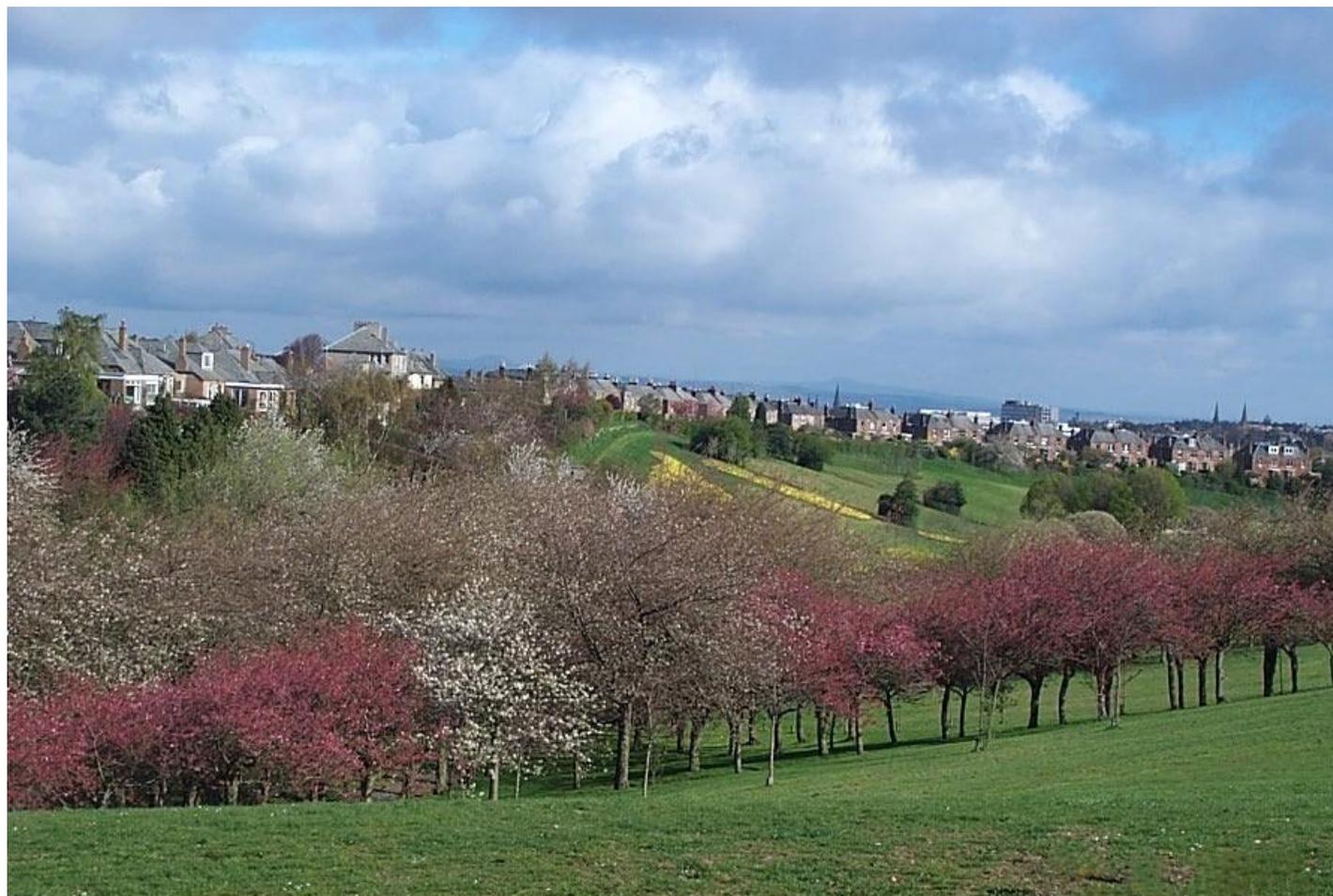


Braidburn Valley Park Management Plan 2016- 2021



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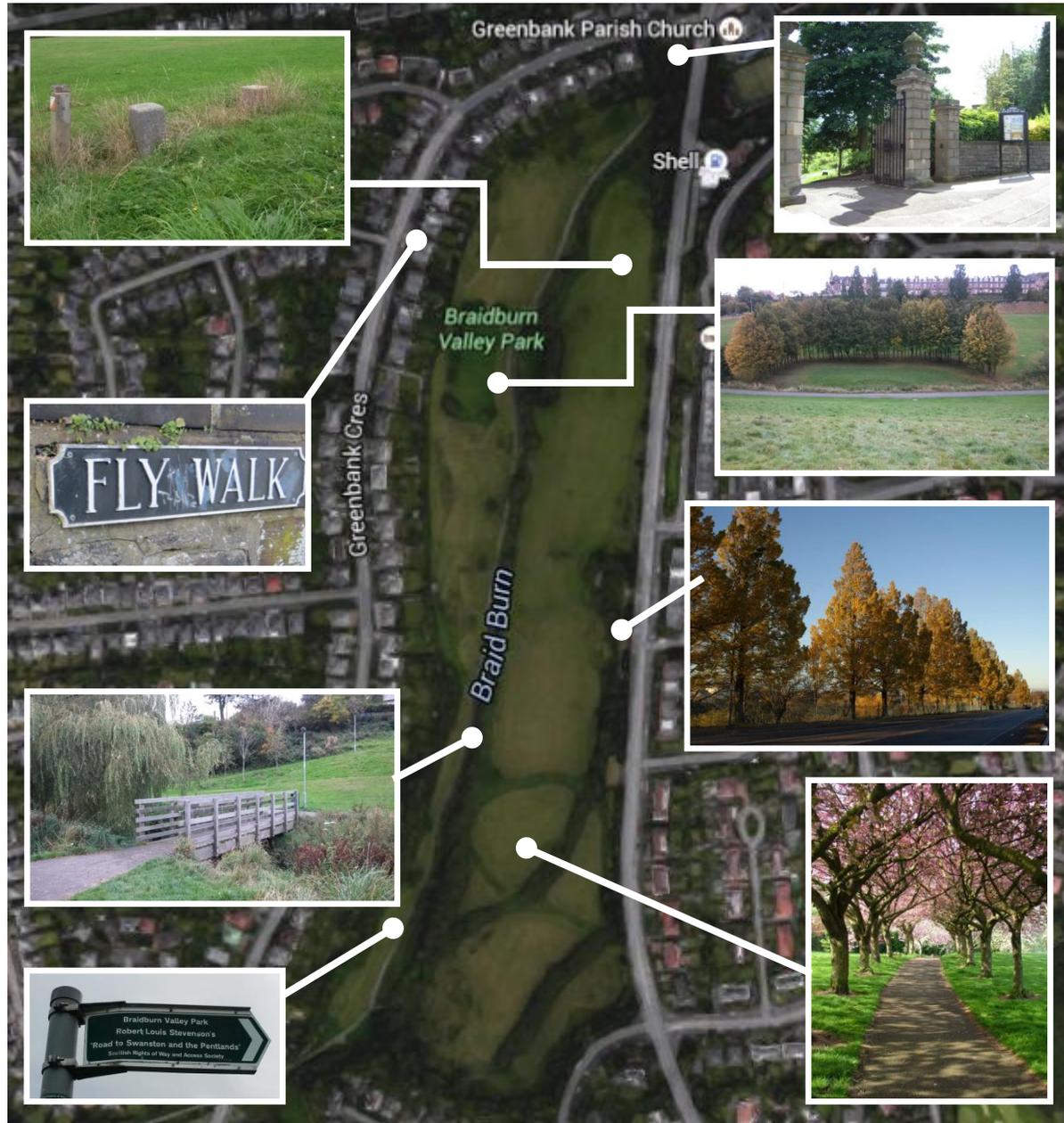
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Braidburn Valley Park circa 1954



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Overview map of the Braidburn Valley Park



Summary Information

Park Name:	Braidburn Valley Park
Address:	Greenbank Crescent/Comiston Road EH10 5TE
National Grid reference:	NT2469 and NT2470
Size of Site:	12 hectares / 29.6 acres
Telephone Number:	0131 529 5151
Email:	mike.shields@edinburgh.gov.uk
Ownership:	The City of Edinburgh Council – The Common Good Account
Area Designation	South Neighbourhood
Classification:	Community Park
Plan Written by:	South Neighbourhood Environment Team South.EnvironmentTeam@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel 0131 529 5151
Partners:	Local Community Morningside Community Council Community Volunteers Schools – South Morningside Primary Local shops and businesses Friends of Braidburn Valley Park

QR Code:

Scan this code using your smartphone to find out about your local park or report a concern
www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk



South Neighbourhood Office

40 Captain's Road
Edinburgh
EH17 8HQ

Email: southteam@edinburgh.gov.uk

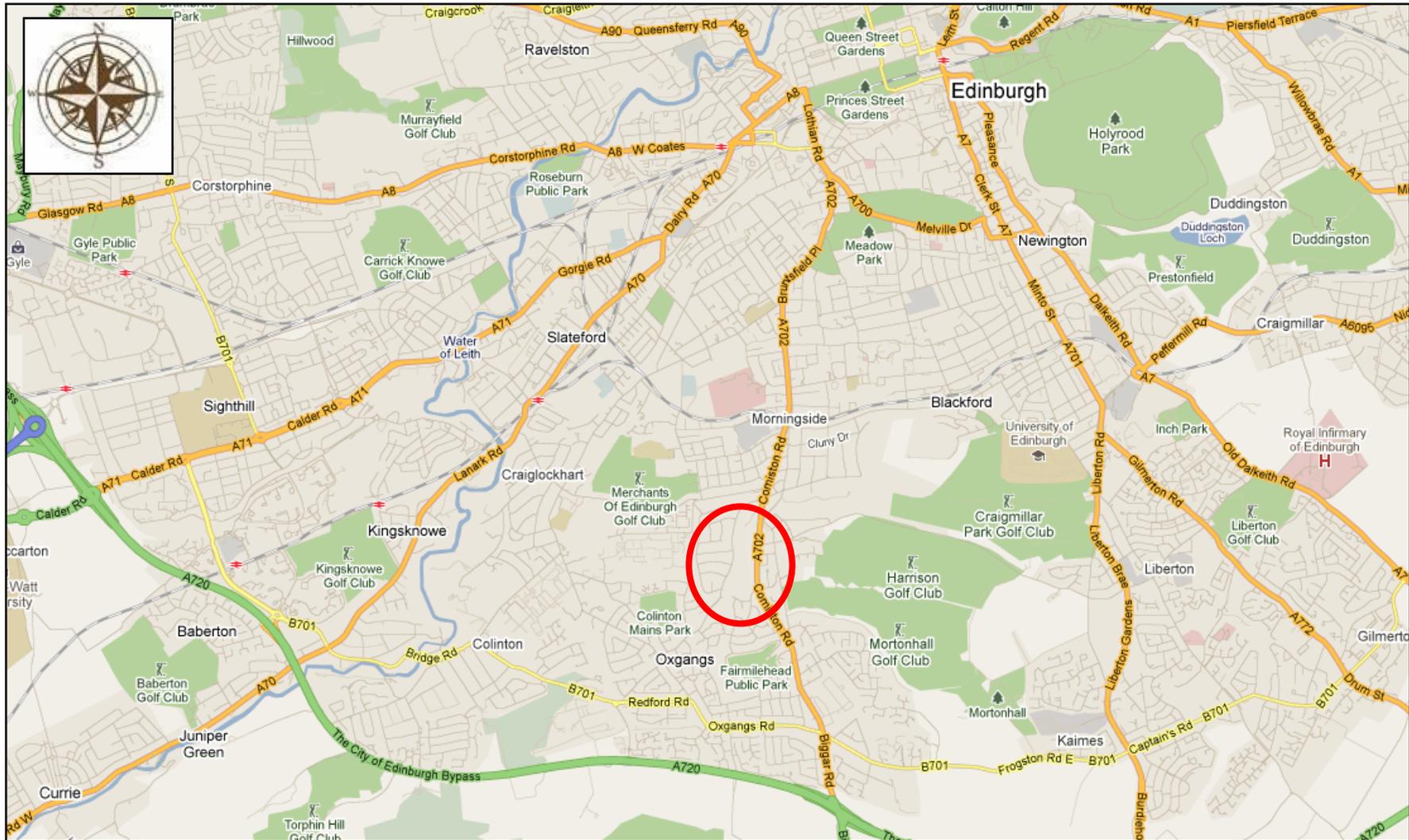
Tel: 0131 529 5151

Tweet to [@south_team](https://twitter.com/south_team)



Main Entrance to the Park

Location Map of Braidburn Valley Park



Introduction

1.0 Location

Braidburn Valley Park (Figure 1.1, pg. 10) was created as a public park in 1933. It is open to the public 24 hours a day and is well used by the local community of all ages. The linear shape of the park means that it provides an important and popular through-route with commuters and dog walkers, and is used for informal activities.

The park is located between the busy Comiston Road to the east and the gardens of Greenbank Crescent properties to the west, and on the south by Pentland Gardens and Comiston Spring Avenue. The initials of King George VI and the Queen Mother adorn the main entrance gates, which used to belong to Comiston House but were relocated shortly after Braidburn Valley opened as a public park in 1933. The park area (extending to 12.5 hectares), was formerly farmland. Over the years the park has been used for many activities, namely being used for allotments in the Second World War and public performances in the open air theatre. More information regarding this is highlighted in the history of the park at section 3.1.

