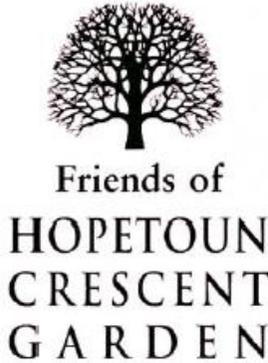


# Hopetoun Crescent Garden Management Plan 2021 - 2025



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Overview Map of the Garden



## Summary Information

Park Name:	Hopetoun Crescent Garden
Address:	Hopetoun Crescent, Edinburgh EH7 4AX
National Grid reference:	NT2674
Size of Site:	1.17 acres/ 0.47 ha
Telephone Number:	0131 529 3111
Email:	east.team@edinburgh.gov.uk
Ownership:	The City of Edinburgh Council – The Common Good Account
Area Designation	North East Locality
Classification:	Gardens
Park Written by:	North East Locality Environment Team east.team@edinburgh.gov.uk Tel: 0131 529 3111
Previous Plan:	2009 - 2014
Partners:	Local Community Community Councils Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden Schools

Location Map of the Gardens



**Overview Photograph**



## 1 Introduction

### 1.0 Location

The Garden, as seen today, was designed and adopted by the City of Edinburgh Council Recreation Department in 1999. The Garden lies partially on the site of the original Edinburgh Botanical Garden. The remnant fell into decline until the establishment of a community group in the 1990s.

The site is a semi-formal Garden that has a fairly simple design of a slender half-elliptical shape bounded by walls and railings. The three entrances, all of Hopetoun Crescent, entice visitors into the Garden. Its restful environment is in contrast to the busy areas nearby and offers a refuge from the bustle of city life. The Garden contains many mature trees of interest as well as wildflower areas, bulb and grass areas.

The Garden has an open frontage northward to Hopetoun Crescent, edged from the road by a footpath. To the south west the Garden is bounded by the Gardens to residences of Huntingdon Place. The area is surrounded by residential development and sits off McDonald Road, which is within easy walking distance of Leith walk, both within easy access to the public bus network to and from the city centre.



The planting of rhubarb in the Garden links to the original establishment of plants in the Botanic Garden. Wooden mushroom structures were created by Four Winds Inspiration Centre and installed in the Garden in 2004.

#### Stakeholders:

- Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden
- Local Community
- Local Primary Schools (St. Mary's, Leith Walk, Broughton)
- Drummond High School
- Royal Botanic Garden (Edinburgh)

## **1.1 Management Plan Framework**

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

The management plan covers the period 2017 to 2022 and has a detailed plan of works for that period. This plan's target audience is elected members, the local community and council officers and its style and content should ensure continuity of purpose and consistency in service delivery. It is intended to be a flexible, working document that will be reviewed and updated annually.

Like any management plan its purpose is to:

“Provide a framework within which all future management is carried out. The plan enables any person involved to understand how and why decisions are taken, and the reasoning behind the policies and proposals for action.”

## **1.2 Edinburgh Parks & Gardens Framework**

Edinburgh values its reputation as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, renowned for its setting, history and built heritage. Parks and greenspaces are integral to this. They serve as a stage for our public lives and are settings where celebrations are held, where social exchanges take place, where friends mix, where cultures run into each other, where nature thrives, and where people revive themselves from the stresses of urban living.

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

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

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

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

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

### 1.3 Green Flag Award Scheme



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

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

Following Green Flag success with other parks in Edinburgh, it was decided that Hopetoun Crescent Garden would apply for Green Flag status in 2008. Unfortunately, the Garden was unsuccessful in its application; however, much has been gained and learnt from the feedback received. Using this feedback and enhancing our input to the management plan it has been decided to have the park assessed again in 2009.

## 2 Vision and Aims

### 2.0 Introduction

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

### 2.1 Vision

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

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

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

In developing this management plan for Hopetoun Crescent Garden, our vision is:

***“To maintain Hopetoun Crescent Garden as a distinctive, attractive and well cared for space for the enjoyment of citizens and visitors alike and continue to protect its heritage for future generations.”***

### 2.2 Aims

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

- a) Conservation  
To increase the biodiversity value of the site
- b) Landscape  
To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value
- c) Recreation

## Hopetoun Crescent Garden Management Plan 2017 - 22

To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment  
To enhance the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity

- d) Community Involvement
  - To engage with the local community and users groups
  - To encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities
  - To use the park as a recreational resource
- e) Cultural
  - To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value
- f) Sustainability
  - To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles
- g) Legal
  - To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations
- h) Maintenance
  - To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations
- i) Safety
  - To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site
- j) Marketing
  - To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users

The aims are set out in the table below. Each of these aims is further developed into targets, measures and timescales. It forms the basis of the assessment and analysis of Hopetoun Crescent Garden.

Hopetoun Crescent Garden Management Plan 2017 - 22

Criteria	Aim
A Welcoming Place	b) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value  c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity  i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site
Healthy, Safe and Secure	c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity  g) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations  i) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site
Clean and Well Maintained	h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations
Sustainability	f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles
Conservation and Heritage	a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site  e) To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value
Community Involvement	d) To engage with the local community and users groups encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource
Marketing	j) To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users
Management	f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles

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

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

### 3 Survey, Historic Features and Park Governance

#### 3.0 Introduction

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

#### 3.1 Historic Features of the Park

In 1763 a Physic Garden, with a large plant collection was established off Leith Walk by John Hope. The site was designed to reflect the new discoveries and knowledge of Botany at that time.

By 1820, when Robert Graham became the 3rd Regius Keeper, the Garden site established by John Hope could no longer accommodate its collections properly, so the decision was made to move it to a new site in Inverleith where the current Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh is now found.

The old site was built on as Edinburgh expanded and the small area of Garden left became a neglected site - full of rubbish. In the 1990s the local community started to get involved with the site and in 2002 the Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden were established. They breathed fresh life into the park by clearing the rubbish, upgrading paths and installing interpretation panels.

See **Appendix 5** for a full history of Hopetoun Crescent Garden.



(Images Courtesy of Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden)



*Images showing the development of Hopetoun Crescent Garden undertaken in 1999*

### **3.2 Strategic Significance of the Park**

A number of Edinburgh's corporate strategies and policies apply to the parks and green spaces in the city, aiming to deliver safety and equality of provision, safeguard and enhance local environments and neighbourhoods, and ultimately improve the quality of life for

Edinburgh's communities, enabling residents to participate fully in the City's park life.

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

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

#### **3 Corporate Strategies and Policies**

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

#### **4 Park and Environmental Policies**

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

- Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto

## 5 Local Drivers

- Locality improvement plan 2020 - 25

### 3.3 **Management Rules**

Park Management Rules were revised in 2013. They aim to provide rules which encourage responsible use in line with the ethos of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. An appendix is attached which show the 'Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace' (**Appendix 2**).

