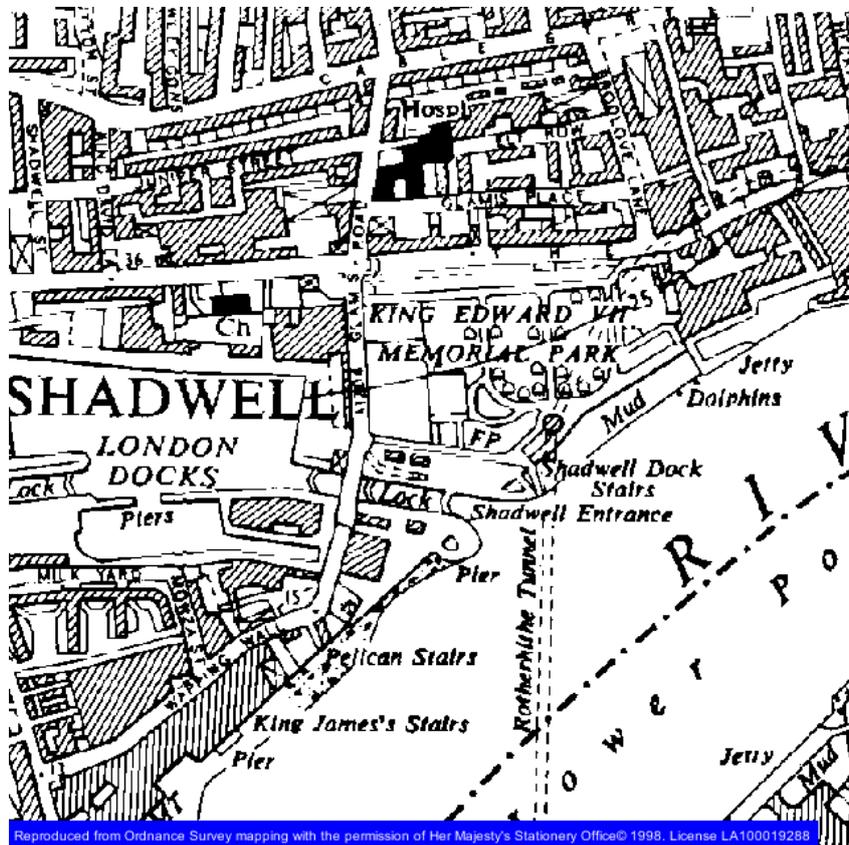


KING EDWARD MEMORIAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

2007 to 2017

Revised January 2008

(1st Edition January 2007)



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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of the Management Plan to 2017

The purpose is to guide the future development and management of King Edward Memorial Park for the next 10 years. The plan will:

- ensure clear objectives for management and design
- promote the highest standards of management
- involve all stakeholders,
- promote community involvement in the park
- programme work and allow progress to be checked
- help to resolve conflicts of interest
- record key information about the park

Tower Hamlets Council has established a maintenance agreement for the park with the charity Trees for Cities. The charity is a key partner in delivering the management plan and ensuring that the park is developed and sustained to meet the needs of its users. A copy of Trees for Cities Annual Report can be found at:

http://treesforcitiesorg.site.securepod.com/files/tfc_annualReport_0607.pdf

1.2 Who is the plan for?

The plan is a public document prepared for the practical use and reference of:

- departments and representatives of Tower Hamlets Council, Tree for Cities (charitable partner organisation), designers, managers, contractors and event organisers.
- everyone that uses the park including Shadwell Bowling Club, voluntary bodies, local people and the general public.

1.3 Commitment to Green Flag award system and to the management plan

The Council's Open Space Strategy (adopted 11 January 2006; see

www.towerhamlets.gov.uk) has a number of targets about improving the quality and sustainability of open spaces (Section 8, Action Item 1.5). This sets a target to achieve Green Flag Awards for all major parks and key local parks (10 in total by 2016). The Green Flag award scheme concentrates management attention and recognises effective management on an independent, national basis. The Council is committed to achieving a Green Flag award for King Edward Memorial Park and to retaining it for the life of this plan.

1.4 Vision for King Edward Memorial Park

The Council will manage King Edward Memorial Park for the benefit of all local people. King Edward Memorial Park will continue to offer a range of high quality facilities as befits a key local park, in a sustainable green landscape that contrasts with and enhances the surrounding built environment, dock realm and riparian aspect.

1.5 Objectives for the management of King Edward Memorial Park:

1. Welcome people to King Edward Memorial Park and help them enjoy their visit.
2. Manage the park to achieve a high quality, safe environment.
3. Improve personal safety of park users and reduce fear of crime.
4. Support the activities of Trees for Cities in King Edward Memorial Park for the benefit of the user community and the future sustainability of the park.
5. Promote biodiversity, sustainable use and management of the site and resolve or minimise the issues and threats identified in this plan.
6. Improve the park's facilities by taking advantage of funding opportunities and enhance the landscape character of the park.
7. Provide a wide range of safe, stimulating and educational play opportunities for children and young people

SECTION 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction to King Edward Memorial Park

King Edward Memorial Park is a terraced public park facing south across the Thames at Shadwell in Wapping. The park provides 3.3 hectares of green space, mainly formal in landscape structure, with a range of sports and play opportunities. The park is situated alongside a densely developed inner city area. The principal land uses around the park are roads, including the Highway trunk road (A1203), housing development of variable age and quality, and industrial land.

The local landscape benefits significantly from a close proximity to the River Thames and the former dock realm which has been regenerated to provide recreational and ornamental water areas and public space. The Thames forms the southern boundary of the park. The park has a variety of landscape features including lawns, meadow areas, shrub and perennial beds. Mature shrubs and trees give the park an established feel and mitigate the impact of the adjacent highway. The park is used for various sports, with a bowling green and pavilion, tennis courts, and ball games area. Lawn areas provide for informal sports and relaxation and there is an equipped play area (see Appendix D).

The site is the Borough's eleventh largest open space; the Borough has some 125 public open spaces in all. These range in size from Victoria Park at 86 hectares to the smallest at around 300m². About three-quarters of park sites are one hectare or less in size. On average there are only 1.2 hectares of open space per 1000 population, half the National Playing Fields Association standard.



2.2 Location

The park is located at Shadwell in Wapping, in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. It lies approximately a mile to the west of the major business and residential district of Canary Wharf, and a mile to the east of the City of London. The nearest railway stations are Shadwell (Underground and Docklands Light Railway) from the west, and Limehouse (Fenchurch Street Main Line and Docklands Light Railway) from the east; all are around 5 minutes walking distance from the park. The park is bounded on two sides by road, the more significant being The Highway, which is on the bus routes D3 (Bethnal Green to Docklands) and 100 (City of London to Shadwell). The park also borders onto Glamis Road. During opening times, the park provides a link for the Thames Path along its southern boundary with the river (See Appendix D).



2.3 Land tenure

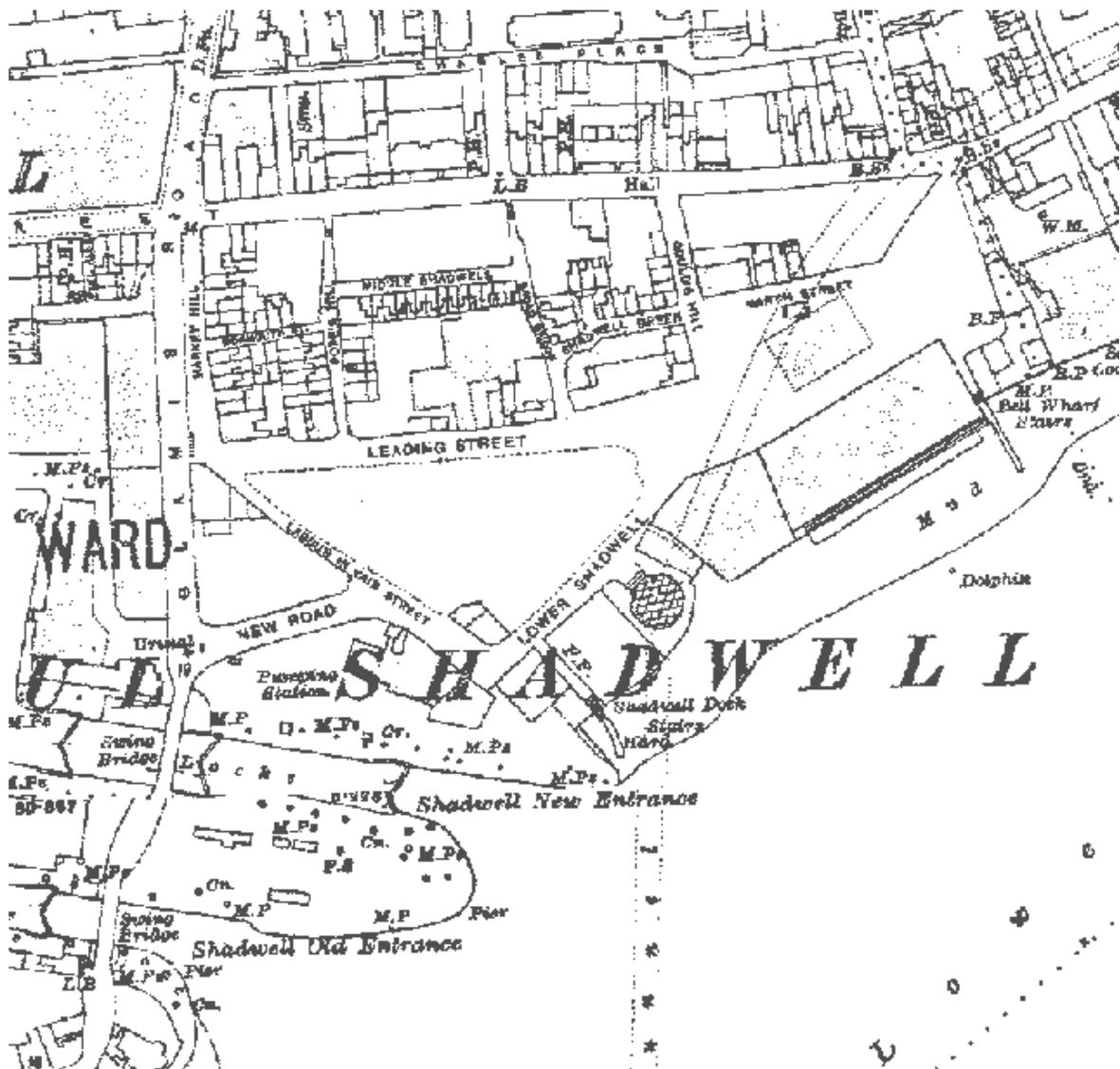
The London Borough of Tower Hamlets owns the land which was bought by public subscription for the purpose of providing public gardens.