Inside, the park is bisected by the Braid Burn; a narrow watercourse that flows from the south to the north of the park. The two metre wide burn rises on the northern edge of the Pentlands and flows through the city to the sea at Portobello. The value of this wildlife corridor has led to the listing of the Park as an Urban Wildlife Site in Edinburgh's Urban Wildlife Strategy.

The park consists of mainly short mown grass with trees and shrubberies around its edges. There are groups of staked *Sorbus* trees with naturalised bulb under planting on the western and eastern slopes and a row of Wheatley Elms on the east side. A wildflower meadow created in 2005 and a cherry tree trefoil, planted in 1935 is on the south east bank. Unique amongst Edinburgh parks, there is an amphitheatre cut into the grass on the western slope with a grass stage opposite framed by a row of hornbeams.

In addition to the main entrance at Greenbank Crescent, there are also another two entrances from Comiston Road, one at Comiston Spring Avenue and a further three from Greenbank Crescent accessing the "Fly Walk" a historic Scottish Right of Way used by Robert Louis Stevenson on his way to Swanston Village at the foothills of the Pentlands. Indeed, the signposted "Robert Louis Stevenson Way" starts at the interpretation panel at the north end of Braidburn Valley Park and progresses along Fly Walk before exiting the park at the Oxfangs entrance.

Braidburn Valley Park Management Plan 2016 – 2021

The park is well serviced by public transport bus routes, Lothian Bus services 11 and 15, run along Comiston Road/Pentland Terrace; Services 5 and 16 run along Greenbank Crescent. Braidburn Valley Park has a welcoming atmosphere and is well used by the whole neighbourhood/community.

The park provides an essential greenspace in the heart of the city with a design, which lends itself to a great range of sports and leisure activities. The layout of the park provides healthy and safe routes into the city along tree lined paths for residents of the south side of the city. The design provides large open spaces which can accommodate a range of activities including sport, play, leisure activities, and other events. There are a number of stakeholders who can be associated with the park and provide a good cross section of public and commercial

- Local community
- Fairmilehead Community Council
- Morningside Community Council
- Friends of Braidburn Valley Park
- Schools (South Morningside Primary School)

The Council's in-house Department, Services for Communities, are responsible for the maintenance and development of the park in close partnership with the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park, a community group formed in 2002.

Braidburn Valley Park Management Plan 2016 – 2021



Figure 1.1 – Location Plan

1.1 Management Plan Framework

This Management Plan sets out the future management, maintenance and development of the Braidburn Valley Park and has been produced by the City of Edinburgh Council and representatives from the volunteer group to provide not only a long-term vision but also details on both developmental and operational duties required to achieve that vision.

The plan is set out in sections covering the eight key criteria as set out in the Green Flag Award Guidance Manual – Raising the Standard.

The management plan covers the period 2016 to 2021 and has a detailed plan of works for that period. This plan's target audience is elected members, the local community and council officers and its style and content should ensure continuity of purpose and consistency in service delivery. It is intended to be a flexible, working document that will be reviewed and updated annually.

Like any management plan its purpose is to:

“Provide a framework within which all future management is carried out. The plan enables any person involved to understand how and why decisions are taken, and the reasoning behind the policies and proposals for action.”

This plan's target audience is Elected Members, the local community, Council officers and maintenance staff and its style and content should ensure continuity of purpose and consistency in service delivery. It is intended to be a flexible, working document that will be reviewed and updated annually with the Friends Group prior to their Annual General Meeting.

1.2 Edinburgh Parks & Gardens Framework

Edinburgh values its reputation as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, renowned for its setting, history and built heritage. Parks and greenspaces are integral to this. They serve as a stage for our public lives and are settings where celebrations are held, where social exchanges take place, where friends mix, where cultures run into each other, where nature thrives, and where people revive themselves from the stresses of urban living.

The Parks and Greenspace Service is committed to providing quality parks for residents and visitors alike. There are five qualities that make a park great, and that drive the work of the Parks and Greenspace Service: They must be full of activity and invite affection. They must also be visible and accessible as well as being comfortable and safe. They also need to be places you can count on, no matter if you visit the park every day or once a year.

Braidburn Valley Park Management Plan 2016 – 2021

Since 2008, using the Green Flag judging criteria, all of Edinburgh's 144 parks are assessed on an annual basis and a Parks Quality Assessment Score is produced for each site. These scores are compared to the Edinburgh Minimum Standard which has been developed to benchmark our parks and record how they are improving.

This quality assessment criteria has allowed Edinburgh to achieve improved standards across the city which has enhanced the opportunities for success in the Beautiful Scotland Awards 2012, COSLA awards for excellence 2011, most recently in 2013 Edinburgh was successful in gaining the Britain in Bloom RHS gold award. As a consequence of this success Edinburgh entered the Entente Florale Europe competition in 2014, gaining a Gold Award at the first time of asking.

In Edinburgh the involvement of local residents through a network of Friends Groups is well established. Depending on their capacity, sites host both major and local events and activities, offering a wide range of attractions to families and individuals from a diverse community.

The Parks and Greenspace Service ensures that Edinburgh's parks and greenspaces are clean, safe, colourful and diverse; they will be the setting for activities and celebrations; be well-known for their features, history and "happenings"; and be locally valued and used.

1.3 Green Flag Award Scheme



The Green Flag Award Scheme is a national standard for quality in greenspace management in England and Wales. Edinburgh has been involved in the pilot scheme using the Green Flag criteria as a measure and methodology for benchmarking the quality of parks and green spaces in Scotland and has been involved in this project since 2007 in conjunction with Greenspace Scotland in partnership with The Civic Trust in England.

This criterion as stated previously is used in carrying out our annual Parks Quality Assessments and gives the Council Officers and friends groups up to date information and a measure standard of the park at that time.

Braidburn Valley Park is one of the pilot locations submitted by the City of Edinburgh Council. In 2007, the park was successful in its application for a Green Flag and achieved the standard almost every year since, with the site regularly used as a training area for new judges given the high standards presented.

Following Scotland's introduction into The Green Flag Award Scheme in 2007, Edinburgh Council has used the methodology to improve its park to the accepted standard within the scheme. The scheme provides key criteria in assessing quality standards of parks and green spaces in the United Kingdom as well some international sites.



Green Flag arrives at Braidburn Valley Park

2 Vision and Aims

2.0 Introduction

This section sets out a vision for Braidburn Valley Park and a series of new objectives that are developed into actions later in the plan which relate to the city wide vision.

2.1 Vision

The City of Edinburgh Council adopted its Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy in March 2006. The strategy sets out a vision for its parks that states:

“A quality parks system worthy of international comparison, accessible, diverse and environmentally rich; which fulfils the cultural, social and recreational needs of the people”. (Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy, 2006, p49)

The Parks and Greenspace and Neighbourhood Service ensures that Edinburgh’s parks and greenspaces are clean, safe, colourful and diverse; they will be the setting for activities and celebrations; be well-known for their features, history and “happenings”; and be locally valued and used.

In developing this management plan for the Braidburn Valley Park, our vision is:

“To provide a park that is safe and secure, enhances biodiversity and meets the needs of the local community”

2.2 Aims

Beneath the vision lie a series of aims that have been linked to the Green Flag Award Scheme criteria.

a) Conservation

To increase the biodiversity value of the site

b) Landscape

To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value

c) Recreation

To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment

To enhance the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity

d) Community Involvement

To engage with the local community and users groups

To encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities

To use the park as a recreational resource

e) Cultural

To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value

f) Sustainability

To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles

g) Legal

To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations

h) Maintenance

To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations

Braidburn Valley Park Management Plan 2016 – 2021

i) Safety

To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

j) Marketing

To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users

The aims are set out in the table below. Each of these aims is further developed into targets, measures and timescales.

The following list of aims has been developed in line with the Green Flag criteria, which form the basis of the assessment and analysis of the Braidburn Valley Park.

Criteria	Aim
A Welcoming Place	b) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site
Healthy, Safe and Secure	c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity g) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site
Clean and Well Maintained	h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations

Braidburn Valley Park Management Plan 2016 – 2021

Sustainability	f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles
Conservation and Heritage	a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site e) To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value
Community Involvement	d) To engage with the local community and users groups encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource
Marketing	j) To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users
Management	f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations d) To engage with the local community and users groups encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource

3 Survey, Historic Features and Park Governance

3.0 Introduction

This section looks at the historic significance of the park and also examines the legal situation with respect to ownership and designations that apply to the park, as well as confirming the strategic significance in the Local Plan. It pulls together recent surveys that have been undertaken to update the baseline data about the park and finally considers the involvement of the community through the Friends Group and events.

3.1 Historic Features of the Park

Braidburn Valley Park has a wealth of history, much of which is detailed below. It is hoped that at a later date a full historic survey will be carried out, to further our knowledge of this site.

Prehistoric

The steep-sided valley that forms Braidburn Valley Park was created as a result of glacial and fluvial activity. The area was formed by a glacial drainage channel. This is a channel which has been cut by the action of glacial meltwater or water from an ice-dammed lake (as an overflow channel). Glacial meltwater channels are characterised by having tiny *misfit* streams, start or end abruptly and tend not to widen downstream – retaining a flat floor and steep sides.

Creation of a park

The steep v-shape of the land has protected it from development, and it was farmed until the late 19th Century by the Trotters of Mortonhall House. This was purchased by the Council in 1933 to be used as a public park. In 1935, Rangers, Girl Guides and Brownies from the City of Edinburgh, to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V, planted around 400 Cherry trees in a trefoil design.

The main entrance pillars on Greenbank Crescent were brought from Comiston House but were relocated in the 1930's. They are a Grade C listed feature.

In 1937, as part of the coronation celebrations for King George VI and Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother), a thousand school children gave a massed display of dancing and gymnastics before an audience of 3,000.

The other major feature was inaugurated at this event, namely, the open-air-theatre with its stage and orchestra pit on the right bank of the burn and the amphitheatre on the left bank. The latter, with its tiered seating is in the shape of the Royal Crown.

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World War II intervened and the eastern slopes were turned into allotments, some of which were not reclaimed for Park use until the 1960's.

The stage continued to be used after the war by several drama groups and opera companies. Notably, in 1945, the Philip Barrett Company performed *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, *As You Like It* and *The Merchant of Venice*. Performances of *Rob Roy*, *A Country Girl* and *Merrie England* followed in 1946, the latter as a pageant using the whole of the area. The Council assisted by providing shrubs and flowers for the stage and by damming the burn to give sufficient depth of water for Queen Elizabeth's Royal Barge.

Finally in 1947 the Southern Light Opera Company performed *The Vagabond King* in awful weather conditions. (See <http://www.southernlightopera.co.uk/photos-merrieengland.htm> for more information).

In more recent years, the Park has hosted sheep dog trials, dog shows and some performances took place at Edinburgh Festivals, but events such as these became increasingly rare.



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Comiston Springs

Edinburgh's earliest piped water supply came from the Comiston Springs and there is much evidence today of the infrastructure started in 1681. Just to the south of the Braidburn Valley Park, off Oxfang Avenue, lies Cockmylane, where a small stone

Braidburn Valley Park Management Plan 2016 - 2021

building stands. Here the water from the various springs (called the fox, hare, swan and peewit (lapwing) springs) was collected and piped into Edinburgh.



The first pipes were wooded (made of hollowed out elm logs, left) and an example can be seen at the Museum of Edinburgh in the Canongate, along with the lead figures of the appropriate animals.

These pipes were superseded by lead pipes of various diameters, laid one foot under the ground and two pipe markers can be seen to this day in the Braidburn Valley Park on the eastern side of the valley opposite the Braid Hills Hotel.

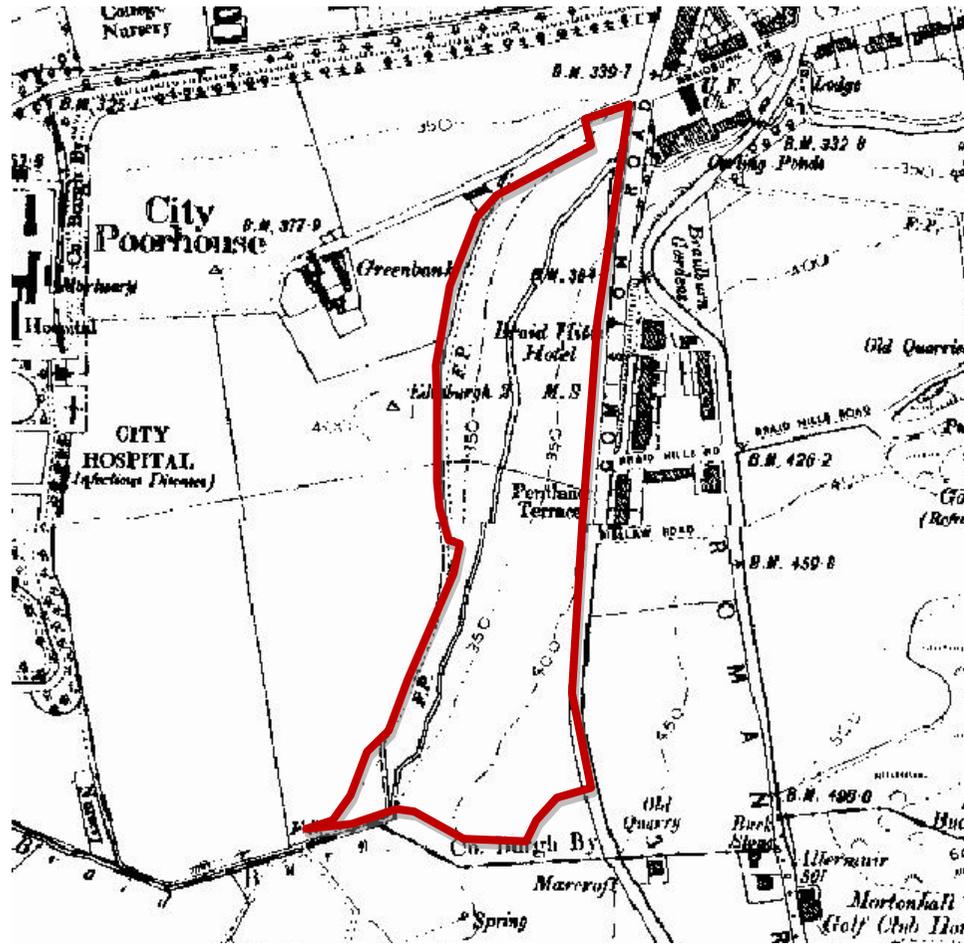
Eventually the Comiston Springs scheme was superseded by more sophisticated reservoirs and pipes in the Pentland Hills and beyond and the old supply now runs into the Braid Burn just inside the southern entrance to the park.

