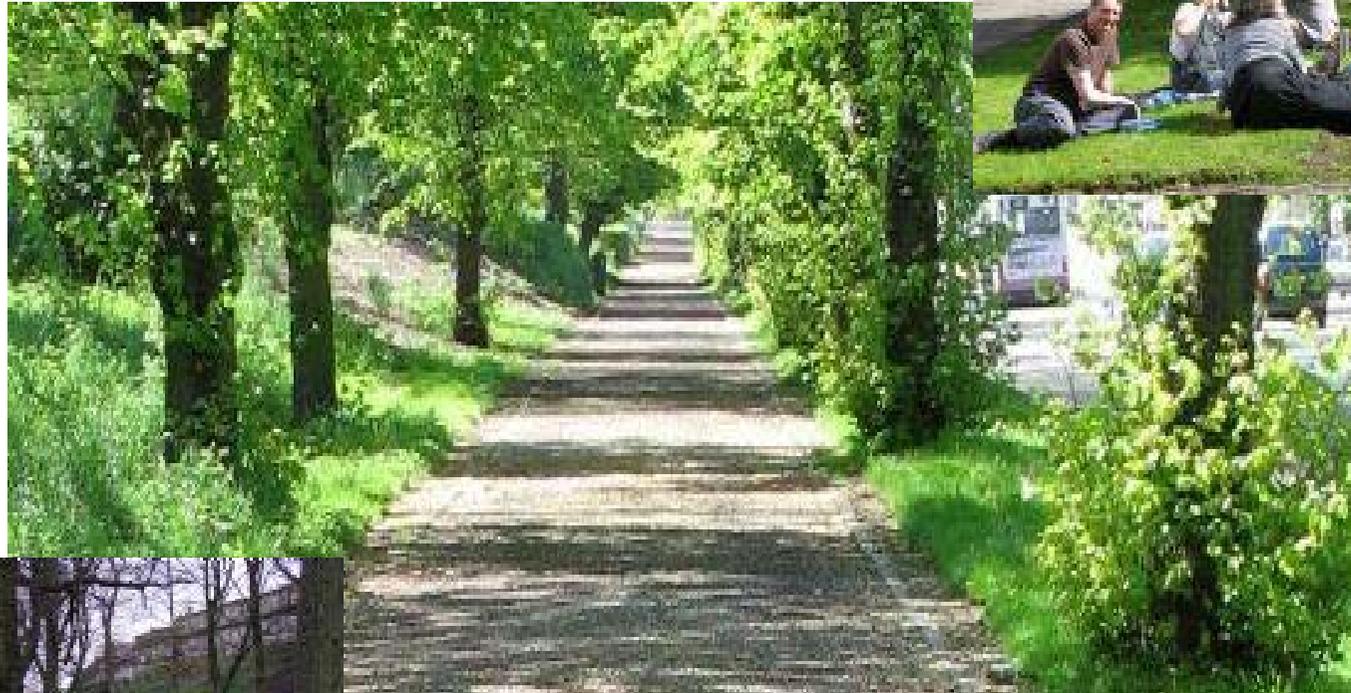


# London Road Gardens Management Plan 2017 - 2022



## Contents

Overview Map of London Road Gardens	4
Summary Information	5
Location Map of the park	7
Overview Photograph of London Road Gardens	8
<b>1 Introduction.....</b>	<b>9</b>
1.0 Location	9
1.1 Management Plan Framework	10
1.2 Edinburgh Parks & Gardens Framework	11
1.3 Green Flag Award Scheme	12
<b>2 Vision and Aims.....</b>	<b>13</b>
2.0 Introduction	13
2.1 Vision	13
2.2 Aims	13
<b>3 Survey, Historic Features and Park Governance.....</b>	<b>17</b>
3.0 Introduction	17
3.1 Historic Features of the Park	17
3.2 Strategic Significance of the Park	19
3.3 Management Rules	20
3.4 Park Classification	20
3.6 Community Involvement	20
3.7 Surveys and Assessments Undertaken	20
<b>4 Analysis.....</b>	<b>22</b>
4.0 Introduction	22
4.1 A Welcoming Place	22
4.2 Healthy, Safe & Secure	23
4.3 Clean & Well Maintained	24
4.4 Sustainability	25
4.5 Conservation & Heritage	26
4.6 Community Involvement	29
4.7 Marketing	30
4.8 Management	31
<b>5 Development Action Plan.....</b>	<b>32</b>

London Road Gardens Management Plan 2017 - 22

<b>6 Finance .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>7 Monitoring and Reviewing .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>8 Appendices.....</b>	<b>40</b>
Appendix One – Policies	40
Appendix Two – Caring for Parks Guidelines	43
Appendix Three – Park Quality Assessment 2016	46
Appendix Four – Tree Survey	49
Appendix Five – QR Code Information	50

**Overview Map of London Road Gardens**



## Summary Information

Park Name: London Road Gardens

Address: London Road, Edinburgh, EH8 5AH

National Grid reference: NG 2674 SE

Size of Site: 4.39 ha / 10.8 acres

Telephone Number: 0131 529 5126  
Email: southparks@edinburgh.gov.uk

Ownership: The City of Edinburgh Council – The Common Good Account/George Heriot Trust

Area Designation South East Locality

- World Heritage Site, approved by UNESCO in 1995: London Road Gardens are within the World Heritage Site boundary, however Hillside Crescent Gardens are outwith the boundary but within the EWH Funding Programme boundary.
- Outstanding Conservation Area: the two Gardens lie within the New Town Outstanding Conservation Area.
- Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes: both gardens are included within the boundary of the New Town Gardens in the Supplementary Volume 1, Lothian's to the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes
- Listed Buildings: Royal Terrace Gardens House is a Category B listed building.