The park contains the northern service shaft (and former public pedestrian access) for the Rotherhithe Tunnel, and the route of the tunnel passes under the park. Access for maintenance purposes and potentially emergency tunnel evacuation is theoretically required at all times, though in practical terms this has very little impact on the park.

2.4 Site context and history

The park is located on land bounding the Thames. The ground was recovered from marsh land in around the 16th century. Over time the land was occupied by housing and riverside industry including a fish market. In 1910, a committee was formed by the Lord Mayor of London to develop projects in the memory of King Edward VII, these would be funded from donations; the park at Shadwell was one project that found approval.

At that time the City Corporation owned a significant portion of the land on which the park was built. The Corporation sold its interests to the committee at a favourable rate, thereby supporting the development of the park.



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Map of area prior to the laying out of King Edward Memorial Park (c.1919).

The First World War delayed the development of the park, and the London County Council stepped in to complete the project after the war. The park opened to the public in 1922. Ownership of the park transferred to the London borough of Tower Hamlets under the London Authorities (Parks & Open Spaces) Order 1971.

The park is listed in the London Parks & Gardens Trust's London Inventory of Historic Green Spaces. The current layout of the park remains substantially faithful to its original design, though some features, such as a paddling pool and a plant nursery with glasshouses have come and gone over time.

The Council's recent agreement with the charitable organisation Trees for Cities (TFC) has helped to ensure that a high standard of maintenance is given to the park. Working with their own staff and supported by trainees and volunteers from wide ranging backgrounds, TFC have introduced wildflower meadow areas, refurbished planted areas, and have introduced more diverse planting in the park. Other projects have included the introduction of a poly-tunnel and the restoration of the wildlife pond. TFC organise regular community events to promote the park and its use.

2.5 Local population

The population of the Borough was 196,106 in April 2001 (projected to 236,031:- GLA 2006), with about 16,500 in the local wards. There are extremely high proportions of young people, with 23% of the local population being 15 or under. Local indices of deprivation are high, with local wards being in the top 5% of the most deprived wards in England. About 20% of the resident population over 16 years claims Income Support. Ethnically, 51% of the Borough's population is white, 33% Bangladeshi, 3.4% Black African and 2.7% Black Caribbean. There is a substantial population of people of Somali origin. Most of the local population live in flats without access to a private garden and there are significant levels of overcrowding. Tower Hamlets is the fifth most crowded borough in England and Wales.

2.6 Users

The Council has adopted a residents' satisfaction survey methodology for parks and open spaces developed by the KMC Consultancy. The survey is based on a standardised questionnaire, which allows some performance comparisons to be made with other authorities and organisations that participate in the scheme.

Face to face interviews were conducted on behalf of the Council by a specialist agency in order to gain responses from a representative sample of residents from across the Borough. 1,001 residents were interviewed in August 2005.

Age	Total	%
13-19	37	3.7
20-25	96	9.6
26-34	246	24.6
35-43	197	19.7
44-52	130	13.0
53-59	61	6.1
60-64	47	4.7
65+	164	16.4
No answer	23	2.3
Grand Total	1001	

Analysis revealed that 839 use a park (84% of all respondents), and of those, 736 use a Tower Hamlets Park (74% of all respondents). In the sample group, more females (54%) than males indicated that they used parks.

The peak time for visiting parks is between 1.00pm and dusk (43%) although 35% of people said they visit parks at no particular time. 20% of visitors say they visit a park every day, to relax (27.5%), to take children to play (23.7%) or for personal exercise (16.1%). These reasons for visiting outweighed all the other reasons put together. Over a third of visitors to parks go for between one and two hours. Most people walk to their park (79% always walk and 81% walk at least sometimes).

King Edward Memorial Park is the borough's third most visited park (indicating a high level of usage compared to its physical size), with 40 residents (5.5% of the sample of Tower Hamlets park users) saying it is the park they use most often. 19 of these users define themselves as being of Bangladeshi ethnicity, 13 white English, one white Irish, one Black Caribbean, 1 Scottish, 1 Indian, 1 Welsh and three who declined to say. This suggests that the BME usage of this park may be relatively high compared to the Borough's ethnicity profile. Three people (7%) said the park felt unsafe (making comments about teenagers) but 37 (93%) thought the park felt safe or very safe; a significantly higher percentage than the borough average for parks.

A number of comments were volunteered about what they wanted in the park (see table below).

Comment relating to:	Number
Café / catering / drinks van	12
More or improved facilities for children or things for them to do	10
Toilets	7
More security	3
More seating areas (for adults)	3
Improve planting or more open space	3
Cleaner	1
More events on the bandstand	1
Total number of respondents who commented (out of 40 residents who reported using this park).	33

The annual number of users is not known but is high, given the large number of people who use the site. They include both the local residential population and workers from businesses and office complexes nearby. Trees for Cities have recently commenced collecting site based user information. Going forward Trees for Cities will collect more detailed information on visitors and usage to inform maintenance and development of the site. Information on user numbers, reasons for visiting, where they come from (resident or tourist), length of visit, what they like and don't like and so on will be collated.

A market research study was carried out for Arts and Leisure Services in August 2001, which interviewed 1042 people on their use of Tower Hamlets' Leisure facilities. This found that 77% of respondents use parks, 61% using a park at least weekly and a further 26% going at least monthly. Most people (80%) visited a particular park because it is close to home and only 7% said they visited a site because the facilities are good. 68% go to a park for a walk or to relax (64%). On average, Tower Hamlets' parks score 3.82 out of 5 for overall satisfaction with upkeep of flower beds, paths, play equipment, cleanliness, grass cutting, and availability of facilities. Most people (60%) did not identify what could improve their park, although more facilities for children and better maintenance or cleanliness were the items named most.

2.7 Facilities and site description

The visitor entering the park benefits from a welcome and almost instantaneous respite from the noise and clamour of traffic that tracks in high volume along the Highway. The park has a compact and formal layout, mystery is maintained by a diverse range of planted areas and structures that allow vistas from key vantage points but prevent the whole site being viewed from any one place. The park provides a stimulating combination of sun-trap and vantage points. Views to and across the Thames enhance the feeling of openness, whilst interesting and diverse planting, punctuated by open grass areas encourage both the active and passive visitor to indulge their recreational needs.

The presence of Trees for Cities as a key partner organisation on site, combined with strong local ownership and participation in the development and management of the site are great assets to the park.

The main activities in the park are:

- Relaxing, walking and sitting
- Children's play
- Pedestrian (and cycle) through route along the Thames Path
- Dog walking
- Fitness training – jogging
- Football, bowls and tennis
- Informal sports (cricket, rounder's, etc.)
- Youth chilling out
- Schools use for teaching and for physical education
- Watching wildlife
- Kite flying
- River watching



The main facilities in the park are:

- hard surface sports area
- Junior/Toddler equipped play areas
- park office
- public toilets (access controlled by staff on site)
- bowls pavilion and bowling green
- bedding areas by the bowls green and within main park
- trees in grass with spring bulbs
- perimeter shrub and tree planting
- wildflower 'meadow' areas
- raised terrace garden and memorial
- open grass areas
- bandstand
- seats and bins
- lighting
- path network including cross and perimeter routes
- terrace/promenade with memorial
- Rotherhithe tunnel vent and access with memorial



SECTION 3 THE PARK

3.1 Welcoming people to the park

3.1.1 Hours

The park is open during daylight hours every day of the year and is locked at night.

3.1.2 Accessibility and Disability Discrimination Act 1995

All public areas of the park are accessible though steps are present in some areas of the park that affect routing for wheelchair users.

The park signs have been designed to assist people with visual impairments or reading problems.

3.1.3 Vehicular access

General users are not allowed to drive in the park. Blue badge holders can access the park if they display a valid badge. Parking controls operate around the site, which combined with the sloping and restricted entrances can make access for maintenance vehicles difficult. Larger vehicles such as delivery lorries, can only access the park yard by crossing the hard surface sports area. Local residents with parking permits can park next to the park on the streets.

3.1.4 Entrances and signs

The Council has a sign replacement programme, targeting key parks across the borough. Under this programme, colourful and informative "welcome" signs are located at all main entrances with subsidiary signs at other entrances. Signs are designed to use as few words as possible, to enable people to locate themselves easily, and to provide clear contact details for the parks service.

King Edward Memorial Park is identified in the Open Space Strategy as being a key park and it is hoped that, subject to funding, new signs will be erected in the park in 2008.

3.2 Maintaining King Edward Memorial Park

3.2.1 Grounds maintenance

This was subject to competitive tendering since the 1988 Local Government Act, and both horticultural maintenance and cleansing services in the park were provided by private sector contractors for several years.

Under the Government's 'Best Value' initiative the Council has sought to develop partnership arrangements that can bring added value to the Borough's parks and the services that they provide. This helps to ensure that high quality, efficient and effective service are delivered.

Since 2003, the Council has developed a partnership arrangement with Trees for Cities (formerly Trees for London). Under a formal Service Level Agreement, the organisation has taken on the maintenance of the park on a phased basis, and now provides most aspects of the general horticultural maintenance in the park. This includes; fine turf (bowling green) and amenity turf management, meadow development, shrub and rose planting and maintenance, tree planting, perennial areas, seasonal bedding, climbing plants and pond maintenance.

Parks and Open Space Service Officers meet with TFC on a regular basis to review standards and agree work projects and programmes. The Officers also certify payments made to TFC under the term of the Service Level Agreement.



Photo: Ben Ruscombe-King

3.2.2 Litter clearance and cleanliness

The Borough's parks are all designated at Grade C under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This means that a 24-hour response must be maintained to remove any litter or other deposits reported to the Council. The park is cleaned on a daily basis to ensure that cleanliness standards are maintained. Performance is monitored by parks staff on a regular basis and any failure is brought to the attention of the relevant service provider to remedy (see appendix C.3: Parks Inspection Sheet). Weekend cleansing and bin emptying is carried out by the Council's contractor Fountains plc. TFC carry out all cleansing duties during the week, and are seeking further resources to enable an extension of this service to include weekend cover. The Council's cleansing performance is independently monitored. Park cleanliness forms a key contributor towards the Best Value Performance Indicator, BVPI 199. The Council has a Corporate BVPI working Group on Cleanliness which is chaired at joint Director level, emphasising the priority that the Council gives to tackling this issue.

3.2.3 Repairs, infrastructure maintenance and graffiti removal

The total annual repairs budget for all of the Borough's parks is £150,000.00. This allows for urgent works to be carried out as and when necessary (making use of measured term contracts where feasible) to ensure the health and safety of users. Priority 1 repairs (urgent hazards) are carried out within 24 hours, down to Priority 3 repairs which can take up to one month. Racist graffiti is treated as Priority 1 repairs and are removed by TFC or parks staff where possible, otherwise by specialist contractors.

