

Seven Acre Park Management 2015- 2020



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Overview Map of Seven Acre Park



Summary Information

Park Name:	Seven Acre Park
Address:	Stanedykehead, Alnwickhill EH16 6TN
National Grid reference:	NT2668
Size of Site:	2.8 ha / 7 Acres
Telephone Number:	0131 529 5151
Email:	mike.shields@edinburgh.gov.uk
Ownership:	The City of Edinburgh Council – The Common Good Account
Area Designation	South Neighbourhood
Classification:	Community Park
Plan Written by:	South Neighbourhood Environment Team South.EnvironmentTeam@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel: 0131 529 5151
Partners:	Local Community Liberton Gilmerton Community Council Community Volunteers Primary School Local shops and businesses

QR Code:

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



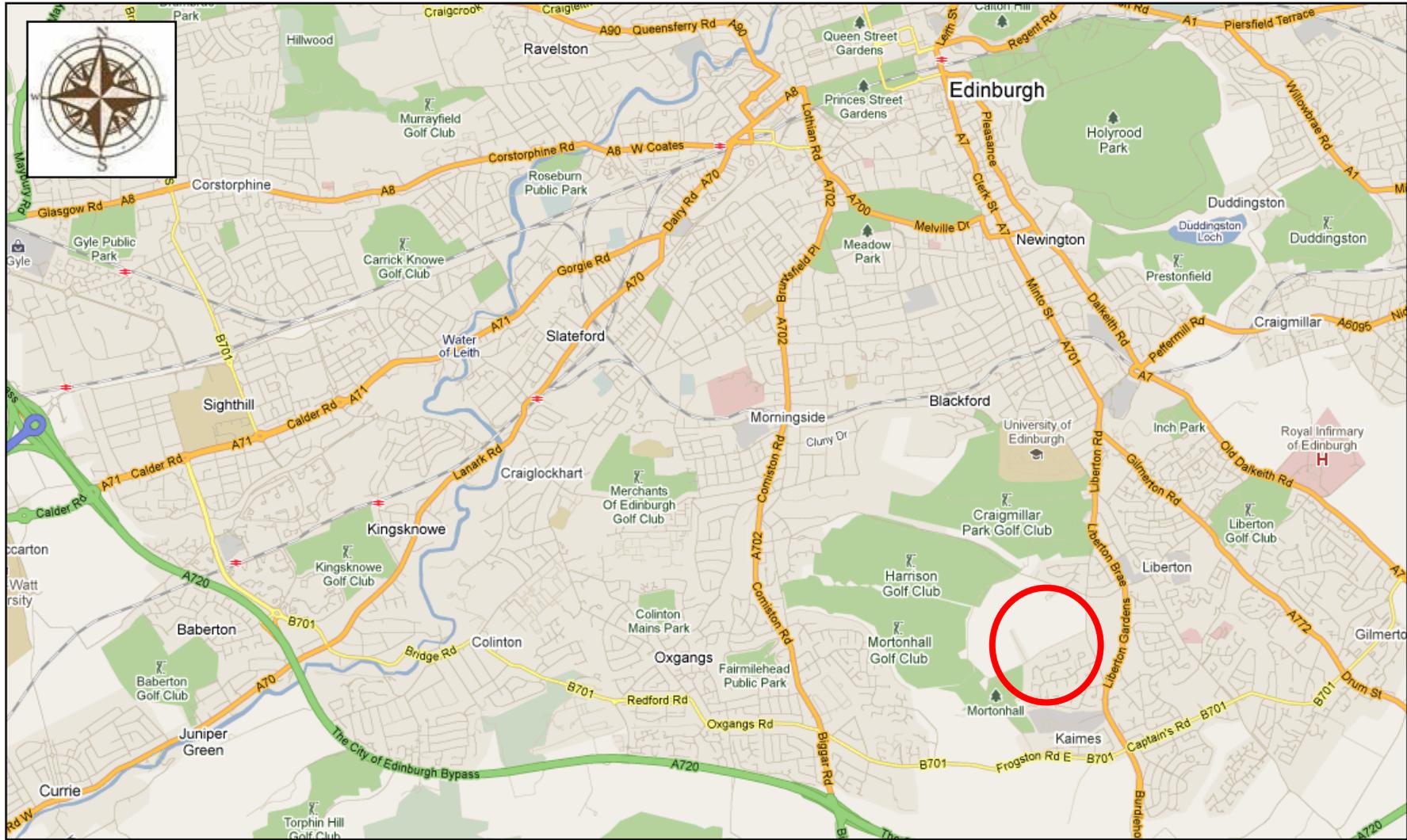
South Neighbourhood Office

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



Location Map of Seven Acre Park

Overview Photograph of Seven Acre Park



1 Introduction

1.0 Location



Seven Acre Park is situated in the South of Edinburgh, based within the Liberton Gilmerton Partnership area and is located to the north of the Netherbank housing estate, between Mortonhall, Liberton and the Braid Hills; and is well located local asset.

Seven Acre Park is a medium sized, pleasant, open park area with safe play facility, grass areas with picnic tables, small grass kick-about area that makes the Park an attractive facility for children, young people, adults and senior citizens who come to play, walk or watch the activities from the number of benches located on the site.

The park provides an essential greenspace in the heart of Netherbank with exceptional views over to Fife and many of Edinburgh's landmarks including Edinburgh Castle, Arthur's Seat, Blackford Observatory, Liberton Tower and, on a good

day, the Bass Rock can be seen in the distance. The layout of the park provides healthy and safe routes between Netherbank, Mortonhall and the Braid Hills along paths for residents and visitors alike. The design provides open space which can accommodate activities including kick-about sport, play and leisure activities. There are a number of stakeholders who can be associated with the park and provide a good cross section of public and limited commercial use. These are as follows;

- Local community
- Liberton Gilmerton Community Council
- Community Volunteers
- Primary School
- Liberton Vaulters

Members of the public use the park for many things; generally used for play, leisure walks, dog walking and picnicing. The park is a fantastic attraction all year round for this purpose but more so when the weather is good. This attracts a great number of people with very few open grass spaces being available when we are enjoying a warm sun.

One of the main attractions in the park is the children's play area, a fairly well stocked play area in the north of the park where the equipment caters for children of ages ranging from 3 – 14yrs. The football area also provides another attraction which enhances the health of many young people who play here.

The cultural, aesthetic and recreational value of the park for the citizens of Edinburgh is immense. Seven Acre Park is specially valued by those living in the local housing estate. There are five main entrances to the park and it is bordered by the Netherbank housing estate to the south and east, farmland to the north and Mortonhall Caravan/Campsite to the west. This openness enhances the feeling of being right out in the countryside.

The park is partially enclosed by a stone wall and hawthorn hedges which separate the park from the farmland. The park is graced by some young trees of rowan, tulip tree, blue Atlas cedar and Scots pine.

The area in which the park sits was originally part of a farm called Backsidelee (the main farmhouse would be around Alnwickhill Drive today). The area was sold to Crudens in the early 1970s and the original farmhouse still stands at the end of a short lane leading off Alnwickhill Drive. The amenity land (which constitutes the park) was gifted to the Alnwickhill Proprietor's Association in 2003/4. The park was adopted by Edinburgh Council around 1999. More information regarding this is highlighted in the history of the park at section 3.1.

Seven Acre Park has a welcoming atmosphere and is well used by the whole neighbourhood/community.

The park is well serviced by public transport bus routes, No's 11, 18 allow access from the west via the Mortonhall Estate; while No's 7, 37, 47 & 67 allow access from the east, via Liberton Park and Alnwickhill Road.

1.1 Management Plan Framework

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

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

The management plan covers the period 2015 to 2020 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.

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

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

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

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

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

1.3 Green Flag Award Scheme



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

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

Following Green Flag success with other parks in Edinburgh and the South Neighbourhood, it was decided that Seven Acre Park would apply for Green Flag status in 2016 following our improvement strategy for the park, which we now consider worthy of the green flag standard.

2 Vision and Aims

2.0 Introduction

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

2.1 Vision

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

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

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

In developing this management plan for the Seven Acre Park, our vision is:

“To look after Seven Acre Park for the benefit of citizens and visitors alike, both now and for the future. This will ensure that Seven Acre Park continues to be an distinctive and attractive place of grass, floral displays, trees and paths, safe for all who frequent the area, for relaxation and recreation”.

2.2 Aims

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

- a) Conservation

To increase the biodiversity value of the site

b) Landscape

To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value

c) Recreation

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

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

d) Community Involvement

To engage with the local community and users groups

To encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities

To use the park as a recreational resource

e) Cultural

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

f) Sustainability

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

g) Legal

To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations

h) Maintenance

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

i) Safety

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

j) Marketing

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

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

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

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

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

3 Survey, Historic Features and Park Governance

3.0 Introduction

This section looks at the historic 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 local volunteers and events.