Pipe marker stones are still visible on the eastern slopes of the valley, and although the Comiston Springs no longer supplies the City, its water now runs into the Braid Burn near the southern entrance to the Park.

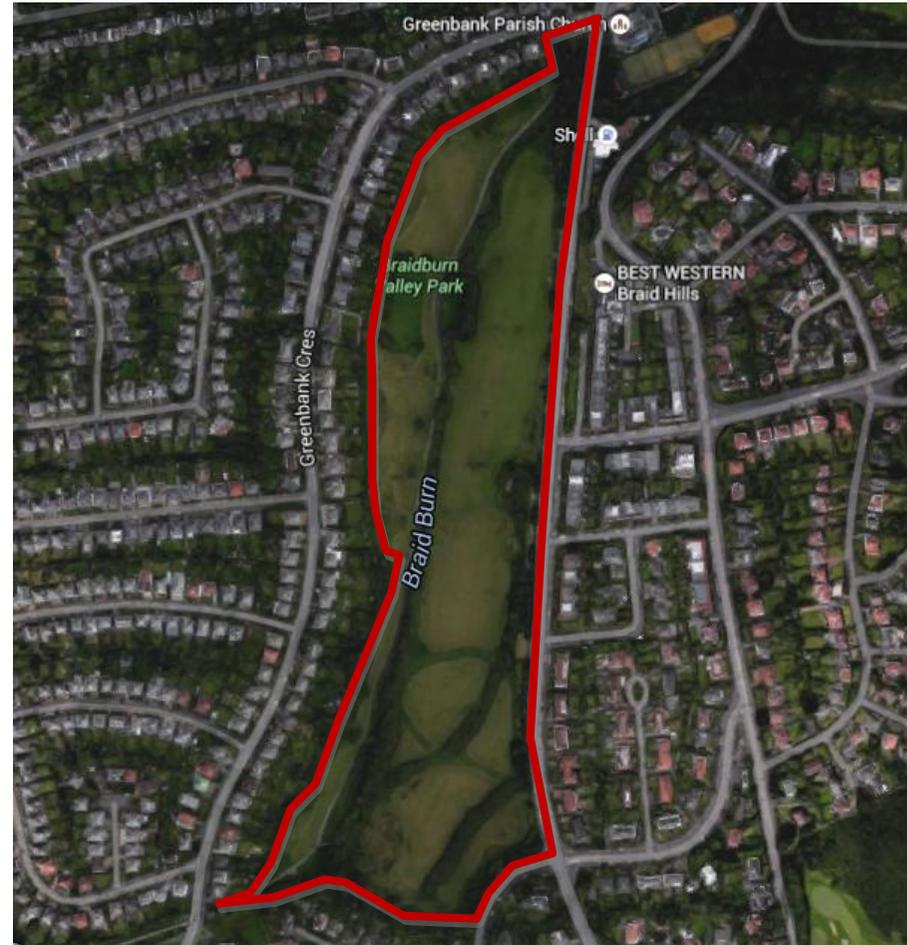
Edinburgh's tram service terminated at Braidburn Valley Park, half way along Comiston Road. A listed tram shelter and a pavilion for the comfort of the drivers were built and remain to this day. The last tram ran in 1956 and was commemorated 50 years later in 2006.

More historically, it is understood that Robert Louis Stevenson used Fly Walk on the western boundary of the park. This connected Greenbank and Comiston farms, so was the traditional route from his home in the Pentland Hills to the City of Edinburgh.

Braidburn Valley Park Management Plan 2016 - 2021



From this (late 1800s).....



To this (present day).....

3.2 Strategic Significance of the Park

A number of Edinburgh's corporate strategies and policies apply to the parks and greenspaces 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, **(Appendix 1)**. 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 Partnership Single Outcome Agreement 2012-17
- Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2013-16
- Capitalising on Access: an Access Strategy for Edinburgh
- Climate Change Framework 2007-15
- Sustainable Edinburgh 2020

Park and Environmental Policies

- Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy 2006
- Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2010
- Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 - 2018

Local Drivers

- South Central Neighbourhood Partnership Local Community Plan 2014 - 17

3.3 Management Rules

A revision of current Park Management Rules, which were due to be reviewed in 2013, is currently being undertaken. This review aims to provide rules which encourage responsible use in line with the ethos of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

An Appendix is attached which show the 'Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace' **(Appendix 2)**.

3.4 Park Classification

Braidburn Valley Park is classified within the Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy as a “Community Park”. It is the fourth largest Community Park in the strategy.

Community Parks are defined as “parks serving chiefly the people of a defined local area. These are generally smaller in area and the facilities provided are likely to be relatively simple. Functions should be determined as far as possible by consultation with users and potential users. Access to these parks will be mainly on foot or by cycle.” (Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy, 2006, p66).

3.5 Fields in Trust

The park has also been designated a Fields in Trust park and a plaque to that effect has been placed to the left of the main entrance on Greenbank Crescent.

3.6 Community Involvement

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park provide invaluable support in the management, maintenance and development of this community asset.

Established in 2002 with some 250 members, their most recent and ongoing projects include:

- creation and extension of a path with local Scouts and Explorers annual maintenance of a wildflower meadow with c.90 P4 children from South Morningside Primary
- creation of a bee meadow in 2014 as part of the urban pollinators project
- an annual Family Fun Day - “Tea in the Park”
- removal of invasive species such as Japanese Butterbur
- annual legacy tree planting with around 90 Primary 7 children
- Local community task days carrying out voluntary clean-ups. Information events such as a Bat evening involving the Lothian Bat Group
- Introduction of a Green Dog Walkers Scheme
- Promotion of the park for health and exercise through the Ramblers’ “Medal Routes” website as a legacy of the Commonwealth Games
- Creation of leaflets and a website – www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk – as well as social media.

Braidburn Valley Park Management Plan 2016 - 2021

This range of activities promotes a real sense of community spirit within the area.



The opening of the interpretation panel and cairn in 2005



Interpretation Panel describing the local history of the park

The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park work in partnership with the Council and have secured external grant funding towards various projects within the park.

The efforts of the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park are being recognised and the group have been asked to give talks and provide guidance to other Friend's groups, Scottish Green Space Initiative and even the Global Strategy on Plant Conservation.

3.7 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 in its infancy at present, however we feel that much benefit can be gained from logging this information and will enhance the management of the infrastructure needs for the park.

Tree Survey

The Council's Arboricultural 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 park and will be reflected in future in this management plan (**Appendix 7**).

Parks Visitor/User Survey

Braidburn Valley Park User Survey Information for 2016 will be provided to the judges on the judging day.

The Council's website gives users and visitors to the park an opportunity to register their comments on any park within the City.

To encourage users to inform us what they think about the park generally.

In March/April 2016 a number of site surveys will be undertaken to gauge the thoughts of site users, residents and visitors. These statistics shall be collated to form future survey information.

(A copy of the 2016 survey information will be made available to judges on day of assessment).

Biodiversity Survey

Ecological Survey

An ecological survey was made in 2003 by McBride Habitats. Recommendations from this report are being used to shape the future development of the biodiversity of the park.

Braidburn Valley Park Management Plan 2016 - 2021

We will present as a document on the assessment day the Council's Biodiversity Options for Parks and Greenspaces – A Guide for Managers, which is used universally to develop biodiversity within all parks within the City. It was with use of this document that some biodiversity features were implemented in the park (Biodiversity Site Assessment is available in: [Appendix 6](#)).

Tree Survey

A Tree Management Plan was produced with a comprehensive tree survey. Recommendations from this report were used to shape the future development of the landscape features of the park and will be reflected in future in this management plan.

The original plan was dated to run until 2011. Since then no update has been undertaken. However, in 2015 The Friends Group and the Council Officials will work in conjunction with each other to provide an updated tree survey of the site taking into consideration the original thoughts and recommendations (shortened version in [Appendix 7](#)).

4 Analysis

4.0 Introduction

This Section follows the criteria headings within the 'Raising the Standard – The Green Flag Award Guidance Manual' (2004) and highlights how the parks aims and what has been undertaken to allow the Braidburn Valley Park to fit into the Green Flag Award Standard.

4.1 A Welcoming Place

- b) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value
- c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity
- i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

The park is, on the whole, a welcoming place, that leads the visitor in with views opening out into the wider park from all approaches. The park is located in the southern fringes of Edinburgh. The park connects the Council housing estate of Oxfangs and the suburbs of Greenbank, the Braids and Morningside.

There is a well defined main entrance at the junction of Greenbank Crescent and Comiston Road; a busy intersection. This intersection has pedestrian crossings which enables easy access to the park to the south.

There are six other entrances to the park: two entrances from Comiston Road, one at Comiston Spring Avenue and a further three from Greenbank Crescent accessing the "Fly Walk" a historic Scottish Right of Way used by Robert Louis Stevenson on his way to Swanston Village at the foothills of the Pentlands.

Public bus routes regularly pass along Comiston Road (Lothian Buses Nos.11 & 15; Stagecoach (Edinburgh to Dumfries) No. 101/102) and Greenbank Crescent (Lothian Buses Nos. 5 & 16) in and out of the city, and cyclists and pedestrians can travel responsibly through the park. The route is way-marked through the park.

The majority of park users will be local residents. However, it is possible for others to visit the park by a variety of means.

Car parking is available along side streets within easy walking distance of the park which is not within any of the City's controlled parking zones.

The park is used by cyclists mainly as a through-out route or for teaching children. Responsible cycling should be encouraged through signage and monitoring. Two bicycle racks have been installed – one at the main park entrance on Greenbank Crescent and one in the park, next to the amphitheatre and stage.

4.2 Healthy, Safe & Secure

c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity

g) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations

i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

Site Equipment

Being a local park most users arrive on foot or on bicycle. However there are bus stops near many of the park entrances. Traffic islands and pedestrian crossings provide safe access across some of the busy roads. The park is a popular route for cycling commuters.

The main pedestrian access through the main route via Greenbank Crescent to Oxgangs Avenue is a three metre wide tarmac path in reasonable condition.

There are ample seating areas throughout the park with litter bins also well provided.

The Council operates a memorial bench scheme. Selected locations should aim to fill the gaps in the park where there is not current bench provision, thereby providing a service for those with restricted mobility.

Personal Security

There are clear sight lines that assist in lending a sense of safety through the park.

A footbridge was installed in April 2009 just south of the main entrance. This linked the desire line from the east side of the burn to the main footpath. To enhance this, the Friends created a link path in 2013 and extended it to the edge of the grassy area in 2015 with the help of local Scouts. This was supported by the Council who provided top up material for the path.

In 2013, the south footbridge was replaced with an iron structure. An anti-skid surface was applied to prevent slips, particularly in winter, when ice is a hazard.

The amount of users of the park support good levels of personal security and this is supported by on street lamp standards along the edges of the site which enhances safe access through the park in the evening. Within the park, only the route from Comiston Road to Greenbank Crescent has street-lighting.

Park Ranger service visits the park weekly as part of their park and garden inspection route. They will log incidents and report these to the Community Parks Officer for resolution. The Community Police Officer walks through the park and liaises with the department on incidents of issues for resolution. Environmental Wardens are also available for enforcement of dog fouling, disposal of litter legislation and graffiti and fly-posting issues however, there are few incidences requiring their input.

Environmental Wardens are also available for enforcement of dog fouling and disposal of litter legislation and patrol the park on occasions. The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park have initiated a Green Dog Walkers Scheme to encourage responsible waste disposal by dog owners.

The City of Edinburgh Council uses branding on vehicles and machinery and ensures that all staff wear clothing showing the council logo, to ensure they are readily identifiable to the public. Wherever possible and safe to do so, the public are encouraged to engage with the grounds maintenance staff to discuss issues with the park, its maintenance or management. Their friendly demeanour allows for a helpful first point of contact for park users.

Accidents are reported to the Health and Safety Officer and recorded centrally. All the above information assists in achieving the aims highlighted.