There is no provision in the Council's revenue budget for planned maintenance such as the repainting of railings, however, TFC have been carrying out infrastructure maintenance and improvements on an ongoing basis when project funding and willing volunteers allow. The Council has a Capital Programme and invests in parks improvements on a prioritised basis, aimed at dealing with the worst quality sites in the Borough first.

3.2.4 Maintenance of Buildings and Equipment

Buildings furniture and equipment are inspected on a regular basis by the Park Rangers and Trees for Cities staff. Trees for Cities are responsible for the internal maintenance of the buildings that they occupy. All other infrastructure maintenance is carried out by the Parks & Open Spaces Service in response to inspection findings.

In the medium term it is likely that most of the buildings in the park will be replaced and rationalised into a single multi-purpose building, serving the sports, community, management and training activities in the park. For this reason building repairs are generally restricted to urgent and essential items.

3.3 Conserving the heritage of King Edward Memorial Park

3.3.1 Existing wildlife value

The Council commissioned a survey of plants and wildlife in the park in 2007. The findings of this survey will be used as part of a wider update of the Tower Hamlets Biodiversity Action Plan. The park itself was found to support a good range of wildlife for a small park, and the biodiversity value of the site is improving as the meadow areas and trees mature. The areas of close-cut amenity grass have limited wildlife value. The mature trees and shrub planting have high associated invertebrate populations and support nesting birds.

3.3.2 Enhancing the wildlife value of King Edward Memorial Park

Since TFC became involved in the maintenance of the park they have worked to improve various grass and planted areas of the park to provide more diverse planting and support wildlife. TFC staff attend Tower Habitats Biodiversity Action Group meetings and the park is managed with reference to the Biodiversity Action Plan. The eastern end of the park has been designated a wildlife area and is managed accordingly; perennial wildflowers were sown last year and cornfield annuals are sown annually. This area is used by local school groups as an outdoor classroom and TFC will be involving them and other volunteers in building bird boxes, log piles, hedge planting etc., to encourage more wildlife into the park.



Photo: Ben Ruscombe-King

It is the intention to continue to enhance the wildlife value of the park in various ways. TFC is adding spring flowering bulbs to the park as well as gradually adding wildlife-friendly trees, shrubs and perennials to the planting around the park. Improved management of the shrubs

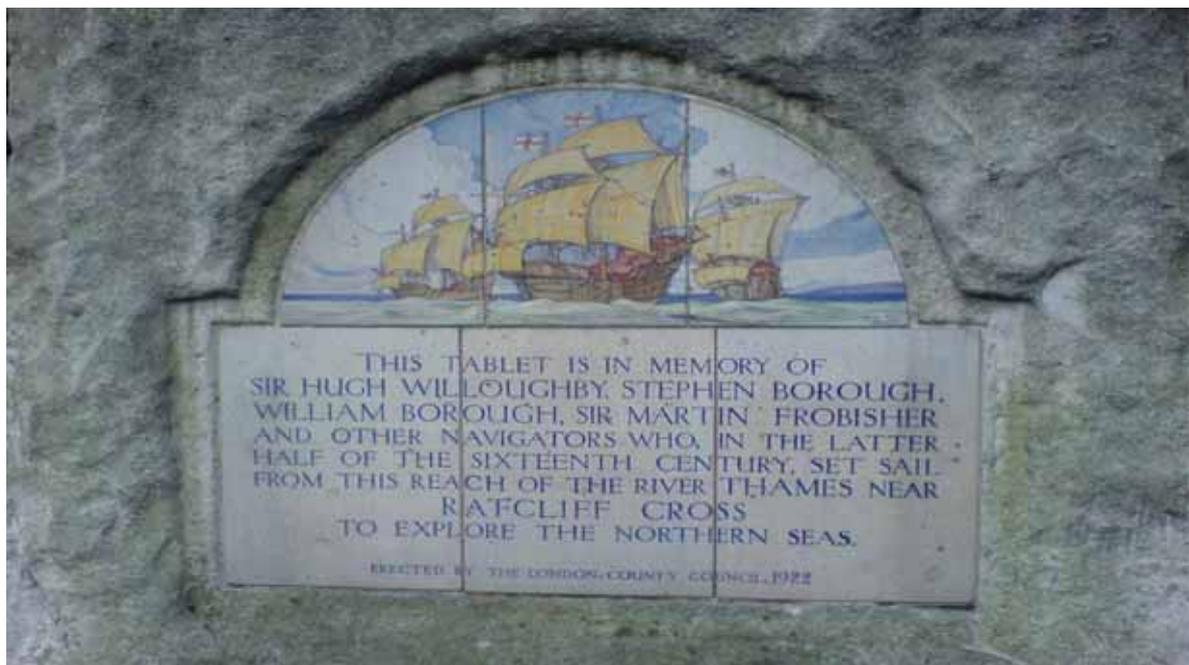
will create cover at ground level as shelter for birds and insect life, and will reduce unnecessary weed control. TFC are running habitat creation workshops in the park with pupils from local schools, providing nesting banks, bird boxes, beetle holes and the like. Planting around the refurbished pond will take place in 2008.

3.3.3 Cultural heritage

The park is very popular with local people and is known to many in the area as 'Shadwell Park'. Opened by King George V in 1922, it was the only park in the area at that time, and it remains the key public greenspace in the locality. The park was partly restored and improved during the 1980's by the London Docklands Development Corporation. Many original features of the park remain today, including the staircase leading to the memorial to King Edward VII and the raised promenade. This area affords excellent views of the park and across the river. The memorial is in the form of a drinking fountain. It bore a medallion depicting the late King along with the inscription 'IN GRATEFUL MEMORY OF KING EDWARD THE SEVENTH THIS PARK IS DEDICATED TO THE USE AND ENJOYMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST LONDON FOR EVER - OPENED BY KING GEORGE THE FIFTH 1922'; regrettably the medallion was stolen in 2007. It is planned that this will be replaced with a replica as soon as funds allow.

The park surrounds the tunnel vent and access shaft to the Rotherhithe Tunnel. The tunnel was opened in 1908, the vent was present before the park was constructed, and early images of the park show that it visually dominated the site. The tunnel vent remains an important feature, but is no longer so visually dominant due to the present day maturity of trees in the park. The Rotherhithe Tunnel was refurbished in 2007 and a replacement roof was installed as part of these works.

Close to the Rotherhithe Tunnel ventilation shaft is a memorial to the navigators; Stephen and William Borough, Sir Hugh Willoughby and Martin Frobisher who set sail on their voyages to the northern seas from close by Ratcliff to search for the legendary North West Passage route to Cathay.



Photograph: Oscar Ford

3.4 Marketing King Edward Memorial Park

3.4.1 Recent promotions, press and web coverage

TFC and the Council promote events and activities in the park throughout the year. Events including brass band concerts at the band stand are promoted through the Council's own newspaper East End Life.

The park features in the local press when there are particular stories to tell or promote. Recent press articles include reporting the Parks success at gaining a Green Flag Award and at being voted the 'Best London Park' in the Britain's Best Parks Competition for the second year running.

The park features strongly on the Trees for Cities web site and is a destination on local walking routes available through the Council's web site.

3.4.2 Promotion and interpretation

The park is promoted through the main park signs at the main gates (which indicate the major facilities within the park), and pointer signs are located on key approach routes. Address details can be found on the Council's web site. In addition the activities of TFC and Council events in the park raise awareness of the park and its facilities.

In addition, this park is included in a borough-wide parks marketing campaign with large banners placed on the railings on the Highway to draw attention to the park and its sports facilities, under the general strap line of "Amazing Space". Our parks are also being marketed to both the public and public sector workers in various public buildings throughout the borough to raise awareness of the quality of our parks.

3.4.3 Events

The park is not suitable for major events due to its size and access restrictions, however, it is a popular venue for local community events and has hosted medium sized gatherings such as the Millennium celebrations on the Thames and was a Beacon lighting site for the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations. The park took part in the 2006 London Open Garden Squares Weekend and TFC organised several Corporate Challenge Days, during which projects were undertaken in the park, which would not come under the normal maintenance agreement, such as re-planting borders, repairing the pond and repainting railings.

TFC continue to develop the range of events and activities that take place throughout the year to encourage interest and involvement by local people and business volunteers in the park.

In 2006 TFC held a Get to Know Your Park Day which was well attended. The event included music, guided history tree and wildlife walks, kids events, a dog show, sports activities, local group stalls, bouncy castle, brass band, refreshments, face painting and Bowling Club demonstration. This event was advertised in the local press, on the TFC website and flyers delivered to local homes. The event was also used to question visitors about their use of and wants for the park. TFC have supported a number of school sports days at the park.

The Council's Events Team organise a programme of events in parks including a programme of bandstand concerts. The recently established Park Ranger service will be facilitating additional activities including Mini-beast hunts for National Science Week and a Reminiscence day for older people



Photo: Ben Ruscombe-King



Photo: Ben Ruscombe-King

3.5 A safe and secure park for healthy activities

3.5.1 Risk assessments – see Appendix C

3.5.2 Dog control

The Best Value Review consultation and the KMC residents' satisfaction survey identified dog control as an important local issue across gender, age and ethnicity categories. It is an issue that Tower Hamlets takes very seriously. Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1966, dog owners are required to clean up after their dogs throughout the Borough.

The Council has a team of dog wardens to foster (and when necessary enforce) responsible ownership of dogs and good dog / owner behaviour. The team expects to formally caution or prosecute in the region of 100 people per year. Numbers of cautions and prosecutions are going down as more people have got into the habit of clearing up after their dogs. The team has doubled its orders for dog waste bags to 1 million per annum. Only about 15% of the complaints about dog fouling are in the Borough's parks; the rest are on estates or the streets. As a result of this activity, dog fouling of parks is very much improved compared to a decade ago. There is no problem with stray dogs here. The Council is currently reviewing the Dog Warden Service in parks to develop a more targeted Service Level Agreement and where necessary we will create Dog Control Orders under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (2005).

- Dog wardens patrol all parks sites on a regular basis and will carry out blitz visits if required. They carry out uniformed and covert patrols acting on intelligence about where and when problems occur. They use hidden cameras to obtain evidence.
- Dog owners must clear up after their animals throughout the park.
- Free pooper-scoopers are provided by the dog wardens and TFC staff (take up is said to be good) and there are dog waste bins in the park although people can also use the litter bins.
- The Kennel Club short-listed the LBTH Animal Wardens for a national award in February 2006.

3.5.3 Sports Areas (for park plan see Appendix D)

The park provides an excellent facility to support an active and healthy lifestyle. It is very popular with joggers and as a place for individual exercise. More formal sports areas are located on the west side of the park.