Classification: City Park

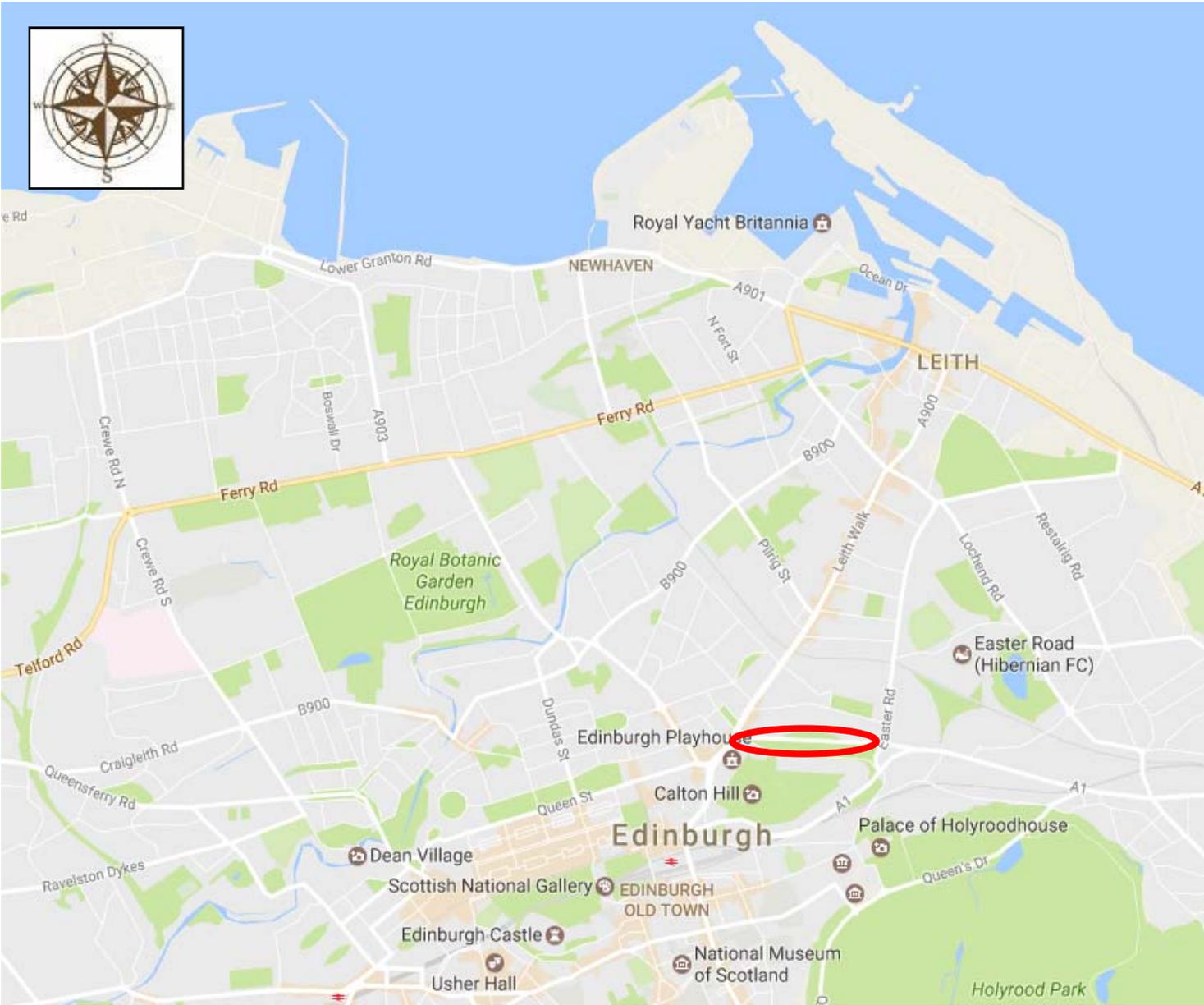
Park Written by: South East Locality Environment Team  
South.EnvironmentTeam@edinburgh.gov.uk  
Tel: 0131 529 5151  
(Exerts from P.McGowan Conservation Statement for London Road Gardens and Hillside Crescent)

