



Muir Wood Management Plan 2020 – 2024

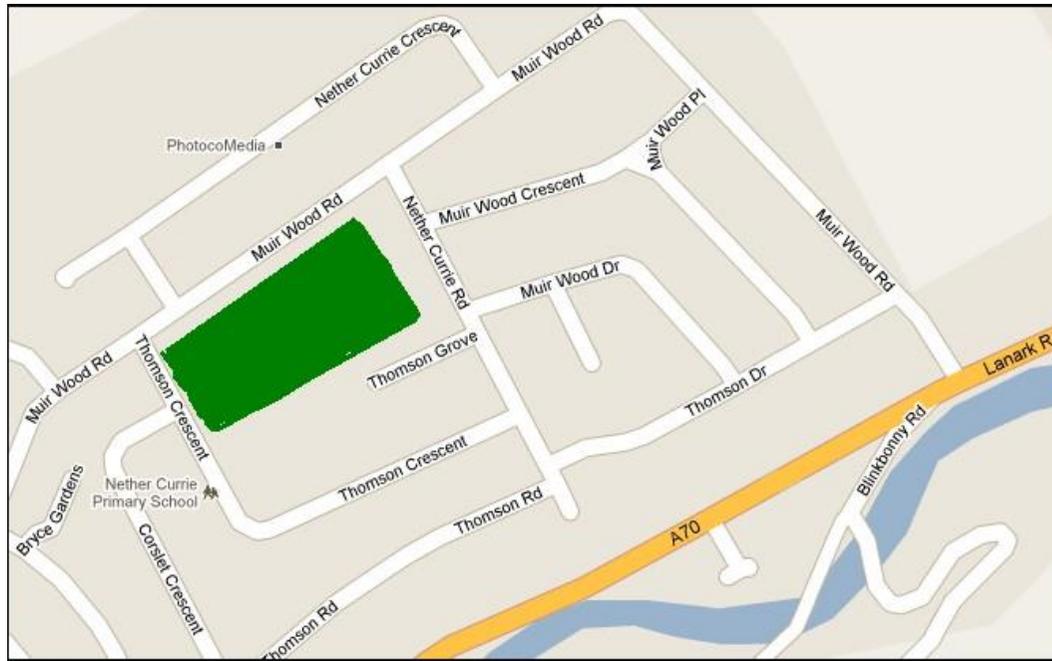
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Muir Wood Park Boundary

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Muir Wood Park Site Location Within Edinburgh

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Summary Information

Park Name:	Muir Wood Park
Address:	Muir Wood Road Currie, Edinburgh, EH14 5JE
National Grid reference:	NT187 684
Size of Site:	Area 1.8 hectares
Telephone Number:	0131 527 3800
Email:	southwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk
Ownership:	The City of Edinburgh Council
Area Designation	South West Locality
Classification:	Community Park
Plan Written by:	South West Locality Transport and Environment Craig.dunlop@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel: 07917211273
Partners:	Local Community Currie Community Council Friends of Muir Wood Park [FOMWP] Schools [Nether Currie Primary] Local shops and businesses

Overview Plan of Muirwood Park



1 Introduction

1.0 Location

Muir Wood Park is a small pleasant community park with a range of attractions including a woodland section, parts of the park are naturalised with a mixture of bulbs species including daffodil, crocus, chinodoxa, snowdrops, bluebells, offering a welcome splash of colour in the spring months. There is a small artificially turfed kick-about area, outdoor play equipment and a nature trail with carved animals, it has whin dusted pathways that offer a suitably accessible walking route throughout the park. The Park is an attractive facility for all ages who come to play, walk or just sit and relax from a nearby bench.

The park provides a community greenspace amid surrounding housing and offers a secure gated entrance to the adjacent Nether Currie Primary School. The design provides open space which can accommodate activities including kick-about sport, play and leisure activities. There are several stakeholders who can be associated with the park and provide a good cross section of the local community. These are as follows:

- Local community
- Currie Community Council
- Friends of Muir Wood Park
- Nether Currie Primary School

Members of the public use the park for many things; however, it is used in general for play, leisure walks, dog walking, picnicking and outdoor education. The park is a fantastic attraction all year round and well used but more so when the weather is good, the secure gate to primary school offers good opportunities for pupils to explore a natural woodland setting for outdoor learning aiding the current curriculum.

