

FAIRMILEHEAD PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

2018 – 2023



FAIRMILEHEAD MANAGEMENT PLAN

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LOCATION PLAN





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Section 1 - Introduction

1.0 Location

Located close to the leafy residential areas of Fairmilehead, this community park extends to 3.159ha.

The park sits off Comiston Road and bordered by Camus Avenue on the south side & Pentland View on the north side. It is also sometimes known as Camus Park.

Management Plan Framework

This plan sets out the future management, maintenance and development of Fairmilehead Park and has been produced by the City of Edinburgh Council to provide not only a long-term vision but also details on both developmental and operational duties required to achieve that vision.

The plan covers the period 2017 to 2022 and has a detailed plan of works for that period.

Like any management plan its purpose is to:

“Provide a framework within which all future management is carried out, 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.”

This plan’s target audience is Elected Members, the local community and Council officers and its style and content should ensure continuity of purpose and consistency in service delivery. It is intended to be a flexible, working document that will be reviewed and updated annually with the Colinton Amenity Association prior to their Annual General Meeting.

Green Flag Award Scheme



The Green Flag Award Scheme is a national standard for quality in green space management and since 2012 has been managed in Scotland under the administration of Keep Scotland Beautiful.

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Section 2 – Vision and Aims

2.0 Introduction

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

Vision

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

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

In developing this management plan for Fairmilehead Park, its vision is

“Our aims are to promote the utility, pleasure and safety of the Park for all who use it, and to liaise with Friends of Fairmilehead Park in achieving this.”



PLAY AREA INSTALLED 2011

Aims

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

The aims are set out in Figure 2.1. Each of these aims is further developed into targets, measures and timescales.

Figure 2.1 - The relationship between Green Flag Award criteria and Management Plan aims

Criteria	Aim
A Welcoming Place	<i>To ensure that Fairmilehead 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 the park</i>
Clean and Well Maintained	<i>To maintain the highest standards of horticulture, cleanliness, grounds and building 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 the park</i>
Community Involvement	<i>To encourage community involvement in the park through consultation, events and local stakeholders.</i>
Marketing	<i>To actively promote the park to all potential users</i>
Management	<i>To provide a responsive, flexible and high-quality management service</i>

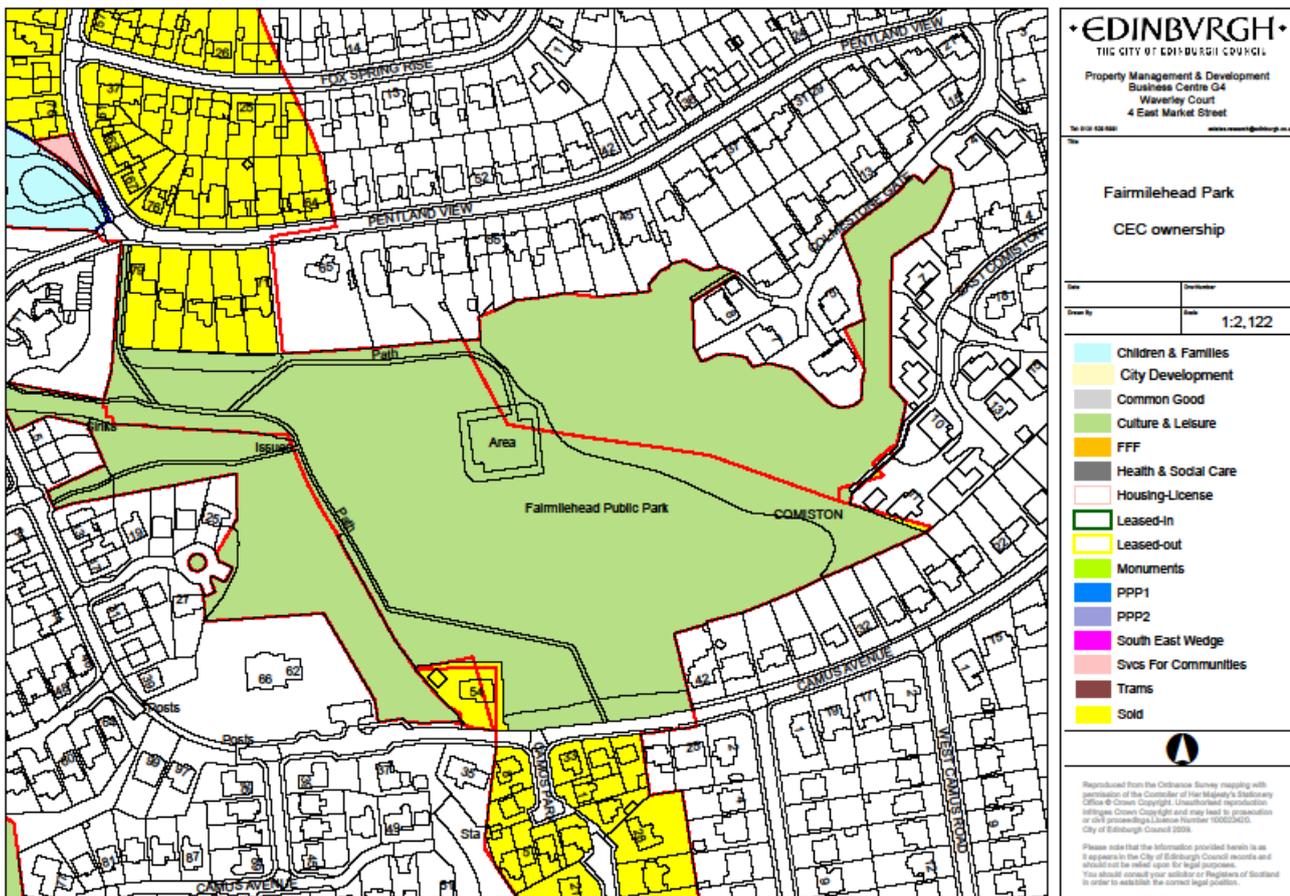
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Section 3 – Survey

