Addressing the impact of climate change

Parks for London

Tony Leach, Chief Executive

Parks for London

Parks for London
Centre for Excellence

Our Role

We support the people who own, design and manage London's green infrastructure.

Developing networks & sharing good practice and resources to improve quality and consistency across London.

Mission

To ensure that London has a well resourced network of **high quality, thriving, safe, innovative and stimulating** parks and green spaces that are **accessible to all.**

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Parks for London
Action Groups

Heads of Service

Litter & Waste

Asset Management

Women's Safety
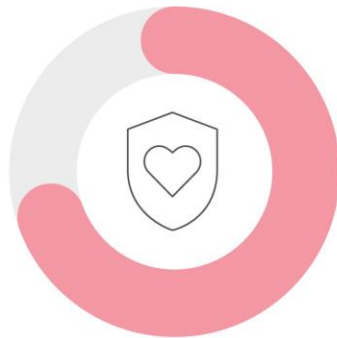
Parks for London

Young, Green, and Well

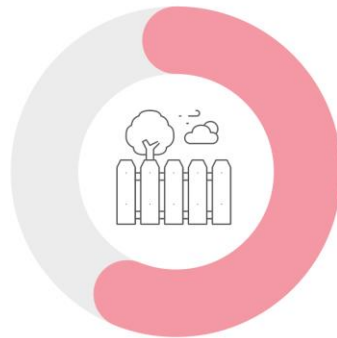A research study on young Londoners' green space use and mental wellbeing

64%
believe that spending time in green spaces is important

66%
spend time in green spaces to "escape life's day-to-day stresses"

56%
were deterred from visiting green spaces before due to bad maintenance

Young, Green, and Well

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SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON

Download the report

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Who manages London's parks & green spaces?

33 Boroughs

The Royal Parks

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

Independent park trusts

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Park maintenance providers

In-house

Outsourced
to contractors

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London

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Service delivery in London Boroughs

Parks & Green Space Service	Grounds maintenance function	Client function outsourced	Joint borough service	Boroughs
In-house	Direct labour			16
	Trading company			Ealing Hounslow
Outsourced	Contractor(s)			12
				Bromley Wandsworth
				Richmond & Wandsworth
Trust	Whole service			Redbridge

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Parks and open spaces net expenditure reported by London local authorities, GLA and LVRPA, £000s adjusted for inflation
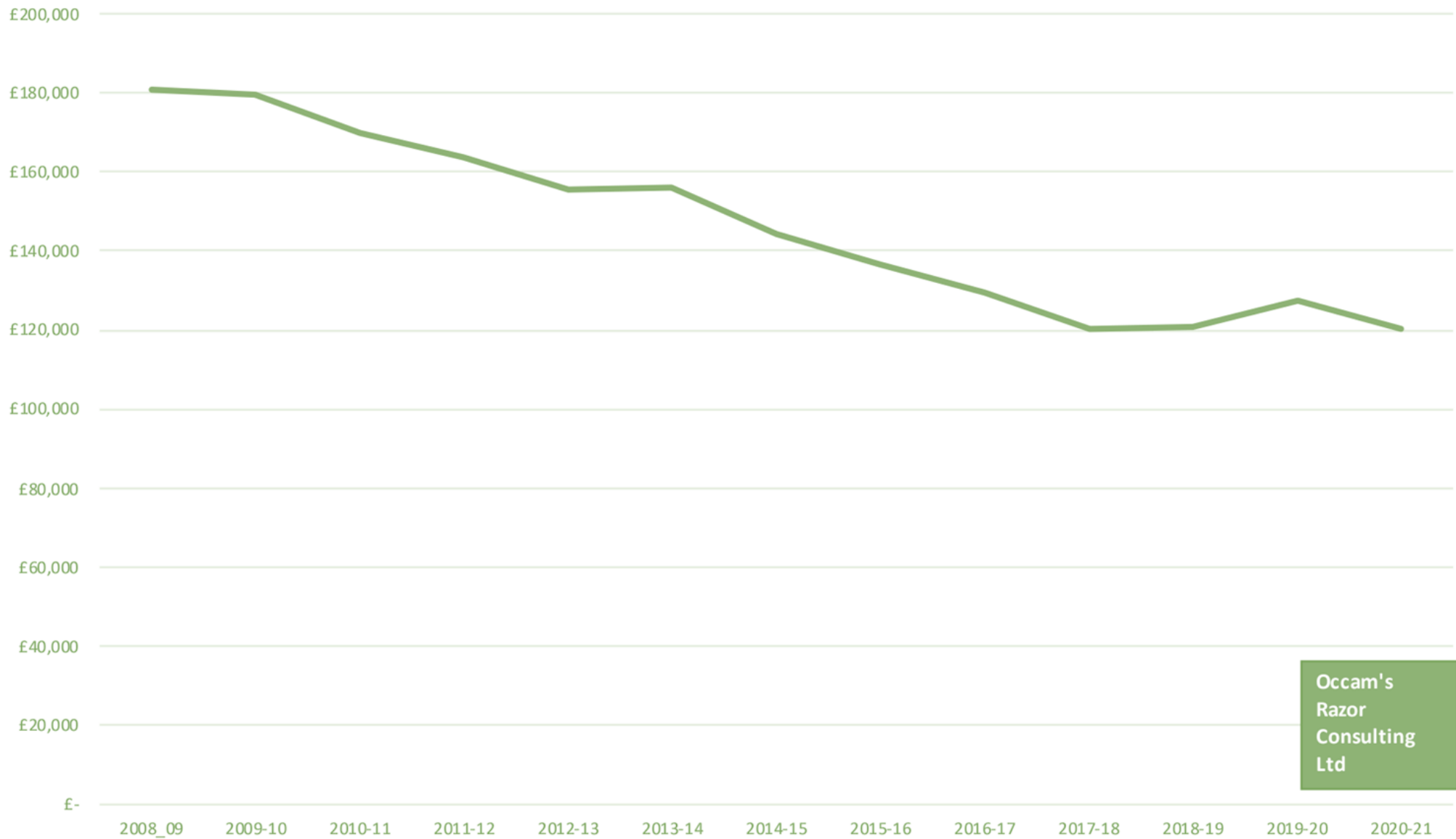
Occam's Razor Consulting Ltd