The park also lends itself to informal activities enjoyed by the local children within the woodland, the Friends have developed a nature trail and introduced carved animals which has made the park popular with children and their parents.

One of the attractions in the park is the remnants of the old Muir Wood and its paths which meanders through the trees and provides the park users with a chance to sample local wildlife of biodiversity in a city location area.

The cultural, aesthetic and recreational value of the park for the citizens of Edinburgh is immense. Muir Wood is specially valued by those living in the nearby housing estate. There are three public entrance points to the park

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The park is graced by both mature and young trees.

Muir Wood has a welcoming atmosphere and is well used by the whole neighbourhood.

The park is 10 minutes' walk from the nearest bus stop, which is serviced by public transport bus routes, No 44 and has on-street parking.

1.1 Management Plan Framework

This Management Plan sets out the future management, maintenance and development of the Muir Wood Park and has been produced by The City of Edinburgh Council and representatives from the Friends of Muir Wood Park 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 2020 to 2024 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.”

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.

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The Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries 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, Greenspace and Cemeteries 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.

Using the Green Flag judging criteria all of Edinburgh's 144 parks are assessed on an annual basis and a Parks Quality 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.

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, Greenspace and Cemeteries 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.

Muir Wood Park was first awarded Green Flag status in 2011 and has retained it successfully ever since.

2 Vision and Aims

2.0 Introduction

This section sets out a new vision for the park and a series of new objectives that are developed into actions later in the plan.

2.1 Vision

The 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, Greenspace and Cemeteries and the SE Locality Transport and Environment 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 Muir Wood Park, our vision is:

“To ensure that Muir Wood Park is developed and maintained as a safe, clean, accessible and attractive park for 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

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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

i) Safety

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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 Muir Wood 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
Well Maintained and Clean	h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations
	f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles

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Environmental Management	
Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage	<p>a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site</p> <p>e) To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value</p>
Community Involvement	<p>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</p>
Marketing & Communication	<p>j) To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users</p>
Management	<p>f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles</p> <p>h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations</p> <p>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</p>

3 Survey, Historic Features and Park Governance

3.0 Introduction

This section looks at the historic features 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 friend's group and events.

3.1 Historic Features of the Park

Muir Wood Road Park, commonly known as Muir Wood Park, is a remnant of the old Muir Wood, which in the past extended from Gillespie Crossroads to Currie. The 1855 Ordnance Survey map shows an area of trees extending to what is now Muir Wood Road located on the edge of agricultural fields. Its geometric outline suggests a policy woodland. Kirkwood's map of 1817 shows several trees in the area of the Nether Currie settlement

Mollie Tweedie, widow of local historian John Tweedie, now in her 90's, recalls happy family outings with her children in the Muir Wood. In his well-respected book "Our District" published in the 1960's. John Tweedie writes as follows:

"Muir Wood Road, of course is very different today from what it was 15 years ago. Then it was a narrow rutted, unsurfaced track, but very popular with local shift workers (from the paper mills) for a "quiet daunder". The wood was also popular with families, and there the bairns could run wild and have a glorious time hiding in the bushes, climbing trees or playing in the burn. Wild honeysuckle and other delights grew freely, and altogether the Muir Wood was a place enchantment. Now it is part of the Wimpey Estate, which also covers a goodly part of Easter Currie fields. This estate was begun in 1955. The Muir Wood Road was extended to what is now Riccarton Mains Road".

Older residents recall playing in the wood as children and enjoying catching tadpoles in the park. Much of the woodland was felled and the historic drainage ditches culverted during the building of the houses in the late 50's. Part of the drainage system is still evident in the dry ditch running through parts of the wood. Electricity pylons ran through it at one stage. For a time, it became just a degraded piece of wasteland. Some young trees remained, nature healed, another generation of children adopted it for play and adventure. It was designated for public recreation under the ownership of the Local Authority, who coppiced the trees and did some replanting around forty years ago. Basic play equipment was installed. Thereafter maintenance consisted of grass cutting and safety procedures.

