

GREEN FLAG MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-25

St John's Gardens

2020-25



**London Borough
of Hounslow**



**Friends of
St John's
Gardens**

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. In addition, it is important to acknowledge the great contribution from the Friends of St John's Gardens for their commitment and dedication in supporting the development, promotion, and management of St John's Gardens.

*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 John's Gardens has been prepared by LBH and Lampton Services Greenspace with input from the Friends of St John's Gardens. 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 John's Gardens.

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 group.

The Management plan is a 'working document' that brings together all the information relating to St John's Gardens and will be updated, revised, and annually reviewed.

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:

- [Corporate Plan 2022-26](#)
- [Climate Emergency](#)
- [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#)
- [Greener Borough Framework](#)
- [Nature Recovery Action Plan](#)
- [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 John's Gardens is a small square park lying between the main entrance St John's Road and Linkfield Road in Isleworth. Overseen by the Isleworth and Brentford Area Committee, 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 lines. In the southwest corner of the site there is a playground for younger children up to primary age.



Site Information

Name: St John's Gardens

Address: St John's Road, Isleworth

Contacts: 020 8583 5555

Email: parks@hounslow.gov.uk

Web: www.hounslow.gov.uk

Designation: Open Space **Ownership:** London Borough of Hounslow

Size: 2.22ha

Byelaws: A copy can be downloaded at www.hounslow.gov.uk

Access: open access at all times

Transport: Train: Isleworth Station

Tube: Hounslow East

Buses: H37

Parking: Available on surrounding roads

Local Facilities: Play area, rose bushes, historic water pump, wooden sculptures.





Detailed History

The land was bought by the Local Board and formally opened as the Isleworth Recreation Ground in July 1885. One of the borough's first recruitment drives for World War I took place there in 1914.

In 1927, it was re-named St John's Gardens and laid out as a pleasure ground for public use with 16 large beds for flower displays. The Heston and Isleworth Civic conference of 1947 notes that it took an average of 10,000 plants each time to fill these beds for the spring and summer displays. Some years before the Second World War, the number of beds was reduced to 8 to allow more playing space for children. Residents have always valued the gardens. In 1965, there were protests when the flower beds were grassed over as residents feared that the park would become merely a playing-field and when the freak storm of October 1987 devastated the Gardens, residents raised money to replace the shattered trees.



Historical aerial view of St John's Gardens, right of image.





Recent Developments

Achievements 2024/25

- Further condition survey and cost estimate for a renovation of the old toilet block has been instructed by LBH. Outcomes to be determined.
- Continuous support from Friends of St Johns

Achievements 2023/24

- New signage installed on site.
- Rose bushes maintained by friends continue to thrive.

Achievements 2022/23

- Park Rangers visiting regularly.

Achievements 2020/21

- Wooden sculptures depicting wildlife created in large logs in playground.
- Local primary school providing sketches for artist inspiration.
- Tree planting 4x Silver Birch.
- Gate installed into the water pump fencing to enable horticultural maintenance by Friends group.
- Playground paths resurfaced.
- Parks building asset condition survey completed.

Wooden wildlife sculpture installed in 2020.



Fence and gated area around water pump



Rose bushes maintained by Friends of St Johns





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 John's Gardens 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 stakeholders of St John's Gardens. 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 improvements.

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active stakeholder collaboration• Active Friends group• Active community use• Well used playground• Good Tree stock• Well divided site• New Signage	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Derelict toilet building• Incomplete historic water fountain• Some hedge pruning issues reported by last year's judging, to be addressed this year.
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review waste strategy• Visits by Isleworth Green Gym• External funding opportunities• Tree planting• Wildflower Meadow• Historic signage and interpretation	<p>THREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anti-social behaviour• Climate change/ disease/drought/pests and invasives



How do we get there?



Vision & Objectives

Vision for St John's Gardens:

“The Friends of St John's Gardens, the London Borough of Hounslow and Lampton Services Greenspace will work together to create and maintain an exemplary space for community involvement and enjoyment, and which is wildlife friendly, sustainable, resilient to climate change, safe and accessible to all.”

Key objectives for St John's Gardens 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 John's Gardens 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 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.
- Create opportunities for connecting green spaces for wildlife and increasing the boroughs ecological resilience and connectivity.





