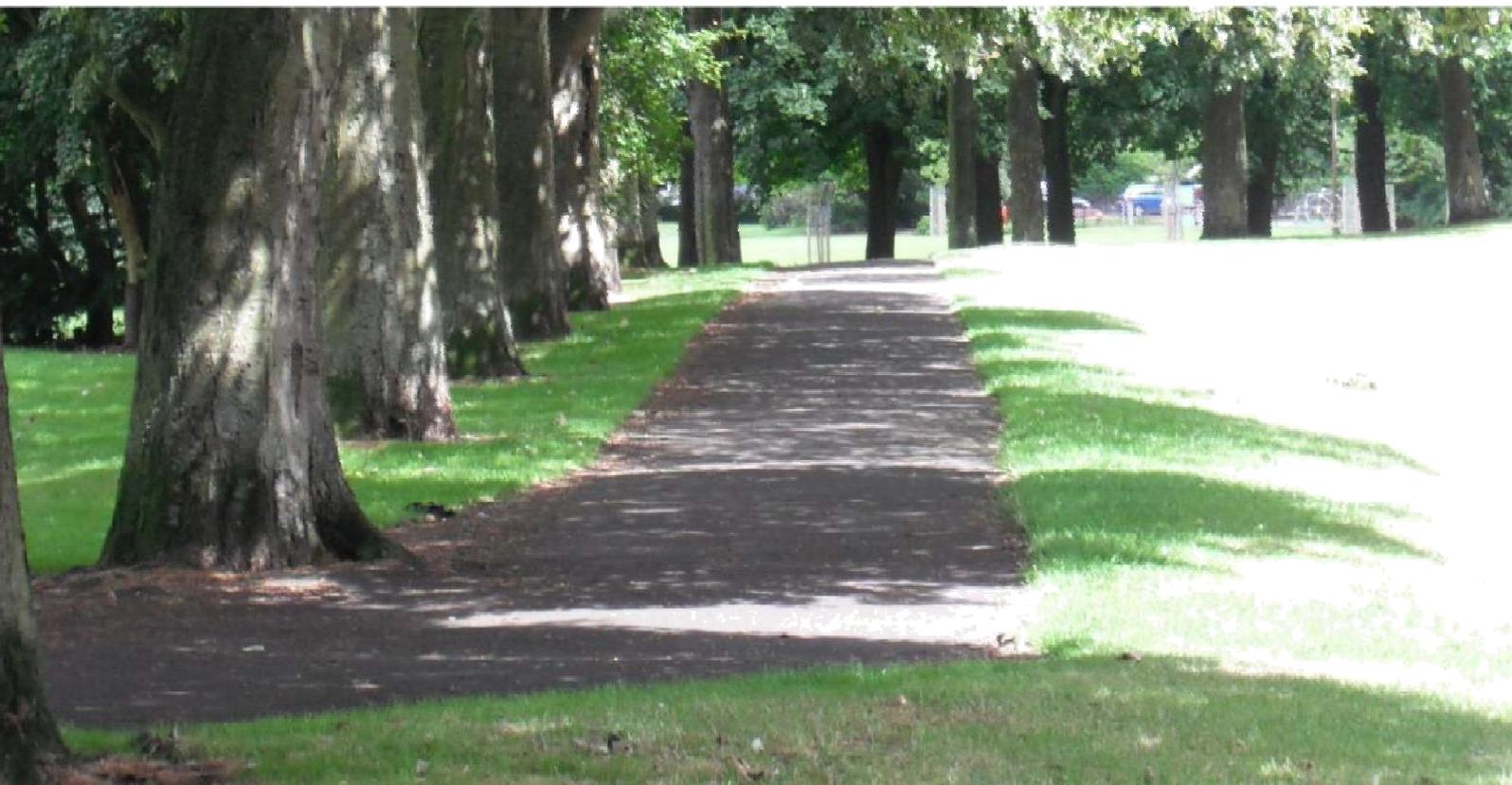




Victoria Park
Management Plan
2017 - 2022

(revision 6)



The vision is...

“working with the community to manage and maintain Victoria Park as a clean, green and safe public park for all”



FORTH

NEIGHBOURHOOD
PARTNERSHIP



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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Management Plan sets out the future management, maintenance and development of Victoria Park. The Management Plan has been produced by the City of Edinburgh Council with support from the Forth Neighbourhood Partnership and its Forth, Clean, Green and Safe Action Group; Trinity Community Council and Victoria Park Sub-Group; Trinity Academy and Primary School, and feedback from a local public consultation. All the feedback has been used to inform the proposals in the Management Plan on how the park will develop in the future and has set out for the first time a long-term vision for the park and details both developmental and operational duties that are required to achieve that vision.
- 1.2 The Management Plan covers the period 2011 to 2015 and has a detailed plan of works for that period.
- 1.3 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, in relation to the reasoning behind the policies and proposals for action.
- 1.4 This plan's target audience are those with an interest in the park, including 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 on a regular basis.
- 1.5 The Management Plan is set out in distinct sections:
 - The first section, "Where are we now?" describes the current situation with Victoria Park, which includes the policy and legal context within which it is managed and provides some basic information about the park.
 - The second section, "Where do we want to be?" develops the vision for Victoria Park and provides an assessment and analysis at the time of writing this Management Plan, and states the aims established for the park.
 - The third section, "How will we get there?" describes the aims and objectives for the garden. These are used to form a development plan, which sets out how the aims and objectives will be achieved. This section also describes the maintenance regime for the park and the proposed management structure to deliver the Management Plan.
 - The fourth and final section, "How will we know when we get there?" explains how the development, maintenance and management of the park will be monitored and reviewed.

2 Where Are We Now?

2.1 Strategic Policy Framework

- 2.1.1 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.
- 2.1.2 These policies set the overall context within which parks are managed and developed, and although it is the green space policies that have primary impact, the other more general policies have either a direct or an indirect effect to varying degrees.
- 2.1.3 A list of these policies are given below. A brief précis of each is provided in the Appendix 1. Many can be accessed via the Council website with links provided in the appendix. Where strategies are renewed or revised during the term of the management plan, updated information will be included in the subsequent management plan.

Corporate Strategies and Policies

- City of Edinburgh Council Strategic Governance Plan 2012 – 2017
- Single Outcome Agreement 2012 - 2015
- Services for Communities Service Plan 2011-2014
- The Community Plan for Edinburgh 2008 - 2011
- Edinburgh Local Plan (2007)
- Capitalising on Access: an Access Strategy for Edinburgh
- Climate Change Framework
- Energy Policy
- Play Area Action Plan (2011 – 2016)

Park and Environmental Policies

- Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy (2006)
- Edinburgh Open Space Strategy (2010)
- Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2010 - 2015
- Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto (to be revised 2014)

Neighbourhood Priorities

- Forth Neighbourhood Partnership Community Plan

2.2 Policy Context

This section gives brief statements about the current situation with Victoria Park in relation to the current policy framework.

2.2.1 Development Plan

Victoria Park is protected by Local Plan policies, which are provided in more detail in Appendix 1.

Victoria Park, like many other local open spaces, provides people with an opportunity to enjoy wildlife in the city. The park links to a wider open space network via the North Edinburgh Cyclepath and Walkway, a green corridor route created from a disused railway network.

2.2.2 Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2010 - 2015)

The specific habitat plan applicable to Victoria Park is the Lowland and Urban Habitat Action Plan.

2.2.3 Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy (2006)

The Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy classifies Victoria Park as a “City Park.” There are a small number of City Parks in Edinburgh consisting of high quality spaces, offering a wide range of facilities aimed at international and national visitors as well as local and city-wide users.

City Parks provide facilities that are used by people who may live anywhere in the city. They are larger than Community Parks with more specialised facilities and many have formal sports areas. Park users access the park by car, bus, bicycle or on foot.

2.2.4 Edinburgh Open Space Strategy (2010)

Victoria Park currently meets the Greenspace standards as set out within the strategy.

The audit, which informed the strategy, categorises Victoria Park as a “public park or garden”, with a ball court, (unused) tennis courts, two areas of play space and three areas of bowling green.

2.2.5 Core Path Plan

Victoria Park falls within the North Core Path Network (CEC 8).

2.3 Surveys and Assessments

2.3.1 Tree Survey

A tree survey was completed and this is shown in Appendix 2. In addition, the trees have been assessed as part of the Council’s Tree Hazard Management system.

A number of trees have been lost to disease. There is also a need to remove a number of trees that are dead, dying or diseased and a suitable replacement programme is required.

Following vandalism to young trees, all new trees should be planted with supporting stakes and protective guards.

Trees within Conservation Areas are covered by the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, and the Planning Section's Arboricultural Officer should be made aware of any intention to uproot, fell or lop trees.

2.3.2 Parks Asset Management

A Microsoft Access database has been created that records all the park's assets along with a condition survey. Photos of all the assets are also included. A copy of the plan and a list of the assets is included in Appendix 3.

2.3.3 Biodiversity Assessment

A biodiversity assessment of Victoria Park has not yet been carried out but will be carried out and a copy of the assessment will be included in Appendix 4.

2.4 Legal Compliance

2.4.1 Site Ownership

Site owner: City of Edinburgh Council

The City of Edinburgh Council's Legal Services are in the process of examining the legal papers covering Victoria Park. Once this work is complete a copy of the sections most relevant to the Management Plan will be summarised in Appendix 5, and the proposals included within this plan will be in compliance with any restrictions placed upon the land in the title deeds.

Whilst the information will be of some assistance, it is only supplied in order to provide a general background in relation to the legal position in connection with Victoria Park. Should any specific proposals become known, then it will be highlighted to the Council's Legal Services as early as possible to obtain further advice and assistance as necessary.

2.4.2 Parks Management Rules

The park is governed by the City of Edinburgh Council's Parks Management Rules, which are included in Appendix 6. These rules are due to be updated during the period of implementation of this Management Plan.

2.4.3 Access Audit

The Council aims to improve the accessibility of public buildings, parks and venues for people with disabilities.

Access Audits were initially undertaken for a number of parks and Greenspaces to check compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act. These audits aim to improve access for people with physical disabilities or mobility restrictions and people with sensory disabilities i.e. hearing and vision impairment and their carers.

A copy of the audit is included in Appendix 7.



Figure 1: Path Network.
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2.4.4 Risk Assessment

A Risk Assessment has been compiled for the site. It can be used as a reminder of the major ways in which risk levels can be reduced on the site, aiding those involved in maintaining the site, including staff and volunteers, to reduce exposure to and minimise risk. A copy of the site risk assessment is included in Appendix 8.

All grounds maintenance and other maintenance operations are covered by risk assessments, working practice method statements and related manufacturer recommendations and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessments. Some of these documents are currently under review (2011).

2.4.5 Listed Structures

On 17 October 1996, the Edward VII statue, railings and quadrant were listed Category B (HB Reference: 43279).

The Edward VII monument was designed by John S. Rhind in 1913 and features a life-size bronze statue on a pillar inscribed "PEACE. EDWARD VII - 1801-1910", which was set in a circular planting bed with granite coping.

The quadrant gate piers and railings are in an axial arrangement with the statue. They are grey granite ashlar with bull-faced panels, pyramidal caps and engaged ball finials.

The railings are decorative wrought-iron quadrant railings with spearheads and elaborate central panels. The railings beyond the entrance are not listed structures.

2.4.6 Conservation Area

Victoria Park falls within the Victoria Park Conservation Area. The protection of an area does not end with conservation area designation; rather designation should be seen as a commitment to positive action for the preservation or enhancement of character and appearance.

Section 61 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 describes conservation areas as "...areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". Victoria Park Conservation Area was originally designated in March 1998. The designation of a conservation area may have implications in relation to any significant park developments and advice would need to be sought from The City of Edinburgh Council's Planning Section in case Conservation Area Consent is required.

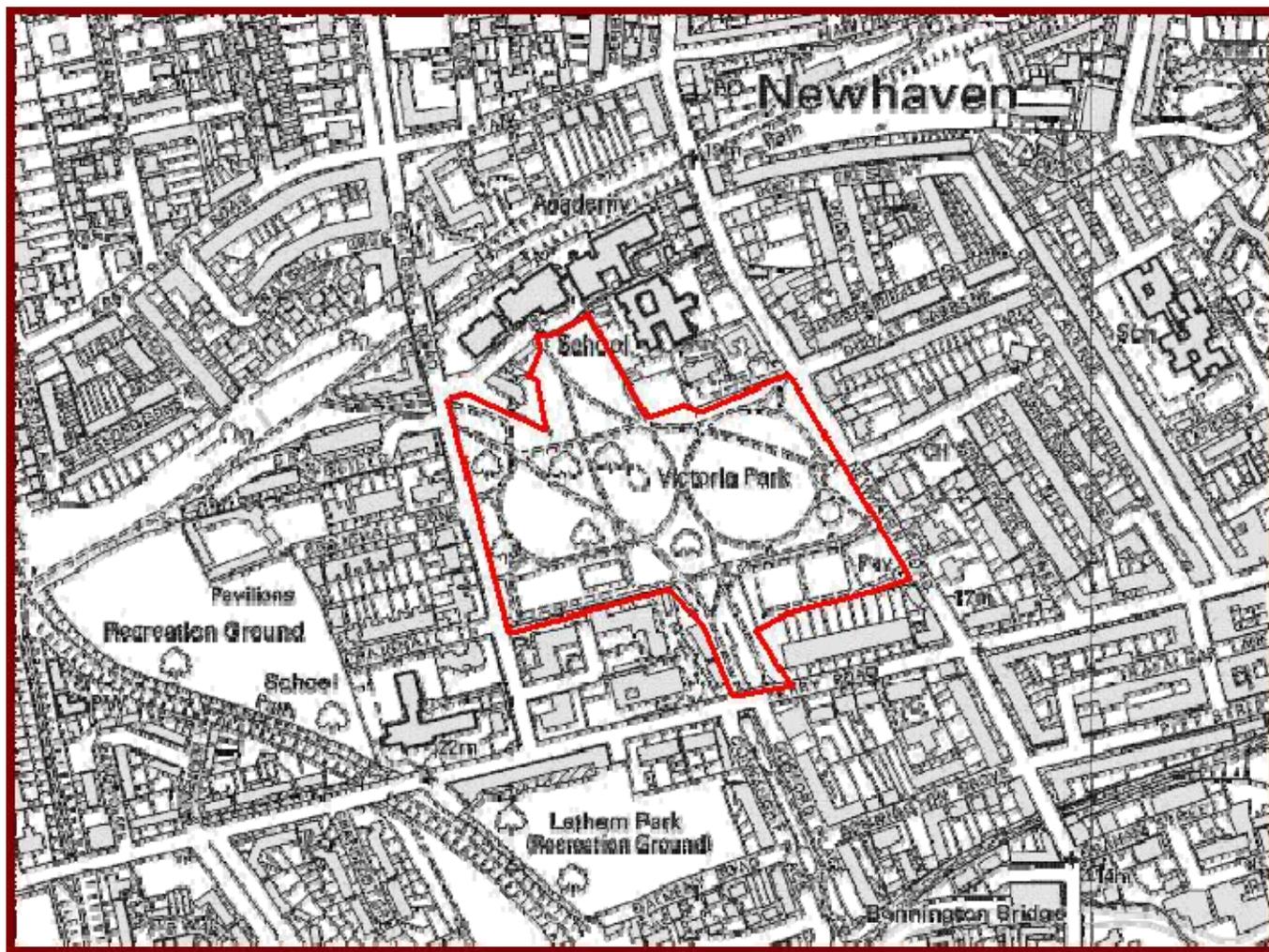
2.5 Site Information

2.5.1 Site Description

Victoria Park extends to around 15.86 acres (6.418 hectares) of neatly maintained flat open grass parkland with a strong framework of mature trees throughout. Overall, it is a well-defined public park with perimeter railings. The park accommodates a variety of uses and activities including an Astroturf football pitch, bowling greens, basketball court, play areas and forms part on North Edinburgh cycle path network.

