a more proactive regime of encouraging responsible use of public parks. (See image below). This approach should be more manageable and provide the opportunity to better link park management issues to existing legislation available under the Environmental Protection Act and Anti-Social Behaviour legislation. Consideration is currently being given to reinstating bye-laws for issues not covered by existing legislation. This was reviewed in 2013 and new promotional material has been installed.

- Create an awareness of the value and importance of Edinburgh’s parks, gardens and green spaces
- Outline what “responsible use constitutes with clear and meaningful explanation”
- Outline what is irresponsible with reference to the law and the consequences

Rosefield Park

Caring for Edinburgh's Parks



PLAYING FIELDS AND PLAY AREAS
Playing fields are managed by the City of Edinburgh Council and are subject to a Licence through Edinburgh Leisure. There is no liability to damage the facilities. All parties should only be responsible and where there is no damage to other people and their property.



HORSES
Horse riding has the potential to cause major damage to the ground through the use of heavy machinery such as wheel tracks and well-trodden ground. Give your horse a rest.



LITTER
Take your litter home or take it to a bin. Don't forget to bring a bag with you and to take your own home with you. Take great care not to burn or break the ground with BBQs.



DOGS
Always be responsible to others by keeping your dog under control at all times. If you have a dog, please ensure you have a leash and a bag to take up your dog's waste. You should keep your dog on a lead or at least control it, when near other people, animals and at the beach. Do not allow your dog to dig into the ground, damage trees or plants, or other animals.



EVENTS
If you are planning an event or a large gathering, please contact the City of Edinburgh Council. Please call 011 308 2000.



CYCLISTS
Cycling is a great way to get to the park. Please use the cycle paths and do not use the roads. Please do not use the paths as a race track and do not use the paths to transport heavy loads. Please do not use the paths to transport heavy loads.



YOUR HELP
Please report incidents and issues. Our staff and volunteers are a big help to you and we need your support and assistance. If you see any damage please phone 011 308 2000. If you see any damage to the park, please report it to the park rangers.

East Neighbourhood Team
Contact Details
Telephone Number: 0131 528 3111
email: eastteam@edinburgh.gov.uk

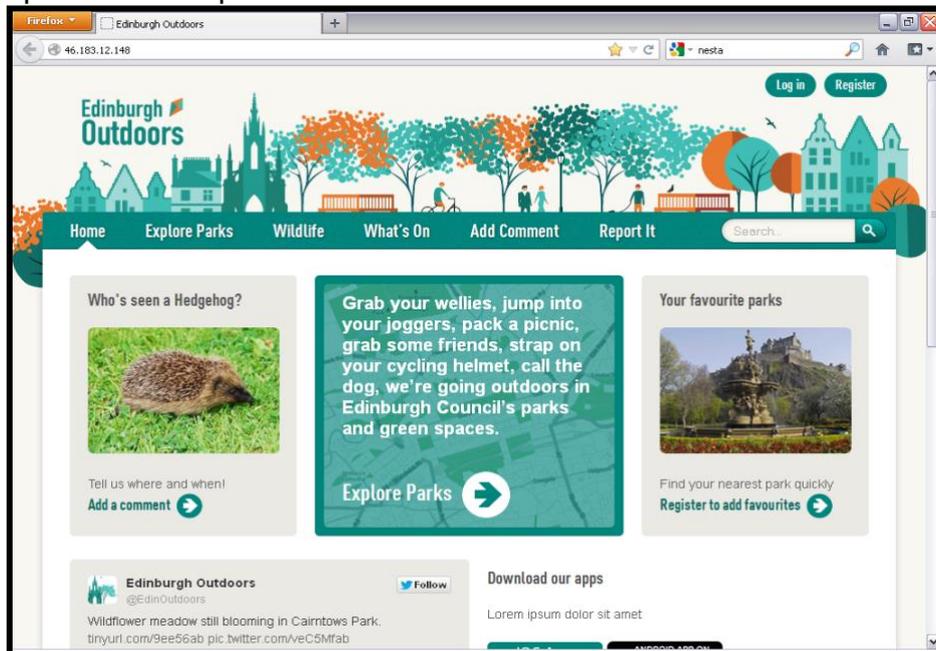
• EDINBURGH •
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

In addition, Park Rangers will have a more proactive approach in advising and persuading park users in responsible behaviour. Working alongside Environmental Wardens and the Police and using existing legislation, they're becoming more effective at deterring (and potentially prosecuting) users who persist in irresponsible behaviour(s).

Marketing

Edinburgh Outdoors website (www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk) and free iPhone and Android app offers information on all the Council owned parks. Users can find out the location of their nearest play area, information about trees and monuments, what events are taking place and even what wildlife to watch out for every month.

The app is an easy way to explore Edinburgh's parks on the move. People are also encouraged to take photos and upload them via the app or on the Edinburgh Outdoors website to share their experiences. We promote Edinburgh Outdoors within the park notice boards using posters with QR codes which lead directly to the website, and a number of people have uploaded their photos and comments onto the site.



Within the park we use the notice boards to highlight activities taking place and other topics of interest. There are also interpretation panels which provide information on the history of the park.

2.3 Summary of management Issues

This section provides an overview of the parks management and maintenance issues and related policies.

Figgate Park is managed by the Council's Parks, Greenspace & Cemeteries green space. The development of the park is undertaken by the parks Development officer working closely with the friends group

Park Rangers play an important part in liaising with the residents. They undertake checks of play equipment and general condition of the park. They also run events for local schools and walking groups.

Tree works are undertaken by the Arboriculture Team, Roads Services carry out inspections and repairs of play areas and the Inch Nursery supplies the council with both shrubs and annuals.

Although there is no site staff dedicated to maintaining Figgate Park, a range of staff that are involved in caring for the Park, e.g. Community Parks Officer, Park Rangers, Environmental Wardens, Community Safety Officers, Police, etc. The Parks Quality assessment framework is used to provide annual assessment of each park and will provide a report for Figgate park that can be used to support the monitoring process. These assessments will have been carried out by staff and friends members and are in general carried out by individuals who have no direct association with the park.

carried out by staff and friends members and are in general carried out by individuals who have no direct association with the park.