### 3.4 **Park Classification**

Hopetoun Crescent Garden is classified within the Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy as a "Garden".

"Gardens are generally small areas subject to intensive horticultural input, with some provision for passive recreation (generally seats) but no provision for other forms of recreation. Generally used for quiet enjoyment and relaxation."

### 3.5 **Community Involvement**

Community involvement at Hopetoun Crescent Garden began in the 1990's. the Hopetoun Steering Group, under the auspices of City of Edinburgh Council, was to oversee the intensive development of the Hopetoun area, control the nature and quality of the development and protect and enhance the amenity for residential and business occupiers; local people played a vital role in this Group and it was thanks to them and the interest and expertise of Richard Barclay of the Council's City Development that the Garden was planted with wild flowers and grasses, the benches in the setts were put into place and the Garden opened to all of us.

Recovery of the derelict land in Hopetoun Crescent Garden was one of the main achievements of the Hopetoun Steering Group. In 1999, a group made up of local people, got together to make sure that the original aims of the restitution of the Garden were upheld and respected. Later, in 2002 Hopetoun Steering Group became the Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden, who now take responsibility for maintaining the amenity of the Garden.



story telling event

### 3.6 Surveys and Assessments Undertaken

#### Asset Management GIS Survey

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

It is in its 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 Garden.

### Tree Survey

The Council's Arboricultural section produced a Tree Survey with a comprehensive tree species list indicating the current condition of the tree stock. Recommendations from this survey will be used to shape the future development of the landscape features of the Garden and will be reflected in future in this management plan (**Appendix 6**).

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

The Council's website gives users and visitors to the Garden an opportunity to register their comments on any park within the City. To encourage users to inform us what they think about the Garden generally.

### Core Paths

The City of Edinburgh Council's Core Path Plan identifies a system of key routes for non-motorised access throughout the area of its authority. Core Paths are predominately designated on existing paths, cycle tracks, footways and any other routes that provide a network linking communities and places people want to go. These include local facilities, tourist attractions, parks and greenspace and places of work. Core paths should accommodate a variety of uses, walking, cycling, horse riding and disabled access where possible.

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

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

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

## 4 Analysis

### 4.0 Introduction

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

#### 4.1 A Welcoming Place

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

There is good, safe and level access to Hopetoun Crescent Garden. Within the Garden, an informal path winds through the trees and provides a relaxing walk, with benches to rest and enjoy the surroundings. Although there is not signage directing people to the Garden, within the Garden a number of interpretative signs provide a welcome and information for visitors.

The Garden is freely accessible at all times and the attractive railings and entrances provide a number of routes into the Garden with views into and across the Garden. The Garden's attractive and simple design helps entice people to use it and it provides a quiet refuge from busy city life.

#### 4.2 Healthy, Safe & Secure

- c) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity

g) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations

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

The locality team have reorganised its grounds maintenance function so that there is better co ordination of activities and closer links can be made with the Community Parks Officer, Park Rangers and the Friends Group. This, along with local working, will help to give staff created ownership of the Garden and assist the Friends Group in maintaining the Garden to a high standard.

The Friends Group maintain a careful overview of the Garden and highlight issues as soon as they arise. The size of the Garden limits the ability to install a range of facilities to meet the needs for intense physical activity and sports. The trees provide shade and intrinsically link the Garden to the role of a small scale botanical Garden with interesting specimens.

The openness of the Garden promotes passive supervision by local residents. The Garden is visited from time to time by the Council's Environmental Wardens to monitor evidence of dog fouling and to promote responsible dog ownership. If necessary the Environmental Wardens can enforce the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003.

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

#### **4.3 Clean & Well Maintained**

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

Generally the Garden is maintained to a good standard but more can be done to raise the quality. Work to improve the path surface is a recent issue and other improvements to ground maintenance should be considered. Regular visits of the Garden will be included in work programmes for the local Park Ranger 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.

Hopetoun Crescent Garden has a maintenance programme, which establishes standards of cleanliness, infrastructure and ground maintenance. Information gathered from the public and Parks Quality Assessment surveys indicate that the standard of maintenance is considered to be of a good standard, the schedule of maintenance is highlighted within the maintenance plan (**Appendix 3**).

#### 4.4 Sustainability

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

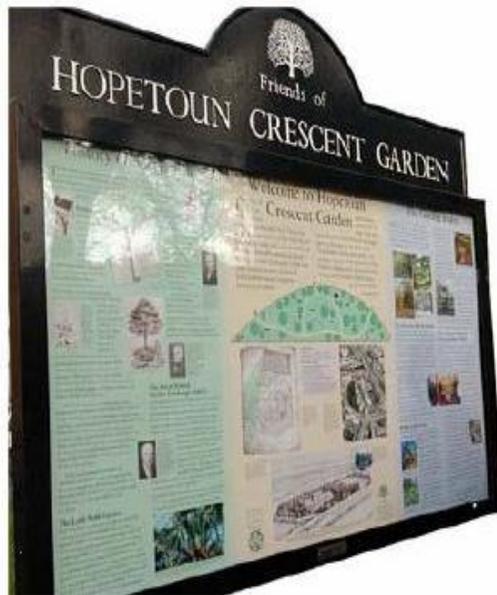
The use of pesticides is kept to a minimum. Cultural removal of dominant species within the naturalised area is carried out by the Friends Group from time to time to maintain plant diversity. Peat use is not used in the Garden. Any green waste collected from the Garden is recycled by the Council. Where possible material is returned to the Garden as mulch. Any fallen large trees are sold and smaller material is chipped into mulch.

The volumes of litter are comparatively small and no attempt has been made to consider if any of this could be recycled. The Garden contained 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 Garden as trees mature and how others are replaced if they are removed as a result of disease, decay or damage.

#### 4.5 Conservation & Heritage

a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site

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



Much is made of the history of Hopetoun Crescent Garden and its links with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. In addition, slight changes in the management of the Garden have encouraged the development of a naturalised area within it. The history of the Garden has been researched for the creation of a new interpretation panel, developed and fundraised by the Friends group.