Victoria Park means so much to so many different people of all ages with different needs and interests. It is a popular place for walking and exercising dogs; an area for sports, including bowling, basketball and football; it is used by joggers and cyclists; for children's play and for hosting a wide range of events, as well as provide opportunities as a place for quiet contemplation and passive recreation.

A history of Victoria Park is included in Appendix 9.



2.5.2 Site Location

Victoria Park is bounded to the North by Stanley Road, to the East by Newhaven Road, to the West by Craighall Road and to the South by Ferry Road.

National Grid Reference: NT
256 764



Figure 2: Recent Ordnance Survey Map (Victoria Park is outlined in red)

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2.5.3 Site Maps

The following maps show pictorially the changes and development of the areas surrounding Victoria Park.



Figure 3: Bonnington (Victoria) Park 1850s.

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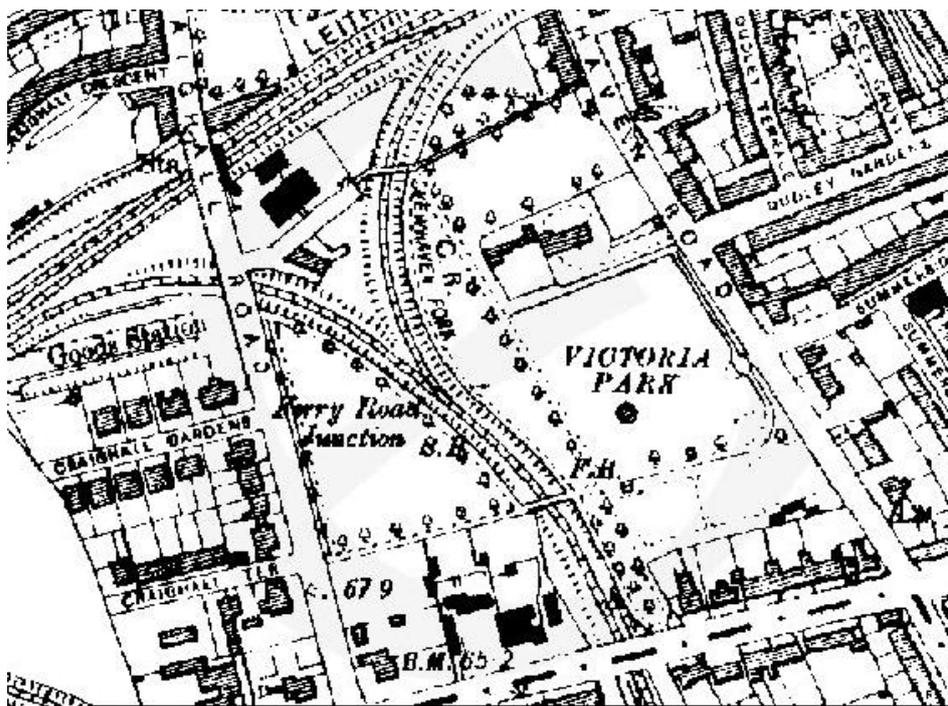


Figure 4: Victoria Park 1915-1920.

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Figure 5: Victoria Park Aerial Photograph 1940s.
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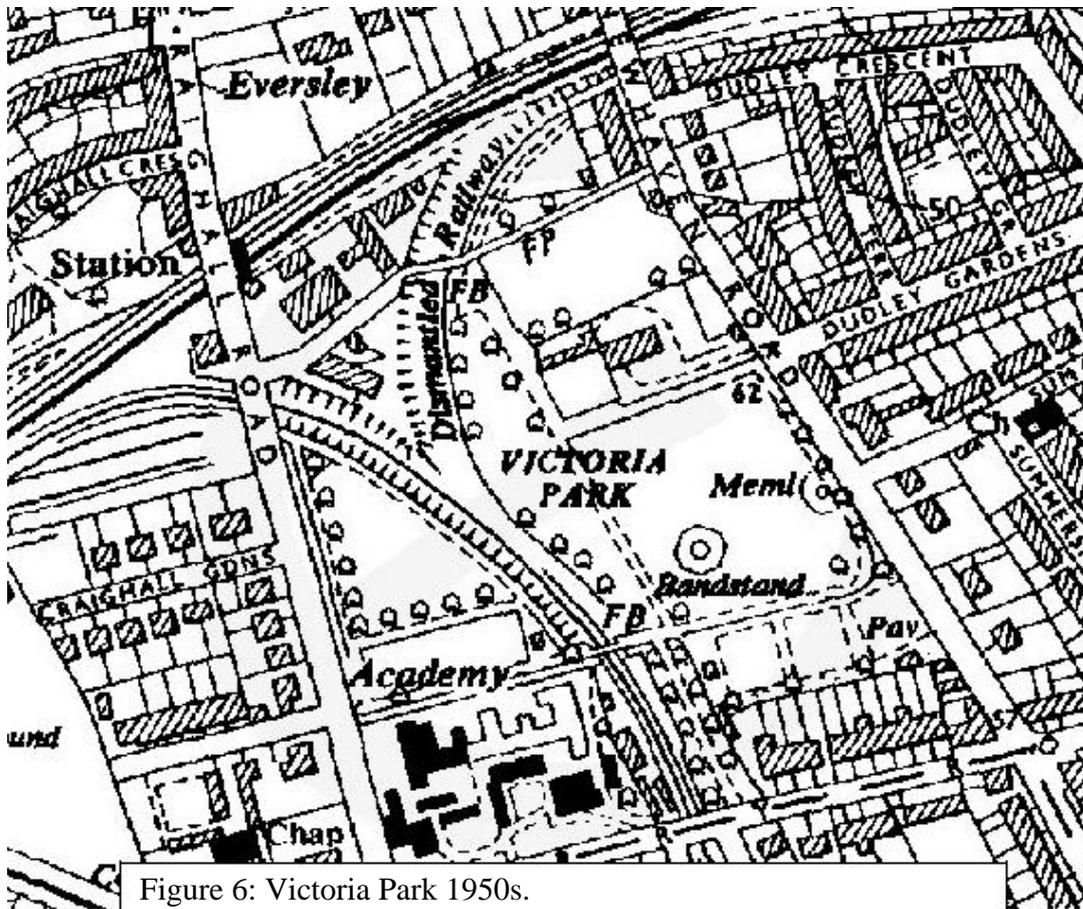


Figure 6: Victoria Park 1950s.
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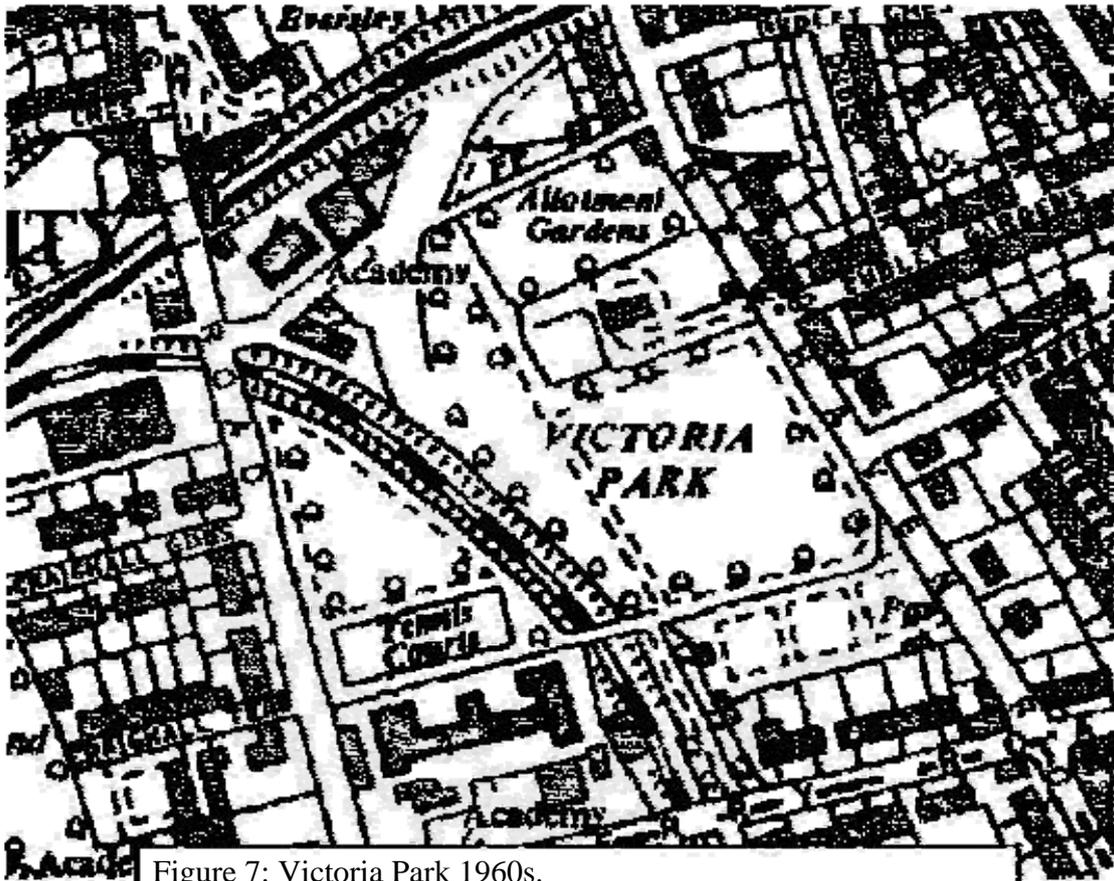


Figure 7: Victoria Park 1960s.
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Figure 8: Aerial view 2009.
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2.6 Park Attributes

Victoria Park is situated in a Conservation Area and is a traditional urban park characterised by mature trees and large areas of grass, with recreation facilities including bowling greens, astro-turf football pitch and basketball court, in addition to two children's play areas.

To be of the highest quality a park needs to have an overall design unity combined with elements of variety and interest, which decorate the general composition, and give the park a sense of purpose and identity in the local area.

2.6.1 Access and Circulation

The park has an extensive network of hard formal pathways throughout. All of the paths are surfaced in bitmac. There are eleven entrances into the park including two access points to and from the cycle path. Victoria Park forms part of the North Edinburgh Cycleway and Walkway network, joining Hawthornvale cycle path in the north with Warriston cycle path in the south. All paths can be used by cyclists and pedestrians following the implementation of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act, which promotes responsible use of accessible land.

Public vehicular access to the park is not permitted. Some vehicular movement is generated before and after organised events. Vehicular movement is kept to a minimum at all times and there are no roads within the park. The park is sometimes used as a vehicular access point to the cycleway and walkway network, for servicing the park, and also by the emergency services.

Public bus services run to surrounding roads to the park, managed by Lothian Buses.

2.6.2 Buildings and Structures

The park contains the following structures:

- Historical structures: Bowling Green pump house, ornate drinking fountain, Edward VII statue, gate piers and railings.
- Sports Club buildings: Victoria Park bowling club

2.6.3 Enclosures

The park is largely enclosed by railings and fencing. The railings and fencing forms the park boundary along Newhaven Road and Craighall Road while a large ornate railing and gate encloses the park at the south entrance from Ferry Road. Other boundaries consist of stone walls, buildings, fences and shrubs.

Railings surround the bowling greens and play areas and gates provide security. The stone wall boundary between the bowling green and properties to Ferry Road is owned by the residents.

2.6.4 Planting

The mature trees give a good sense of composition and structure, forming an integral part to the character of this conservation area. Trees within Victoria Park vary greatly in age ranging from 2 to over 100 years old.

A tree was planted on 13 November 1983 that was ‘planted for peace’ just inside the gate to the park from Ferry Road. A plaque is installed in the ground to commemorate the event.

Following the tree survey, a follow up assessment was carried out as part of investment of lighting in the park. A few trees in the park were pruned and some felled to allow for new lighting columns. Some of these trees needed to be felled due to infection by *Ganoderma spp.* and *Meripilus*. Three of the trees removed during the project were located within the tarmac path causing restricted growth and significant crown damage. Over 30 new trees have been planted in the park to replace those lost and to begin rejuvenation of the planting in advance of future tree removal.

Other trees in the park have been identified for future removal, predominantly *Sorbus intermedia* all of which are infected with *Ganoderma* and *Meripilus* fungus and show signs of decline in the canopy structure. In addition, one *Ulmus* (Elm) has evidence of a recent *Meripilus* fungi fruiting body.

The general policy for felling by The City of Edinburgh Council is primarily dead and dangerous trees, any tree that is decayed, unstable or dying becomes a priority especially when situated in a well-used public area, such as Victoria Park.

To acknowledge the importance of the trees within the park and their impact on the environment, over 30 replacement trees have been planted throughout the park to rejuvenate the future tree cover and compensate for the tree loss.

There are several plantations of hardy ornamentals throughout the park most notably next to the infants play area and North Boundary, there is some new planting (*Berberis thunbergii*) in the circular bed around the Edward VII memorial.

2.6.5 Park Furniture

Currently, the bins throughout the park are of different styles. These are due to be replaced with one uniform style. New bins will all be a standard type, from the Broxap “Derby” range.

There are also numerous styles of benches in the park. Over time, these will be replaced with the standardised black metal style seen in other locations.

Three notice boards have been installed to display park information to users and visitors, along with a notice board for Trinity Community Council.

Lighting exists through part of the path network and this is maintained by the Street Lighting Section of Roads Services. Any lighting issues can be reported to Clarence on 0800 23 23 23.

2.6.6 Visual Quality and Appearance

In the past, the bowling green pump house had had a detrimental effect on the general aesthetic of the park. To address this issue the pump house has recently been renovated with a new roof and walls that have been rendered to rejuvenate its appearance.

2.6.7 Sport and Physical Activity

The park is used by various individuals and groups of all ages for both formal and informal sports.

Due to lack of use, one of the bowling greens has been turned into a putting green area in 2011. Further plans are to be considered about the use of this green and the area between the pump house and the storage shed in 2014.

2.6.8 Children's Play Area

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 database called Playsafe produced by Public Sector Software Ltd. This system holds information on all City of Edinburgh Council play areas, including; type of equipment, installation date, type of safety surface, fences and bins.

Informal inspections are carried out by council employees who enter the play areas as part of their duties (Park Rangers, Play Area Engineers and Task Force staff). They report obvious hazards to the Council's workshop engineers. In-house ROSPA trained staff inspect the equipment on a monthly basis. Any defects identified are either repaired immediately or isolated and made safe, for repair later. Written records of inspections and works undertaken are held with the Workshops at Inverleith Park. Annual inspections and risk assessments are carried out on all the playgrounds by an independent Playground Inspector.