Parks management approaches are changing

Levers

1 LESS MONEY

- Service redesign
- > Public involvement

2 POLICY DRIVERS

- Environment Plan
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies & Plans
- Climate Action Plans
- Net zero targets

3 IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- Flooding
- Drought
- Fire & air quality
- Pests & diseases
- Managing people

4 INNOVATION

- Electric/battery kit
- Landscape management

5 ALL GREEN SPACE MATTERS

- Merging agendas
- Green/blue infrastructure
- Private/public ownership
- Greater collaboration

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"The limited funds available for running London's parks and green spaces are too valuable to be thrown away."

Julia Thrift

GOOD PARKS FOR LONDON 2022
Keeping Parks Clean

Parks for London

Sponsored by
GL Hearn

"Strategically addressing the impact of climate change inevitably means resourcing our parks, green and blue spaces in their critical role to protect people and nature."

Judy Ling Wong CBE

GOOD PARKS FOR LONDON 2021
Parks and Climate Change

Parks for London

Sponsored by
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Part of Capita plc

📎 Download the 2022 report

📎 Download the 2021 report

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Part one

Notes for scoring the criteria

1. PUBLIC SATISFACTION levels with parks (satisfied or above) are taken from borough-wide resident's public satisfaction surveys, or similar independent surveys (less than two years old), in addition to other measures boroughs are taking to improve public satisfaction.

2. AWARDS FOR QUALITY is assessed by the results of the Green Flag award scheme and other measures boroughs are taking to maintain and improve standards such as participating in other awards schemes.

3. COLLABORATION is assessed by evidence of cross boundary/borough land management; delivery of parks services through internal collaborations; partnerships with other boroughs, the voluntary sector, and relevant bodies; working with river catchment partnerships/improvement area group or working on Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS); and support for the London Tree Offers Association, London Parks Benchmarking Group and Parks for London.

4. EVENTS is assessed by boroughs having an events policy in place; provision of a range and number of community and commercial events in parks; whether income generated is ring-fenced for the parks service; how outdoor events are being made accessible and inclusive; and how event organisers are being encouraged to recycle waste.

5. HEALTH, FITNESS AND WELLBEING is assessed by the number of parks used for social prescribing; percentage of parks with outdoor gyms and those with programmed activities; having in place campaigns, outreach or concessions to promote greater participation; implementing health funding for parks; supporting community food growing areas in parks; provision of free drinking water (fountains, cafés and public buildings); and initiatives to improve and enhance access and inclusion.

6. SUPPORTING NATURE is assessed by having a Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) or similar in place, the percentage of parks that have management plans which include BAP objectives; the percentage of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation in positive conservation management; London in Bloom awards for conservation; supporting the Greenspace Information for Greater London (or similar); and delivering biodiversity outreach.

7. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT is assessed by gaining Community Green Flag Awards; number of park friends' groups/resident groups as a percentage of parks; having a borough-wide friends' forum; actively supporting friends' groups; level of volunteering; and transfer of assets managed by the community.

8. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT is assessed by the number of park apprentices and trainees as a percentage of total workforce; approaches to improving equality, diversity, and inclusion in the workforce; provision of staff development and training at all levels; and delivering learning opportunities in parks.
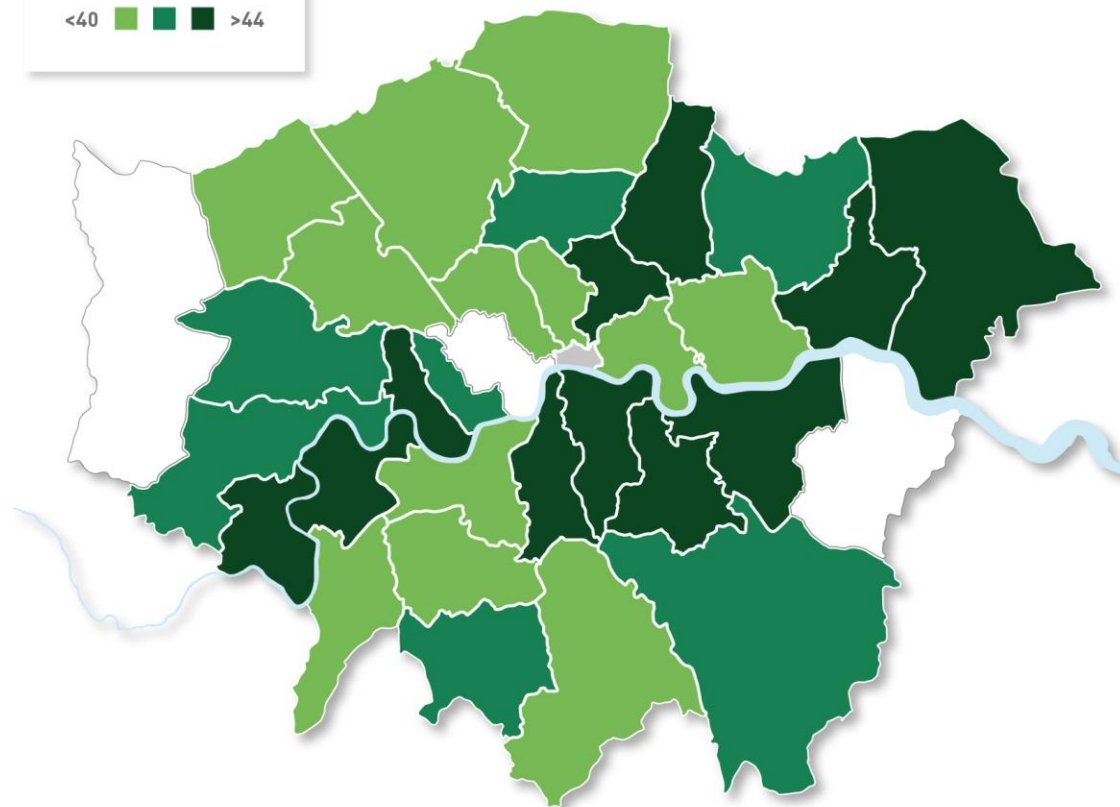
9. SUSTAINABILITY is assessed by green fleet as a percentage of total fleet and using accredited fuel-efficient route planning; battery-operated equipment as a percentage of total hand-held equipment; recycling paper/plastic & green waste; having an integrated weed management policy and plans in place; actions to reduce carbon footprint and to build more climate resilient parks.

10. STRATEGIC PLANNING is assessed by the borough having an up-to-date open space or green infrastructure strategy and action plan in place; having a costed asset management plan and system in place; and having undertaken a scrutiny review of parks services in the last ten years.

Overall scores

<40 ■ ■ ■ >44

Boroughs can provide, if they wish to do so, additional information which can be factored into the overall score. The criteria are assessed/reviewed annually by participating boroughs. Data used to produce maps and calculate overall scores has been collected from boroughs and partner organisations.

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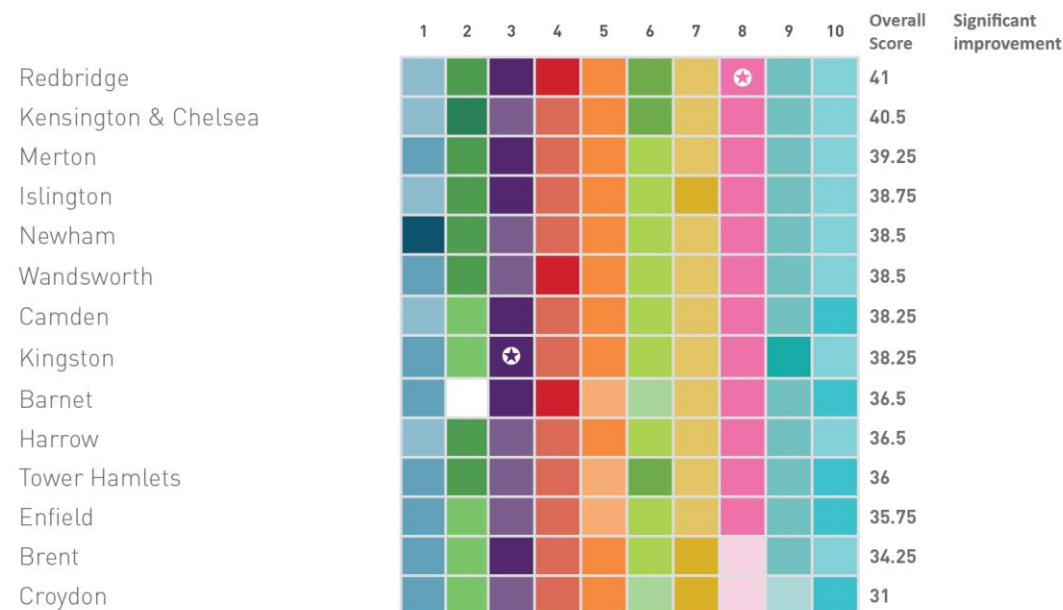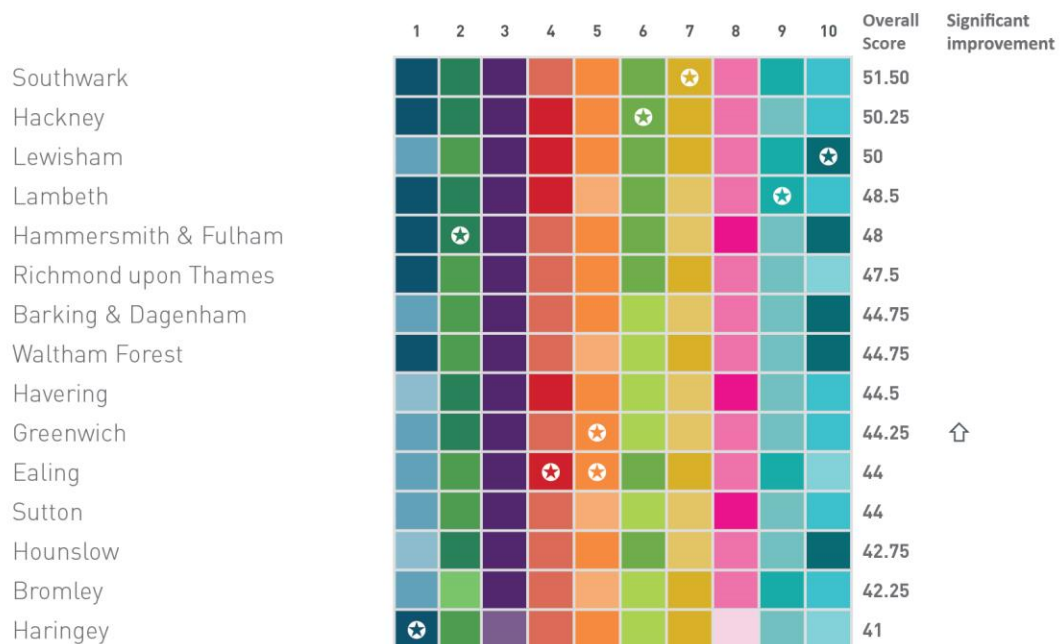
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Overall scores