## London Road Gardens Management Plan 2017 - 22

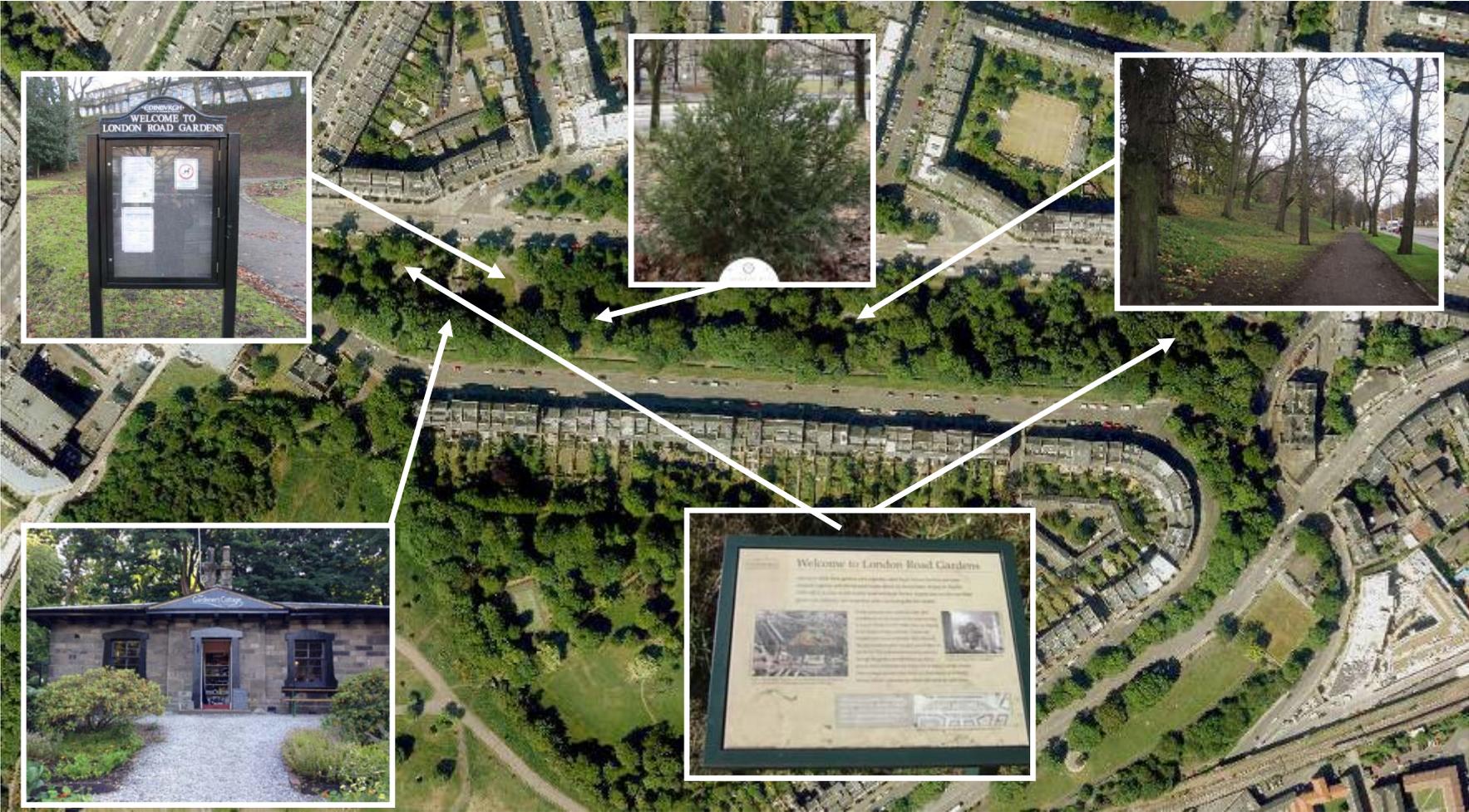
Previous Plan: 2015

Partners:  
George Heriot Trust  
Edinburgh World Heritage  
Regent Road Residents Association  
Friends of Hillside and Calton Area

Location Map of the park



Overview Photograph of London Road Gardens



## 1 Introduction

### 1.0 Location

London Road Gardens runs from Easter Road to the junction with Blenheim Place at the west end of Royal Terrace near Leith Walk. London Road itself – shown on historic maps at 100 feet wide – and the parallel Royal Terrace define its long linear form of 695 metres and its regular width over most its length of 72 metres. Its dominant features are its steep north-facing slopes facing the road and cover of mature trees.

The landform is complex and varied, with clear signs of quarrying use in the early 19th century and the adaptation and modification of the landform organised by Playfair, leaving only one small rock outcrop.

The tree cover is almost continuous and is fairly uniform in composition, comprising ash, beech, elm, lime, oak and sycamore of fairly even age that appears to conform with the original planting in 1829-30. Some of the largest trees have already been lost, several due to Dutch elm disease, and overall it is a mature or aging tree population. Some restocking with standard trees has taken place, but not consistently through the whole Gardens. The fairly uniform cover means that there is no understory or little natural regeneration and few open sunny areas attractive for public use.

The few planted features that stand out are the lime avenue along the roadside path, shrubbery around the garden and on the east side of Royal Terrace Gardens House, a hedge at the back of the verge beside Royal Terrace and modern beds at the west extremity. The 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show that shrubbery was part of the original planting but little survives.



## London Road Gardens Management Plan 2017 - 22

Three paths run the length of the Gardens – one straight route set back from the roadside footway, a winding mid-slope path following the intricacies of the varied landform, and an upper path set back from Royal Terrace behind the hedge. A number of cross slope paths link between the levels although not providing direct links between London Road and Royal Terrace.

Path surfaces are mostly unbound, reflecting the original dry-bound, loose gravel or ashes surfaces, although some local replacement with bitmac has occurred on cross-slope paths and steps. Near the two extremities – Leith Walk and Easter Road – the presence of bus stops, public conveniences, and the consequent greater levels of use, has resulted in additional paved areas and materials including handrails and other barriers. Historically significant built features are limited to Royal Terrace House (London Road Gardens Cottage), a single storey B-listed classical cottage built in 1837. It became the house of the Gardens’ tenant and is now rented by the Council. The ground cope around most of the site boundary is all that remains of the original enclosing railings. The east end comprises a high retaining wall indicative of how Easter Road was cut through the east end of Calton Hill.

The public conveniences at the Easter Road – London Road corner is a typically severe building positioned for maximum impact in spoiling the view of the Gardens from this busy junction. Set up the slope, it is accessed by steps resulting also in accessibility limitations. Insensitively placed junction boxes and litter bins, poor quality railings, remains of older railings, and inappropriate planting (large, vigorous shrubs) further detract from the highly visible corner of the Gardens. Visually the most significant views are those from and along the London Road and the effect of the wooded slopes in forming a parkway character to this principal transport corridor.

The tower of Greenside Church forms a dramatic terminating feature at the west end of Royal Terrace and to a lesser extent from the upper path of the Gardens. Within the Gardens views are controlled by the landform of trees, creating short attractive views from all the main paths. The continuous tree canopy restricts long views from the upper path.