Four hard surface tennis courts are available, one of which is over-marked for netball. Also available is a hard surfaced medium sized football pitch, cross-marked with two five-a-side football pitches.

A project to develop a Playing Pitch Strategy for the Borough is underway and will be completed in 2008. The Strategy will seek to rationalise provision and to provide a balance of affordable playing pitches at key locations across Tower Hamlets. King Edward Memorial Park is considered to be a key location for outdoor team sports, and actions arising from the Playing Pitch Strategy will be incorporated into this Management Plan as soon as these have been clarified and agreed.

A turf lawn bowls green provides six rinks for use between May and September.

The park provides a pleasant and interesting landscape in which to enjoy a healthy walk, with space for personal or small group sports activities.

3.5.4 Pitch booking and fees policy

The Council operates a pay and play arrangement for its tennis courts, netball and bowling greens. A season ticket is available for regular bowls players (mostly members of the Shadwell Bowling Club). The football areas in King Edward Memorial Park are free to use.

Fees for the use of sports facilities are favourable compared to other similar London authority charges and are designed to encourage use by the whole community. Further concessionary rates are available for juniors (under 16's) and seniors (over 60's).

Sports areas in King Edward Memorial Park are currently supervised by the Community Ranger service which collects fees on site. These facilities cannot be pre-booked.

3.5.5 Community health, safety and security

The Parks Community Rangers have a base in the park and patrol the grounds on a regular basis and seven days a week. Trees for Cities operate mainly on week days, though the organisation is seeking resources to extend its activities to include weekend cover, and are present on a number of weekends during the year to run or support events and community activities.

The park is locked and unlocked on a daily basis. This function is currently provided by the Council's contractor Fountains plc.

The Council operates a 24 hour call-centre and emergency arrangements apply outside of normal office hours. The Parks Service operates an overnight mobile security provision based at Victoria Park which can respond to incidents reported at other parks locations in the Borough.

The Council has taken a number of steps to improve security and security perceptions in its parks and open spaces in recent years. Actions have included the introduction of CCTV in some parks, raising the profile of the Community Ranger Service, establishing joint patrols with the Police, improving maintenance and sight lines and providing contact details in prominent locations. Feedback from public consultation indicates that security fears in King Edward Memorial Park are low, and it has not been necessary to implement some of the more intrusive security activities such as CCTV or Police patrols in this park. The regular presence of TFC staff and Rangers on site is a positive asset. TFC maintain the planted areas to a high standard, maintaining site lines and enhancing feelings that the park is well cared for.

This park is included in a Council wide campaign to get more people into our parks and enjoying healthy walks. A special walking guide is available through the Council's website and distributed as a leaflet to all houses in the borough as well as libraries and IDEA stores.

The park is very suited to supporting healthy activity. Its layout supports circuit walks, it is on a popular jogging and cycling route, has open grass areas for informal activities and also has a range of formal sports facilities.

3.5.6 Park lighting

The park is closed during the hours of darkness and there is no lighting provision on site. The north and west (publicly accessible) boundaries of the site are lit by adjacent street lighting which supports the security of the park at night.

3.5.7 Parks monitoring; repairs and reactive maintenance

The Council employs mobile parks staff (Community Parks Rangers and Area Parks Officers) to help ensure that parks are safe and accessible to users. They monitor the condition of parks including; cleanliness and repairs and maintenance needs, and help



Photo: Oscar Ford

Trees are also inspected for any necessary works by the Borough's Arboriculture Officers on a regular basis and when required (e.g. following storms). Tree works are carried out as and when necessary using the measured term contract for tree works to maintain their health, safety or good form or in response to justified complaints. Our policy is only to remove trees when necessary to protect public safety.

3.6.3 Green Procurement

Procurement is one of the 5 key areas examined in the Council's Environmental Strategy. In the interim the purchase and use of materials and supplies from endangered resources, such as peat and peat-based composts, endangered hard wood and tropical species of timber, rocks from Pennine limestone pavements, bulbs and seeds taken from the wild, or products comprising such items are banned. All timbers are to be supplied from sustainable sources and are to accord with the Forest Stewardship Council's guidelines. The Parks and Open Spaces Service operates in accordance with the Council's Environmental Strategy (see Appendix A13) which was adopted in 2007.

Tower Hamlets has recently been recognised as a Fair Trade borough by the Fairtrade Foundation (see www.fairtrade.org.uk) and won a London-wide award* by achieving the following targets:

- The Council must pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and in offices and canteens,
- A range of Fairtrade products must be readily available in the area's shops and served in local cafés and catering establishments,
- Fairtrade products must be used by a number of local work places (estate agents, hairdressers etc) and community organisations (churches, schools etc),
- The council must attract popular support for the campaign,

- A local Fairtrade steering group must be convened to ensure continued commitment to Fairtrade Town status.

*The Council won the Mayor for London's Green Procurement Award for 'Best Performing Public Sector Organisation' in November 2006.

3.6.4 Recycling of green waste, parks' litter and other consumables

The Parks and Open Space Service aims to develop a number of small scale compost facilities within its parks with the intention to recycle 30-40% of our green waste within a few years. Relatively few parks are suitable for such facilities as three quarters of our sites are less than one hectare in size. Shrubby green waste is currently separated and taken to the local waste transfer station where it is recycled for use elsewhere.

Green waste in King Edward Memorial Park is collected and composted on site by Trees for Cities, with the composted waste being returned to the park or used as a soil improver on TFC projects around the borough.

The current contract for the supply of seasonal bedding plants requires that the plant supplier collects and recycles plant pots and trays after each use. The contract specifies that plants are grown in peat-free compost, and this is monitored through visits to the provider nursery and at the time of delivery.

Office and other waste; such as paper, plastic and glass bottles, cans, etc., is collected for recycling at the Council's headquarters offices. This 'purple bin' collection service has been extended to the satellite buildings in parks including King Edward Memorial Park. Collections are made from parks offices, cafes and play related buildings; such as One o'clock Clubs and Adventure Play Grounds.

3.6.5 Water use

There are mains water supplies in King Edward Memorial Park to the TFC Office, Public Toilets and Bowls Pavilion.

External water points are located at the bowling-green to water the green and the bedding plants. There are 4 pop-up irrigation units within the green supplied from a mains fed cistern; these are calibrated to the minimum setting and operate at 3 am for 5 minutes.

Bedding plants are watered twice a week at the most depending on rainfall conditions. The total area of bedding in the park has been reduced in some areas, in favour of more drought resistant planting; TFC have developed drought tolerant plantings within the park and this remains a consideration when planning future planting.

The Council is investigating the cost effectiveness of installing boreholes in some parks to meet non-drinking water requirements. Surveys of Victoria Park and Millwall Park suggest that a borehole installation would cost in the region of £40k, with ongoing license costs for extraction and maintenance costs for pumping equipment.

A recent leakage survey of borough parks has identified a significant number of underground leaks, including a leak at King Edward Memorial Park. A programme of repairs is underway that will result in an estimated 30% reduction in water use by the end of 2008.

3.6.6 Energy efficiency and pollution control

The Borough's Transport Service Unit reviews developments in fuel efficiency and alternative fuel sources for three objectives:

- benefits to air quality
- sustainability of energy source
- cost benefits

Since service efficiency at reasonable cost is important to the Council, they assess new fuel and vehicle types against two important factors: vehicle reliability and fuel availability. A number of alternative fuels and vehicle types (electric) fail these tests.

The Council has been using electric vehicles since 2001, but there are problems with maintenance, reliability (significantly higher down-time compared to other vehicles) and lack of support from the manufacturer / supplier. The manufacturer's decision to abandon any further development has also been unhelpful.

Two trial programmes have been commissioned:

- Trial 1 involves the purchase in conjunction with the Council's vehicle supply partner of 5 dual fuel vans, using LPG/petrol. They were delivered in the autumn of 2006 and their performance is being monitored.
- Trial 2 involves the upgrading of existing diesel vehicles by installing a special catalyst type exhaust filter to trap and accumulate particulate emissions. This exhaust treatment worked well on school buses (emissions quality was improved by 80%) but not on our own tipper trucks because their frequent short journeys caused the engines to run too cold for efficient operation.

In addition, the Council is reducing its fuel consumption and improving its emissions by replacing vehicles with conventional ones that meet the latest standards, by using satellite management systems to reduce journey numbers and mileage, by driver training to improve fuel consumption and running vehicles on the correct tyre pressures. All parks' vehicles achieve the current "Euro 3" standard for emissions and most comply with the forthcoming "Euro 4" standard; in addition they already comply with the proposed Low Emission Zone which is to be introduced by the Mayor across London in 2008.

The Council will join with a number of London boroughs to trial the use of Bio-Diesel. This involves building a plant to produce one million litres of Bio-Diesel per year by recycling of used cooking oil and blending the result with normal mineral oil based diesel. Trials by other boroughs have found that a blend of up to 30% cooking oil gives satisfactory performance but we are likely to start our trial later this year with a lower percentage. A 20% blend is likely to result in satisfactory performance in the coldest weather likely in London and significantly reduced emissions of carbon dioxide and particulate matter.

The Council has reviewed the provision of Car User Allowances to staff, reducing the number of essential car users and providing public transport allowances, pool cars and cycle allowances as an alternative where appropriate.

The Council's target for vehicle emissions within its Environmental Strategy is to reduce emissions by 80% by December 2008 from the levels recorded in 2002. As a Council, we are on target for achieving this.

3.7 Involving the community in King Edward Memorial Park

3.7.1 Council Consultation

The Council engages with the public through a variety of forums. There are a number of established parks user groups, and additional public meetings are held to discuss particular projects such as landscape improvement works. In addition, the public is consulted via the 8 Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) as part of the Local Strategic Partnership. The LAPs are considered by the Council to be the main means of involving local people in services provided by the public sector locally.

Information on satisfaction in parks services is gathered as part of an annual Council Resident's Panel survey and a specific and more detailed Parks and Open Spaces survey.

Feedback is provided through the forums, in the council newspaper and on the Council's web site.

3.7.2 Resident Participation and Involvement

The Council has actively sought to involve community groups in the management of our parks and open spaces. Over 15% of the total area of Council owned parks and open spaces (7 sites) are managed by the Third Sector, either by Friends' groups or by other voluntary groups through Service Level Agreements. The Third Sector manages both our Local Nature Reserves as well as more traditional parks.

A Community Compact is being developed that will set down guiding principles for all our Friends and User Groups (a dozen at the time of writing), so that they know what they can expect from us and the Council from them. The Council expects to adopt this Compact during 2008. The Compact will also deliver staff training to help us improve our working relationships with the Third Sector. The Parks and Open Spaces Services were recently restructured to create new posts, including a ranger service, whose roles include working with community groups.