2.3.1 Healthy, Safe & Secure

The Community Parks Officer and Parks Rangers are responsible for ensuring that the park is healthy, safe and secure.

Local officers oversee 38 parks and smaller areas sites within the locality. All of these sites are patrolled on a regular basis to ensure that the sites are being maintained to a safe, clean and secure standard.

The Park Rangers monitor each site and work with a number of different departments to report issues and concerns ranging from cleansing issues (Taskforce), dog fouling problems (Environmental Wardens), infrastructure issues (workshops), tree safety (Forestry), horticultural management (Grounds Maintenance) and that play areas are in good working order with any issues being raised with the specialist play team. General Day to day maintenance and safety within the parks are tackled where possible immediately by the Park Ranger on site. Any other works that cannot be dealt with directly are recorded and formally requisitioned through the appropriate maintenance section

All City of Edinburgh Council play areas are designed in house to meet BS EN 1176 Parts 1 – 11. Prior to 1998 all play areas were designed to meet BS 5696. All play areas are held on a data base called 'Play safe' produced by Public Sector Software Ltd. This system holds information on all City of Edinburgh Council play areas, including; type of equipment, installation date, and type of surface, fences and bins.

Informal inspections are carried once per week and are carried out by council employees who enter the play areas as part of their duties (Park Rangers, Playgrounds Maintenance Officer and Task Force staff). They report obvious hazards to the Councils workshop engineers. In-house ROSPA trained staff inspect the equipment on a 4-6week basis. Any defects identified are either repaired immediately or isolated and made safe, for repair later. Written records of inspections and works undertaken are held with the Parks and Greenspace workshops at

Bankhead roads depot. Annual inspections and risk assessments, conforming to the Register of Play Inspectors International (RPII), are carried out in all the playgrounds by an independent Playground Inspector.

2.3.2 Sustainability

Peat use

The only use of peat by the Parks and Greenspace Service is in the production of bedding plants at the Council's Inch Nursery. Since 2004 the nursery has reduced its consumption of peat by 25% and aims to meet national targets of 90%. A number of alternatives to peat have been incorporated into the growing mixes for plant production at the nursery, including; compost derived from the Council green waste collections, the nursery own compost, worm cast, fine bark, vermiculite and sand.

Currently, no peat is being used in the park except for new plant material and the park has no annual displays.

Herbicides

A policy needs to be developed that considers the minimisation of herbicide use. Herbicide application is only used when cultural practises will not provide adequate control. Only affected areas are treated and only then using strategies that are sensitive to the needs of the public and the environment. All operatives are trained to the approved certification level for the application of chemicals. The application of herbicides is scheduled during off-peak times of park use and signs are posted to indicate the re-entry time period if appropriate.

Waste minimisation

In order to reduce land filled waste, the City of Edinburgh Council is working to develop and extend initiatives to prevent, minimise, reuse and recycle the city's waste. The Council is actively collaborating with other local councils in progressing the Lothian & Borders Area Waste Plan.

Litter collected from the park and litter bins are sent for separation and currently 33% of these bins are recycled. Other waste is incinerated and heat from this heats water for the local housing scheme

Green waste (e.g. grass clippings, weeds, seasonal bedding) is taken to Braehead Recycling Centre where it is composted by Forth Resource Management. Tree limbs are chipped and used as mulch on site. Larger limbs and trunks are sold. Compost generated from this process is used by the Parks and Greenspace Service as a soil conditioner in seasonal bedding.

The Grounds Maintenance Team operate a chipper to shred all green waste material for reuse on site at Figgate Park

Arboriculture and woodland management

Trees lining footpaths have been surveyed and their species, age, size and condition are now recorded on the Parks and Greenspace "Ezytree" GIS-database. These are identifiable on site by blue tags. Only recently planted stock is not yet included on the database. This enables a proactive approach to manage the trees and prioritising required works on defective specimens.

Elms are surveyed annually for signs of Dutch elm disease and felled if appropriate.

2.3.3 Community Involvement and Engagement

The Friends of Figgate Park (FoFP) play an active role in the park. Many members are regular visitors and live locally to the park and in doing so play an important role in keeping an eye on any problems and reporting them quickly. There is also a popular facebook page www.facebook.com/figgate that helps with communication of issues that need to be reported.

During the past year April 2020 to March 2021 within the restrictions of lockdowns the group have;

- maintained regular gardening in Fruity Corner
- developed a new Medicinal mini woodland area
- transitioned part of the annual wild flower meadow to a perennial flower meadow
- planted over 3000 bulbs in the park
- planted over 600 saplings around the park
- individuals have regularly picked up litter on their walks round the park as organised events have not been possible due to COVID restrictions.
- organised a specialised pond clean up last October
- have organised / co-ordinated several conservation tasks with TCV (Conservation Volunteers) and with the Community Payback Co-ordinators
- have had funding from a National Lottery Micro Grant, an Action Earth grant and a donation of 1000 bulbs from the Rotary Club
- have rebuilt and relaunched their website that was completely lost after being hacked in February 2020
- a small working group have continued to seek funding and develop plans for a new playpark in partnership with Edinburgh Lothian Greenspace Trust and CEC

Volunteering Sundays

February 23rd August 30th
 March 29th September 27th
 April 26th October 25th
 May 31st November 29th

Meet at the Pond Noticeboard for Clean Up tasks
 & Volunteer Container for Gardening tasks
9.30 - 11.30am
 All equipment supplied & refreshments too!

EVERYONE WELCOME
 TO HELP US KEEP FIGGATE PARK BEAUTIFUL

details at www.facebook.com/figgate

Thank you for NOT feeding us BREAD

Bread can make us ill as it does not contain the right nutrition or calories we need

Rotting mouldy bread cause diseases that could affect any of my feathered friends sharing this pond

Uneaten bread pollutes the water and contributes to algae blooms that can be fatal for fish in the pond

Please will you feed us:

- Chopped Lettuce
- Peas
- Oats
- Sweetcorn
- Cooked Rice
- Duck pellets
- Grains
- Seeds
- Chopped seedless grapes

www.figgatepark.org.uk

FIGGY KIDS FRIDAY BUGGY WALKS

A weekly walk around the Figgy for parents & carers of babies & toddlers to get out in the fresh air and meet other sleep deprived locals

11am every Friday
 Meeting at the container by Fruity Corner

FIGGY KIDS

EVERY FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH 10AM - 12NOON

All Seasons All Weathers All Year

Join Us to help with gardening and conservation tasks in the park. Meet us by the willow structures to enjoy an hour of activities to enjoy an hour of activities followed by some games and a picnic. You get to spend some outdoor time with your little one/s and meet like-minded people.