2.7 Summary of Physical Resources and Key Management Issues

2.7.1 Labour Resource

There is no staff provision dedicated to maintain Victoria Park or to provide a permanent presence within the park. Victoria Park does not have a designated maintenance team. The park is currently maintained by a Specialist Grounds Maintenance team, managed by the Parks and Greenspace Unit. This is currently under review as part of the Council's ImProve It programme.

The North Neighbourhood's Environment team, a section within Services for Communities, manage Victoria Park locally. The environment team work closely with other sections seeking to ensure continuous improvement of standards in the park.

Services for Communities bring together a range of 'quality of life' services that are aligned to meet the needs of the local community. Edinburgh is divided into six neighbourhoods and core strategic support units across the services.

The management and development of Victoria Park is the responsibility of the Local Environment Manager. The Local Environment Manager can call on the support of other sections held centrally by the Parks and Greenspace Unit, such as the Specialist Grounds Maintenance team, Forestry team, Inverleith Workshops and the Inch Nursery for assistance as required. The local Street Cleaning Taskforce also undertakes emptying of litter bins and other cleaning operations.

Management of parks is a neighbourhood function but it is strategically overseen and supported by the Parks and Greenspace Unit, based at the Council's Headquarters. Local service delivery has seen some devolution of budgets and management responsibilities.

Improving grounds maintenance within the park is seen as important by park users. The local Task Force Manager and Community Parks Officer will be working closely with the community on maintaining, managing and developing the park. In addition, our Park Ranger(s) have also been involved in various projects in the park.

It is acknowledged that the Council cannot achieve the highest standards required without the dedication and support of Victoria Park users and associated groups that collectively hold an interest in the future of the park.

The Community Parks Officer and Park Ranger(s) also dedicate time to the development of the park, including undertaking maintenance and management activities, overseeing events and liaising with other Council services and departments to fulfil our obligations.

The move from frequency standards towards performance maintenance standards in 2011 will hopefully achieve better standards in the coming months.

2.7.2 Grounds and Infrastructure Maintenance

Elements of the local service delivery are subject to service improvement decisions and processes, which are currently being worked on. A decision on any changes to management of the grounds maintenance service will be made by Spring 2014. In the meantime, the park will be maintained by Specialist Grounds Maintenance.

Consideration on how to involve the community in maintaining smaller areas and horticultural elements will be developed during the period of the Management Plan.

In 2011, maintenance of greenspace has moved away from traditional frequency based framework to a performance based one, referred to as the Landscape Quality Standard. This document is still in draft form, once agreed it will be included in Appendix 10. During the summer of 2011 a number of plots will be assessed against the Landscape Quality Standards to measure compliance. This will gather baseline data for analysis and allow further refinement of the standards that are expected to be achieved.

2.7.3 Park Users

Victoria Park is a City Park and seen by many as a destination park. Its facilities are well used and provide a number of opportunities for active participation in activities such as bowling, 5-a side football, basketball. Open grass areas provide ample opportunity for informal sports including rounders, football and other team sports.

There are also many opportunities for less formal recreation for all who visit to enjoy wildlife by walking through and around the park, taking a stroll along the extensive North Edinburgh Cycleways and Walkways that traverse the park or to relax and read a newspaper in an attractive and tranquil setting.

Since 2008, the Parks and Greenspace Unit have used a web-based questionnaire to capture the views of residents and visitors to Edinburgh's parks and Greenspaces. The questionnaire is available at <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parksurvey>. The survey asks people to give their views about what they think about the service the Council provides and their experience of Edinburgh's parks. The Management Plan will include such comments to help to improve the service and the park for local residents and visitors. A summary of results for Victoria Park will be included in Appendix 11.

2.7.4 Stakeholders

In 2008, Trinity Community Council formed the Victoria Park Sub-Group to focus on raising issues with the local neighbourhood Environment Team relating to the park. The Victoria Park Sub-Group is made up of representatives from Trinity Community Council, Dudley Neighbourhood Watch, Trinity Academy and Council Officials. Appendix 12 provides information about Trinity Community Council.

The objectives within this Management Plan are to be developed in consultation with both existing and possible future users. A list of main contacts and stakeholders are included in Appendix 13.

2.7.5 Events

The city's festivals and events offering are important to its image, at home and abroad, and to its Capital-city status. Like many large parks in the city, Victoria Park is one of the city's sites used as a venue for outdoor events.

Edinburgh's Events Strategy states that 'Edinburgh will continue to grow as one of the world's finest cities'. It aims to deliver a balanced portfolio of events over the next ten years to include established successful events, newly created or commissioned events and national or international events won for the city through bidding processes.

Victoria Park has a long history as a venue for events. In 2010, events included Pedal for Scotland, The St. Columba's Hospice Fun Run, and the Two Capitals Bike Ride. All large events are co-ordinated through an Events Planning and Operations Group (EPOG) and all event organisers are asked to provide risk assessments, Public Liability, and related information.

The Parks and Greenspace Unit handle events administration and they are involved in developing the strategic direction for events in parks and greenspaces. In order to facilitate and manage events in parks, Parks and Greenspace have outlined an Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto.

Local residents to Victoria Park are keen to see events using the park in a sensitive and responsible way, respecting the park and its other users. It is important that events should not become so overbearing or detrimental to the park that it adversely affects its use by the public for long periods. This sentiment is shared by the Council and demonstrates the importance of the development of the Events Manifesto, which local groups have been involved in shaping its principles. The Events Manifesto uses eight key principles that aim to ensure that both landscape quality and event intensity needs are met. An outline of the events held in the park recently and the Events Manifesto is provided in Appendix 14.

2.8 Biodiversity

The City of Edinburgh Council recognises parks are particularly important sites for biodiversity and even more so within cities.

The Council:

- Employs Biodiversity Officers to promote the biodiversity agenda both within the Council and externally to the public and third party organisations.
- Is lead partner in the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership, which sets the agenda for conservation efforts in the area
- Promotes wildlife-friendly gardening in private gardens and allotments
- Has provided small grants for biodiversity-based projects
- Supports "Friends of..." and other community groups who have questions or concerns about biodiversity in our Greenspaces.

2.9 Sustainability

Our approach to sustainability of resources is outlined in Appendix 15 and includes peat and pesticide minimisation, energy conservation, recycling and other measures to maintain and manage our parks in an environmentally sound manner.

3 Where Do We Want To Be?

This section expresses the vision for Victoria Park on which a development plan is based.

3.1 Vision

Victoria Park is held in high regard locally. The ambition of the Management Plan is for Victoria Park to continue to be a respected, valued and well-maintained park that is clean, green and safe, and enjoyed by all those who visit it and use its facilities. It is an aim that Victoria Park is recognised and rewarded for its quality by the Green Flag Award Scheme.

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

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

Since then, the services responsible for parks and greenspace management and maintenance changed with the formation of a new service grouping – Services for Communities. The aim of Services for Communities is to create and maintain clean, safe, green, healthy, well managed and well maintained communities.

The vision for Services for Communities is that:

“The citizens of Edinburgh and visitors to the city should benefit from an environment that is clean, green, safe, well-housed, well-managed and well maintained with services that are responsive to the needs of local communities.” (Services for Communities Service Plan 2008-2011)

In developing a vision for Victoria Park, it needs to take cognisance of the overarching City and departmental visions for public greenspace and the local environment. Therefore, for Victoria Park, its vision is:

“Working with the community to manage and maintain Victoria Park as a clean, green and safe public park for all”

3.2 Consultation

To ensure that there is a representative view from the wider public, both park users and non-users a public consultation was undertaken at the end of 2010/early 2011. Over 2,500 questionnaires were circulated to residential properties within a 5-minute walk of the park. The feedback from the consultation will be used to inform the development plan.

Consideration will be given to establish a Friends Group from those who have provided details regarding the consultation, which would recognise the wide range of park uses and user groups.

3.3 Analysis and Assessment

An audit of the park has been carried out annually since 2009 by the City of Edinburgh Council Parks and Greenspace and local Environment teams assessing the quality of our parks and gardens using the Green Flag Award Scheme criteria.

The assessment looked at the park in terms of its standard of maintenance, landscape features, areas for improvement and positive site attributes, community participation, safety, cleanliness, sustainability, access and usage.

The following SWOT analysis combines the comments of our internal assessment with the analysis carried out by the Friends group when formalising this Management Plan linked to the Green Flag Award Scheme criteria.

3.3.1 A Welcoming Place

There is good, safe and level access to Victoria Park. The network of paths is well used by pedestrians who traverse across the park and cyclists using the park from the two adjoining cycle path networks. Although there is not signage directing people to the park, three notice boards welcome and provide information for visitors, and a fourth provides information on Trinity Community Council. The park is freely accessible at all times, with free car parking available around two sides of the park along wide streets. Public transport regularly passes Newhaven Road, Craighall Road, Ferry Road and Stanley Road.

Listed ornate gate piers and decorative wrought-iron quadrant railings provide one of the access points to the park. Once inside, open views across most of the park allow visitors to orientate the circular path network with ease. The park is well used and well regarded locally and this along with a number of facilities provides a destination for passive and active recreation.

Key Criteria:

The overall impressions for any member of the community approaching and entering the park should be positive and inviting, regardless of the purpose for which they are visiting.

The analysis considers the following aspects:

- Announcing the park
- Social access
- Physical access
- Design

Strengths

A pleasant open park environment.
Free parking in immediate vicinity of the park.
Many entrance points, links to cycle paths and public transport.
Good wide flat tarmac path with many entrance points and dropped kerbs.
Community litter picks held throughout year.

Weaknesses

Signage to and from the park, including from the cycleway/walkway.
Signage in play area.
Park sometimes targeted for graffiti.

Opportunities

Improve way marking to the park from main routes.
Explore possibility of designated disabled parking bays.
Install more benches and picnic tables.

Threats

Increase in vandalism

3.3.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

The neighbourhood team work to co-ordinate activities and develop closer links between the Grounds Maintenance team, Community Parks Officer, Park Ranger(s) and community representatives. This, along with working with the local community, park users, interest groups and volunteers will help to give a greater sense of ownership of the park and assist us in maintaining the park to the highest standards that can be achieved with the collective resource available. Day to day, park users and community representatives also highlight issues as soon as they arise. The Council's Environmental Wardens monitor evidence of dog fouling and to promote responsible dog ownership. If necessary, the Environmental Wardens can enforce the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003.

Key Criteria:

The park must be a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community to use. Relevant issues must be addressed in the Management Plan and implemented on the ground. New issues that arise must be addressed promptly and appropriately.

The analysis considers the following:

- Health and Safety practices
- Equipment and facilities must be safe to use
- A secure place to use
- Dog fouling must be adequately addressed

Strengths

Open park with good sightlines and many entrance points.
Wide paths and open areas improve perception of safety.
Very busy and overlooked.
Well used children's play area.
Park is used by all

Weaknesses

Quality of surface of basketball court.
Lack of pedestrian barriers at exits to roads.
Dog fouling observed and damage caused by digging holes.
Possible conflict between cyclists and pedestrians using the park paths.
Litter sometimes an issue.

Opportunities

Desire for public conveniences within the park.
Improved park monitoring by parks staff, police and Environmental Wardens
Develop litter programme with local schools.

Threats

Vandalism occurs from time to time, including graffiti and physical damage.

3.3.3 Well Maintained and Clean

Generally, the park is maintained to a good standard but more can be done to raise the quality. Further improvements to grounds maintenance should be considered. Regular visits of the park will be included in work programmes for the Community Parks Officer and Park Ranger(s) and other site inspections carried out, from time to time, to monitor standards throughout the period of the Management Plan will check the progress of improvements.

Key criteria:

For aesthetic as well as health and safety reasons, issues of cleanliness and maintenance must be adequately addressed.

The analysis considers the following:

- Litter and waste management
- Ground maintenance
- Infrastructure

Strengths

The park is designated as a City Park.
The pump house has recently been renovated with a new roof and render, to rejuvenate its appearance.
Free to use football court area and basketball court.
Lots of spring and autumnal colour.

Weaknesses

Levels of litter in park.
Weeds under seating and around trees not managed.
Tarmac in basketball court uneven and in need of repair.
Damage caused by service vehicles in inclement weather

Opportunities

Align maintenance requirements to new performance standards.
All litter bins to be replaced with one uniform style
Reduce vehicle movements in the park.

Threats

Vandalism
Some irresponsible dog owners not clearing up after their dogs.
Some dog owners encouraging pets to dig holes.

3.3.4 Sustainability

The use of pesticides and peat is kept to a minimum. Any green waste collected from the park is recycled by the Council and leaf litter is collected and deposited within allotment sites for use as a compost and soil conditioner. Where possible chipped bark material is returned to the park, as mulch, and any large trees are stored in Inverleith yard and later sold with smaller material being chipped into mulch. There is no recycling of other litter within the park, although waste is being recycled off site. The park contains a variety of tree stock and the Council has undertaken a tree hazard management assessment. Careful consideration will need to be given to how the tree stock is managed within the park as trees mature and how others are replaced if they are removed as a result of disease, decay or damage.

Key criteria:

Methods used in maintaining the park and its facilities should be environmentally sound, relying best practices available according to current knowledge. Management should be aware of the range of techniques available to them, and demonstrate that informed choices have been made and are regularly reviewed.

The analysis considers the following:

- Environmental management
- Pesticides and materials
- Horticulture and arboriculture management

Strengths

Leaves collected in autumn/winter are delivered to Warriston allotment site for composting and used as a soil conditioner.
Young trees suitably protected to prevent vandalism.
Tree management proposals being implemented.
Waste being recycled off-site.

Weaknesses

Some of the planted areas lack interest and variety.

Opportunities

Introduce different mowing regimes to encourage biodiversity, especially along margins (include areas of native wildflowers, bulbs and shrubbery).
One synthetic pitch that has been considered for renewal.

Threats

Public anxiety over any changes to maintenance regimes.

3.3.5 Conservation and Heritage

The basic layout of Victoria Park has not changed that much from its early layout. The park's gate piers and decorative wrought-iron quadrant railings are conserved, along with the life-size bronze statue of Edward VII and water fountain.

Key criteria:

Particular attention should be paid to the conservation and appropriate management of natural, landscape and structural features.

The analysis considers the following:

- Habitats
- Cultural landscapes
- Natural features

Strengths

Pump house recently restored.
Tree lines along Newhaven Road and Craighall Road.

Weaknesses

Edward VII statue requires restoration.

Opportunities

Develop improvements in biodiversity in line with
Biodiversity Assessment.
Renovate Edward VII statue.

Threats

Graffiti and vandalism damage to structures.

3.3.6 Community Involvement

In addition to the numerous park users and visitors that use the park each year, the main group with an interest in the park are Trinity Community Council, which includes a number of residents. There is potential to start up a Friends Group for people with interest in the park. A local consultation circulated to over 2,000 residential properties is one of the largest single park consultations undertaken in the North Neighbourhood.

Key criteria:

Management should actively pursue the involvement of the members of the community who represent as many greenspace user groups as possible. We need to be able to demonstrate knowledge of community involvement.