3.1 Historic Features of the Park

The park does not lend itself to retaining many historic features.

The land was originally part of a farm called Backsidelee (the main farmhouse would be around Alnwickhill Drive today). Remnants of the name are retained in Backlee, the location of the old shop. The area was sold to Crudens in the early 1970s and the original farmhouse still stands at the end of a short lane leading off Alnwickhill Drive. The amenity land (which

constitutes the park) was gifted to the Alnwickhill Proprietor's Association in 2003/4. The park is sited on former farmland and was adopted by Edinburgh Council around 1999.

It is likely that the meaning of 'Stanedykehead' comes from the use of 'dyke' to mean 'wall'; thus 'the wall at the edge of the boundary'. It is likely that this is referring to the estate of Liberton farm, to the north-west.

The land around Seven Acre Park has an interesting and impressive history: The house at the end of Stanedykehead, Alnwickhill House, was allegedly Scotland's first lunatic asylum (mentioned in George Good's "Liberton in Ancient and Modern Times" printed in 1893). It later became the 'Edinburgh Industrial Home for Fallen Women'. It is now privately owned.

There are also the remains of gun placements to the north of the park; this is all that remains of the World War II anti-aircraft battery which was established at Liberton. The battery was equipped with four gun emplacements, two magazines with blast walls, a command post, and GL Radar. Records indicate that the battery was armed with four 3.7-inch guns during the war.

Liberton Vaulters

A small part of the park at the east edge (area: 2149.86m²) is leased to Liz Beech of Liberton Vaulters from the City of Edinburgh Council, for a small fee. The current lease runs until 2018.

Liberton Vaulters, Edinburgh, aims to provide young people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in Equestrian Vaulting.

Equestrian Vaulting involves gymnastics on the back of a live horse. The horse moves on a large circle and is highly trained to be obedient to a 'lunger' who uses a long lunge line and schooling whip.



It is a group activity which involves healthy, active exercise, building up gymnastic skills on a Vaulting Barrel, and the ground, learning compulsory moves, and then creating artistic routines in twos and threes, co-operating with each other and interacting with the horse, transferring the skills learned to horseback.

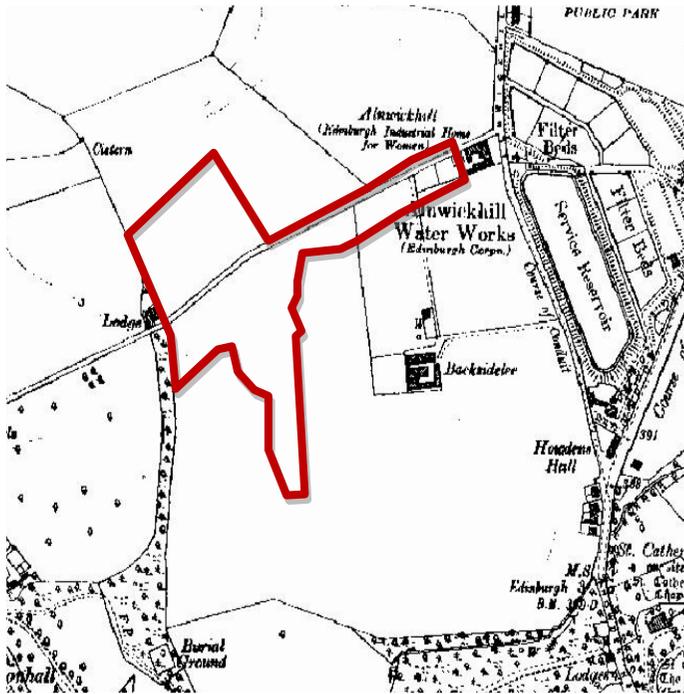
The Sport involves discipline, concentration and focus and explores attitudes of courage, facing fear, perseverance, trust, working as a team and self-control.

Fitness and core strength are also built up in an enjoyable way. Youngsters are encouraged to participate in coaching each other in a positive way, helping to develop leadership skills.



Liberton Vaulters is a Club that aims to provide young people in Edinburgh with an opportunity to participate in Equestrian Vaulting and to develop positive life skills, reflecting Christian values.

Liberton Vaulters has benefited from small Grants from 'sported' and 'Go For It' (Church of Scotland) in 2013.



From this (1931).....



To this (present day).....

3.2 Strategic Significance of the Park

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

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

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

Corporate Strategies and Policies

- Edinburgh Partnership Single Outcome Agreement 2012-17
- Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2013-16
- Capitalising on Access: an Access Strategy for Edinburgh
- Climate Change Framework 2007-17
- Sustainable Edinburgh 2020

Park and Environmental Policies and Strategies

- Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy 2006
- Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2010
- Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 -2018
- Play Area Action Plan 2011-16

Local Drivers

- Liberton Gilmerton Local Community Plan 2014-17
- Neighbourhood Partnership
- Better and Safer Communities Sub Group

3.3 Management Rules

Park Management Rules were revised in 2013. They aim to provide rules which encourage responsible use in line with the ethos of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

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

3.4 Park Classification

Seven Acre 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 a 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 Seven Acre Park have provided volunteers over the last four years to enhance various aspects of the park. As well as a number of horticultural and environmental issues the group are keen environmentalists and wish to increase the biodiversity value of the park. They have worked well in developing the wildflower meadow, installing bird boxes and fruit tree planting within the park. The group undertake work under guidance from the Community Park Officer and the Park Rangers.

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

To date they have assisted in planting, installing bird boxes and painting fences. They have recently obtained funding for fruit trees (to form an orchard) and for four interpretation boards to complement the new woodland trail; both of which are now in situ.

In conjunction with the Friends Group, Park Rangers undertook the creation of a nature trail which weaves its way through the woodland area, the first stage of this was completed in the winter of 2014/15.



Seven Acre Park Volunteer Group



Repainting of the fences

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

Tree Survey

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

Parks and Greenspace User Survey CEC Visitor/User Survey

Seven Acre Park User Survey Information for 2016/7 will be provided to the judges on the day of assessment.

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

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

Biodiversity Survey

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

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



Seven Acre Park, with a view of Arthur's Seat

4 Analysis

4.0 Introduction

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

4.1 A Welcoming Place

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

The majority of park users come from the southern part of City of Edinburgh; however, there is great local use by residents who tend to use the park for a number of uses, including play activity, walking, cycling and general relaxation. There are good on-street parking facilities at Alnwickhill entrances of the park.

Within the site there is a provision of seating, picnic tables, cycle racks, young person's play area and a kick pitch which is complimented alongside the formal and informal flower bed areas. To provide additional all year colour and interest natural bulb planted areas have been introduced over large areas of the site. All of which add to providing a successful recreation area.

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

There are five principle access points to all corners of the park providing safe and ease of access.

Information boards are located within the park, which highlight points of local interest. There is good public bus routes close-by which allows access to the park, the pathways allow for disabled access and cycling to be undertaken within 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
- g) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations
- i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

Seven Acre Park is well used throughout the year for informal sport and other physically active activities.

The park contains one well equipped and popular play area and has a football kickabout area which is well used by the local community. The park is well equipped with park benches, cycle racks and litter bins. There are 2 designated picnic tables/areas located throughout the park and prove very popular with users.

The park also contains a newly supplied Multi-Gym which encourages health related activities within the site. This is used by people of all age groups.

The amount of users of the park support good levels of personal security and this is supported by limited on street lamp standards along the edges of the site at the residential areas which enhances safe access through the park in the evening. The park is surrounded and overlooked by local housing giving an added sense of security.

Park Ranger service visits the park every other day as part of their park and garden inspection route. They will log incidents and report these to the Community Parks Officer for resolution. The Park Rangers and Community Parks 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.

The Community Police Officer is available on request for any immediate concerns within the park. 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, 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.

All City of Edinburgh Council Play Areas are designed in house to meet BS EN 1176 Parts 1 – 11. Prior to 1998 all play areas were designed to meet BS 5696. All play areas are held on a data base called 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, type of surface, fences and bins.

Informal inspections are carried out by council employees who enter the play areas as part of their daily duties (Park Rangers, Playgrounds Maintenance Officer, Community Parks Officer and Task Force staff). They report obvious hazards to the Councils 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 out on all the playgrounds by an independent Playground Inspector.

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

4.3 Clean & Well Maintained

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

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

Information gathered from the public and Parks Quality Assessments indicate that site maintenance is considered to be of a very good standard; however any appropriate recommendations or ideas gained from this are considered and applied to the normal maintenance schedule. The schedule of maintenance is highlighted within the maintenance plan (**Appendix Three**).