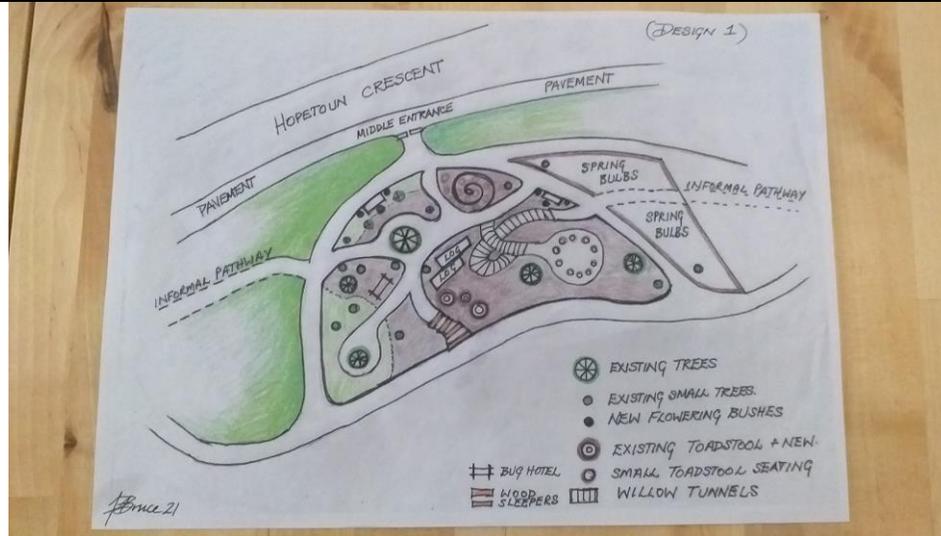
The Friends have been keen to establish the relationship of the Garden as it appears today from its origins as part of a larger botanical Garden. Although much smaller now, what remained is a lasting Garden that maintains its historic character. Again care needs to be taken to ensure that there is some continuity in the choice of species planted in the Garden.

There is now a “tree trail” that you can follow through the Garden to learn more about trees. 12 tree plaques were planted in the Garden in July 2016 thanks to the sponsorship of Tony Crolla of Vittoria's; with advice from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and the Park Rangers.



## 4.6 Community Involvement

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



Garden plans developed by friends' group

## 4.7 Marketing

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

Information relating to Hopetoun Crescent Garden is available via Community Council and City of Edinburgh Council website and available via Smartphone app 'Edinburgh Outdoors'. The Council website also offers a good source of information about the park and its available infrastructure.

**Edinburgh Outdoors:**

<http://www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk/featureDetails.php?id=65>

**MyParkScotland:**

<https://www.mypark.scot/parks/hopetoun-crescent-gardens-edinburgh/>

**Friends Group:**

<http://www.hopetouncrescentgarden.org.uk/>



## 4.8 Management

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

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

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

The Council acknowledge the effort and support of the Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden and continues to work closely with them in partnership, to maintain and manage the Garden for the benefit of residents and visitors. This management plan aims to provide a clear framework for making informed and planned decisions about the future plans for the Garden.

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 Garden and worked towards by those involved in its management.

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

Operational management of the Garden is undertaken by the neighbourhood Task Force team. This team consists of a grounds maintenance and street cleaning team's who are responsible for the day to day maintenance of the grass, flower beds and shrub areas, the servicing of the bins and litter collection throughout the park. Maintenance schedules indicating frequency and type of work carried out within the park can be found in the appendices of the management plan (**Appendix 3**).

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 Garden, extractions these reports can be found in the appendices of the management plan (**Appendix 4**).

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

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

## 5 Development Action Plan

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

Note: All costs are approximate.

Key:

LEM	Local Environment Manager	CPO	Community Parks Officer
PGM	Parks & Greenspace Management	PR	Park Rangers
FoHCG	Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden	EW	Environmental Warden
TFM	Task Force Manager	FM	Forestry Manager

### Aim 1: A Welcoming place

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

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

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

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
<b>To maintain good quality planting In 2021 the friends group produced a plan to improve the planting and improve bio diversity and make the site a more pleasant experience</b>	<b>Plant bulbs under trees</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Friends group and council</b>	
<b>To explore areas for reduced grounds maintenance activity</b>	<b>Grass cutting to be relaxed cutting of edges of paths</b>	<b>2020 onward</b>	<b>Council and friends</b>	

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			<b>group</b>	
<b>Improve paths within the park</b>	<b>New path to eat and around the notice board</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Council and friends group</b>	
<b>Clean fence around garden</b>	<b>Power wash railings</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>Council</b>	

**Aim 2: Healthy, Safe, and Secure.**

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

g) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations

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

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Replace litter bins that are rusted</b>	<b>When necessary</b>	<b>2018 /19</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Done</b>
<b>Replace windust on paths</b>	<b>When required</b>	<b>Ongoing maintenance</b>	<b>Council</b>	
<b>Repaint seats within park</b>	<b>As necessary</b>	<b>Yearly or when required</b>	<b>Council</b>	
<b>Create foot path to existing seat</b>	<b>Summer 2017</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>st</b>	<b>Done</b>

<b>Aim 3: Clean and Well Maintained</b>				
h) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Community clean ups</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>2 per year</b>	<b>Park</b>	
		<b>ran by Friends group</b>	<b>rangers and friends group</b>	
<b>Dog fouling within park</b>	<b>Posters and signs to encourage best practice</b>	<b>2022/ 2025</b>	<b>Waste officer park rangers</b>	
<b>Replace bins when required</b>	<b>2018 2019</b>	<b>Any</b>	<b>stand st</b>	<b>done</b>

<b>Aim 4: Sustainability</b>				
f) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Enhance bio diversity within the site</b>	<b>Relaxed grass cutting and planting</b>	<b>2017 onward</b>	<b>St and friends group</b>	
<b>Reduce chemical use</b>	<b>Channels and path edges</b>	<b>2017 onward</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>No chemical used in</b>

Hopetoun Crescent Garden Management Plan 2021 - 2025

				park since 2020
Increase colour within the area	Bulb planting under trees and in relaxed grass Introduction of woodland sp of plants	2021 onward		
Increase colour with through additional planting	This will be done using flower trees and coloured stems	2021- 2024	Council and friends group friends group	

**Aim 5: Conservation and Heritage**

a) To increase the biodiversity value of the site

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

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
Create a divers planting	Identify area of open or unused areas to plant a more diverse range of plants	2021 onward		
Carry out planted work	Winter of 2021	Onward		

<b>Aim 6: Community Involvement</b>				
d) To engage with the local community and user's groups; to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>Maintain links with existing friends group</b>	<b>Whenever possible</b>	<b>2021 onward</b>	<b>Council</b>	
<b>Agree to attend 2 meeting per year and attend AGM</b>	<b>EACH YEAR</b>	<b>2021 ONWARD</b>	<b>Council</b>	
<b>KEEP FRIENDS GROUP INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS</b>	<b>WHEN OCCURRING</b>	<b>ONWARD</b>	<b>council</b>	

