

Portobello community garden
Management Plan 2020 – 2025



Our vision is...

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

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Introduction

Portobello community garden is managed by the City of Edinburgh Council's East Neighbourhood Environment Team. Previous management of this park has been guided by local Community Parks Officers' and Park Rangers' yearly work plan. The East Neighbourhood Environment Team manages 24 parks and is committed to developing the quality of its local parks and green spaces.

This Management Plan sets out the management, maintenance and improvement plan for Portobello community garden. It provides a long-term vision for the Park and details on both developmental and operational actions required to achieve that vision. The management plan covers the period 2014 to 2019 and has a detailed plan of works for that period.

Like any Management Plan, its purpose is to provide a framework within which all future management is carried out. It will enable anyone involved with the park to understand how the park is to be managed and improved to achieve the vision in line with our agreed policies.

This plan's target audience is the local community and businesses, park stakeholders, elected members and council officers. 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.

The plan is set out in four distinct sections:

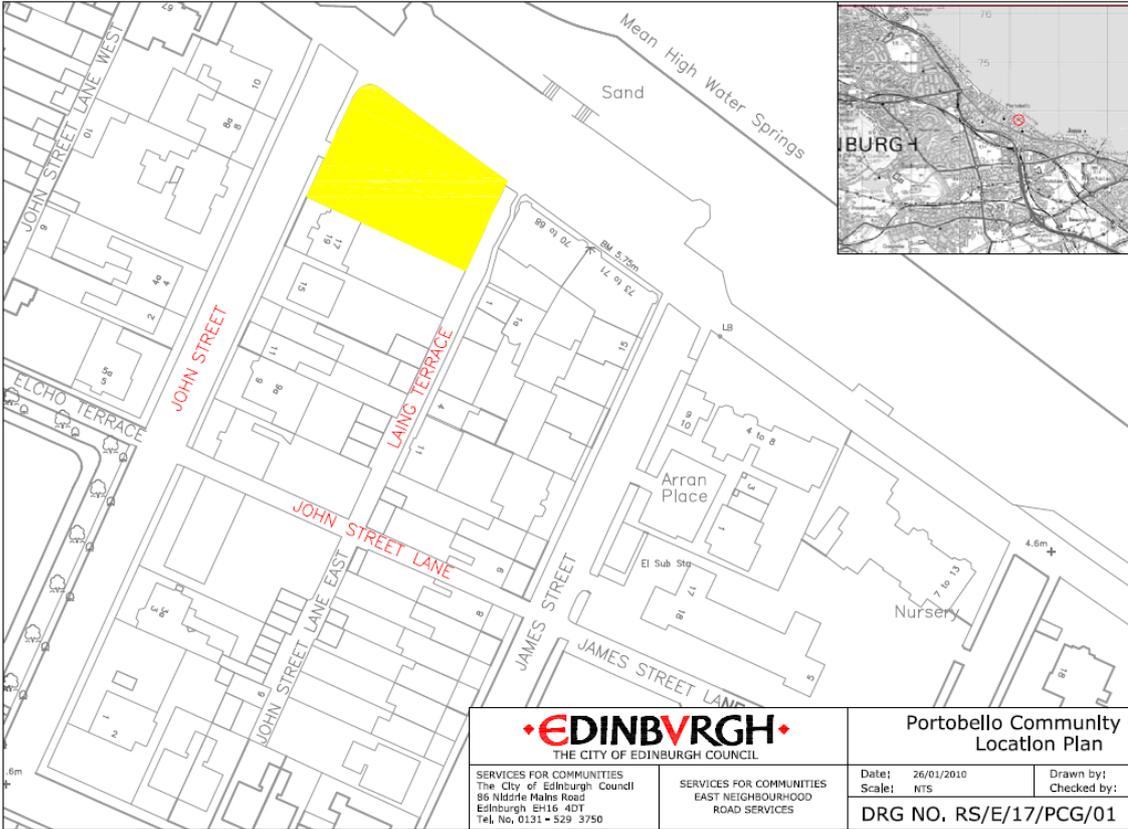
The first section, "*Where Are We Now?*" describes the current situation with Portobello community garden, which includes the policy and legal context within which it is managed and provides some basic information about the park.

The second section, "*Where Do We Want To Be?*" develops the vision for Portobello community garden and provides an assessment and analysis at the time of writing this Management Plan, and states the aims established for the park.

The third section, *“How Will We Get There?”* describes the aims and objectives for Portobello community garden.

The fourth and final section, *“How Will We Know When We Get There?”* explains how the improvement, maintenance and management of Portobello community garden will be monitored and reviewed.

1.1 Summary Information

Grid Reference	NT 33311-6737
Location	 <p>The Main entrance to the site can be found on John street . An array of local bus services go to Portobello High Street where the garden can be easily accessed from.</p>
Size	600m2
Boundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North boundary - Portobello promenade • East Boundary – Laing terrace • South Boundary – 19 John Street • West Boundary – John street
Ownership	City of Edinburgh Council – since 1920

Contact details	Scott Thomson 86 Niddrie Mains Road Edinburgh EH164DS Tel 01315293111 Fax 01315293011 east.team@edinburgh.gov.uk
Classification	Community Park
Status	Within Portobello Conservation Area
Stakeholders	Portobello friends of portobello prom Portobello amenity society Portobello community council
Features	
Infrastructure	A database is used to manage all the parks' assets these include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - seating - litter bins - Gates and railings - fencing -Seaside planting -Historic pillars
History	The area has served the community and has changed to meet the needs of locals In the 19th century it was a bandstand Then a paddeling pool Art installation And finally, to its existing state providing seating and an area off the promenade
Summary of main uses	Quiet relaxation, Exercise, Watching wildlife, informal performance space, demonstration of seaside plants