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Overall Score	Significant improvement
Southwark							✪				51.50	
Hackney						✪					50.25	
Lewisham										✪	50	
Lambeth									✪		48.5	
Hammersmith & Fulham		✪									48	
Richmond upon Thames											47.5	
Barking & Dagenham											44.75	
Waltham Forest											44.75	
Havering											44.5	
Greenwich				✪							44.25	⇧
Ealing			✪	✪							44	
Sutton											44	
Hounslow											42.75	
Bromley											42.25	
Haringey	✪										41	

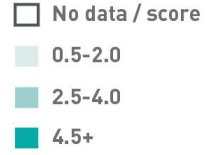|	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Overall Score	Significant improvement
Redbridge								✪			41	
Kensington & Chelsea											40.5	
Merton											39.25	
Islington											38.75	
Newham											38.5	
Wandsworth											38.5	
Camden											38.25	
Kingston			✪								38.25	
Barnet											36.5	
Harrow											36.5	
Tower Hamlets											36	
Enfield											35.75	
Brent											34.25	
Croydon											31	

Higher scores are represented by darker shading of colour. A blank square indicates that a borough has either not submitted data for a criterion or the data is not available or a score has not been achieved. Featured case studies are marked with a ✪, and a ⇧ represents a significantly improved score on the prior year.