Introduction

This section looks at the historic significance of the park and examines the legal situation with respect to ownership and designations that apply to the park, as well as confirming the strategic significance in the Local Plan. It pulls together recent surveys that have been undertaken to update the baseline data about the park and finally considers the involvement of the community through the community group and events.

Historic Survey of the Park



CURRENT PARK BOUNDARIES



FORMER COMISTON HOUSE NOW APARTMENTS

The Park is what remains of Comiston Estate, both woodland and open pasture, which was acquired by Miller Homes in 1939. It overlies an Ice Age moraine which produced many local springs and ponds especially in Comiston Sandpit (known locally as the Gully).

The City of Edinburgh Council (then Edinburgh Corporation) purchased Fairmilehead Park in 1951. In 1990 Miller Homes developed the area to the west round Comiston House. Around Comiston House (now private flats) there are still fine mature trees, and carpets of naturalised aconites, snowdrops and daffodils.

Also in 1990 Cala Homes developed the area to the east within and bordering Comiston Sandpit where one spring remains feeding the Gully Pond.

The plan on page 9 shows the current park boundaries.

Strategic Significance of the Park

Edinburgh values its reputation as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, renowned for its setting, history and architectural heritage.

Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy

A full review of local policy has been carried out as part of the production of the Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy that was adopted by the council in March 2006.

Local Plan

The local plan has an objective to:

“Protect open spaces of amenity, leisure and recreational importance and value for sport and outdoor activities as part of a comprehensive network of provision.”

Core Path Planning

Under *Part 1 Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003*, local authorities were required to prepare a *Core Paths Plan*. The plan identifies and promotes a system of priority routes across the city that provides assured and welcoming access for walking, cycling and horse riding. The Braids is the closest core path to Fairmilehead and the park is listed as a place of nearby interest.

Management Rules

Park Management Rules were modified to remove the conflict with the new Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

Park Classification & designation

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

Community Parks are defined as “*parks serving chiefly the people of a defined local area. These are generally smaller in area and the facilities provided are likely to be relatively simple. Functions should be determined as far as possible by consultation with users and potential users. Access to these parks will be mainly on foot or by cycle.*” (Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy, 2006, p66).

Local Geodiversity Site

The link below describes the geodiversity interest in the park.

<http://www.edinburghgeolsoc.org/geological-site/fairmilehead-park/>

Community Involvement

Fairmilehead Park is an important community park in Edinburgh's green network. The recently formed Friends of Fairmilehead Park are active partners in the development and park improvement plan, together with CEC. They fulfil practical voluntary tasks and have formed a good partnership with Pentland Primary School to encourage outdoor environmental activities for the school pupils. Communications are via site visits, annual AGM and social media.

Fairmilehead Community Council also retain an interest in the park and a member of their Council sits on the local environmental sub group for the Pentland Partnership.

FoFP also have good contacts with Fairmilehead Community Council and Fairmilehead Young Church (Church of Scotland)

Surveys and Assessments Undertaken

Asset Management GIS Survey

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

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

All standard and mature trees have been individually surveyed for defects to allow for priority scheduling of forestry works.

Ecology

Biodiversity interest within Fairmilehead Park is focused firmly on the woodlands and trees. There are no detailed habitat survey records for the woodland itself. Although small in size, the woodlands within the Park provide valuable connectivity between the larger green corridor Cockmylane and Pentland Hills. There is a fairly rich natural flora, and there is natural regeneration of plants including holly and yew. There is scope for planting more bulbs and fruit trees.



TREE SURVEY

General Description

Most of the woodland within the east and west sections of the site are mature and would have been part of the original Comiston Estate. Species include sycamore, beech and elm.

The woodland around the housing developments are much younger and consist of oak, birch, elder, holly and ash.



Severed ivy roots

Arbore resin protecting root plate

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Section 4 - Analysis

Introduction

This Section follows the criteria headings within the 'Raising the Standard – The Green Flag Award Guidance Manual' (2004) and highlights how the park ties in to the Green Flag Award Standard.