<p>Stakeholders (Appendix 4 for contact details)</p>	<p>The objectives within this management plan are to be developed in consultation with both existing and possible future users. Where this is not possible or difficult to achieve then their likely needs should be considered by the Community Council, the local Environment Forum and the Council’s Neighbourhood Team.</p> <p>The garden is available to any resident or visitor of Edinburgh; however the principal stakeholders and users are considered to be the residents in Portobello other members of the Public.</p> <p>Recently there has been a Friends of Portobello Prom formed and they along with the community council and the groups attached to them show an interest in the Garden</p> <p>Towerbank Primary and Portobello High are schools within the area are participants in the Eco-Schools programme. Eco-Schools are an international initiative designed to encourage whole-school action for the environment. Portobello Community garden has been an excellent venue for promoting this programme.</p> 
<p>Assessment of cultural and aesthetic value</p>	<p>There is great value in the recreational use of the area for the particularly for those living in the adjacent Community areas of Portobello and Joppa The area provides users with an area of green space for health and recreational use.</p> <p>The seating is behind a fence that provides shelter from the sea winds</p>

		<p>There is a circular bonded surface that allows access to the promenade .</p>
<p>Topography, Drainage and Soils</p>	<p>The site is a flat and level, There in no comprehensive soil information available for this park. The soils appear to be free draining. The grass mound is constructed of the demolition rubble from the former paddling pool separated from the soil by a sand barrier.</p>	
<p>Planting and Layout</p>	<p>Approx 10% of the park is made up of grass areas. The grass within the park is cut as amenity grass. The majority of the park is planted with grasses and other salt tolerant species the remaining area, is made up of hard standing areas.</p>	

<p>Planted Areas</p>	<p>The borders were laid out with perennials and shrubs that salt tolerant and suited for the sandy soil.</p> <p>To the North, the garden is partially enclosed using a feature windscreen, which provides shelter from the local sea breeze as well as a sense of partial enclosure around the seating area. This offers an alternative seating option to the benches facing out to the sea along the promenade.</p>  <p>The perforated panels were selected to allow some airflow through the screen and to reduce the turbulence that would be created by solid elements. Galvanised steel panels were used as a durable, cost-effective solution.</p> <p>Consideration has been given to displaying temporary art and promotional material on the structure. This item will be taken forward in the Park Improvement Plan.</p>
<p>Infrastructure</p>	<p>A database is used to manage all the park's assets these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seating (4benches) and 2 bins ● Galvanised steel wind screen ● Bonded surface path ● Circular paved area in front of benches and paved path leading to Coade Stone display ● Sand stone walls to East and West ● Information Board on promanade 

Significant
Features



View of garden

View of seating area



Coadet stones

**Heritage
and History**

The site was historically a bandstand in the early 1900s. The bandstand was beside Portobello, close to the foot of John Street.



The area was later converted to a small semi-enclosed public park at the foot of John Street, with an open-air paddling pool (right picture). The park, as with so many great Victorian parks and public spaces, was neglected over time and was in a semi derelict state (below picture).

The local community campaigned to save the site from development and developed plans to redesign the area.



In 2006, the local community group obtained a grant to repair and erect three “Coade Stone” Pillars within the garden and carry out landscaping of the area.

The Coade Stone Pillars

These pillars, which date from the early 19th century, are listed structures which used to stand in the garden of Argyle House, Hope Lane, until they were taken into council storage in 1989 when a new extension was built onto the house, then a nursing home. They are made from an artificial stone, named after its inventor, which is noted for its fine sculptural detail.



Since 1989, Portobello Amenity Society., Portobello Community Council and Portobello History Society campaigned to have them re-erected on a suitable site in Portobello.

In 2006 a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund by Portobello Amenity Society and Portobello Community council made re-erection of the pillars on the site of the former paddling pool possible. The lottery provided 80% of the costs, Portobello Amenity Society and Portobello Community Council contribution £2,400 each and the council made up the rest of the funding package by providing the concrete foundations, the inner metal supports and outer metal caps of each pillar. The two smaller pillars are identical to the design of the chimneys of Dalmeny House, near South Queensferry, seat of the Earl of Rosebury. The rampant lion, Tudor rose and crown and fleur-de-lys designs seen on these pillars are taken from the family crests of the Rosebury and Primrose families, (the lion is depicted holding a primrose) The larger central pillar has a hooped design of unknown origin.

The pillars are known to have stood on their original site for at least 90 years but how they came to be in Portobello in the first place is a mystery. The Abercorn Pottery in Portobello is known to have made garden urns in the 1830s so perhaps they were asked to repair the Dalmeny chimneys at that time. Some of the pillar sections are of different colours so perhaps they were “seconds” which got left behind in Portobello.

The pillars were restored by Graciela Ainsworth and her team of stone conservators. New tops for two of the pillars were skilfully made by local potter Alison Robertson who researched and produced a modern Coade Stone which matched the one remaining top few lion and rose reliefs were made of Lithomex or modern coade stone to replace irretrievably damaged original Portobello High School pupils also helped to make the modern Coade Stone decorations for the mound retaining wall.

This project restored the coade stones pillars and placed them back in Portobello as an attractive centre piece of the new Community Garden which itself enhances this section of the Promenade. The local amenity society engaged with the council Redevelopment but take no active part in the maintenance.

Coade stone construction – www.porty.org.uk news media gallery

Before



After



2 WHERE ARE WE NOW?

2.1 Strategic Policy Framework

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

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

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

Corporate Strategies and Policies

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

Park and Environmental Policies

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

2.2 A Welcoming Place

Portobello community garden is a delightful area, is a popular sitting-out area on the promenade, a corner of tranquillity in contrast to the busy beach area. The garden has relaxed seating behind a fence that protects you from the wind
The garden is used mainly by families and visitors to Portobello.