3.7.3 Trees for Cities

Trees for Cities have extensive experience in engaging with and involving the public and business community in tree planting and landscape improvement projects. This expertise has been put to good use in the park and a number of projects and events have already taken place involving local people and workers in planting and maintenance activities.

TFC staff engage with users on site on a daily basis, welcoming their views and comments. More formal User Surveys have also been developed by TFC to help inform the future management and development of the park. TFC have developed a programme of educational activities with local schools.

TFC Facts and figures - Community Engagement 2007:

- Attendance at LAP4 Youth Services Forum
- Reception Year workshops for Cyril Jackson School (Wildlife area)
- Presentation to LAP4 Steering Group on TFC work at KEMP
- Woodland Fun Day with 1,469 attendees
- Envision Event for young people
- School workshop for St Peter's Primary School (Wildlife area)
- School Sports Day for St Mary & St Michael's School
- Mural consultation with the Parks Rangers
- LAP4 Patchwork Festival

3.7.4 King Edward Memorial Park users

Consultation evidence demonstrates that the park attracts users from all sectors of the community. The wide range of activities available encourages this broad spectrum of use. As well as local residents, visitors come from the business districts. Tourists use the park for its excellent views of the Thames and its location on the Thames Path.

3.7.5 Shadwell Bowls Club

The club uses the bowls green and pavilion in the summer as their home base. The club runs and cleans the pavilion during the playing season. Members have direct access to TFC and Ranger staff on site when the green is in use.

3.7.6 Events

The policy of the Arts and Events Department is to foster community festivals to celebrate diversity and to encourage more small festivals and events and consider larger events as they come forward. LB Tower Hamlets prides itself on being the "Festivals Borough", with more festivals than any other part of London; many of these take place in our parks.

3.8 Managing King Edward Memorial Park

3.8.1 Parks and Open Spaces Service Mission Statement:

The Council will strive to create good quality parks that:

- are accessible to everyone
- provide a wide range of opportunities for sport, play, entertainment and relaxation
- have a diverse, attractive and interesting landscape and ecology

3.8.2 Budget

There is no single budget for any site in the borough. An individual park budget has to be constructed by summing the contract costs for all the different work types, adding notional figures for repairs and tree work, management and parks patrol costs. It can, therefore, only be approximate.

The approximate revenue budget figure for maintenance, management and parks patrols in 2007 / 2008 was £61,000.

There is some park income, namely from sports fees and for any events. The income for events and any filming is ploughed back into the Arts and Events Team's budget. The income from sports fees is put into the Parks and Open Spaces Service budget as a whole.

3.8.3 Current management and maintenance

The Parks and Open Spaces Services under the direction of the Head of Parks and Open Spaces, have the overall management and maintenance responsibility for the Council's Parks, including King Edward Memorial Park. Most infrastructure maintenance activities are directly managed by the Parks Service through contract providers, including; mature tree maintenance, footway repairs, building maintenance, gates and fences, bins and bench replacement, signage, and play areas.

Various aspects of landscape maintenance and improvement plus cleansing in King Edward Memorial Park are carried out under the terms of the Service Level Agreement with Trees for Cities.

3.8.4 Improvements to March 2008

- Office building repainted, summer 2005
- Secure classroom installed, summer 2005
- Yard secured with improved fencing, winter 2005/06
- Create drought tolerant border next to office, winter 2005/06
- Cleared and re-plant area adjacent to pond, winter 2005/06
- Birch planted within wildlife area, winter 2005/06
- Autumn interest trees planted in the main grass areas, winter 2005/06
- Cleared, prepared and sowed wildflower area, winter 2005/06
- Re-instated and renovated tree pits on top terrace, re-laid York stone paving and planted with Prunus kanzan, P.dulcis and hardy annuals, replaced seating, winter 2005/06
- Drained and repaired pond adding an area for marginal planting

- Reinstated wiring along terrace wall and renovated Wisteria, winter 2005/06 and ongoing
- Replaced edging on all beds, winter 05/06 ongoing
- Replace grass areas under terrace with hardy annual borders, winter 05/06 and ongoing
- Installed poly- tunnel and nursery area within yard, summer 2006
- Installed signage in wildlife area, summer 2006
- Created spring flowering area in wildlife area, autumn 2006
- Re-painting railings, ongoing.
- Toilet block repair and reopening
- Rotherhithe Tunnel Vent Dome works, 2007
- Wildlife survey, autumn 2007
- Plant dwarf box hedging around tree pits on terrace, winter 07
- Plant Lavender edging along front of terrace border, winter 07
- Plant hedging and climbers along terrace wall, winter 07
- Re-plant and renovate shrub border at back of terrace, winter 07 and ongoing



Top terrace refurbishment: 'Before'.

Photo: Ben Ruscombe-King



Top terrace refurbishment: 'After'.

Photo: Ben Ruscombe-King

3.8.5 Potential developments and priorities from 2008 onwards

- Proposed/possible Cable Tunnel works March to October 2008
- New signs with maps to main entrances and small signs to all minor ones (Spring 2007 subject to funding)
- Former bowls pavilion project
- Footway refurbishment programme
- Continued customer survey
- Re painting railings, ongoing
- Replace edging on all beds, ongoing
- Develop and execute new planting around children's playground, possibly install maze on bank in front of playground
- Develop plans to improve main entrances to park.

3.8.6 Design principles for King Edward Memorial Park

The key **landscape design aims** are:

- Retain the open, green elements of the park to maintain security, provide for informal sports
- Protect key sight lines, including river views
- Conserve, enhance and interpret the historical and cultural elements within the park
- Enhance the public's feelings of security
- Enhance nature conservation and biodiversity
- Enhance and manage planting
- Provide public art features for visual interest and community involvement
- Enhance the attractiveness of the park for all visitors to the park

- Establish a positive site identity that is clear from within and outside the park
- Enhance opportunities for children and young persons' play in a natural environment
- Work with others to improve the Thames Path for park visitors, cyclists and pedestrians whilst minimising conflict between them

All **design** for the park will be practical and appropriate for its purpose. It should reflect contemporary and reasonably foreseeable needs. It will be sympathetic to the local environment and will, over time, seek to lift the quality of the environment locally with appropriate innovations. Layout and detailed design will include consideration of issues of security and fear of crime and seek not to create areas in which crime might take place or in which particular groups could develop dominance of particular facilities. Design should avoid breaking grass areas up into small areas divided by paths.

Planting design, including choice of species, will take maintenance into account and seek not to increase the burden of costs overall. It shall incorporate native species and those that appeal to wildlife (including those providing winter nectar, berries and shelter). Some planting will be provided with more obvious ornamental and / or cultural appeal. The intention shall be to create as interesting and attractive an environment as feasible and to provide improved habitats for wildlife.

Materials will be in keeping with the feel of the park, that is to say, simple, robust and durable. All materials shall have a low lifetime environmental impact and shall be specified in accordance with the sustainable purchasing policies within this document. The Council will avoid piecemeal replacement of furniture to ensure a consistent design feel across the site. Railings shall be made of galvanised mild steel painted black. Play equipment shall be steel (powder coated, painted, galvanised or stainless) and designed not to provide significant roof covering.

Art will be used to help establish a clear site identity and will be developed by community involvement (especially of school children). It shall be mindful of security and the need to minimise maintenance.

Paving and so on will not be allowed to dominate the landscape, which shall remain substantially green in contrast to the surrounding environment. Paths shall be aligned to reflect the routes people want to use and to provide as stimulating an experience for park users as possible, and maintaining the importance of the riverside walk (Thames Path).

Signage shall incorporate the Borough's current Visual Identity Guidelines, identify who manages the site, give a contact telephone number, provide guidance on facilities to be found in the park and on behaviour to be expected. Signs must welcome visitors to the Park and avoid lists of dos and don'ts. Signs will be clear for those with sight and language problems, replacing as many words as possible with graphic symbols.

3.8.7 Implementing the management plan

The lead officer responsible for implementing the Plan is the Head of Parks and Open Spaces Service. The Head of Parks and Open Spaces Service will:

- Prepare and co-ordinate future annual work programmes and necessary budgets.
- Develop monitoring procedures.
- Review and develop the management plan.
- Co-ordinate new initiatives and developments identified in the plan.

3.8.8 Monitoring and reviewing the plan

Monitoring frequency varies according to activity - it can be daily, weekly, or less often, depending on the issue or the activity. General progress on the Plan will be monitored quarterly in conjunction with the SLA with TFC.

A formal review of the progress of the Plan and SLA will be undertaken annually flowing from the monitoring processes.

3.8.9 Quality management systems

The Parks and Open Spaces Service participate in the Towards an Excellent Service (TAES) quality assessment model for Cultural Services. Tower Hamlets Council is an Investors in People accredited organisation. Progress towards the council's Community and Strategic Plan outcomes is managed through a formal Performance & Development Review (PDR) process in which all Council staff participate.

3.8.10 Training

Tower Hamlets Council provides a wide range of general training programmes for its staff. Specialist and individual training needs, highlighted through the PDR process are also supported.

The park is used by TFC for NVQ accredited Horticultural and Arboricultural skills training, attracting trainees from across London (more details can be found on the Trees for Cities web site:- <http://www.treesforcities.org/html/trainingandeducation/>). During the year January 2006 to January 2007, 87 trainees attended horticulture and arboriculture courses at the park:-

- 37 achieved success in NVQ level 1 or 2
- 23 achieved NPTC qualifications
- Qualifications include strimmer, hedge trimmer or ride on mower operation, arboricultural operations in chainsaw operation, felling small trees, tree climbing, chipper operations and tree planting and aftercare

In 2007 the Council, Trees for Cities and local grounds maintenance and landscape service providers teamed up to roll out a Skillsmatch Training partnership. This has provided some additional opportunities for local people to retrain, gain horticultural skills, and to access local horticultural employment opportunities as these arise.