Summary

Fairmilehead Park is a relatively small but well-used Park located in the south area of Edinburgh. It comprises two distinct parts: formal parkland located on a flat tract of ground on the north side of the river, and a wooded area located on the steeply sloping bank opposite the parkland. The Park occupies the former ground around Comiston House. Fairmilehead Park quality scoring has risen gradually from 2008 when it was considered "Fair" to its 2017 scoring of "Excellent" set against the City Council's Parks Quality Assessment indicator. The Friends of Fairmilehead Park formed in 2017 and are now closely involved in the Park's development. A park improvement plan was drafted and will form much of the basis of the action plan for the next five-year period. Major improvements to access routes have already been made in 2017 and many school pupils involved in bulb planting, litter picking and forest school activities.

A Welcoming Place

The presence of Fairmilehead Park is most obvious from the entrance at Camus Avenue which provides good open sightlines towards the park. The mature trees at this entrance and the woodland at either end of the park with views to the Craiglockhart Hills lend it a nice natural appeal inviting the visitor to explore the site.

The play area and woodland offer good safe environments for children to spend time in the park, while the size of the site is adequate for decent walking for those with dogs to exercise. The large expanses of neatly mown grass finish the appearance of a well-kept park.

Finding the Park

https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory_record/940721/fairmilehead_park

The park lies adjacent to Camus Avenue and slopes on a northerly incline with a further five access points from Pentland Drive & Comiston residences. Although the park serves the immediate community, improvements can be made by having good quality, easy to read and well-maintained signage situated at strategic points on the approach to and within the park.

Physical Access

Most park users will be local however, it is possible for others to visit the park by a variety of means. Public bus routes regularly pass along Comiston Road and there are cycling links from the nearby Cockmylane right of way.

Car parking is available around the residential areas but there is no designated car-park for the site itself.

Social Access

The park is well promoted though local walking and family outing forums, identifying the site as an ideal family picnic area.

Aspects of Design

Future proposals for the development of the park continue to be supported through consultation with the Friends of Fairmilehead Park & local neighbourhood sub groups.

Healthy, Safe and Secure

Health and Well Being

The park is mainly a venue for recreational activities for families and walkers, there is a boot camp running nine sessions per week in the park and the park forms part of the safer school route for Pentland Primary.

<http://www.edinburghbootcamp.co.uk/about>



Nature activities are also available through external agencies.

<https://www.familiesonline.co.uk/local/edinburgh/listing/family-nature-play-at-fairmilehead>

Equipment and Facilities

There is one play area in the park. Currently, Workshop Services undertake inspections of play equipment on a six-weekly cycle. In addition, monthly condition reports are submitted via Park Rangers staff to Workshop Services for repairs or the Technical Section for suggested removal or replacement as appropriate. An independent annual inspection is also undertaken.

Members of the public can contact the contact centre 0131 527 3800 or 0131 200 2000 for emergencies. The Parks & Greenspace Officer will then instigate the appropriate action to be carried out by the relevant operational squads or service teams.

Security

There is currently no site based staff, Park Rangers patrol and inspect the park on a regular basis. A dedicated Police team dealing with local priorities can be relied on for any anti-social issues. <http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/edinburgh/south-west-es/colinton-fairmilehead/>

Safer Parks



The City of Edinburgh Council uses branding on vehicles and machinery and ensures that all parks staff wears uniform clothing to ensure they are readily identifiable to the public. Wherever possible and safe to do so, the public are encouraged to engage with the grounds maintenance staff to discuss issues with the park, its maintenance or management. Their friendly demeanour allows for a helpful first point of contact for Park users.

The Community Police Officer walks through the park and liaises with service areas on incidents of issues for resolution. There have been incidents of rowdy behaviour by teenagers, vandalism and abandonment of shopping trolleys within the last year. FoFP liaises with our community police officers via Fairmilehead Community Council.

Environmental Wardens are also available for enforcement of dog fouling, litter legislation and graffiti and fly-posting issues however, there are few incidences requiring their input.

Health and Safety Policies

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

In addition to the Council's general health and safety policy, it is envisaged that each park has its own risk assessment [PARK RISK ASSESSMENT Fairmilehead Park.doc](#) to identify site specific issues and to ensure that all structures are inspected and reported on. Play equipment is inspected and reports recorded, all other infrastructure will be included on an inspection work plan for Park Rangers which will be developed later this year.

Control of Dogs

Fairmilehead Park like most other parks is used by many dog walkers who regularly use the park.



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

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

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/site/custom_scripts/proxy.php?file=/documents/1580/Connor%20%5BStatistics%20on%20Litter%20and%20dog%20fouling,%20incl%20legal%20actions%5D%20Dog%20Fouling%20procedures-%20Updated%2020%20Feb%202013%20EDIR1580.pdf

Well Maintained and Clean



“Our Edinburgh” anti-litter campaign aims for a litter free capital and runs throughout the year.
<http://www.edinburghspotlight.com/2016/08/ouredinburgh/>

Contact number for waste: 0131 608 1100

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

Information gathered from the public and Parks quality surveys indicate that the standard of maintenance is of a good to high standard, the schedule of maintenance is highlighted within the maintenance plan. **(Appendix Three, Pg 37)**

There is good provision of litter receptacles and these are serviced on a regular basis. There are locality staff members whose responsibility is to ensure that the park is kept litter free. Dog fouling in the park is generally not a problem and this is due to responsible dog owners and supported by ‘caring for parks’ & “Our Edinburgh” marketing, The Friends and local residents also assist with voluntary litter cleansing. In line with City wide practice the litter receptacles within the park are for joint use of disposal both for litter and dog fouling bags.