There is on street car-parking on Johns street and all surrounding streets. It is well served by the Lothian buses, numbers 26, 42,40,45,15,69,21,49 pass by on Portobello high street. The wide flat paths allow easy access for all. The only vehicles allowed in the park are those carrying out routine maintenance.

There are no major notice board located at the site due to the size of the site and local opinion and that there as this was enough notice boards on the promande and there was no need to detract from the garden.

2.3 Healthy, Safe & Secure



2.3.1 Personal Security

Park rangers regularly patrol the park and check the area. Park rangers are effective in dealing with undesirable behaviours by providing a presence in the Garden and working with local community groups and schools. This involves raising awareness of any issues 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. 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.

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 updated and are shown at each of the entrances to the Park.

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.

All staff are tasked with reporting any potential problems and issues identified on site, including any concerns and issues raised by the public.

Dog owners are expected to keep their dog under control at all times and expected to remove their dog waste from all areas. Environmental Wardens and police also patrol the park daily.

Rosefield Park

Caring for Edinburgh's Parks



PLAYING FIELDS AND PLAY AREAS
Playing fields are for children. Sports pitches are managed by the City of Edinburgh Council and are reserved for hire through Edinburgh Leisure. There is no access to these areas to water. Take care not to damage the surfaces. Use games should only be played where and where there is no danger to other people and their property.



HORSES
Horse riding has the potential to cause much damage to the ground. Check for and mark out footpaths, such as ride tracks, and well drained ground, to be used to ride on.



YOUR HELP
Rough ground, paths and footpaths are a lot to keep up and the City of Edinburgh Council needs your support and assistance. If you see any damage or damage please phone 0131 308 2888. If you see any evidence of criminal behaviour please phone the police.



LITTER
Take your litter home or take a bin. Don't forget to bring a bag with your dog so that you can clean up after it. Take great care not to burn or smother the ground with BBQs.



CYCLISTS
Cyclists should keep to the road but there will be areas to make it safe and some where you can use paths. Cycle at a safe speed and avoid wet and boggy ground. Make sure in accidents are easily damaged, so help to the park.



DOGS
Avoid causing concern to others by keeping your dog under close control or on a short lead. Pick up and remove your dog's faeces. You should keep your dog on a lead or at close control, at least when near young children and at feeding times (August- July) in woodlands and at the beach. Do not allow your dog to run onto sports pitches, playing fields or play areas when in use.



EVENTS
If you are planning an event or social activity that is likely to require permission from the City of Edinburgh Council, please call 011 308 2800.

East Neighbourhood Team
Contact Details
Telephone Number: 0131 529 3111
email: eastteam@edinburgh.gov.uk

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Caring for Edinburgh's parks

2.3.2 Event management

The Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto provides the framework for the planning and managing of events within the parks of Edinburgh and all major Event Organisers are expected to attend a series of meetings with the Parks and Greenspace Service, Edinburgh and Lothian Borders Police, Licensing Officers, Roads, Waste Services, sponsors (if appropriate), known as the Emergency Planning Organisation Group (EPOG). An event plan must be produced along with Risk Assessments and Public Liability Insurance, and all stakeholders notified, before an event is allowed to proceed.