The analysis considers the following:

- Patterns of use
- Community involvement
- Play and educational value

Strengths

Community litter picks.
Largest local consultation for Victoria Park recently distributed to local residents seeking views on future development and management decisions.

Weaknesses

Community involvement may be limited by increased requirement for Health and Safety requirements and Public Liability Insurance considerations.

Opportunities

Use of the park as a resource for local school groups.
Develop a Friends Group
Work with park users to advocate a culture of stewardship and ownership.

Threats

3.3.7 Marketing

Much work and investment in detail has been used to develop a range of interpretation material within the park supported by the Friends group. Three notice boards by East, South and West entrances display up to date information that may be of interest to visitors.

Events are promoted and the venue is used with regularity and becomes synonymous. Events such as Pedal for Scotland and Two Capitals and more recently St. Columba's Fun Run have been able to use the park as a spacious outdoor events venue, promoted locally and nationally.

Key criteria:

To demonstrate that there is a marketing strategy in place and that we provide adequate information about management strategies, activities, features and ways to get involved and promoting the park as a resource.

The analysis considers the following:

- Information provision and interpretation
- Events
- Promotion

Strengths

Noticeboard by entrances kept up to date with information relating to events and park development.
Park information included on Council's website.
All events have sufficient bonds to cover repairs and remedial action to alleviate their impact on the park.

Weaknesses

Little site specific literature available.
No site map.

Opportunities

Develop Marketing Plan.
Parks Events Manifesto will develop guidelines for events.
Consider appropriate new events for the park that would be attended by local residents.

Threats

Keeping information up to date.

3.3.8 Management

The Council acknowledges the effort and support of the groups that have an interest in the park and works closely with them, in partnership, to maintain and manage the park for the benefit of its users, residents and visitors. This Management Plan aims to provide a clear framework for making informed and planned decisions about the future plans for the park. The local park management team aim to monitor changes in legislation, industry trends and constantly strive to provide relevant service improvements to develop the park to meet the needs of its local community. The formation of the Management Plan will also provide a framework for the Friends group and others to monitor our performance against agreed actions.

The adoption of the Green Flag Standard as a way of analysing the quality of parks and greenspace in Edinburgh and its self-assessment process has been useful in identifying strengths and weaknesses for sites and the impact of our current management processes. The process results in a detailed plan of improvements that are in the interests of the community and the park which are worked towards by those involved in its management.

Key criteria:

To demonstrate that there is a balance between all the priorities, policies and partners and that there is a time scale for putting the objectives into practice.

The analysis considers the following:

- Contribution the park makes towards the wider strategic aims Management Plan must be actively implemented
- The Management Plan must be regularly reviewed.

Strengths

Management Plan sets out commitment of all involved in the maintenance and management of Victoria Park, for the first time.

Weaknesses

Budget pressures on revenue (maintenance and repair budgets) and capital expenditure.

Opportunities

Work more closely with schools, private and third sector (voluntary) groups and organisations to achieve goals.

Threats

Difficulties in sustaining contact with individuals or groups that may share interest in the park.
Ability to sustain improvements to maintenance to meet expectations.

3.4 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives for Victoria Park have been developed in line with the City of Edinburgh Council's policies and supported by Services for Communities department in its role of managing and being responsible for the park and through analysis of the key management issues.

3.4.1 Green Flag – Quality Assessment

The Green Flag Award is the national standard for quality in greenspace management. The aims underpinning this Management Plan are linked into the award and are set out in the table below.

Each of these aims is further developed in the Management Plan into targets, measures and timescales.

Criteria	Aim
A welcoming place	<i>To ensure that Victoria Park is welcoming and accessible to all possible users</i>
Healthy, safe and secure	<i>To ensure the safety all of staff and users of Victoria Park</i>
Well maintained and clean	<i>To maintain the highest standards of horticulture, cleanliness, grounds and infrastructure maintenance</i>
Sustainability	<i>To adopt environmental management principles and therefore reduce the impact of management operations on the environment</i>
Conservation and heritage	<i>To promote biodiversity through appropriate management and to maintain and promote the historic significance of Victoria Park</i>
Community involvement	<i>To encourage community involvement, through consultation, events and activities and the Friends of Victoria Park</i>
Marketing	<i>To actively promote Victoria Park to all potential users</i>
Management	<i>To provide a responsive, flexible and high quality management service</i>

The City of Edinburgh Council has adopted the Green Flag Award Scheme criteria as a method of assessing the quality of its parks and open spaces and better Greenspace management. Developing and supporting the Green Flag Award Scheme is a key part of the strategic direction for the Environment Division and a way of demonstrating to our customers and service users how we achieve standards of excellence.

Since 2009, the Council have assessed Victoria Park using the Green Flag Award Scheme criteria and carried out annual field assessments. A summary of the 2011 assessment is included in Appendix 16.

4 How Will We Get There?

This section includes the development plan that sets out the aims and objectives for Victoria Park over the term of the Management Plan. This section also describes the maintenance regimes and proposed management structure to deliver the Management Plan.

4.1 Development Plan

This section will be updated regularly and reviewed annually. It may contain items that are out with the timescale of the Management Plan; this is to ensure that known future activities are recorded.

This section sets out the intended development actions and targets for Victoria Park under each of the Green Flag Award aims, allocating a time frame, responsibility and measures.

Definitions of initials:

TCC – Trinity Community Council
CPO – Community Parks Officer
PGS – Parks and Greenspace Unit

LEM - Local Environment Manager
PR – Park Ranger
TFM – Taskforce Manager

Victoria Park Development Plan

Throughout this document reference is made to the following abbreviations:

CPO = Community Parks Officer, P&G = Parks & Greenspace, PR = Park Ranger

FS = Forestry Service, TF = Task Force

Aim 1: To ensure Victoria Park is welcoming and accessible to all park users

Objectives	Action	Lead	Timetable	Status
1.1 To ensure consistent, up-to-date signage throughout	Keep all notice boards up to date with relevant information	PR	On going	On going
	Identify signage requirements: Interpretation, site map	CPO	2015	Complete
1.2 Investigate the feasibility of upgrading path network in the park		CPO/ Cycle team	2017	On going

Aim 2: To ensure the safety of all staff and users of the park

Objectives	Action	lead	Timetable	Status
2.1 Reduce anti-social behaviour	Work with community safety and police to tackle problems	CPO	2017 On going	Started
	Work with Environmental Wardens to address dog fouling problems	CPO & PR	2017 On going	Regular joint patrols/situation improving/ on going
	Tackle graffiti problem – work Community Safety, Environmental Wardens and Police	CPO & PR	2017 On going	Started. Process in place to report to designated graffiti squad.
	Ensure benches are safe and defects reported	CPO & PR	On going	System in place
2.2 Alleviate car parking problems	Work with bowling club to stop unauthorised vehicles in the park	CPO	2015	Complete
2.3 Well maintained play area	Carry out weekly inspections of play area to ensure Landscape Quality Standards are met	PR	2017 On going	Started

Aim 3: To improve the range of facilities

Objectives	Action	Lead	Timetable	Status
3.1 Enhance current facilities	Upgrade children's play area	P&G Play Team	2016 Subject to Capital Funding	Postponed/ capital funding not available
3.2 Create picnic area	Install picnic tables	CPO	2016	Complete
3.3 Install additional seating		CPO	2016/17	Complete
3.4 Investigate the feasibility of creating Tennis Courts on hard standing area	Apply to Sports Scotland for funding	P&G Play Team	2015/16	Complete

Aim 4: To promote biodiversity and sustainability

Objectives	Action	Lead	Timescale	Status
4.1 To maintain urban forest plantations	Asses condition and manage current tree stock	FS	Annual	On going
	Carry out survey for Dutch Elm Disease	FS	Annual	On going
4.2 Promote management for biodiversity	Erect bird nesting boxes	CPO & PR	2017/18/19	On going
	Naturalise bulbs through plantations	CPO & PR	2016/17/18	On going
	Create paths through plantations	CPO	2016/17	Complete
4.3 Corporate Procurement	Awareness of environment - friendly products	CPO	2017 - 22	On going
4.3 Consider Interpretation on Flora & Fauna	Install an interpretation board with reference to plants in the park	CPO/PR	2017/18	Wildflower information pending

Aim 5: To maintain high standards cleanliness, grounds and building maintenance

Objectives	Action	Lead	Timetable	Status
5.1 To ensure a high standard of waste management	Replace damaged litter bins	TF & CPO	2017 - ongoing	
	Bowling Club to remove litter around greens	Victoria Park Bowling Club	2017	started
	Increase frequency of bin servicing at peak times	TF	2016/17/18	Started
5.2 Maintain high standards of grounds maintenance	Continue to monitor park to ensure landscape Quality standards are met	CPO & PR	2017 - 22	Started
	Remove tree stumps to improve ease of grass cutting	FS & TF	2016/17	Completed
	Reinstate grass where stumps have been removed	TF	2017	Completed
5.3 Maintain exterior of pavilion to high standard	Liase with Victoria Bowling Club to promote partnership working	CPO	2017	Started

Aim 6: To encourage and promote community involvement and engagement

Objectives	Action	Lead	Timetable	Status
6.1 To engage with local community	Set up a steering group (key stakeholders)to develop a Park Improvement Plan	CPO	2016 – Friends of Victoria Park formed	On going
	Steering group to oversee the delivery of the park improvement plan and other relevant business	CPO/ Friends	2016 – Friends of Victoria Park formed	On going
	Consult and engage with local community and bowling club to discuss alternative use for bowling greens.	P&G	2015	Allotment/ community growing initiative implemented
	Continue to work and liaise with the Friends Group in the management, maintenance and development of the park	P&G/ Friends	On going	
6.2	Review and update web content	P&G	2017/18	
	Promote through Neighbourhood partnership	CPO	2017/18	
6.3 Ensure robust event management	Undertake annual review of events in park	CPO	Annual	Up to date
6.4 Engage local children in parks projects	Undertake bulb planting with school children	CPO & PR	Autumn 2015	Contact Trinity Primary School (complete)

Aim 7: To provide a responsive, high quality management service

Objectives	Action	lead	Timetable	Status
7.1 Ensure co-ordinated approach to management	Promote Parks & Greenspace Survey	P&G	On going	On going
7.2 Benchmarking	Liaise with P&G to undertake a benchmark against Green Flag criteria	CPO	Annual exercise	Annual review

4.2 Planning

The preceding section shows the development plan for Victoria Park. This will be updated regularly, and added to and developed year on year.

The Management Plan acknowledges that for it to succeed, all who have an interest in Victoria Park must work together. In addition, it will be necessary to identify funding and resources required ensuring that the actions identified can be delivered.

4.3 Finance

4.3.1 Revenue Funding

The provision of revenue funding for the park consists of work undertaken at present by the local Parks team, Task Force and Specialised Grounds Maintenance teams.

There is no specific maintenance budget allocation for Victoria Park so it is difficult to determine the exact costs associated with maintaining it. As there are no up to date rates for grounds maintenance an approximate annual cost cannot be calculated.

The Local Environment Manager has a budget for small-scale repairs and maintenance improvements. The annual budget for parks and open space development, including repairs and maintenance, for North Edinburgh is approximately £45,000 (2011). This budget has remained unchanged (2014).

4.3.2 Capital Funding

The capital budget is administrated by the Parks and Greenspace Unit. The budget is generally allocated in advance and the role of developing Management Plans is to support better planning of the financial resources required, so that proposals can be developed and included in future bids. No Parks and Greenspace capital funding was available during 2013/14.

Forth Neighbourhood Partnership provides grant aid and has contributed funding towards local events and projects. Forth Neighbourhood Partnership has funded new lighting within the park.

4.3.3 Grants

The Parks and Greenspace Unit have a small grants fund that Community groups can apply to for small items or to assist in developing their group or the sites they have adopted.

The Community Parks Officer and Parks and Greenspace have prepared an application for investment in the former tennis court area for tennis and basketball courts (2014).

4.4 Management Structure

Services for Communities deliver services to meet the needs and priorities of local communities in each of six Community Planning Areas. Victoria Park lies within the North Community Planning Area, also referred to as the North Neighbourhood.

The Neighbourhood Manager has responsibility for the local delivery of essential services such as libraries, community safety, road repairs, parks, housing and street cleaning. The Local Environment Manager within the North Neighbourhood team has day-to-day responsibility for the management and development of Environment Services, which includes maintaining and developing parks and greenspaces, through the Community Parks Officer, Park Ranger(s) and Open Space and Street Cleaning Task Force.

The Parks and Greenspace Unit support the Local Environment Team in delivering a quality greenspace service, offering specialist advice and assistance as necessary.

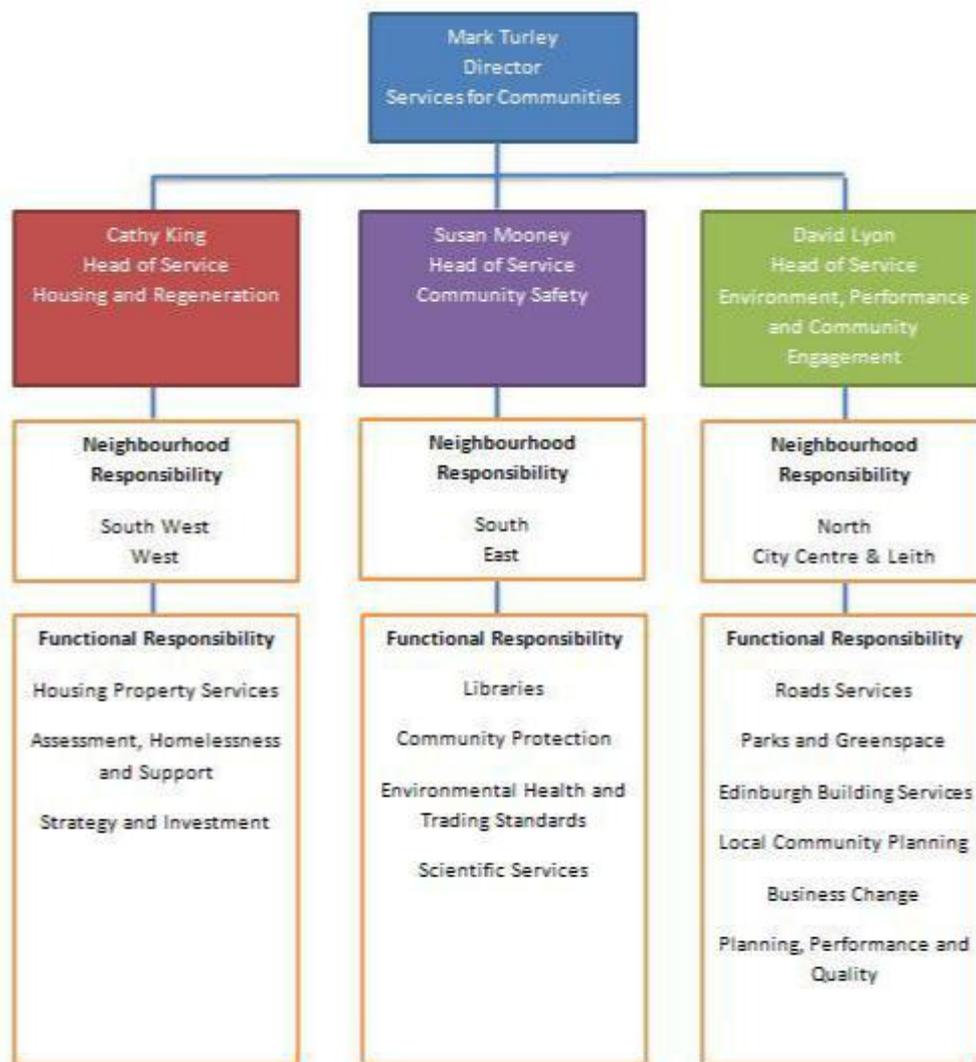


Figure 9: The Services for Communities Function and Neighbourhood Structure showing the Management Structure and Relationship for Victoria Park (2011).

