GREEN FLAG MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023-28

St Pauls Recreation Ground





Lampton

Services Greenspace

Updated 2025



Foreword

The London Borough of Hounslow has some superb greenspaces that everyone can be proud of. They are places where people can relax, enjoy nature, play, or take part in cultural and historic activities and recreation. They are essential for the health and well-being of our residents, and they are vibrant spaces that provide a borough-wide green infrastructure for our communities.

In Hounslow, we are committed to stimulating a strong and robust green recovery related to our Greener Borough Framework and Climate Emergency. The Council's Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy plays a key role in delivering the Greener Borough Framework and sets out key priorities for our greenspaces in areas such as health and wellbeing, regeneration, climate change and nature recovery.

The London Borough of Hounslow considers the Green Flag Award process as a tool towards positively developing our greenspaces within this strategic framework and in partnership with our communities. It contributes to providing a vision, with clear objectives and priorities for how the Council and its partners would like to see greenspaces managed in future years.

This plan is not only the commitment from the Council to improve our greenspaces but is an important recognition of the support and commitment of the friends of parks, community groups, local clubs, third sector and partners who share our visions and work with us to respond to our green agenda.

Acknowledgements

This plan has been produced by Lampton Services Greenspace* (GS) and the London Borough of Hounslow (LBH) Parks Team with input from the Friends of St Paul's. In addition, it is important to acknowledge the great contribution from all interested groups for their commitment and dedication in supporting the development, promotion, and management of St Paul's Recreation Ground.

*Lampton Services Greenspace (GS) is part of the Lampton Limited Group and is a company wholly owned by London Borough of Hounslow with an aim of returning value to the Council representing a bold new ambitious approach.





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Purpose of the Plan

The Management Plan for St Paul's Recreation Ground has been prepared by LBH and Lampton Services Greenspace. The plan is specifically developed for the individual site with a dedicated Green Flag Action Plan.

This plan has been developed following detailed assessment of the Green Flag Award criteria and a comprehensive collaborative review of the existing uses, management, and maintenance of St Paul's Recreation Ground.

As part of the development of the plan, detailed consultation has taken place with the Lampton Services Greenspace parks maintenance and management team, LBH officers and Friends groups.

The Management plan is a 'working document' that brings together all the information relating to St Paul's Recreation Ground and will be updated, revised, and annually reviewed. This plan has been developed based on the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) Space document *"A Guide to Producing Park and Greenspace Management Plans"* and the *"Green Flag Award Guidance Manual"* guidelines.

Policy & Strategic Context

Actions and aims within this management plan are both guided by, and relate back, to wider Council strategies. The development of parks and open spaces are a vital component of the Council's Corporate Plan 2022 – 2026. Our work during this period is focused on six priority ambitions for a borough that is greener, healthier, cleaner, thriving, safer, and livable. Green infrastructure contributes in many ways to helping us achieve these priorities.

A key approach of Hounslow Council is working under the concept of "One Hounslow" where services are delivered without silos, working for specific outcomes with several internal council departments, community groups, NGOs, and government bodies.

Parks and open spaces play an important role in the approach highlighted in the Council's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy with start, live and age well, preventing ill-health, which in turn has an impact on reducing costs within the wider economy, the Council, and the NHS.

The Council's Equalities and Diversity Strategy 2023, created to improve equality, diversity, and inclusion - sets out an ambitious approach to target policies and funding to the areas which need them most to thrive. The strategy is based on three pillars - Equality by Place, Equality by Group, and Equality as Employer. Hounslow Council has committed to transform the opportunities and life-chances of communities in the borough's 30 most disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

The Council approved the Greener Borough Framework 2020-30 which seeks to provide a high-level framework to deliver on the Council's ambition and aspirations for the borough through enhancing our environment and reducing our use of resources. The framework is part of a wider ambitious green agenda bringing different people and organisations together to discover, engage, innovate, and deliver.



The adoption of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Nature Recovery Plan are the pillar of the strategic framework for the development of our parks and open spaces and their management plans through the Green Flag Award process.

Useful Links:

- <u>Corporate Plan 2022-26</u>
- <u>Climate Emergency</u>
- Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Greener Borough Framework
- <u>Nature Recovery Action Plan</u>
- Equalities and Diversity Strategy

Parks Funding

The Council's Parks service is funded by an annual salary and contract revenue budget for base line ground maintenance activities, and provided by our service providers, Lampton Services Greenspace, to maintain all of Hounslow's parks and open spaces, including allotments, cemeteries, trees, countryside and other workstreams.

Current capital funding has been allocated through a parks improvement project, and sites which require improvement will be prioritised. This funding will cover 2 years of project delivery and staff resourcing 2023 – 2025. Other capital funding is obtained via Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); S106, the Councils Thriving Communities fund (local CIL) and other grants and initiatives. These are applied for annually or as necessary and are based on need and strategic investment required by both the Council and local communities.





Where are we now?

Site Description & Facilities

St Paul's Recreation Ground is a small square park in Brentford, set a few streets back from the river Thames. It is set in a residential area near to St Paul's Church and St Paul's Primary School, which means it is well loved by local children and parents. The park is also used by joggers and dog walkers and has been used as an events venue throughout its history. The site comprises an area of amenity grassland cut into four quarters by two pathways that form a cross over the site running north/south and east/west. There are many mature trees on site which line the boundaries and the main path. In the southwest corner of the site there is a playground for younger children up to primary age, and on the southeast corner there is an enclosed dog park area.