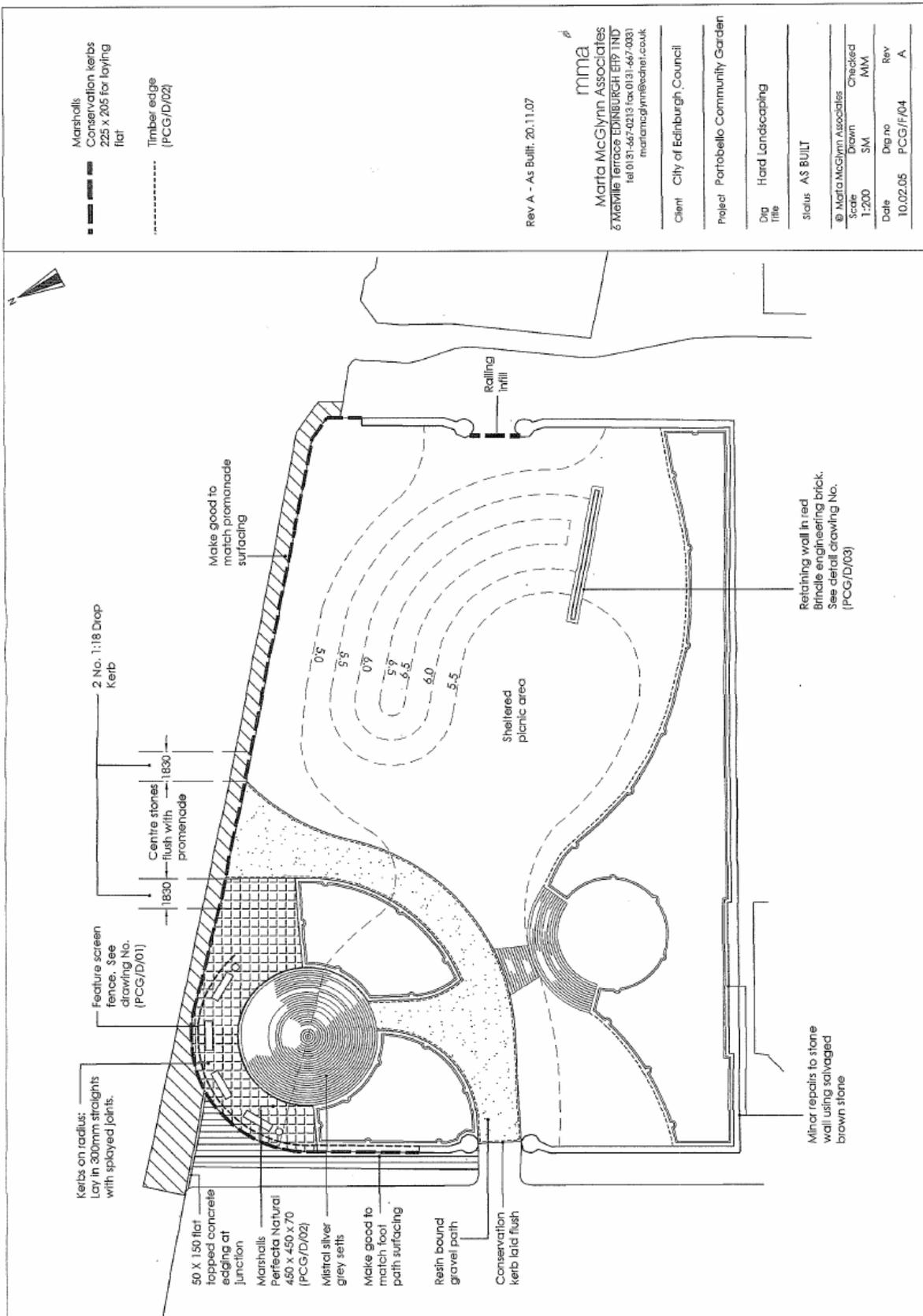
2.4 Well Maintained & Clean

The Garden is managed and maintained by a number of service teams ,
Development of the site is the responsibility of the North East localities team
Horticultural is done by the in house Gardeners and litter is the waste team
responsibility.

2.4.1 Horticulture and litter

Horticulture is also undertaken by the Parks and greenspaces teams





Marshalls
Conservation kerbs
225 x 205 for laying
flat

Timber edge
(PCG/D/02)

Rev A - As Builff. 20.11.07

mma
Marta McGlynn Associates
6 Metville Terrace EDINBURGH EH7 1ND
tel 0131-667-0213 fax 0131-667-0081
marta.mcglynn@ednet.co.uk

Client City of Edinburgh Council
Project Portobello Community Garden

Dig title Hard Landscaping

Status AS BUILT

© Marta McGlynn Associates	
Scale	Checked
1:200	MM
Date	Rev
10.02.05	PCG/IF/04
	A

There are two bins located in the park. These bins are serviced regularly

Plants are sourced by the parks development officer based in the localities from reputable suppliers and if possible from local suppliers.

2.4.2 Buildings and Fabric Maintenance

An audit of all facilities (e.g. signage, services) in Portobello garden has been carried out and is updated on a regular basis this information is recorded on the Parks and Greenspace purpose-built Asset Management Database. This includes a range of information including ownership, management provision and contact details. The asset database highlights facilities that require attention

Small scale graffiti is either removed or painted out by the Park rangers and Taskforce staff.

The Specialist Services Task Force removes the more extensive graffiti on request.

2.5 Sustainability

2.5.1 Peat use

The only use of peat by the Parks and Greenspace Service is in the production of bedding plants at the Council's Inch Nursery. Since 2004 the nursery has reduced its consumption of peat by 50% and aims to meet 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.

2.5.2 Pesticides

A policy has been produced that considers to minimisation or remove the need of pesticides uses within the parks

Pesticides are only used when cultural practices will not provide adequate control. The area that require treatment will be done in a sensitive manor taking consideration of the public and Environment.

All operatives are trained to the approved certification level for the application of pesticides

2.5.2 Waste minimisation

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 cities but also surrounding councils waste.

The Council is actively collaborating with other local councils in progressing the Lothian & Borders Area Waste Plan.

Currently 33% of waste from bins is recycled

Tree limbs are chipped and used as mulch on site. Larger limbs and trunks are sold. Litter is disposed of appropriately to a licensed tip.

2.5.3 Environmental sustainability

The Council has a duty to protect the environment wherever possible. The Council aims to improve its environmental performance (in purchasing) by encouraging manufacturers, suppliers and contractors through contracts and other means to improve or develop environmentally preferable goods and services at competitive prices.

The lighting in the park is provided by low energy bulbs. Council vehicles are mainly diesel but there is a programme to change these were possible to electric vehicles.

Machinery used in park use unleaded fuel and any products for fabric maintenance are CFC free there is a small number or electric hand tools and grass cutting machinery being used.

2.6 Conservation & Heritage

2.6.1 Biodiversity

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 placed a duty upon all public bodies and office-holders to:

“further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.”

Additionally, in complying with this duty a public body or office-holder must have regard to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

The City of Edinburgh Council is committed to the LBAP process and the creation of this new phase of the Edinburgh LBAP is a key action in the Edinburgh Partnership Single Outcome Agreement 2009-12.

2.7 Community Involvement

The Friends of Portobello prom play an active role in the park. Many members are regular visitors and live very locally to the park spending time in the garden and play an important role in keeping an eye on any problems and reporting them to the park rangers.