City of Edinburgh's 1996 publication "Edinburgh's Green Heritage" by Ian Nimmo, contains the following description of Muir Wood Park:

"No more than an oasis of greenery in the centre of a housing estate, this tiny park is nonetheless a little wonderland to those who

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know it. The Muir Wood play area is about 400 yards long by 200 yards deep, but it presents so many imaginative possibilities for those who seek them out. An elongated "S" shaped wood stretches diagonally the full length of the park. many paths wind through the woods, children can become hidden among the trees that explode in leaf in Summer, but they are never more than a few steps from open space and safety..... The Muir Wood once stretched from Gillespie Crossroads to Currie. Little of it remains but this isolated magical forest, left by George Wimpey to remind us of what used to be.



History board

3.2 Strategic Significance of the Park

Several 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 Vision 2050 <https://www.edinburgh2050.com/>
- Edinburgh Local Development Plan (LDP) <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan>
- South West Locality Improvement Plan <https://www.edinburghcompact.org.uk/community-planning/localities/south-west/>
- The City of Edinburgh Council's Business Plan 2017-2022 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/24691/council-business-plan-2017-22>
- Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory-record/1146210/resilient-edinburgh-climate-change-adaptation-framework>
- Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory-record/1146225/sustainable-edinburgh-2020>

Park and Environmental Policies

- Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy 2006 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22626/public-park-and-gardens-strategy>
- Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2021 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22616/open-space-2021>
- Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-21 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/26216/edinburgh-biodiversity-action-plan-2019-2021>

3.3 Management Rules

The Park Management Rules, which were revised and approved in 2014, These rules are able to be reviewed in [\(Appendix 2\)](#).

3.4 Park Classification

Muir Wood Park is classified within the Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy as a “Community Park”.

Community Parks are defined in the Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy, 2006 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.”

3.5 Community Involvement



The Friends of Muir Wood was set up in 2005 with the encouragement of the local Council Officials. (www.fmwp.btik.co.uk).

Its main purpose is to improve their local park and work with the Council who hold the park in trust for the people, and with Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries in particular, and to promote good stewardship of Muir Wood Park.

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Current membership is around with numbers steady over the years. The group are long established and the Council work closely with them in attempting to increase their numbers. The main committee members retired from position in 2020 and a new committee elected to take the park forward.

The Friends group have been a huge asset to the Council and their activities include fund raising, community events, environmental tasks, managing and maintaining a website, promoting the partnership with the local primary school and general support for Council led projects in the park.

As well as several environmental issues throughout the park the group often highlight issues pertaining to the park area and encourage responsible behaviour in the park for those who use it.

They have undertaken grant applications to obtain funding for fruit trees, fruit bushes, wildflower, interpretation signage, educational materials and chain saw carved animals.

The Friends group provide an excellent link with other friends' groups and local community council.

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3.6 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 Forestry 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 4](#)).

Parks and Greenspace User Survey

The Council's website gives users and visitors to the park an opportunity to register their comments on any park within the City. The information highlighted below indicates that most users felt very satisfied with Muir Wood Park. However, the information provided in the text of the survey information is vital to the group agreeing areas that require further scrutiny and attention for improvement. The results, although slightly subjective, are encouraging and certainly show that the park has areas that are greatly enjoyed and also areas in which it can improve. A cross section of the survey results can be found at ([Appendix 5](#)) however, a full copy of the 2020 information will be provided for the judges on the visit.

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Biodiversity Survey

Park Officers of the Council carried out a survey of the park and have made recommendations for consideration to increase the biodiversity within the park. We have included a copy of the recommendations in the appendices for consideration in this application.

We have also included in this appendix the Biodiversity Options for Parks and Greenspaces – A Guide for Managers, which is used universally to develop bio-diversity within all parks within the City. It was with use of this document that some biodiversity features were implemented in the park ([Appendix 6](#)).



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 park ties in to 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

Muir Wood Park is a welcoming place and is a very well used site; social access is excellent with local people from within the west of the city who take part in a variety of informal activities.

There are 3 main entrance points to the park with notice boards, also throughout the park there are interpretation panels giving out information such as plants in the park and also animals, the park also has many carved wooden animals which have proven extremely popular with both children and their parents when visiting the park.

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

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

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

Muir Wood Park is well used throughout the year for informal sport and other physically active activities. The park contains one equipped outdoor play area and has a football kick about area and a woodland walkway which is well used by the local community. The park is well equipped with park benches and litter bins. There are picnic tables/areas located within the park and these prove very popular with users.