<b>Aim 7: Marketing</b>				
j) To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>UPDATE NOTICE BOARD</b>	<b>ONSIGHT</b>	<b>MONTHLY</b>	<b>PARK RANGERS</b>	
<b>USE OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA TO PROMOT EVENTS</b>	<b>WHEN REQUIRED</b>	<b>ANY TIME</b>	<b>PARK RANGERS / SCOTT</b>	
<b>CONTACT LOCAL SHOOLS TO GET THEM INVOLVED IN USING THE PARK</b>	<b>CONTACT TO BE MADE SUMMER 2022</b>	<b>ANY TIME</b>	<b>PARK RANGERS</b>	

**Aim 8: Management**

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

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

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

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>REGULAR CONTACT WITH FRIENDS AND residents</b>	<b>ONGOING</b>	<b>ANY TIME</b>	<b>ST</b>	
<b>THIS MANAGEMENT PLAN TO BE CIRCULATED TO FRIENDS GROUP FOR THERE INPUT</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>ST</b>	
<b>CONTINUE TO WORK TO RETAIN GREEN FLAG</b>	<b>YEARLY</b>	<b>FROM 2017</b>	<b>ST</b>	

**6 Finance****1 Revenue Funding**

The provision of revenue funding for the Garden consists of work undertaken at present by the local Grounds Maintenance Task Force. The current maintenance schedule is based in part on the old Grounds Maintenance Contract that now serves as a guide to what should be undertaken.

There is no specific maintenance budget allocation for Hopetoun Gardens, 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 cost cannot be calculated.

In addition, the Local Environment Manager has a budget for parks development and small-scale repairs and maintenance improvements. The annual budget for parks and open space development including repairs and maintenance, for North Edinburgh is approximately £60,000.

It is recognised that the Friends of Hopetoun Gardens devote their own time and resources, through grants, gifts and help in kind, to improve the Park.

## 2 Capital Funding

The capital budget is administrated by the Parks and Greenspace Service. The budget is generally allocated in advance and the role of the developing management plans is for better planning of financial resources required so that they can be included in future bids. Wherever possible capital bids should be match funded and the Friends group can assist with this.

## 3 Grants

The Parks and Greenspace team have a small grants fund that Friends groups can apply for, this is for small items or to assist in developing their group or the sites they have adopted. In addition, the Friends group have utilised third party grants from organisations to invest in the Garden

## 7 Monitoring and Reviewing

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

In conjunction to this the Parks User Survey results and comments assist with the monitoring of the park and are taken into consideration by the advisory group when annual reviews of the management plan are undertaken. A review of this management plan shall take place in March 2017 in readiness for the next application process for the Green Flag awards.

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

In September 2016 the outcome for this park was that it scored in the Excellent (65-74%) category for Gardens with a score of 74% (**Appendix 4**). This ranks as the 15<sup>th</sup> best park in the Park List in quality order based in Parks Quality Scores (PQS),

scoring higher than 18 other Green Flag sites in Edinburgh. It was ranked as the 3<sup>rd</sup> best park in the North East Locality area.

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

## 8 Appendices

### Appendix One – Policies

#### **Park and Environmental Policies** <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/council-planning-framework/council-business-plan-2017-2022>

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

#### The North East locality plan 2017 - 2022 <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/localityimprovementplans>

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

#### Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2018 – 2028

Our new Community Plan shows the commitment of the Edinburgh Partnership to work together to focus on reducing poverty and inequality within the city and improve the quality of life for all. The plan identifies those issues that require sustained joint working to make a difference <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/23664/community-plan-2018-28>

#### Sustainable Edinburgh 2020 Edinburgh

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

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

### **Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework**

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

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

### **Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2020 21** <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/22616/openspace-2021>

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

### **Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2019 – 2021** [edinburgh.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://edinburgh.gov.uk/biodiversity)

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

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

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

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

**3 Corporate Strategies & Policies**

**Edinburgh Partnership Single Outcome Agreement 2012-17**

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

Corporate Strategies & Policies

**Edinburgh Partnership Single Outcome Agreement 2012-17**

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

### **Edinburgh Partnership Community Plan 2013-16**

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

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

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

### **Capitalising on Access: an Access Strategy for Edinburgh**

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

### **Climate Change Framework 2007-17**

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

### **Sustainable Edinburgh 2020**

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

## Appendix Two – Caring for Parks Guidelines

### Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace (introduced 2013)

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

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

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

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

### Persuasion

Parks Rangers, Countryside Ranger and Volunteer Rangers are the principle people dealing with undesirable behaviour in parks. They have no powers to apprehend, fine or prosecute offenders and are often working on their own. They must therefore rely on gentle, friendly persuasion. This, for most behaviour, can be very effective but requires a good deal of skill. Training for rangers on how to deal effectively and safely with the public is therefore on-going. It is intended that this training will be extended to gardeners.

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

## Regulation

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

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

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

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

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

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



### Appendix Three – Maintenance Plan

	Item	Spec Ref	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1	Check and rectify firmness of staked trees, including adjusting ties	385			x							x		
2	Watering of newly planted trees, first year	386					x	x	xx	xx	x			
3	Weeding	387				x	x	xx	xx	xx	xx	x		
4	Pruning and removal of epicormic growth	388			x									
5	Litter collection (also supplemented by Friends Group)	384	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	Removal of fly tipped material	383		x		x		x		x		x		x
7	Grass cutting – amenity areas	394			x	x	x	xx	xxx	xxx	xx	xx		
8	Grass cutting – wildflower areas	394										x		
9	Hand weeding to wildflower areas	395				x		x	x	x	x	x		
10	Uplift and remove any fallen branches	399		x								x		
11	Collection of leaves	000		x						x	x	x		

#### Specification

##### 383 Fly Tipped Material

Uplift and remove from site all fly-tipped materials. Fly tipped material shall mean bulk items such as oil drums, domestic appliances, domestic and garden refuse and building materials or anything which is considered detrimental to the appearance of the site.

- 384 **Rubbish Clearance**  
Collect and remove to tip all extraneous rubbish, litter etc/ on site which is detrimental to the appearance of the site.
- 385 **Firming up**  
All plants shall be maintained in vertical wind firm conditions. Any plants loosened by wind or frost shall be firmed up.
- 386 **Watering**  
Undertake watering to trees as programmed in the Maintenance programme. Watering shall mean watering until the full depth of soil around the plant has just reached saturation. The minimum quantity applied shall be 80 litres per tree.
- 387 **Weed Control**  
The entire soil surface of cultivated planting areas and tree pits shall be maintained free of grass and weeds as bare soil
- 388 **Pruning/Trimming**  
Dead, dying or diseased wood on all plants shall be pruned back to a suitable outward-growing lateral shoot or bud.
- 389 **Stakes and Ties**  
Inspect, make good and re-firm all stakes and ties as necessary. Adjust and fix ties as necessary to make secure, allow for stem growth and prevent chaffing, re-position tie or replace to prevent chaffing.
- 390 **Replacements and establishments**  
The contractor shall be responsible for the replacement of all plants that die due to natural causes. Replacement plants shall be of the same species and specification as original plants. Replacement planting shall take place early in the following planting season.
- 391 **Vandalism**  
Any death or damage to plant material caused by vandalism shall be reinstated
- 394 **Grass Cutting**  
Maintenance cuts to the grassed areas are to be carried out using appropriate equipment for the site conditions. Grass shall be cut to a height of 40mm and the arisings shall be removed off-site. Frequency of the cutting shall be as specified in the programme. Maintenance cuts to the wildflower area shall be undertaken as required to the number of occasions specified and all arisings are to be removed from site.
- 395 **Hand weeding in Wildflower Area**

Hand pulling of undesirable weed species will be undertaken throughout the season.