There are other local groups within portobello that are active in the up keep of the gardens

Portobello Amenity society

Portobello community council

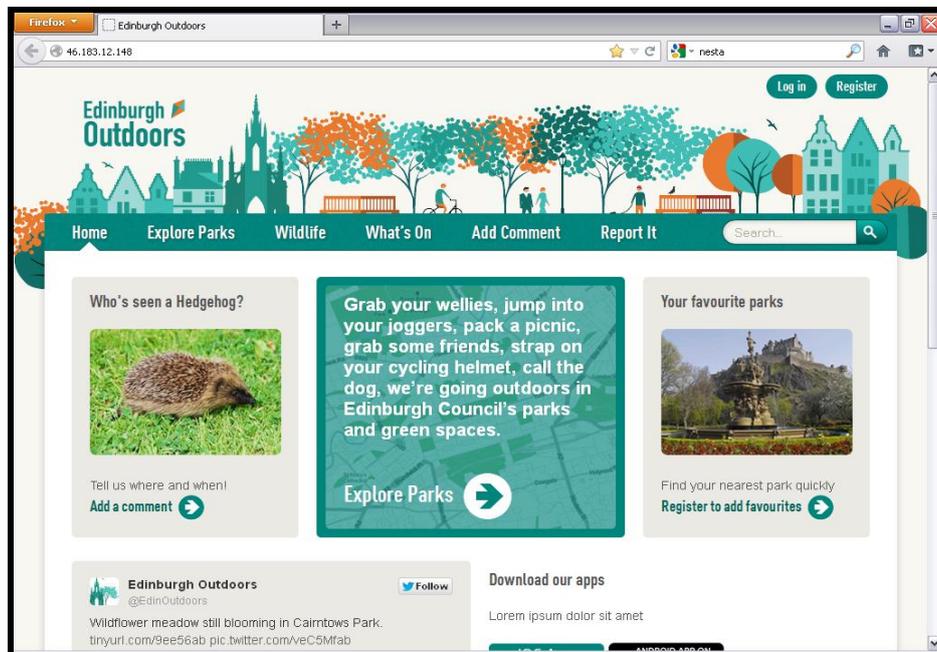
The community council have a leaflet that has heritage trail which the garden is part of.

It has been used as part of an Edinburgh trail to show where the bandstands had been in the city .

2.8 Marketing

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

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



We use Twitter (@East_Team) to provide real time information on what's going on in Garden, highlighting any upcoming parks issues we are dealing with or wildlife we have spotted in the park.

Although this garden does not have its own notice boards to highlight activities taking place the information boards around Portobello and on the prom are used to highlight events and other topics of interest. There are also interpretation panels which provide information on the history of the park.

Edinburgh People Survey

Citizen survey

The Edinburgh People Survey (EPS) is the Council's biannual citizen survey which

- measures satisfaction with the Council and its services
- identifies areas for improvement
- gathers information about residents which is not available through other sources or at ward level.

Around 5,000 residents take part in the survey each year. The survey is done through

- face-to-face interviews
- in the street
- door to door.

To see what the people of Edinburgh think of our city, please download the 2018 EPS results below. These are available for the whole city as well as for each of the four regional localities. You can also view the raw data by locality or by electoral ward.

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/say/edinburgh-people-survey/1>

3 WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO?

3.1 Vision Statement

The Council adopted its Edinburgh Parks and Gardens Strategy in March 2006 (this is currently under review). 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”.

In developing this management plan for Portobello Community Garden, its vision is:

“To maintain Portobello community garden as a distinctive, attractive and well cared for place for the enjoyment of citizens and visitors alike”.



3.2 Assessment

The assessment and evaluation of Portobello community garden is an on-going and continuous process. The basic evidence, which provides material for management discussion are described below.

3.1.1 Park Quality Assessments

The quality of all parks and gardens in Edinburgh are assessed annually, using 19 of the 27 Green Flag Criteria. This is referred to as the Park Quality Assessment. The majority of the criteria are assessed during site visits, whilst the remaining (e.g. community involvement) are allocated scores by the Council’s Green Flag Forum.

Bandwidth Scoring & Edinburgh Minimum Standard

The system used in 2009 saw the introduction of bandwidths to accommodate the natural variance of assessors both in terms of reliability and repeatability with a 10% variance between different assessors deemed acceptable.

Up until 2018, bandwidth scores were set for different park classifications due to the expected levels of quality on such with each displaying a textual description of the park quality, ranging from Excellent to Poor. The Edinburgh Minimum Standard (EMS) was set as Good/Good+ for all parks but the EMS score was different for each park type. Initially, this approach was useful in describing a parks quality without the need to explain the scoring, but the mechanics were considered difficult to understand.

As improvements in parks have been made, especially in more strategic elements like Waste Minimisation and Marketing & Promotion, scores have also increased over the years to the point that in some parks, the more visual elements of park quality i.e. Litter Management and Grounds Maintenance do not match the resulting terminology used to describe the park. Coupled with the fact that only four parks didn't meet the Edinburgh Minimum Standard in 2017, it was felt that the bandwidth system needed reviewed.

In 2018, a simplified version (see table below) was agreed, making it both easier to understand and explain and the Edinburgh Minimum Standard is now set at Grade C (PQS of 60%) for all park types. All previous data has been retrospectively amended to show the data in the new format to enable year on year analysis.

	Grade A	Grade B	Grade C	Edin Min Std	Grade D	Grade E
All Parks & Cemeteries	100%-80%	79% - 70%	69% - 60%	60%	59% - 50%	49% - 0%

Additionally, each site was also assessed twice by different teams and where variance outside 10% was noted in criteria that could not be explained i.e. signage then a third assessment was undertaken. The methods, variance and ultimately scores were validated by the Green Flag Forum. Awareness of the Green Flag scheme and guidance on scoring criteria is provided for all new assessors.

Park Quality Scores (bandwidths) for Portobello community Garden

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
PQA	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Yes, grade Excellent	Yes, grade Excellent

The Park Quality Assessments highlight what is good about the Park and gives areas requiring improvement. See Appendix 6.

3.2.1 Community Involvement and Engagement

In the development of this management plan a copy was given to all the local groups for feed back this then to map the way

In 2014 there will be study to measure the Social Return on Investment (SROI) in the all of parks and open Spaces. At its simplest this is a recognised method for estimating the economic value of outcomes delivered by parks and works by identifying stakeholders, outcomes and attaching monetary values to these outcomes. The work will be carried out by Karen Carrick, formerly of Greenspace Scotland.