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

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

The infrastructure is regularly checked and maintained by the City's ROSPA trained engineering team, to ensure that the play area equipment is safe and secure. The surfaces of the play areas are checked regularly by both the Park Rangers and the local task force teams to ensure that there are no dangerous objects within the area (**Appendix Eight**).

Although not a regular problem, graffiti is removed by the local graffiti service team and other local staff groups.

A reactive maintenance programme is in place for the maintenance of the infrastructure on site in respect of painting and security. This infrastructure is regularly inspected by the Community Parks Officer and any repairs are carried out, in general, by our in-house service teams.

Each member of the Grounds Maintenance team have undertaken training in the form of Scottish Vocational Qualifications. This has resulted in SVQ Level 2 or 3 grades being achieved depending on their current work grade. As part of this a number of park projects were identified to assist with the delivery of the qualification process, as a consequence an herbaceous border was developed in Seven Acre Park and carried out by the staff group.

This allowed for the SVQ programme to provide value for money and also improves the features in various parks across the city.

4.4 Sustainability

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

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

A number of alternatives to peat have been incorporated into the growing mixes for plant production at the nursery, including; compost derived from the Council green waste collections, the nursery own compost, worm cast, fine bark, vermiculite and sand. Trials continue to run to assess the best mix to support seedling and plant growth; however Seven Acre park does not use peat-based mediums on this site.

Green waste is now composted on site or used to create habitat within the park. This reduces transportation of green waste and contributes to the environment aims of reducing Edinburgh's carbon footprint.

The Council continues to develop the minimisation of herbicide use. Bark mulch is used throughout Seven Acre Park for the reduction of weed growth around tree bases and this also encourages moisture and heat retention in the tree root. However, herbicide application is used when this cultural practise proves inadequate. Only affected areas are treated and only then using strategies that are sensitive to the needs of the public and the environment. All operatives are trained to the approved certification level for the application of chemicals. The applications of herbicides are normally scheduled during off-peak times of park use and signs are posted to indicate the re-entry time period if appropriate.

In order to reduce land filled waste, the City of Edinburgh Council is working to develop and extend initiatives to prevent, minimise, reuse and recycle not only the city's but also its own waste. The local service teams now off load there collections at a local disposal site which streams the waste for recycling purposes.

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

This all adds to the city target of having 60% of all waste recycled across Edinburgh by 2020.

Although Seven Acre Park is self sustainable in the production of green waste which is recycled directly onto the site. This

contributes to the Council's continued efforts in reducing waste to landfill.

The Council continues to manage green waste at our central nursery unit which is ideally located within the South Neighbourhood area. Tree limbs from various sites are chipped and used as mulch. Larger limbs and trunks are sold. Compost generated from this process is used by the Parks and Greenspace Service as a soil conditioner in seasonal bedding or other projects.

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

4.5 Conservation & Heritage

a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site

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

The design and layout of the Seven Acre Park provides a protected and local heritage, though it may be considered that the area enhances opportunities to promote biodiversity. It is anticipated that over the next couple of years that most of the recommendations of the biodiversity assessment can be taken forward in the future.

More recent tree plantings have added varieties such as Scots pine, apple, plum, tulip tree and silver birch.

In 2012, a wildflower meadow was introduced with varieties that attract butterflies and bees. In 2015 a further area was introduced in the centre of the park to encourage further biodiversity.

The future plans are to introduce further wildflower areas to encourage and increase the biodiversity value of the park.

On occasion butterflies, including Large and Small Cabbage White, Peacock and Meadow Brown can be observed amongst the parks varied plants and shrubs.

Resident species include Robin, Wren, Wood Pigeon, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Blue Tit, House Sparrow, Starling, Blackbird,

Carrion Crow, Hooded Crow, Bullfinch, Goldfinch, Chaffinch and Song Thrush. All these species 'sing' in the park and many will also breed in the park or close by. Occasional visitors include Oystercatcher, Kestrel, Buzzard and Goldcrest.

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 of Seven Acre Park group, this group continue to undertake a number of work days which includes biodiversity projects, wildflower planting, bird box installation, planting projects and other general projects. The group provides up to 20 members.

However and importantly we encourage the local nursery school to participate in planting projects. This benefits not only the park but also the nursery school assisting with the early learning programme.

The Community Parks Officer along with the Park Rangers have an excellent working relationship and continues to meet regularly with the group where discussions take place to work on the improvement areas for the park as well as involvement in the management plan process.

One of the main strengths of the Seven Acre Park is its popularity with local people with user numbers increasing over a number of years.

The Friends Group has been successful in securing several grants including:

- A Community Grant of £2800 in 2014 as a contribution towards installing an outdoor Multi-Gym facility;
- A Community Grant of £2970, for the installation of interpretation boards for the new woodland nature trail and trees for a new community orchard. This work was successfully completed in December 2015.

4.7 Marketing

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

Information relating to Seven Acre Park is available via Community Council and City of Edinburgh Council website and available via Smartphone app 'Edinburgh Outdoors'. A direct link QR code links you directly to Edinburgh Outdoors Page for Seven Acre Park, the site specific code is located in each of the 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=502>

There is also a feature article about the park on the new crowd funding website, 'My Park Scotland'; written by Jeni Rowe, chair of Friends of Seven Acre Park. Read more at: <http://www.mypark.scot/myparkexplore-seven-acre-park-edinburgh/>

Facebook (Closed Group): 'Friends of Seven Acre Park': <https://www.facebook.com/groups/363916970366130/>

Public information is regularly posted in the four notice boards at the entrances to the park along with local information involving the volunteer group.

Within the notice boards local events are advertised and this works well to promote these, such as the volunteer group meetings and any other agreed local information. Promotion of such events is vital in attracting and inviting members of the public to participate and ensures the success of the event.

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

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

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

Management and development of the park is undertaken locally by the Neighbourhood team in conjunction with the local volunteer Group with the strategic issues dealt with via the central Parks and Greenspace Team.

The volunteer group work closely with the local management teams to ensure that the park progresses in line with the Management Plan.

Operational management of the park is undertaken by the Neighbourhood Task Force team and the central grounds maintenance teams. This team consists of grounds maintenance and street cleaning team's who are responsible for the day to day maintenance of the grass, flower beds and shrub areas, the servicing of the bins, litter collection throughout the park and graffiti removal. This work is supported by the Community Parks Officer and Park Rangers Service 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 Three**).

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.

Through the Friends group it is intended to attempt to increase the public participation in voluntary work within the park, the current group have already undertaken various different activities in the park.

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

The Park Rangers also patrol the park to ensure that safety is maintained, they regularly make safe various small faults within the park e.g. a broken seat, 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 these reports can be found in the appendices of the management plan (**Appendix Four**). These assessments are used to determine further potential capital improvements and form the basis of the South Neighbourhood Park Improvement plan (**Appendix Ten**) on an annual basis. Seven Acre Park has benefited from this system with many improvements made from feedback comments in the assessments.

The Council recently undertook Landscape Quality Standards (LQS) assessments to measure the standard of all features either within a park or a greenspace. However, this assessment criteria is currently on hold as the Council seek to introduce new monitoring through our Confirm asset management system. These assessments will be carried out monthly throughout the year and provide evidence on how well all stock features are maintained. Each feature is given a minimum standard indicator and each visit measure the assessment against this indicator.

This programme will ensure that standards are consistent, not only across the south area but also across the city.



Seven Acre Friends Group – Fence Painting Day



Friends Group installing bird boxes

5 Development Action Plan

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

Note: All costs are approximate.