5 How Will We Know When We Get There?

This section describes how the development, maintenance and management of Victoria Park will be monitored and reviewed.

5.1 Monitoring and Reviewing

The Local Environment Manager, Community Parks Officer and Park Ranger(s), as well as grounds staff and Taskforce Managers are all involved in managing and maintaining Victoria Park, supported and assisted by local interest groups.

Regular meetings with Trinity Community Council Victoria Park Sub-Group and the Community Parks Officer and Taskforce Manager will enable any maintenance issues to be dealt with more effectively. Trinity Community Council hold committee meetings, which the Local Environment Manager or Community Parks Officer can attend to receive feedback from the attendees relating to management issues.

Members of the public are encouraged to comment on the standards of maintenance and this is passed to all those involved with the management of the park. One method of doing this that is useful is through the ongoing Parks and Greenspace Survey, which can provide both quantitative and qualitative information on the levels of satisfaction of the management of Victoria Park. This will also reflect how successful we are in implementing the Management Plan.

5.2 Green Flag Award Scheme

The Green Flag Award Scheme itself will provide constructive feedback from its independent judges. The value of this information will help shape further improvements, both to the Management Plan and to our management processes.

In 2011, Victoria Park was submitted to the Green Flag Award for the first time. The park was successful in achieving the standard, with an overall band score of 66-69. The judges identified a number of improvements to the Management Plan and helpful advice regarding further site improvements. These improvements, where appropriate, have been incorporated within the Management Plan.

5.3 Evaluation of Management and Development Programme

The detailed development plan programme outlined in the previous section will be updated regularly by the Local Environment Manager and Community Parks Officer and include feedback from representatives of Trinity Community Council and Forth Neighbourhood Partnership.

5.4 Review Process

The Management Plan will be reviewed each year to determine the progress made to date and to put together an updated annual programme. The annual programme will be used to assist in funding bids, allocating projects and work programming for the coming year. A history of this review and progress through the development plan will

be included in Appendix 17. The entire Management Plan must also be reviewed prior to its expiry.

6 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Strategies, Policies and Plans

Single Outcome Agreement 2012 - 2015

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.

A copy of the SOA can be found at:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/7085/edinburgh_partnership_single_outcome_agreement_3_2012-2015

City of Edinburgh Council Strategic Governance Plan 2012 - 2017

The Council has developed a wide range of integrated plans to deliver organisational objectives and positive outcomes for Edinburgh's citizens. To bring this together into one clear document, the Council has developed a Strategic Plan 2012-17 which provides a corporate framework for the delivery of services. A copy is available from: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9390/city_of_edinburgh_council_governance_strategic_plan.

Services for Communities Service Plan 2011- 2014

The aim of Services for Communities is to create and maintain clean, safe, green, healthy, well managed and well maintained communities.

“We have a vision for a quality parks system worthy of international comparison; accessible, diverse and environmentally rich; which fulfils the cultural, social and recreational needs of the people. We use the Green Flag standard and the internal Parks and Landscape Quality Standards as continuous improvement tool.”
(Services for Communities Service Plan 2011-2014)

A copy of the service plan is available from:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/5145/service_plan_for_services_for_communities_2011-14.

The Community Plan for Edinburgh

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. 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.

Development Plan

The Development Plan for the City comprises the Edinburgh & Lothian's Structure Plan and a number of Local Plans. These documents provide the statutory planning framework for the Council's policies and proposals towards the protection and use of the city's open spaces. The Edinburgh and the Lothians Structure Plan was prepared jointly by the City Council with the councils for East, Mid- and West Lothian. It was approved by the Scottish Ministers in 2007. The Edinburgh City Local Plan was prepared in 2007, but has not yet been adopted. A public local inquiry was held towards the end of 2008 to deal with objections made to the Plan as it stands and to modifications which the Council has proposed making to the Plan. The Edinburgh City Local Plan page will keep you up-to-date with progress towards its adoption, which should be early in 2010. The Rural West Edinburgh Local Plan was adopted by the Council in 2006. An Alteration is in preparation, dealing with the airport's growth plans amongst other matters. You can view the Alteration proposals and track progress by clicking on Alteration.

Edinburgh Local Plan (2007)

The Council adopted the Edinburgh City Local Plan on 28 January 2010. The Plan covers the whole of the urban area, and part of its rural, Green Belt fringe. An electronic copy can be found at: <http://217.174.251.127/dev/plans/eclp/contents.htm>.

A summary of the policy framework within the Edinburgh Local Plan for is summarised below.

Policy OS 1 – Open Space Protection

This policy seeks to protect all open spaces, which contribute to the amenity of their surroundings and the city, which provide or are capable of providing for the recreational needs of residents and visitors or which are an integral part of the City's landscape and townscape character and its biodiversity.

Proposals involving the loss of open space will not be permitted unless it is demonstrated that:

- a) There will be no significant impact on the quality or character of the local environment
- b) The open space is a small part of a larger area or of limited amenity or leisure value and there is a significant over-provision of open space serving the immediate area
- c) The loss would not be detrimental to the wider network including its continuity or biodiversity value and either

- d) There will be a local benefit in allowing the development in terms of either alternative equivalent provision being made in the area or improvement to an existing public park or other open space or
- e) The development is for a community purpose and the benefits to the local community outweigh the loss.

On the basis of this policy it is unlikely that the park will ever be sought for development but the policy provides opportunity for investment if other areas are developed or if new open space cannot be developed within any new housing developments in the vicinity.

Policy Env 4 and 5 – Conservation Area

This policy relates to the protection of buildings, whether listed or not and whether development within a Conservation Area will be permitted and on what grounds.

In relation to buildings, *Policy Env 4* states that proposals for the demolition of an unlisted building within a Conservation Area but which is considered to make a positive contribution to the character of the area will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances and after taking into account the considerations set out in *Policy Env 1* (relating to demolition of Listed Buildings).

Proposals for the demolition of any building within a Conservation Area, whether listed or not, will not normally be permitted unless a full planning application is submitted for a replacement building which enhances or preserves the character of the area or, if acceptable, for the landscaping of the site. Conservation Area Consent will be subject to conditions or legal agreement to ensure that demolition does not take place until a satisfactory form of contact has been entered into for its development or after-use.

Development within a Conservation Area will be permitted which:

- a) preserves or enhances the special character or appearance of the Conservation Area
- b) preserves trees, hedges, boundary walls, railings, paving and other features which contribute positively to the character of the area and
- c) demonstrates high standards of design and utilises materials appropriate to the historic environment.

Planning application should be submitted in a sufficiently detailed form for the visual effect of the development proposal on the character of the area to be assessed.

Policy Env 6 – Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes.

The Edinburgh Local Plan defines in this policy that any development will not be permitted which would have a detrimental impact on the character of a site recorded in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, upon important views to, from and within the site, or upon component features which contribute to its value. The restoration of Inventory Sites will be encouraged.

Open Space Framework

The Framework acknowledges the ongoing work of both the Council and its stakeholders to improve open space across the city. There is also an appreciation of the increasing pressures and changing attitudes to open space. The Framework considers the different types of open space that the city has and should offer, looking at not just green but also civic spaces and considers how the overall protection, enhancement, provision, promotion of open spaces can be achieved and sets out a series of aims to do this.

Capitalising on Access: an Access Strategy for Edinburgh

The Access Strategy sets out a framework for developing opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding 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.

Core Path Plan

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 are managed by the local Environment teams (consisting of Road Services, Parks and 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.

A copy of the map of all the Core Path Network can be downloaded from the Council website at:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/3007/core_path_plan_map

Climate Change Framework

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.

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.

Sustainable Procurement Policy

In December 2011, this policy sets out the general principles the Council will follow across all its procurement and commissioning to ensure it is undertaken in a sustainable manner.

Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Action Plan

On 27 March 2012, the Council's Corporate Policy and Strategy Committee approved an Action Plan to take forward the Council's vision for a Sustainable Edinburgh 2020.

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.

A copy of Edinburgh's Parks and Gardens Strategy can be downloaded from the Council's website at:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/3006/edinburgh_park_and_garden_strategy

Edinburgh's Sports Pitch Strategy (2005)

The Edinburgh Sports Pitch Strategy reviewed the provision of sports pitches for the purposes of improving provision and the development of effective planning policies around provision and forms "A Capital Commitment to Sport – Quality Pitches for All".

Play Area Action Plan (2011 – 2016)

The Play Area Action Plan aims to guide the improvement of existing play areas, sets out a vision for future play area provision and prioritises future investment. The Plan

was approved by the Council's Policy and Strategy Committee in June 2012. A copy is available from:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/9585/play_area_action_plan.

Edinburgh Open Space Strategy (2010)

The Open Space Audit has been carried out using the national land use classification for open space set out in Planning Advice Note (PAN) 65. The strategy sets standards for different kinds of open space. The strategy will inform the first local development plan for Edinburgh due to start in 2011.

The strategy is being developed following a comprehensive audit of open space in the city and information gathered through public consultation. It will ensure that a coordinated approach is taken to protecting and developing the city's network of open space. It is accompanied by 12 action plans, one for each Neighbourhood Partnership area, setting out site-specific proposals for change in open spaces. There are a number of main strategic issues that it will consider, many which will relate to the Green Flag Scheme, including parks and gardens, sports pitches, play, allotment and community gardens. The details of these are not yet available. It will be launched in May 2010

A full copy of the plan can be downloaded from the Council's website:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/2016/open_space_strategy

Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2010 - 2015)

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. The Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan was launched in 2000, which prioritises habitat conservation, which then benefits a wide range of species. The Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership will be working to implement the actions contained within the Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan, co-ordinated by the Edinburgh Biodiversity Officer based in the Council. Successful implementation will provide opportunities for both wildlife and people to thrive in Edinburgh's quality environment.

A copy of the Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan can be downloaded from the Council's website:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/1956/edinburgh_biodiversity_action_plan

Edinburgh Parks Events manifesto

The Manifesto is intended to allow a strategic and proactive approach to the planning and managing of events within Edinburgh's parks and greenspaces. It aims to establish a set of guidelines tailored to each individual park, which provide a framework on which a balanced and sustainable events programme can be achieved,

whilst ensuring that the quality of the land is maintained to the highest standard possible.

Neighbourhood Policies

Forth Neighbourhood Partnership - Local Community Plan (2008)

Local Community Plans aim to improve the quality of life for people living in our communities by improving local services. They will ensure that key agencies, Council Departments and other partners work together to achieve improvements.

By listening to what people have said (at public meetings, through Community Councils and comprehensive Neighbourhood Research) we have developed a vision for where we would like to see our community in 15 years time. We have also developed priority actions to help us move towards achieving this vision over the next four years.

Please click here to view the latest plan: [Forth Local Community Plan](#).

Community Groups in the Forth Ward were consulted throughout the process of developing this plan - from being involved at the earliest stages through to making comments on the final draft. Specific work undertaken and information gathered included:

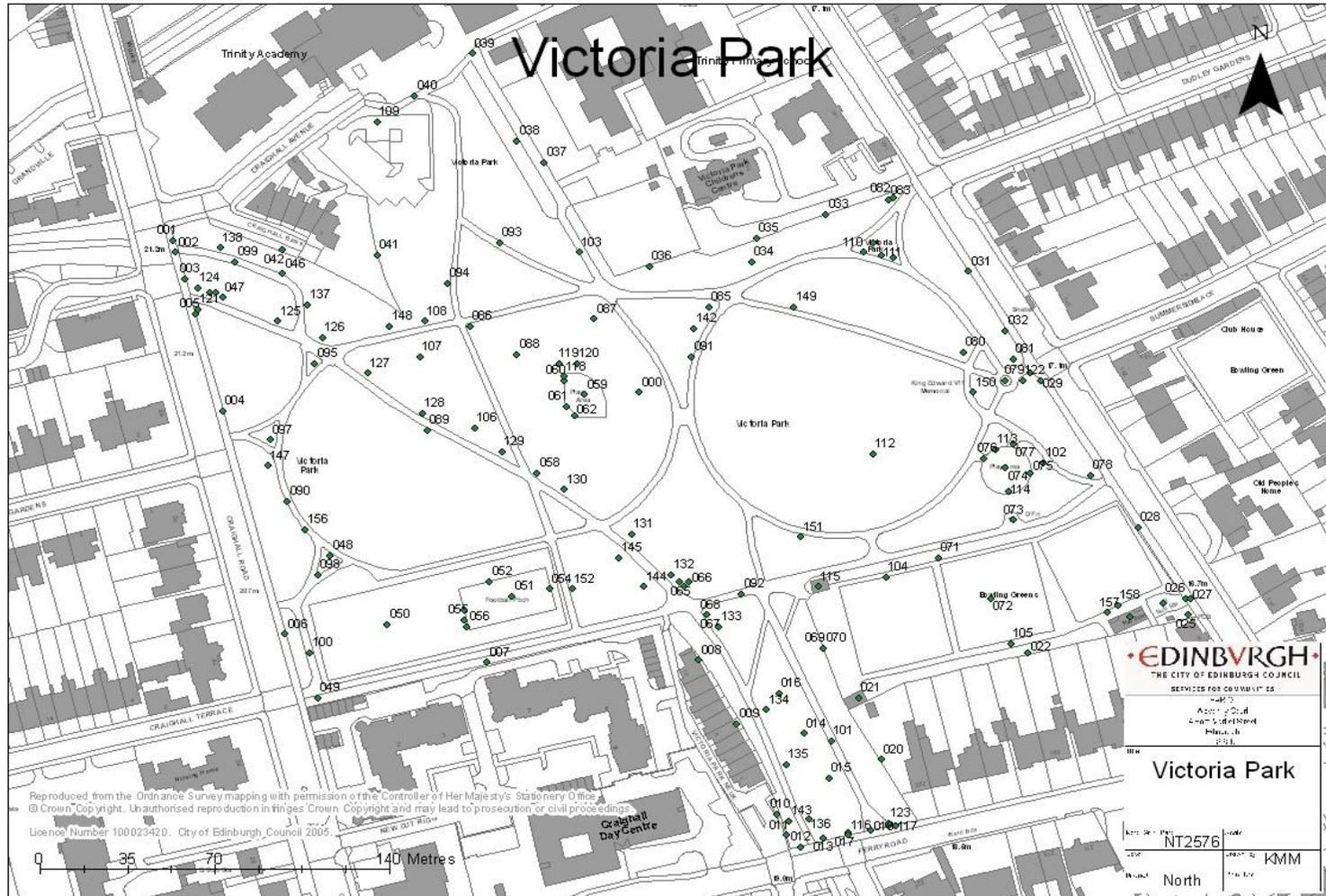
- The setting up of five Action Groups to tackle particular issues
- Holding a Health Summit for local residents in April 2008
- Running a Children & Young People-Planning Day in September 2007
- Seeking direct feedback from members of the Action Groups and other local groups and members of the community
- Undertaking a survey of Forth residents to determine local priorities (carried out by City of Edinburgh Council Services for Communities)
- Producing an Area Profile for the Forth Ward
- Encouraging discussion of the draft plan at Community Council meetings
- Continuing discussion and consultation will take place to ensure that the plan continues to tackle the needs of people in Forth
- The early priorities to help achieve our vision are:
 - Making the environment cleaner, greener and more attractive
 - Working towards reducing the levels of poverty experienced by local people
 - Improving our roads and public transport
 - Promoting activities for children and young people and ensure that the voices and views of young people are heard
- Creating a healthier community. In particular to take action on Mental Health, Access to Health Services, Alcohol and Drug misuse and Information on Health Services
- Communicating and engaging effectively with the community and ensuring greater community influence in decision making