Site Information Name: St Paul's Recreation Ground Address: Albany Road, Brentford, TW8 Contacts: 020 8583 5555 Email: parks@hounslow.gov.uk Web: www.hounslow.gov.uk **Designation:** Open Space **Ownership:** London Borough of Hounslow Size: 2ha Byelaws: A copy can be downloaded at www.hounslow.gov.uk Access: open access at all times Transport: Train: Brentford Station Tube: Northfields Buses: 195/E8 Parking: Available on surrounding roads Local Facilities: Play area, dog park, Heritage water fountain, obelisk. 5 |St Paul's Recreation Ground

Detailed History

In and around the year 1819, there were 3,000 acres of market gardens in the parishes in and around the parishes of Brentford which was described as 'the great fruit and vegetable garden of London'. Thirty people were employed on every acre at harvest time, most of them women who travelled from Wales and Shropshire for the season. The grounds we now know as St Paul's Recreation Ground were originally orchards and part of 'the great fruit and vegetable garden of London.'



The site for St Paul's Recreation Ground was purchased on 28th May 1888 by Brentford Local Board from Dame Sophia Jane Lateward Croft Delpieirre with money that had been raised to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. It cost £2,500 and due to various delays; it was not opened until 1889. Tenders were raised to supply the iron railings and the trees, a mix of Black Poplars, Limes, Acacias and Wych Elms, many of which still stand today. A water fountain was purchased by local Councillor Mr. Walker, in memory of Mr. James Montgomery Esq, founder of the timber business that was between the High Street and the canal on the site of the current Heidelberg premises. This was restored in 2021.

During WWII, Brentford experienced heavy bombing, and a trench-style air raid shelter was dug in St Paul's Recreation Ground. The site was bombed on 26 September, resulting in one hospitalisation and 16 people with minor injuries.



Recent Developments

Achievements 2024

- Explored opportunity for new lighting installation at site; proposal reconsidered but options continue to be explored in collaboration with local community.
- Continued maintenance of new trees and playground across the site.

Achievements 2023

- New signage installed December 2023
- New trees installed in northwest corner winter 2023.
- Playground refresh works completed.





Previous Achievements:

- A trim trail was created.
- New under-5 play equipment was added.
- Bollards went in on one of the access points to prevent transport access.
- Cycle path added.
- Historic water fountain was restored after not being in use for several years. The friends of St Paul's, Hounslow Council and the Heritage of London Trust were able to restore it.
- Christmas tree planted 21 funded by the friends.
- Park rangers visiting regularly.
- New MUGA installed in the play area.
- New trees planted in and around play area.
- Long standing friends' group very active in the area.
- Whip planting bed created in one of the four corners of the park.





Obelisk cleaning ahead of Queens Jubilee



Where do we want to go?

Green Flag Analysis

The ambition for LBH in partnership with GS and community groups is to continue to work to improve standards and develop parks and opens spaces strategically according to corporate priorities and local needs.

A clear connection between the criteria identified by the Green Flag Award Scheme and the main points gained from the SWOT analysis and site review completed with the Friends of St Paul's Recreation Ground has helped to establish a comprehensive management plan for this site.

The management plan process is described below the section "How do we get there?".

Consultation & Co-design

The Council has a strong partnership with the Friends of St Paul's Recreation Ground co-designing the future of the park together in most initiatives and opportunities.

Continuous dialogue is in place through regular communication and a quarterly forum where Friends discuss wider issues and learn from each other to improve overall management standards.

LBH works in close partnership with GS with monthly project and development team meetings where the monitoring and progress of these plans are discussed.

LBH engage annually with Friends groups and community groups in compiling these management plan and their progress.

Ward Councillors and the Lead Cabinet Member for Recreation, Public Spaces and Parking are regularly updated on parks development projects and strategies.

Liaison with the Hounslow Met Police and the Councils Enforcement Team on matters around ASB and public safety.



SWOT Analysis A SWOT analysis is a management critique to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to help shape future improvement

STRENGTHS Active stakeholder collaboration Active Friends group Active community use Well used playground Good Tree stock Well divided site New signage Renovated historic water fountain. Cleaned Obelisk	WEAKNESSES • Desire lines north-east to centre of park – opportunity for resurfacing or other approach, although would disrupt park layout.
 OPPORTUNITIES Review waste strategy External funding opportunities Tree planting Discussions on lighting / other ASB prevention strategies with Friends group 	 THREATS Anti-social behaviour Climate change/ disease/drought/pests and invasives



How do we get there?

Vision & Objectives

Vision for St Paul's Recreation Ground:

"The Friends of St Paul's Recreation Ground, the London Borough of Hounslow and Lampton Services Greenspace will work together to ensure this much-loved park remains an oasis within the surrounding urban landscape, serving the needs of all residents, young and old and as a focal point for the local community."

Key objectives for St Paul's Recreation Ground are:

- To continue to work closely with the Friends group and users of the facilities so to adequately maintain and improve the facilities.
- To ensure that St Paul's Recreation Ground is a place that is secure, safe to use and is clean and well maintained.
- To ensure that the management of the landscape maintains the heritage character of the park.
- To ensure that the park is promoted and managed to provide a high-quality service for the people using it.
- To continue to encourage and promote community involvement in the management of the park.
- To ensure that the management of the park protects and enhances the biodiversity of the site and borough.
- Provide and improve opportunities for good health and well-being.
- Creating opportunities for connecting green spaces for wildlife and increasing the boroughs ecological resilience and connectivity

Meeting the Green Flag Award Criteria



Management of St Paul's Recreation Ground

This sets out guidelines and general principles to be followed in delivering the vision and objectives outlined above.