This year, 29 boroughs participated in the report. The City of London Gardens (CoL) has not been included in these scores as the data does not represent a comparable data set and cannot refer to the wider portfolio of work undertaken by the substantial portfolio of CoL Open Spaces run as charities outside the physical boundary of the Square Mile.
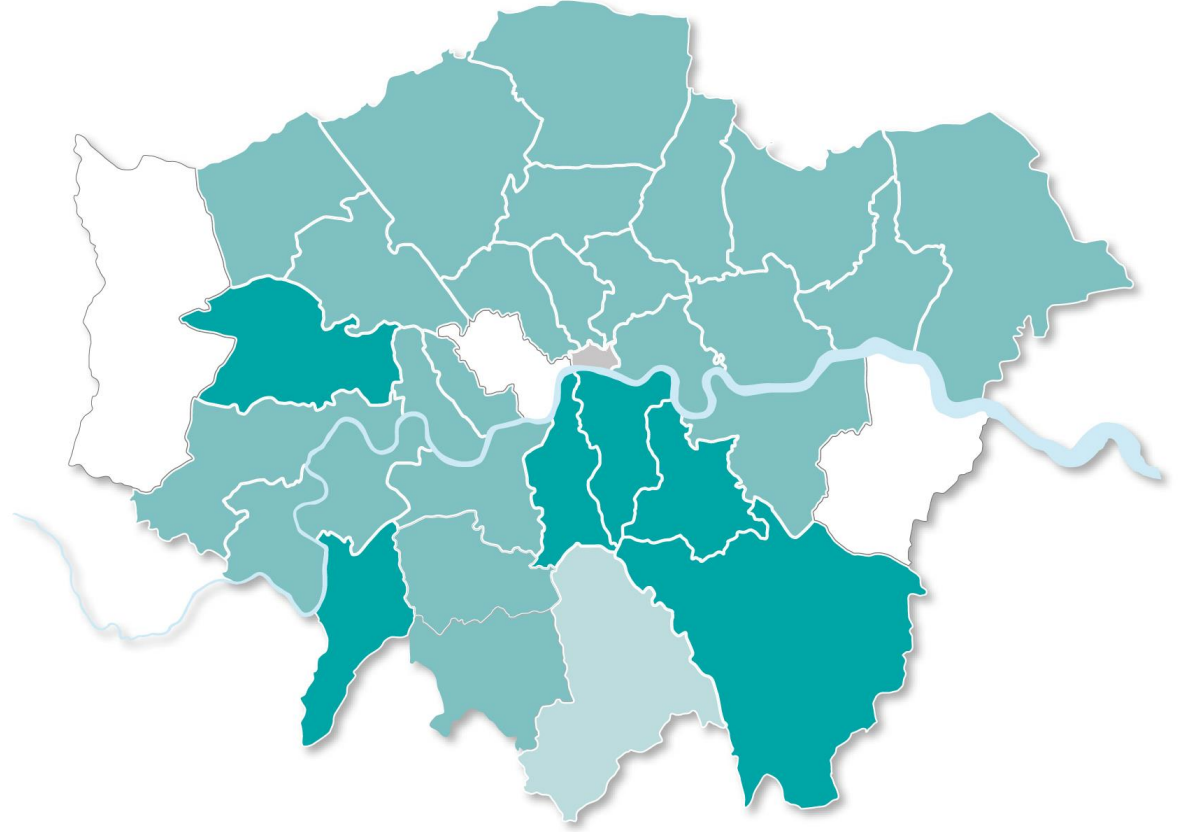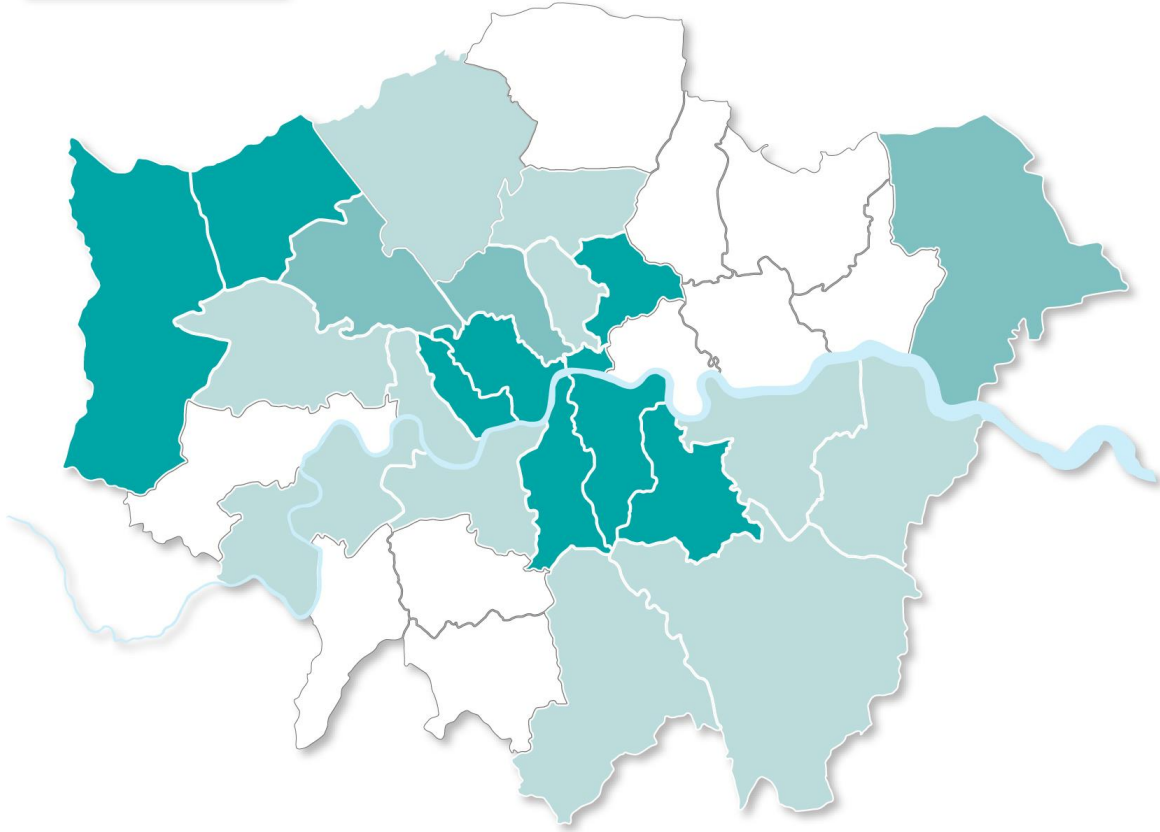
1. PUBLIC SATISFACTION	2. AWARDS FOR QUALITY	3. COLLABORATION
4. EVENTS	5. HEALTH, FITNESS AND WELLBEING	
6. SUPPORTING NATURE	7. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	8. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
9. SUSTAINABILITY	10. STRATEGIC PLANNING	

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2019

2022

Sustainability

- No data / score
- 0.5–2.0
- 2.5–4.0
- 4.5+

Sustainability

No data ▢ ▢ ▢ Top score

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Climate change challenges

Green space management issues

1 FLOODING
- Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)

2 DROUGHT & SHADE
- Water shortages
- Dry gardens
- Water features

3 FIRE & AIR QUALITY
- Firebreaks
- BBQs

4 PESTS & DISEASES
- Invasive weeds
- Massaria disease

5 MANAGING PEOPLE
- Expectations
- Behaviour
- Volunteering

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Wesley Jackson / Unsplash

Parkrun

MAYOR OF LONDON

Reimagining rainwater in parks and green spaces

📎 Download the report

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LAMMAS PARK,

LONDON BOROUGH OF EALING

Four ponds and channels were created to redirect and store water from a surcharging surface water sewer which was flooding part of the park and blocking a path. The ponds are all linked together by swales with check dams and stepping stones separating them and providing crossing points. Eventually the ponds will also be connected to a nearby road junction which is prone to flooding. To enhance the wildlife value of the ponds and add interest the surrounding area has been converted to meadow. The whole feature is currently 146m long.