Meeting the Green Flag Award Criteria



Management of St John's Gardens

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

We value diversity and are committed to delivering a service that puts equality of opportunity as a priority. Management of the common needs to deliver high standards of maintenance of all aspects of the soft and hard landscaping of St John's Gardens within existing revenue budgets and through capital infrastructure funding opportunities.

Delivery Partners

The Council works pro-actively with the Friends of St John's Gardens and other stakeholders 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 borough-wide 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 John's Gardens 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 St John's Gardens 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 [Playing Pitch Strategy](#) 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.





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 John's Gardens 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 [Hounslow's Natural Summer](#) in 2024. For more information see the Council's webpage [here](#).

St John's Gardens mainly consists 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 [here](#).

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 [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#).

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 John's Gardens 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 [Green Infrastructure Strategy](#).

Since 2020, St John's Gardens has had 15 trees and whips planted around the site.



For more information on tree planting locations and species, please see the Council webpages [here](#)





Greentalk

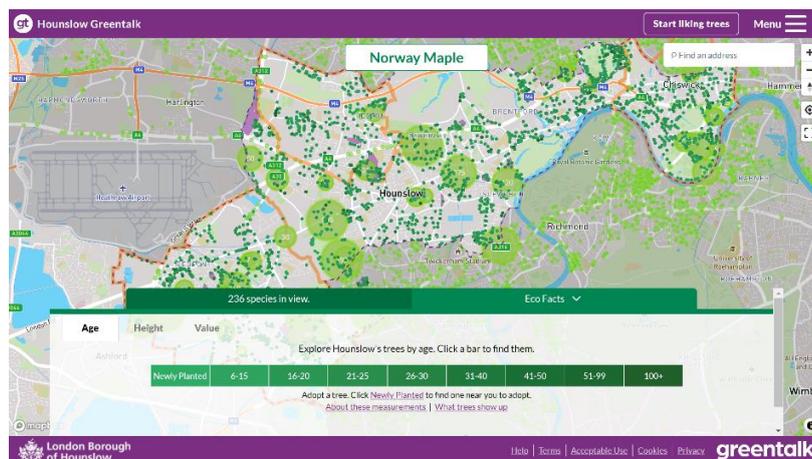
Hounslow Greentalk is an innovative new platform developed as a bespoke resource for Hounslow residents. It has lots of clever features to help explore public trees and make a positive difference to the environment. The platform provides a unique opportunity for Hounslow residents to adopt newly planted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



Wetland Management

Sustainable Urban Drainage Design

The Parks team work closely with the Flood Risk team, to help inform on Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDs) features and design during parks development projects. This approach helps provide ecological and sustainable solutions, to help alleviate flooding within urban areas.

Ponds & Rivers

There is no open water at St John's Gardens.





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. Paths will be kept in a good state of repair and all paths being inspected annually. Any necessary repairs will be reviewed, and funding opportunities explored with the aim of rectification as soon possible. Drains and gully's are inspected regularly as part of the Annual Infrastructure Survey.





Buildings & Structures

In the northeast corner of St John's Gardens there is a derelict toilet block. The building is secure and remains safe with various structural, mechanical, and asbestos surveys having been conducted on the building in the last few years. It is recognised to be in a poor condition, however there is both community and commercial interest in the building, with several business proposals, such as dog grooming, pop up café etc. Considerable investment will be required for the building to be usable, and the Parks team are working closely with our Corporate Property Team, as to any potential future for the building.





Environmental Sustainability

The following regimes are designed to ensure that St John's Gardens is managed in a sustainable way.

Litter Recycling

All litter is taken to Transport Avenue, the West London Waste Authority site within Hounslow borough. It is then loaded onto trains and taken to an energy waste site in Avonmouth, where it is used as a renewable energy source.

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 a number of battery powered trimmers 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 [here](#).



Ecological Survey 2023



St. John's Gardens, Isleworth covers an area of 5.7 acres and comprises of open amenity grassland, area of tall ruderal vegetation and scattered trees. Most of the site comprises of regularly mown amenity grassland with a familiar species assemblage-perennial ryegrass, creeping bent, meadow grass and false oat grass around the edges of the grassland. The site holds the potential to support nesting birds during the nesting season (March-August) through the scattered mature trees and species intact hedgerows. The site may offer limited foraging habitat through the floral species and the invertebrate population that the vegetation is likely to support. Birds that were recorded during the site visits were magpies, pigeons, sparrows, and crows. Bird boxes were found installed on the mature trees.