3.8.11 Action plan for King Edward Memorial Park 2007– 2017

No	Action	Timing	Lead	Objective targeted	Notes
Regular tasks (weekly, monthly, yearly)					
1	Maintain the bowling green and surrounds to provide a good quality surface and environment for the playing season.	All year	TFC	2,3,5,	LBTH support as necessary
2	Maintain and improve the pond to encourage and support wildlife and provide an attractive visual asset.	All year	TFC	2,3,5	
3	Maintain the seasonal bedding areas to provide a floriferous display with seasonal change and interest.	All year	TFC	1,2,5,6	LBTH to supply stock
4	Maintain designated grass areas for amenity use, ensuring that grass is not cut short in summer, to reduce drought stress	Growing season	TFC	1,2,5,6	
5	Maintain designated meadow areas to develop their wildlife value	According to seeding of target species and subject to seasonal variation	TFC	2,4,5,	
6	Maintain improved standards of shrub pruning in accordance with species and good practice. Maintain clear sight lines at entrances and path junctions.	All year	TFC	1,2,3,5	
7	Plant up gaps in shrub borders with wildlife-friendly and native plants giving plenty of variety. Include some evergreens	Annually as resources allow	TFC & LBTH	1,2,5,6,	
8	Plant up suitable areas with bluebells and woodland edge wildflowers; do not cut grass until target specie seeds are set.	Annually and as resources allow	LBTH – +TFC +Community	1,2,5,6,	
9	Prune hedges to maintain shape and integrity	As necessary and appropriate to species; avoiding nesting period	TFC	1,2,3	
10	Carry out inspection of trees for risk management and health / condition purposes; carry out necessary works	Sept 07	LBTH – tree officer	1,2,3,5	
11	Liaise with Dog Wardens to ensure dog nuisance is managed	All year as needed	TFC & LBTH	1,2,3,5,7	
12	Continue to monitor safety and play value of playground equipment and repair as necessary. Review life expectancy / play value of play equipment after 5 years and annually thereafter	Weekly and annually	LBTH	1,2,6,7	
	Update risk assessments for site	Annually and as required	LBTH & TFC		

No	Action	Timing	Lead	Objective targeted	Notes
Intermittent and development tasks					
13	Monitor meadow areas for biodiversity and for further planting / sowing of wild flowers	June 07	TFC	1,2,4,5,6,8	
14	Identify sites suitable for planting wildlife-friendly shrubs and perennials	June 07	TFC	1,2,4,5,6,8	
15	Monitor green waste composting volumes and re-usage	Report March 08	TFC	5	
16	Create opportunities for events and activities in park like additional planting / fun days	Annual	LBTH & TFC	1,4,5,6,8	
17	Consider what further improvements can be made and raise funds for works.	Annually at review	LBTH & TFC	1,2,3,4,5,6	
18	Get further information about the park and its facilities onto LBTH Website, including events & activities	June 08	LBTH	1,2,5,8	
19	Carry out consultation and user counts	Annually and throughout the year	LBTH & TFC	5	
20	Keep park in local media with 2 or more positive stories	Annually	LBTH & TFC	1,4,	
21	Carry out formal site inspections and meetings to check progress on the plan	Quarterly	LBTH & TFC	All	
22	Hold annual formal review of King Edward Memorial Park with TFC	Annually by July	LBTH & TFC	All	
23	Conduct formal review of management plan with everyone	Annually by Dec.	LBTH & TFC	All	
24	Draft new parks bye-laws and commission	2008	LBTH	All, esp. 1,3,5	

Action Plan Abbreviations

LBTH London Borough of Tower Hamlets Parks and Open Spaces Service
TFC Trees for Cities

APPENDIX A **CORPORATE POLICIES AND STRATEGIES**

A.1 Tower Hamlets Vision and Community Plan

Tower Hamlets Council launched its first Community Plan in May 2001 following extensive consultation, involving residents, the Council and its public service partners, the voluntary and community sector, and businesses. The Council led the process, but involved a working group of key partners from other public services, large and small businesses and the voluntary and community sector.

A number of key priorities were identified through the consultation process and the determination to tackle these underpinned the vision for the Borough's Community Plan to 2010, a vision in which services work in partnership to bring about early benefits to residents. The Community Plan is currently being refreshed and an extensive consultation process is now underway.

To fulfil this vision, key partners have agreed to focus service activities on the priorities identified through the five cross cutting themes set out in Tower Hamlet's Community Plan, which seeks to make Tower Hamlets:

- **A Better Place for Living Safely** – reducing crime and making people feel safer.
- **A Better Place for Living Well** - improving housing, health, social care and the environment, reducing pollution and improving traffic conditions.
- **A Better Place for Creating and Sharing Prosperity** – bringing investment into the Borough and ensuring that all residents and business are in a position to benefit from growing economic prosperity.
- **A Better Place for Learning, Achievement and Leisure** – raising aspirations, expectations and achievement and providing the widest range of arts and leisure opportunities for all.
- **A Better Place for Excellent Public Services** – improving public services for local people to make sure they represent good value for money and are provided in ways that meet local needs.

These themes are developed in the Council's Corporate Strategic Plan and the Directorate three-year action plans. These set out action grids with objectives, key activities, milestones and success criteria detailed and time tabled. Key officers are also identified.

The Parks and Open Spaces Service, as part of Cultural Services, works to support these corporate objectives: We have been key contributors to the revised Cultural Services framework document, to update targets and priorities for the next five years. We have taken the joint lead in preparing the Playing Pitch Strategy, which is compliant with Sport England guidance.

A.2 Public consultation

The Borough follows a policy of active consultation and involvement with the community. Its aims and objectives reflect this and details are therefore subject to change. The Borough has set up 8 Local Area Partnerships to increase the participation of the local community in local issues and developments.

From market research and consultation exercises, it is clear that local people are most concerned about basic issues such as dog mess, security, park keeping and cleanliness; a

large majority of people think that well-maintained parks promote social responsibility, increased use and reduced vandalism.

The Council has adopted a residents' satisfaction survey methodology for parks and open spaces developed by the KMC Consultancy. The survey is based on a standardised questionnaire, which allows some performance comparisons to be made with other authorities and organisations that participate in the scheme. This survey will be repeated annually to allow performance to be compared over time.

Face to face interviews were conducted on behalf of the Council in August 2005 by a specialist agency in order to gain responses from a representative sample of residents from across the Borough. 1,001 residents were interviewed. Analysis for 2005 revealed that 839 use a park (84% of all respondents), and of those, 736 use a Tower Hamlets Park (74% of all respondents). In the sample group, more females (54%) than males indicated that they used parks.

A.3 Parks' best value review:

The Horticulture Services Division was subject to this review during 2001 and 2002 as part of the Council's BV plan; the report was adopted by Cabinet in June 2003. The review findings have been embedded in the Open Space Strategy and the restructure of the Parks Service.

A.4 Open Space Strategy

The Open Space Strategy for Tower Hamlets was adopted on 11 January 2006.

<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/planning/data/planning-policy/downloads/evidence/open-space-strategy.pdf>

Key objectives of the open space strategy are to:

1. Provide and maintain information on open space in Tower Hamlets (using a Geographic Information System).
2. Establish demand and residents' views
3. Enhance protection of existing open space (given the intense local pressure to develop land for housing, education and other social needs),
4. Identify ways of providing more open space and improving access to open space
5. Improve the quality of the Council's own public open spaces and to prioritise investment.

Objectives 3 and 4 will be delivered through the legal controls that flow from the policies in the Local Development Framework.

The Borough's strategy for play "Play Matters in Tower Hamlets: A Strategic Approach to Play in Tower Hamlets" was adopted by Cabinet on 4/7/07.

[http://modgov.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Published/C00000320/M00002027/\\$\\$ADocPackPublic.pdf](http://modgov.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Published/C00000320/M00002027/$$ADocPackPublic.pdf)

This document is intended to raise the profile of play for children and young people, to map provision and to identify deficiencies in play services, play space provision and quality as well as the means to address them. In addition it is used to bid for funds (from such bodies as the BIG Lottery Fund for Play) to improve provision whether for play services or for capital investment.

Both these strategies were prepared in accordance with guidance from the Greater London Authority.

A.5 Planning policies

The current primary land use documents for Tower Hamlets are the 1998 Unitary Development Plan which was adopted as the council's statutory development plan on 2nd

December 1998 and some elements of the emerging Local Development Framework. These are strategic documents that establish the land use and planning framework for the borough. Together with the Mayor's Plan for London they are the primary reference for all planning decisions.

The Local Development Framework, which is in the process of being adopted, defines the land use at King Edward Memorial Park as public open space. This protects it from development. The LDF was submitted to the Secretary of State in November 2006, but following discussions with the Government Office for London, the Council's Cabinet (September 2007) resolved to withdraw it and recast the plans. Formal confirmation of the withdrawal was provided by Government on 4 October 2007. The protected status of this public open space is not expected to change.

A.6 Tower Hamlets Biodiversity Action Plan: Habitat Action Plan for Parks, Squares and Burial Grounds

"Tower Habitats" is a group of voluntary sector bodies and Council officers co-operating to prepare and deliver the Biodiversity Action Plan for Tower Hamlets. The Plan was adopted on 24 March 2004, following consultation. The group has started work to review and revise the Plan and consultation will begin in February 2008, for adoption in December 2008. The current Parks, Squares and Burial Grounds Habitat Action Plan contains detailed actions and targets to increase the area and value for wildlife of the various types of park in the Borough. For the current plan, see <http://www.towerhabitats.org/TowerHabitatsLBAP.pdf>

A.7 Health and Safety

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Corporate, as well as the Customer Services Directorate's, Health and Safety Policies apply in all parks. The policies are too long to be incorporated here but can be made available on request.

The Borough is committed to promoting the Health, Safety and Welfare of all employees and of the public who come into contact with its premises and services. It is the policy of the Directorate to develop a positive Health and Safety culture throughout the organisation because the Council believe that good safety is good business. This Health and Safety Policy intends to set the ground rules through which continuous improvement of the standards of Health, Safety and Welfare of all employees and clients can be achieved. The safety policies are in accordance with section 2(3) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and are revised on a regular basis. Their implementation is checked regularly by the Directorate's H&S officer.

Risk assessments have been carried out for parks' workers, with an emphasis on those staff who face the most regular risks, namely park keeping staff. Risk control measures are in place and are reviewed in the light of changing practice.

All Trees for Cities staff have induction and basic H&S training. Risk assessments are done for all tasks and staff must meet the resulting codes of practise. All cleansing staff receive manual handling training. Staff have additional training in accordance with their duties and the tools / machinery they are required to use, such as first aid, chainsaw, RoSPA playground checking training and so on.

A.8 Complaints procedure

Tower Hamlets has a three-stage complaints procedure. Stage 1 tries to resolve problems informally face to face and stage 2 is formal (with complaints received in writing or by phone in one of 8 languages or by minicom). Complaints are acknowledged, investigated and

responded to in 20 working days. The complainant then has the right of appeal to the chief executive (20 days). If the matter is still not resolved, the individual can thereafter take the matter up with the Local Government Ombudsman to ensure the Council has acted fairly and in accordance with its agreed procedures. See:.

<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/data/your-council/data/complain.cfm>

In addition, officers must respond to enquiries made by councillors or MPs within 10 working days. These are strictly monitored.

A.9 Equalities

Equalities issues are taken seriously in an area with a high proportion of minority ethnic group residents and the department has a number of initiatives to foster good race relations. All sports clubs that make sports pitch bookings are required to sign and adhere to the Borough's Anti-Racism in Sport Charter. The department encourages events that celebrate ethnic diversity and racial harmony.