Below are images of the play area and kick about pitch installed in 2013 to encourage healthy living and encourage more exercise for children.



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The number of users to the park support good levels of personal security and this is supported by street lighting along the main path and adjacent housing facing onto the park

The Park Ranger Service visits the park as part of their park and garden inspection route. They will log incidents and report these to the Parks & Greenspace Officer for resolution.

The Community Police can support 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.

The City of Edinburgh Council uses branding on vehicles and machinery and ensures that all staff wear clothing showing the council logo on, 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.

The Park Rangers and Parks & Greenspace Officer are keen to involve children in activities in the park, such as bulb planting. Adults are encouraged to accompany their children to the park and throughout their children's activity to promote child safety.

All gym equipment is held on a database called Playsafe produced by Public Sector Software Ltd. This system holds information on all City of Edinburgh Council play areas, including; type of equipment, installation date, and type of surface.

Informal inspections are carried out by council employees as part of their daily duties (Park Rangers, Playgrounds Maintenance Officer, Parks and Greenspace Officer and Waste and Cleansing staff). They report obvious hazards to the Council's workshop engineers. In-house ROSPA trained staff inspect the equipment on a monthly basis. Any defects identified are either repaired immediately or isolated and made safe, for repair at a later date. Written records of inspections and works undertaken are held with the Workshops at Inverleith Park. Annual inspections and risk assessments, conforming with RPII, are carried of all the playgrounds by an independent Playground Inspector. Accidents are reported to the Health and Safety Officer and recorded centrally.

Health and Safety Policies

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/945/health_and_safety_enforcement_policy

In addition to the Council's general health and safety policy, each park has its own risk assessment and activity r/a to be reviewed annually. Play equipment is inspected and reports recorded, all other infrastructure is visually inspected by Park Rangers.

Control of Dogs

Separate dog waste bins are not provided as dog owners can dispose of waste responsibly in the litter receptacles. The management rules exclude dogs from the play areas and encourage owners to keep their dogs under control.

The Environmental Wardens can visit the park on request and if required can issue on the spot fine of £80 for dog fouling offences rising to £100 if unpaid within 14 days.

The public can report this online:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20043/community_safety_and_antisocial_behaviour/308/report_dog_fouling

4.3 Well Maintained & Clean

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

“Our Edinburgh” anti-litter campaign aims for a litter free capital and runs throughout the year.

<http://www.edinburghspotlight.com/2016/08/ouredinburgh/>

Contact number for waste: 0131 608 1100 or report online:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20001/bins_and_recycling/306/litter_and_street_cleaning

The park has a maintenance programme, which establishes standards of cleanliness, infrastructure and ground maintenance.

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Information gathered from the public and Parks Quality Assessments indicate that the standard of maintenance is considered to be of a good to high standard, the schedule of maintenance is highlighted within the maintenance plan ([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 has been an ongoing problem over the years and this is due to irresponsible dog owners and we are working on reducing this significantly with an active pick up your dog poo campaign and this is proving successful with various lamppost wrap boards and we will 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 Park & Greenspace Officer oversees the grounds maintenance regime to ensure that standards are maintained.

Graffiti is removed by the local graffiti service team and aided by Park Rangers who have their own graffiti removal kit.

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 Parks & Greenspace Officer and any repairs are carried out, in general, by our in-house service teams.

4.4 Environmental Management

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. Since 2004 the nursery has reduced its consumption of peat by 50% and continues to aim towards meeting the national targets of 90%. Several 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 have been run since 2007 to assess the best mix to support seedling and plant growth.

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A policy needs to be developed that considers the minimisation of herbicide use. Meanwhile herbicide application is only used when cultural practises will not provide adequate control, e.g. around bases of trees. 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.

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 park is fortunate to have a recycling point within the local school grounds less than 30 metres from it's southern access point where users can dispose of their recycled material. We encourage the use of this facility by installing signage encouraging the use of this site. The Council is actively collaborating with other local authorities in progressing, the Lothian & Borders Area Waste Plan. Litter is disposed of appropriately to a licensed waste disposal area.

The Parks and Greenspace section are currently investigating more sustainable methods of dealing with green waste e.g. satellite composting sites. The park, in conjunction with the bowling group has recently installed two compost bins within the bowling green site to allow for green waste material to be composted.