For more information, or to comment on anything in the Draft Community Plan,
please contact Forth Neighbourhood Partnership Development Officer,
jim.pattison@edinburgh.gov.uk

Appendix 2 – Tree Survey



Appendix 3 – Park Asset Information



Map ID	Type	Description	Inspector	Last Inspected	Condition	Comments
000	Park	Victoria Park	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	
001	Wall	Boundary Wall - stone	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
002	Bridge	Bridge over Path	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
003	Wall	Boundary Wall - stone	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
004	Railing / Fence	Boundary Railings - steel	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
005	Threshold Sign	Park Name Plate	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Graffiti
006	Threshold Sign	Park Name Plate	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	Completely Defaced
007	Wall	Boundary Wall - stone	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
008	Railing / Fence	Wooden boundary fence unknown ownership	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
009	Railing / Fence	Wooden boundary fence unknown ownership	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
010	Wall	Boundary Wall [PRIVATE?]	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
011	Wall	Boundary Wall - stone [PRIVATE?]	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
012	Wall	Boundary Wall - stone	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
013	Bridge	Bridge over Path	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
014	Wall	Wall - stone	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
015	Shrubbery	Shrubbery	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
016	Wall	Wall - stone	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
017	Railing / Fence	Boundary Railings - steel	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
018	Gate	Double Gate - steel Vehicular Access	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
019	Gate	Single Gate - steel	CW	31/03/2009	Good	

020	Wall	Boundary Wall - stone	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
021	Store	Storage Shed for Gardening Machinery	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
022	Wall	Boundary Wall - stone	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Coping Damaged
023	Pavilion	Pavilion	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
024	Electrical	Sub-station	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
025	Monument	Police Box	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	See Photo
026	Gate	Single Gate - steel	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Needs Painting
027	Threshold Sign	"Victoria Park Bowling Green"	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
Map ID	Type	Description	Inspector	Last Inspected	Condition	Comments
028	Railing / Fence	Boundary Railings - steel	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Needs Painting
029	Railing / Fence	Boundary Railings - steel	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
030	Pillar	2 X Boundary Pillars	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
031	Railing / Fence	Boundary Railings - steel	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
032	Notice Board	Notice Board - silver, Trinity Community Council	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
033	Wall	Boundary Wall - stone	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
034	Shrubbery	Shrubbery	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
035	Railing / Fence	Diamond Wire Boundary Fence [PRIVATE?]	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
036	Railing / Fence	Steel Boundary Fence [PRIVATE?]	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Needs Painting
037	Railing / Fence	Steel Boundary Railings [PRIVATE?]	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Needs Painting
038	Railing / Fence	Steel railings	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	V. Rusty: Rails Missing

	Fence					
039	Gate	Double Gate - steel Vehicular Access	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	Twisted;Mishapen
040	Railing / Fence	Boundary Railings - steel	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Needs Painting
041	Railing / Fence	Wooden boundary fence [PRIVATE?]	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
042	Railing / Fence	Steel Boundary Fence [PRIVATE?]	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	See Photo
044	Waymarker	Victoria Path Direction Sign	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
045	Other Advisory Sign	Cyclists & Pedestrians Permitted	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
046	Threshold Sign	Victoria Path Sign	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
047	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - fibreglass	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Weathered
048	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - fibreglass	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	Battered & Weathered
049	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - fibreglass	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Weathered
050	Ball Court	Ball Court	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	Grass Growing Through Tarmac
051	Ball Court	All Weather Court	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	
052	Railing / Fence	Fence Around All Weather Court	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
053	Lighting	Spotlight	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
054	Lighting	Spotlight	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
055	Electrical	Junction Box	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	Disusd & Derelict

Ma p ID	Type	Description	Inspecto r	Last Inspected	Conditio n	Comments
056	Gate	Gate to All Weather Court	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
058	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - fibreglass	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	Front Panel Missing

059	Play Area	Play area	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
060	Railing / Fence	Steel Boundary Railings of Play Area	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
061	Gate	Single gate - steel to play area	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
062	Gate	Double Gate - steel to Play Area	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
064	Waymarker	Pedestrian Route to Holy Cross Primary School	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
065	Waymarker	Pedestrian Route to Trinity Academy	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Not Level on Post
066	Threshold Sign	Victoria Path Sign	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
067	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - fibreglass	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	
068	Store	Old Shed	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	Derelict
069	Railing / Fence	Fence Around Bowling Green	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	See Photo
070	Gate	Double Gate-Vehicular Access to Bowling Green	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
071	Railing / Fence	Boundary Railings of Bowling Green	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
072	Bowling Green	3 X Bowling Greens	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
073	Fountain	Drinking Fountain presented to "Burgh of Leith MM083	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
075	Railing / Fence	Steel Boundary Railings of Play Area	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
076	Gate	Single gate - steel to play area	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
077	Gate	Single gate - steel to play area	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
078	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - fibreglass	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	Front Panel Damaged
079	Monument	Edward VII Statue MM082	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	Lettering Absent
080	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - fibreglass	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Weathered
081	Dog Sign	No dog fouling sign	CW	31/03/2009	Good	

082	Dog Sign	No dog fouling sign	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	Totally Defaced
083	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - fibreglass	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	Front Panel Damaged
084	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - fibreglass	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Graffiti
085	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - fibreglass	CW	31/03/2009	Poor	Front Panel Off

Map ID	Type	Description	Inspector	Last Inspected	Condition	Comments
086	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - fibreglass	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Weathered
087	Picnic Table	Picnic bench - metal	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
088	Picnic Table	Picnic bench - metal	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
089	Pathway	Victoria Path	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
090	Pathway	Main Oval Path	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
091	Pathway	Main Circular Path	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
092	Pathway	Southern Perimeter Path	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
093	Pathway	NW-SE Path	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
094	Pathway	N-S Path	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
095	Pathway	Triangular Path	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
096	Pathway	Triangular Path	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
097	Pathway	Triangular Path	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
098	Pathway	Triangular Path	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
099	Pathway	Pathway - tarmac	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
100	Pathway	Pathway - tarmac	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
101	Pathway	Pathway - tarmac	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
102	Pathway	Pathway - tarmac	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
103	Pathway	Pathway - tarmac	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
104	Pathway	North Bowling Green Path	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Tarmac Beginning to Break-up
106	Picnic Table	Picnic bench - metal	MF	18/08/2009	Good	
107	Picnic Table	Picnic bench - metal	MF	18/08/2009	Good	

108	Park Seat	Bench - black metal	MF	18/08/2009	Good	
109	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - Fibreglass	MF	18/08/2009	Fair	
110	Park Seat	Wood on Metal frame	MF	18/08/2009	Fair	
111	Park Seat	Wood on Metal frame	MF	18/08/2009	Fair	
112	Park Seat	Wood on Metal frame	MF	18/08/2009	Fair	Repaint
113	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - Fibreglass	MF	18/08/2009	Fair	Front panel missing

Map ID	Type	Description	Inspector	Last Inspected	Condition	Comments
114	Park Seat	Wood on Metal frame	MF	18/08/2009	Fair	Repaint
115	Pavilion	Bowling green building	MF	18/08/2009	Fair	
116	Hedge	Along railings	MF	18/08/2009	Fair	
117	Hedge	Along railings	MF	18/08/2009	Fair	
118	Waste Bin	Waste Bin - Fibreglass	MF	18/08/2009	Poor	Cover missing, burnt
119	Play Area Seat	Bench - blue metal	MF	18/08/2009	Good	
120	Play Area Seat	Bench - blue metal	MF	18/08/2009	Good	
121	Notice Board	Post Mounted	MF	26/10/2009	Good	New
122	Notice Board	Post Mounted	MF	26/10/2009	Good	New
123	Notice Board	Post Mounted	MF	26/10/2009	Good	New
105	Pathway	South Bowling Green Path	CW	31/03/2009	Fair	Tarmac Beginning to Break-up
074	Play Area	Play area	CW	31/03/2009	Good	
124	Street Lighting	WPN67	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	
125	Street Lighting	WPN66	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	
126	Street Lighting	WPN65	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	
127	Street	WPN64	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	

	Lighting					
128	Street Lighting	WPN63	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	
129	Street Lighting	WPN62	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	
130	Street Lighting	WPN61	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	
131	Street Lighting	WPN60	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	
132	Street Lighting	WPN59	MF	30/11/2009	Good	
133	Street Lighting	WPN58	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	
134	Street Lighting	WPN57	MF	30/11/2009	Good	
135	Street Lighting	WPN56	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	
136	Street Lighting	WPN55	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	
137	Street Lighting	WPN68	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	
138	Street Lighting	WPN69	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	

Map ID	Type	Description	Inspector	Last Inspected	Condition	Comments
142	Park Seat	Bench - Wood	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	Repaint
143	Services Undefined	Cover	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	

144	Park Seat	Bench - Wood	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	Some grafitti, repaint
145	Park Seat	Bench - Wood	MF	30/11/2009	Fair	Some grafitti, repaint
147	Presentation Seat	J & I Adams	MF	30/11/2009	Good	
148	Park Seat	Bench - black metal	MF	30/11/2009	Good	
149	Park Seat	Bench - black metal	MF	30/11/2009	Good	
150	Park Seat	Bench - black metal	MF	30/11/2009	Good	
151	Park Seat	Bench - black metal	MF	30/11/2009	Good	
152	Park Seat	Bench - black metal	MF	30/11/2009	Good	
156	Presentation Seat	Laurie Docherty	MF	30/11/2009	Good	
157	Presentation Seat	no plaque - bowling green			Not Known	
158	Presentation Seat	W D McNaughton - bowling green			Not Known	

Appendix 4 – Biodiversity Assessment

This assessment will be carried out in 2011.

Appendix 5 – Legal Information



The park is made up of four titles:

- 1. 0.657 acre, 2.143 acres and 3.148 acres acquired under the Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act 1920 and Leith Council Minutes of 4/02/1908 by the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Council of the City of Edinburgh from The Caledonian Railway Company for the sum of £5,900. Dates of entry Whit 1907 and 1908. Recorded GRS Edinburgh 4/09/1908. Deed ref. 14c/12.**

Three areas of ground with buildings and other erections thereon, with, so far as still subsisting and enforceable, the burdens, restrictions, conditions and obligations contained in (for 0.657 acre) the Feu Contract between the Honourable James Clerk and Crichton Strachan, recorded in the books of Council and Session on 25/01/1812 and Instrument of Sasine in favour of Crichton Strachan, recorded PRS Edinburgh 18/04/1812; the Feu Charter by James Clerk Rattray in favour of Charles Laing, recorded GRS Edinburgh 18/06/1878. The Council were reserved all rights and powers competent to them to obtain release and discharge of and from the said burdens; (for the 3.148 acres) in the Conveyance granted by Lieutenant General James Clerk Rattray in favour of The Caledonian Railway Company, recorded 15/11/1890.

Also granted was a perpetual heritable servitude right of passage for pedestrians and vehicles across the Edinburgh Leith and Newhaven Extension Branch Railway by the overbridge. The abutments constituting the overbridge and the approaches, which were in an unfinished state, were also part of the conveyance to the Council, with the Council having power to complete the same at their own expense and maintain in good order as long as the bridge is retained.

The Council were also obliged to erect and maintain an unclimbable iron fence along the boundaries of the railway.

Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Tramways Act 1920

An Act to extend the boundaries of the City and Royal Burgh of Edinburgh and county of the City of Edinburgh; to extend the City Parish of Edinburgh; to transfer and vest in the Corporation of the extended city the undertakings of Edinburgh and District Water Trustees, the Edinburgh and Leith Corporations, Gas Commissioners and Water of Leith Purification and Sewerage Commissioners; to extend the limits of the compulsory water supply and limits of the gas supply; to construct tramways and works, to provide and work motor omnibuses within the extended city; to acquire lands; to authorise the Corporation to make byelaws as to aviation; to extend the time for the purchase of lands and completion of authorised works; to borrow money, to lend money to Commissioners for the Harbour and Docks of Leith; to amend and extend the Edinburgh Municipal and Police and other Acts and for other purposes (4 August 1920).

Part II

(2) On the annexation, the Leith Town Council shall be dissolved and shall cease to exist.

(21) The Corporation to administer the affairs of the city.

26. All mortifications, endowments, trusts, charitable bequests and other grants vested in the Corporation.

27. All property belonging to the Corporation at annexation, or which is held on behalf of the community shall be vested in and held by the Corporation on behalf of and for the benefit of the city.

62. Within 5 years of annexation, the Corporation to provide and thereafter maintain within, or in close proximity to Leith district, public open spaces which shall in all extend to not less than 30 acres, to be used as public parks or recreation grounds including provision for playing football.

67. The Corporation shall appoint rangers for existing public parks or recreation ground in suburban areas from among members of the Town Council for the municipal wards in which the same are situated.

Feu Contract between the Honourable James Clerk and Crichton Strachan, recorded in the books of Council and Session on 25/01/1812.

Conditions relative to the formation of a road with footpath on either side by James Clerk. Only one house per half acre of ground allowed on the ground feued.

Instrument of Sasine in favour of Crichton Strachan, recorded PRS Edinburgh 18/04/1812.

Title missing.

Feu Charter by James Clerk Rattray in favour of Charles Laing, recorded GRS Edinburgh 18/06/1878.

Title missing.

Conveyance granted by Lieutenant General James Clerk Rattray in favour of The Caledonian Railway Company, recorded GRS Edinburgh 15/11/1890.

Ground lying to the south of the Leith Branch of the Caledonian Railway extending to 9 acres and 92 poles, as well as the ground to be given off for the formation of a road 40 ft wide to the north and one 35 ft wide to the south of the area. Lt Gen. Rattray was to be relieved of all obligations affecting the land, the roads and the wall to be erected on the east of the land belonging to the School Board of Leith.

2. 0.44acre and 1.55 acres acquired by Act of Council 31 of 5/02/1953 by the Lord Provost, Magistrates and Council of the City of Edinburgh from The British Transport Commission for the sum of £200. Date of entry Whit 1953. Recorded GRS Midlothian 31/12/1953. Deed ref.14c/12A.