A.10 Park bye-laws

The current byelaws need to be reviewed. The Parks and Open Spaces Service propose to draw up and adopt new ones in due course but this is not a high priority for the department at present.

A.11 Use of pesticides

The Council's Parks and Open Spaces Service is moving away from chemicals wherever possible in favour of cultural and manual methods.

- In high profile sites, such as Green Flag sites no herbicides or pesticides are used on general hard surfaces or on planted areas, except for persistent weeds such as Japanese Knotweed are chemically treated with a contact herbicide (Glyphosate) at least twice in a season.
- In King Edward Memorial Park the tennis courts are still treated with moss killer for safety reasons. The bowling green is treated with herbicide, moss killer and fungicide. Applications are only made in response to problems, and further reductions in usage are a priority for the park where alternative practical controls are available.
- Brown tail moth infestations are pruned out and the arisings disposed of. It is many years since the Borough permitted the use of organophosphate pesticides.
- Rats and other pests are monitored and outbreaks controlled only as and when necessary.
- No herbicides or pesticides are used in any way in playgrounds

In non-Green Flag sites, there is a weed-killing contract for the control of weeds in selected situations. There is no blanket application of spray. A reactive control methodology is in place; weeds are sprayed out (spot treated) with a contact herbicide (Glyphosate) only where they have germinated. This restricts applications to lightly trafficked paved areas. A maximum of three applications is made each year. In exceptional circumstances a residual herbicide may be used to provide control in known problem areas (now fewer than ten sites), though the emphasis remains on the reduction of usage of this type of herbicide.

A.13 Corporate Environment Strategy

The council seeks to efficiently undertake its duties with the minimum of environmental impact. The strategy was adopted by Cabinet on 6th June 2007.

<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk:80/data/environment/data/strategy/index.cfm>

This deals with the Borough's direct environmental impacts as a council. It identifies the initiatives which need to be undertaken in order to minimise our impact on the environment and what outcomes we can expect to achieve as a result. It covers the following key issues:

- Transport
- Energy management
- Water management
- Waste management
- Procurement

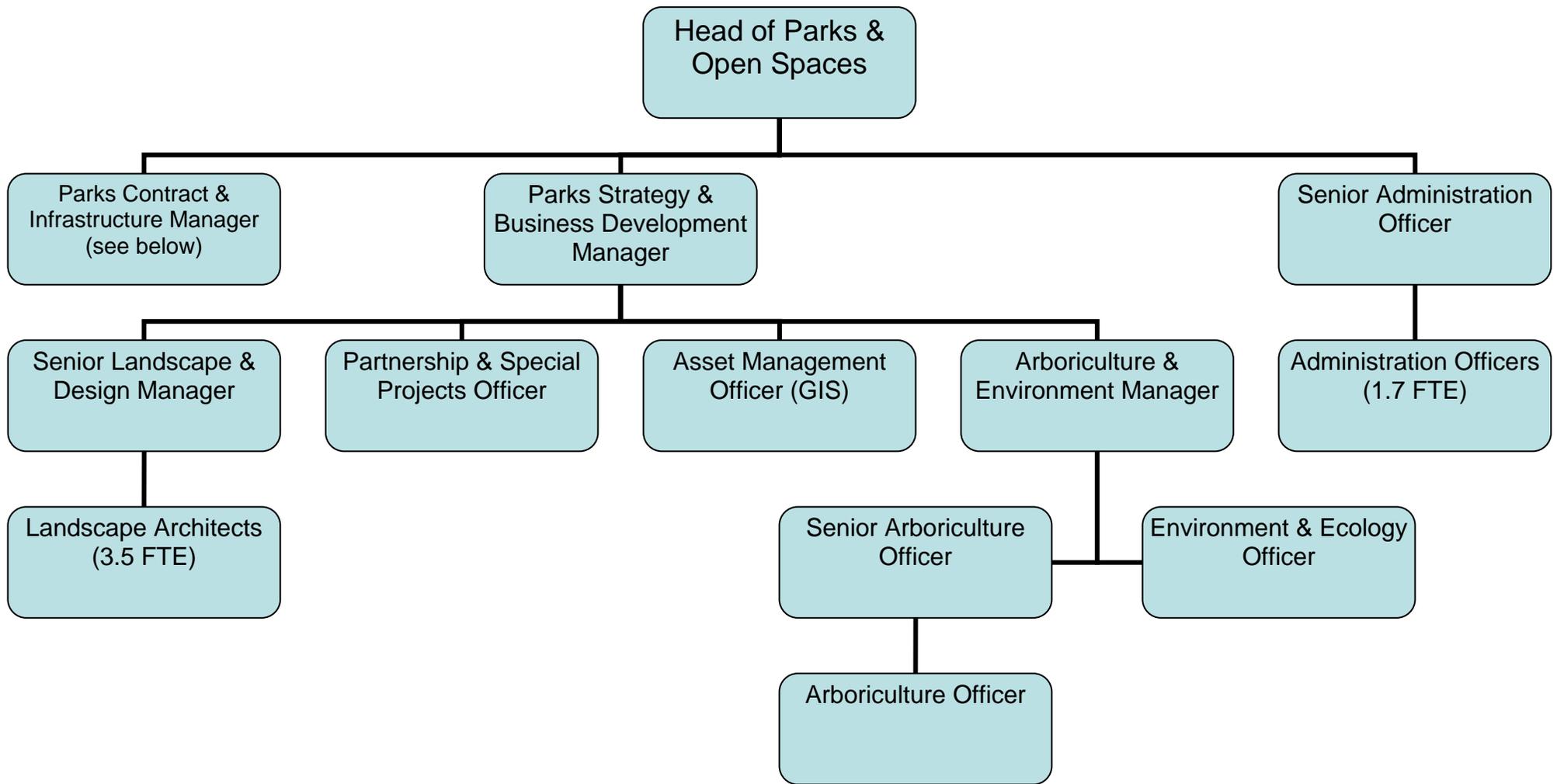
The Parks and Open Spaces Service will abide by this strategy, its priorities and action plan once adopted. We expect to need to make many changes in both thinking and practice, both ourselves and with our contractors and third sector partners.

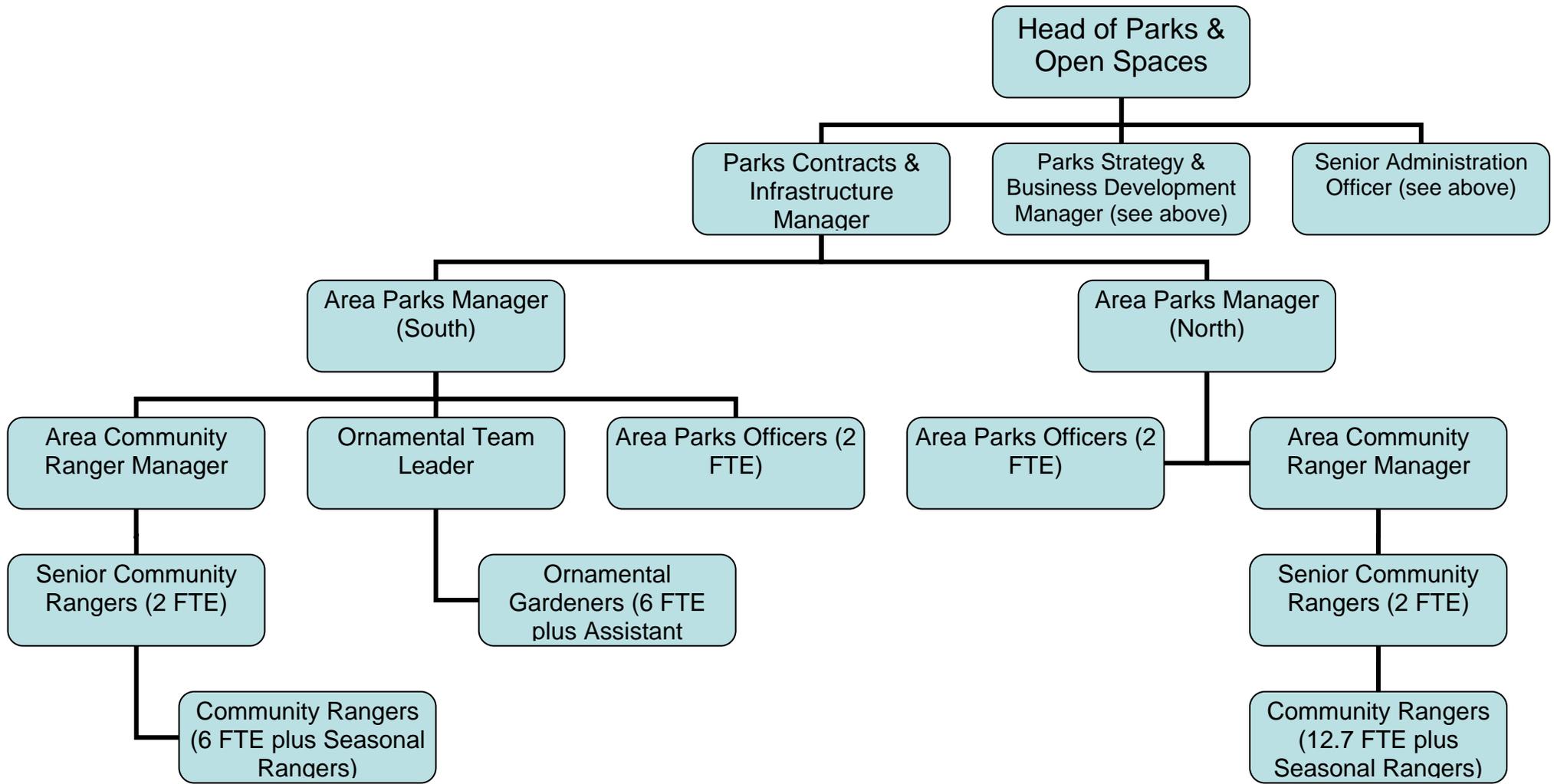
The Borough has adopted guidelines for sustainable purchasing which are available to staff on <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk:80/data/environment/data/strategy/index.cfm>