Habitat opportunities for bats and breeding birds

No habitat that could support amphibians and reptiles and small mammals were found on site.

Considerations:

- Biodiversity enhancement plan will provide opportunities for local wildlife.
- Increase wildflower meadows and native hedgerows for habitat creation.
- Planting native plants and trees to serve as habitats for wildlife.
- Installation of more bird and bat boxes





Community Involvement

This is crucial to the management of St John's Gardens and will continue to be of the utmost importance.

Friends Groups

The Council works closely with the Friends of St John's Gardens by encouraging 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 [here](#).

Hounslow Friends of Parks Forum holds quarterly meetings. The forums are facilitated by [Habitats & Heritage](#) 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.

The Friends of St John's Gardens are actively involved and engaged in the management and development of the park and are consulted with on all planned projects to help promote community partnership working.

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 [here](#). The Council also has an Environmental Champions Scheme, more information available on the website [here](#)





Marketing

Promotion and marketing of St John's Gardens 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

Notice boards on site are 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 were 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 [here](#). You can find general information about the service, with useful links, advice, and reporting channels for customers to use.





Parks Hub

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 [here](#).



Let's Talk: Parks and Open Spaces

Hounslow Council is bringing nature and green spaces closer to you. As one of London's greenest boroughs, Hounslow's parks are essential for wellbeing and conservation. This hub allows residents to share feedback on consultations, improvements, and projects about our parks and open spaces.

Our Parks team, alongside Lampton Services Greenspace, manage over 160 open spaces, including 29 allotment sites, 9 cemeteries, and 4 churchyards. Working with Friends Of Groups and charities, we ensure our parks remain vibrant spaces for relaxation, play, and community activities. Click below to learn more.

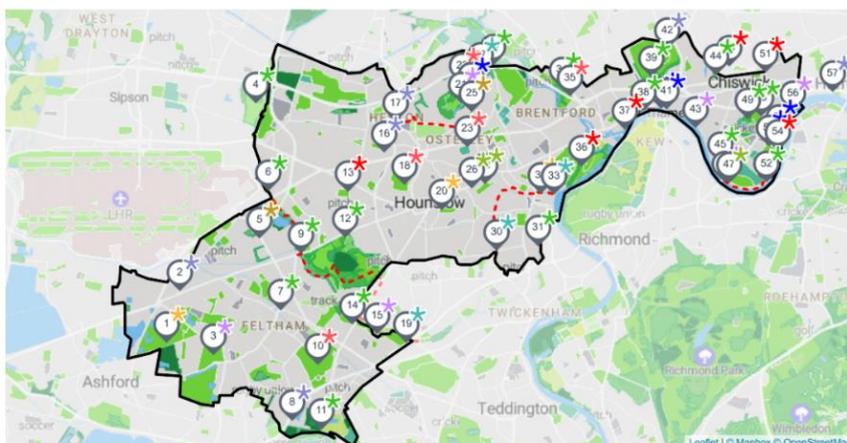
[Learn more](#)

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, [HounslowConnect](#) and [InHounslow](#) for more information.

- Promotion through the London National Park City www.nationalparkcity.london
- London National Park City Mini-Guide for Hounslow, celebrating Hounslow's great outdoors [Hounslow's Mini Guide](#)

LONDON NATIONAL PARK CITY Hounslow Mini-Guide*

LONDON
NATIONAL
PARK CITY
IS OPEN*



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.





The Council also has an active social media presence on [Facebook](#) and [X](#) 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 [here](#).

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 [here](#).





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 stakeholder.

Action Planning

Our action plan for St John's Gardens 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 John's Gardens | Green Flag Award | Action Plan Updated 2025

Key to Action Plan

Green Flag Award Criteria

W	Welcoming Place
H	Healthy, Safe and Secure
VM	Well Maintained and Clean
S	Sustainability
BH	Biodiversity and Heritage
C	Community
Mkt	Marketing
Mgt	Management

Stakeholders

LBH	Parks Service Management Team
GS	Lampton Greenspace
FoSJG	Friends of St John's Gardens