Key:

LEM Local Environment Manager

PGM Parks & Greenspace Management

FSA Friends of Seven Acre Park

Manager

SLM Street Lighting Manager

TFM Task Force Manager

PRO Professional Roads Officer

CPO

Community Parks Officer

PR

Park Rangers

ARM

Neighbourhood Area Roads

EW

Environmental Warden

FM

Forestry Manager

ESDO

Env. Service Development Officer

Aim 1: A Welcoming place

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

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

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

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
1.1 To develop a signage programme, this might include name plates, information and interpretation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All access points within park. ▪ Council staff and Friends Group 	On going	LEM CPO	£1500
1.2 Install woodland signage and interpretation panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Woodland trail ▪ Funded by Friends Group grant 	Completed 2016	CPO PR FSA	£2500
1.3 Continue natural bulb planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Various locations ▪ Friends Group, Council staff and schools groups 	Ongoing	CPO PR FSA	£1000
1.4 Wildflower plug planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Perimeter planting and various locations ▪ Park Rangers & schools 	2016-17	CPO PR	£500

1.5 Create new entrance point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Through wall alongside Stanedykehead ▪ Investigate different options with Friends group and access officer 	Ongoing	CPO FSA	
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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 develop a responsible dog owner campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with environmental wardens and other appropriate CEC staff to develop and implement campaign 	2016-17	CPO SEW	£2K
2.2 Repairs and improvements to existing pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access routes ▪ Various locations 	Complete 2015	CPO PR	£2500
2.3 Assist private landowner with some short term repairs to private access road.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stanedykehead ▪ Council staff 	2016- 2017	LEM CPO ARM	£5000
2.4 Install Outdoor Multi-Gym facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North section of park ▪ Friends Group grant 	Completed 2014	CPO FSA	£12K

Aim 3: Clean and Well Maintained

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

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
3.1 Maintain litter free park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular clean up days organised by Friends Group ▪ Litter collection is carried out by local Council cleansing teams as per the maintenance schedule in Appendix Three 	Ongoing	LEM TFM FSA	£0

3.2 Maintain and preserve original fence lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint regularly with preservative 	Ongoing	FSA	£300
3.3 To paint the play equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On site 	Completed 2016	CPO	£2K

Aim 4: Sustainability

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

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
4.1 Minimize green waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All green waste produced on site to be composted on site or used to produce habitat 	Ongoing	CPO PR	£0
4.2 Reduce use of pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use natural woodchip mulch, using this on flower beds and round trees ▪ Reduce weed growth round signs etc. 	Ongoing	PR FSA	£0
4.3 Provide a compost area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compost bin ▪ Is sited in the park 	Completed 2015	CPO PR	£70

Aim 5: Conservation and Heritage

a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site

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

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
5.1 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	CPO PR	£400
5.2 Create new wildflower area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Central 	Completed 2015	CPO PR FSA	£200
5.3 Provide Bird Boxes to encourage greater bird numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Install additional bird boxes 	2017-22	CPO FSA	£350

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			PR	
5.4 Install 'Beepol' Bee hive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install bee hive to encourage greater bio-diversity 	Ongoing	CPO	£200
5.6 Provide additional plants to herbaceous border	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant mixed herbaceous plants in existing bed 	2016	CPO PR Staff	£300
5.7 Planting of perennial wildflower plugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within natural bulb planting area Invite school children and Friends Group 	2015-18	CPO PR FSA	£1000
5.8 Creation of small fruit tree orchard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At North West corner of park Funded by Friends Group grant 	Completed 2015	CPO PR FSA	£400
5.9 Create 'Bug Hotels' within park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several within woodland area 	2016-17	CPO PR	£0
5.10 To plant additional trees on-site to enhance native invertebrate and bird species and increase age range of trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout park 	2017- 20	PGM CPO PR LEM	£6K

Aim 6: Community Involvement

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

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
6.1 Continue to assist and encourage Community led clear-ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be organised in conjunction with the FSA Assisted by Council 	Ongoing	CPO FSA	£500
6.2 Friends Group to continue to assist with maintenance of fences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fence lines along park Assisted by the council, providing the required materials 	Ongoing	FSA	£300
6.3 Friends Group to monitor and install bird boxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the woodland area Monitored on Friends volunteer days 	Ongoing	FSA	£350

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6.4 To carry out consultation within the park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Site, using pre-determined questions 	2015 and ongoing	PR	£0
6.5 Continue to seek opportunities for grant funding by Friends Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For projects and improvements 	Ongoing	FSA CPO PR	
6.6 Raise park profile by applying for Keep Scotland Beautiful – Its Your Neighbourhood Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends Group applied 2015 In first year achieved 'Thriving' Award (Appendix Eleven) 	2017-2022	FSA	£0
6.7 To involve local school children in various park projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liaise with local schools 	2017-2022	FSA PR	£0

Aim 7: Marketing

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

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
7.1 To provide regular information on maintenance, events and works within park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use all relevant information and modern publicity opportunities 	2017-2022	LEM CPO FSA	£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 2015	CPO PR ESDO	£50
7.3 Update content specific to the Park within Edinburgh Outdoors website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add new information and photographs specific to site 	2017-2022	CPO	£50
7.4 Update Friends Group Facebook Page	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Friends Group Maintained by members of the group 	Ongoing	FSA	£0
7.5 Update content for MyParkScot website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked to Edinburgh Outdoors site Friends Group have a registered page 	Ongoing	PR FSA	£0
7.6 Green Flag Award and Keep Scotland Beautiful – Its Your Neighbourhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for awards 	Ongoing	CPO PR FSA	£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

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 	2014 onwards Ongoing 2017-18	FSA CPO LEM CPO PR	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 Task Force. The current maintenance schedule is based in part on the old Grounds Maintenance Contract that now serves as a guide to what should be undertaken, although many tasks outside of this guide are undertaken to ensure the quality of the park. The table provided below indicates the annual costs of the general maintenance items within the park, which gives some indication of the approximate revenue spend on these maintenance items.

Item	Annual Cost (£)
Grass Maintenance	10769.45
Flowers, Trees, shrubs and hedges	15757.01
Litter removal	9293.19
Play Area Maintenance	2906.63
Total	38726.28

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

It is estimated that in 2013/14 and 2014/15 approximately £6K has been spent through this process on this specific site. It is anticipated that spend for 2015/16 will be approximately £2.5K.

Capital Funding

The capital budget is administrated by the Parks and Greenspace Service. The budget is generally allocated in advance and the role of the developing management plans is for better planning of financial resources required so that they can be included in future bids. Around 2012 the park benefited from £16k worth of capital improvement. Through this, improved seating, bin provision, picnic tables, interpretation panels, cycle racks and way finder posts where able to be provided which has benefited the park immensely.

In 2015 the park benefited from £12K worth of capital improvement to install an outdoor Multi-Gym facility, this has enhanced the opportunity to promote the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors. Within this sum the Friends group secured Community Grant funding of £2800 as a contribution to this.

Grants

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

The Friends Group was successful in securing a Community Grant of £2970; for the installation of interpretation boards for the new woodland nature trail and trees for a new community orchard. This work was successfully completed in December 2015.

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

7 Monitoring and Reviewing

The Parks Quality Assessment framework is used to provide annual assessment of each park and will provide a report for Seven Acre Park that can be used to support the monitoring process. These assessments will have been carried out by staff and friends members and are in general carried out by individuals who have no direct association with the park.

In September 2016 the outcome for this park was that it scored in the Excellent (75-84%) category for Community Parks with a score of 83% (**Appendix Four**). This ranks as 2nd best park in the Park List in quality order based in Parks Quality Scores (PQS), scoring higher than 29 other Green Flag sites in Edinburgh. It was ranked as the 1st best park in the South East Locality Area and amongst city parks.

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

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

The production of this management plan was undertaken in 2015 in conjunction with the information received from the Parks Quality Assessment and the KSB Its Your Neighbourhood assessment. This was undertaken by the Council Officers and the Friends group where all recommendations were considered to ensure the development of the park meets the local needs.

8 Appendices

Appendix One – Policies

Corporate Strategies & Policies

Edinburgh Partnership Single Outcome Agreement 2012-17

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

Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2013-16

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

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

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

Capitalising on Access: an Access Strategy for Edinburgh

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

Climate Change Framework 2007-17

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

Sustainable Edinburgh 2020

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

Park and Environmental Policies

Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy 2006

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

Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2010

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

Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 - 18

The Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan is an initiative to conserve and enhance the Capital's natural heritage. The term "biodiversity" encapsulates all that we mean by the health of our natural environment and ultimately the quality of our lives. To this end, the Action Plan puts forward an ambitious programme of carefully targeted actions to enrich the living habitats of Edinburgh and address the welfare of key plant and animal species. There are Habitat Actions Plans for coastal & marine, rock faces, uplands, wetland and watercourses, farmland, semi-natural grassland, urban habitats and woodland. There are Species Action Plans for water vole, badger, otter, daubenton's bat & pipistrelle bats, seed eating birds, roseate tern & common tern, swift, great crested newt, small pearl-bordered fritillary, juniper, maiden pink, rock white beam, sticky catchfly, adders tongue and waxcap fungi.

Play Area Action Plan 2011-16

The purpose of this Play Area Action Plan is to guide the improvement of existing play area facilities and to identify new opportunities for future facilities across the City. This document has been prepared by the Council and is revised after public consultation. It relates closely to the City of Edinburgh Open Space Strategy, which was approved by Council in September 2010, and which sets out standards for the provision of play areas across the city.