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

There is occasional use of water within the park, for irrigation of newly planted flower beds and trees during early establishment and drought conditions. Bark mulch has been extensively used throughout the park in order to preserve moisture and provide a cool root run for plants. Ground cover shrubs have been planted to suppress weeds and prevent loss of moisture from the soil through evaporation.

The Council's Inch Nursery has introduced a rain water recycling system for plant irrigation. The rain water system is used until the tank is empty and then the system switches back to mains water. Once there is sufficient rain water in the tank the system switches back

The Council negotiates with their energy supplier and considers use of alternative technologies in providing energy. Lights used in the park are supplied with low energy bulbs.

4.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site

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

Muir Wood Park provides a protected safe area rich in biodiversity value. There are several recommendations from a biodiversity assessment which can increase this value much more over the coming years.

One of the main strengths of Muir Wood Park is its Friends group who have increased bird and bat boxes over several years as well as planting native wildflowers and trees to improve biodiversity in the park. There was a woodland management plan in 2006 which was completed within 5 years resulting in a healthier and greater variety of tree stock.

More recent plantings have added varieties such oak, pine and alder.

Hedgehogs have been observed in the park during the autumn months and it is certain that they hibernate in the park.

The Friends have recorded both flora and fauna present in the park and targeted actions to increase bird and bat populations.



Woodland interpretation and Wildflower Meadows

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 park benefits from a good working relationship with the Friends group . This group came together and was constituted in 2008. The Parks & Greenspace Officer continues to meet with the group where discussions take place to work on the improvement areas for the park.

The Friends committee responsible for many of the parks development and improvements have now decided to step back and allow a new group to take the park forward. This group will be consulted in the new management plan and subsequent annual reviews of the plan.

4.7 Marketing & Communication

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

Information relating to Muir Wood Park is available on the Friends website and City of Edinburgh Council website and available via Smartphone app 'Edinburgh Outdoors'. A direct link QR code (**Appendix 9**) links you directly to Edinburgh Outdoors Page for Muir Wood Park, the site specific code is located in one of the park notice boards. The Council website also offers a good source of information about the park and its available infrastructure.

Edinburgh Outdoors: <https://www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk/featureDetails.php?id=107>

The new crowd funding website, 'My Park Scotland'

Information is available via websites for all the neighbouring Community Councils and City of Edinburgh Council websites. The Council website offers a good source of information about the park and its available infrastructure.

Public information is regularly posted in the two notice boards at entrance points to the park along with local community and Friends group information

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It is intended to use the notice boards this year to provide regular information on maintenance, events, and works within the park.

Information about the park and ongoing activities are also regularly in the Currie & Balerno News

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

Muir Wood Park is managed by the Place Directorate, 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 West Locality.

Management and development of the park is undertaken locally by the SW Locality Transport and Environment team in conjunction with the local community through the Friends' Group and the Community Council with the strategic issues dealt with via the central Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries.

The Friends' Group and Parks and Greenspace Officer work closely with the local management teams to ensure that the park progresses in line with the Management Plan.

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Operational management of the park is undertaken by the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries and Waste and Cleansing teams. This team consists of a 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. This work is supported by the Park rangers who undertake 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 the appendices of the management plan ([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, playground maintenance, roads and pathway maintenance, and street lighting maintenance.

The community groups assist the council with members undertaking removal of small graffiti items, mainly from bins, seats and lamp standards, litter picking of small areas and generally highlighting defects for repair. Through these groups it is intended to attempt to increase the public participation in voluntary work within the park, this might include, litter picking, graffiti removal etc.

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 patrol and inspect all parks including Muir Wood park to ensure that safety is maintained, they regularly make safe various small faults within the park e.g. a broken seat, faulty play equipment which allows for them to be speedily repaired by the local maintenance teams where appropriate. 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 the appendices of the management plan ([Appendix 7](#)). These assessments are used to determine further potential capital improvements and form the basis improvements to the park on an annual basis. Muir Wood Park has benefited from 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. It is fair to say that due to previous investment, action and management plans in partnership with the local community, there are fewer large scale improvements required at Muir Wood Park today.

Note: All costs are approximate.