The grounds maintenance within the park is undertaken by a mobile team and tractor. The Parks & Greenspace Officer works with the Grounds Maintenance Team Leader and oversee the grounds maintenance regime to ensure that good quality standards are maintained and that the park continually improves. The infrastructure is regularly checked and maintained by the City’s ROSPA trained engineering team, to ensure that the play area equipment is safe and secure. The surfaces of the play areas are checked regularly by both the Park Rangers and the local grounds maintenance teams to ensure that there are no dangerous objects within the area.

Although not a regular problem, graffiti is removed by the local graffiti service team and aided by local volunteers.

A reactive maintenance programme is in place for the maintenance of the infrastructure on site in respect of painting and security.

This infrastructure is regularly inspected by the Parks Officer and any repairs are carried out, in general, by our in-house service teams.

Maintenance of the infrastructure of the park, such as the paths, furniture, etc, falls to Framework contractors, Workshop Services, Grounds Maintenance or the Waste & Cleansing Services.

Major faults found with the park infrastructure are addressed as soon as is practically possible depending on budget availability. Faults of a significant health and safety risk are given high priority.

Long-term repair items are included within budget forecasts in future years (and where appropriate are included within the Management Plan Action Plan). While it is anticipated that minor issues are dealt with within 10 working days of the report, larger-scale matters generally involve significantly more planning and consultation and the timescale in which such matters are resolved is, while larger, difficult to quantify.

Edinburgh Council operates a zero-tolerance policy of offensive graffiti and aims to have it removed within 48 hours.

Sustainability

https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/application/files/5514/7940/1819/Edinburgh_Adapts_Adaptation_Action_Plan_Final_For_Web.pdf

The above link to action plan for greenspace actions linking to sustainability policies.

The Council intend to adopt an integrated weed control programme for the city and this would include minimum usage of herbicides in public parks.

<file:///H:/Item 7.2 Integrated Weed Control Programme.pdf>

The only use of peat by the Parks and Greenspace Service is in the production of bedding plants at the Council's Inch Nursery. Since 2004 the nursery has reduced its consumption of peat by 50% and continues to aim towards meeting the national targets of 90%. A number of alternatives to peat have been incorporated into the growing mixes for plant production at the nursery, including; compost derived from the Council green waste collections, the nursery own compost, worm cast, fine bark, vermiculite and sand. Trials have been run since 2007 to assess the best mix to support seedling and plant growth.

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. Litter is disposed of appropriately to a licensed waste disposal area.

The Parks and Greenspace section are currently investigating more sustainable methods of dealing with green waste e.g satellite composting sites. Green waste (e.g. grass clippings, weeds, seasonal bedding) is taken to Braehead Recycling Centre where it is composted by Forth Resource Management. Tree limbs are chipped and used as mulch on site. Larger limbs and trunks are sold. Compost generated from this process is used by the Parks and Greenspace Service as a soil conditioner in seasonal bedding.

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

4.5 Conservation and Heritage

Conservation is about recognising the unique, historical or interesting features of the park and if possible seeking to increase their value to people through appropriate management.

Grasslands and Wildflower Areas

Some areas have been set aside for bulb naturalising (narcissi) and receive their first cut in mid June, creating conditions to allow other grass species an opportunity to establish and enhance biodiversity. As well as being a habitat for hedgehog, squirrel and garden bird species, the park also offers a habitat for waxwings, tawny owls, sparrow hawks and bats.

It is proposed to develop a pollinator flower meadow within the next 2 years.

Conservation of the Built Environment

Comiston House was owned by the [Forrest baronets](#). Its most notable occupant was [Sir James Forrest, 1st Baronet, Lord Provost of Edinburgh](#) 1837-1843. Its grounds now form Fairmilehead Public Park.



Historic image of Comiston House

© Edmund Raphael, Minehead, Somerset, England
Photo taken 1951

4.6 Community Involvement

Community involvement in the park is aided and encouraged by the work of the Friends of Fairmilehead Park



Inaugural group site visits for Friends of Fairmilehead Park

Patterns of Use

Friends of Fairmilehead Park (FoFP) was formed in 2017, and is involved in the management and maintenance of the Park. It is a registered charity (SC047349) with a membership of about 46,

which is recognized by City of Edinburgh Council and is affiliated to Edinburgh Friends of Parks Forum. Fairmilehead Community Council takes an interest in the management of the Park. FoFP has collaborated with Pentland PS in the planting of crocus and snowdrop corms supplied by the Council.; this fits with the school's curriculum, so we expect it to be an annual event. Local priorities picked up from the site visits have included:

- Improved seating opportunities including picnic bench
- Improvements to woodland walk & woodland management
- Improve signage and interpretation, possible additional notice board
- Improved litter bin servicing
- Possible flower meadow
- Fruit trees
- Reinstatement and options for football area
- Possible BBQ area

Community Involvement in Management and Development

The Friends actively promotes itself through their Facebook account, emails and meetings. There are approx. 46 members of the group.