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 2024
Review entrances.	LBH	W, WM	O	Exploring options for new access point from Linkfield direct into the Playground.
Review Park surfacing.	GS	W, WM	O	As and when necessary, funding dependent.
Review of all infrastructure.	LBH	W, H, WM	S	Infrastructure plan to be prepared for 2022/23.
Review parks signage.	LBH	W, S	M	Funding established, works to begin in 2023.
Antisocial behaviour - Continue stakeholder engagement and targeted enforcement.	LBH, GS, FOSJG	W, H	O	Ongoing.
Dog fouling - provide bags for walkers.	LBH, FOSJG	H, WM	O	Friends group provide this facility when possible.
Re-use green waste.	GS	H, S	O	Any generated wood chipping is re used on site.
Review large bin trial.	GS	W, WM	S	Assess necessity of larger bins during summer months.
Water Pump, Water Fountain, Old Toilet Block - Investigate possibility to repurpose/restore these.	LBH	W, BH	M, L	The Council will work with the FOSJG to review the outcome of the Building Asset Condition Survey that took place in 2021.
Maintain a healthy tree stock with review of opportunity for new tree planting.	LBH, GS, FOSJG	W, H, WM, S, BH	O	All tree works are carried out by GS in compliance with LBH policies and





MANAGEMENT ACTION	STAKE-HOLDER	GREEN FLAG CRITERIA	TIME-SCALE	STATUS 2024
				procedures and UK legislation.
Explore opportunities for enhanced hedge and meadow planting around the site to increase amenity value, biodiversity and reduce maintenance.	LBH, GS	BH	O	Discussed with Friends habitat enhancement opportunities in 2021. Any new planting will aim to provide increased ecological benefits and keep maintenance to a minimum. In 2021 the Council renewed its Biodiversity Action Plan as part of the wider Greener Framework with a new Nature Recovery Plan.
Increase bird boxes & bat boxes, bat surveying, create a stag beetle loggery.	LBH, GS, FOSJG	BH	M	Friends have led on this throughout 2022, with further options to be explored in 2023.
Continue to consult and engage with the local community	LBH, GS, FOSJG	C	O	Ongoing
Continue to work with the Friends of St John's Gardens. Continue to provide support to other Community Volunteers/Services to promote greening activities.	LBH	C	O	Ongoing
LBH to continue to facilitate events within Hounslow's parks and open spaces as part of an active community engagement agenda.	LBH	C	O	Ongoing
LBH to facilitate opportunities for Education and Heritage at the site.	LBH, GS, FOSJG	C	M	The Friends aim to repurpose/restore the Drinking Water Fountain.
Support Fitness activities in the park.	LBH		LBH	Support Fitness activities in the park.
LBH to continue to facilitate events within Hounslow's parks and open spaces as part of an active community engagement agenda.	LBH	C	O	
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	O	Ongoing
Support other positive promotion of the park through various media platforms.	LBH, GS	Mkt	O	Ongoing
The management plan to be reviewed annually and the action plan to be updated annually.	LBH, GS	Mgt	O	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) <i>Amenity grassland cutting</i> <i>Rough grassland cutting</i> <i>Wildflower meadow cutting</i> <i>Hedge & shrub cutting</i>	Managed by the Grounds Maintenance Teams Once every 3 weeks 1-2 cuts per summer season 1-2 cuts per summer season 1 “reduce cut” dependent on horticultural requirements
GM Winter works (October – March) <i>Hedge & shrub cutting</i> <i>Pond clearance</i> <i>Leaf clearance</i>	Managed by the Grounds Maintenance Teams 1 “hard cut” dependent on horticultural requirements As required, dependent upon size and conditions As required, from hard surfaces and grass areas
Cleansing <i>Litter collection & bin emptying</i> <i>Non-offensive graffiti removal</i> <i>Offensive graffiti removal</i> <i>Fly tip removal</i>	Managed by the Cleansing Teams [site specific] Daily, including bank holidays. Within 7 days of notification Within 24 hours of notification Within 48 hours of notification
Playgrounds <i>Safety inspections</i>	Managed by the Playground Inspectors 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 <i>Cleansing (bins, benches, signs etc).</i> <i>Lighting</i> <i>Buildings</i>	Various teams/management As required, based on visual inspections and reports Inspections and repairs managed by Hounslow Highways All H&S checks conducted, electrical, fire, water, etc.
Trees <i>Tree inspections</i> <i>Tree maintenance</i> <i>Tree watering</i> <i>Tree planting</i>	Managed by the Tree Team Annually Based on previous inspections, prioritised by H&S Summer: May – September (for trees under 3 years) Winter: October – March
Site Specific Features & Services <i>Site Attendant</i>	Daily general cleansing and horticultural tasks and to report issues when found (The Site Attendant attends to 2 other nearby parks as well.)