Management of the open space needs to deliver high standards of maintenance of the soft and hard landscaping of St Paul's Recreation Ground within existing revenue budgets and through capital infrastructure funding opportunities.

Delivery Partners

The Council works pro-actively with the Friends of St Paul's Recreation Ground in consulting with local people regarding their views of the facilities and any impact that is made on their lives. Continuing this relationship is a very high priority for the management of the open space.

GS are responsible for maintaining all the parks and open spaces within the LBH Parks Service. Maintenance is carried out by the contractors' operatives who have the necessary skills to achieve high and consistent horticultural standards. We also work with environmental volunteering groups, such as the Environmental Champions and others, see the "Community Involvement" section below for more information.



A Welcoming Place

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that St Paul's Recreation Ground continues to be a welcoming area.

Graffiti Removal

As a part of our aim to make the borough safe, green, and clean we are committed to reducing and removing graffiti. The site will be regularly inspected for graffiti. All graffiti will be removed within 7 days of notification, where the graffiti is racist or offensive it will be removed within 24 hours of notification.

Signage

Park signage will be kept clean and is regularly inspected, any repairs will be carried out promptly. For more information, please refer to the "Marketing Section" below.

Pathways

All paths and hard surfaces will be inspected annually. Any necessary repairs will be reviewed, and funding opportunities explored with the aim of rectification as soon possible.

Visibility

Vegetation will be reduced so that where possible site lines are achieved across the site.

Healthy, Safe & Secure

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that that St Paul's Recreation Ground continues to be a healthy, safe, and secure place.

Health & Wellbeing

We recognise the benefits that our green spaces can make to the health of our residents.

We are committed to developing active environments that enhance leisure, sport, physical activity and play opportunities in priority areas.

The Councils <u>Playing Pitch Strategy</u> in particular, identifies needs for sports facility improvements and sets out priority projects for delivery in partnership with key stakeholders. We work with Council services to ensure that our approach supports the broader Council strategies around health and wellbeing and together with Active Travel team, Leisure Services, Transport, Public Health, Community Development team and the local community we aim to deliver these improvements.

Useful Links:

Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-26

Data Hub

Healthy Hounslow

Healthy Hounslow is a partnership between several organisations supporting people in leading healthier lifestyles; to become more active, eat well and stop smoking. The partners that make up Healthy Hounslow are Hounslow Council, West London Trust, Feltham & Bedfont Primary Care Network, MoreLife, Maximus/BeeZee and Lampton Leisure. The services and support offered by Healthy Hounslow are: Smoking cessation, Health and wellbeing coaching, Healthy weight management, Exercise on referral, Cook and eat sessions, and Community NHS Health Checks.

You can find out all about Healthy Hounslow at our website <u>www.healthyhounslow.co.uk</u>



Move More Hounslow Activity Map

- Available online to be <u>here</u>.
- Map shows most parks in the borough that have a multitude of free activities available.



Site Safety

All GS staff and contractors play an important role in terms of a visible staff presence. All are uniformed and where necessary will wear highly visible clothing. All works will have been risk assessed to ensure the highest level of public safety.

Control of Dogs

Most dog owners act responsibly and keep their pets under control. However, the council continues to receive comments and complaints from residents about the behaviour of some dogs and irresponsible dog owners within parks and open spaces.

In response to this, the council is holding a public consultation process to gather residents' opinions about a variety of dog control related issues. The feedback will help us decide whether to introduce a dog control public space protection order (PSPO).

PSPOs are aimed at ensuring public spaces can be enjoyed free from anti-social behaviour. They are not about stopping the responsible use of public spaces - but they do provide councils with a tool to tackle persistent issues that are damaging their communities.

For more information on the status and findings from the dog PSPO consultation please see the webpage <u>here</u>.

St Paul's Recreation Ground welcomes responsible dog owners. The play area and fenced sports areas are already dog exclusion zones, and this has been reflected in the PSPO consultation. There is also a dedicated dog exercise area in the southeast corner of the park.



Community Safety

Hounslow Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) is responsible for reducing crime, disorder, and substance misuse in the London Borough of Hounslow. Along with other supporting partners, HCSP brings together key local agencies including:

- London Borough of Hounslow Safer Communities Team
- Metropolitan Police Service (Hounslow Division)
- Hounslow district of the National Probation Service
- Hounslow NHS Trust
- London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
- www.hounslow.gov.uk/community-safety

The Council's Enforcement Team have responsibility for overseeing Community Safety in the boroughs' parks and open spaces. They walk through parks to show presence and work with the Parks Team and GS to target regular occurrences of ASB. Occasionally a joint task force operation including those above is required i.e., rough sleeping, food dumping, drinking and drug misuse.

In 2024, Hounslow Council established a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Steering Group focused on addressing VAWG issues in parks and open spaces. This group identifies short term and long term strategies and opportunities for partnership development. Key approaches include clearing sightlines, encouraging natural surveillance, and fostering a sense of ownership within these spaces through vegetation removal, raising tree canopies, encouraging volunteering in parks and organising police walk and talks. The team have also been working closely with:

- London Borough of Hounslow Domestic Violence Reduction Unit
- London Borough of Hounslow Rough Sleepers Unit

Additionally, they contribute to the WA – BCU (West Area – Borough Command Unit) meetings, which include boroughs of Hounslow, Hillingdon, and Ealing.