### **1.1 Management Plan Framework**

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

The management plan covers the period 2017 to 2022 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, it was decided that London Road Gardens would apply for Green Flag status in 2010.

## 2 Vision and Aims

### 2.0 Introduction

This section sets out a vision for London Road Gardens 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 London Road Gardens, our vision is:

***“To look after London Road Gardens for the benefit of citizens and visitors alike, both now and for the future. This will ensure that London Road Gardens 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

## London Road Gardens Management Plan 2017 - 22

- 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 London Road Gardens.

London Road Gardens Management Plan 2017 - 22

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

## London Road Gardens Management Plan 2017 - 22

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 gardens lie within the New Town of Edinburgh, built during its third phase, where communal or public gardens form an essential component of the plan, and are typical of these gardens in many respects. The New Town is recognised as one of the two areas of central Edinburgh on which its World Heritage status is based. The gardens can therefore be considered to contribute to this significance and have world heritage value.

The main way in which London Road Gardens and Hillside Crescent Gardens impact on the life of the people of Edinburgh today is as open space which forms the setting of London Road, one of the principal arteries to the city centre. Their success in this respect was planned and the result of the master plan for Calton Hill that produced to affect the north-eastward expansion of the city beyond Leith Walk and Waterloo Place in the early 19th century.

London Road Gardens (originally known as Royal Terrace Gardens) and Hillside Crescent Gardens are inextricably linked to Calton Hill and the development in the hill locality, mainly during the 19th century.

The development of this area came in the third phase of Edinburgh's new town following the initial rectilinear layout following James Craig's competition winning plan in 1767, situated between Princes Street and Queen Street, and the second new town based on the Moray estate land to the north where a greater variety of geometric forms was applied to the layout. In 1812 an inconclusive design competition was held for a "Building Plan or Design for Laying out in Streets, Squares, etc for Buildings" on the undeveloped lands of Calton Hill and land to the north.

The main useful outcome was a report by William Stark. William Playfair's first design of April 1819 for "a New Town between Edinburgh and Leith" shows public buildings beside the Great London Road opposite Hill Side Road (later Hillside Crescent).



*Extract from Robert Lancefield's map,  
1851, showing Calton Hill, Royal Terrace  
Gardens and Hillside Crescent Gardens*

By December 1819 an engraved plan shows the garden spaces drawn in detail, broadly as they were laid out, with no public buildings. In his plan for the development of the area, Playfair deliberately kept the space free from buildings so as to preserve the view from Royal Terrace above and to enhance the main thoroughfare. Playfair also became responsible for the design of the terraces of houses and the communal gardens.

The two London Road gardens had a fraught history which included quarrying to offset the cost of laying out the gardens and reclamation of the former quarries to create the Royal Terrace Gardens landform. The two gardens remained the property of Herriot's Hospital and the Allan family, and the larger garden was let to a succession of tenants who were permitted to use part of the space for nurseries and were responsible for upkeep of the public grounds.

A cottage, Royal Terrace Gardens House, was built speculatively in 1837 to the design of Alexander Black and became the home of successive tenants. Railings were not added until 1860 along the upper boundary and it was 1891 before matching railings were added alongside London Road at the Council's request. Shortly afterwards the gardens were leased to the City Council and have continued to be public gardens ever since.

Hillside Crescent Gardens fared better initially with a parapet and railings being erected at the start in 1822 but the area was not levelled and planted until fourteen years later. Playfair's produced plans for the garden but they were never fully implemented and lack of either funds or a local body of residents to take responsibility for the gardens lead to a long history of recurring periods of neglect. Finally in 1952 the Council compulsorily acquired the Gardens.

### 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 polices are given below. A brief précis of each is provided in the appendix, (**Appendix 1**). Copies of these are available on request. Many can also be accessed via the Council website ([www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://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
- Sustainable Edinburgh 2020
- Climate Change Framework
- Energy Policy

#### Park and Environmental Policies

- Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy 2006
- Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2010
- Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2016 - 18
- Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto (consultation)

#### Local Drivers

- Local Community Plan 2014-17
- Neighbourhood Partnership meetings
- Friends of Parks Groups

### **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 2**).

### **3.4 Park Classification**

London Road Gardens is classified within the Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy as a "City Park".

City Parks are defined as providing facilities that are used by people who may live anywhere in the city. These are likely to be larger in size and the facilities provided will be more specialised, with many including sports pitches and other formal facilities. However, these parks may also function as the Community Park for some people by virtue of their location and the absence of other smaller areas. Access will be by car, bus, bicycle or on foot. (City of Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy Page March 2006 p66).

### **3.6 Community Involvement**

The Friends of the Hillside and Calton Area was set up in May 2007. Its main purpose is to co-operate with the Council who hold the land in trust for the people, and with the Parks Department in particular, and to promote good stewardship of all the green spaces from Calton Hill to Montgomery Street Park.

### **3.7 Surveys and Assessments Undertaken**

#### Asset Management GIS Survey

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

It is in 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 4)**.

#### Parks and Greenspace User Survey CEC Visitor/User Survey

London Road Gardens User Survey Information for 2015/6 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.

#### Core Paths

The City of Edinburgh Council's Core Path Plan identifies a system of key routes for non-motorised access throughout the area of its authority. Core Paths are predominately designated on existing paths, cycle tracks, footways and any other routes that provide a network linking communities and places people want to go.

These include local facilities, tourist attractions, parks and greenspace and places of work. Core paths should accommodate a variety of uses, walking, cycling, horse riding and disabled access where possible.

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

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

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

## 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 London Road Gardens 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



Ideally situated in central Edinburgh, London Road Gardens is located approximately 600m from Edinburgh City Centre, and is easily accessible by foot, public transport and car.