Email us here: figgykids@figgatepark.org.uk or visit www.facebook.com/figgate

There is no such thing as the

DOG POO FAIRY

Please BAG IT then BIN IT

Photo Competition

To find out how to enter go to: www.figgatepark.org.uk/photo/

All winning entries will all be featured in the 2020 Figgate Park Calendar

Closing date for entries
Saturday 31st August 2019

FIGGY DO

SAT 28TH MAY 1-4PM
 FIGGATE PARK

YARN BOMBING - PAVEMENT ART
 CIRCUS SKILLS - FACE PAINTING - TRAIL MAP
 PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION & MORE
 BRING A BLANKET & A SMILE
 THERE WILL BE TEA & CAKE!!

Purple Crocus

Rotary Edinburgh

Symbol of the End Polio Campaign

Rotary, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988.

In 2007, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation joined Rotary in its commitment to ending polio - matching every \$1 Rotary commits to polio eradication 2-to-1, up to \$35 million per year.

The campaign has reached more than 2.5 billion children with the vaccine. There are fewer polio cases today than ever before, but the campaign will not stop until there are no children at risk of polio.

The Rotary Club in Edinburgh donated 1000 purple crocus bulbs to Friends of Figgate in September 2020 and they were planted through the Grass in Fruity Corner.

Keep a look out and as they appear in Springtime.

Many thanks to the Rotary Club

The Figgate Playpark Needs Us All Now

Let's not lose this community asset

Please take a minute to complete the survey & show your support

www.figgatepark.org.uk/playpark-appeal/

Figgate Park 2019 Winner 'Best Loved Park in Edinburgh & Lothians'



The Friends of Figgate Park have initiated many new enhancement projects in recent years. They organise and run events within the park including a weekly gardening meet up, volunteering days and clean ups, tree planting, bulb planting, Figgy Kids, Buggy walks, nature walks, RSPB events. They have secured various small pots of funding over the years from £250 - £3000 to fund these projects and activities. FoFP have also raised funds through selling a wildlife calendar for upkeep of projects and running costs.

In 2018 the FoFP surveyed the local community to help support a request for local funding to improve the playpark area. They were not successful in securing funding but spurred on by the response from the community engagement they formed a working group in 2019 and undertook further consultation to help support the councils bid for funding both internal and external to upgrade the play park area.

The most recent FoFP consultation has involved;

- distributing 1000 flyers to households in the surrounding area
- launching an online survey that had 1000 respondents in less than two weeks of which 98.7% were positive and from a wide demographic.

- 865 people took the time to answer an open box question giving very constructive comments about the need for an upgraded playpark
- over 700 local children from 3 primary schools completed an additional paper survey with wholehearted support by the 3 local Head Teachers
- Localgiving Fund account set up that has had both individual and group donations
- feedback being given to the community via FB, website, through parent school networks and word of mouth

Having consulted with CEC FoFP have also directly approached Hitachi who lease the rail depot which backs on to the play park site and are hopeful of securing some funding to compliment the new playpark by adding a “train related” play and educational area along the edge of the depot which would be funded solely by Hitachi.

FoFP have collaborated with CEC and ELGT to design a playpark using feedback from local children and having created a design we are seeking external & internal funding for.

FoFP have collaborated with ELGT to support funding applications and also submit community fund applications.



The walkways over the pond and planting beds have been created around the pond in Figgate Park. The walkway and platform gives people greater access to see wildlife, while new planting, including yellow flag iris and water mint enhance the biodiversity of the pond, providing more habitats and food for the local wildlife.

The project which cost £72K was funded by WREN and the City of Edinburgh Council. Other improvements to the park include new signs and notice boards, gates and railings, bins and seats.

The Park Rangers provide guided walks, health walks and support and regularly lead several school activities and occasional conservation volunteer work in the park. The pond and viewing platform are useful features for many activities including pond dipping and bird watching.

The local primary Schools, Duddingston, St Johns and the Royal high school also take on regular projects in the park such as the pond dipping , bulb planting and sowing wildflower seeds.

2.3.4 A few Figgate Park highlights

FoFP Bug hotel & Wildlife



FoFP planting willow



FoFP working with the Dirty Weekenders from Edinburgh University to clear ground to create a sapling nursery



Fruity Corner – a FoFP enhancement project



FoFP working with TCV Volunteers clearing ground for new perennial 'white' meadow



FoFP Volunteers container



FoFP project with local Craightinny Train depot to fabricate and install community bird feeder and bench made from old train parts



FoFP Art under the Bridge Project involved 3 local primary school



3. WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE

3.1 Vision statement

“To maintain Figgate Park as a distinctive, attractive and well cared for space for the enjoyment of citizens and visitors alike”

Figgate Park is increasingly seen as a valuable green space for the local community. The ambitions of the management plan is for the Figgate park to build on the improvements and investment in the park that is clean green , safe and enjoyed by all those who visit it.

Our vision is supported by the Councils Parks and Gardens strategy which aims to provide:
A quality parks system worthy of international comparison, accessible, diverse and environmentally rich; which fulfils the culture, social and recreational needs of the people

(Edinburgh public parks and gardens strategy, 2006)

3.2 PARKS Quality Assessment

The quality of all parks and gardens in Edinburgh are assessed annually, using 19 of the 27 green flag criteria. This is referred to as the Parks Quality Assessments. The Majority of the Criteria are assessment during site visits, whilst the remaining (e.g. community involvement) are allocated scores by the councils green flag forum.

Each site is assessed using teams of assessors consisting of an experienced officer (green flag judge) and two or three assistants. Additionally each site was also assessed twice by different teams and where variance outside 10% was noted in criteria that could not be explained i.e. signage then a third assessment was undertaken. The methods, variance and

ultimately scores were validated by the green flag forum. Awareness of the green Flag scheme and guidance on scheme and guidance on scoring criteria is provided for all new assessors.