Well Maintained & Clean

The following regimes are designed to ensure that St Paul's Recreation Ground is clean and well maintained:

Grass Maintenance

GS employ several different management approaches to maintain grass areas within our parks and open spaces. Generally, grass areas are managed either as amenity grassland, rough grassland, or as wildflower meadow. Within many of our larger parks, the grass is left uncut as part of the annual No Mow May campaign which was also referred to as <u>Hounslow's Natural Summer</u> in 2024. For more information see the Council's webpage <u>here</u>.

St Paul's Recreation Ground consists mainly of amenity grassland.

Amenity Grassland

Amenity grassland consists of areas used for general recreation, and formal and informal sports, and can include wide-open spaces or those areas planted with trees and shrubs. These areas are regularly cut during the growing season, to ensure they can continue to be used for recreation throughout the year (see Annual Maintenance Work Schedule). Grass edges, whether they are against paths, fences or walls will be cut at the same time as the rest of the grass using strimmers in most areas.





As part of the council's commitment to invest in green infrastructure, GS help identify additional areas within our parks and open spaces, which can be managed as wildflower meadow, where suitable and in consultation with Friends groups and other stakeholders. For more information about wildflower meadows and how we manage them, please see the Council webpages <u>here</u>.

Trees

Trees are an incredibly significant feature in the borough's parks and open spaces. They provide a variety of benefits not only to visitors but to the overall environment of an area, creating habitats and providing natural shade. They form an important part of the borough's green infrastructure, and this is reflected within the council's <u>Green Infrastructure Strategy</u>.

Tree Maintenance

Trees within parks and open spaces are subject to inspection by suitably qualified and experienced GS Arboriculturists. This is to identify and remedy any unacceptable risks to people using the sites, or the removal of trees that are extensively decayed compromising their structural integrity. Tree pruning is only carried out where necessary for risk management purposes or where formative pruning is necessary; this approach allows Hounslow's parks to retain a natural landscape with well-formed specimens.

Hounslow Council works closely with Friends, Councillors and Lampton Services Greenspace tree team to consider the tree population within St Paul's Recreation Ground to make improvements and ensure that there is continuity in the way that the trees are managed.

Tree Planting

Between 2020 and 2024 the Council set ambitious tree planting targets, successfully planting over 25,000 new trees and whips in parks and open spaces. This formed one of the main ongoing targets set out in the <u>Green Infrastructure Strategy</u>.

Since 2020, around 309 whips and trees were planted in St Paul's Recreation Ground forming a key part of the plan.





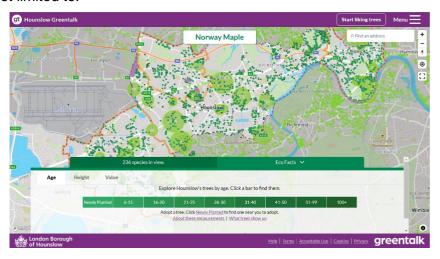
Greentalk

Hounslow Greentalk is an innovative new platform developed as a bespoke resource for Hounslow residents. It has lots of clever features to help explore public trees and make a positive difference to the environment. The platform provides a unique opportunity for Hounslow residents to adopt newly planted trees and help their borough become greener.

Anyone who wants to find out about trees in the borough can use the Greentalk interactive map to explore their area through a tree focused perspective. Other features include but not limited to:

Adopting a tree

- Watering notifications
- Green walks
- Tree giveaways



Over 120,000 trees have been mapped, and around 33,000 can be liked by registered users. Liked trees are saved as favourites and can be accessed through the user profile. The data used to display all the information on Hounslow Greentalk is derived from the council's tree partners who manage the trees in the borough and regularly provide up-to-date information to keep the system as relevant as possible. If a resident is aware of a problem with a tree, Hounslow Greentalk can help them report the exact tree with the right information to the relevant tree partner. For more information, please visit Hounslow Greentalk

Cleansing

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of Hounslow's parks and open spaces and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. Litter is collected and bins emptied daily by the GS cleansing crews. Any occurrences of fly tipping are cleared by GS within 48 hours of notification, and we work closely with the Enforcement Team to investigate fly tipping issues where possible.



Furniture & Fittings

GS ensure that all furniture is clean and will check benches, notice boards and bins on a regular basis. Items will be cleaned when necessary. Any repairs will be reviewed, and funding opportunities explored with the aim of rectification as soon possible.



Playgrounds

All playgrounds are visually inspected a minimum of once per week (based upon site usage), a recorded quarterly operational inspection, and an annual inspection carried out by an independent inspector to ensure the playground meets ROSPA standards. Any hazards identified are dealt with accordingly and where necessary equipment will be cordoned off whilst repairs are scheduled.





Hard Surfaces

Hard surfaces will be kept clean with litter and leaves removed. Hard surfaces will be maintained in a weed free state with spot treatment weed spraying. Paths will be kept in a good state of repair and all paths being inspected annually and any repairs Any necessary repairs will be reviewed, and funding opportunities explored with the aim of rectification as soon possible. Drains and gulley's are inspected regularly as part of the Annual Infrastructure Survey.

Buildings & Structures

There are no buildings within St Paul's Recreation Ground. There are two historic structures, the war memorial obelisk near to the northwestern entrance, and the restored drinking fountain, which forms a focal point in the centre of the open space. Please refer to the "Detailed History" section above for more information.