399 Fallen Branches

All fallen branches of any size should be uplifted and removed from the site at the earliest opportunity.

000 Collection of Leaves

Leaves to be raked and removed once sufficient leaf fall has taken place. Follow up visits will be undertaken and all leaves to be taken to be composted.

**Appendix Four – Park Quality Assessment Results and Mystery shop 2021**

**Park Quality Assessment Result 2021**

Assessment Date: Lead Assessor: 11 Mike Shields May 2021

***Hopetoun Crescent Gardens***

**Classification:** Garden

**PQS: 77% Grade B**

**Edinburgh Minimum Std Met: Yes**

2019 78% - Grade B - Yes

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

**A Welcoming Place**

**Safe Equipment & Facilities**

**Welcoming**

**Personal Security in Park**

**Good Safe Access**

**Dog Fouling**

**Signage**

**Clean & Well Maintained**

**Litter & Waste Management**

**Equal Access**

**Grounds Maintenance**

**Healthy, Safe & Secure**

**Tree Maintenance**

**Appropriate Provision of Facilities**

# Hopetoun Crescent Garden Management Plan 2021 - 2025

Strengths: paths , fences etc all good

## Building & Infrastructure Maint.

Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.

## Equipment Maintenance

Strengths: All safe but as stated , some signage needs cleaned and graffiti removed Weaknesses /

Recommendations: None recorded.

## Sustainability

## Managing Impact on Environment

7

Strengths: Well overlooked from all angles and was fairly busy on day of visit with dog walkers and others just enjoying the gardens

## Waste Minimisation

7

8

Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.

## 2019 2021 Comments

Strengths: Lots of dog walkers in on day of visit but apart from one piece of fouling park was tidy and walkers I

Strengths: Several entrance points .  
Near main bus routes , site

observed all uplifted

8

Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.

8

was tidy on day of visit ,  
notice boards and information  
panels to welcome you  
Weaknesses /  
Recommendations: None  
recorded.

Strengths: Park fairly tidy , and was only let down by small amount of litter and some cigarette butts

Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.

Strengths: Good wide natural paths  
through the site in keeping  
with the type of park . Clean and

7

Strengths: Horticultural maintenance was fairly good

Weaknesses / Recommendations: Maybe consider some shade loving wildflower for some bare

7

tidy , near main bus routes

sections

Weaknesses /  
Recommendations: None  
recorded.

8

Strengths: Trees all looked okay with mixed varieties and good information posts , no obvious  
problems  
I could see

Strengths: Good Large information

panel and tree information  
posts and notice board on site  
, Local leaflet available at  
gate and other relevant

Weaknesses / Recommendations: maybe some coppice growth could be cut back

8

Strengths: Could see no major problems

7

signage on site  
Weaknesses /  
Recommendations: Large  
information panel need a

Weaknesses / Recommendations: only small graffiti issue already highlighted

7

Strengths: Could see no major issues

clean , Notice board could  
do with having more items in

Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.

7

it as lots of spare space , also  
graffito on notice board  
Strengths: natural path but  
was still suitable for equal  
access , seating available ,

8

Strengths: additional bulbs and planting

paid on street parking was  
available , but free before  
8.30 am Weaknesses /  
Recommendations: None  
recorded.

Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.

6

Strengths: councils litter recycling policy is adhered to Where green waste is generated some is reused  
on site litter is sent for recycling n

## Hopetoun Crescent Garden Management Plan 2021 - 2025

**Weaknesses /**

**Recommendations:** None  
recorded.



THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

PARKS, GREENSPACE & CEMETERIES

Park Quality Assessment Result 2021



Assessment Date: 11 May 2021
Lead Assessor: Mike Shields

Hopetoun Crescent Gardens

Classification: Garden

PQS: 77% Grade B
2019 78% - Grade B - Yes

Edinburgh Minimum Std Met: Yes

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

Chemical Use

9

Strengths: decision taken not to use herbicides within the parks by central team

Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.

Peat Use

10

Strengths: No peat based bedding on site

Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.

Climate Change Adaptation

7

Strengths: mature trees have been planted with woodland sp of bulbs border on south side has been planted with autumn flowering bulbs and planted with yellow rattle and mixed herbaceous plants

Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.

Conservation & Heritage

Natural features, flora & fauna

8

Strengths: Very natural park with a lot of biodiversity value and mushroom feature

Weaknesses / Recommendations: Scope for some wildflower sowing in some of the shady areas

Conservation Landscape

9

Strengths: The site was part of the botanical gardens and we have maintained the planting to reflect this it is also a green flag park

Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.

Conservation Buildings

8

Strengths: Gates, railings etc all in good condition

Weaknesses / Recommendations: None recorded.

## Hopetoun Crescent Garden Management Plan 2021 - 2025

### Community Involvement

**Community Involvement** 9 **Strengths:** the friends group are active and hold several events during the year **Weaknesses / Recommendations:** None recorded.

**Community Provision** 6 **Strengths:** there is an active friends group **Weaknesses / Recommendations:** None recorded.

### Marketing & Promotion

**Marketing & Promotion** 8 **Strengths:** notice board council web site **Weaknesses / Recommendations:** None recorded.

**Information Provision** 8 **Strengths:** Good history information boards on site and tree posts, actual parks notice board a bit empty and good do with more information put in place **Weaknesses / Recommendations:** None recorded.

**Educ. & Interpretative Provision** 8 **Strengths:** Same details as above comments **Weaknesses / Recommendations:** None recorded.