Park Quality Scores (bandwidths) for Figgate Park

2015: excellent	2017: excellent	2018: excellent	2019: excellent
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The Park Quality Assessment in 2019 highlighted what is good about the park (interpretation signage, range of facilities, pictorial meadow), gives areas requiring attention (e.g. condition of seats) and highlights three recommendations for further improvement. (see appendix 7 page 71)

3.2.1 Green Flag scheme

Figgate Park obtained its first Green Flag in 2010 and has retained the award every year since then. The feedback from the Green Flag assessment has been used to identify areas for improvement.

Scotland’s fields in trust Public vote decides Best Parks in Scotland

- **Eleven parks awarded “Much Loved” status, recognising local support**

Scotland in Fields in Trust’s UK’s Best Park 2019.

The UK’s Best Park is organised by green space charity Fields in Trust who, for over 90 years, have legally protected parks and green spaces ensuring they will always be available for future generations to enjoy. A record 364 nominations were received for UK’s Best Park 2019, of which 42 were in Scotland. Those nominations were supported by park users, communities, Friends of Parks groups, and landowners and an unprecedented total of 36,832 votes were cast for parks and green spaces across the UK.

In addition, ten other parks and green spaces in Scotland have achieved “Much Loved” status, having been placed in the top 20% of all UK’s Best Park 2019 nominations throughout the UK. The “Much Loved” status recognises the support of local people who use and love these parks and green spaces:

- **Aden Country Park**, Mintlaw, Aberdeenshire
- **Barshaw Park**, Paisley, Renfrewshire
- **Belleisle Park**, Ayr, South Ayrshire
- **Chatelherault Country Park**, Hamilton, South Lanarkshire
- **Figgate Park, Duddingston, Edinburgh**
- **Glencoats Park**, Westpark Drive, Paisley, Renfrewshire
- **Levensgrove Park**, Dumbarton, West Dumbartonshire
- **MacRosty Park**, Crieff, Perth and Kinross
- **Pitlochry Recreation Ground**, Pitlochry, Perth and Kinross
- **Wilton Lodge Park**, Hawick, Scottish Borders

Fields in Trust is a UK-wide charity that since 1925 has been legally protecting parks and green spaces in perpetuity. The UK’s Best Park Award recognises the role that parks play in our communities, supporting mental and physical health and bringing people together. The charity is concerned that many parks and green spaces are under threat and are at risk of being lost to development or a cycle of decline and disappearance.

Fields in Trust recently published research which revealed that over 2.5 million people across Great Britain do not have local access to a park or green space and Scotland has more than 300,000 people whose nearest local park is more than ten minutes walk from home. With public sector cuts leading to pressure on parks and green spaces, there is the risk that a lack of legal protection could lead to more being sold off or developed. Yet these vital outdoor spaces deliver health and wellbeing benefits to those that use them regularly. Fields in Trust research reveals that overall, across the UK, parks and green spaces contribute £34 billion each year in health and wellbeing benefits to their regular users and save the NHS £111million each year simply in avoided GP appointments.

93.2.2 Tree survey

All the trees in the park except those recently planted have been surveyed and their species, age, size and condition are now recorded on the councils Ezytreeve gis- database. Any trees that are considered dangerous or unviable have been allocated to the Forestry Division for removal.

3.2.3 Community consultation

In 2019 the friends playpark working group distributed 1000 flyers to households surrounding the playpark area of the Figgate Park. They then undertook two surveys to find out the opinions of the local community regarding the need for a new playpark.

An online survey had over 1000 respondents in less than two weeks of which 98.7% were positive. A paper survey of all 3 primary schools in the area was then conducted with wholehearted support from the 3 local Head Teachers to find out what type of play equipment would be best received by the local community in the refurbished site. Over 700 local children completed this survey and FoFP have worked with CEC and ELGT to design a playpark using the feedback gathered from this comprehensive local consultation.

3.2.4 SWOT analysis

During the summer of 2019 the park was assessed and using this feedback we were able to find areas that could be improved on. This along with working ideas of the friend's group to identify the key objectives and aims for the parks management plan. the results of this are summarised in (appendix 5 page 59). The action is reviewed annually to reflect works undertaken and the results of the annual Parks Quality Assessments.

3.3 Aim of this management plan

The aims and objectives for Figgate Park have been developed in line with the City of Edinburgh Council's policies and supported by other services either within the council or out with. The main role is of managing and being responsible for the site and through analysis of the key management issues. Based on the outcome of the analysis and assessment summarised in the previous section, the following aims have been formulated for the maintenance and further development of Figgate Park:

Aim 1: To increase biodiversity in the park

Aim 2: To keep the park as an attractive green space: clean, safe, and in a good state of maintenance.

Aim 3: To develop the park further into a well-established open spaced site, which engages all age groups while maintaining a haven for wildlife.

Aim 4: To retain the park's Green Flag status and increase the annual Parks Quality Assessment score using the internal Edinburgh Park Quality Standard.

4 HOW WILL WE GET THERE

4.1 Figgate Park: Park Improvement Plan

Aim 1: To increase biodiversity in the park			
Objective	Action	Who	Target Date
To explore areas for reduced grounds maintenance activity – low maintenance grass	Continue to look for ways to relax or create wildflower meadows	Parks development officer, operations Managers, friends' group	2021- onward
To maintain and increase tree stock and variety of trees	Introduce more climax species tree to replace trees lost to disease or wind damage	PDO, forestry section Friends group	2021- onwards
Maintain health tree stock	Assess condition of trees	Forestry section	Every 5 years
Maintain health tree stock	Remove dangerous trees	Forestry Service	On going
Maintain health tree stock	Annual survey for Dutch Elm disease	Forestry Service	On-going
To maintain the wildflower meadow	Use annual seeds to maintain meadow	PDO and Operations manager	2021- onwards
To increase the number of ever greens plants	Increase use of evergreen plants	CPO and PR	2021- onwards

To increase planting around pond edge	Carry out planting with marginal plants	PDO	2022 – onwards
Control invasive species, Hogweed and Japanese knotweed, Balsam	Monitor spread of plant and investigate control methods	PDO	On-going
Plant old railway banking	Source trees and arrange planting	Friends group and PDO	START 2021