Ground situated in Newhaven forming part of three areas of ground conveyed to the Caledonian Railway Company in 1877, 1890 and 1898. The two areas of ground were disposed subject to all existing servitude rights of wayleave for sewers, drains, gas and water pipes, cables, telegraph and telephone wires.

The disponees were bound to fence off the two areas of ground and submit to the sellers, for approval, plans and drawings of any proposed development of the ground before commencement of the same. The ground was not to be used for business relative to the carrying of passengers or goods, but no restrictions were imposed on the construction of a road or roads.

Act of Council 31 of 5/02/1953

Report submitted by Civic Amenities Committee, along with a report by Finance Committee:

13 January 1953 – At a meeting of Parks, Markets, etc and the Sub-Committee of Civic Amenities Committee, at this and previous meetings the Sub-Committee had under consideration a motion by Councillor Gerrard to consider acquisition of ground adjacent to Victoria Park, Leith.

Previously the Sub-Committee visited the ground in question, belonging to British Transport Commission and consisting of a disused railway cutting (open at both ends to railway lines still in operation) and lying on the north west side of Victoria Park. The children's playground in Victoria Park is immediately adjacent to the cutting, which is spanned by a footbridge providing access (through the park) from Craighall Avenue to Newhaven Road. The cutting, if filled in, would be suitable for inclusion in Victoria park (the footbridge becoming redundant). The engineer and manager of the Cleansing Department had subsequently reported that the cutting would provide tipping space for screened refuse which could be deposited over a period of two years and that the use of this area for tipping would be of considerable benefit.

The Sub-Committee had accordingly recommended that this area be purchased for use as an extension of Victoria Park after completion of tipping operations.

At a subsequent meeting, the Sub-Committee resolved that there be included in the purchase two small adjacent areas:

- a) a strip of ground on the south of the cutting belonging to the Commission, at present let to the Corporation and incorporated into the park and
- b) a triangular area between the east end of Craighall Avenue and the cutting, belonging to Hugh Campbell, 118 East Claremont Street, Edinburgh.

The Superintendent of Parks had estimated that the cost of laying out the extension to Victoria Park, which would be made available by acquisition of these areas (approximately 3 acres), was £150.

Letters submitted on 11 October and 29 December 1952 from the Chief Valuer, intimating that provisional agreement had now been reached with the respective proposals for purchase of these areas, the terms of acquisition being:

- a) Disused railway cutting and adjoining strip of ground –
 - 1) Purchase price of £200.
 - 2) Owners permitted to enter the ground and remove the footbridge over the cutting any time after the expiry of 3 years from the date of sale.
 - 3) The owners' surveyor's fee of £7, 7s to be paid by the Corporation.
- b) Triangular area – price £25.

The Sub-Committee resolved to recommend that the subjects be acquired on the foregoing terms. No provision for expenditure involved, amounting to £232, 7s, had been made in estimates for the current financial year.

27 January 1953 – Civic Amenities Committee approved and resolved to recommend accordingly.

2 February 1953 – Meeting of Finance Committee – report by Civic Amenities Committee was submitted in terms of Standing Order no. 99.

Finance Committee resolved to report to the Magistrates and Council that the expenditure referred to in the report was not included in estimates for the current financial year.

Civic Amenities Committee had already been authorised to incur additional capital expenditure not included in the estimates, amounting to £4,950, and the effect of this recommendation, if approved, would be that the capital expenditure of the Parks Account would have to be increased by the sum of £235. The Committee further resolved to recommend the Magistrates and Council borrow the sum of £235 to meet the said Capital Expenditure.

The Magistrates and Council approved of the foregoing reports, and resolved as therein recommended. Further, the Magistrates and Council unanimously resolved to borrow the sum of £235 for the purpose stated, subject to approval of the Secretary of State for Scotland.

- 3. ***3.48 acres acquired by Recreation and Leisure Committee Item 3 of 5/12/1977 and Planning Committee of 16/02/1978 by The City of Edinburgh District Council from J Smart and Co.(Contractors) PLC for nil consideration. Date***

of entry 18/02/1982. Recorded GRS Midlothian 31/03/1983. Deed ref. Cupboard 29/Shelf 5B.

1.93 acres of the ground was acquired on Planning account and 1.55 acres on Parks account.

Disposition subject to Smart completing certain infill works, which were completed.

The burdens relative to the subjects included any servitudes and rights of wayleave for laying and maintaining sewers, drains, pipes, cables, telegraph and telephone poles, wires and stays laid in, through or across the subjects. Before erecting any buildings, the Council were obliged to submit to British Railways Board plans, sections and drawings showing the water supply and drainage arrangements connected with the same for their approval. The subjects were also to be fenced off, where not already fenced, from adjoining property belonging to (or formerly belonging to) British Railways Board, with the Council upholding and maintaining all fences thereafter.

British Railways Board reserved a right of access over the land adjoining the public road overbridge at Craighall Road for the purpose of inspecting, repairing and maintaining the bridge. The Board also reserved the right to utilise the land adjoining the bridge should they remove the same and substitute an embankment. Smart reserved a right to enter on as much of the subjects as necessary for completion of demolition works to the bridge over the Water of Leith at the southmost end of the subjects.

Recreation and Leisure Committee 5/12/1977

Correspondence had been received from J Smart and Co. (Contractors) Ltd, dated 30/08/1977, in regard to the railway land bisecting Victoria Park at its north end. The said ground was zoned as public open space and with the public walkway eventually to be laid out over its length and with it being Railway ground, the Council would have "first call" on this.

J Smart were in the position to fill in the cutting over the next two to three years with spoil from excavations and demolition arising from their operations in the town and believed it would be a worthwhile project to all concerned in uniting two portions of Victoria Park, which, at that moment, were connected by a footbridge.

Smart believed that the simplest method of achieving this would be for them to acquire the ground from British Rail, which would make it necessary for the Council to waive conditionally its right to purchase the ground. It so, Smart would enter into a formal and binding agreement :

- a) that Smart would fill the cutting with clean excavation spoil and hard material to a level and grade acceptable to the Parks Department, and prepared for final surfacing, within a period of 2 -3 years.
- b) On completion, Smart would convey the ground free of cost, subject only to the Council meeting legal charges or Stamp Duty involved.

A letter from Planning Department to the Director of Administration on 29/11/1977 stated that this was acceptable in principle, with the District Council waiving its right to purchase the ground from British Rail.

Planning and Development Committee, Planning Policy Sub-Committee of 16/02/1978.

Supplementary Agenda relative to the disused railway cutting from Victoria Park to Chancelot Mill.

A report of 13 February by the Director of Planning referred to the letter from J Smart & Co. (Contractors) Ltd on 30/08/1977, intimating the proposed purchase and filling in of the disused railway. On completion this would be conveyed to the Council, free of cost, subject only to the Council meeting any legal charges or Stamp Duty involved.

The area was zoned for public amenity open space in Leith local plan for the purpose of extending the park and connecting the park with the Water of Leith walkway.

Mr Smart had agreed that they would work to levels set by the District Council. There would be a partial upfilling of the cutting while still allowing adequate headroom for the walkway to pass under Ferry Road and the footbridge in Victoria Park, as well as retaining a number of young trees which had established naturally alongside the disused railway between the two bridges.

The cutting through the park would be filled up to the adjoining ground level, thus uniting the two halves of the park. A ramp was also to be formed up from the Water of Leith walkway for vehicular access in the early stages, which would also serve to link the two footpaths. The ground was to be levelled with subsoil where required, though the District Council would be responsible for the final surfacing of topsoil and subsequent seeding and planting, the construction of any footpaths and other hard surfaced areas. It was possible that this work would be funded by SDA, including maintenance costs, for the first three years.

Recreation Committee, at a meeting of 5/12/1977 resolved to recommend acceptance in principle of the offer to gift the land on the conditions put forward and the matter was to be referred to Planning and Development Committee for consideration with regard to:

The possible transfer of the remaining area of ground to Planning Account

Their view on the possibility of planning permission being granted for the project.

It was necessary for the Council to waive its right to purchase from British Rail, subject to Smart first obtaining planning permission and entering into a Section 50 Agreement with the District Council. British Rail would be advised accordingly.

It was recommended that the offer of gifting the land be accepted, with the transfer to Planning account.

4. 12.24 acres acquired by the Edinburgh Boundaries Extension and Trams Act 1920 by The Provost, Magistrates and Council of the Burgh of Leith from The Trustee acting under the Ante-nuptial Contract between Charlie Orr Paterson

***and Isabella Raines, and others for £16,621. 9s. 6d. Date of entry Whit 1897.
Recorded GRS Edinburgh 06/08/1897. Deed ref.14C/13.***

All and whole the piece of ground, along with the house known as Bonnington Park House, together with a strip to from an additional access. The strip was to be used for no other purpose than as an access to the whole area disponded.

The obligations contained in the title were largely relative to feu duty, though a wall was to be erected along the strip of ground, once utilised by the Council, separating it from 200 Ferry Road, providing a new access to the house if necessary.

Sales:

Subjects acquired from The Caledonian Railway Company, The British Transport Commission and The Trustee for Charlie Orr Paterson and others (Titles 1, 2 & 4)
– 0.715 acres transferred from Parks account to Education account by Act of Council 16 of 5/12/1957 and 1.254 acres transferring per Act of Council of 25/07/1962 part of which was taken from 1.55 acres, part form 2.143 acres and part from 12.24 acres.

The Trustee for Charlie Orr Paterson and others (Title 4) – Disposition of 233 sq yards to John Murray Peterson for £25, being former access strip at Ferry Road, recorded GRS Edinburgh 3/12/1925 by Act of Council 3/1 of 3/12/1925. Strip which was formerly intended to form an access from Victoria Park to Ferry Road, under the burdens and conditions so far as applicable in the Disposition granted by the Paterson's Trustees.

Also Feu Disp. of 69.3 sq yards to SSEB for £50, Newhaven Road, date of settlement/recorded 14/10/1964 per Finance Committee 14A of 13/02/1964.

Leases:

Five a Side, Football Pitch, Craighall Road to local community association for £0 rent. No information on the terms of this agreement have been found.

Appendix 6 – Park Management Rules



MANAGEMENT RULES FOR PUBLIC PARKS

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 and Gardens:-

1. 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 golf course, public walk, walkway, woodland, ornamental or pleasure ground or gardens and all buildings and works connected therewith;
 - "Water course" means any Loch, Pond, River, Burn or Stream;
 - "Notice" means a notice or sign exhibited by order of the Council;
 - "Council Official" means an employee of the Council or of Edinburgh Leisure or any other person authorised by the Council to enforce these Rules;
2. The following acts are prohibited within any park:-
 1. Failing to follow any directions for the control of traffic or persons given by a Council Official or by a notice;
 2. Failing to remove a vehicle if asked to do so by a Council Official;

3. Racing or training horses or other animals;
4. Going on any enclosure, flower bed or shrubbed area
5. Going on or throwing objects on any iced water course.
6. Climbing any tree, railing, fence or structure of any kind except play equipment;
7. Swimming, bathing or wading in or polluting any water course or fountain, except for children playing in Council paddling pools;
8. Sailing any boat, yacht or other craft (including model boats and yachts) in any water course, except in those provided by the Council for that purpose;
9. Playing or practising any games or engaging in any form of sport or exercise if asked by a Council Official not to or where prohibited by a notice;
10. Operating any mechanically propelled toy or model machine including model aircraft (so as to give reasonable cause for annoyance to any other person or if asked by a Council Official not to);
11. Attaching a rope or swing to any tree or structure or playing on such a rope or swing;
12. Riding a bicycle, tricycle, scooter, skateboard or roller blades except where vehicles are allowed or where such cycling, riding on a scooter, skateboarding, roller skating or roller blading is permitted. This rule does not apply to children aged ten years or younger accompanied by an adult;
13. Allowing a dog to foul in a public park unless the person in charge of the dog immediately removes the fouling;
14. Allowing a dog to enter in or on a children's play area or sports playing field situated within any public park;
15. Failing to keep a dog under proper control.

Appendix 7 – Access Audit

Appendix 8 – Risk Assessment

RISK ASSESSMENT							Compiled by: Steven Cuthill, Local Environment Manager	
Site: Victoria Park		Assessment Date: December 2010			Review Date: by December 2011			
Hazard and Risk	People at risk	Our Controls	Future Controls	Risk Level	Target date and Responsible person	Notes		
Insect bites and stings	Public and Employees	Report any nests to Pest Control for removal	Signs erected warning people to keep away from nests	Low	As and when required CPO/PR			
Disease (Tetanus, Hepatitis, Leptospirosis, Weil's disease, etc)	Public and Employees	Information is provided to employees on health risks and symptoms included in safe working practices, risk assessment on dealing with syringes and stick injuries. PPE in place for removal of sharps. Reports by the public are dealt with by Taskforce. Anti-social behaviour reported to police and local ASB team.	Staff can approach their GP for inoculations and are referred to GP if exposed, as a precaution. Staff provided with washing facilities and first aid if required.	Low	As and when required. PR/TFM			
Fixed furniture: Injury due to damage etc	Public	Benches and other furniture are bolted and/or concreted to the ground. Litter bins are emptied at least weekly and	CPO and PR will inspect Inverleith Park and also reports of damage by FoIP and public/sports users.	Low	As and when required. CPO			

RISK ASSESSMENT

Compiled by: Steven Cuthill, Local Environment Manager

Site: Victoria Park		Assessment Date: December 2010		Review Date: by December 2011		
Hazard and Risk	People at risk	Our Controls	Future Controls	Risk Level	Target date and Responsible person	Notes
		inspected at time of emptying for defects which are reported for repair. Public reports of damaged items.				
Trees: Collapse or structural damage, low hanging branches.	Public and Employees	Tree maintenance carried out as required. Tree Hazard Management system in place. CPO responds to concerns raised by the public.	Identify tree work through regular inspections and review Tree Hazard Management information as appropriate.	Low	As and when required. CPO and Tree and Woodlands Officer.	
Footpaths: Trips, slips and falls	Public and Employees	Paths checked for signs of damage. Leaf clearance carried out as necessary, grass and edges cut back at least once per annum. Defects to footpath are repaired as soon as practical, damage with H&S concerns repaired as a priority. Fill holes created by animal activity, where notified.	Annual inspection of paths to identify any hazards. Addition of anti-slip material to deck boards of board walk to reduce potential for slips when wet. Sweep around pond paths to reduce potential for slips and falls.	Low	As and when required. CPO TFM	

RISK ASSESSMENT

Compiled by: Steven Cuthill, Local Environment Manager

Site: Victoria Park		Assessment Date: December 2010		Review Date: by December 2011		
Hazard and Risk	People at risk	Our Controls	Future Controls	Risk Level	Target date and Responsible person	Notes
Play area: Trips, slips, falls and injuries	Public	All play equipment checked every 4-6 weeks by qualified staff from P&GS. Annual independent assessment carried out. Ad hoc inspections carried out by other staff and all public enquiries are investigated. Removal of litter, glass and other debris on a regular basis.	Monitored by CPO and PR on a regular basis.	Low	As and when required. CPO/PR/P&GS	
Lone working: Exposure to violence or accidents.	Employees	Separate risk assessments exist for lone working and staff are supervised and may carry mobile phones. Employees are advised not to involve themselves with suspicious activity and to report things to their manager or the emergency services.	Regular patrols by police, staff, Environmental Wardens help to monitor the location.	Low	As and when required. TFM, CPO, PR	
Rubbish removal Injury, manual handling	Employees and Volunteers	Manual handling training provided to staff. Bins emptied regularly to minimise	Volunteers are reminded of H&S prior to any activity.	Low	As and when required.	