Where possible we attempt to incorporate community involvement in any planting projects in the park, previous examples have been bulb planting.

The group have also carried out small woodland path repairs and litter picking duties to supplement The Council input.

Facilities

There is a play park in Fairmilehead Park and seating around the park.

Children's Play

Although there is a play area situated within the park, it is recognised that it can be improved further still to meet the standard required as part of the play action plan.

All City of Edinburgh Council play area information is held on a database called "Playsafe" which includes information on all City of Edinburgh Council play areas, information on equipment, installation date and type of surface, fences and bins.

External annual inspection of all playgrounds is carried out by an independent Playground Inspector reporting on the condition of each piece of equipment in every playground and includes a risk assessment.

Internal six weekly inspections are managed by the Inverleith Workshop Manager to ensure that the works identified by the annual inspection are being carried out, and that any other damage subsequently reported is repaired.

Internal monthly inspections are carried out by Workshop Services Playground Engineers to ensure the day to day safety of equipment is addressed and that repairs to equipment are carried out. A written record is held at Workshops, Inverleith Park.

Park Rangers inspect all play areas on a monthly cycle and report any hazardous issues to the responsible service area.

All City of Edinburgh Council play areas are designed in house to meet BSEN 1176 parts 1-7 and our own local standard. Prior to 1998 all play areas were designed to meet BS 5696.

Accessibility for All

It is the aim and goal of all involved in the management and maintenance of Fairmilehead Park to make the park accessible to everyone and go beyond reasonable or basic alterations to achieve this.



Dropped kerbs at Pentland Drive

4.7 Marketing

Information Provision and Interpretation

Notice boards are used to display up to date information on park developments and contact details. Information is also provided via the local office facebook and twitter accounts.

The City of Edinburgh Council's website www.edinburgh.gov.uk lists a range of information about Edinburgh's parks including a section on Fairmilehead Park.

Edinburgh outdoors www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk website also promotes the park.

Friends update their readers on current and future park improvements, south west neighbourhood office also promote park activities and developments through facebook and twitter social media.

There is a booklet by Ian Nimmo, called Edinburgh's Green Heritage, where information is available on Fairmilehead Park.

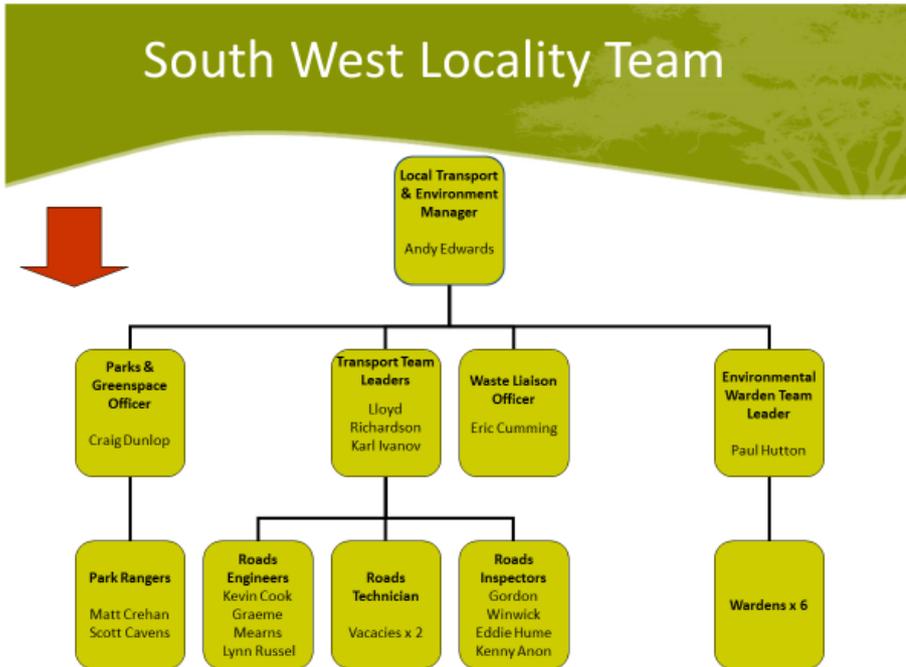
<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood/28048/fairmilehead-public-park/>