Aim 2: To keep the park as an attractive greenspace: clean, safe and in a good state of maintenance			
Objective	Action	Who	Target Date
Litter	Replace bins	PDO and taskforce	2021 ongoing
Fences around park	Repaint all metal work within park	PDO and Community Service	2021 – onward
To address anti-social behaviour	increase PDO/ PR visits And environmental wardens	PDO and PR	2021 – on-going
Reduce dog fouling	Work with Environmental Wardens on dog fouling	Environmental Wardens and waste services ce	On-going. Dog fouling campaign
To maintain good quality planting	Plants – replace as required Increase planting landscaping plan	Local CPO and Friends Group	annually
To improve maintenance of watercourse	Clear burn of extraneous material	PR and Friends Group	On-going

Improve play area	Upgrade play area	PDO Friends group Central parks	2020 onward
Work with rail companies to carry out environmental improvements	To reuse train parts and create interest within the park	Friends Group PDO friends group	2020

Aim 3: To develop the park further into a well-established open spaced site, which engages all age groups while maintaining a haven for wildlife.

Objective	Action	Who	Target Date
To upgrade formal play area	To explore funding streams to provide interesting and challenging play	PDO and PR to work with Friends Group to identify	2019 -25

		and secure funding	
To introduce artwork	Explore funding opportunities for artwork	DPO and Friends Group to explore funding sources	2025
To support Friends of Figgate Park	Attend Friends of Figgate Park meetings	PR & DPO	On-going
Work with running group that have set up	Park run	PDO	On-going
Get local kids into the park to encourage them to take ownership	Run series of activities in park for local schools	PR	On-going
Make full use of the existing green space	Work with existing and new groups	PDO & PR	On-going
Allow people to use the park	Install more picnic benches this will be part of the design of the playground	PDO FREINDS GROUP	2025

Aim 4: To retain Green Flag status and increase the annual Parks Quality Assessment score

Objective	Action	Who	Target Date
To achieve an annual Parks Assessment score of 75% or above	implementing the Parks Improvement Plan	PDO	On-going

	(aims 1-3 as detailed above)		
Keep the park interesting to all age groups	Carry out annual PQA recommendations	PDO and PRs	On-going

Reference key

PDO = Parks Development officer

PR = Park Rangers

Grounds Maintenance = Parks and green space

Forestry = Forestry Division

4.2 Finance

Revenue Funding

The provision of revenue funding for the Garden consists of work undertaken at present by the local Grounds Maintenance Task Force. The current maintenance schedule is based in part on the old Grounds Maintenance Contract that now serves as a guide to what should be undertaken.

There is no specific maintenance budget allocation for Figgate park, so it is difficult to determine the exact costs associated with maintaining it. As there are no up to date rates for grounds maintenance an approximate cost cannot be calculated.

In addition, the Local Environment Manager has a budget for parks development and small-scale repairs and maintenance improvements. The annual budget for parks and open space development including repairs and maintenance, for North Edinburgh is approximately £60,000.

It is recognised that the Friends of Figgate park devote their own time and resources, through grants, gifts and help in kind, to improve the Park.

Capital Funding

The capital budget is administrated by the Parks and Greenspace Service. The budget is generally allocated in advance and the role of the developing management plans is for better planning of financial resources required so that they can be included in future bids. Wherever possible capital bids should be match funded and the Friends of Figgate Park can assist with this.

Grants

The Parks and Greenspace team have a small grants fund that Friends groups can apply for, this is for small items or to assist in developing their group or the sites they have adopted. In addition, the Friends of gate Park have utilised third party grants from organisations to invest in the Garden



In addition, Friends of Figgate Park in partnership with the Council have utilised third party grants from organisations to develop the park. e.g. a grant to create the Boardwalk was obtained from WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited) in 2009.



Otter in Pond 2019



Kingfisher 2019

5 HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE HAVE ARRIVED?

5.1 Management Plan

This Management Plan provides a working document for all those involved in the management and maintenance of the park to ensure that we achieve our vision of maintaining Figgate Park as a distinctive, attractive and well cared for space and to continually improve the quality of the park for the enjoyment of citizens and visitors alike. The Management Plan and the Park Improvement Plan will be reviewed annually.

5.2 Performance Measures/Monitoring

5.2.1 Park Quality Assessment

The quality of Figgate Park is monitored annually via the Park Quality Assessments. These scores will be used to help assess the success of the management plan and help with the review of the action plan.

5.2.2 Green Flag Scheme

Measuring the park against the Green Flag criteria will help shape further improvements, both to the Management Plan and to our management processes.

5.2.3 Landscape Quality Standards

The quality of the ground's maintenance in the East Neighbourhood area is assessed monthly against the Landscape Quality Standards. This can be used to highlight an area of improvement required within the park.

5.3 Survey & Feedback

Surveys and Assessments Undertaken

Asset Management GIS Survey

The Council has recently introduced a new asset management system which has been undertaken following a full survey of each park in the City. This is now linked to GIS so that site location, condition and photographic information can be studied from the office base. This information will be used to assess replacement or repair of the infrastructure within the Park.

It is still in its development stage but once this is fully operational this will be provided information on the assets and provided information on dilapidation.

Tree Survey

The Council's Arboriculture section produced a Tree Survey with a comprehensive tree species list indicating the current condition of the tree stock. Recommendations from this survey will be used to shape the future development of the landscape features of the Garden and will be reflected in future in this management plan **(Appendix 6)**.

Parks and Greenspace User Survey CEC Visitor/User Survey

The Council's website gives users and visitors to the Garden an opportunity to register their comments on any park within the City. To encourage users to inform us what they think about the Garden generally.

Core Paths

The City of Edinburgh Council's Core Path Plan identifies a system of key routes for non-motorised access throughout the area of its authority. Core Paths are predominately designated on existing paths, cycle tracks, footways and any other routes that provide a network linking communities and places people want to go. These include local facilities, tourist attractions, parks and greenspace and places of work. Core paths should accommodate a variety of uses, walking, cycling, horse riding and disabled access where possible.