Local Drivers

Liberton Gilmerton Community Plan 2014-17

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

Appendix Two – Caring for Parks Guidelines

Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace (introduced 2013)

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

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

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

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

Persuasion

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

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

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

Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace

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

Interpretation

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

"Council" means The City of Edinburgh Council;

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

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

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

Summary

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

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

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

General

The following acts are prohibited:

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

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

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

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

Dogs and Horses

The following acts are prohibited:

- 5.1 Allowing a dog to enter in or on a children's play area or area of the Park that is designated as a 'dog free area.'
- 5.2 Allowing dogs to foul in a public Park unless the person in charge of the dog immediately removes the fouling (within the provisions of the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003).
- 5.3 Failing to keep a dog under close control in any Park.
- 5.4 Failing to keep a dog under close control, at heel or on a short lead when near young farm animals and at nesting time (April - July) in woodlands, grasslands, moorland and at the seashore.
- 5.5 Allowing a dog to run onto sports pitches when these are in use.
- 5.6 Leading, riding, training or exercising a horse in a manner which falls short of the responsibilities in the Code.

BBQs, Fire and Camping

The following acts are prohibited:

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

Cycling

The following acts are prohibited:

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

Motor Vehicles

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

- 8.1 Driving or using or leaving any car, motorbike, quad bike, mini moto, or other vehicle, or parking a caravan, except on roads and in car parks provided by the Council 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

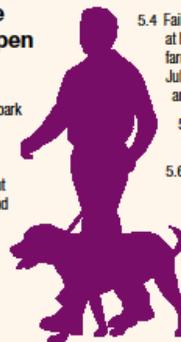
The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

- 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 Loth Links.
- 9.2 Carrying, or discharging any fireworks or firearm.
- 9.3 Playing any organised game or sport on pitches provided by the Council.

Short Hole Golf Courses

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

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



Expulsion and Exclusion from Parks

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



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



Regulation

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix Three – Maintenance Plan

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			4200								2	2	2	2	2		Fortnightly (Sum)
General Areas	Cutting			18548				2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2			Fortnightly (Sum)
Edge Trees & Post	Cutting		488		116		1							1				Bi-Annual
Edge Hard Surface	Cutting		2430				1											Annual
Channel Maintenance				1100			1								1			Bi-Annual
Flower Bed Maintenance																		
Shrub bed maintenance	Pruning			800		1												Annually
	Litter Collection			800		1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	Fortnightly (Sum)
Hedge & Tree Maintenance																		
Tree	Pruning				3000	1												
Roads & Pathway Maintenance																		
Roads/paths	Ranger Inspection			1500	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Fortnightly
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						1				Bi-Annual
	Ranger Inspection				1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	Fortnightly

Seven Acre Park Management Plan 2015 - 2020

Surfaces – Rubber	Sweeping			560	1	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	Weekly
Description	Action/Works	Who	M	M ²	No.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	General Frequency
Surfaces – Hard Standing	Sweeping			350	1	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	Weekly
Leaf Collection																		
	Collection (Redistribute)			1500		4									4	4	4	Weekly (Wint)
Street Cleansing Maintenance																		
Bin	Emptying				9	15	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	Daily
Litter	Collection			22748		15	14	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	Daily
Graffiti removal	Offensive																	Within 24 hrs
	Non-Offensive																	Within 72hrs

Appendix Four – Park Quality Assessment 2016



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



Green Flag Park Quality Assessment Scores 2016

Seven Acre Park (Alnwickhill)

Classification: Community Park

PQS: 83% Bandwidth: Excellent

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

<u>A Welcoming Place</u>	<u>Criteria Score</u>	<u>Strengths</u>	<u>Weaknesses</u>
Welcoming	8	Interesting park that has two areas. The picnic / play area offers fantastic views of the city, whilst the wooded area offer interest and contrast.	The park can be difficult to find if you don't know it's there.
Good Safe Access	8	Open access from North and gated access to picnic play area, on street car parking. Good paths from the estate to the picnic / play area and within to the play area	The site would benefit from a perimeter path around the picnic area
Signage	9	Notice boards and threshold signs, nice woodland walk signs, Directional signage	No signage from main road
Equal Access	6	Paths in good condition	No circular path or to seating
<u>Healthy, Safe & Secure</u>			
Safe Equipment & Facilities	9	All safe and in good order	
Personal Security in Park	8	Picnic / play areas is open with good sightlines, Access from many points	Can perhaps feel a little bit isolated, and the wooded area in full leaf could harbour hidden areas
Dog Fouling	9	No instances found, signage and bins	
Appropriate Provision of Facilities	9	Play equipment, multigym, woodland walks, seating.	
Quality of Facilities	9	Most fairly new and in good condition	Woodland walk could do with edging to conserve the barked paths

Clean & Well Maintained

Litter & Waste Management	9	Very clean, only a little litter in the woodland area, bins on site	
Grounds Maintenance	9	Very good standard of maintenance throughout the site	
Building & Infrastructure Maint.	8	Paths are in good condition as are walls and fence	Edging of path in woodland walk
Equipment Maintenance	9	All play equipment recently painted	

Sustainability

Environmental Sustainability	8	Large areas of this park are natural and to enhance this natural walkways have been created through the woodland which really do not require any maintenance , along with large areas of natural bulb planting which are not cut until July/August , the increase in the number of wild meadow flower sites in the park as well as fruit orchard and some further tree planting which reduces grass cutting required in the park, all shrub and herbaceous beds are mulched and only require very minimum maintenance by park rangers which frees up task force for other duties.	
Pesticides	8	With the exception of a spot treat on the play area hard standing once a year to stop the tarmac and plastic matting breaking up we do not use chemical in the park at all this decision was taken following discussions with the friends group.	
Peat Use	10	The park does not have any annual bedding areas at all and no peat is used at all on site.	
Waste Minimisation	8	We now use far more natural bark mulch on the beds and around the smaller trees as well as for pathways through the woodland walkway , we also have on site compost bins and the material from these are used on site.35% of the parks litter bin contents are	

Seven Acre Park Management Plan 2015 - 2020

		now recycled as part of the city's recycling targets , no leaves are removed from site either.	
Woodland Management	8	Good variety of trees and excellent planting techniques	
<u>Conservation & Heritage</u>			
Conservation Fauna & Flora	8	Bird boxes, range of habitats, woodland walk, wildflower meadows all contribute	
Conservation Landscape	0		
Conservation Buildings	0		
<u>Community Involvement</u>			
Community Involvement	8	Friends group actively involved in the park both in terms of management and practical tasks.	
Community Provision	8	In November 2015 8 new biodiversity information and direction signage secured by friends grant was installed in the woodland walkway, due to this and previous works in the park multi gym etc Friends group entered the park for its your neighbourhood award in 2015 the first year they have entered and scored the second top score of Thriving award in their first attempt which was an excellent achievement , there has also been regular community consultation taken with in the park and feedback shows very high satisfaction with what is in the park.	
<u>Marketing & Promotion</u>			
Marketing & Promotion	8	Photos of the park have been increased on the Edinburgh Outdoors Website, the QR codes still have direct smart link from parks notice boards to Edinburgh outdoors site and also the friends group also have an active facebook page also on the My Park Scotland website, the friends group are also part of the friends of parks forum group.	
Information Provision	8	Four notice boards with good relevant information, talking post.	
Educ. & Interpretative Provision	8	Interpretation panels in woodland walk are excellent. Info in notice boards.	