0

### Management

**Management Plan Implementation** *0* Not currently assessed

**Overall Comments:** Nice relaxed feeling within this city centre natural garden, with great biodiversity and tree specie value

- Recommendations**
- 1 Some signage needs a clean and notice board needs more info put in
  - 2 Consider some shade loving wildflower for some parts of the garden
  - 3 Some graffiti needs removing

 <h2 style="margin: 0;">Green Flag Award Mystery Shop Assessment</h2>			
<b>Name of Site</b>	Hopetoun Crescent Gardens	<b>Managing organisation</b>	Edinburgh City Council

<b>Weather Conditions</b>	Sunny, dry, light wind, 12 °C.				
<b>Date of assessment</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2021	<b>Time (from – to)</b>	12.30 1.30		
<b>Result: (✓)</b>	<b>Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard?</b>				
	Green <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red	Amber <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Grading</b>		<b>Comments and Recommendations</b>			
Please mark each section as Green, Amber or Red If there is no evidence or the section is not applicable mark as NG (not graded) and provide an explanation		Comments should be provided to support each grading  *Please include photographs to support your grading where applicable  **Please refer to Raising the Standard manual if necessary			
<b>A Welcoming Place</b>					
1. Is the site welcoming?	N G	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>	This site is a small woodland pocket garden in a busy urban area offering shade, seating and nature in an otherwise sterile environment. This small park is well served with seats, bins interpretation panels and information on the trees on site all of which make it very inviting.
		✓			
2. Is the site easy to find?	N G	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>	Yes
		✓			
3. Is signage in good condition?	N G	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>	Yes Both the City councils and the Friends information.
		✓			
4. Is the site accessible to all	N G	<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>R</b>	Yes very all footpaths are level and in good condition and there are three access points.

users?		✓			
<b>Healthy, Safe and Secure</b>					
5. Are facilities on site in good and safe condition?	N	G	A	R	Yes the interpretation boards, seats, Friends interpretation/information cabinets, tree information posts and labels are all in very good condition however the fencing and gates would benefit from painting.
	G	✓			
6. Did you feel safe during the visit?	N	G	A	R	Yes, the site is bounded by a busy road, lots of pedestrians walking by, dog walkers in the park and overlooked by adjacent buildings.
	G	✓			
7. Are dogs being controlled and the site free of dog fouling?	N	G	A	R	Yes several dogs were walked through the site during the visit and all owners were witnessed picking up any fouling. No Fouling was present during the visit.
	G	✓			
<b>Well Maintained and Clean</b>					
8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed?	N	G	A	R	Yes recycling bins are located at one of the entrances. There are several mixed waste bins present on site.
	G	✓			
9. Is there a good standard of horticulture maintenance?	N	G	A	R	Yes. There is a good range of new and interesting plantings for such a small site with appropriate interpretation. The site is not manicured but is well managed within the limits of its size for nature and biodiversity.
	G	✓			
10. Is there a good standard of arboriculture maintenance?	N	G	A	R	Yes. Trees are labelled information posts are located adjacent to specimens with the common name and some information. It would be more informative if the Latin names were included on the information stands.
	G	✓			

<b>11.</b> Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good condition?	N G	G	A		Yes The fencing and gates would benefit from painting and improve the presentation of the park.
		✓			
<b>12.</b> Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition?	N G	G	A	R	Don't know about staff equipment as none was present during the visit but seats and bins for public use were very good.
		✓			
<b>Environmental Management</b>					
<b>13.</b> Is there evidence that the site is managed to have a positive impact on the environment?	N G	G	A	R	No evidence of chemical or peat use was observed, there is a diverse range of planting and habitats.
		✓			
<b>Landscape and Heritage</b>					
<b>14.</b> Are heritage and/or landscape features in good condition?	N G	G	A	R	Yes the site was part of the original Botanic Gardens and though there are no original features left but there is substantial interpretation evident on site.
		✓			
<b>Community Involvement</b>					
<b>15.</b> Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement?	N G	G	A	R	Yes the Friends have a dedicated information interpretation boards on site.
		✓			
<b>16.</b> Is user feedback positive?	N G	G	A	R	Yes I spoke to several users and all agreed that the garden was a regularly used oasis in a busy urban area.
		✓			

Marketing and Communication					
17. Is there evidence of marketing and promotion, including events? e.g. notice boards, in buildings, website & social media.	N	G	A	R	The Friends have a strong presence on social media and there is garden leaflets and local news leaflet freely available on the perimeter railings.
	G	✓			
18. Is the correct year flag flying and certificate on display?	N	G	A	R	Flag is flying but no certificate is present.
	G	✓			
<b>Overall Result</b> (✓)	<b>Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard?</b>  <span style="color: green;">Green</span>  <span style="color: orange;">Amber</span>  <span style="color: yellow;">Yellow</span>  <span style="color: red;">Red</span>				
Additional comments:					

**Insert photographic evidence below and on subsequent pages7**



**Newsletter and Garden leaflet free on boundary fence.**



**Friends interpretation**



**Fencing and Gates**



**View of the Gardens**



# THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

## PARKS & GREENSPACE



### Clean & Well Maintained

<b>Litter &amp; Waste Management</b>	8	On the whole litter free and maintained bins	The odd instance of litter
<b>Grounds Maintenance</b>	7	Grass cutting regime evident, some naturalised grass in managed condition	Very weedy around fence line in places, bare grass area in middle of park
<b>Building &amp; Infrastructure Maint.</b>	7	Fences, gates and paths on the whole in good condition	slight flooding at path at one of the entrances
<b>Equipment Maintenance</b>	7	Seats bins and fence in good condition	path was slightly flooded at entrance

### Sustainability

<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	6	All current Council policies regarding environmental sustainability are being adhered to in the park.	
<b>Pesticides</b>	4	Herbicide is used on site but only by certificated staff.	
<b>Peat Use</b>	10	Peat use within the park continues to be monitored with the intention of reducing its use in new planting and seasonal bedding.	
<b>Waste Minimisation</b>	3	Attempts are made to minimise waste on site and some green waste is recycled.	
<b>Woodland Management</b>	7	A variety of trees in mostly good condition	Some of the trees are leaning over

### Conservation & Heritage

<b>Conservation Fauna &amp; Flora</b>	7	Some Living Landscapes with naturalised grass	Did not observe any bird boxes
<b>Conservation Landscape</b>	9		
<b>Conservation Buildings</b>	8		

### Community Involvement

<b>Community Involvement</b>	9	A group exists and hold lots of events and is involved in the management of the park.	
<b>Community Provision</b>	6	The Council provides support in the form of funding etc.	



**Marketing & Promotion**

**Marketing & Promotion**

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

8	Up to date information on notice boards, lots of info around site	notice board in park is impeded by shrub
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**Educ. & Interpretative Provision**

9		excellent info on tree history in park, some good historical info
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**Management**

**Management Plan Implementation**

0		
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**OverallComments**

I found this park had lots of interest and had some good info re history etc, which on the whole was well maintained park

**Recommendations:**

Remove stickers from welcome sign

Prune shrub at notice board

Introduce some summer flowering bulbs and reseed bare grass patch with shade tolerant grass seed

## Appendix Five – History of Hopetoun Crescent Garden



In 1670, Andrew Balfour and Robert Sibbald, two Edinburgh physicians dissatisfied with the state of medicine in the City they decided to establish a Physic Garden for the cultivation of medicinal and other plants. The site which they procured was a small plot of ground not far from Holyrood Abbey and, with the assistance of James Sutherland the first Intendant, it proved a great success. From there they acquired a second Garden which was at Trinity Hospital near where Waverley Station now stands. There the Garden remained for almost 90 years, serving for experiments, the supply of specimens to students of medicines and the training of physicians and apothecaries.