4.3 Clean & Well Maintained

h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations

The park has a maintenance programme, which establishes standards of cleanliness, infrastructure and ground maintenance **(Appendix 3)**.

There is good provision of litter receptacles and these are maintained on a regular basis. There are localised staff members whose responsibility is to ensure that the park is kept litter free. Dog fouling in the park is generally not a problem and this is due to responsible dog owners and supported by 'Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace' notices. Although this is proving successful we will still continue to have our local Environmental Wardens visit the site to ensure good practice is in place. In line with City wide practice the litter receptacles within the park are for joint use of disposal both for litter and dog fouling bags.

The grounds maintenance within the park is undertaken by a mobile team. The Community Park Officer oversees the grounds maintenance regime to ensure that standards are maintained. The annual bedding planters and herbaceous flower beds within the park are planted and maintained by the local mobile team and supported by the gardening group for general maintenance purposes.

Although not a regular problem, graffiti is removed by the local graffiti service team; or by the local Friend's Group, if graffiti occurs on the gas substation.

A reactive maintenance programme is in place for the maintenance of the infrastructure on site in respect of painting and security. This infrastructure is regularly inspected by the Community Parks Officer and any repairs are carried out, in general, by our in-house service teams. The two sub-stations in the park belong to Scottish Gas and Scottish Power companies respectively.

4.4 Sustainability

f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles

The only use of peat by the Parks and Greenspace Service is in the production of bedding plants at the Council's Inch Nursery. 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. Trials continue to run to assess the best mix to support seedling and plant growth; however Braidburn Valley Park does not use peat-based mediums on this site.

Formal flower beds in Braidburn Valley Park have been transformed from annual bedding to herbaceous perennials to eliminate the use of peat within the park. This has helped City of Edinburgh Council has reduced its consumption of peat by 50% and continues to contribute towards meeting the national targets of 90%.

Green waste is now composted at the Inch Nursery; this is used in flower/ shrub beds and also in the flower tubs throughout the city including those that are within the Braidburn Valley Park. 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 or other projects. Leaves are collected and composted and used in the Council owned allotment sites.

The Council continues to develop the minimisation of herbicide use. Bark mulch is used throughout the city in the reduction of weed growth around tree bases and this also encourages moisture and heat retention in the tree root. However, herbicide application is used when this cultural practise proves inadequate. 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 applications of herbicides are normally scheduled during off-peak times of park use and signs are posted to indicate the re-entry time period if appropriate.

The only herbicides currently used in Braidburn Valley Park is glyphosate, but this is being phased out in favour of safer and more natural alternatives. It is mainly for path areas and for spot treatment in shrub beds and treatment of any invasive giant hogweed and other registered weeds. This is twice a year and but could be minimised by cultural methods i.e. hoeing or winter edging of the pathways. Parks Operations record all chemical usage.

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 not only the city's but also its own waste. The local service teams now off load their collections at a local disposal site which streams the waste for recycling purposes.

The Council is actively collaborating with other local authorities in progressing, the Lothian & Borders Area Waste Plan and progress towards a central depot at Millerhill in Midlothian is well underway. Litter is disposed of appropriately to a licensed waste disposal area within the centre of the city and is bulked onto train carriages for disposal. However in a way to reduce the amounts that go to landfill measures are in place to collect waste material locally for segregation purposes. Currently waste from this park and others across the South Edinburgh area is delivered to our partner agency and the waste is segregated to remove all recyclable items.

This all adds to the city target of having 50% of all waste recycled across Edinburgh by 2020.

The Parks and Greenspace section are currently investigating more sustainable methods of dealing with green waste e.g. satellite composting sites.

The Council's Inch Nursery has introduced a rain water recycling system for plant irrigation. This will be used in times of drought to irrigate trees and plant within the park.

4.5 Conservation & Heritage

- a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site
- e) To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value

A prime function of City Parks and Gardens is to provide the opportunity for people to experience the natural environment and to gain insights into and participate in wildlife and woodland management. Everyone has a responsibility to heighten their environmental awareness and to put into practise the principles of nature conservation. The City of Edinburgh Council has a Biodiversity Action Plan (2016 - 18) produced in conjunction with a wide partnership of groups including the Forestry Commission,

Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

In 2003, the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park commissioned an ecological survey. This baseline information and recommendations are being used to help develop the park's biodiversity, for example, creation of wildflower meadows, tree planting, grassland management, invasive species removal, bird and bat boxes, etc. The participation of the local school, South Morningside Primary, and local youth groups has been a valued resource to carry out the raking and planting tasks.

In 2014, a new wildflower meadow for bees in the middle of the park on the east slope was undertaken. A further wildflower meadow was created in the old rose bed on Comiston Road in 2014 but, proved to be too nutrient rich to sustain wildflowers, so further work to reduce the nutrients is required.

Arboreal

Trees form a major part of the park's landscape. In addition to large mature species, there are the interesting features of the Cherry trees and Hornbeams. In 1935, 400 Cherry trees were planted by Girl Guides, Rangers and Brownies in the shape of a trefoil to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V.

The decline in the health of the cherry trees resulted in a feasibility report on their replacement being carried out. As a result of this, 50 trees were replaced in January 2008 and a similar planting of 100 trees in 2010 to coincide with the centenary of the Girl Guide Association was undertaken, indicating one tree for each year. In 2015, further cherry trees were provided by the Council to replace those that had failed in 2008 and 2010.

Riparian Zone

The Park has a distinct valley shape with the Braid Burn running northwards through its centre. On both sides of the burn there are generally narrow riparian strips, which are confined by the maximisation of the amenity grassland through regular mowing. At the northern end, where the burn leaves the site, is a broader area of rough grassland which has been planted with standard trees, being mainly rowan with occasional alder and cherry.

Within the riparian area there is a relatively good mixture of full shade, dappled shade and no shade provided by a good variety of tree and shrub species (grey willow, cherry, white willow, hawthorn, elder, crab apple, sycamore, crack willow and white poplar) which are in a reasonable range of age classes. The south end in particular has almost full canopy cover by the burn, while the central section is variable and the north end is rather open, although is being filled up with specimen trees and other ad hoc planting.

The trees at the north end of the park were planted jointly by the Council and the Primary 7 pupils of South Morningside and Pentland Primary Schools which are local to the park, and were planted as part of their legacy tree planting project.

See **Appendix 6** – for information on biodiversity management proposals.

Wildlife

Resident species include Robin, House Sparrow, Magpie, Wren, Dunnock, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Blue Tit, Carrion Crow, Starling, Blackbird, Wood Pigeon And Collared Dove, and sometimes Song Thrush. Finches are witnessed with Greenfinch and Chaffinch being the most common, and Bullfinch and Goldfinch also visit. All these species 'sing' in the park and many will also breed in the park or close by. Occasional visitors include Grey Wagtail, Sparrowhawks, Kestrels, Warblers, Dippers and Herons. By way of mammals there are often Grey Squirrels and the very occasional Otter.

An education pack and interpretation panels, both produced by the Friends Group, provide further in-depth information on the wildlife of the park. This information can be gained from the Friends website, www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

Other features

There is a listed tram shelter at Comiston Road.

4.6 Community Involvement

d) To engage with the local community and users groups encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource

The City of Edinburgh Council actively promotes community involvement in decision making of park management through its Friends Groups.

The Friends of Braidburn Park have 250 members they are very pro-active and have been involved in a number of projects including the design and installation of interpretation panels, development of the wildflower meadow and voluntary burn clean ups.

The Friends also produce a newsletter “The Valley Voice” which reaches a wider audience through their website and social media. The Friends also produce regular updates which are displayed on the noticeboards, the website and social media as well as being emailed to members.

Current contact details:

Website: www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

Email: info@braidburnvalleypark.org.uk

One purpose of the Friends Group is to influence use of potential funding and to make the council aware of any issues within the park; to apply for additional funding (which the council have no access to); to have a community stake in the park and to offer suggestions for improvements and future developments for Braidburn Valley Park.

Events

At present the park is used for an annual Family Day organised by the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park. It is also used for a range of other events organised by a range of organisations, e.g.: local primary school sports day, cross country and orienteering events, duck racing etc. Consideration should be given for increasing events in the park particularly using the amphitheatre.



Planting of spring flowering bulbs within the tree area.
November 2002



Result of the spring bulb planting.
2004

You'll be having your afternoon

TEA IN THE PARK

**Saturday
6th. September, 2014
Braidburn Valley Park, 2.00 - 4.30**

*Bring a picnic and join us for
music and childrens activities.*

- **The Auld Spice Ceildh Band** •
- **Morningside Pipe Band** •

★★★★★

Magician and Balloon Modeller	Raft Building & Racing	Story Teller
Magic Ian	★★★★★	Fergus McNicol

'Lucky Lollies' 'Lucky Dip' 'Hook a Duck' 'Beat the Goalie'

The world-famous Braid Burn Duck Race

Face Painting • Hairspray • Nails • Tattoos

★★★★★	Tea Tent and Bar	★★★★★
Coconut Shy		Bouncy Castles

Messy Activities in Greenbank Church

Free entry, All welcome!

Note, some activities require payment.
Organised by The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park



Dogs Invited to Tea In the Park



Fun Dog Show Saturday 5th September 2015

- Enter your dog in as many classes as you want
- Best decorated lead
 - Prettiest bitch
 - Cutest puppy
 - Best trick
 - Best Biscuit Catcher
 - Dog that looks like owner
 - Most handsome dog
 - Most appealing expression
 - Waggiest tail
 - Egg and spoon race
- All dog class winners will be considered for BEST IN SHOW
Local vet David Rimer has kindly agreed to judge the show

Enter on the day from 2pm onwards. Dog Show starts 3 pm
Entry fee £2 for up to 10 classes.

SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS & ENTRY FORM <http://www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk/>
Funds go to **Green Dog Walkers** to help encourage dog walkers in Braidburn Valley Park and Heritage of Braid & Blackford Hill to pick up after their dogs.

Event Posters over the years

4.7 Marketing

j) To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users

User Surveys

See **Appendix 5**

Park Promotion

A range of media is used to promote Braidburn Valley Park and the activities that occur within it.

At three entrances (located at the main entrance on Greenbank Crescent; at the Comiston Springs Avenue entrance; and inside the park near the Oxgangs bridge) of the park there are high quality noticeboards which are updated on a regular basis by the Friends Group and Council Officials. The noticeboards are used to inform local people about current improvement programmes, advertise park events and activities, volunteer opportunities, Management Rules and also provide contact information.

Promotion of events is also made through local media and also through links to websites such as the Green Flag Award on www.greenflagawards.org.uk.

Information relating to Braidburn Valley Park is available via Community Council and City of Edinburgh Council website (www.edinburgh.gov.uk) and available via Smartphone app 'Edinburgh Outdoors'. A direct link QR code links you directly to Edinburgh Outdoors Page for Braidburn Valley Park, the site specific code is located in each of the notice boards (**Appendix 8**). From this site visitors can comment on the park which will link directly to the Parks Unit which will allow for speedy actions to be taken where required.

Edinburgh Outdoors website: <https://www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk/featureDetails.php?id=12>

MyParkScotland website: <http://www.mypark.scot/parks/braidburn-valley-park-edinburgh/>

The Friends produce "*The Valley Voice*", a bi-annual newsletter highlighting events that have taken place within the park, the work of volunteers and future events. This is distributed widely in the local area. The Friends have a website -

www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk – as well as a presence on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Braidburn-Valley-Park-Friends-of/109833656786>) and Twitter: @BraidburnValley.

Due to the number of improvements and events in the park, and the achievement of continued Green Flag status since 2007 – a number of press releases have been produced and appeared in local newspapers. Most recently, this included the Friends painting yoghurt on the east stone urn at the main park entrance, after an unfortunate incident of the urn being knocked off and replaced with a new one in 2013. (The yoghurt application should speed up algae growth, so that the new stone urn weathers more quickly to match the colour of the west stone urn).

Interpretation and Education

The Friends have produced three orientation and interpretation panels documenting the history, wildlife and geological features of the park. The panels are designed to communicate on a number of levels. This means that the viewer can simply glance at the panels for basic orientation, or can read some key information. For those desiring more detailed information, there are many facts and figures presented in easily digested form. A further interpretation panel may be considered for the Tram Shelter and the Community Orchard, in due course.

Braidburn Valley Park is regularly used by local primary schools for environmental education and learning practices, sports day, cross country running and privilege time. Following the successful work with local schools the Friends Group have developed an education pack for the park which is available for download from the Friends website.

Recreation

The Friends Group have created a permanent orienteering course in the park. The 21 point course was designed by pupils from South Morningside PS. Maps of the course are available to download from the Friends' website.

The Friends have established three “Medal Routes” walks starting from the main entrance, as part of The Ramblers Commonwealth Games legacy project – see

<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/~media/Files/Scotland%20microsite/MedalRoutes/Mroutes%20jpegs/Braidburn2.jpg?la=en>

The walks all start from the main entrance on Greenbank Crescent. The walks are designed to appeal to those who would like to walk for different lengths of time and levels of difficulty, i.e.: Bronze Medal = 15 minutes; Silver Medal = 30 minutes; Gold Medal = 60 minutes. A leaflet can be downloaded which provides the walker with interesting information about the routes.