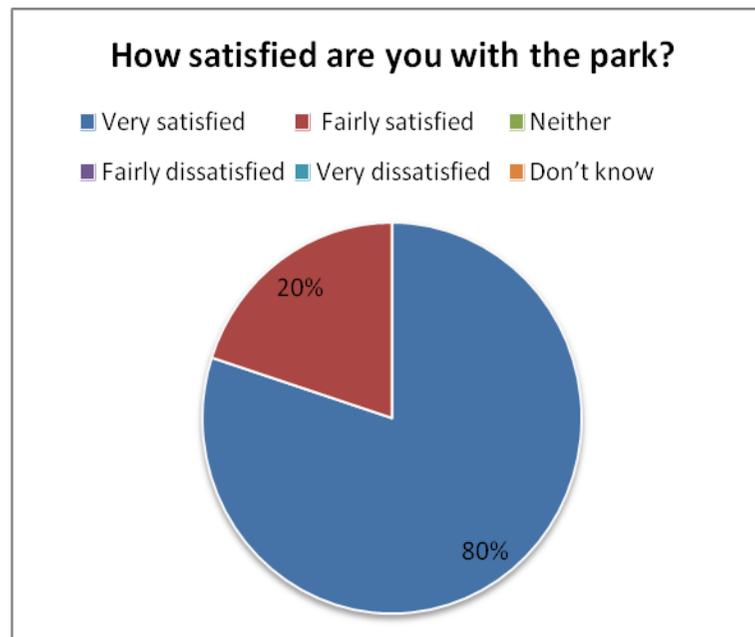
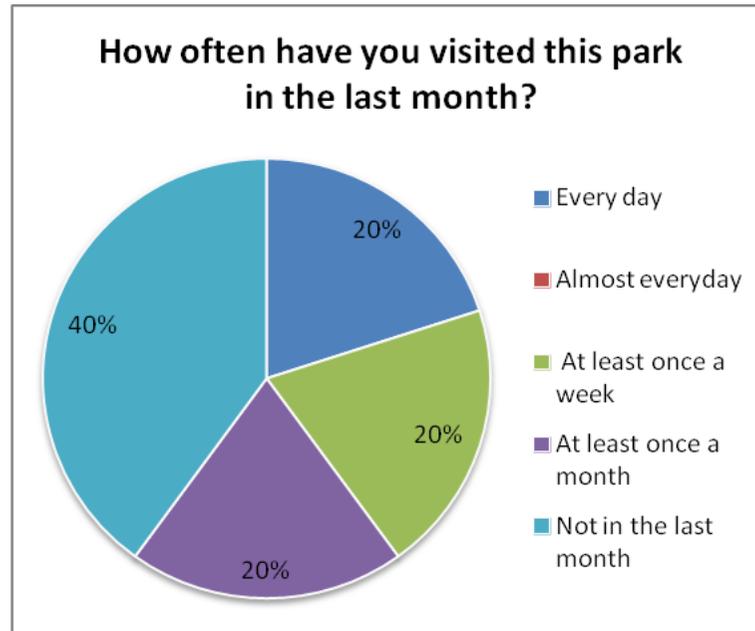
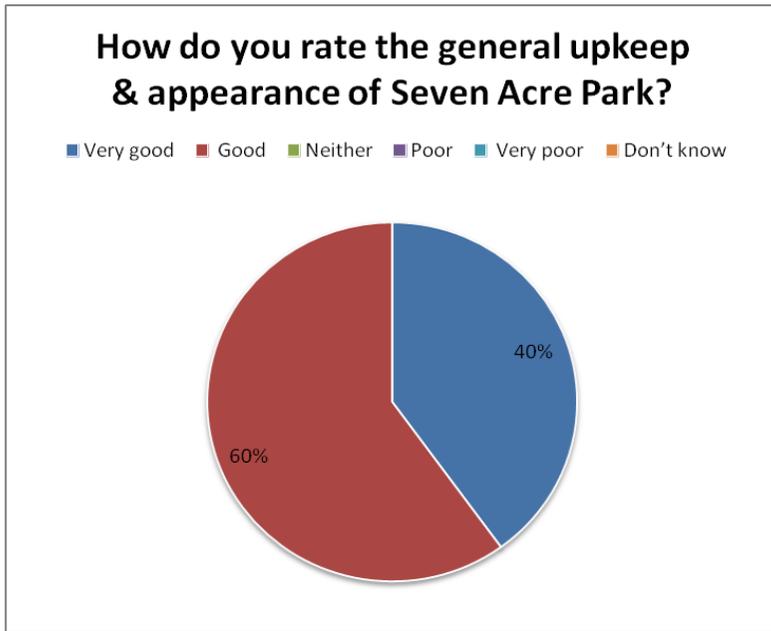
Management

Management Plan Implementation

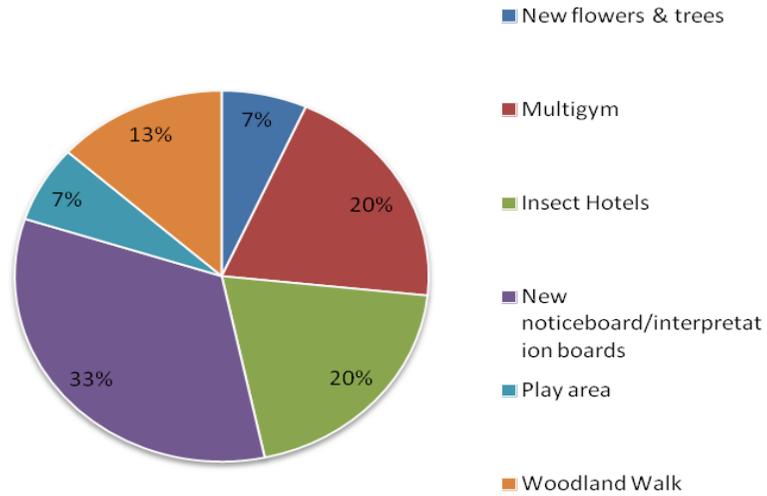
OverallComments

Recommendations:

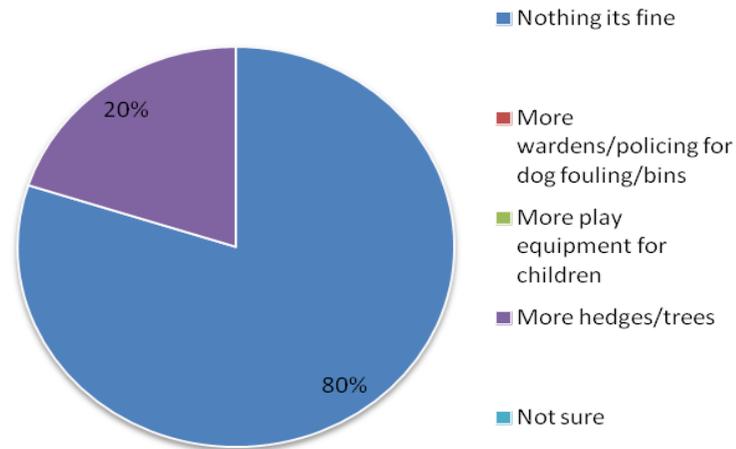
Appendix Five – User Survey 2015 Results



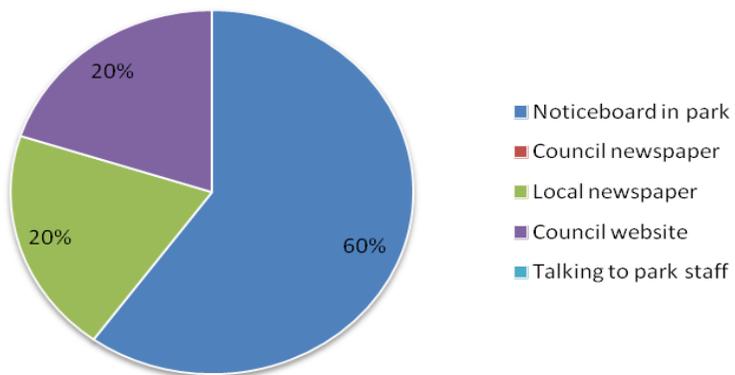
What changes or improvements have you noticed recently?



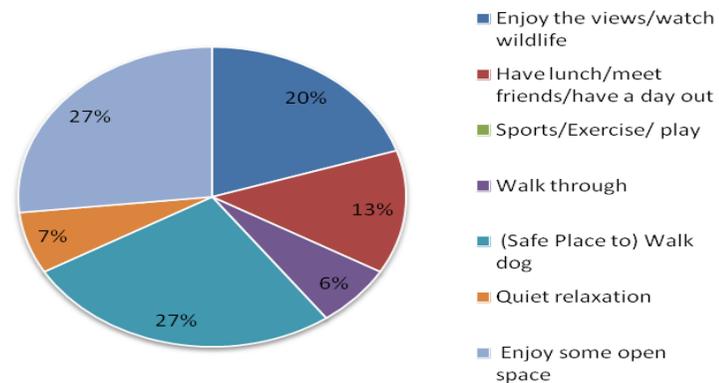
What changes or improvements would you like to see made to this park?

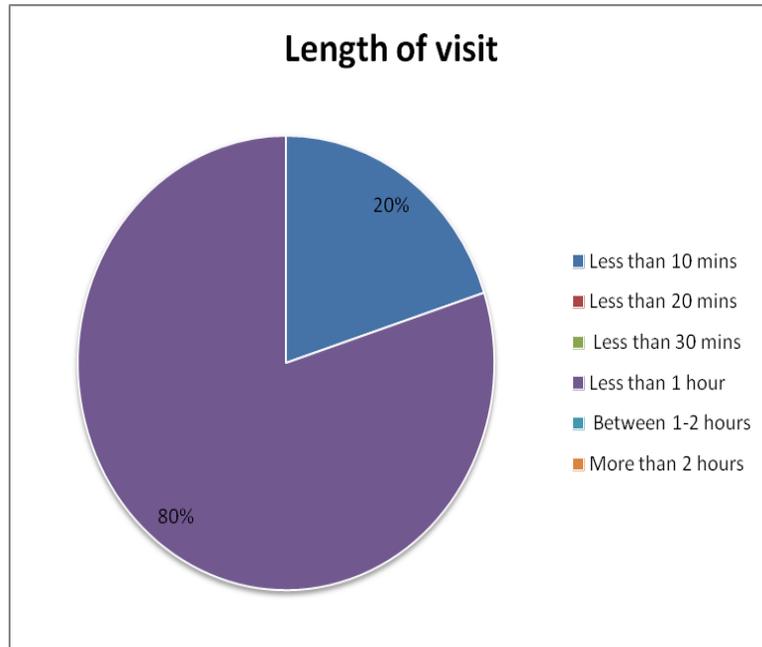


How would you like to get information on parks?