In 1760 the joint Professorships of Botany and Materia Medica at Edinburgh University became vacant and John Hope was appointed to both chairs. This led, in 1716, to his appointment to the post of the King's Botanist in Scotland, and also, at a salary of £50, to the Superintendentship of the Royal Gardens (Regius Keeper).

John Hope was born in 1725 in Edinburgh, the son of an Edinburgh surgeon Robert Hope; he was educated in Dalkeith before entering Edinburgh University as a medical student; during his time as a student, he went to Paris to study Botany. When his father died, he returned to Scotland and graduated from Glasgow University in 1750. He was a conscientious medical practitioner in Edinburgh but his heart and his spare time were devoted to Botany.

It was clear that more space for the Royal Garden was needed and a new 'out of town' site off Leith Walk was secured. John Hope used his family influence, first with the Earl of Bute and later with the Duke of Portland, in securing this site. It was a canny choice of location: cheap, accessible and with a variety of soils including, as present day architects have rediscovered, a peat lens running fair and square through what is now Huntingdon Place. And so, in 1763 the plant collection from Trinity Hospital and Holyrood Gardens were moved to Leith Walk. Hope also obtained a permanent endowment for the new Garden of £119.3s.0d and this was to greatly influence botanical education in Scotland.

The new Garden, the boundaries of which John Hope marked with stakes of the Huntingdon Willow (*Salix alba*), occupied some five acres on the west side of Leith Walk and was designed to reflect the new discoveries and knowledge of Botany. It was divided into two parts. The east side Hope called the School of Botany and in it the plants were systematically arranged; on each side of this area were placed medicinal plants, shrubs and trees. In the west section were conservatories, the pond for aquatics and a plantation which Hope called the Sylvia Botanics and which consisted of hardy trees in the shelter of which less hardy plants grew.



The conservatories formed a frontage of 140 feet and consisted of a greenhouse in the centre, with a hothouse ('stoves') at each end connected with the central portion by a passage. These heated greenhouses were for the new tropical plants brought back by explorers. There

was also a large area (the Library side of McDonald Road) given over to growing several varieties of rhubarb, totalling 3,000 plants. The 1777 plan of John Hope's Leith Walk Botanic Garden shows the site of John Williamson's house. He was Hope's Principal Gardener for 25 years until his death in 1780, and such was the esteem in which Hope held him a stone tablet to his memory was placed in the Garden – and this is still preserved in Inverleith today. Another link between the Leith Walk and the Inverleith Botanic Gardens is the monument to Linnaeus, the great Swedish botanist. Such was Hope's admiration for Linnaeus that in 1779, at his own expense, he commissioned Robert Adam to design the monument which was crafted by James Craig; this monument was also moved to Inverleith and is now situated to the north of the glasshouses.



The portrait (left) drawn by John Kay in 1785 (a year before Hope's death) is the only known likeness of Hope to exist; and the name of the gardener is unknown. John Hope died in 1786 and was honoured by science when his name was given to the genus of tree *Hopea odorata*. His name was also given to Hopetoun Crescent – and now to a whole new neighbourhood. And of course, Huntingdon Place gets its name from the Huntingdon Willows planted by John Hope.

Surprisingly Hope, an important Enlightenment figure, had no memorial even at Greyfriars, his burial place until 12 March 2004. A simple memorial plaque for Dr John Hope was erected in recent years, dedicated in Greyfriars graveyard by the Revd Dr Richard Frazer, minister of Greyfriars Tolbooth and Highland Kirk, at the site of the Hope family memorial in the Kirkyard.

The Garden was in Leith Walk for nearly 60 years and the Gardener's House (right), a substantial two-storied house built in 1773 for John Williamson, still stands between the gable end of the tenements in Haddington Place, and the petrol station.



Unfortunately, despite local efforts in the 1990s, it was never designated as a listed building and was in danger of demolition so that the site can be developed. The Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden received funding to undertake an Architectural Survey in 2008. The survey was undertaken with a view to the building being dismantled, stored and subsequently rebuilt on another site. This project is now in the hands of the Royal Botanic Garden (Edinburgh).

Not only is this building one of the oldest in Leith Walk, it also shows the level of the 'Low Walk' which ran parallel to the 'High Walk' (the rampart built in 1650 by General Leslie): which is why the entrance to the building, apparently via the ground floor, is in fact leading into the original first floor – thus showing how the level of Leith Walk has changed.

### **The move to Inverleith**

In 1820, Robert Graham became the third Regius Keeper; the Garden site established by John Hope could no longer accommodate its collections properly, the glasshouses were in a dilapidated condition and the ground surrounding the Garden which had been mostly occupied by nurseries was in the process of being developed. A new home had to be found – and a 14.5 acre site in Inverleith was purchased in 1822.

It took nearly two years to move the contents of Hope's Garden in Leith Walk to their new home and the success of this operation was due mainly to Graham's Principal Gardener, Mr McNab. It was McNab who designed a transplanting machine especially to transplant well established trees and shrubs, and hardly a specimen was lost in the move. Indeed trees moved from Leith Walk are still growing in the Garden at Inverleith - living contact with the history of the Hopetoun area.