Key:

LTEM Locality Transport and Environment Manager
 PGTL Parks & Greenspace Team Leader
 FOMWP Friends of Muir Wood Park
 EWTL Environmental Warden Team Leader
 FM Forestry Manager

PGO Parks and Greenspace Officer
 PR Park Rangers
 NCP Nether Currie Primary
 WCM Waste and Cleansing Manager

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 To maintain the entrances, information and signage on access points into the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All access points within park. Council staff and Friends Group 	On going	PGO	£250-500/year
1.2 To promote some colour at main entrances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide plants and tubs for floral use. 	2019 on	PGO PR	£100
1.3 Maintain seasonal colour with low maintenance input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with naturalised bulb planting and where possible extend the flowering range to late Spring early summer Friends Group, Council staff and school 	Ongoing	PGO PR FOMWP	£250

Muir Wood Park Management Plan 2020 – 2024

1.4 Make Doctors Surgery entrance more welcoming	Install slate welcoming stone with park name at doctor's surgery section	2020	CPO	£800
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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 To ensure safety of park users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carry out site specific risk assessment ▪ Maintain regular inspections ▪ Record any accidents through CEC reporting lines 	2020-25	PGO PR FM Play team	£inhouse
2.2 Use the park as a resource for fitness and healthy activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain the football surface ▪ Continue with the growing of fruit trees and berrying shrubs ▪ 	Ongoing	PGO FOMWP	£1000
2.3 To keep play area safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinise annual safety report and ensure recommendations are fulfilled 	2020 -2025	Play PGO	£?

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Aim 3: Well Maintained & Clean

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 To ensure all facilities and infrastructure are safe and of good condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compliance with inspections regimes and ensure repairs are timely and completed. 	Ongoing	All CEC services	£inhouse
3.2 To consider improved access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obtain quotes for improved surfaces on footpaths 	2020/21	PGO	£TBA
3.3 Maintain grounds maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with LQS(Landscape quality standards) 	2020- 25	PGTL	£ INHOUSE
3.4 keep park tidy and clean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste issues reported to online waste@edinburgh.gov.uk Arrange community clean up 	Ongoing	All FOMWP	£0

Aim 4: Environmental Management

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

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
4.1 To maintain a diverse range of tree species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess current stock and ensure that any replacements are beneficial to long term biodiversity of park and woodland 	Ongoing	FM PGO	£500/year
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	PGTL PGO PR	£inhouse
4.3 Reduce use of pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use natural woodchip mulch, using this on flower beds and round trees 	Ongoing	PR	£0

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce weed growth round signs etc. 			
4.4 Provide Bug hotels using branches etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friends to arrange on one of their volunteer days 	Ongoing	FOMWP PR	£70

Aim 5: Biodiversity, Landscape 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 Refresh the current wildflower garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implementation of improved wild flower area and bio-diversity area within the park 	Ongoing	PGO PR	£400
5.2 Continue to maintain Bird Boxes to encourage greater bird numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clean bird boxes 	2020-22	PR	£
5.3 Install 'insect hotels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Install insect to encourage greater biodiversity within Muir Wood Park, various sites throughout the park 	2020- 22 Ongoing	PGO	£500
5.4 increase areas to help increase bee and butterfly population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends to apply for grant which part of it will fund another wildflower meadow and also fruit bushes 	2020	FOMWP PGO	£400
5.5 Create 'Bug Hotels' within park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify suitable areas 	2020- 2022	PR	£0

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
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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 FOMWP 	2020-25	FOMWP PGO PR	£0
6.3 To retain local school children in various park projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liaise with local schools 	2020-25	FOMWP PGO	£0

Aim 7: Marketing & Communication

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 any maintenance, events and works within park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use all relevant information and modern publicity opportunities 	2020-24	PGO PR FOMWP	£500
7.2 Create and introduce a QR code specific to the Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use of ICT department ▪ Linked to the Edinburgh Outdoors site 	Completed 2020	PGO PR FOMWP	£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 	2020-24	PR	£50
7.4 Update content for MyParkScot website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Linked to Edinburgh Outdoors site ▪ Friends Group have a registered page 	Ongoing	PR	£0
7.5 Green Flag Award and Keep Scotland Beautiful – Its Your Neighbourhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apply for awards 	Ongoing	PGO	£400

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

Muir Wood Park Management Plan 2020 – 2024

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 To develop a volunteer programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work closely with volunteer/friends group to establish list of volunteers ▪ Establish links with local schools and link into Eco Schools Programme ▪ Establish links with local youth groups, Guides, Scouts etc, linking into badge programme 	Ongoing	PGO PR FOMWP	Look to Grant Funding up to £5k

6 Finance

Revenue Funding

The provision of revenue funding for the park consists of work undertaken at present by the local Grounds Maintenance team under Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries. 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	3000
Flowers, shrubs and hedges	minimal
Litter removal	800
Play Area Maintenance	1500
Tree Maintenance	1200
Total	6500

In addition, the Locality Transport and 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 West Locality 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 Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries. 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.