3. 2. 2 SWOT analysis

During the autumn of 2019 strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis was carried out to identify the key objectives and aims for the park management plan. The results of this analysis are summarised in appendix 5. The actions are reviewed annually to reflect new work carried out as well as that years Parks Quality Assessment.

4 HOW WILL WE GET THERE

4.1 Portobello community garden: Park Improvement Plan

Aim 1 : To develop the park further into a well-managed haven for wildlife

Objective	Action	Year	Who	Target Date
To maintain good quality planting	Maintain planting to a high degree, replacing plants when necessary	2019 -	Parks and Greenspace Officer	Onward
To explore areas for reduced grounds maintenance activity	Replace weed barrier and Maintain weed free Maintain depth of shell mulch when required	2019 – this will have to be monitored each year	Parks and Greenspace Officer, Task Force Managers, Grounds Maintenance Team and PR	Annual check
Winter works scheduling	Grounds maintenance winter works schedule created for improvements	2019	Parks and green spaces	Ongoing inspection plants, mulch each year

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

Objective	Action	Year	Who	Target Date
-----------	--------	------	-----	-------------

Paint seating	Paint seats if necessary	2019	Parks and Greenspace Officer and park rangers	Annually
Address dog fouling	Develop action plan with Environmental Wardens to tackle fouling issues	2019 onwards	Parks and Greenspace Officer, PR	2019 yearly
Missing plants from planted beds	Replace plants in Winter	2019	Parks and Greenspace Officer	Yearly

Aim 3: To develop the park further into a well-established open

spaced site, which engages all age groups while maintaining a haven for wildlife

Objective	Action	Year	Who	Target Date
Develop further programmes and activities in the park with community and schools	Provide interesting and learning opportunities	2015 - onwards	Parks and Greenspace Officer and PR to work with schools and communities	2018
Based on 2014 Green Flag Judge feedback carry out improvements as per feed back	Replace the Green Flag Award plaque	2019	Parks and Greenspace Officer	Yearly
To support interested partners	Attend Friends of Portobello prom meetings Meet and work with locals	2019 - onwards	Parks and Greenspace Officer	On-going
Increase information in garden	Arrange to create information boards about the seaside or the site	2019	Parks and Greenspace Officer	2020

Aim 4: To deliver standards to the criteria set for Green Flag and increase the annual Parks Quality Assessment score using the internal Edinburgh Park Quality Standard

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Who	Target Date
To achieve an annual Parks Assessment score of 75% or above	By implementing the Parks Improvement Plan (aims 1-3 as detailed above)	2019 – onwards	East Environment Team	Annual
	Carry out annual PQA recommendations	2019	Parks and Greenspace Officer and PR	Annual
To engage with park users and local community	Carry out park user surveys	2017	PR	On-going

<i>Reference Key</i>	
<i>pgo</i>	<i>Parks and Greenspace Officer</i>
<i>PR</i>	<i>Park Rangers</i>
<i>Grounds Maintenance</i>	<i>Gardeners & Grounds Maintenance / Taskforce</i>
<i>Forestry</i>	<i>Forestry Division</i>

4.2 Finance

Two main sources of finance that are available to the Local Environment Team for the management of the park:

4.2.1 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 is based on the former Grounds Maintenance Contract that now serves as a guide to what works should be undertaken.

In addition, the Local Environment Manager and Parks and Greenspace Officer have a budget for small scale repairs and maintenance improvements.

The North East Localities Team will continue to support the local community and work with them to attract funding from internal and external sources towards maintaining and improving the park.

4.2.2 Capital funding

The capital budget is administrated by the Parks and Greenspace Service. The budget is generally allocated in advance and the role of developing management plans contributes toward the better planning of financial resources required so that they can be included in future bids.

Wherever possible capital bids should be match funded and the input from the local community can assist with this.

4.2.3 External grants

The localities along with the Friends groups work together to maximise any funding by applying for external grants.



5 HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE HAVE ARRIVED?

5.1 Management Plan

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

5.2 Performance Measures/Monitoring

5.2.1 Park Quality Assessment

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

5.2.2 Green Flag Scheme

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

5.2.3 Landscape Quality Standards

The quality of the ground's maintenance in the North East Localities is assessed monthly against the Landscape Quality Standards. This can be used to highlight any areas of improvement needed within the park.

Annual Maintenance Plan

	Item	Who	Location	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	Mulch Beds With shell	Park Ranger	When necessary												
2	Weeding	Park Ranger	Hand weed or rake mulch beds												
3	Litter collection	Park Ranger and Task force	Whole site												
4	Removal of fly tipped material	Park Ranger and Task Force	Whole site												
5	Grass cutting	Task force	Grassed areas												
6	Hand weeding to flowerbed	Park Ranger	Shrub beds												
7	Power wash at start of the session	Task force specialist	Paving / shelter fence and benches												
8	Pruning / dead head	Task force	Shrub beds												
10	Ornamental grasses to be cut or pulled	Task Force	Shrub beds												

APPENDIX 2: Stakeholders and Contact List

Stakeholders

- Friends of Portobello Prom and Beach
- Portobello Community Council
- Portobello amenity society
- City of Edinburgh Council

Contact List

- Friends of Portobello Prom and Beach

FACEBOOK Page: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/friendsofportyparks/?fref=ts>

- Portobello Community Council

Chair: Max Blinkhorn

Email: portycc@porty.org.uk

- Portobello Amenity Society

Email: johnmacgregorstewart@talktalk.net

- City of Edinburgh Council

Locality Environment Manager, East Neighbourhood Team

East Neighbourhood Centre, 101 Niddrie Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH16 4DS