The site is over 4 hectares in size and offers a mix of woodland on a main arterial route into the City Centre. The Garden is open from London Road with a number of paths linking east to west and north to south. The gardens lie on the main bus route from east and north east Edinburgh and car parking is available on London Road.

Signage is sited at each end which is checked for graffiti by the Park Ranger who visits the site daily. A notice board is sited at the east end of the Gardens which is regularly updated with management and local community details.

In the spring, London Road Gardens are renowned for daffodils and crocuses that bring fantastic colour to one of the busiest routes to Edinburgh's City Centre

## 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

London Road Gardens are visited daily by a Park Ranger who is tasked with resolving and reporting potential problems and issues identified on site, including any concerns raised by general public. The Park Ranger is easily identifiable in a uniform and hi visibility over jacket. Any problems that cannot be resolved by the Ranger are reported to site management and appropriate action is identified.

The Park Ranger and Environmental Wardens regularly patrol the site and are often seen interacting with dog walkers on the responsibility to ensure that dog mess is cleaned up. Bins are provided at various points throughout the site with notices on display in the notice boards.



### 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

London Road Gardens are visited on a daily basis by a Park Ranger who undertakes minor litter clearance and advises other Council colleagues of any major litter clearance requirements and any bins that require emptying.

Street Cleaning staff are scheduled to visit the site on a daily basis to service the bins and a weekly visit to undertake litter collection in the winter, in the summer period (May to September) daily attention is given to the site. The site Park Ranger along with other Park Rangers and members of the local community engage on a frequent basis to tackle areas that are difficult to reach. Graffiti is regularly removed by the Park Rangers, however if the graffiti is extensive this is removed by the city wide specialist services team.

Infrastructure is visually checked on site visits by the Park Ranger who reports issues to site management for action.

Grounds maintenance is provided by a local contractor according to our Grounds maintenance contract for London Road Gardens – this supports the work of our own in house Ground Maintenance Staff. London Road Gardens have a maintenance programme, which establish standards of cleanliness, infrastructure and ground maintenance. Information gathered from the public and Parks Quality Assessment surveys indicate that the standard of maintenance is considered to be of a good standard.

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

The Public Convenience onsite has now closed.

Accidents are reported to the Health and Safety Officer and recorded centrally.

## 4.4 Sustainability

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

### **Peat use**

The only use of peat by the Parks and Greenspace Service is in the production of bedding plants at the Council's Inch Nursery. Since 2004 the nursery has reduced its consumption of peat by 50% and continues to aim 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 have been run since 2007 to assess the best mix to support seedling and plant growth.

### **Pesticides**

The Council continues to develop the minimisation of herbicide use. Bark mulch is used throughout 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.

### **Waste minimisation**

In order to reduce land filled waste, the City of Edinburgh Council is working to develop and extend initiatives to prevent, minimise, reuse and recycle not only the city's but also its own waste. The Council is actively collaborating with other local councils in progressing with the Lothian & Borders Area Waste Plan.

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.

Green waste (e.g. grass clippings, weeds, seasonal bedding) is taken to Braehead Recycling Centre where it is composted

by Forth Resource Management. Tree limbs are chipped and used as mulch on site. Larger limbs and trunks are sold. Compost generated from this process is used by the Parks and Greenspace Service as a soil conditioner in seasonal bedding. The 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 plants within the park.

Street litter is taken to Levenseat Ltd, where approximately 30% is recycled. This all adds to the city target of having 60% of all waste recycled across Edinburgh by 2020.

### **Environmental sustainability**

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

Council vehicles are diesel. Machinery used in park use unleaded fuel and any products for fabric maintenance are CFC free.

## **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



### **Biodiversity**

London Road Gardens are of a huge benefit to the conservation of flora and fauna, and a number of nesting habitats are being created and installed throughout. During 2017 – 2022 we plan to update bird surveys and conduct a baseline survey of all the flora and fauna in the Park.

### **Arboriculture and woodland management**

All park trees have been surveyed and their species, age, size and condition are now recorded on the Parks and Greenspace “Ezytreeve” GIS-database. Only recently planted stock are not yet included on the database. This enables a proactive approach to managing the trees and prioritising required works on defective specimens. Elms are surveyed annually for signs of Dutch Elm disease and felled if appropriate.

### **Landscape features**

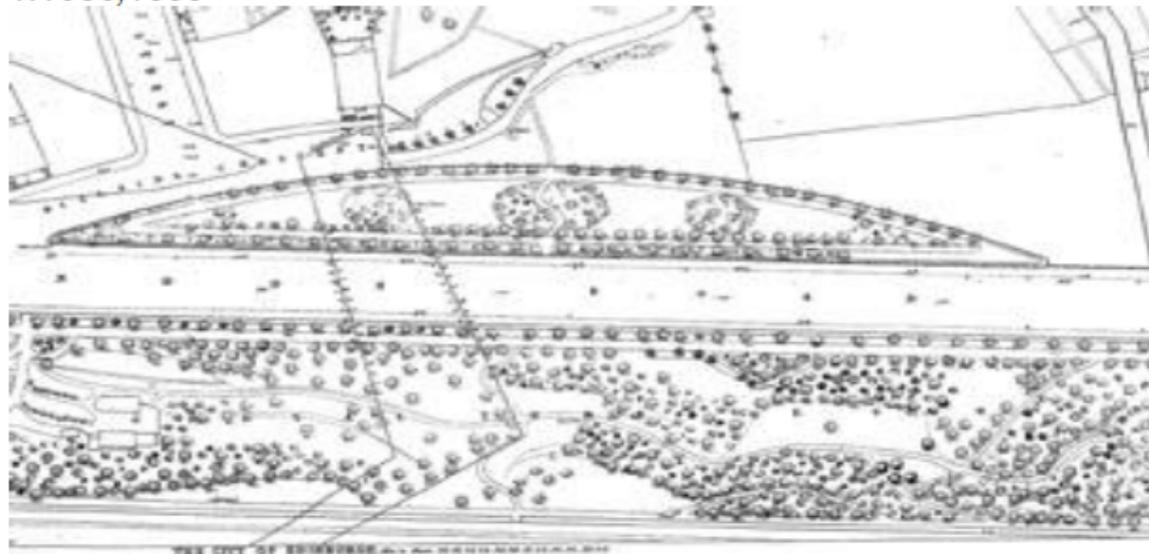
The landform is complex and varied, with clear signs of quarrying use in the early 19th century and the adaptation of the modification of the landform organised by Playfair, leaving only one small rock outcrop.