A future phase will see the complex being further extended to create a flood storage area, once complete the whole feature will be 500m long which is almost the full length of the park.

Benefits include:

- The site has a range of wetland and meadow habitat types that greatly enhance local biodiversity.

- Encourages interaction and play with the natural environment and inspired curiosity in the water cycle.

- Reducing the amount of surface water runoff running into drainage system, managing local flooding and allowing more water to soak into the ground.

- Helping to clean water discharge.

SuDS features included in the scheme were ponds and swales integrated within a meadow.

Project size: 1000m^2

Cost: Around £50,000

Images courtesy of London Borough of Ealing

Before | Main pond in summer | Ponds and swales in the winter

After

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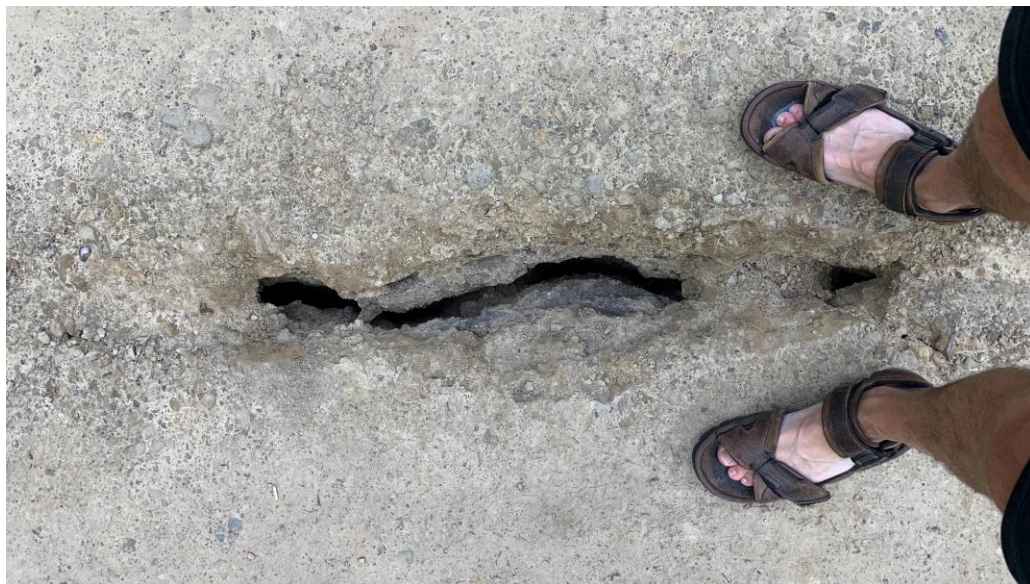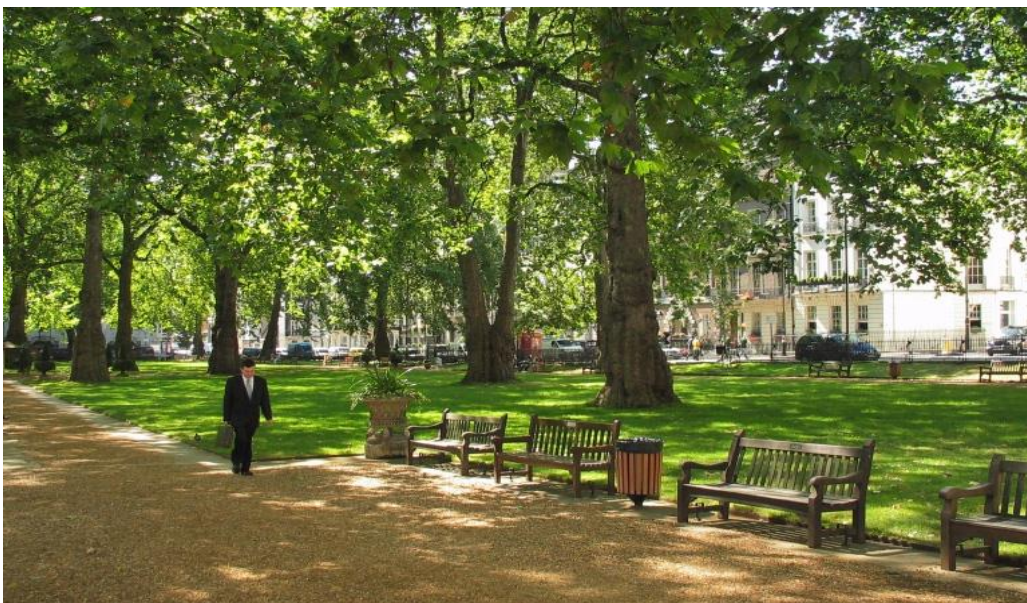
- Expectations
- Behaviour
- Volunteering