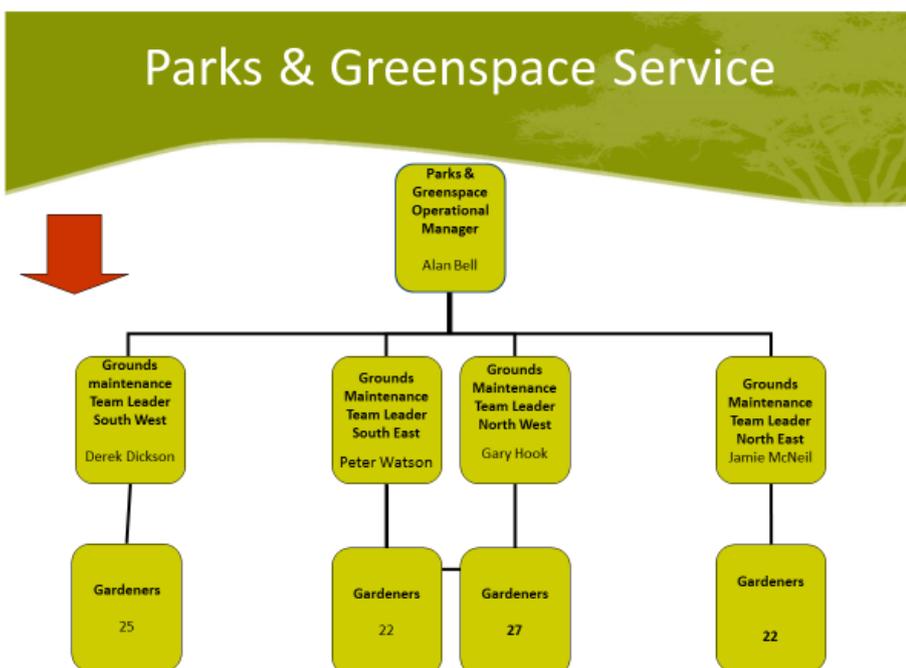
4.8 Management

Fairmilehead Park is managed by Department of Place, which is structured to deliver services for the needs and priorities of local communities in each of the four locality areas. The park lies within the South West Locality.

Management and development of the park is undertaken locally by the Locality Parks & Greenspace Officer in conjunction with the Friends of Fairmilehead Park.



Operational grounds maintenance and forestry are carried out by the central Parks, Greenspace & Cemeteries Team.



Litter maintenance is by the central cleansing team. The central services deliver the service through local team leaders and ground crews.



Maintenance schedules indicating frequency and type of work carried out within the park can be found in the appendices of the management plan.

The community groups assist the council with members undertaking litter picking of small areas and generally highlighting defects for repair and assisting in those repairs. Through the Friends it is intended to attempt to increase the public participation in voluntary work within the park.

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

The Park Rangers also patrol the park to ensure that safety is maintained, they regularly make safe various small faults within the park e.g a broken seat, faulty play equipment which allows for them to be speedily repaired by the local maintenance teams where appropriate. The Park Rangers also patrol the park to ensure that members of the public use the park in line with the management rules.

The Council annually assess each park within Edinburgh which results in Parks Quality Assessments being produced. These assessments offer good information that is used to improve and develop the park; extractions of the report can be found in the appendices of the management plan. These assessments are used to determine further potential capital improvements and form the basis of the Fairmilehead Park Improvement plan on an annual basis. Fairmilehead Park has benefited from this system with many improvements made from feedback comments in the assessments

Section 5 Action Plan

The management plan sets out the future management, maintenance and development of the park and has been produced to provide not only a long-term vision but also details on both developmental and operational duties required to achieve that vision. This section outlines management plan actions and progress in undertaking these items.

The management plan is used primarily for guiding everyone involved in the park through the day-to-day, as well as year-to-year, management and maintenance issues. The action plan will be reviewed and updated annually.

Throughout this document reference is made to the following abbreviations:

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

Note: All costs are approximate.

Key:

LTEM Local Transport & Environment Manager

PGO Parks & Greenspace Officer

GTL Grounds team leader

CAM Cleansing area manager

FOFP Friends

PR Park Rangers

EWTL Warden team leader

FS Forestry Service

LO Cleansing liaison officer

Section 1 - A Welcoming Place

Aim: To ensure that the park is welcoming and accessible to all possible users.

Actions	Measures	Timetable	Lead Officer	Progress	Review
Facilitate DDA access points into park	Install dropped kerbs at strategic points	2018	PGO	Completed	
Create some attractive and sustainable entrance features	Naturalise bulbs and implement flower meadow	2018/19	PGO.GTL		
Maintain entrances	Keep clear of grass clippings, litter, leaves and encroaching vegetation	2018-2023	PR/GTL/C		Annually
Develop a program of informative signage and interpretation throughout the park.	Research and survey local history, flora and fauna	2018-23	PGO, FOFP		Annually
Maintain full width of footways	Annual winter edge of paths	2018-2023	GTL/PR		

Section 2 - Healthy, Safe and Secure

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

Actions	Measures	Timetable	Lead Officer	Progress	Review
Keep staff and public safe	Review risk assessments annually Risk assess any new tasks	2018-23	ALL		Annually
Ensure benches etc are safe and defects reported	Develop work plans for Park Ranger to inspect infrastructure	2018	PGO/PR		In progress
Install cycle rack	Consult on appropriate location	2018/19	PGO		
Encourage responsible behaviour by park users	Erect and display SMART specific signage	2018	PGO/PR		
Maintain safe access	Keep entrances clear from mud and excessive leaf mulch	2018-23	PR/C/GTL		

Section 3 - Clean and Well Maintained

Aim: To maintain the highest standards of horticulture, cleanliness and grounds maintenance.