The tree cover is almost continuous apart from the far west end, although not quite describable as woodland, and is fairly uniform in composition, comprising ash, beech, elm, lime, oak and sycamore of fairly even age that appears to conform with the original planting in 1829-30. Some of the largest trees have already been lost, several due to Dutch elm disease, and overall it is a mature or aging tree population.

The fairly uniform cover means that there is little under storey or little natural regeneration and few open sunny areas attractive for public use. The few planted features that stand out are the lime avenue along the roadside path, shrubbery around the garden and on the east side of Royal Terrace Gardens House, a hedge at the back of the verge beside Royal Terrace and modern shrub planting.

The 19th century Ordnance Survey map (right) shows that the shrubbery was part of the original planting but little survives.

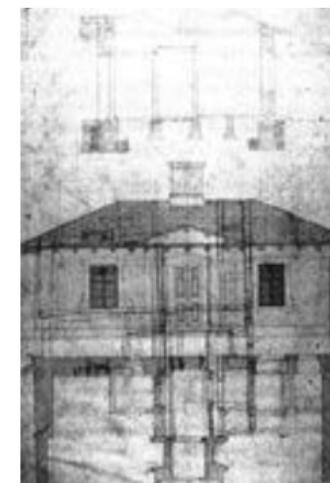
*Extract from Ordnance Survey 1st edition  
1:1056, 1853*



### **Buildings**

Historically significant built features are limited to Royal Terrace House (aka Royal Terrace Gardens House and London Road Gardens House), a single storey B-listed classical cottage built in 1837. It became the house of the "Gardens" tenant and is now rented by the Council. This has now been leased with a change of use and now operates as a small restaurant.

*Design for the cottage called Royal Terrace Gardens House, by Alexander Black, 1836 (George Heriot's Trust; RCAHMS)*



## 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

### Friends of Hillside and Calton Area

London Road Garden has a Friends group that is actively involved in caring for the site. The group have been involved in the process of the management of the site through a number of community meetings.

Their aim is to enjoy, maintain and enhance all the green spaces from Calton Hill to Montgomery Street Park by bringing local people together and working with other groups and organisations.

The varied parks and gardens of Hillside and Calton area provide much-loved breathing spaces in our city centre neighbourhood. By getting active we will take care of our parks and gardens, improve our environment and build a healthier community.



A considerable regeneration of the trees was undertaken in 2007 which brought the community together to form a group who actively wanted to be involved in the management of London Road Gardens and their surrounds.

The website (<http://www.spanglefish.com/FriendsofHillsideCaltonArea/index.asp>) keeps members of the Friends Group informed along with the on site notice board and an electronic notice board which keeps the community in touch with any management issues.

The Friends have actively pursued the use of the London Road Cottage for a change of use, to be used as a community cafe – which is now a small restaurant. The Friends have regular meetings and monthly management workdays in the Park, clearing litter, path clearance and other management tasks. The Friends actively pursue funding opportunities.

## 4.7 Marketing

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

Information relating to London Road Gardens is available via Community Council and City of Edinburgh Council website and available via Smartphone app 'Edinburgh Outdoors'. 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=80>; and free iphone and Android app offers information on all the Council owned parks. Users can find out the location of their nearest play area, information about trees and monuments, what events are taking place and even what wildlife to watch out for every month.

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

**MyParkScotland:** <https://www.mypark.scot/parks/london-road-gardens-edinburgh/>

**Friends of Hillside and Calton Area:** <http://www.spanglefish.com/FriendsofHillsideCaltonArea/index.asp>

Public information is regularly posted in the notice board at the entrance 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

London Road Gardens is managed by Place, which is structured to deliver services for the needs and priorities of local communities in each of the twelve Neighbourhood Partnerships within the four locality areas. The park lies within the South East Locality Area.

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

Operational management of the park is undertaken by the neighbourhood Task Force team. This team consists of a 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 and litter collection throughout the park.

Additional teams from the central council services are also deployed to ensure the park is maintained to a high standard. This includes the removal of large items of graffiti, forestry maintenance, playground maintenance, roads and pathway maintenance, lighting maintenance and sports area maintenance.

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

It is important that the council continue to encourage this volunteer strategy by ensuring that the community have the necessary equipment to carry out the work. For instance, a few years back the council supplied a number of graffiti boxes which was

supported by local training, this work stream requires to be widened and it is intended to encourage further training and supply of equipment.

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 3**).

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.