4.8 Management

- f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles
- h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations
- d) To engage with the local community and users groups encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource

Braidburn Valley Park is managed by Service for Communities, which is structured to deliver services for the needs and priorities of local communities in each of the twelve Neighbourhood Partnerships within the six neighbourhood areas. The park lies within the South Neighbourhood Area.

Management and development of the park is undertaken locally by the Neighbourhood team in conjunction with Friends of Braidburn Valley Park with the strategic issues dealt with via the central Parks and Greenspace Team.

Operational management of the park is undertaken by the Neighbourhood Task Force team. This team consists of grounds maintenance and street cleaning teams, who are responsible for the day to day maintenance of the grass, flower beds and shrub areas, the servicing of the bins and litter collection throughout the park and graffiti removal. Additionally footway repairs are carried by the local Roads team associated with the neighbourhood. This work is supported by the Community Parks Officer and their Park Ranger team who undertakes small items of work to ensure standards are maintained.

Maintenance schedules indicating frequency and type of work carried out within the park can be found in **Appendix 3**.

Additional teams from the central Council services are also deployed to ensure the park is maintained to a high standard. This includes forestry maintenance, lighting maintenance and tractor grass cutting.

The Friends Group assists the Council with volunteers undertaking burn clearances, tree planting, wildflower planting and removal of arisings, bulb planting, litter picking, graffiti removal and generally highlighting defects for repair.

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Given the current financial climate faced by local authorities it is important that the Council continue to encourage this volunteer strategy by ensuring that the community have the necessary equipment to carry out the work.

The Park Rangers also patrol the park to ensure that safety is maintained. They regularly make safe various small faults within the park e.g. a broken seat, graffiti etc. The Park Rangers also patrol the park to ensure that members of the public use the park in line with the Management Rules.

The Council annually assess each park within Edinburgh which results in Parks Quality Assessments being produced. These assessments offer good information that is used to improve and develop the park. Extractions of the report can be found in **Appendix 4** of the management plan. These assessments are used to determine further potential capital improvements and form the basis of the South Neighbourhood Park Improvement plan on an annual basis. Braidburn Valley Park has benefited from this system with many improvements made from feedback comments in the assessments.

5 Development Action Plan

The objectives described in this section are developed from the results of the assessment and analysis section and are directly linked to the criteria aims described in the previous section.

Note: All costs are approximate.

Key:

LEM Local Environment Manager
 PGM Parks & Greenspace Management
 FOBVP Friends of Braidburn Valley Park
 SLM Street Lighting Manager
 TFM Task Force Manager
 PRO Professional Roads Officer
 ASC Active School Coordinators

CPO Community Parks Officer
 PR Park Rangers
 ARM Neighbourhood Area Roads Manager
 SEW Senior Environmental Warden
 FM Forestry Manager
 ESDO Env. Service Development Officer

Aim 1: A Welcoming place

b) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value

c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment

i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
1.1 Review welcome at each entrance, including signs, bins, information, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake an audit of the welcome at entrances; review; recommend improvements; implement CPO/CPR will undertake audit of the welcome; and review and budget for changes within the timescale of the Management Plan 	2015 – audit and review; 2016 -18 – implement	CPO/PR/ FOBVP	
1.2 Programme of Park Improvements – see below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a programme of improvements for consultations with FOBVP 	2015	CPO/FO BVP	
1.2.1 Re-paint railings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paint railings on Comiston Road Possible project from corporate volunteers 	2017	CPO	

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	(Council will supply paint) • Dependant on funding			
1.2.2 Replace shrub bed at main entrance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace existing shrub bed at main entrance and replace with more imaginative and attractive beds including original urn from east pillar • get costed design; apply for grant; implement; maintain 	2016	CPO/FO BVP	
1.2.3 Replace steps and maintain handrail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steps at south Fly Walk entrance 	2017-18	CPO	
1.2.4 Fly Walk behind electricity sub-station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the repair of the boggy area behind the electricity sub-station in Fly Walk where drainage work was started but not completed. 	2017	CPO	

Aim 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure.

c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment

g) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations

i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
2.1 Increasing opportunities for improving health through exercise, recreation and activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership working with community groups, local care providers, doctors by the Park Rangers. • Trim trail + medal routes. • Investigate funding for Outdoor Exercise Equipment 	2016 - ongoing	CPO/PR/ FOBVP/A SC	
2.2 Repair park furniture & memorial bench scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace benches and consider additional sites • Friends group to provide map of preferred sites 	2017-18	CPO FOBVP	

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2.3 Improve public education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing to promote responsible park use at all events held within the park Provide Park Ranger attendance at events where possible 	2016-21	FOBVP	
2.4 Carry out park user surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide information on park use and safety 	2016-17	CPO/FO BVP	
2.5 Pathway Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve paths at the southern end of park, by addressing drainage and maintaining path widths. Remedial work for further areas is under consideration but subject to budget constraint 	2016- 17	CPO/LE M	
2.6 Clear sightlines at pinch points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cut back encroaching vegetation at Commission Springs Ave and Pentland Terrace entrances and Fly Walk to provide clear sightlines 	2016-21	CPO/FO BVP	
2.7 Fix water seepage at amphitheatre across core path	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install pipe under path Or investigate alternative methods of drainage 	2017 - review	CPO	
2.8 Reduction in path width because of turf encroachment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor all paths for encroachment by turf and plan manual removal (or chemical if no other options) 	2016-21	CPO/FO BVP	
2.9 Install two sacrificial pillars at main entrance gate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider positioning following two major incidents 	2015 – completed	CPO/LE M	
2.10 Maintain anti-skid surface on south bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to wear and tear, monitor anti-skid surface on south bridge and replace worn patches, especially before winter 	2016-21	CPO	

Aim 3: Clean and Well Maintained

h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
3.1 Continue to use Graffiti Removal Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Council graffiti team Supply paint to FOBVP to respond rapidly to incidents. If Friends unable to respond, 	2016-21	CPO/LE M/TFM/F OBVP	

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	remove offensive or inoffensive graffiti within 48 or 72 hrs as per maintenance plan			
3.2 Continue to monitor and control Non-native and invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council spray Giant Hogweed and other registered weeds before seeding. FOBVP remove non-native butterbur and monitor other invasive species 	2016-21	CPO/FO BVP	

Aim 4: Sustainability

f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
4.1 Continue awareness of environmental-friendly products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through corporate procurement 	2016-21 Continuous	CPO	
4.2 Minimize green waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All green waste produced on site to be composted on site or used to produce habitat 	Ongoing	CPO PR	£0
4.3 Reduce use of pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use natural woodchip mulch, using this on flower beds and round trees Reduce weed growth round signs etc. 	Ongoing	PR FSA	£0

Aim 5: Conservation and Heritage

a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site

e) To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
5.1 Implement Grass Cutting Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As set out above and in maintenance plan. Monitor for compliance 	2016-21	CPO	
5.2 Maintain wildflower and bee meadow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October annually strim to 15 cm for FOBVP to remove arisings 	2016-21	CPO/FO BVP	
5.3 Re-use soil from old rose bed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove top soil from old rose bed on 	2016	FOBVP	

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	Comiston Road to re-use as top soil for wildflower meadow planting			
5.4 Continue Cherry Trefoil Replacement programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agree various stages of replacement scheme ▪ investigate potential external funding streams 	2016-21	FOBVP/ CPO	
5.5 Identify new bulb planting areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify new areas for snowdrop, bluebell and aconite planting ▪ Supplement gap sections of original daffodil planting 	2016-21	SPO/FO BVP	
5.6 Burn Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain monitoring programme for water quality (SEPA) and respond to sewage incidents (Scottish Water) 	Ongoing 2018 - review	SEPA/ CPO/ FOBVP/ Scottish Water	
5.7 Promoting habitat creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote education package to local schools 	2016-21 Ongoing	CPO/FO BVP	
5.8 Continue to maintain tree planting (in line with Tree Management Plan & Maintenance Plan (Appendix 7))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider tree planting regime with the tree management plan recommendations 	2016-21	CPO/PR/ FOBVP	
5.9 Apply for funding for a Community Orchard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apply for funds for Community Orchard at north Fly Walk, community planting day and maintenance. 	2015 completed	CPO/FO BVP	
5.10 Memorial Tree Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plant trees with protection and staking according to the “Individual Trees” approach in the Tree Management Plan 			
5.11 Install an Otter holt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As offered by the Council in 2013, install an otter holt at the south end of the park 	2016-17	CPO/FO BVP	
5.12 Remove pavilion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remove pavilion for health and safety, and prevention of anti-social behaviour reasons 	2017 2018 - review	CPO	£13,000
5.13 Carry out Historic Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carry out a full historic survey 	~ 2020	CPO/ FOBVP/ Morningsi	

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			de Heritage Associatio n/ Communit y Council	
5.14 Carry out biodiversity survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building on from the 2003 ecological survey ▪ New biodiversity assessment 	Completed 2016	Council Biodiversit y Officers	

Aim 6: Community Involvement

d) To engage with the local community and users groups; to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
6.1 To encourage Community led clear-ups and greater involvement in the management and maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be organised in conjunction with the FOBVP 	Ongoing	CPO FOBVP	£3K
6.2 To continue involvement with South Morningside Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For bulb planting, tree planting and annual wildflower meadow raking 	Ongoing	FOBVP/P R	
6.3 Continue to run community events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To raise Friends Group funds ▪ 	Ongoing	FOBVP/ CPO	
6.4 Facilitating park usage by community organisations such as youth groups – scouts, guides and cadets, and groups of other age sectors including the elderly and disabled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting the Friends Group to use the park for events and encouraging participation by other organisations through annual events programmes. 	Ongoing	CPO/FO BVP	
6.5 Hosting additional events and assisting on funding applications to enable the Friends Group to continue year on year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting the Friends Group to use the park for events and encouraging participation by other organisations and public support through an annual events programme. 	2016-21	CPO/FO BVP	

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6.6 Forge long term links with local primary and nursery schools in providing a site for use by them in order to meet the needs of the national curriculum, supply education packs and other useful information to local schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support link between local schools and the Friends to further develop school needs in the park and help to develop and implement these. 	Ongoing	PR/FOB VP	
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Aim 7: Marketing

j) To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
7.1 To provide regular information on maintenance, events and works within park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use all relevant information and modern publicity opportunities 	Ongoing	LEM CPO FOBVP	£3k
7.2 Create and introduce a QR code specific to the Park (Appendix 8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of ICT department ▪ Linked to the Edinburgh Outdoors site 	Completed 2015	CPO PR ESDO	£50
7.3 Update content specific to the Park within Edinburgh Outdoors website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add new information and photographs specific to site 	Ongoing	CPO/PR	£50
7.4 Update content specific to the Park within the MyParkScot website for additional funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add new information and photographs specific to site 	Ongoing	FOBVP/ R	0
7.5 Improve the BVP website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve BVP website and keep updated 	Ongoing 2020 - review	FOBVP	0
7.6 Promoting the unique character of the park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertake programme of improvements as identified within the Management Plan, advertise and promote improvements as they happen, through events, posters and media campaigns. 	Ongoing	CPO/FO BVP/PR	£100

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7.7 Making people feel welcome, providing good well maintained facilities and providing an opportunity to become involved in the parks maintenance and management to improve the visitor's experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the Friends Group and involving them in parks management. 	2016-21	CPO/PR/FOBVP	
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Aim 8: Management

f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles

h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations

d) To engage with the local community and users groups; to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
8.1 Obtain a Green Flag Award annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green Flag Status since 2007 ▪ Raise Green Flag Award profile within local community. 	2016-21 Ongoing	CPO/FO BVP	

6 Finance

Revenue Funding

The provision of revenue funding for the park 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, although many tasks outside of this guide are undertaken to ensure the quality of the park. The table provided below indicates the annual costs of the general maintenance items within the park, which gives some indication of the revenue spend on these maintenance items.

Item	Annual Cost (£)	
Grass Maintenance	6840.14	
Flowers, shrubs and hedges	5080.67	
Litter removal	6406.56	
Play Area Maintenance	1759.13	
Maintenance of sports facilities	250.00	
Tree Maintenance	1100.00	approx.
Total	21435.89	

In addition, the Local Environment Manager has a budget for parks development and small scale repairs and maintenance improvements on facilities and infrastructure. However, the budget held relates to the whole of the South Neighbourhood and any development or repairs are determined on a priority basis, using parks quality assessment information and level of repair and maintenance required.

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. Around 2012 the park benefited from £16k worth of capital improvement. Through this, improved seating, bin provision, picnic tables, interpretation panels, cycle racks and way finder posts were able to be provided which has benefited the park immensely.

Grants

Friends Groups can apply to the local Neighbourhood Partnership for funds up to £5k from the Community Grants Fund.

More recently the local Park Ranger team are investigating avenues for external funding opportunities for horticultural/biodiversity linked projects.

7 Monitoring and Reviewing

The Parks Quality Assessment framework is used to provide annual assessment of each park and will provide a report for Braidburn Valley 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. In September 2016 the outcome for this park was that it scored in the Excellent (65-74%) category for Community Parks with a score of 74% (**Appendix Four**). This ranks as the 14th best park in the Park List in quality order based on Parks Quality Scores (PQS), scoring higher than 19 other Green Flag sites in Edinburgh.