Tel: 0131 469 5196

Email:

Scott Thomson – Community Parks Officer, East Neighbourhood Team

East Neighbourhood Centre, 101 Niddrie Mains Road, Edinburgh, EH16 4DS

Tel: 0131 529 3481

Email: scott.thomson@edinburgh.gov.uk

Park Rangers - East Neighbourhood Team

Natalia Navarra Gonzales / Russell Linton

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

Tel: 0131 529 3111

Email: Russel.linton@edinburgh.gov.uk

Enviromental, North East localities Team

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

Tel: 0131 529 3579

Email:

Jacqui Renton – Environmental Wardens,

Email: jacqui.renton@edinburgh.gov.uk

Alan Bell – Parks and Greenspace Manager

Parks and Greenspace, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG

Tel: 0131 529 7715

Email: alan.bell@edinburgh.gov.uk

Alan Grieviers – Play Technical Officer

Parks and Greenspace, Waverly Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG

Tel: 0131 529 7972

Email: Alan.grieviers@edinburgh.gov.uk

James Carlyle – Inch Park Nursery Manager

Inch Park Nursery, Old Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh,

Tel: 0131 664 4135

Email: james.carlyle@edinburgh.gov.uk

Appendix 3: East Environment Team Structure Chart

This is currently under review

APPENDIX 4: SWOT Analysis

Second Management Draft

<p>A Welcoming Place:</p> <p>To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value</p> <p>To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and well being of local residents and visitors</p> <p>To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site</p>	
<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main entrance • A number of entrances surrounding park • Notice board with information close to main entrance • Dropped kerb, wide paths and fence around the pond all providing secure and safe access • Good paths • Striking views – • Security on promande 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some dog fouling • Moderate litter • Need to replace plants and shell
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor incidents of dog fouling with Env.Wardens 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism to notice boards • Salt spray

Healthy, Safe and Secure:

- 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
- To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations

Strengths

- Used on a regular basis
- Overlooked by houses
- Open area gives sense of security during daylight hours
- Local residents regularly use the garden as a short cut
- Benches provided for passive enjoyment of park & views
- Flat paths with exits on to footways

Weaknesses

- Dog fouling problem
- Litter

Opportunities

- Replace existing planting
-

Threats

- Litter in flower beds
- Antisocial behaviour and vandalism
-

Well Maintained and Clean:

To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the gardens and meet visitors expectations'

Strengths

- Main entrance reasonably inviting
- New Signage
- Benches and bins all fairly new condition
- Amenity grass cut regularly
- Planted beds fairly well maintained and add horticultural interest
- Coade stones add interest

Weaknesses

- Dog fouling can be a problem
- Litter is a problem

Opportunities

- Control weed in flower beds
- Community– actively manage and bring into use in the park
- Community clean ups

Threats

- Re-occurrence of vandalism
- Antisocial behaviour and behavioural misuse of collums

Sustainability:

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

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

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shell mulch and weed barrier • Plants used mainly from council nursery so grown in peat free compost • 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited planting due to coastal position • Salt wind and cold affecting plants • Sand build up around plants
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant more of horticultural interest to support wildlife species 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism of habitat / structures

Conservation and Heritage:

The following aspects were considered:

- Habitats and ways in which it can be improved
- Cultural landscapes

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter seed heads left on plants are used by birds • Historical significance of pillars • Area used to high light other 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited planting due to costal position • Salt wind and cold affecting plants •
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant more of horticultural interest to support wildlife species • Increase signage 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism of habitat / structures

Community Involvement:

To engage with the local community to encourage participation within the garden

- Community involvement
- Play and educational value
- School groups

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local groups and residents still active about the site • Local school groups engaged & interested in using the park as educational resource • Informal play and young families use the park widely during the week and weekends • Part of an existing heritage walking route run by the community council 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure park improvements benefit all users where possible • Small size limits what space can be used for
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational opportunities for the Garden should be developed • Increase community events taking place at park • Work with schools to use area as educational resource • Local clubs, charities or organisations could be contacted to get involved in health walk / park activities 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure as wide a catchment of community as possible get opportunity to input into park development & community needs

Marketing:

To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all users to get this the following aspects were considered:

- Information provision
- Events
- Promotion
- Local press

Strengths

- Information and interpretation boards in garden
- Friends face book page talk party .
- Council website Edin outdoors
- East twitter account
- Recently articles run in local newspaper
- Parks Officers contact details are displayed within the park
- 'Caring for Edinburgh's Parks' signs are displayed

Weaknesses

- Continued vandalism and damage to planting and signage

Opportunities

- Improve use of notice board
- Ensure vandalism to notice board fixed quickly
- Widely advertise any events organised in park through notice board and wider community
- Events should be positively reported to local news and community papers & newsletters
- Newsletter could be produced & posted in park

Threats

- Continued vandalism and damage to notice board results in negative impression of notice board provision
-

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local community involved Portobello community council • Friends group friends of Portobello • Management plan in production for 2019-24 • Friends group actively engaged on future projects for site • Green flag assessments will provide feedback on areas that require focus or investment 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of grounds maintenance tasks • Limited funding • Low number of overall staffing for parks department reduces the amount of dedicated time available from staff for each site
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with local groups • Working with the friends group to develop improvements projects • More active management of sections of the site, such as community woodlands a positive contribution to the site and it's usage 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of overall funding for parks & green spaces can make it difficult to have an impact on single sites • site management cannot be achieved without adequate staffing and grounds maintenance support

Management:

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

To ensure that the maintenance programmes

To engage with local groups and encourage active participation in decision regarding the garden