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Alisdare Hickson / Flickr

Facundo Arrizabalaga

Kevin Grieve / Unsplash

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Parks for London

Ian Hodgkinson

Merton Council

Matt Buck / Flickr

Tom Wheatley / Unsplash

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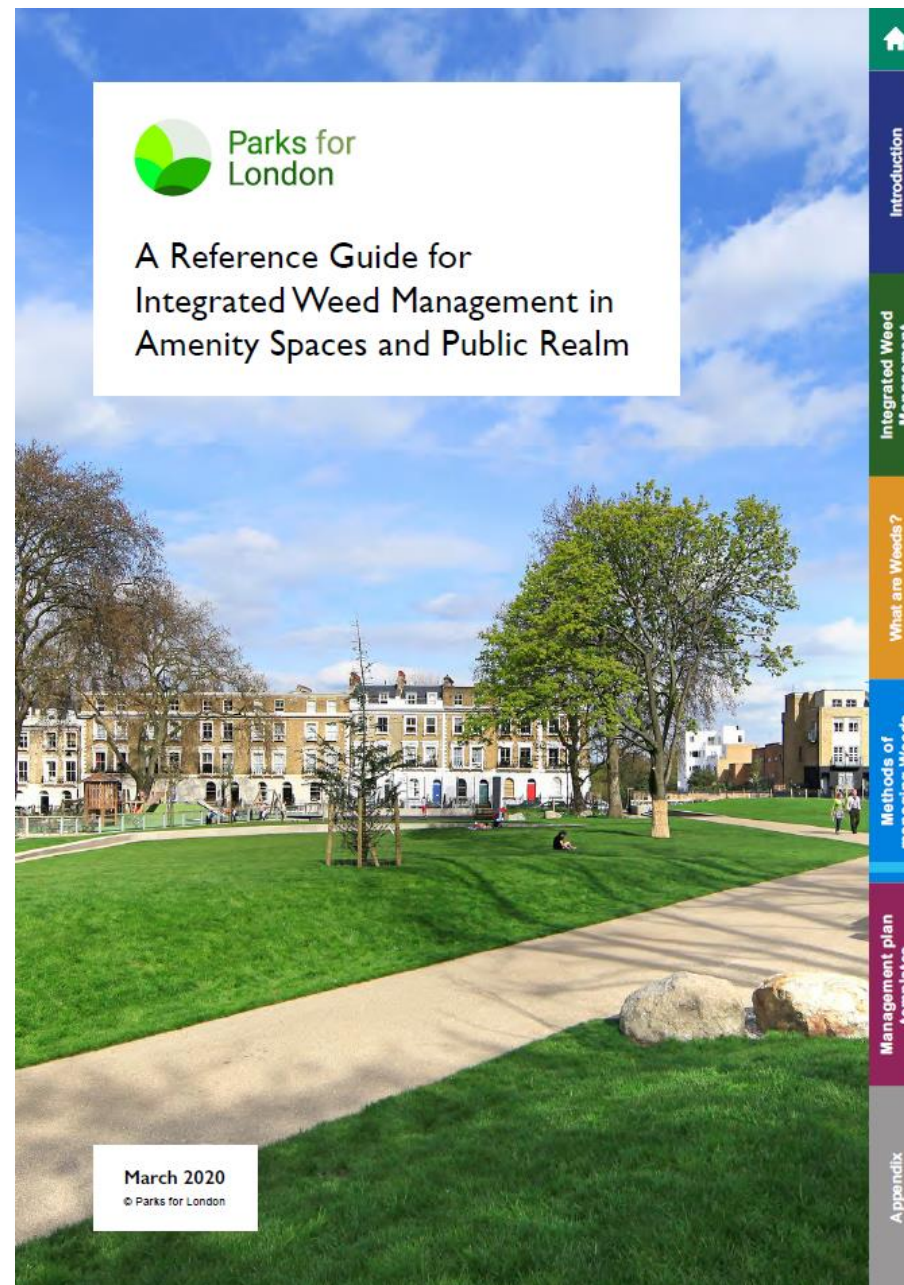- Massaria disease

5 MANAGING PEOPLE

- Expectations
- Behaviour
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National Trust Images / Lucia Pedone