## Appendix Six – Tree Survey

Tree Details - by Location/Site

Hopetoun Crescent Gardens - Tree Count Via Location &amp; Site

Date: 15/01/2009

Page 1

Leith Walk

Hopetoun Crescent Gardens

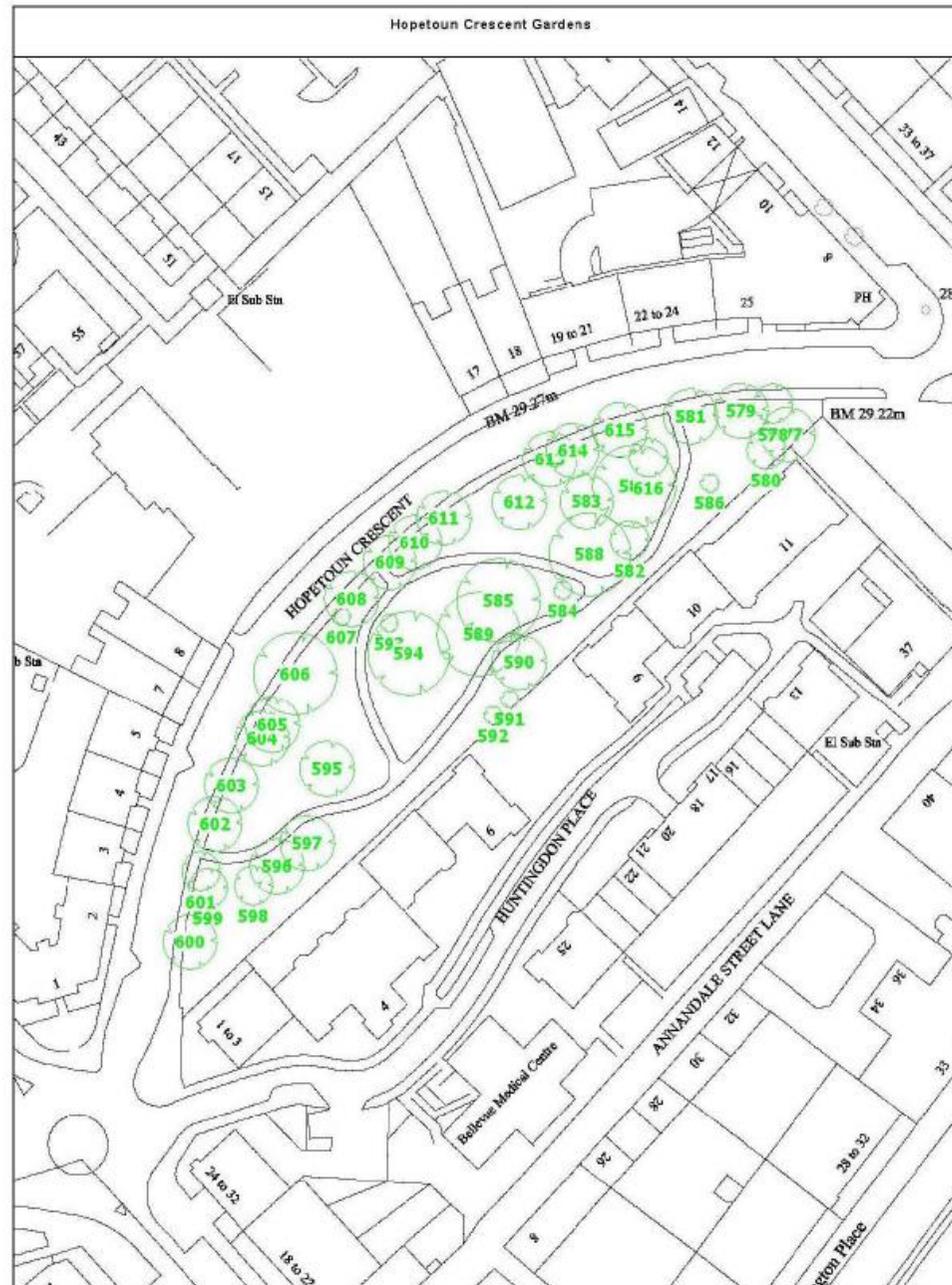
Tree-type/Seq	Hse/Loc Ref	Species	Common name	Height	Spread	Trunk	Age	Condition
Sgl/577	b13379	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	50 - 60 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/578	b13380	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	10 to 15 meters	6 to 9 meters	30 - 40 cm	Middle Aged	Fair
Sgl/579	b13381	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	60 - 70 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/580	b13382	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	6 to 9 meters	50 - 60 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/581	b13383	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	60 - 70 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/582	b13387	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	6 to 9 meters	40 - 50 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/583	b13388	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	40 - 50 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/584	b13390	Prunus spp.	Cherry spp	Up to 5 meters	3 to 6 meters	20 - 30cm	Middle Aged	Good
Sgl/585	b13391	Quercus cerris	Turkey Oak	15 to 20 meters	Over 12 meters	70 -80 cm	Mature	Good
Sgl/586	b13384	Cedrus deodara	Deodar Cedar	5 to 10 meters	3 to 6 meters	10 - 20 cm	Semi-mature	Excellent
Sgl/587	b13386	Fagus sylvatica	Common Beech	15 to 20 meters	Over 12 meters	80 - 90 cm	Mature	Good
Sgl/588	b13389	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	15 to 20 meters	Over 12 meters	80 - 90 cm	Mature	Good
Sgl/589	b13392	Quercus cerris	Turkey Oak	15 to 20 meters	Over 12 meters	60 - 70 cm	Mature	Good
Sgl/590	b13393	Quercus cerris	Turkey Oak	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	50 - 60 cm	Mature	Good
Sgl/591	b13394	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	5 to 10 meters	3 to 6 meters	20 - 30cm	Semi-mature	Fair
Sgl/592	b13395	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	5 to 10 meters	3 to 6 meters	20 - 30cm	Semi-mature	Fair
Sgl/593	b13397	Betula pendula	Silver Birch	15 to 20 meters	3 to 6 meters	20 - 30cm	Middle Aged	Good
Sgl/594	b13396	Quercus cerris	Turkey Oak	15 to 20 meters	Over 12 meters	90 cm +	Mature	Fair
Sgl/595	b13398	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	50 - 60 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/596	b13400	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	10 to 15 meters	9 to 12 meters	80 - 90 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/597	b13399	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	10 to 15 meters	9 to 12 meters	60 - 70 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/598	b13401	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	10 to 15 meters	6 to 9 meters	40 - 50 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/599	b13403	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	6 to 9 meters	40 - 50 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/600	b13402	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	70 -80 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/601	b13404	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	15 to 20 meters	6 to 9 meters	60 - 70 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/602	b13405	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	60 - 70 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/603	b13406	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	40 - 50 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/604	b13407	Quercus cerris	Turkey Oak	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	50 - 70 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/605	b13408	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	40 - 50 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/606	b13409	Fraxinus excelsior	Common Ash	15 to 20 meters	Over 12 meters	70 -80 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/607	b13410	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	Up to 5 meters	3 to 6 meters	10 - 20 cm	Semi-mature	Fair
Sgl/608	b13411	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	40 - 50 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/609	b13412	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	40 - 50 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/610	b13413	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	50 - 60 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/611	b13414	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	50 - 60 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/612	b13415	Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	50 - 60 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/613	b13416	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	50 - 60 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/614	b13417	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	40 - 50 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/615	b13418	Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	15 to 20 meters	9 to 12 meters	50 - 60 cm	Mature	Fair
Sgl/616	b13385	Quercus cerris	Turkey Oak	15 to 20 meters	6 to 9 meters	40 - 50 cm	Middle Aged	Fair

Sub-total: 40 trees

Total: 40 trees

Overall total: 40 trees

# Hopetoun Crescent Garden Management Plan 2021 - 2025



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