The Neighbourhood area is monitored monthly throughout the year to ensure that the landscape features within our parks and greenspaces are being maintained in an appropriate manner. These results are used to define the ongoing maintenance issues and allow the management team to improve any feature that falls below standard. This allows good maintenance not only of the horticultural features but the park furniture as well.

In conjunction to this the Parks User Survey results and comments (**Appendix 5**) assist with the monitoring of the park and are taken into consideration by the Council and the volunteer group when annual reviews of the management plan are undertaken.

A mini review of this management plan shall take place in February 2017 in readiness for the next application process for the Green Flag awards taking into consideration the recommendation and comments of the previous judges. A further review will take place in 2018. This will be carried out by the Council Officers, the volunteer group and individual members of the local Community Council where we will undertake to consider all recommendations in regard to the Green Flag Assessment and also our internal Parks Quality Assessment and Landscape Quality Standards.

8 Appendices

Appendix One - Policies

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.

Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2013-16

The Community Plan for Edinburgh sets out the Edinburgh Partnership's priorities for the city:

- sustainable economic growth
- maximisation of land use and affordable housing
- investment in prevention and care service, health improvement and social inclusion
- environmental sustainability and climate change

The Action Plan shows the Edinburgh Partnership's joint commitments to 2011. In implementing this plan, partners will make a significant contribution to the quality of life and wellbeing of the city. Each year the Partnership will measure and report its progress in meeting the Community Plan targets.

Capitalising on Access: an Access Strategy for Edinburgh

The Access Strategy sets out a framework for developing opportunities for walking, cycling and horseriding in Edinburgh, and covers five access themes; sustainable transport, an attractive and enjoyable network, encouraging healthier lifestyles, an inclusive and accessible network and safety and security. For each theme, the Strategy sets out objectives, recommendations for action and identifies the key partners from Council departments and external organisations to take this work forward.

Climate Change Framework 2007-15

The Climate Change Framework sets out a draft framework for the Council's own activities, identifying key areas for action, to mitigate carbon emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Some actions relate specifically to the Council's own environmental performance, such as its energy use or fleet management. Other actions will require the co-operation and collaboration of the Council's partners across the city.

Sustainable Edinburgh 2020

Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 sets out the Council's vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2020. It details a framework for action which will be embedded into all Council policies, programmes and services; but recognises that, for the city to develop sustainably, a wider range of actions is required, involving all individuals, organisations and sectors of the city working together.

Park and Environmental Policies

Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy 2006

The sets out realistic aspirations for Edinburgh's park and greenspace system, and shows the way forward to achieving them. The strategy also provides a policy framework for the preparation of more detailed Management Plans for individual parks and gardens.

Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2010

The strategy is being developed following a comprehensive audit of open space in the city and information gathered through public consultation. It will ensure that a coordinated approach is taken to protecting and developing the city's network of open space. It is accompanied by 12 action plans, one for each Neighbourhood Partnership area, setting out site-specific proposals for change in open spaces. There are a number of main strategic issues that it will consider, many which will relate to the Green Flag Scheme, including parks and gardens, sports pitches, play, allotment and community gardens.

Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 - 18

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.

Braidburn Valley Park is designated as an Urban Wildlife Site in the Edinburgh Urban Wildlife Strategy and contributes to many species and habitat action plans identified in Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan, e.g. :Urban Habitat at Action Plan and the Wetland and Water-courses Action Plan.

Local Drivers

South Central Neighbourhood Local Community Plan 2014- 17

The South Central Neighbourhood Partnership exists to continually improve all aspects of community life including - economic, social, health, learning and the environment. The Partnership will put this into practice by managing a Local Community Plan which will bring together skills, knowledge and resources to develop co-production approaches and outcomes.

Appendix Two – Management Rules

Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace (introduced 2013)

Undesirable behaviour in parks is managed through education, persuasion and regulation.

Education, at the proactive, preventative end of the spectrum is provided for parks by a number of agencies. Education Officers in Local Community Planning provide a comprehensive environmental information and education service to the Edinburgh community. The team works with schools, colleges and universities, voluntary organisations, special needs groups and the business community to provide programmes, including litter and waste.

The Countryside ranger service runs environmental education programmes for schools and a range of park issues such as litter, dog fouling, camping, fires and cycling, are often discussed. Countryside Rangers are also charged with the promotion of 'responsible behaviour' as defined in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, the guidance on the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Talks to community groups, games and activities at events and special events such as 'Super Dog' and 'Dr Bike' are geared to communicating responsible behaviour in parks and greenspace.

The Park Ranger's role in providing an education service is developing through their work with local schools and providing walks for community groups. Park rangers can be effective in dealing with undesirable behaviours by targeting education on local issues at local people. This involves raising awareness of an issue through the neighbourhood media, contact with the community, signage and providing events and activities designed to draw in the target groups, persuade them to stop and prevent the undesirable behaviours.

Persuasion

Parks Rangers, Countryside Ranger and Volunteer Rangers are the principle people dealing with undesirable behaviour in parks. They have no powers to apprehend, fine or prosecute offenders and are often working on their own. They must therefore rely on gentle, friendly persuasion. This, for most behaviour, can be very effective but requires a good deal of skill. Training for rangers on

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how to deal effectively and safely with the public is therefore on-going. It is intended that this training will be extended to gardeners.

Signs, such as the 'Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace' are designed to persuade people by explaining the effect of certain behaviours. These signs are permanent in all parks. Temporary signage can deal with local issues and again they are prepared in an informative and persuasive style as is shown on the next page.

Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace

The City of Edinburgh Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 hereby make the following Management Rules for the Council's Parks, Gardens and open spaces:

Interpretation

In these management Rules the following words have the meanings given to them:

"Council" means The City of Edinburgh Council;

"Park" means any land provided, owned, leased, occupied or managed by the Council within the City of Edinburgh and used as a recreation ground, public playground, public open space, public walk, walkway, woodland, ornamental or pleasure ground or gardens and all buildings and works connected therewith;

"Council Official" means an employee of the Council or of Edinburgh Leisure, or any person authorised by the Council to enforce these rules;

"Code" means the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, the guidance on the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

Summary

Any person who appears to be breaking, has broken or is about to break any of the following rules may be asked by a Council Official to leave the Park. Any person refusing to leave will be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level one on the standard scale.

1. No person shall in any park wilfully obstruct, interrupt, verbally insult or annoy employees or agents of the Council in carrying out their duties.

2. Any written permission required by these rules must be shown on request to a Council Official.
3. The Council may decide to waive any particular Rule at any time.

General

The following acts are prohibited:

- 4.1 Behaviour which causes (or in the opinion of a Council Official is likely to cause) annoyance, offence, alarm or distress to any other park user.
- 4.2 Any wilful or careless act which damages or removes any artefact, plant, tree, shrub, building, structure, equipment, furniture or fitting.
- 4.3 Depositing litter except in litter bins provided for the purpose.
- 4.4 Pursuing any activity which endangers (or in the opinion of a Council Official is likely to endanger) any person or property.
- 4.5 Ball games in Princes Street Gardens and Saughton Walled Gardens.
- 4.6 Fishing in any water course without permit.
- 4.7 Depositing or leaving any substance or article which is likely (in the opinion of a Council Official) to cause injury or damage to any person or property.

- 4.8 Metal detecting in any park without the written permission of the Scottish Detector Club, subject to an agreement between the Council and the Scottish Detector Club being valid.

The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

- 4.9 Entering into or wilfully remaining in a Park when it is closed to the public.
- 4.10 Selling, hiring or offering for sale or hire any items or goods or services.
- 4.11 Displaying or handing out advertisements, conducting surveys or giving any displays or performances.
- 4.12 Begging or busking.
- 4.13 Engaging in any commercial activity whatsoever (including, without limitation, dog walking services, photography, filming and fitness training services).

Dogs and Horses

The following acts are prohibited:

- 5.1 Allowing a dog to enter in or on a children's play area or area of the Park that is designated as a 'dog free area.'
- 5.2 Allowing dogs to foul in a public Park unless the person in charge of the dog immediately removes the fouling (within the provisions of the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003).
- 5.3 Failing to keep a dog under close control in any Park.



- 5.4 Failing to keep a dog under close control, at heel or on a short lead when near young farm animals and at nesting time (April – July) in woodlands, grasslands, moorland and at the seashore.

- 5.5 Allowing a dog to run onto sports pitches when these are in use.

- 5.6 Leading, riding, training or exercising a horse in a manner which falls short of the responsibilities in the Code.

BBQs, Fire and Camping

The following acts are prohibited:

- 6.1 Lighting barbecues outwith designated barbecue sites, where these are provided, or in areas or in a manner likely to burn or scorch the ground or cause danger or nuisance to other Park users or neighbouring residents.
 - 6.2 Failing to remove litter associated with BBQs and picnics.
- The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:**
- 6.3 Lighting an open fire in any Park.
 - 6.4 Camping within one mile of a public road.

Cycling

The following acts are prohibited:

- 7.1 Cycling in a manner which falls short of the responsibilities in the Code.
- 7.2 Cycling off the paths in woodland and other areas sensitive to environmental damage.

Motor Vehicles

The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

- 8.1 Driving or using or leaving any car, motorbike, quad bike, mini moto, or other vehicle, or parking a caravan, except on roads and in car parks provided by the Council's permission has been obtained first. This rule does not apply to prams and wheelchairs used for carrying children or people with a disability.

The following acts are prohibited:

- 8.2 Operating any motorised or mechanically propelled toy or model vehicle, aircraft or boat so as to disturb wildlife, endanger or give annoyance to other people or if asked by a Council Official not to do so.

Events and Other Activities

The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

- 9.1 Holding an event, performance, ceremony in any Park, or a demonstration or public meeting in any Park except East Meadows, Calton Hill or Leith Links.
- 9.2 Carrying, or discharging any fireworks or firearm.
- 9.3 Playing any organised game or sport on pitches provided by the Council.

Short Hole Golf Courses

The following acts are prohibited for those not engaged in the game of golf:

- 10 Going onto playing surfaces when these are in use and onto greens at all times.



Expulsion and Exclusion from Parks

- 11.1 Where a Council Official has reasonable grounds for believing that a person has contravened, is contravening or is about to contravene any of these Management Rules, they may expel that person from the Park.
- 11.2 Where a Council Official has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is about to contravene any of these Management Rules, they may exclude that person from the Park.
- 11.3 Where a person has persistently contravened or attempted to contravene these Management Rules and in the Council's opinion is likely to contravene them again, the Council may decide to make that person subject to an exclusion order for a specified period of up to one year.
- 11.4 An exclusion order made under Rule 11.3 shall take effect on such date as the Council may decide, being not less than 14 days after the decision to make that person subject to an exclusion order. A person who has been made subject to an exclusion order:
 - i) shall be entitled to written notice of the decision to make the exclusion order, containing a statement of the reasons for that decision, and
 - ii) shall be entitled to make written or oral representations to the Council at any time up to the time that the order would have taken effect but for the representation being made.



These rules, due to come into force in February 2013, are now presented for public inspection. Any objections to the rules should be made in writing before 3 December 2012 to: Duncan Monteith, Parks and Greenspace, The City of Edinburgh Council, C3 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG. duncan.monteith@edinburgh.gov.uk Please include your contact details so we can acknowledge and process your objection.



Regulation

When gentle persuasion fails, Council officers and rangers can resort to regulation, using Management Rules, Environmental Wardens and the Police.

Management Rules, made under section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, allow Council officers and rangers to expel and exclude people from parks for minor offences. If the offending person does not leave they are committing a criminal offence. The threat of the offence is often enough to persuade people to stop. If they persist then it is a matter for the police.

Management Rules will bring the rules in-line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The rules will also address current issues in parks and attempt to provide a clearer interpretation to the public of the behaviours which are not allowed.

For people who will not be persuaded and for more serious behaviours in parks then Park officers and ranger and the public are encouraged to call the police. The police will respond in a time that resources and priorities allow.

When campaigns are being run in parks to address certain issues then Environmental Wardens are often asked to assist. Wardens can help stop and persuade people and for issues of dog fouling and litter can issue fixed penalties.

The key tools for dealing with undesirable behaviour in parks are education, the promotion of responsible behaviour, persuasion and as a last resort, regulation.