Green Waste Recycling

All green waste is either reused or recycled. Grass clippings are spread and left in situ in the park. Wood chippings are used on flowerbeds to provide a compost and a weed control. Other green waste (shrub pruning etc.) is taken to Transport Avenue Waste Disposal Site, where it is then transferred by road to a composting facility for processing.

Pesticides

As a part of our commitment to ensuring a cleaner and greener Hounslow, the use of chemicals to treat weeds was stopped in 2020. This decision supports the Council's ambitions for a cleaner and greener borough and promotes biodiversity and encourages wildlife. This approach is now fully supported by GS in parks and open spaces, enabling the borough to become even more hospitable to plants and animals.

The use of specific herbicides will only be considered when it is not viable to use non-chemical alternatives, for example, controlling the spread of an invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, as they are especially damaging to the environment.

Removing the use of herbicides does present operational challenges, herbicides have always been considered a cost-effective solution due to their less labour-intensive results. As such GS continue to assess and review their operational schedules to ensure that an adequate resource and suitable approach is applied to control weed growth.

Peat Use

GS do not use peat, or any peat-based products within Hounslow's parks and open spaces.

Infrastructure

GS follow the Council's procurement guidelines when sourcing replacement or new infrastructure items. This includes prioritising products made from recycled and environmentally and sustainably sourced materials wherever possible and financially feasible.

For example, using trees felled onsite for seating and fence work, and sourcing fibreglass heritage litter bins to replace ironwork bins. Products made from tropical hardwoods and other unsustainable sources are not used.



Fuel, Fleet & Power Tools

Fleet

As part of an ongoing trial within the Lampton group, the GS fleet use an alternative diesel product, Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil Fuel (HVO). HVO meets OEM fuel specifications and is certified to be a 90% CO2 saving on normal diesel. This efficiency is better than current electric vehicles and is a great stop gap to future technologies given the age of the HGV fleet. It is hoped that a switch to HVO will help GS transition to low carbon technologies in a systematic way, giving time to manage various operational constraints limiting early adoption of electric vehicles.



Power Tools

GS are continuously trialing the use of electric power tools as alternative to 2 stroke machinery. They currently utilise several battery powered strimmers and blowers and continue to evaluate the effectiveness and development of the technology, and replacing older traditional machinery as it reaches end of life.







Biodiversity & Heritage

We manage our parks and open spaces by ensuring that where possible we maintain a diverse range of age, species and structure in the canopy, understory and herb layers and aquatic spaces. This is achieved by:

- Managing site specific habitats such as acid grassland, mature veteran trees, rivers, ponds, and woodlands.
- Supporting the borough's wildlife through interventions such as birds and bat houses, stag beetle loggeries, aquatic ledges and educational signage.
- Enhancing existing aquatic and terrestrial habitats to support a diverse range of flora or fauna.
- Exploring opportunities to create new habitats such as wildflower meadows, native hedge planting, aquatic ledges, and copses.
- Consider introducing sympathetic mowing regimes where suitable, for example leaving areas of rough grassland around trees.
- Recognising the effects of climate change e.g., drought, wildfires, floods, disease, biosecurity.
- Prioritising sustainability through resilient planting e.g., drought tolerant trees and plants.
- In 2021 LBH commissioned a baseline report of Invasive species Parks and open spaces portfolio, surveying 195 sites. This information was used to procure a specialist contractor to remove targeted species over a five-year period beginning in April 2025 and running for 5 years. This will seek to eradicate: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, and floating Pennywort, and provide advice on how to deal with Himalayan balsam.
- Biosecurity Anyone responsible for plant supplies must ensure that all plants and associated soil are supplied free of pest and disease at all points in the supply chain. To achieve this, GS consider the latency period and life cycles of all pests and diseases. Special attention to biosecurity is given to imported stock.
- GS procurement will always prioritise suppliers that are able to demonstrate a supply chain audit trail (for example, are part of a recognised Plant Health Assurance scheme) that ensures plant material sourced within the UK is under a regime of biosecurity-aware production and follow nationally agreed good practice guidelines.

The Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP) is a part of Hounslow's Greener Borough Framework and was adopted in 2023. A stakeholder board -Nature Recovery Stakeholder Board (NRSB) was launched in February 2024 and is led by the Nature Recovery Manager with quarterly meetings held in various locations across the borough. Currently planning the 4th meeting to be held in February 2025. More information can be found <u>here</u>.



Ecological Survey 2023

St Paul's Recreation Ground is 1.66ha in size and is a neighbourhood park it has a large children's play area and a dog exercise pen. The avenues of lime trees enhance the character of the open space. The park comprises of a variety of habitats, regularly mown amenity grassland, hard standing, tall ruderal vegetation, and small areas of dense scrub.





Potential habitats for insects, bats, and birds (marked by an arrow).

The site has moderate potential to support protected species including reptiles, bats, terrestrial invertebrates, and nesting birds. A bird nest was seen on a mature tree during the site visit. No evidence of any protected species was found on the site, but no detailed protected species were undertaken.

Considerations

- Installation of a range of bat boxes on the trees to provide roosting opportunities for crevice dwelling bat species.
- Install bird boxes on any mature trees to create new nesting and foraging habitat for variety of birds.
- Native species of local provenance should be used for any new planting on site to support the action plans for pollinators in England.