Actions	Measures	Timetable	Lead Officer	Progress	Review
Develop seating improvements	Install picnic facilities	2018	PGO		
Maintain all elements of the park to a high standard.	Measure and respond to service teams regarding standards.	2018-23	PGO/C/GTL	Annual PQA & LQS	Annual
Rejuvenation and renovation works to former football area	Develop proposals	2018	PGO		
Benchmarking	Collaborate with parks management to undertake a benchmark against Green Flag criteria	2018	PGO	Annual exercise	

Section 4 - Sustainability

Aim: To adopt environmental management principles.

Actions	Measures	Timetable	Lead Officer	Progress	Review
Utilise green waste on site	Mulch tree bases with recycled bark chippings	2018/23	PR/GTL		

	Disperse leaf mulch through woodland floor				
Maintain informal path network	Use bark chippings to top dress surfaces	2018-	FOFP		

Section 5 – Conservation and Heritage

Aim: To promote biodiversity through appropriate management.

Actions	Measures	Timetable	Lead Officer	Progress	Review
Identify areas of park for biodiversity improvements	Arrange site visit with biodiversity officer	2018	PGO		
Increase diversity of park trees	Develop tree planting programme	2018-23	PGO/F/FOFP		
Monitor and control invasive species	Apply glyphosate herbicide to affected areas	2018-23	GTL		
Attract increased numbers of bird and bees	Install bird boxes and bee lodges	2018-23	PGO/PR/FOFP		

Section 6 - Heritage

Aim: Maintain the historical integrity of the park, its character zones, views and vistas.

Actions	Measures	Timetable	Lead Officer	Progress	Review
Review historical information	Research and update information on parks interpretation boards	2018-23	PGO/FOFP		
	Highlight areas of local historic importance within the park	2018-23	PGO/FOTP		

Section 7 - Community Involvement

Aim: To involve the community in decisions affecting the park

Actions	Measures	Timetable	Lead Officer	Progress	Review
Encourage local participation in clean ups and environmental tasks	Promote event and provide community with equipment to assist in these tasks	2018-2023	PGO/FOFP		
Encourage new visitors to park	Ranger led health walks to include park as destination route?	2018			

Section 8 - Marketing

Aim: To actively promote the park to all potential users.

Action	Measures	Timetable	Lead Officer	Progress	Review
Market through Council & neighbourhood website	Update Council website	2018			
Provide updates on ongoing improvements	Local office twitter account and FOFP facebook page	2018-23	PGO PR FOFP		
Increase online information on park facilities and development	Update Edinburgh Outdoors website & app	2018	PGO PR		
Promote success of Green Flag Award	Press releases	Annual	PGO		Annual

Section 9 - Management

Aim: To assess park against Green Flag National Standard

Actions	Measures	Timetable	Lead Officer	Progress	Review
Green Flag Award Scheme	Submit for application	2018	PGO		Annually

6. FINANCE

The provision of revenue maintenance funding for the park consists of work undertaken at present by the local Grounds Maintenance Team, cleansing service and Forestry Team.

The Parks & Greenspace Officer has a budget for parks development and small-scale repairs towards improvements on facilities and infrastructure. This has been used for new seating, signage and bulb planting in the past for Fairmilehead Park. However, the budget held relates to the whole of the South West Locality and any development or repairs are determined on a priority basis, using parks quality assessment information and level of repair and maintenance required.

Capital Funding

No Capital funding is currently available for Park Development. The park has been fortunate to recently benefit from discretionary roads and transport funding which allowed newly formed tarmac paths to be installed as part of the safer school route.

Grants

Community groups can apply to the local locality office for funds up to £3.5k from the Community Grants Fund.

<https://www.mypark.scot/welcome-to-mypark-scotland/>

Groups can also utilise my parks Scotland site for crowd funding specific to their local park projects.

7. Monitoring and Reviewing

The Parks Quality assessment framework is used to provide annual assessment of each park and will provide a report for the Fairmilehead Park that can be used to support the monitoring process. These assessments will have been carried out by staff and friend's members and are in general carried out by individuals who have no direct association with the park. In conjunction to this the Survey results and comments assist with the monitoring of the park and are taken into consideration by the Council and the FOFP when annual reviews of the management plan are undertaken. A review of this management plan shall take place in December 2018 during the Friends AGM in readiness for the next application process for the Green Flag awards. This will be carried out by the Council Officers & FOFP where we will undertake to consider all recommendations in regard to the Green Flag Assessment and also our internal Parks Quality Assessment.

Appendix 1.

Corporate Strategies and Plans

Corporate Governance Plan

The plan shows how the Council is tackling the strategic issues that matter to the public, improving performance and working with partners to improve services. The plan outlines priorities for the next four years, identifies what the Council will be doing to contribute to Edinburgh's City Vision, and provides strategic direction for the Council and all those working within the organisation.

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/3432/skyline_study-view_w1b

The Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2016

This plan describes the approach to community planning in Edinburgh, setting out the agreed outcomes and how these will be delivered.

It has been developed and agreed by partners, building on the success of previous single outcome agreements.

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/424/the_edinburgh_partnership_community_plan

The Edinburgh Local Development Plan

The LDP sets out policies and proposals relating to the development and use of land in the Edinburgh area. The policies in the LDP will be used to determine future planning applications. The planning system rests on the powers which planning authorities have to manage development and to take enforcement action against breaches of planning control.