Core Paths in Parks will be managed by the Local Neighbourhood Teams (Road Services, Parks and Environmental Task Force) and in some cases the Countryside Ranger Service. The aspiration is to work towards a situation where each Core Path is:

- Safer
- Appropriately signposted and publicised
- Accessible
- Well maintained

The Core Path Plan supports Edinburgh's Outdoor Access Strategy and Local Transport Strategy and will appear in future Local Plans and on Ordnance Survey Maps to underline the strategic importance of this network of routes. The plan will be reviewed at an unspecified date in the future.

New bins have been ordered to replace some of the old ones.

APPENDIX 2: ANNUAL MAINTENANCE PLAN

Task	Who	Location	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov
Litter Collection - bins	Taskforce	Across site											
Ad hoc site litter collection	Park Staff Taskforce	Across site											
Amenity grass cutting	Taskforce / grounds maintenance	Across site											
Vegetation cut back around pond	Park staff / Grounds maintenance	Pond margins											
Thin & prune community woodlands	Park staff / volunteers	Community woodlands											
Thin & lift crowns community woodlands	Woodlands contractor	Community woodlands											
Mixed Shrub maintenance	Grounds maintenance	Planted beds											
Path maintenance (as required)	Park staff / workshops / Taskforce	Path networks											
Other maintenance (as required)	Park staff / Workshops	Across site											
Infrastructure maintenance (as required)	Workshops	Benches, Signs, Fences											

APPENDIX 3 BIODIVERSITY SPECIES LIST

Audit of the park's flora was carried out by Lothian Wildlife Information Centre

Acer campestre	Carex pendula	Flag iris
Acer platanoides	Chamerion angustifolium	Galingale
Acer pseudoplatanus	Chickweed	Geum urbanum
Aesculus hippocastanum	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	Glyceria maxima
Alder	Common Nettle	Great Willowherb
Alnus glutinosa	cornelian cherry	Grey Poplar
Amelanchier arborea	Cornus mas	Hawthorn
An elm	Crack Willow	Hedge Mustard
Apple	Crataegus monogyna	Herb Bennet
Arbutus unedo	Creeping Buttercup	Holly
aspen	Creeping Cinquefoil	Hop Trefoil
Beech	Cyperus papyrus	Horse-chestnut
Beech	Dog Rose	Ilex aquifolium
Betula pendula	Downy Birch	Iris pseudocorus
Betula pubescens	Dryopteris dilatata	Lesser Stitchwort
Bird Cherry	Dwarf Cherry	Lime
Bramble	Epilobium hirsutum	Lotus corniculatus
Broad Buckler-fern	Fagus sylvatica	Lythrum salicaria
Broad-leaved Dock	Fagus sylvatica Asplenifolia	Malus domestica
Caltha palustris	Field Maple	Marsh marigold
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet

Mysotis scorpioides	Salix fragilis	Whitebeam
Norway Maple	Scots Pine	
Nymphaeas	Sessile Oak	
Pedunculate Oak	Shepherd's-purse	
Pendulous sedge	Silver Birch	
Persicaria maculosa	Silverweed	
Pinus sylvestris	Sisymbrium Officinale	
Populus alba x tremula (P. x canescens)	snowy mespil	
Populus temula	Sorbus aria agg.	
Potentilla anserina	Sorbus aucuparia	
Potentilla reptans	Stellaria graminea	
Prunus cerasus	Stellaria media agg.	
Prunus padus	strawberry tree	
purple loosestrife	Sycamore	
Quercus petraea	Tilia cordata x platyphyllos (T. x vulga	
Quercus robur	Trifolium campestre	
Ranunculus repens	Trifolium pratense	
Red Clover	Trifolium repens	
Redshank	Ulmus sp.	
Reed sweet-grass	Urtica dioica	
Reseda luteola	Veronica beccabunga	
Rosa canina agg.	Water forget-me-not	
Rosebay Willowherb	Water lilies	
Rowan	Water mint	
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Weld	
Rumex obtusifolius	White Clover	
Salix alba	White Willow	

APPENDIX 4 Operational / Maintenance Features



Appendix 4 – Environment Team Structure Chart

Under review

APPENDIX 5: Stakeholders and Contact List

Stakeholders

- Friends of Figgate Park
- Community Council
- City of Edinburgh Council

Contact List

Friends of Figgate Park FACEBOOK PAGE:

Website www.figgatepark.org.uk

Email friends@figgatepark.org.uk

Facebook www.facebook.com/Figgate

Twitter www.twitter.com/figgatepark

Scott Thomson – Community Parks Officer, East Neighbourhood Team

East Edinburgh, Local Office, 101 Niddrie Mains Road, Edinburgh EH16 4DS

Tel: 0131 529 3481 e-mail: scott.thomson@edinburgh.gov.uk

Park Rangers, East Neighbourhood Team

Natalia Navarro / Russell Linton

East Edinburgh Local Office, 101 Niddrie Mains Road, Edinburgh EH16 4DS

Tel: 0131 529 3111

Steven Cuthill Parks and Greenspace Manager

Parks and Greenspace, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh

Tel: 0131 529 7715 e-mail: steven.cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk

Alan Grieversey – Play Technical Officer

Parks and Greenspace, Waverly Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh

Tel: 0131 529 7972 e-mail: Alangrieversey@edinburgh.gov.uk

– Forestry Manager, Forestry Division

Parks and Greenspace, Inverleith Farm House, 5 Arboretum Place, Edinburgh

Tel: 0131 311 7077 e-mail: park@edinburgh.gov.uk

Inch Park Nursery

Inch Park Nursery, Old Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh

Tel: 0131 664 4135 e-mail: parks@edinburgh.gov.uk



Wild flower meadow

APPENDIX 6: SWOT ANALYSIS

Initially Completed 2020

A Welcoming Place:

Figgate Park is an accessible green space for the local community. In the assessment the following aspects have been taken into account:

- Announcing the park
- Physical access
- Social access
- Design

Strengths

- Several entrances surrounding park
- Notice boards with information close to main entrance
- Interpretation and signage improved
- Dropped kerbs good path network
- Good views, play area bins seating
- Highlighted as a place to visit for dog walking
- Good infrastructure of seats and paths

Weaknesses

- Some dog fouling
- Moderate litter
- A frame gates at some entrances
- Lack of signage re plants and wildlife
- Litter bins on going replaced
- Bins not being emptied