## 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	CPO	Community Parks Officer
PGM	Parks & Greenspace Management	PR	Park Rangers
ARM	Area Roads Manager	FG	Friends Group
TF	Task Force	FS	Forestry Service
PRO	Professional Roads Officer	CCL	City Centre & Leith Parks Team
SEW	Senior Environmental Warden	WM	Waste Manager

<b>Aim 1: A Welcoming place</b>				
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				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
1.1 To ensure consistent, up-to-date signage throughout	Keep all noticeboards up to date with relevant information	Ongoing	Park Rangers	On-going
	Identify signage and put costed plan together	2017 - 8	Park Rangers	TBA

<b>Aim 2: Healthy, Safe and Secure.</b>				
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				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
2.1 Reduce anti-social behaviour	Work with community safety and police to tackle problems.	Ongoing	CPO	Started
	Work with Environmental Wardens to reduce dog fouling (campaigns, green dog walkers, etc)	Ongoing	CC&L	Started
	Tackle graffiti problem – work with community safety and environmental wardens	Ongoing	CC&L	Started

London Road Gardens Management Plan 2017 - 22

2.2 Well maintained	Carry out checks to ensure Standards are met (e.g. surface regulation, litter, glass)	Ongoing	Park Ranger	Started
2.3 Enhance current facilities of park	Support the new Gardeners Cottage restaurant within Garden	Ongoing	CC&L P&G	
	Use developer contributions (and explore other funding streams)	Ongoing	CC&L P&G	
2.4 Install further seating	Find locations where seats have been removed and seek funding to install new seats	2018	CC&L	

<b>Aim 3: Clean and Well Maintained</b>				
h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
3.1 To ensure a high standard of waste management	Replace damaged and old style bins.	Ongoing	CC&L	TBA
	Increase frequency of bin servicing at peak times	Monitor	TF	Report
	Identify benches/bins for programme of painting/cleaning	2017/8	CC&L	Report
3.2 To improve standard of infrastructure (railings, pathways etc)	Review of assets	Completed 2015	Park Ranger	Started
	Survey all paths and develop a costed plan for upgrading network.	2017/18	CC&L	TBA
	Carry out consultation for future planting e.g. herbaceous perennials (bee friendly) Management	Completed 2016	CPO FG	TBA

## London Road Gardens Management Plan 2017 - 22

	Plan 2015 - 2020			
	Remove tree stumps or create planters to enhance biodiversity	Completed 2016	FS	Dependant on funding

### 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"> <li>▪ All green waste produced on site to be composted on site or used to produce habitat</li> </ul>	Ongoing	CPO PR	£0
4.2 Reduce use of pesticides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Use natural woodchip mulch, using this on flower beds and round trees</li> <li>▪ Reduce weed growth round signs etc.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	PR FSA	£0

### Aim 5: Conservation and Heritage

a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site

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

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
5.1 Promote management for biodiversity	Identify appropriate actions from the 'Biodiversity options for parks and greenspaces – a guide for park managers'	Completed 2015	CPO	TBA
5.2 To maintain and increase tree stock	Assess condition and manage current tree stock	Annual	FS	On-going
	Carryout annual survey for Dutch Elm Disease	Annual	FS	On-going

## London Road Gardens Management Plan 2017 - 22

	Create a programme for replacement and new structural planting of forest and amenity species	2017	FS	Started
5.3 Provide Bird Boxes to encourage greater bird numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Install additional bird boxes</li> </ul>	2017-22	CPO FG PR	£350
5.4 Create 'Bug Hotels' within park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Several within woodland area</li> </ul>	2017-122	CPO PR	£0

### Aim 6: Community Involvement

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

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
6.1 To engage with local community	Promote Parks and Greenspace Survey	Ongoing	Ongoing CC&L	Report
	Identify range of potential community led projects	2017 - 22	2017 – 22 CC&L	TBA
6.2 Improve promotion of park	Review and update web content	2018	2018 LEM	TBA

### Aim 7: Marketing

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

London Road Gardens Management Plan 2017 - 22

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"> <li>Use all relevant information and modern publicity opportunities</li> </ul>	2017-2022	LEM CPO FG	£500
7.2 Create and introduce a QR code specific to the Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of ICT department</li> <li>Linked to the Edinburgh Outdoors site</li> </ul>	2017	CPO PR	£50
7.3 Update content specific to the Park within Edinburgh Outdoors website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add new information and photographs specific to site</li> </ul>	2017-2022	CPO	£50
7.4 Update Friends Group website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Friends Group</li> <li>Maintained by members of the group</li> </ul>	Ongoing	FG	£0
7.5 Update content for MyParkScot website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linked to Edinburgh Outdoors site</li> <li>Friends Group have a registered page</li> </ul>	Ongoing	PR FG	£0

**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 Ensure co-ordinated approach to management	Work with Friends Group to develop a Park Improvement Plan	2017/18	CPO	On -going
	Keep Green Flag status	Monitor	CC&L	Report

## 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.

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

### Capital Funding

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

### Grants

The parks and Greenspace team have a small grants fund that Friends groups can apply for, this is for small items or to assist in developing their group or the sites they have adopted.

## 7 Monitoring and Reviewing

The Parks Quality assessment framework is used to provide annual assessment of each park and will provide a report for London Road Garden 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 conjunction to this the Parks User Survey results and comments assist with the monitoring of the park and are taken into consideration by the advisory group when annual reviews of the management plan are undertaken.

A review of this management plan shall take place in March 2017 in readiness for the next application process for the Green Flag awards.

In September 2016 the outcome for this park was that it scored in the Very Good (65-74%) category for City Parks with a score of 67% (**Appendix 3**). This ranks as 52<sup>nd</sup> best park in the Park List in quality order based in Parks Quality Scores (PQS), scoring higher than 2 other Green Flag sites in Edinburgh. It was ranked as the 21<sup>st</sup> best park in the South East Locality Area.

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.