Strengths

- Local community involved Portobello community council
- Friends group friends of Portobello
- Management plan in production for 2019-24
- Friends group actively engaged on future projects for site
- Green flag assessments will provide feedback on areas that require focus or investment

Weaknesses

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

Opportunities

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

Threats

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

APPENDIX 5



THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
PARKS & GREENSPACE



Park Quality Assessment Result 2019

Assessment Date: 15 May 2019
Lead Assessor: Gary Law

Portobello Community Garden

Classification: Community Park

PQS: 70%	Grade B	Edin Std Met: Yes
2018 69%	- Grade C - Yes	

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

<u>A Welcoming Place</u>	2018	2019	Strengths	Weaknesses / Recommendations
Welcoming	7	7	Open access from the promenade offering a pleasant and sheltered place to sit with the pillars adding some interest.	Lack of announcement to the park and grass was very long.
Good Safe Access	8	8	Open access from the promenade and John Street offering path to seating area. Other entrance from Laing Terrace.	
Signage	5	5	A lack of prominent signage already identified in previous assessments and answered in managers response. Threshold signage on fence offering contact details and due to be replaced. Green Flag plaques.	However the park continues to lack announcement Green Flag plaques from 2015/2016.
Equal Access	8	8	Dropped kerb, access direct from prom, easy access to seating. Access from Laing Terrace not friendly due to lack of path and length of grass but other access only a few meters away.	Information on signage could be made easier to read.
<u>Healthy, Safe & Secure</u>				
Appropriate Provision of Facilities	7	7	Seating and bins with some information about the pillars. Ample seating nearby on the prom.	Grass should be better maintained to allow better usage.
Safe Equipment & Facilities	8	9	Nothing noticeably unsafe about this garden.	
Personal Security in Park	8	9	Open space next to busy promenade. No hidden areas.	
Dog Fouling	7	8	Sign on bollard from John Street.	For such a small site and proximity to bins, there was two instances of dog fouling which was disappointing. Lack of prominent notice from Laing Terrace and Promenade.
<u>Clean & Well Maintained</u>				
Litter & Waste Management	7	8	Clean with only a couple of bits of litter in the beds. Bins available.	
Grounds Maintenance	6	8	Beds along the back looked well maintained.	Beds next to seating could do with a little attention and grass must be maintained better.
Tree Maintenance	0	0		
Building & Infrastructure Maint	6	7	The fence is in reasonable condition.	Weeds growing out the wall at Laing Terrace.
Equipment Maintenance	8	8	Seating and bins look in good condition.	
<u>Sustainability</u>				
Environmental Sustainability	6	6	All current Council policies regarding environmental sustainability are being adhered to in the park.	
Waste Minimisation	5	5	Council's litter recycling policy is adhered to. Where green waste is generated, some is re-used on site but most is removed for recycling elsewhere.	
Pesticides	8	9	Decision made to not use pesticide/herbicide on site unless to control NNNTS.	
Peat Use	10	10	No peat based bedding on site.	
Climate Change	0	0		
<u>Conservation & Heritage</u>				



THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL
PARKS & GREENSPACE



Park Quality Assessment Result 2019

Assessment Date: 15 May 2019
 Lead Assessor: Gary Law

Portobello Community Garden

Classification: Community Park

PQS: 70%	Grade B	Edin Std Met: Yes
2018	69% - Grade C - Yes	

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

Conservation Fauna & Flora	5	5	Some value to wildlife on site.	Fairly limited but consider what else could be provided to improve this score.
Conservation Landscape	8	8	the site was once a paddling pool site that was redesigned taking into account the aspect and conditions of the site. The planting that has taken place.compliments the original concept.	
Conservation Buildings	8	8		
Community Involvement				
Community Involvement	6	6	Although not an active group, Portobello Amenity Society monitor events within the park and have provided funds to maintain the pillars.	
Community Provision	6	6	local group still interested in park.	
Marketing & Promotion				
Marketing & Promotion	8	9	the site is advertised on the council website and Edinburgh outdoors. it is also on the green flag web site. Is part of the Portobello history trail. Comments can also be posted on the Portobello Council web site.	
Information Provision	5	5	Park name, contact information and GF plaques. Some information on posts regarding the bandstand project.	Although outlined in the managers response regarding the reluctance for a notice board it is felt the provision of would be a way to improve the score.
Educ. & Interpretative Provision	5	5	Some information about the pillar available.	Although outlined in the managers response regarding the reluctance for a notice board it is felt the provision of would be a way to improve the score.
Management				
Management Plan Implementation	0	0		

Overall Comment: A little garden offering a place to sit away from the beach. The grass should be kept better maintained to allow better usage.

Recommendations:
 Tackle the dog fouling issue
 Change the GF plaques
 Consider how to announce the park better

APPENDIX 6: Corporate Strategies & Policies

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

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

The North East locality plan 2017 -

2022<http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localityimprovementplans>

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

Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018 – 2028

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

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

Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Edinburgh

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk > directory-record > sustainable-edinburgh-2020](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory-record/sustainable-edinburgh-2020)

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

Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework

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

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

Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2020/21

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22616/open-space-2021>

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

Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 – 2021 edinburgh.gov.uk/biodiversity

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 Action Plans for coastal & marine, rock faces, uplands, wetland and

watercourses, farmland, semi-natural grassland, urban habitats and woodland. There are Species Action Plans for water vole, badger, otter, daubenton's bat & pipistrelle bats, seed eating birds, roseate tern & common tern, swift, great crested newt, small pearl-bordered fritillary, juniper, maiden pink, rock white beam, sticky catchfly, adders tongue and waxcap fungi.

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

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

Edinburgh council -business plan

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