Opportunities

- Increase information re plants and pond life
- Continue to monitor dog fouling

Threats

- Future investments
- Litter in river and on grass areas
- Infrastructure not maintained

Healthy, Safe and Secure:

The following factors were considered:

- Health and well-being – is the park being used to promote healthy life-styles?
- Equipment and facilities
- Security

Strengths

- Used on a regular basis for informal play
- Open area gives sense of security during daylight hours
- Residents regularly use the park for walking dogs
- Play area busy with children and families and in reasonable condition
- Cycling and jogging evident in park
- Benches provided for passive enjoyment of park & views
- good network of paths for different routes around the park
-

Weaknesses

- Benches and fences require to be repainted
- Some paths require made safe
- Play area requires to be upgraded
- No lighting along paths within park
- Park not overlooked
- Lack of provision for teenagers

Opportunities

- Create new play area suitable for all rea
- Create bike track within woodland at play area

Threats

- Elements of the site is perceived as a place where antisocial behaviour and underage drinking occurs at night particularly at the covered benches in the teenage zone
- Antisocial behaviour and vandalism

Well Maintained and Clean:

The garden is maintained and cleaned according to a tight maintenance schedule. The following aspects were analysed:

- Litter and waste management
- Ground maintenance
- Infrastructure

Strengths

- Bins / benches in reasonable condition
- Signage replaced 2021 / 2025
- Planted beds within beds have been replaced due to death or removal
- Variety of ages and species of trees
-

Weaknesses

- Litter can be a problem
- Dog fouling over winter is a large problem
- Broken glass on play area
-

Opportunities

- Community clean up
- Use of unpaid work teams (community service)
-

Threats

- Antisocial behaviour within park
- Disease to existing tree stock

Sustainability:

In design and maintenance of the park , sustainability issues have played and continue to play an important part:

- Environment management
- Pesticides, herbicides and materials
- Horticulture and arboriculture

Strengths

- Design elements such as use of annual planting to increase colour and lengthen flowering periods
- Use of unusual species of trees and shrubs
- Trees have been surveyed and information is held electronically on Ezy Tree database
- Woodlands provided useful and beneficial habitats

Weaknesses

- Grass cutting frequency
- Community woodlands require active management
- Replacement planting of failed and damaged trees required
- Loss or over maturity of trees on island
- Control of invasive weeds species

Opportunities

- Replanting of climax species of woodland.
- Loss or over maturity of trees on island

Threats

- Loss of character due to mature trees being felled or reaching maturity
- Loss of mature trees

Conservation and Heritage: Consider the following:

- Habitats
- Cultural landscapes

Strengths

- Winter seed heads left on plants are used by birds such as House Sparrows
- Large amount of native plants
- Proximity to private gardens enables exchange of wildlife, especially birds and insects, contributing to a larger habitat
- Varied habitats for wildlife – large site with variety of planting supports lots of species. E.g. woodlands, scrub and grasses, pond, single trees.
-

Weaknesses

- Lack of evergreens
- Over mature trees
- Dead or diseased affecting mature tree

Opportunities

- Creation of better wildflower meadow

Threats

- Investment

Community Involvement: Considered were the following aspects:

- Patterns of use
- Community involvement
- Play and educational value
- School groups

Strengths

- Friends group setup & established 2007 active in park
- Regular meetings and motivated group with focus on improving site for biodiversity and wildlife
- Local school groups engaged & interested in using the park as educational resource
- Informal play and young families use the park widely during the week and weekends
- All the local schools use the school

Weaknesses

- Formal play area is limited
- Little quality formal play for older teenagers
- Ensure park improvements benefit all users where possible

Opportunities

- Educational opportunities for the park should be developed
- Increase community events taking place at park
- Encourage friends' group to arrange activity days in park for general park users to get involved

Threats

- Ensure as wide a catchment of community as possible get opportunity to input into park development & community needs
-

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with schools in park as educational resource • Raise awareness of friends group to wider community • Local clubs, charities or organisations could be contacted to get involved in health walk / park activities • Upgrade elements of formal play 	
--	--

Management: The park is managed by the City of Edinburgh Council and local volunteers.

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local community involved • Friends group actively engaged on future projects for site • Green flag assessments will provide feedback on areas that require focus or investment • East twitter account • Notice board • Edinburgh outdoors 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of grounds maintenance tasks • Limited funding • Low number of overall staffing for parks department reduces the amount of dedicated time available from staff for each site
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with local groups • Working with the friend's group to develop improvements projects • More active management of sections of the site, such as community woodlands a positive contribution to the site and it's usage • Local press 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of overall funding for parks & green spaces can make it difficult to have an impact on single sites • site management cannot be achieved without adequate staffing and grounds maintenance support • The need to spread development over all parks in the area.

Management: The park is managed by the City of Edinburgh Council and local volunteers.

Strengths

- Local community involved
- Friends group
- Management plan in production for 2020-2025
- Friends group actively engaged on future projects for site
- Green flag assessments will provide feedback on areas that require focus or investment

Weaknesses

- Frequency of grounds maintenance tasks
- Limited funding
- Low number of overall staffing for parks department reduces the amount of dedicated time available from staff for each site

Opportunities

- Working with local groups
- Working with the friend's group to develop improvements projects
- More active management of sections of the site, such as community woodlands a positive contribution to the site and it's usage

Threats

- Lack of overall funding for parks & greenspaces can make it difficult to have an impact on single sites
- site management cannot be achieved without adequate staffing and grounds maintenance support

APPENDIX 7: Corporate Strategies & Policies

Park and Environmental Policies

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/council-planning-framework/council-business-plan-2017-2022>

The council's business plan is built around 52 commitments that the council administration has pledged to deliver over the next five years. The plan sets out what we aim to do and how we intend to do it. This plan will inform our decision – making on how we use our resources. The principles and actions set out here will drive the way we reshape and redesign the way we deliver services and the way we work with communities and partners

The North East locality plan 2017 - 2022<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localityimprovementplans>

The NE locality plan sets out the priorities for improving the area over the next 5 years with actions that will be carried out in the short, medium and long term, making use of our commitments to target our shared resources in the most effective way to tackle inequality.

Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018 – 2028

Our new Community Plan shows the commitment of the Edinburgh Partnership to work together to focus on reducing poverty and inequality within the city and improve the quality of life for all. The plan identifies those issues that require sustained joint working to make a difference

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/23664/community-plan-2018-28>

Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Edinburgh

www.edinburgh.gov.uk › [directory-record](#) › [sustainable-edinburgh-2020](#)

Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 is the Council's Framework for the **sustainable** development of the city until **2020**. Our vision is that “**Edinburgh in 2020** will be a low carbon, resource efficient city, delivering a resilient local economy and vibrant flourishing communities in a rich natural setting”.

Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Frame work

The Resilient Edinburgh Climate Adaption Frame sets out Edinburgh’s strategic approach to increasing resilience to the impact of climate change. Climate change adaptation provides a unique opportunity for the Council and its citywide partners to work together to ensure that Edinburgh continues to be a climate – resilient city.

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory-record/1146210/resilient-edinburgh-climate-change-adaptation-framework>

Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2020 21 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22616/open-space-2021>

The 2010 **Open Space Strategy** set out three standards to make sure that all communities in and around **Edinburgh** have access to quality **open space** in the following ways: Large Greenspaces – greater than 2 hectares; Local Greenspaces – greater than 500 square metres; and • Equipped children's play areas.

Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 – 2021 [edinburgh.gov.uk/biodiversity](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/biodiversity)

The Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan is an initiative to conserve and enhance the Capital's natural heritage. The term "biodiversity " encapsulates all that we mean by the health of our natural environment and ultimately the quality of our lives. To this end, the Action Plan puts forward an ambitious programme of carefully targeted actions to enrich the living habitats of Edinburgh and address the welfare of key plant and animal species. There are Habitat Actions Plans for coastal & marine, rock faces, uplands, wetland and watercourses, farmland, semi-natural grassland, urban habitats and woodland. There are Species Action Plans for water vole, badger,

otter, daubenton's bat & pipistrelle bats, seed eating birds, roseate tern & common tern, swift, great crested newt, small pearl-bordered fritillary, juniper, maiden pink, rock white beam, sticky catchfly, adders tongue and waxcap fungi.

Edinburgh Parks Events manifesto <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/park-activities-events/edinburgh-parks-events-manifesto-1?documentId=12056&categoryId=20179>

The Manifesto is intended to allow a strategic and proactive approach to the planning and managing of events within Edinburgh's parks and green spaces. It aims to establish a set of guidelines tailored to each individual park, which provide a framework on which a balanced and sustainable events programme can be achieved, whilst ensuring that the quality of the land is maintained to the highest standard possible.

Edinburgh council -business plan

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/council-planning-framework/council-business-plan-2017-2022>
Corporate Strategies & Policies

Edinburgh Partnership Single Outcome Agreement 2012-17

The Single Outcome Agreement contains an integrated area profile of Edinburgh, providing context for the current issues facing the city, which include demographic changes and the impact of global economic downturn. It sets out the Edinburgh Partnership's local outcomes aligned to each of the 15 National Outcomes agreed in the concordat.

APPENDIX 8 PARKS QUALITY SCORE 2019

Park Quality Assessment Result 2019

Assessment Date: 08 May 2019

Lead Assessor: Peter Davidson

Figgate Burn Park

Classification: Community Park

PQS: 78% Grade B

Edin Std Met: Yes

2018 78% - Grade B - Yes

Criteria Score Key 0 = N/A; 1 = Very Poor; 2-4 = Poor; 5-6 = Fair; 7 = Good; 8 = Very Good; 9 = Excellent; 10 = Exceptional

<u>Sustainability</u>		more trees planted and friends' group very active	
Environmental Sustainability	7	8 Council's litter recycling policy is adhered to.	
Waste Minimisation	5	5 Where green waste is generated, some is re-used on site but most is removed for recycling elsewhere.	
Pesticides	7	5 Pesticide/Herbicide is used on site i.e. along edges, in channels to control weed growth and/or in bed preparation but is monitored.	
Peat Use	10	No peat-based bedding on site	
Climate Change	0	0	
<u>Conservation & Heritage</u>		9 great mix of different habitats on site, young and mature trees, relaxed grass, wildflower meadows, lots of bird boxes, otters seen visiting by locals.	
Conservation Fauna & Flora	9	9 Obviously, a great nature corridor. Very impressed	
		7 this park is still evolving will retaining its woodland corridors. The loss of some of the mature trees within the park has changed the feel of some area but replanting has been under taken and the long term feel will return.	
		0	

Conservation Landscape 7

Conservation Buildings

0 **9** Friends group are leading on several large projects. We have contacted the railway depot and have their managers fully involved. The wheel set that has created a bench and bird table are just small items that we have introduced they have produced a calendar for the park and have obtained several grants to carry out improvements

Community Involvement

Community Involvement 9

Community Provision 9

9 The park is now being used for a park run with an average of 300 runners the park creates a great locality the friends group are active in finding money to carry out small projects

Marketing & Promotion

Marketing & Promotion 8

8 The site is advertised on the Council website and Edinburgh Outdoors. Notice boards in park is used to publicise the site friends group has active site

7 notice boards with north east office details. Info on health walks, foggy friends group activities. some out of date material in notice board. Volunteer day 28th April/RSPB 11th and 12th

Information Provision 8

Educ. & Interpretative Provision 8

8 great educational material throughout site. Advice on duck feeding, pond birds, common bird species, historic information on park, biodiversity info, butterfly and moth info.

Management

Management Plan Implementation 0

Overall
Comments

generally, very impressed with the park, many points of interest to discover within the park and the site had a good feeling of being well cared for by council staff. Any negative comments are very minor in particular wobbly goal posts, play area look very scruffy and worn with a lot of weed present fence line, in wood chip and around soft surfaces. entrance point by the play area had graffiti on fence and wall which lowered the tone of this section several threshold signs (caring for parks) were bent or broken didn't deduct

concentrate on the play area, address the weed issue, repaint all the play equipment and top up the wood chip would give the play area a refreshed look

Recommendations

remove the large wobbly goal posts and replace with 2 smaller more robust goals either at same location or across the path on the large open grass area. Obviously, kids have been swinging on the goals that has made them unstable. Smaller more robust goals would be better.

some general graffiti removal from bins and walls is need