Community Involvement

This is crucial to the management of St Paul's Recreation Ground and will continue to be of the utmost importance.

Friends Groups

The Council works closely with Friends of St Paul's Recreation Ground and encourages them in their efforts to apply for grants and to organise volunteer days and events. We also engage with other community groups and third parties to encourage and ensure opportunities for the needs and requirements of a diverse borough population.

The Parks Team provide support for applications to the Council's Thriving Communities Fund. More information about the scheme can be found on the Council webpages <u>here</u>.

Hounslow Friends of Parks Forum holds quarterly meetings. The forums are facilitated by <u>Habitats</u> <u>& Heritage</u> who are a west London based organisation who help support new and established Friends Groups. The Friends of Parks provides a support network, and to provide opportunities to build relationships that are based on collaboration.

Friends of St Paul's Recreation Ground

Friends of St Paul's Recreation Ground (FoSP's) was formed in January 2016. They are a growing voluntary group of residents who are committed to securing the future of St Paul's for the peaceful use by residents and all visitors. Their aims and objectives include:

- To act as a pressure group and have a say in how the site is managed.
- Providing a voice for all users of the park.
- Securing funding enabling development of the park and in turn the public use of the park.
- Promoting good relations and communication with all users of the park.
- Encouraging local participation at all levels in the development and use of the park.
- Organising events that develop, promote, and improve St Paul's including fundraising events.
- To promote St Paul's as a unique area for use by residents and members of the public.
- To become a strong body for good within the Brentford area
- To improve the opinion of the park by residents
- To minimise behaviour disrespectful to the park
- To increase the love and usage of the park.

LBH are committed to working closely with FoSP to manage this site. For more on how this achieved, please check the 'Consultation and Co-design' section of this document.

Volunteering

The Council and GS work with the public to inform, educate, and volunteer in managing habitats through event opportunities and specific projects such as school planting in greenspaces, green gyms, tree planting and habitat surveying. Community involvement and engagement in nature conservation projects helps to increase the health and wellbeing of our residents.

The GS Countryside Team help manage and coordinate several volunteer groups across the borough. More information can be found on the Parks Hub webpages <u>here</u>. The Council also has an Environmental Champions Scheme, more information available on the website <u>here</u>

Marketing

Promotion and marketing of St Paul's Recreation Ground is carried out by means of a range of measures to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility.

Entrance Signage

There are notice boards on site used to promote work in the park and activities and events held by the Friends Group.



Signage Refresh

In 2021, the Parks Team secured significant funding for a borough-wide refresh of all parks and open spaces signage.

The signage was designed in partnership with Friends, local community groups and other stakeholders to ensure they are designed in consultation with our park's users. The design principles focused on inclusivity, using pictograms and maps to illustrate the facilities available in the park and the surrounding area. This programme was completed in Autumn 2024.

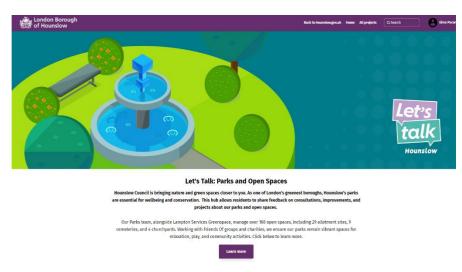
For more information and examples of the new signage please visit the Council webpages here.

Web & Press

The Council's website has a dedicated Parks and Open Spaces section which can be found <u>here</u>. You can find general information about the service, with useful links, advice, and reporting channels for customers to use.



The Consultation and Engagement platform Let's Talk Hounslow has a new dedicated Parks Hub which includes current consultations, surveys, and live projects, as well as a digital noticeboard. Since the launch in February 2024, the site has had over 10,000 visitors to the homepage. To view the hub visit <u>here</u>.



Hounslow also has several other websites which are designed to engage with the wider community about our services and the opportunities available in Hounslow. Please visit, <u>HounslowConnect</u> and <u>InHounslow</u> for more information.



Welcome to the first London National Park City Mini-Guide for Hounslow, celebrating Hounslow's great outdoors. Use it to find places to explore, play, or simply sit; groups to join and paths to walk; activities on land or water to try. Get there on foot, by bicycle or public transport.

- Promotion through the London National Park City <u>www.nationalparkcity.london</u>
- London National Park City Mini-Guide for Hounslow, celebrating Hounslow's great outdoors
 Hounslow's Mini Guide



• The Friends of St Paul's Recreation Ground maintain a website: https://friendsofstPaul'srecbrentford.org/

The Council also has an active social media presence on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>X</u> with the handle @LBofHounslow.

To create community awareness for all its facilities the Council regularly produces articles and press releases about activities and facility development. The Council publishes a regular newsletter, Hounslow Matters, which is provided to all residents and includes news and information about our services, including parks and open spaces. To download the latest publication please follow the link <u>here</u>.

Events

The Council encourages the hire of parks to appropriate organisations for commercial and community events. Events are held in accordance with the Parks and Open Spaces Events Policy found on the council webpages <u>here</u>.

Upcoming 2025 events:

The events team are currently planning for 2025, could be a potential site for a 'Rhythm and Sound' event.

How do we know we have arrived?

Monitoring & Review

This management plan has been designed as a live document that will guide development in the park over the next five years. Progress will be subject to monitoring and review to measure success and delivery of aims.

Members of the Greenspace Parks team regularly visit the site to monitor progress against the action plan; the results of these visits are then discussed at monthly management and meetings with LBH officers and relevant stakeholders.