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 [APSE LAMS](#) page and download the Parks for London [Green Space Quality Manual](#).





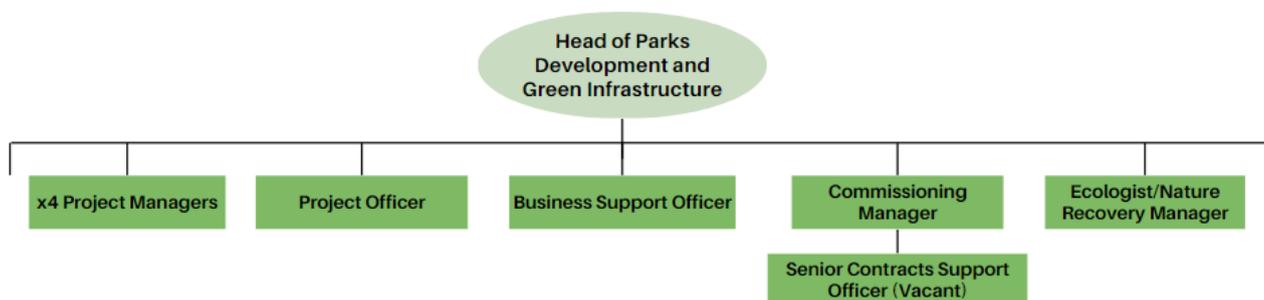
Appendix 3

Management Structure & Responsibilities

St John’s Gardens 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

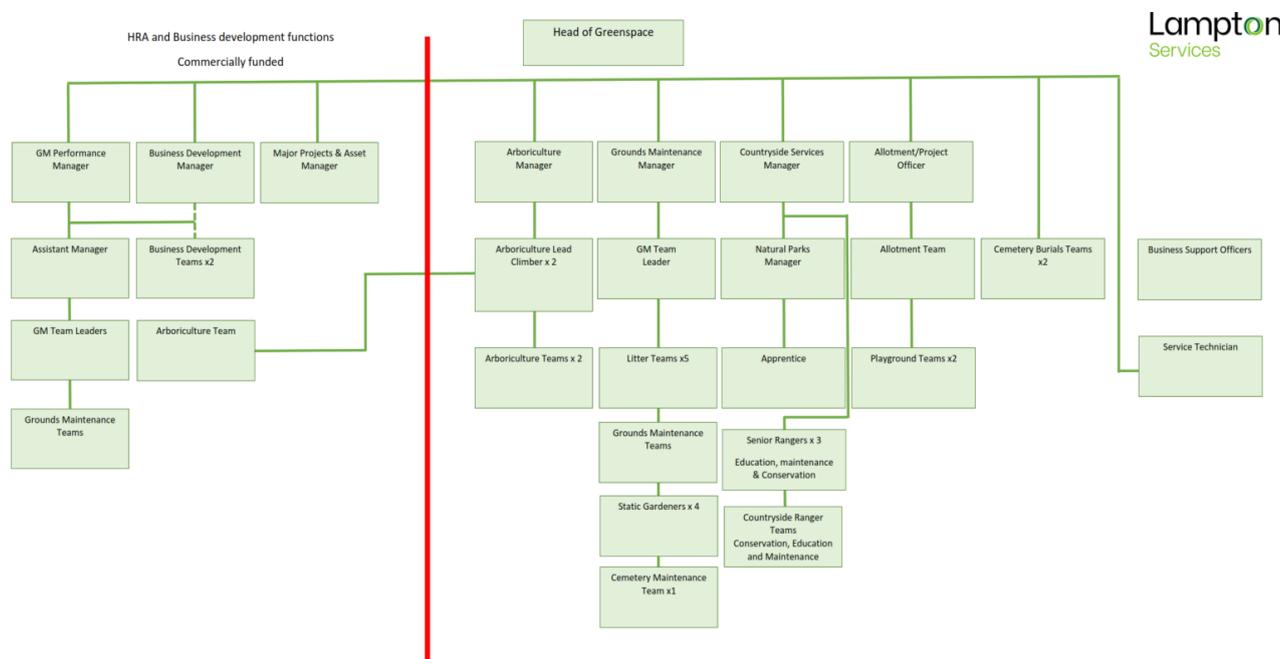
Responsible for providing expert ecological advice relating to the management, protection and enhancement of important habitats and species within the borough.





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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**London Borough
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Lampton
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