National Trust Images / Lucia Pedone

Millfields User Group

CHRIS MADDEN

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Reference Guide

Integrated Weed Management in Amenity Spaces and Public Realm

📎 Download the sample

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Reference Guide

Integrated Weed Management in Amenity Spaces and Public Realm

Download the sample

Overview of Management Options ▶

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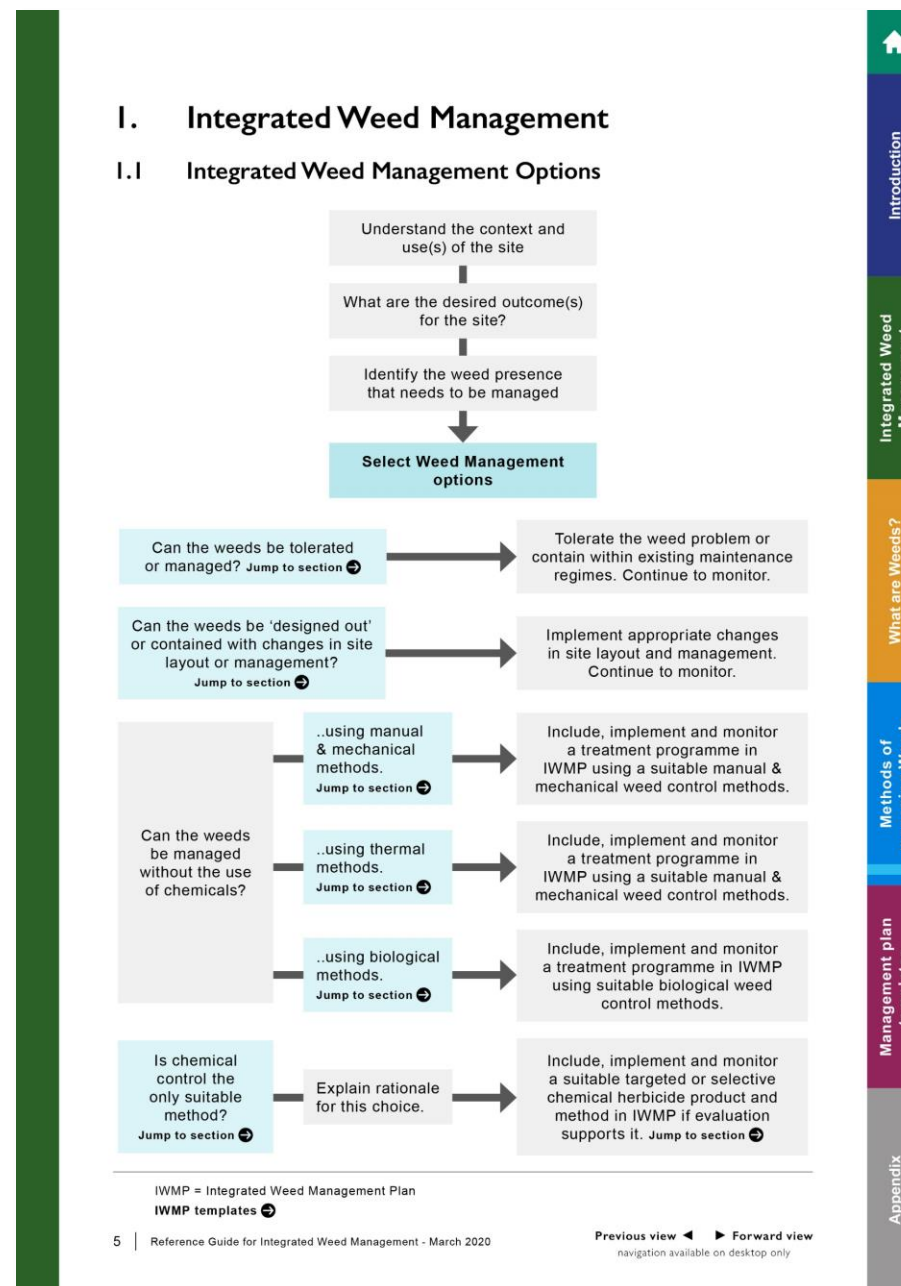
Weed management templates

1 Footpaths & Hard Surface Areas

2 Highways

3 Carparks

4 Turf Sports Pitches

5 Grass Amenity

6 Grass Ornamental

7 Grass Volume

8 Grass Meadows

9 Trees in Soft Landscape

10 Trees in Hard Landscape

11 Woodland

12 Shrub Beds

13 Hedges

14 Rose Beds

15 Annual Bedding

16 Herbaceous Bedding

17 Water Courses or Standing Water

18 Invasive Weeds

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The dangers of

Oak Processionary Moth

📎 Forestry Commission – Video (above)

📎 Forest Research – Tools & Resources

📎 The Tree Council – A Toolkit for Local Authorities

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Encouraging users to adopt positive behaviours

To support green space habitats

1 FLOODING

- Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)

2 DROUGHT & SHADE

- Watering trees
- Compaction

3 FIRE & AIR QUALITY

- Litter
- Abandoned picnics
- BBQs
- Flytipping

4 PESTS & DISEASES

- Avian flu
- Dog poo

5 MANAGING PEOPLE

- Expectations
- Behaviour
- Volunteering

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Patrick Perkins / Unsplash

Parks for London

Hackney Council

Wandsworth Enable

Robert Bye / Unsplash

Parks for London

Newham Property Guardians / Dot Dot Dot Property

Parks for London

Eco Green Communities

Case study on Eco Green Communities

LAGER Can

Case study on LAGER Can

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Importance of good communications

e.g., Clean Parks for London campaign

📎 Case study on the campaign

Every year, £14.8 million of taxpayer money goes into clearing up litter in our parks and green spaces.
Let's find a better use for it.

Take your rubbish home

Clean Parks for London

Picnic in, Pack it out
a guide to a sustainable, litter-free picnic

Parks for London

SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON

Clean Parks for London

🔗 Read the press release

🔗 Read the litter-free picnic guide

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Parks management approaches are changing

Levers

1 LESS MONEY

- Service redesign
- > Public involvement

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Climate change parks?

Thank you

🖥️ https://parksforlondon.org.uk/

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