## 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.

### **Energy Policy**

The Council's current energy policy has targets to reduce energy consumption by 15% and reduce our CO2 emissions by 30% based on 1990 levels. This policy is mainly focussed on buildings. The policy is currently being revised to take account of the other Council areas that impact on energy usage. These are namely procurement, fleet services, street and stair lighting and design services. The Sustainable Development Unit in Corporate Services is the lead on this area of work.

### 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

#### **City Centre Community Plan 2014-17**

The City Centre 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

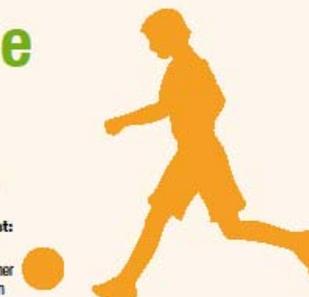
The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

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

## Short Hole Golf Courses

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

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



## Expulsion and Exclusion from Parks

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



These rules, due to come into force in February 2013, are now presented for public inspection. Any objections to the rules should be made in writing before 3 December 2012 to: Duncan Monteith, Parks and Greenspace, The City of Edinburgh Council, C3 Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG. [duncan.monteith@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto: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 – Park Quality Assessment 2016



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



**Green Flag Park Quality Assessment Scores 2016**

*London Road Gardens*

**Classification:** City Park

**PQS: 67% Bandwidth: Very Good**

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

**A Welcoming Place**

**Welcoming**

**Criteria Score**

7

**Strengths**

Feels very welcoming as you leave a busy area into a quiet space, maintenances of entrances generally very good

**Weaknesses**

A notice board at the Easter road entrance would be good

**Good Safe Access**

7

On street parking available, good walking routes across site despite it being in a naturalised setting

some people may struggle to get around site due to hilly nature of some of the site

**Signage**

6

Threshold welcome signage

some directional signage at the middle of site would be good

**Equal Access**

6

good path network, seats mostly appropriately placed

more seating at top half of gardens perhaps

**Healthy, Safe & Secure**

**Safe Equipment & Facilities**

6

good condition path given the setting, good opportunities for informal play

toilet closed down

**Personal Security in Park**

7

park well used by public

some hidden areas, closed toilet gave that end of the park a slight rundown feel

**Dog Fouling**

7

mostly free of dog fouling

one instance of dog fouling, poo bag also not disposed of properly

**Appropriate Provision of Facilities**

7

good walking routes across site, informal play opportunities

toilet closed down

**Quality of Facilities**

7

good quality paths

thought access to Peace tree could be improved

**Clean & Well Maintained**

**Litter & Waste Management**

7	Litter bins look like they are regularly serviced	some instances of litter at site
---	---	----------------------------------

**Grounds Maintenance**

8	Lots of horti interest and gardeners cottage and next to it, lots of naturalised grass that looks managed	
---	---	--

**Building & Infrastructure Maint.**

7	Gardeners cottage looks in very good condition, good condition paths given the setting	toilet closed
---	--	---------------

**Equipment Maintenance**

6	seats and bins were in good order	looks like a seat has been removed
---	-----------------------------------	------------------------------------

**Sustainability**

**Environmental Sustainability**

6	all current Council policies regarding environmental sustainability are being adhered to in the park.	
---	---	--

**Pesticides**

4	Herbicide is used on site but only by certificated staff.	
---	---	--

**Peat Use**

10	Peat use within the park continues to be monitored with the intention of reducing its use in new planting and seasonal bedding.	
----	---	--

**Waste Minimisation**

2	Attempts are made to minimise waste on site but currently green waste is removed off site for disposal.	
---	---	--

**Woodland Management**

8	very good tree management not much branch overhang obstructing paths	
---	--	--

**Conservation & Heritage**

**Conservation Fauna & Flora**

8	Lots of naturalised areas on site, a haven for wildlife	
---	---	--

**Conservation Landscape**

0		
---	--	--

**Conservation Buildings**

7	gardeners cottage looks in very good condition	toilet closed and up for sale
---	--	-------------------------------

**Community Involvement**

**Community Involvement**

7	A group exists and hold some events.	
---	--------------------------------------	--

**Community Provision**

6	The Council provides support in the form of funding etc.	
---	--	--

**Marketing & Promotion**

**Marketing & Promotion**

8	The site is advertised on the Council website and Edinburgh Outdoors. The site also benefits from additional marketing as a Green Flag Award site	
---	---	--

**Information Provision**

6	some info on notice boards	could do with another notice board at Easter Rd end for info
---	----------------------------	--

**Educ. & Interpretative Provision**

7		Some good historical education on site
---	--	--

**Management**

**Management Plan Implementation**

0		
---	--	--

**OverallComments**

A nice garden to visit with a lot of interest around site

**Recommendations:**

Make access to Peace Tree safer

Erect notice board at Easter Rd entrance

Replace Seat that has been removed (think this seat may have been different from our standard street furniture).

## Appendix Four – Tree Survey



All park trees have been surveyed and their species, age, size and condition are now recorded on the Parks and Greenspace “Ezytreeve” GIS-database. Only recently planted stock are not yet included on the database. This enables a proactive approach to managing the trees and prioritising required works on defective specimens. Elms are surveyed annually for signs of Dutch Elm disease and felled if appropriate.

Plants are sourced by the Council’s Inch Nursery staff from reputable suppliers and if possible from local suppliers. The choice of tree depends on location and its purpose.

Green waste is recycled. Limbs and wood are chipped and used as mulch and larger limbs and trunks are stored at Corstorphine for later sale.

## Appendix Five – QR Code Information

### QR Code

Scan this code using your smartphone to find out about your local park or report a concern  
[www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk](http://www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk)



### ***South East Locality Office***

40 Captain's Road  
Edinburgh  
EH17 8HQ

**Email:** [southteam@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:southteam@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 0131 529 5151

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