LBH Parks Officers work closely with GS and the Friends group to monitor progress and discuss future. This includes:

- Performance against the requirements of the Management Plan
- Provision and analysis of infrastructure surveys
- Provision and analysis of asset surveys
- KPI's and performance monitoring

An annual SWOT analysis will be carried out by all stakeholders and, together with the information gathered from all the monitoring methods will be recorded and fed into annually updated management plans.

GFA Judges feedback and award outcome will enable continuous learning, development and improvement by all partners involved in the award process. Discussed at monthly Parks and GS management meetings and meetings with stakeholders.

Action Planning

Our action plan for St Paul's Recreation Ground is provided in Appendix 1. This plan is based on an evaluation of the SWOT analysis together with other projects and plans raised by the Friends group. The action plan lists actions and categorises based on timescales and the Green Flag award criteria. The plan will also allocate ownership for each task to the key stakeholders.

Appendix 1



St Paul's Recreation Ground | Green Flag Award | Action Plan 2025

Key to Action Plan

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Green Flag Award Criteria

Sustainability

Community

Mkt Marketing Mgt Management

Welcoming Place

Healthy, Safe and Secure

Biodiversity and Heritage

Well Maintained and Clean

Stak	eho	older	S
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LBH Parks Service Management Team GS Lampton Greenspace FoSP Friends of St Paul's Recreation Ground

Delivery Timescales

- S Short term (less than 1 year)
- M Medium term (1 to 3 years)
- L Long term (3+ years)
- O Ongoing

MANAGEMENT ACTION	STAKE- HOLDER	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA	TIME- SCALE	STATUS 2025
Review entrances	LBH	W, WM	0	Looking into options to manage desire lines from north-east corner. New copses of trees planted winter 2023 to reduce impact of this line.
Review Park surfacing	GS	W, WM	0	As and when necessary, funding dependent.
Review of all infrastructure	LBH	W, H, WM	S	Infrastructure being actively reviewed by GM team on site.
Review parks signage	LBH	W, S	М	New signs installed December 2023.
Anti-Social Behaviour - Continue stakeholder engagement and targeted enforcement.	LBH, GS, FoSP	W, H	0	Ongoing. Friends are applying for a TCF bid to cover lighting work along main path.
Dog Fouling - provide bags for walkers	LBH, FoSP	H, WM	0	Friends group provide this facility when possible.
Reuse green waste	GS	H, S	S	Any woodchip generate on site is used on site
Review large bin trial.	GS	W, WM	S	Assess necessity of larger bins during summer months
Water fountain restoration and maintenance.	LBH	W, BH	M, L	The water fountain has been restored and maintenance arrangements are being discussed internally for this heritage asset.

MANAGEMENT ACTION	STAKE- HOLDER	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA	TIME- SCALE	STATUS 2025
Explore opportunities for enhanced hedge and meadow planting around the site to increase amenity value, biodiversity and reduce maintenance.	LBH, GS	BH	Ο	Opportunities discussed with Friends on site for new planting on site. Any new planting will aim to provide increased ecological benefits and keep maintenance to a minimum. New trees added in northwest corner December 2023.
Continue to maintain a healthy tree stock with a review of opportunities for new tree planting.	LBH, GS	S, W, WM, BH	М	All tree works are carried out by GS in compliance with UK legislation.
Increase bird boxes & bat boxes, Bat Surveying, create a Stag Beetle loggery	LBH, GS, FoSP	BH	М	Bird and bat box programme rolled out across borough in 23/24.
Continue to consult and engage with the local community	LBH, GS, FoSP	С	0	Ongoing
LBH to facilitate opportunities for education, culture, and heritage at the site.	LBH, GS, FoSP	С	Μ	Restoration of water fountain has been discussed as an opportunity for some interpretation / history about the site.
Continue to publicise the park through LBH website, social media platforms and notice board. Also, borough wide campaigns, including achievements, initiatives, and announcements.	LBH	Mkt	0	Ongoing
Support other positive promotion of the park through various media platforms.	LBH, GS	Mkt	0	Ongoing
The management plan to be reviewed annually and the action plan to be updated annually.	LBH, GS	Mgt	0	Ongoing



Appendix 2

Annual Maintenance Work Schedules

The following table provides an overview of the annual maintenance work schedules. All frequencies are subject to seasonal variations, resource, and specific horticultural requirements. They are reviewed annually by the Operations Manager at GS to ensure they remain suitable and reflect any significant site changes. See *"Meeting the Green Flag Criteria"* section for more detailed management information.

Service	Frequency/Management information
GM Summer works (March - October)	Managed by the Grounds Maintenance Teams
Amenity grassland cutting	Once every 3 weeks
Rough grassland cutting	1-2 cuts per summer season
Wildflower meadow cutting	1-2 cuts per summer season
Hedge & shrub cutting	1 "reduce cut" dependent on horticultural requirements
GM Winter works (October – March)	Managed by the Grounds Maintenance Teams
Hedge & shrub cutting	1 "hard cut" dependent on horticultural requirements
Pond clearance	As required, dependent upon size and conditions
Leaf clearance	As required, from hard surfaces and grass areas
Cleansing	Managed by the Cleansing Teams
Litter collection & bin emptying	[site specific] Daily, including bank holidays.
Non-offensive graffiti removal	Within 7 days of notification
Offensive graffiti removal	Within 24 hours of notification
Fly tip removal	Within 48 hours of notification
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Playgrounds	Managed by the Playground Inspectors
Safety inspections	1 visual inspection per week minimum (based upon site usage),
	quarterly "operational" inspections, recorded, annual
	independent inspections by the Royal Soc. for the Protection of
	Accidents (ROSPA), recorded.
Infrastructure	Various teams/management
Cleansing (bins, benches, signs etc).	As required, based on visual inspections and reports
Lighting	Inspections and repairs managed by Hounslow Highways
Buildings	All H&S checks conducted, electrical, fire, water, etc.
Trees	Managed by the Tree Team
Tree inspections	Annually
Tree maintenance	Based on previous inspections, prioritised by H&S
Tree watering	Summer: May – September (for trees under 3 years)
Tree planting	Winter: October – March