What are your main reasons for visiting this park?





Seven Acre Park User Survey Information for 2016/17 will be provided to the judges on the judging day.

Appendix Six - Biodiversity Assessment

Site: Seven Acre Park



Existing habitats

Seven Acre Park is clearly a young park nevertheless there are several existing features of value to biodiversity:

Trees - The woodland strip is an area of mixed woodland with some understory of shrubs and ground cover. The species mix is of Silver Birch, Sessile Oak, Ash, Bird Cherry, Sycamore, Hybrid Larch, Scots Pine, Rowan, Hawthorn, Common Elder and Hazel. A network of informal paths encourages visitors to explore the woodland. Habitat piles and leaving deadwood is encouraging wildlife. Bird boxes have been erected in the woodland. Wildflower bulbs have been planted and provide early nectar and a splash of colour. In addition to the woodland belt, a range of parkland trees have been planted which will eventually provide good habitat for birds etc.

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

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

Herbaceous perennial bed - at the west boundary of the park there are two perennial beds, which will benefit pollinators and other invertebrates.

Developing Seven Acre Park biodiversity value

A number of actions to improve the park for wildlife and biodiversity have already been undertaken such as wildflower planting, a mini-orchard, bird boxes and invertebrate areas. Building upon these with actions such as; increasing plant diversity using natives, allowing scrub to develop, relaxing grass cutting, removing invasive non-native species and avoiding herbicide and pesticide use can all contribute significantly to biodiversity.

Develop Wildflower Areas –Increasing the number and area of these wildflower beds would be very beneficial. A wildflower bank alongside the existing wall where there is shelter and unused ground could be utilised.

Grassland - Reduce the area of closely mown grass (without having too much of a negative impact on the amenity) then convert areas not required for recreation or access into rough grass or wildflower meadow as has been achieved elsewhere in the park. Increase the area where there are wildflower bulbs e.g. snake's head fritillary, spring squill, narcissus.

Trees

(Woodland Strip) – Biodiversity enhancements in this area could be to remove large sycamores that may cause future excessive shading. Leaving standing deadwood and creating further habitat piles would enhance the micro-habitats available in this area. Creating some open glade areas to allow light to reach the woodland floor as the stand matures would benefit invertebrates such as butterflies and hoverflies.

Underplanting of the woodland floor with native wildflowers such as woodruff (*Galium odoratum*), lungwort (*Pulmonaria officinalis*), ramsoms (*Allium ursinum*), wood sorrel (*Oxalis acetosella*) and sweet violet (*Viola odorata*) would benefit invertebrates.

Leaving areas of understory, particularly of brambles, hawthorn, elder, dog rose are good nesting areas for birds such as wren, dunnock, robin, blackbird and song thrush. These areas provide protection as well as nectar for pollinators. The former hedge boundary has a good number of fruiting trees and shrubs that are of benefit to thrushes and woodland bird species, particularly in autumn and winter.

Consideration of some hazel coppicing and starting to manage the hedge line could be beneficial in the longer term if resources become available. Areas of nettles may be left for the benefit of red admiral, peacock and small tortoiseshell butterflies. Invasive non-native species (INNS) such as yellow archangel (*Lamium galeobdolon*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos alba*) as well as garden escapes should be controlled as they frequently out-compete native flora.

(Specimen Trees) - Designed to be standalone parkland trees and are primarily features within the park. They will have some biodiversity value for birds and invertebrates. It may be possible to leave grass uncut underneath single trees or plant some bulbs or wildflowers. Leave deadwood in place unless it poses a safety risk. For the mini-orchard, manage as a park copse and let some ground vegetation grow under and around the trees. Potential to plant some low-growing flowering species such as thyme, red clover or bird's-foot trefoil for pollinators outwith the tree flowering season.

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

Boundary Treatment – There is an area of dense ivy draping the wall at the west end of the play park. This is good habitat for nesting birds and ground cover for small mammals as well as a nectar source for invertebrates. If there is no damage to the wall, this could be retained. There is a sheltered area of wild roses to the rear of the gardens. This is excellent habitat for nesting birds, cover for small mammals and a food source for pollinators. Gaps could be filled with holly and/or hawthorn. Encroaching Rosebay Willowherb (*Chamerion angustifolium*) could be controlled to prevent further spread and seeding.

Orchard – Local residents have expressed an interest in maintaining an orchard in this park. Traditional orchards are managed without fertilisers and pesticides are very valuable to biodiversity. Funding for this has recently been obtained and 10 mixed fruit trees are now in situ.

Bird/Bat boxes – Bird boxes have already been installed in various trees in the woodland area.

Bugs and Insects – Various ‘bug hotels’ and ‘habitat piles’ have been created in the woodland area to provide for minibeasts.

Bug Hotel guest list:

Month	Invertebrate
July/August	Garden snail (<i>Cornu aspersum</i>) Banded snail (<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>) Spiders (<i>Araneae</i>) Woodlice (<i>Oniscus asellus</i>)
September/October	Spiders (<i>Araneae</i>) Harvestmen (<i>Opiliones</i>) Red Spider Mites (<i>Tetranychus urticae</i>) Woodlice (<i>Oniscus asellus</i>) Banded snails (<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>)
Winter 2015/2016	Spiders (<i>Araneae</i>) Harvestmen (<i>Opiliones</i>) Red Spider Mites (<i>Tetranychus urticae</i>) Woodlice (<i>Oniscus asellus</i>) Banded snails (<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>)
Spring 2016 (prior to judging)	

Recommendations from biodiversity assessment



SEVEN ACRE PARK

We hope you are enjoying your visit to Seven Acre Park and the wildflower meadow created in Summer 2012 in partnership with Friends of Seven Acre Park & The City of Edinburgh Council

Wildflowers provide a healthy habitat for insects, birds and mammals and help bring us closer to nature. At one time they were part of everyday life. They were used for food, medicine and more. Ten common wildflowers you can see in the early summer are shown here. Can you find them in the meadow?

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YOUR COUNCIL - YOUR ENVIRONMENT
www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parks
friendsof7acrepark@yahoo.co.uk