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Appendix Three – Maintenance Plan

Braidburn Valley Park Maintenance Plan														
		Occasions												
Description	Action/Work	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	General Frequency
Grass Maintenance														
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulb Planted Areas Areas in front of all benches Areas between bath and burn north of stage to Friends' specification wider riparian strip on west side of burn 	Cutting								1					Annual
Amenity Grass	Cutting			2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2			Fortnightly (Sum)
Edge Trees & Posts	Cutting		1							1				Bi-Annual
Wildflower Meadow + bee meadow: <u>Strim</u> to 15cm in mid-late October and leave material for removal by Friends.											1?			
Giant Hogweed and other registered weeds	Identify and spray out			1										Annually

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Flower Bed Maintenance														
	Litter Collection	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	Fortnightly
Current shrub bed	Cut	1												Annually
Revamped shrub and flower bed at main entrance – TBC once new beds installed.														
Hedge & Tree Maintenance														
Hedge	Cutting					1						1		Bi-Annual
Trees incl. those sticking through railings on Comiston Road and Comiston Springs Avenue	Pruning	1												Annually
Clear back sightlines at pinch points, e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comiston Springs Ave • South Pentland Terrace entrances; • Fly Walk 	Pruning	1												Every other year
Tree maintenance – leave wood for habitat piles														When tree felling or pruning takes place.
Roads & Pathway & Bridge Maintenance														
Roads/paths & Cycleway	Engineer Inspection			1										Annual
	Ranger Inspection	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Fortnightly
Clear back	Inspect and			1						1				Bi-annual

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encroaching turf on tarmac paths, esp. steep slopes	manual removal (chemical if no other options)													
Top up material for north path	Supply			1										Annually
Re-apply anti-skid surface to south bridge	Inspect and Repair			1								1		Bi-annual
Inspect and fix erosion channels between the burn and path	Inspect and repair	1												Annually
Repair bridges within three months of damage unless H&S specifies faster timescale.	Inspect and repair													Annually
Street Cleansing Maintenance														
Bin	Emptying	4	4	4	8	8	8	9	9	8	8	4	4	Weekly/ Twice weekly
Litter	Collection	4	4	4	8	8	8	9	9	8	8	4	4	Daily
Drive through collection for Friends' Clean Ups	Collection				1						1			
Graffiti removal	Offensive													Within 24 hrs
	Non-Offensive													Within 72hrs

Additional Grounds and Grass Maintenance Information

All work will be carried out in accordance with the annual ground maintenance specification.

- Most of the grass is closely mown on a rotational basis.
- Hedges are cut as required
- The bedding at the main entrance gate is moving to permanent planting, the colour scheme and species choice being agreed with Friends Group.
- The wildflower meadow will be strimmed by the Council and the cut material removed once a year by the Friends with local school children.
- The burn is cleared out twice a year by the FOBVP
- Shrub beds are kept weed free using natural methods.
- The burnside vegetation will be left alone, except twice annual cuts of vegetation opposite seats, and in late August in areas directed by the Friends for the annual Fun Day.

The above is supported by the Grass Management Plan drawn up by the Friends and Council Officials to ensure uniformity and protect the biodiversity value of the site, as follows;

There shall be four categories of grass cutting in Braidburn Valley Park, in order to: maintain areas for play; keep the “feel” of the park; increase wildlife; reduce damage to trees; reduce maintenance costs.

1. Amenity Grass

- Cut as at present, observing good practice of:
- Only cutting when the ground is hard enough;
- Driving machinery slowly, especially when turning;
- Minimise driving over paths;
- Remove cut grass off sloping paths when it is dropped there – otherwise it is a slip hazard.
- Cut grass on amphitheatre with hand-pushed machines to retain original seating outlines as much as possible.

2. Areas that are never cut

- Established woodland areas;
- Establishing woodland areas including the P7 triangle and the line of trees on the south side of it;
- Staked off areas of newly planted trees;

- A wide strip along both sides of the burn;
- The untouched area of grassland to the south of the wildflower meadow.

3. Cut once a year in early August only

- Areas with bulb planting under trees;
- Areas with bulb planting not under trees;
- Areas in front of the benches on the west side of the burn, right down to the water's edge so that people can see the water;
- The area between the north bridge and the path, for 30m south for the finish of the duck race;

4. Wildflower Meadow

- Strim to 15cm in mid-late October and leave material for removal by Friends.
- Areas to the north of the stage may require to be strimmed for the Friends Tea in the Park community event in early September. This is undertaken by request and site meeting.

Appendix Four – Park Quality Assessment 2016



**THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
PARKS & GREENSPACE**



Green Flag Park Quality Assessment Scores 2016

Braidburn Valley Park

Classification: Community Park

PQS: 74% Bandwidth: Excellent

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

A Welcoming Place

	<u>Criteria Score</u>	<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
Welcoming	7	Extremely nice open aspect to park from main entrance with backdrop of Pentland Hills. All entrances litter free with relevant information displayed on notice boards.	Raised bed at entrance still lacks a little impact
Good Safe Access	9	Numerous entrance points and walking routes all over the site allowing you to venture at your own desire and ability.	
Signage	8	all signage in good order with cycling signage and relevant interpretation	
Equal Access	7	Seating throughout, formal and informal grass paths, number of bridges offering crossing points over burn.	

Healthy, Safe & Secure

Safe Equipment & Facilities	7		
Personal Security in Park	8	Lighting from main bus/commuter link, busy park with mainly open views and no evidence of any ASB	
Dog Fouling	9		
Appropriate Provision of Facilities	7	Formal and informal seating offering great views and resting places, orienteering route, most of the park's best facilities are informal but just as valuable	
Quality of Facilities	7		

[Go to Index](#)

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Clean & Well Maintained

Litter & Waste Management

8	Pretty clean throughout	at least two bins were overflowing
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Grounds Maintenance

6	Grass being cut	Not a great deal of horticultural appeal to be honest but that's down to the nature of the park
---	-----------------	---

Building & Infrastructure Maint.

6	Most of the infrastructure is sound and solid.	
---	--	--

Equipment Maintenance

7		
---	--	--

Sustainability

Environmental Sustainability

8	Due to the natural nature of this park , with all the natural bulbs, wildflower, tree whips and also large areas where we do not cut the grass We have a map made up by the friends group which we give to our gardeners for all the areas not to cut, also the changing over of the annual bedding to herbaceous with membrane and mulch.	
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Pesticides

8	Following discussions with friends group and with exception of invasive species we no longer use herbicide at all in Braidburn valley park.	
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Peat Use

10	As we have now done away with the annual bed which used plants grown in peat and changed this over to herbaceous only, we deliberately don't use peat in the park at all.	
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Waste Minimisation

6	35% of all our litter bin rubbish from the park is now recycled as part of the councils policy, bark mulch is used throughout the park including the new herbaceous bed at main entrance point which has membrane and mulch, leaves are used within the park and not taken away.	
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Woodland Management

6	Most newly planted trees establishing well but will need to be monitored	some older species not doing too well
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Conservation & Heritage

Conservation Fauna & Flora	8	Continual attempts being made to make the park more sustainable and attractive to wildlife. Riparian zone has an interesting range of wildflower.	original wildflower meadows have struggled to make the desired impact
Conservation Landscape	7		
Conservation Buildings	5		

Community Involvement

Community Involvement	9	A group exists and hold lots of events and is involved in the management of the park.	
Community Provision	6	The Council provides support in the form of funding etc.	

Marketing & Promotion

Marketing & Promotion	9	The site is advertised on the Council website and Edinburgh Outdoors. The Friends group also have their own website. The site also benefits from additional marketing as a Green Flag Award site.	
Information Provision	7	All information on view is relevant to park and council services	
Educ. & Interpretative Provision	7		

Management

Management Plan Implementation	0		
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OverallComments One of Edinburgh's best parks due to its aspect and unspoilt landscape, would wish to see the park developing further natural enhancements

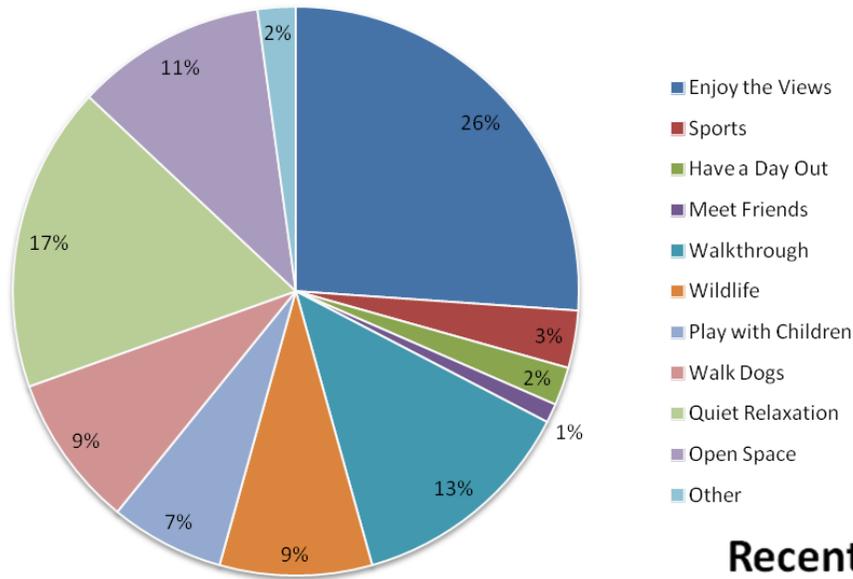
Recommendations: Monitor lime trees on Comiston road and cut straps, remove epicormic growth

Increase frequency of litter bin servicing during hot weather

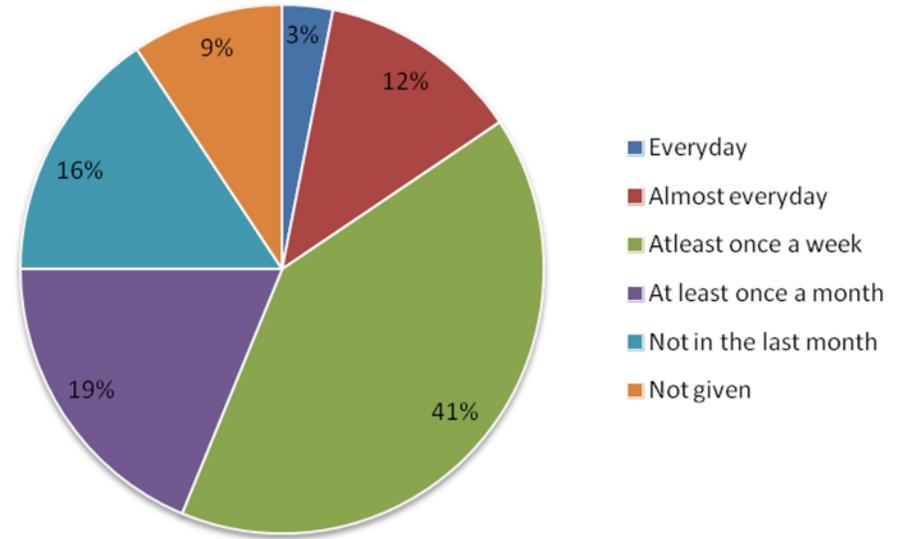
Remove old bin next to tram shelter

Appendix Five – Park User Surveys 2016

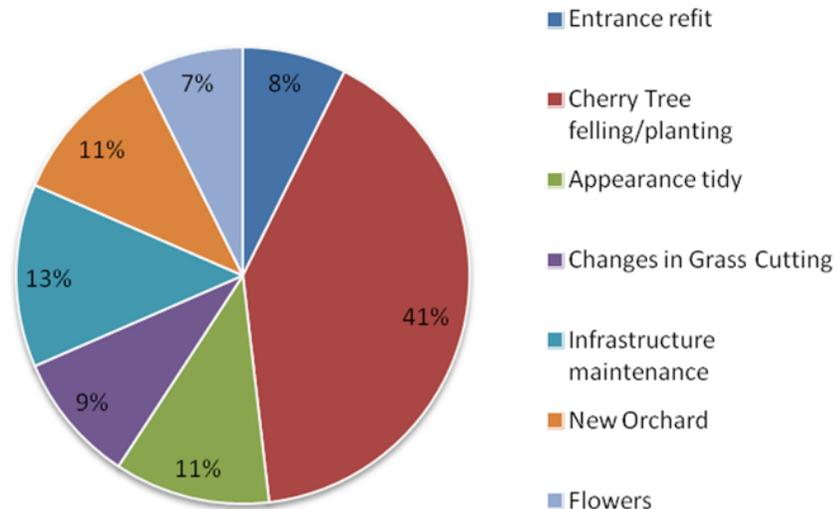
Reasons to Visit Braidburn Valley Park



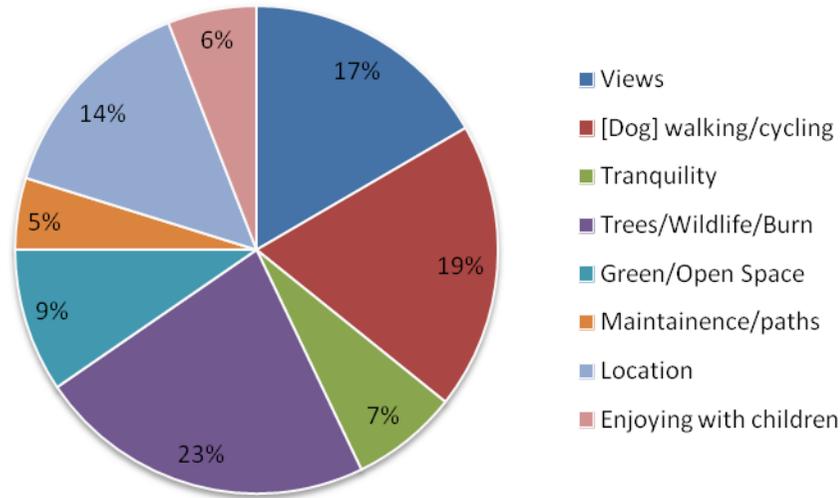
How Often Park is Visited



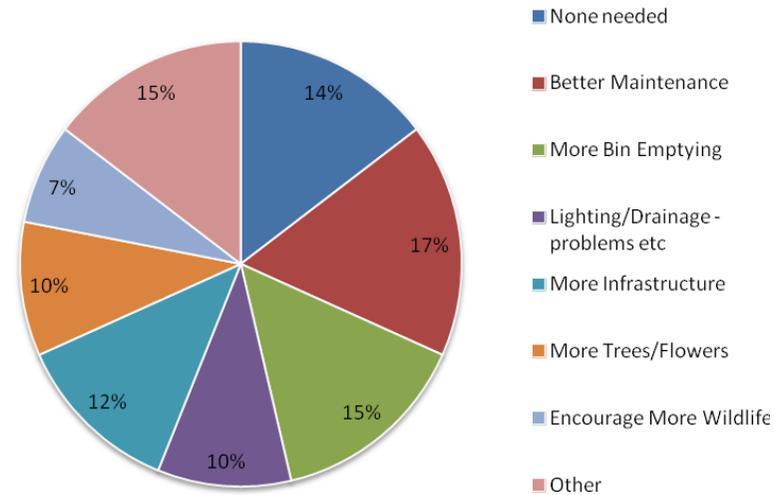
Recent Changes Noticed



Enjoyed Most



Suggested Improvements



The Council aims to encourage and maximise the use of the park by everyone with a particular focus on our corporate priorities, so that we can:

- Make community planning a reality
- Move towards an inclusive society
- Making Edinburgh a safer and healthier place
- Secure prosperity and manage growth
- Deliver better education, training and lifelong learning
- Develop a quality and sustainable environment

Current user groups

Broad sectors of the community currently use this site:

- Retired and elderly – use the park occasionally for sitting and relaxation requiring a number of seats close to the path network.
- Parents with pre-school children – use the park as a through route to and from the primary school.
- School children – use the park for school visits and projects on wildlife as well as for recreational purposes and as a meeting area outside school.