Grants

Friends groups can apply to the local Neighbourhood Partnership for funds up to £5k from the Community Grants Fund. The Council's Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries have a small grants fund that applications are invited for, this is for small items or to assist in developing their group or the sites they have adopted.

Friends of Muir Wood Park have applied for this local grant as well as other grant opportunities and have secured significant funds over the past few years and have used this funding to improve, wildflower areas, park signage, Interpretation signage, flower tubs, bird boxes and picnic table areas.

7 Monitoring and Reviewing

The Parks Quality Assessment framework is used to provide annual assessment of each park and will provide a report for the Muir Wood 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.

A review of this management plan shall take place in January 2021 in readiness for the next application process for the Green Flag awards. This will be carried out by the Council Officers, the friends group and individual members of the local Community Council's where we will undertake to consider all recommendations in regard to the Green Flag Assessment and also our internal Parks Quality Assessment.

8 Appendices

Appendix One – Policies

Corporate Strategies and Policies

- Edinburgh Vision 2050 <https://www.edinburgh2050.com/>
- Edinburgh Local Development Plan (LDP) <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localdevelopmentplan>
- South West Locality Improvement Plan <https://www.edinburghcompact.org.uk/community-planning/localities/south-west/>
- The City of Edinburgh Council's Business Plan 2017-2022 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/24691/council-business-plan-2017-22>
- Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory-record/1146210/resilient-edinburgh-climate-change-adaptation-framework>
- Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory-record/1146225/sustainable-edinburgh-2020>

Park and Environmental Policies

- Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy 2006 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22626/public-park-and-gardens-strategy>
- Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2021 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22616/open-space-2021>
- Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-21 <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/26216/edinburgh-biodiversity-action-plan-2019-2021>

Appendix Two – Management Rules

'Caring for Parks Guidelines'

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 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 'caring for Edinburgh's Parks', 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 basking.
- 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 for cars and vehicles, unless 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 Laith Links.
- 9.2 Carrying, or discharging any firework 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.



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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 1989, 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.

The current Management Rules for Public Parks have been in force since 2013. The Rules will be brought in-line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and 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

Muir Wood Park Maintenance Plan																		
						Occasions												
Description	Action/Works	Who	M	M ²	No.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	General Frequency
Grass Maintenance																		
Bulb Planted Areas	Cutting			400								2	2	2	2			Fortnightly (Sum)
General Areas	Cutting			5639				2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2			Fortnightly (Sum)
Edge Trees & Post	Cutting		488		116		1							1				Bi-Annual
Edge Hard Surface	Cutting		1190				1											Annual
Channel Maintenance	Mulching			150			1											Annual
Hedge & Tree Maintenance																		
Tree	Pruning																	As required
Roads & Pathway Maintenance																		
	Ranger Inspection			800	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Fortnightly
Description	Action/Works	Who	M	M ²	No.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	General Frequency
Play Area Maintenance																		
Engineer Maintenance	Engineer Inspection				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Monthly
Equipment Maintenance	Manager Inspection				1									1				Annually

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	Ranger Inspection				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Monthly	
Leaf Collection																			
	Collection			10178		1											1	1	Weekly (Wint)
Street Cleansing Maintenance																			
Bin	Emptying				7	31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	Daily	
Litter	Collection			10178		31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	Daily	
Graffiti removal	Offensive																	Within 24 hrs	
	Non-Offensive																	Within 72hrs	

Appendix Four – Tree Survey

Appendix Five – Biodiversity Assessment

Site: Muir Wood Park



Existing Habitats

Muir Wood Park is mainly comprised of amenity grass, woodland and play facilities. There have been recent tree plantings around parts of the perimeter with successful copses and small orchard area

Species records

Our notable species database holds no records of rare or legally protected species in this park. Further consultation with local conservation groups has similarly revealed no notable records.