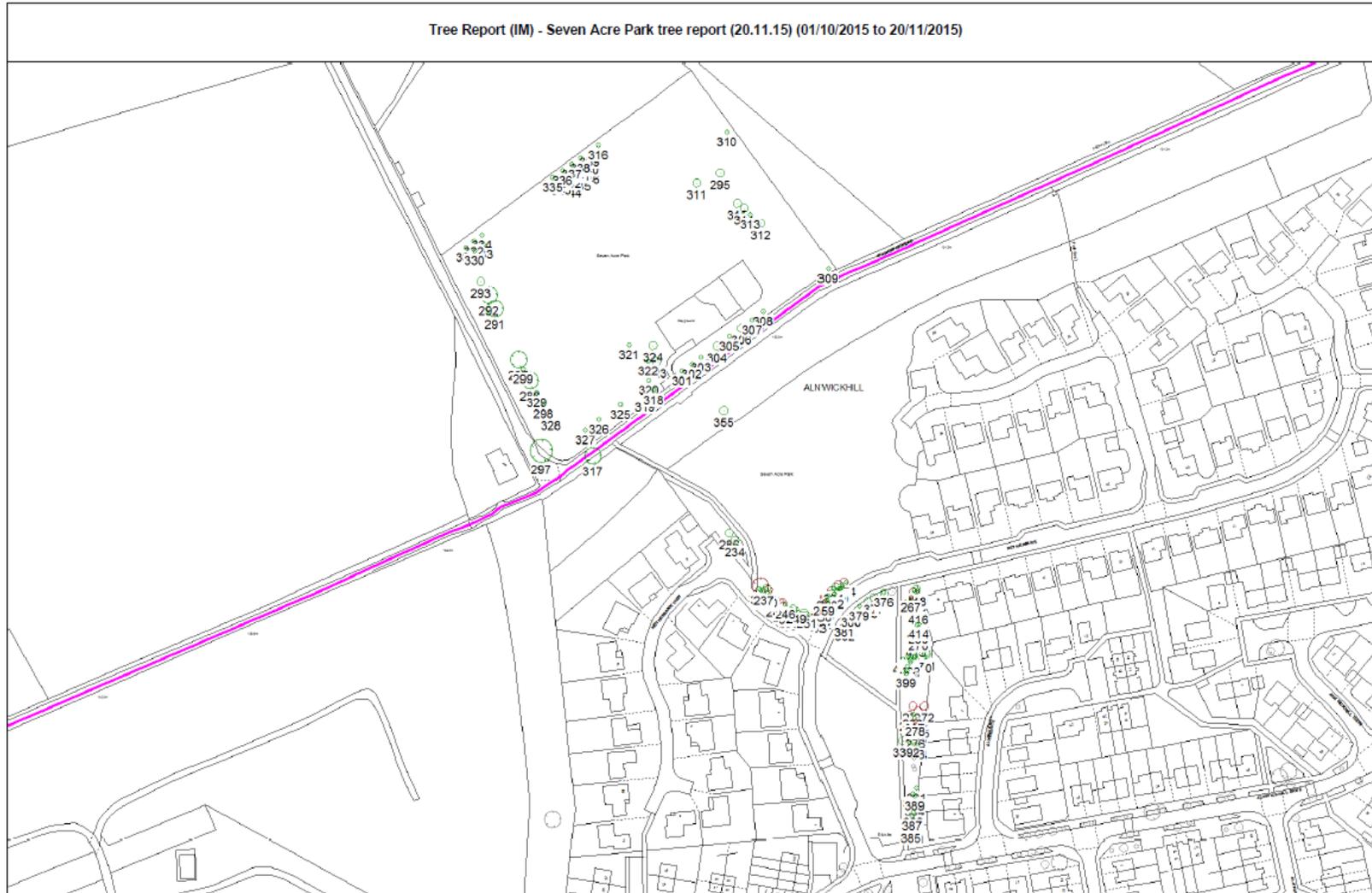
<p>Poppy</p>  <p>Common poppy seeds can be used as a spice and it has been used as a mild pain reliever</p>	<p>Birds-foot Trefoil</p>  <p>Birds-foot trefoil was used in medicine to help calm and restore health</p>	<p>Cowslip</p>  <p>Cowslip was used to treat cramps, spasms and rheumatic pains</p>	<p>Ox-eye Daisy</p>  <p>Ox-eye daisy had many uses, from breathing and lung complaints to skin complaints</p>	<p>Primrose</p>  <p>Primrose treated cramps and rheumatic pains and is said to be anti-inflammatory</p>
<p>Red Campion</p>  <p>Red campion roots were once used as a soap substitute</p>	<p>St John's Wort</p>  <p>St John's wort is still used in preparations to treat depression</p>	<p>Teasel</p>  <p>Teasel was once used to treat skin conditions and internal ailments</p>	<p>Wild Strawberry</p>  <p>Wild strawberry has tiny fruits packed with flavour and the leaves can be used to make tea</p>	<p>Tufted Forget-me-not</p>  <p>The dried plant can be turned into a powder to use as a poultice on wounds</p>

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

Wildflower Identification Panel

Appendix Seven – Tree Survey

A tree survey was carried out by the forestry department which, due to length is not included in the management plan, but will be available on the judging day. The survey does not include trees within the woodland strip (adjacent to Stanedykehead) due to the volume of trees.



Trees included within the tree survey

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Appendix Eight – Play Area Information

The play area at Seven Acre Park was built in 1999; providing play for toddlers, juniors and teenagers. In 2012 the play area was improved with the addition of a swing unit with flat seats. In 2014 an Outdoor Gym was added, providing for teenagers and adults.

Seven Acre is shown with a Score 58 for play value as such is “good” provision under Play Space Access Standard.

Toddler Provision - Cradle swing, springer, small roundabout, wood n play multiplay unit.
Surface tarmacadam and rubber safer surface to BSEN 1176.

Junior provision - Flat swings, roundabout and wood n play multiplay unit.
Surface tarmacadam and rubber safer surface / grass mats to BSEN 1176.

Teenage provision - Goal with basketball, seating tower and overhead rotator.
Surface woodchip to BSEN 1176

In the short term like all city play areas Seven Acre is subject to our Fit for Play regime, which provides for daily cleansing, inspection, monthly engineering recorded inspections and an annual independent inspection and risk assessment all in accordance with EN 1176 parts 1-11

A copy of the Play Area Action Plan 2011-2016 will be available to judges on the day of assessment.

Appendix Nine – QR Code Information

Seven Acre Park

QR Code

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



South Neighbourhood Office

40 Captain's Road
Edinburgh
EH17 8HQ

Email: southteam@edinburgh.gov.uk

Tel: 0131 529 5151

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

Appendix Ten – South Neighbourhood P & G Improvement Plan

SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2015

In March 2015 the environment team within the South Neighbourhood held a seminar of all Council connected staff to determine areas for improvement, taking into consideration the information gathered from the Parks Quality Assessments and also some Landscape Quality Standard information.

In conjunction with this Green Flag Award Management Plans where discussed in general.

From the discussions held the following actions were highlighted.

Key

- MS Mike Shields, South Parks Development Manager
- DD David Doig, South Environment Service Manager
- RF Rab Farquhar, South Task Force Manager
- AD Alan Dunlop, South Area Roads Manger
- NH Natural Heritage Team
- TL Service Team Leaders
- GT Gareth Thomas, Environment Service Development Officer
- PR Park Rangers
- SGM Specialist Grounds Maintenance

Park	Actions	Owner	Completion Target Date
All Parks	Items in respect of Park furniture, panels, trees, plants etc	MS	Ongoing and on target by end of March 2016
Bauks View	Widen gate for cutting machine	MS/RF	Completed end of July 2015
Braidburn Valley Park	Various areas of patching on footways	AD	Completed end of September 2015

Seven Acre Park Management Plan 2015 - 2020

Burdiehouse Burn Valley Park	Targeted maintenance of some entrance areas to reduce vegetation SC&GM	RF/TL's	By end of summer season
	Install directional signage and notice boards	NH team	By end of September 2015
Deaconess	Involve local group, possibly EUSA	DD/GT	By end of September 2015
	Dog fouling issue	Env. Wardens	By end of July 2015
Drum Park	Install dropped kerb	AD	Completed end of November 2015
Seven Acre Park	Review litter collection schedules	MS/DD/AD/PR's	Review Nov 2016
Fernieside Recreation Ground	Consider requirement for path to connect between the two gates	MS/DD	May be aspirational but feasibility and costs analysis to be carried out by end December 2015
	Additional maintenance around fence lines	RF/TL	
Gracemount Community Park	Remove fence line from woodland area	MS/PR	Completed end of July 2015
Hermitage of Braid	Seats need varnished Interpretation panels need relocated Cutting back of vegetation,	NH team	Completed end of September 2015
Inch Park	Remove dead trees	Forestry Team	Some trees have been removed but further works required by end of September 2015
	Remove Capital Skills sign at entrance		By end of March 2015
Liberton Park	Dog fouling issues	Env. Wardens	By end of July 2015
Morgan Playing Field	Address invasive species	SGM	Spraying improved around boundary

Seven Acre Park Management Plan 2015 - 2020

			completed end of July 2015
Mortonhall Community Park	Expand Bio-diversity	PD	By end of July 2015
Nicolson square	Improve Grounds Maintenance	MS/DD/RF/GF	All new planting has now been completed and standards improved completed end of May 2015
Prestonfield War Memorial	Install dropped kerb	AD	By end of March 2016
St Katharines Park	Footway at Crescent requires attention	AD	By end of September 2015
St Patrick Square	Dog Fouling Issues Full upgrade and redevelopment of the park	Env Wardens AD/MS/Contractor	By end of July 2016 Park upgrade completed March 2015

In addition to this we agreed the following ambitions of introducing a green flag award in the parks tabled adding to the already successful sites at;

Braidburn Valley Park
Hermitage of Braid
Prestonfield Park

Burdiehouse Valley Park
Morningside Park
Ferniehill Community Park

2016/17	Seven Acre Park	On schedule
2017/18	Inch Park	On schedule
2019/20	St Katharines Park	On schedule
2020/21		

Other sites were considered however it was generally felt that they would currently have difficulties in achieving the award in the short term and require more improvement before consideration for submission. These were Braid Hill, Deaconess and Nicolson Square.

The group felt although ambitious, the sites selected had received considerable investment over the last number of years and had greater opportunity in gaining an award with ongoing management plan work being undertaken.

Next Review January 2017

Appendix Eleven – Keep Scotland Beautiful Award