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- Disabled users – the level path network through the park is inviting to disabled users although the steeper slopes and rougher paths on the valley sides are more challenging.
- Sports users – There are no formal mainstream sports facilities but the park is used for cross country running and informal sports. There an orienteering course with maps available to download at www.braidburnvalleypark.org.uk.
- Dog walkers – use the park to exercise their pets, in safety all day.
- Formed in 2002, the friends of Braidburn Valley Park organise some parks events, as well as promotional activities for the local community with additional help being available from the council.
- Visitors and other members of the community – use the site for recreation, relaxation, visiting events and taking part in activities.
- Cyclists– – use the park as a through route and it is a popular plate to teach children to cycle

Braidburn Valley Park User Survey Information for 2016 will be provided to the judges on the judging day.

Appendix Six - Biodiversity Assessment

Site visit 1: 07/06/2016

Weather – heavy thundery showers and bright sunshine, no wind.

The first impressions of the park are of a linear, natural feature with a diversity of habitats from formalised tree planting to open areas of naturalised grassland, a stream and wetland areas. The park was very well cared for with no evidence of litter or dog fouling. Interpretation boards provide information and orientation at various points within the park. An area of Giant Hogweed had been sprayed and no evidence of other INNS was noted. Butterbur was seen in patches but appeared confined to a few locations.

Improving existing habitats for biodiversity

Standard amenity grassland – there are some areas of this habitat as the park is used for recreation. This habitat is of low value for biodiversity as it supports a low number of invertebrates and provides only limited foraging for birds and small mammals. Some areas have been converted to meadows and, if space and resources allow, further areas could be managed less intensively by changing the cutting regime.

Biodiversity grassland/meadow areas



There are a number of good quality meadow areas and these are to be commended. Monitoring the species diversity – using quadrats and fixed point photography is a sound way of measuring improvements. Plant species diversity can be increased by boosting through native wildflower plugs or mature plants. Planting around the edges will improve perceptions more readily.

Naturalised bulbs in grass

Snowdrop and daffodil cultivars provide a flush of colour and interest in spring. However, these are limited in biodiversity value providing early pollen and nectar. A range of native spring-flowering bulbs could be used – Bluebell – native (not Spanish or hybrid), Solomon's Seal, Lily of the Valley, Fritillary and Wild garlic. Autumn flowering bulbs such as Autumn crocus and Cyclamen could also be planted.

Watercourse options

The Braid Burn flows through the centre of the park. It has a good number of riparian plants including the Water Figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*) an uncommon plant in the Lothians. There is a wide buffer strip along much of the watercourse and plants such as Cuckoo Flower, Ragged Robin and Purple Loosestrife could be encouraged.

General points

- If trees require replacing then replant with native species if appropriate.
- Leave deadwood and habitat piles.
- Plant native spring and autumn bulbs.
- Delay grass cutting until late autumn after seeding of wildflowers.
- Plant for pollinators.
- Monitor and record the site for wildlife and submit records to The Wildlife Information Centre (TWIC).
- Arrange a Bioblitz.

A full ecological survey was made in 2003 by McBride Habitats. Recommendations from this report are being used to shape the future development of the biodiversity of the park.

Existing habitats

Trees (see **Appendix 7**)

- **Trees-lined avenues**

Mature trees are maintained along many avenues, adding structural diversity to the park and providing habitats for invertebrates and birds. Young trees have been planted where gaps in the avenues have arisen.

- **Specimen Trees** - Designed to be standalone parkland trees and are primarily features within the park. They will have some biodiversity value for birds and invertebrates. It may be possible to leave grass uncut underneath single trees or plant some bulbs or wildflowers. Leave deadwood in place unless it poses a safety risk.

- **Mini - Orchard**

Traditional orchards that are managed without fertilisers and pesticides are very valuable to biodiversity.

Herbaceous perennial bed

There is one at the main entrance at Greenbank Crescent/Comiston Road, which has recently been converted from traditional seasonal bedding plants. The selection of herbaceous perennials will benefit pollinators and other invertebrates.

Bulb areas

Large areas of the park perimeter are planted with a mix of crocus and daffodil, these areas are left uncut until June/July when they are cut back to amenity grassland.

Grass Areas

The three different types of grass management (amenity grass, areas that are never cut and areas cut once a year) within park, provide all the possible habitats and foraging opportunities for biodiversity. The amenity grassland supports grassland invertebrates in low numbers (in comparison to long grass) and provides a limited foraging resource for birds which feed on these invertebrates. Not mowing around the trees also protects them from mowing incidents.

Wildflower Meadow/Bed

An area of wildflowers has been established in the south of the park, this is in addition to a wildflower bed on the south bank near the pavilion. Both have been of real benefit for biodiversity with a number of bees, butterflies and other insects visiting the flowers. Teasels and autumn seed heads provide longer-lasting food sources for seed-eating birds such as linnets, redpolls and goldfinches.

Bird boxes

Bird boxes have already been installed in various trees in the woodland area

Riparian zone

Currently the un-mown strip next to the burn is as little as 3m wide in places, and quite often it is contained by footpaths. By reducing the mowing next to the burn, particularly on the western bank, taller herbaceous vegetation can become established which will filter water entering the burn improving water quality; act as a greater store for flood water; provide food for invertebrates and also give cover for stream-side animals such as otter which are occasionally seen in the park.

Boundary

There is an area of dense ivy draping the fence at the north west end of the park. This is good habitat for nesting birds and ground cover for small mammals as well as a nectar source for invertebrates.

Developing Braidburn Valley Park biodiversity value

Tree planting

Most species of tree are very valuable to biodiversity, increasing the number of mature trees in the park is recommended.

Orchard

For the mini-orchard, manage as a park copse and let some ground vegetation grow under and around the trees. Potential to plant some low-growing flowering species such as thyme, red clover or bird's-foot trefoil for pollinators outwith the tree flowering season.

Herbaceous perennial bed

Leaving dead stems over winter and cutting back in spring is good for insects overwintering in plant bases. If possible, increase the plant diversity with natives that are attractive and structural e.g. teasel, broom, mullein. These could be gradually introduced if there are other plants that fail. Native grasses could also be substituted.

Grass Areas

These areas could be enhanced by sowing with wildflowers or summer bulbs to complement the spring bulbs.

Develop Wildflower Areas

Scarify and add annual wildflower seed for more species diversity.

Bird/Bat boxes

Adding further bird boxes and bat boxes, where appropriate.

Riparian zone - The riparian habitat could be improved by expanding the extent of un-mown vegetation around the burn and by planting more trees which are appropriate to the location.

Otter Holt

During the south bridge replacement in 2013, the Council offered to install an otter holt in the park. A location between the south bridge and where the bridge goes under the road would be best as this offers most scope for privacy.

Invertebrates

Reduce the area of closely mown grass, then convert areas not required for recreation or access into rough grass or wildflower meadow as has been achieved elsewhere in the park. Increase the area where there are wildflower bulbs e.g. snake's head fritillary, spring squill, and narcissus.

Biodiversity Options for Parks and Greenspaces – A Guide for Managers – Will be available to judges on assessment day.

Appendix Seven – Tree Survey & Maintenance Plan

A woodland management plan for the rest of the park, which included a full tree survey, was also carried out.

In terms of woodland and tree cover and for the purposes of management the Park has the following features.

- Cherry Tree Trefoil - located on the south eastern slopes of the Park
- Individual Trees -primarily located on the Park's eastern boundary, and around the stage
- Woodland areas -there are three small areas of woodland cover
- *Sorbus/Malus* Trees - these are relatively recently planted trees, primarily located on the western slopes and on the eastern boundary
- Wheatley Elms – succumbing to various diseases, being replaced with red-twigged limes?
- Riparian Zone - this comprises the vegetation adjacent to the Burn, including a wooded element.

Trefoil Management

The cherry tree trefoil is generally in poor condition, with many of the trees in decline and in the short to medium term they will need to be replaced. There were four main management options put forward for consideration in 2007, for the replacement of the

cherry trees and following discussions with the Friends of the Braidburn Valley Park the option below was considered to be most feasible for implementation in silvicultural terms and acceptance in amenity terms.

A phased removal of sections of the trefoil, based on overall condition is progressing; however, budget constraints are providing some difficulty in progressing the completion of the replacement programme. The Friends of Braidburn Valley Park with Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust and the Council are exploring options for accessing external funding in order to replace the remaining trees.

This option provides a compromise between visual disturbance and frequency of operations, with felling restricted to a phased approach in which phases of the trefoil will be removed and replaced at a time. The approach would limit the initial impact of the works, while still achieving some economies of scale. It would also provide a good test of the replanting methods, which could be refined following an assessment of the initial phase of works.

Individual Trees

In this section the mature specimen trees in the Park are described and recommendations given. The majority of trees are mature Wheatley Elm in a line of along the east side of the site, beside Comiston Road. These trees have been subject to careful management in the past, with felled elms having been replaced by Lime and Norway Maple standards. The policy now is to replace Elms with Red Twigged Limes to give height and structure to this avenue feature. There are also a few trees in the north and south ends of the site which as a result of position or condition are worthy of mention. These trees are listed in the table below. In addition, there are a number of Hornbeams, which surround the stage area on three sides and a group of poplar and birch trees on the southern boundary.

In 2015, 60 trees of varying varieties were planted in the park. This has assisted the replacement of those lost through wind, disease and vandalism.

A memorial tree planting scheme has been introduced by the Council and the Friends are consulted about suitable locations for the trees, in accordance with the tree management plan. Provision of staking and a 1.5m+ wire mesh is an important part of the tree planting to ensure that the trees are protected from vandalism until they are established.

More recently, the Council are providing specimen trees, more or less on an annual basis. Some of the species are grown by the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh and include unusual species. The Friends are consulted about the tree planting locations in accordance with the Tree Management Plan, which primarily focuses on consolidating existing tree areas, to guard against damage by mowing. All specimen trees should be provided with tree guards and staking to ensure their establishment.

Woodland Areas

Braidburn Valley Park Management Plan 2016 - 2021

There are three small areas of mature woodland and scrub within the Park, mainly around the outer edges. These woods are small and linear in shape as they are restricted by the site boundaries and the mowing regime. The only piece of long-standing woodland is a strip at the north-east corner of the park, which is shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map from 1855 as woodland. The two other areas are younger and are dominated by sapling to semi-mature trees and scrub.

There is opportunity to enlarge the existing woodland areas (through the P7 planting project and the new orchard) and there are sufficient young trees within them to ensure their continuance, so management should concentrate on maintaining the overall health of the woods and ensuring the safety of the trees.

In the north east of the park, the “P7 triangle” is being further enhanced with fruit and nut bearing trees, as are the areas to the north of the pavilion and in the south west corner of the park near the flood defence works. Primary 7 children from South Morningside Primary are planting these areas as part of the legacy tree scheme. Brush cutting is being undertaken by the Friends of Braidburn Valley Park to stop these areas being inundated with bramble, to enable the small trees to establish.

Sorbus/Malus Trees

There has been a significant amount of standard tree planting in the Park in the last 5-10 years, the vast majority of which has been Sorbus species. The planting has taken the form of a series of small rowan roundels close to the paths and larger swathes of planting around the edge of the site.

Many of these trees have suffered from mowing damage and/or vandalism so that some of the roundels are now very gappy. These should be strengthened by planting of specimen trees – see above.

In 2015, the Friends planted a community orchard in a depleted *Sorbus* area near the north Fly Walk entrance in the north west of the park. This features around 10 trees of apple and plum varieties.

Appendix Eight – QR Code Information

Braidburn Valley Park

QR Code

Scan this code using your smartphone to find out about your local park or report a concern www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk



South Neighbourhood Office

40 Captain's Road
Edinburgh
EH17 8HQ

Email: southteam@edinburgh.gov.uk

Tel: 0131 529 5151

Tweet to [@south_team](https://twitter.com/south_team)