General principles

There are several general principles of land management for biodiversity that are relevant to this park:

- Avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides unless treating a specific, localised issue.
- Avoid trimming trees or hedges during the bird breeding season (March to August inclusive).
- Raise awareness amongst the park users of any changes made for the benefit of biodiversity. This is particularly important for changes which some park users may perceive as 'untidy'.
- Make use of existing notice boards and consider using temporary notices if changes take place far away from the notice board (e.g. by long grass areas).
- Involve the Friends group or other local community groups.

Recommendations

Amenity grass

Muir Wood Park is dominated by amenity grass. Biodiversity will benefit by reducing the amount of amenity grass and replacing it with other features.

- Expand or create new areas of perennial planting or wildflower meadows. Perennial or wildflower areas could run around the perimeter of the park, beneath hedges.
- Allow grass to grow long underneath all groups of trees.

Trees

There are few trees in the park and most of the mature trees are found in the central woodland area.

- Replace all trees that are lost with appropriate native species which support native invertebrate and bird species.
- Increase the number and age range of trees in the park by planting new trees regularly.
- Plant new trees in groups and allow grass to grow long around these areas.
- Leave grass to grow long around tree bases all year round (at least 50 cm radius), with a single cut in late autumn. This will provide long grass biodiversity benefits. These areas could be enhanced by sowing wildflowers or seasonal bulbs around the trees.
- When trees are removed leave tree stumps in place to rot, this provides a habitat for fungi and invertebrates which is absent from many parks. Consider leaving all dead wood in situ as long as this does not pose a risk to the public. Trees and limbs could be felled and laid along the ground. Again this provides a habitat rarely found in parks.
- Good planting fruit trees (e.g. apple, pear) and encourage park users to pick the fruit. Traditional orchards are a priority habitat in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

Perennial / wildflower beds

- Consider additional plug planting throughout woodland.

Appendix Six – Parks Quality Assessment

Available on request



Park Quality Assessment Result 2019

Assessment Date: 28 March 2019
Lead Assessor: Gary Lee

St Katharines Park (Liberton Gardens)

Classification: Community Park

PQS: 76%	Grade B	Edin Std Met: Yes
2018	73% - Grade B - Yes	

Criteria Score Key: 0 - Nil; 1 - Very Poor; 2-4 - Poor; 5-6 - Fair; 7 - Good; 8 - Very Good; 9 - Excellent; 10 - Exceptional

Some of the grass and the surrounding paths were in excellent condition.

Sustainability

Environmental Sustainability 4 **7**

Waste Minimisation 4 **8** Council's litter recycling policy is adhered to. Specific storage plans in place to minimise green waste. Where green waste is generated, it is reused or composted on site.

Pesticides 7 **8** Decisions made to not use pesticides/herbicides on site unless in certain NVDs.

Pest Use 10 **10** No pest used on site.

Climate Change 7 **0**

Conservation & Heritage

Conservation Fauna & Flora 7 **8** The natural area around the farm provides some excellent habitats and along with meadows, fields and local haunts are the park is being managed very well for wildlife.

Conservation Landscape 7 **0**

Conservation Buildings 7 **0**

Community Involvement

Community Involvement 7 **8** The friends group have been very active in 2018 and raising over a month through out the year and some again planned for 2019. They have also given 5 solid ground park projects in 2018, 1 is completed walkway, more fruit trees and also are working on...

Community Provision 7 **8** Feel this park meets their provision for the local community needs, more planting following local consultation, also outdoor music zone and interpretation.

Marketing & Promotion

Marketing & Promotion 4 **8** The Group also have regularly updated web page.

Information Provision 7 **7** The notice boards are well kept but not with relevant and a date marked. Some consideration should be given to improving the layout and readability of some of the notices. It would also like to see some information regarding some events and future improvements and also the last assessment of the park.

Educ. & Interpretative Provision 7 **8** There are many interpretation boards around the park at various points and also in the notice board.

Management

Management Plan Implementation 7 **8**

Overall Comments An attractive park especially in springtime when the tulips are in full bloom. Lots going on beyond the traditional display through out actually worth exploring.

Recommendations Address the dog fouling problem.

Improve the appearance of the entrance at Captain Drive.

Appendix Eight – QR Code