RISK ASSESSMENT

Compiled by: Steven Cuthill, Local Environment Manager

Site: Victoria Park		Assessment Date: December 2010		Review Date: by December 2011		
Hazard and Risk	People at risk	Our Controls	Future Controls	Risk Level	Target date and Responsible person	Notes
		weight. PPE provided. Separate risk assessment and safe working practices observed.	CPO and PR have PPE for working in pond area.		TFM, CPO, PR. FoIP	
General maintenance by Open Spaces Taskforce and Specialist Grounds Maintenance staff.	Employees	Separate risk assessments and safe working practice method statements exist for all activities that are regularly reviewed and update. Operatives provided with PPE and have relevant training and experience. All maintenance equipment is serviced either internally at our workshop or by others suitably qualified.	HAVs assessment is carried out for all new equipment. All herbicide legislation and H&S advice is reviewed as products are made available including COSHH assessments, risk assessments, training etc is considered.	Medium	LEM, TFM, P&GS	

Appendix 9 – Site History

Victoria Park traces its history through a number of confusing name changes.

Towards the end of the 18th century, the little country track of Whiting Road became a carriageway called Bonnington Road, which later changed to Newhaven Road when the present Bonnington Road was built. Bonnington Park stood on Bonnington Road and boasted a fine house within its grounds known as Bonnington Park House. When Victoria Park was created in the name of the monarch in 1919, the house also changed its name to Victoria Park House. Even more confusingly, Victoria Park was known for a time as Raimes Park after the manufacturing chemist Raimes Clark of Smith's Place. The park passed into the hands of the council in 1920 named Victoria Park.

In 1913 a statue to Edward VII was erected in the park by the sculptor John Steven Rhind, at the suggestion of the merchant Thomas L. Devlin. Edward VII is represented in bronze, wearing robes of the Order of the Thistle and stands facing Newhaven Road. The statue bears a one word legend – “Peace”.

A small fountain presented to the Park by Leith Horticultural, Industrial and Sports Society in 1899 is located opposite Summerside Place on Newhaven Road.

Victoria Park was dominated by the presence of the railway but in 1983, Edinburgh District Council embarked on an ambitious environmental improvement programme. The railway line that bisected the park was removed and landscaped. This work necessitated the redesign of the park's footpath and cycle network and the planting of trees. The extent of the development of new walkways was well appreciated, linking with the Water of Leith System at Steadfast Gate, with its splendid views of the city. It is important as part of the green cycle network through the city both for recreation, setting and natural heritage/ biodiversity of the City.

More recently the derelict tennis courts were converted into all-weather sports courts, and also new children's play areas with safe soft surfaces have been erected.

Victoria Park is a traditional urban park characterised by mature trees and areas of grass. It lies within the Victoria Park Conservation Area designated on 16th March 1998. The Conservation Area is based around Victoria Park with Victoria Park House and the Dudley's residential area opposite. Victoria Park remains the focus of the conservation area and as an attractive public park, it plays an important role in the daily lives of the community.

The house that was built within Bonnington Park, today known as Victoria Park House, is Category C (S) listed. The house is presently used as a Children's centre and it still remains a key building, both historically and architecturally, within its surroundings.

Appendix 10 – Landscape Quality Standards

It is expected that regular inspections of quality of the maintenance undertaken in the park and also any issues relating to the park infrastructure will be carried out regularly by the Community Parks Officer and Park Ranger. Regular meetings with the Community Parks Officer and the Taskforce Manager, Team Leader and Craftsman Gardener will help deal more quickly with issues as they arise.

Grounds maintenance operations will follow a performance-based specification. These are currently in draft format. An example is provided below:

Standard Amenity Grass		
<p>General grassed areas in parks and housing estates should be maintained to allow use of the space for informal play / sport, relaxing or simply walking across. Grass in these areas kept within the accepted tolerance should result in minimal arisings after mowing. Edges should be maintained to the same standard as the surrounding grass with definition displayed at entrances and key focal points.</p>		
Characteristics	Acceptable	Unacceptable
Priority Characteristic		
Grass Length	25-60mm	Under 25mm Over 60mm
Other Characteristics		
Litter / Debris	No more than 2%	Over 2%
Grass arisings visible in clumps of 100mm or more	No more than 5%	Over 5%
Edges	Within 80mm of turf in clean and even manner	Over 80mm
Arisings on Paths	No more than 2%	Over 2%
% of grass sward cover	No less than 90%	Under 90%
Bare patches of 300mm diameter	No more than 5%	Over 5%
Dog Fouling	No more than one instance	More than One
Overall Appearance	Most aspects of the feature being maintained in a co-ordinated and appropriate manner	Aspects of the feature not being maintained in a co-ordinated or appropriate manner.

Appendix 11 – Parks and Greenspace Survey

Below is a summary of the results from the online Parks and Greenspace Survey relating to Victoria Park from responses covering the period June 2009 - June 2010.

Victoria Park

Number of responses	Satisfied with Park	Upkeep / appearance is good	Average length of visit (minutes)
21	76%	67%	42

What do you enjoy most about this park?	Play parks Trees Community feel Tranquil Access to cycle path Picnic areas Greenspace in built up area	43% 19% 12% 6% 6% 6% 6%
What changes or improvements would you like to see made to this park?	Litter management Dog fouling controlled Address antisocial behaviour Grounds maintenance Park rangers in park Café / ice cream van Improve basket ball court Maintain play parks Wildflower meadow More wildlife	17% 17% 13% 9% 9% 9% 9% 4% 4% 4%
What is your main reason for visiting the park?	Walk through it Play with children Sports / fitness Meet Friends Quiet & relaxation Openspace	40% 35% 10% 5% 5% 5%

Appendix 12 – Constitution

Appendix 13 – Stakeholders and Contacts List

Stakeholders

In addition to the park users and interested individuals, a number of organisations are interested in the maintenance, management and development of Victoria Park. The Victoria Park Management Plan will be circulated to the following organisations for consultation:

- Trinity Academy
- Trinity Primary School
- Trinity Community Council
- City of Edinburgh Council
- Edinburgh Leisure
- Forth Neighbourhood Partnership

Contacts List

Trinity Community Council

Richard Scott (Chairman of Trinity Community Council)

Victoria Park Subgroup

Tim Parker (Main contact)

City of Edinburgh Council

Steven Cuthill – Neighbourhood Service Manager – Environment North Edinburgh Local Office, 8 West Pilton Gardens, Edinburgh Tel: 0131 529 5043 e-mail steven.cuthill@edinburgh.gov.uk

Colin Groundwater – Taskforce Manager
Powderhall Depot, Broughton Road, Edinburgh Tel: 0131 557 2307

Ritchie Fraser – Community Parks Officer North Edinburgh Local Office, 8 West Pilton Gardens, Edinburgh Tel: 0131 529 5489 e-mail ritchie.fraser@edinburgh.gov.uk

Jennifer Johnstone – Park Ranger North Edinburgh Local Office, 8 West Pilton Gardens, Edinburgh Tel: 0131 529 5050 e-mail jennifer.johnstone@edinburgh.gov.uk

Alan Bell – Parks and Gardens Manager Parks and Greenspace, Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh Tel: 0131 529 7715 e-mail alan.bell@edinburgh.gov.uk

Edinburgh Leisure

Edinburgh Leisure – sportspitch@edinburghleisure.co.uk and 0131 669 0404

Appendix 14 – Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto

The Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto uses eight key principles which aim to ensure that both landscape quality and event intensity needs are met. Appropriate levels of use vary from site to site dependant on the type of use, climate and landscape conditions. Of the eight principles the first five determine whether an event is suitable for the proposed site and will therefore be given permission, the following three are aimed at the successful management of an agreed event. Best practice directives involve rotating events between parks and greenspaces that have the capacity to host events, limiting the total days of occupation of an event (to limit landscape damage), limiting the total number of major events (decided by attendance levels, duration and size) and scheduled reinstatement and turf rest periods between events. In addition clearly defined capacities for each site are noted and suggestions for appropriate types of uses for each venue or areas within a venue. The manifesto will be reviewed in 2014.

Principle 1: Control the total number of days of occupation for an event.

The duration of an event has a major bearing on the extent of surface damage sustained during occupation. From a horticultural perspective, it is therefore desirable to restrict the length of any event occupation on grassed areas. However, this may impact on the economic viability of some significant events, which from a strategic point of view would be counter to the city's economic interests and it has been accepted that in some cases the length of run is required in order to ensure that an event remains economically viable. Where viability does not rely on duration, events will be asked to reduce the length of stay as appropriate.

Principle 2: Schedule reinstatement and rest periods between events.

Damage to the grass sward is usually the most recognisable damage following an event. In particular, there will be surface erosion of the soil from vehicle and pedestrian movement, as well as tents and associated standing structures. Lightly eroded areas will recover quickly so long as the cause of erosion is short-lived. Events lasting more than a few days can also result in the grass "yellowing" as its ability to photosynthesise reduces or ceases altogether. Although most grasses are able to recover quickly, if the lack of solar energy persists beyond a few days a longer period of recovery will be required.

Most sites require around two week's recovery period between events (also dependent on the level of reinstatement together with weather conditions at the time). This will enable turf to recover adequately and for any small eroded areas to grass over. Some sites may also designate certain times of the year to be defined as rest periods.

It has been suggested that a minimum of two weeks rest should be given between events. However, each event to be viewed on an individual basis subject to mitigating factors such as the time of year, weather conditions, the level of infrastructure, length of occupancy and footfall.

Principle 3: Control the total number of 'large' events per year. The term 'Large Event' will be defined by factors including infrastructure, attendance and footprint. An event involving large tents or infrastructure would be considered as a 'Large Event', as would an event whose footprint exceeds 1000 square meters of available

open space. The Council will work with event organisers to discuss any potential modification of events or the use of alternative locations where appropriate.

It has been suggested that there should only be a maximum of four large events.

Principle 4: Define the capacity of each event site and suggest appropriate type of use. When considering the ability of a park to host an event, it is important to take into account areas of special ecological or geological landscape, architectural or historical significance along with residential proximity. In addition the footprint of an event must be managed in such a way that there is minimal impact on sporting fixtures and regular leisure activities.

It has been suggested that the impact on regular sporting activity and fixtures be minimised.

Principle 5: Set an appropriate number of private events per year.

Events generally fall into six categories, large and small community, large and small charity and large and small commercial. An annual review of the previous year's events for each site creates a projection for the following year; this allows proactive discussion and planning for the next season and will be subject to review by relevant stakeholders, including community groups.

It has been suggested that an annual review of the year's events will create a projection for the following year to allow proactive discussion and planning. This to be subject to review by relevant stakeholders, including community groups.

Principle 6: Control vehicle access and use. The majority of events require some vehicles on site, usually to set up and breakdown infrastructure, for security or health and safety reasons. This can have a significant impact on ground compaction, and erosion is a result of vehicle movement and from vehicles parked for extended periods of time. Methods to mitigate this impact must include issuing a clear access plan in advance of the event, controlling access points and minimising the number of static vehicles for the duration of the event. These restrictions will be detailed within lease agreements.

It has been suggested that robust restrictions relating to vehicle access and movements, number on site for the duration of the event, and tracking requirements will be detailed within the lease agreements.

Principle 7: To impose appropriate conditions on event activities and placement of infrastructure.

The creation of a checklist which makes a link between event activities and potential site damage will reinforce to organisers their responsibility for the venue, and encourage them to work toward reducing damage. The checklist will include appropriate measures, for example the consideration of the park fabric such as grass, trees, monuments, walls and gateways and minimising impact on wildlife and ecology. Guidelines are also used to protect the landscape from temporary structures such as tents, fencing and staging.

It has been suggested that there will need to be protection of underground and overhead utilities and that event organisers must obtain information prior to the erection of any

infrastructure to ensure no damage to utilities. Permission to hold an event in a park will be subject to acceptance of these terms.

Where appropriate, site conditions will be incorporated into lease agreements and more effective enforcement through regular site meetings, increased officer presence and detailed post event review. Appropriate sanctions will be taken for those events which do not comply with the site conditions specified.

A review will be held upon completion of each major event and will be reported directly to relevant stakeholders.

Principle 8: Contingency planning. Event organisers will be required to produce contingency plans for bad weather and other circumstances that increase risk to park users and damage to park infrastructure. These plans are included within the Lease agreement to protect the ground in circumstances such as extreme weather conditions (such as heavy and prolonged rainfall), particularly with regard to vehicle movements.

It has been suggested that event organisers will be required to produce contingency plans for bad weather and other circumstances that increase risk to park users and damage to park infrastructure.

Appendix 15 – Sustainability

Peat use

The only use of peat by the Parks and Greenspace Unit is in the production of bedding plants at the Council's Inch Nursery. Since 2004 the nursery has reduced its consumption of peat by 50% and aims to meet national targets of 90%. 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

A draft pesticide policy has been produced by the City of Edinburgh Council. It states, where appropriate, all non chemical alternative methods of weed control will be investigated and implemented depending on the requirements of the site, local environment and its users. This will also take into consideration, all available resources and any cost implications, which could impact on the local service delivery.

When non chemical alternatives are not suitable and chemical applications will be required, the council will ensure;

- Chemical amounts are reduced by using alternative, low a.i products.
- Application methods will be used to reduce the amount of chemicals applied.
- Application methods will be used to reduce chemical drift and any risk to the operator and the public.
- Chemical types and application methods will ensure that any risk to the environment is reduced or eliminated.
- Use well trained and certificated staff.
- Use well maintained and correctly calibrated application equipment.
- Continually monitor and review all chemical usage.

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 the Lothian & Borders Area Waste Plan.

Green waste (e.g. grass clippings, weeds, seasonal bedding) is composted. Where possible green waste is reused, either on site or other locations and excess material is composted. 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 Unit as a soil conditioner, and in seasonal bedding.

Litter is taken off site and a recycling programme is being trialled. All other material is taken off site to be disposed off at a licensed tip.

Uncontaminated autumn leaf waste generated from the site is removed and stored at Warriston Allotment site for use by allotment holders.

Environmental sustainability

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

The lighting in the park is provided by low energy bulbs. Council vehicles are diesel. Machinery used in park use unleaded fuel and any products for fabric maintenance are CFC free.

Appendix 16 – Review History

This section will include a history of the development plan as objectives are completed as part of the continuous monitoring and review process.

Each year the Management Plan will be reviewed and updated. At the end of the Management Plan period a thorough review will be undertaken to take forward the development proposals and plans into the next Management Plan.

The suggested programme for review will be:

Annual reviews

Year	Carried out by	Date
2011		
2012		
2013	Steven Cuthill	30 January 2014
2014	Ritchie Fraser	
2015	Ritchie Fraser	
2016	Ritchie Fraser	
2017	Ritchie Fraser	