Monitoring the Annual Maintenance Work Schedules

Members of the Parks Team conduct site visits to ensure that the work schedules are being adhered to and report issues to GS to resolve where necessary. Customer enquiries relating to maintenance issues are also routinely assessed to ensure they are rectified in a suitable and timely manner.

The Parks Team are currently working with the Ward Improvement Team to develop a new monitoring program, which we expect to be deployed in spring 2025.

The program will rely upon the Land Audit Management System (LAMS), developed by the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE). This is an industry recognised approach, which many local authorities use to monitor the performance of their park services.

The program will also make use of and refer closely to the guidance provided by Parks for London in their recently updated Green Space Quality Manual. This provides valuable insight and understanding as to "what good looks like" and will help to ensure a consistent approach is taken during routine monitoring.

The new monitoring program will be periodically reviewed to help measure its success in improving the parks services. We expect it to help identify where there are issues and trends in performance to inform how best to deploy resource in the areas which require it the most.

For more information regarding the tools and approach that will be used for the monitoring program, please visit the <u>APSE LAMS</u> page and download the Parks for London <u>Green Space Quality Manual</u>.



Appendix 3

Management Structure & Responsibilities

St Paul's Recreation Ground is owned and managed by the LBH and maintained by GS. Information below sets out the management structure and describes the roles and responsibilities of the key personnel involved in managing and maintaining the site.

LBH Parks Service Management Structure

The Environment and Culture Directorate provide the following roles who are responsible for the management, and associated roles, of Hounslow's parks and open spaces:



LBH Head of Parks Development & Green Infrastructure

Senior commissioning role for the management and partnership with GS, senior advisor in relation to parks and open spaces, strategy and policy development, Member's liaison.

LBH Parks Project Managers (x4)

Project development and management, fundraising, community engagement and consultation, implementation, strategy, and policy setting.

Parks Project Officer

Development and delivery of projects, fundraising, community engagement and support Head of Parks.

Commissioning Manager

Supplier performance governance and relationship management, Legal and contracts, Planning/Commissioning, Operational Service delivery and business processes/systems.

Senior Contracts Support Officer

Supplier performance, customer service and casework, community engagement and consultation, project support.

Parks Business Support Officer Assistance with finance; administration, project support and communications.

Ecologist & Nature Recovery Manager

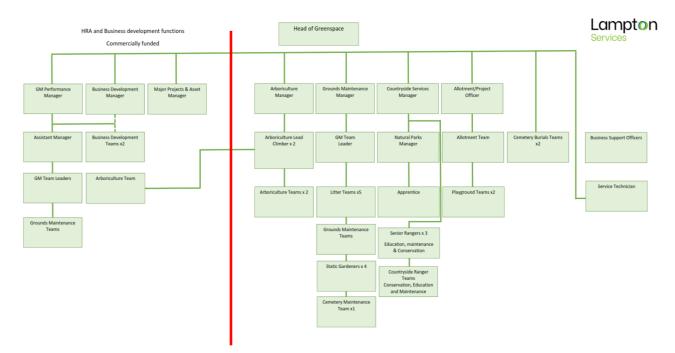
Responsible for providing expert ecological advice relating to the management, protection and enhancement of important habitats and species within the borough.





Lampton Services Greenspace Management Structure

The following GS roles are responsible for the management of Hounslow's parks and open spaces:



Head of Service

Responsible for the ground's maintenance service provision. Oversees the delivery of the specification which includes infrastructure.

Projects Manager including the Allotment Service

Responsible for the development of park infrastructure, management of the allotment service, overseeing horticultural standards, schemes, and developments. Main contact for contractors (CDM). Friends and Member liaison.

Countryside Manager

Responsible for the management of the borough's countryside service. This role includes the management of the Ranger team and educational, animal husbandry, environmental and wildlife operations/programs associated with these locations.

Planned Maintenance Manager

Responsible for the management of the operational resources to deliver the ground maintenance services for the parks and open spaces sites.

Performance & Support Officer

Customer Service functions- Freedom of Information (FOI), customer enquiries, councillors' enquiries, and monthly statistics; technical project support.



Tree Team Manager

Responsible for the teams that carry out the inspections and maintenance of the boroughs 85,000 park trees. Oversees all tree planting schemes for the council and community groups in parks. Managing and mapping/recording of invasive species. Planning application guidance to LBH.

Playground Inspectors x2

Visual, operational, and minor repairs of playgrounds. Inspected annually external contractor.

Operational Teams

Grounds maintenance is delivered using mobile teams. These teams provide the Grass cutting, horticultural tasks, general maintenance, litter bin emptying and litter picking.

Business Support Officer

Provides administration for fleet, handles finances and overtime schedules.



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