When appropriate, the Council will remove, modify or stop unauthorised developments and changes of use. These powers are used at the discretion of the Council.

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20013/planning_and_building/66/edinburgh_local_development_plan

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.

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.

https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/application/files/5514/7940/1819/Edinburgh_Adapts_Adaptation_Action_Plan_Final_For_Web.pdf

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.

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/555/energy_policy_and_procedures

Parks & Environment 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.

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20064/parks_and_green_spaces/1173/parks_and_greenspace_strategy

The Open Space Strategy 2016-21

The strategy sets standards for different types of open space. These are statements of what kind of open space provision there should be in Edinburgh. The strategy also estimates needs for certain types of open space,

and proposes sites which could help address those needs. Of the findings of a questionnaire survey carried out during consultation on the draft open space audit. The standards also take into account the characteristics and historical development of Edinburgh as a compact city. The strategy supports the following strategic priorities which the Council shares with its partners: promoting healthy lifestyles, mitigating and adapting to climate change and making good use of land.
http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20178/park_management_and_rules/427/open_space_strategy

Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Plan 2016-2018

The Edinburgh Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) was launched in March 2000 as an initiative to conserve and enhance Edinburgh's natural heritage. The plan was prepared by a partnership of many organisations actively engaged in nature conservation. It put forward an ambitious programme of actions to conserve and enhance natural habitats within the city, and to address the decline in biodiversity, with a focus on priority species that have suffered a sustained decrease in population, loss of habitat, or persecution. The second phase of the Edinburgh LBAP was launched in November 2004 and covered the period 2004 – 2009.
http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/77/edinburgh_biodiversity_action_plan

Appendix 2.

'Caring for Parks Guidelines'

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

Education, at the proactive, preventative end of the spectrum is provided for parks by many agencies. Education Officers in Local Community Planning provide a comprehensive environmental information and education service to the Edinburgh community. The team works with schools, colleges and universities, voluntary organisations, special needs groups and the business community to provide programmes, including litter and waste. The Countryside ranger service runs environmental education programmes for schools and a range of park issues such as litter, dog fouling, camping, fires and cycling, are often discussed. Countryside Rangers are also charged with the promotion of 'responsible behaviour' as defined in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, the guidance on the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Talks to community groups, games and activities at events and special events such as 'Super Dog' and 'Dr Bike' are geared to communicating responsible behaviour in parks and greenspace.

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

community, signage and providing events and activities designed to draw in the target groups, persuade them to stop and prevent the undesirable behaviours.

Persuasion

Parks Rangers are the principle people dealing with undesirable behaviour in parks. They have no powers to apprehend, fine or prosecute offenders and are often working on their own. They must therefore rely on gentle, friendly persuasion. This, for most behaviour, can be very effective but requires a good deal of skill. Training for rangers on how to deal effectively and safely with the public is therefore on-going. It is intended that this training will be extended to gardeners. Signs, such as the 'caring for Edinburgh's Parks', are designed to persuade people by explaining the effect of certain behaviours. These signs are permanent in all parks. Temporary signage can deal with local issues and again they are prepared in an informative and persuasive style as is shown on the next page.



Regulation

When gentle persuasion fails, Council officers and rangers can resort to regulation, using Management Rules, Environmental Wardens and the Police. Management Rules, made under section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1989, allow Council officers and rangers to expel

and exclude people from parks for minor offences. If the offending person does not leave they are committing a criminal offence. The threat of the offence is often enough to persuade people to stop. If they persist then it is a matter for the police.

The Rules will address current issues in parks and attempt to provide a clearer interpretation to the public of the behaviours which are not allowed. For people who will not be persuaded and for more serious behaviours in parks then Park officers and ranger and the public are encouraged to call the police. The police will respond in a time that resources and priorities allow. When campaigns are being run in parks to address certain issues then Environmental Wardens are often asked to assist. Wardens can help stop and persuade people and for issues of dog fouling and litter can issue fixed penalties. The key tools for dealing with undesirable behaviour in parks are education, the promotion of responsible behaviour, persuasion and as a last resort, regulation.

Appendix 3.

Fairmilehead Park Maintenance Plan

Description	Task	Frequency	When	Who
Standard Grass	Cut	Fortnightly	Mar-Oct	PGC
Bulb Grass	Cut	Twice	Jul-Oct	SGM
Specimen Trees	Edge & mulch	Annually	Nov-March	PR
Hedges	Trim	Twice	June/Sep	SGM
Bedding	Plant out	Twice	May/Oct	SGM
Entrances	Keep clear of leaves and encroachment	Twice	July/Dec	PR
Bulb Planting	Naturalise	Annually	Oct/Nov	PGO/PGC
Play area	Inspections	Six weekly		Engineer
		Monthly		CPR
		Annually		External
		Daily/regular		C
	Loose fill regulation	Fortnightly		PR
Litter	Bin servicing	Daily		C
	Litter collection	Daily		C/PR/FOFP
Graffiti	offensive	Within 48 hrs		SC
	Non-offensive	When resources permit		SC or PR

Appendix 4.

Parks Quality Assessment 2016

A copy of the 2017 PQA will be available for judges