APPENDIX B

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURES

B1: TOWER HAMLETS PARKS AND OPEN SPACES SERVICE

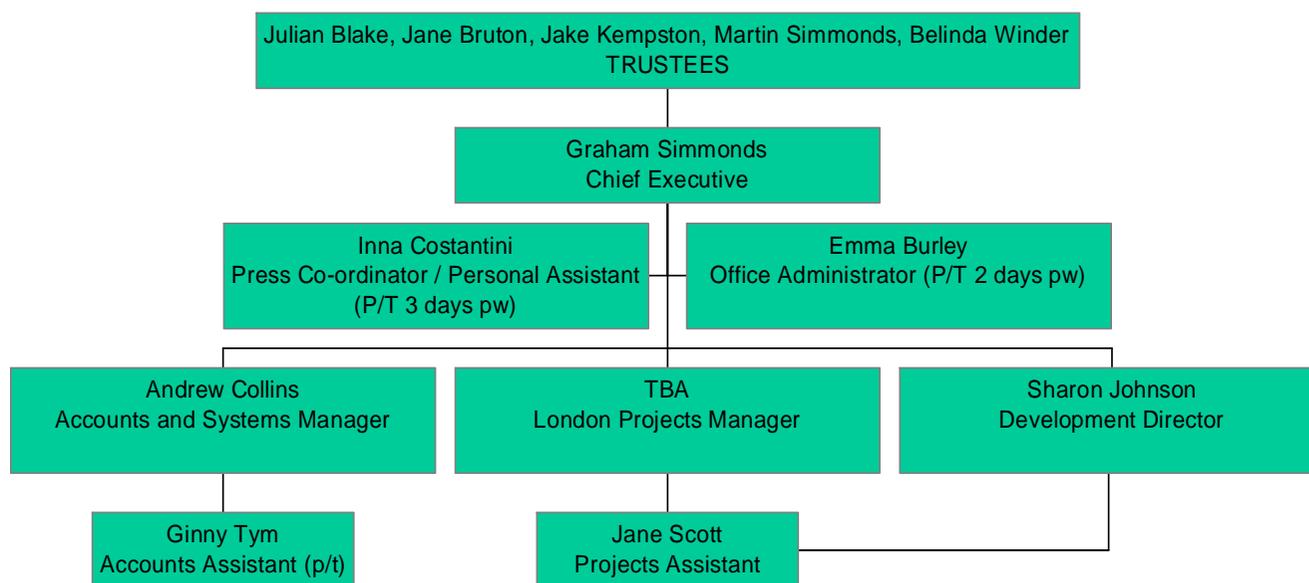




B2: TREES FOR CITIES ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Trees for Cities Organisation Chart

(Immediate + Emma Hill maternity leave structure)



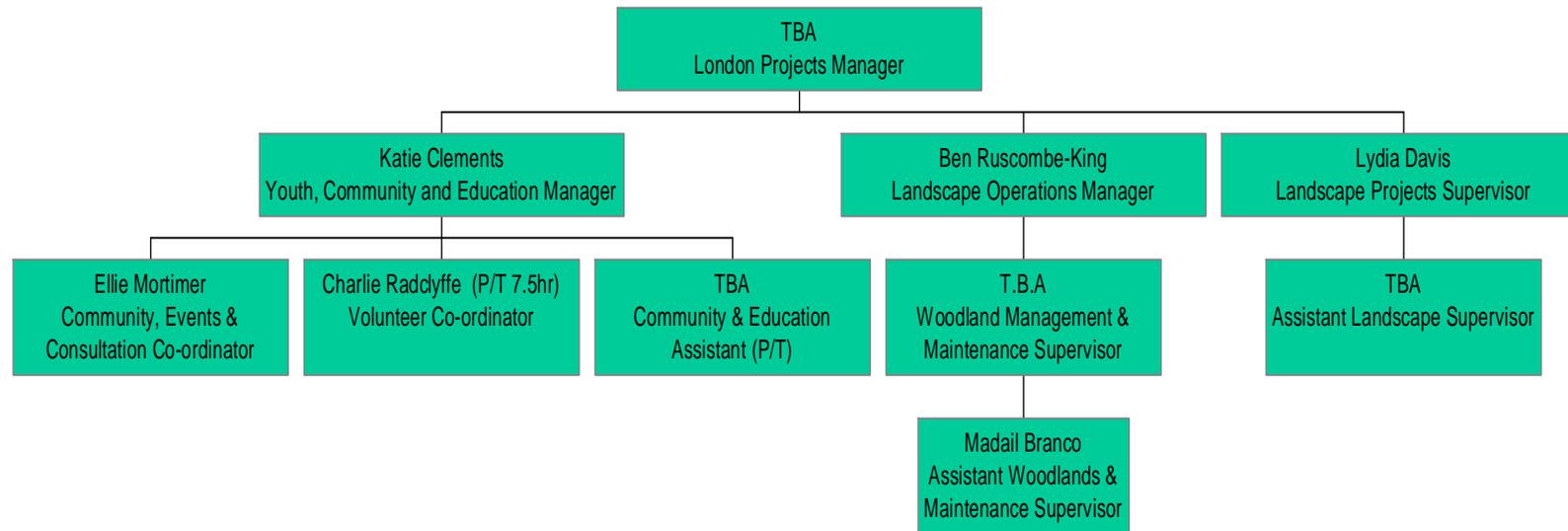
Notes:

Management Team – Chief Executive (Graham) / Accounts & Systems Manager (Andrew) / London Projects Manager / Development Director (Sharon): Meets Fortnightly

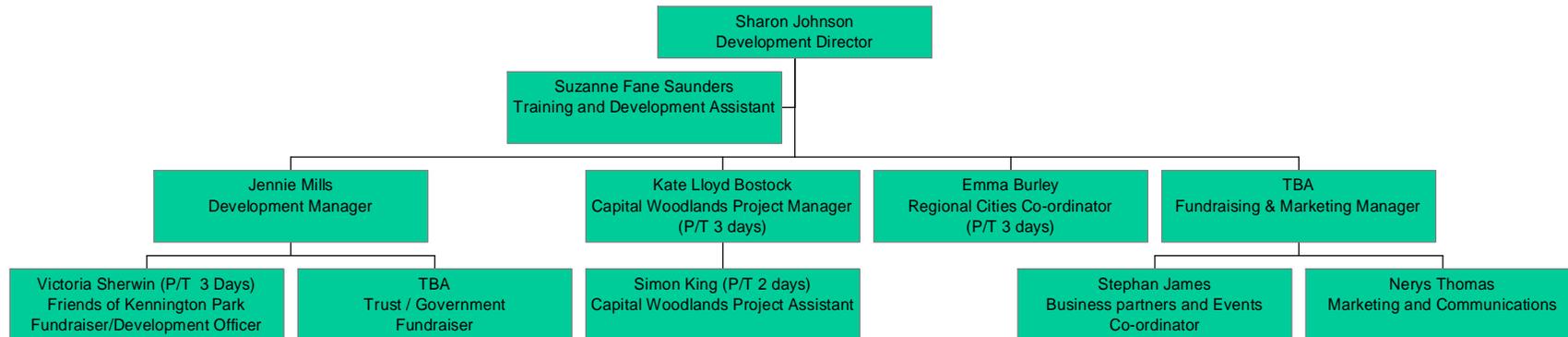
Leadership Team (Senior + Middle Management) - Management Team above + Landscape Manager (Ben) / Youth, Community & Education Manager (Katie)/ Development Manager (Jennie) / Fundraising & Marketing Manager / Capital Woodlands Manager (Kate): Meets every 6 weeks

Board - Trustees + Senior Management Team : Meets quarterly

Projects Team



Development Team



APPENDIX C **OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS**

C.1: RISK ASSESSMENTS

Risk assessments are completed for all key operations, events and activities and in relation to relevant site issues and features.

Examples of completed Risk Assessments for Council and TFC operations follow. Further information on Risk Assessments is available on request from the Parks & Open Spaces Service.

TOWER HAMLETS PARKS: RISK ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION		KING EDWARD MEMORIAL PARK					DATE		DECEMBER 2005								
SITE ELEMENT OR ACTIVITY		AMENITY GRASS AREAS															
HAZARDS IDENTIFIED	PERSONS AT RISK						LOSS/SEVERITY				LIKELIHOOD			RISK LEVEL	RISK CONTROL		
	E	YP	CON	PUB	MS	Other	High	MED	LOW	High	MED	LOW					
Note: Any serious and IMMINENT DANGER will need procedures, etc.							Fatal Injury 4	Major Injury 3	Serious Injury 2	Minor Injury 1	Certain 5	Prob 4	Poss 3	Occ'l 2	Remote 1		
Glass and other sharps on surface	X	X	X	X	X		X						X			6	Daily litter pick and inspection Sharps procedure
Presence of dog faeces	X	X	X	X	X			X					X			5	Twice weekly dog faeces removal Dog Warden enforcement
Uncontrolled dogs attacking users	X	X	X	X	X				X					X		3	Dog Warden & Park Keeper enforcement
Uneven surface or potholes	X	X	X	X	X				X					X		3	Park Keeper and TFC inspections
Presence of stones and other debris thrown by machinery	X	X	X	X	X			X						X		4	TFC pre-mowing inspections

Full Assessment required if '**Severity**' multiplied by '**likelihood**' exceeds 3
Key - Employee, Young Person, CONTRACTOR, PUBLIC, VISITORS, Other
 (Specify)

High 20 - 8, Medium 6 - 4, Low 3 and below

Priority order is determined by the value of severity X likelihood, higher numbers give higher priority. For equal values the more severe outcomes are given priority, then the people at risk.

TREES FOR CITIES: SAMPLE RISK ASSESSMENT

Date: 23/8/06	Assessed by: Ben Ruscombe-King	Signature:	Location: King Edward Memorial Park	Number: 1	
Machine: John Deere GX355 Ride on mower		Review date: 23/8/07			
Site supervisor: Ben Ruscombe-King		Mobile no: 07952 724 716			
Designated First Aider (if different from above): As Above		Mobile no:			
Nearest hospital: Royal London		Hospital tel no:			
Location of nearest hospital Insert map or description of how to reach the hospital from the site.					
No	Hazard	Level of risk prior to control	Group at risk	Control measures to be implemented	Level of risk following control
1	Injury from flying debris	10	Operator, public, property.	Appropriate P.P.E. to be worn when operating machine(steel toe cap boots), ensure all guards are in place and well maintained, exclude bystanders from area of operation, erect warning signs, do not operate within 1metre of vulnerable property, check area for debris prior to operation.	3
2	Hearing loss due to long term exposure to high noise levels	18	Operator	Where ear protectors	1
3	Collision with objects or people	9	Operator public, property.	Use by trained and competent operators only. Drive with due care and attention and when fit to drive. Walk site to identify hazards. Exclude bystanders. Erect warning signs. Use only in good light conditions.	3

4	Burns, lacerations, amputations, other injuries from moving parts.	20	Operator, public	Use by trained and competent operators only. Do not dismount machine without turning off engine and removing keys. Ensure machine is turned off and where appropriate has cooled down before any maintenance is carried out. Ensure all guards are in place and secure. Ensure mower deck is lowered when machine is stationary. Use gloves when handling blades. Ensure servicing is carried out as manufacturers recommended intervals.	3
5	Rolling tractor	9	Operator	Assess slopes before operating machine on them. Never operate on slope of more than 11 degrees. Take extra care on slopes in wet weather or on slippery surfaces. Ensure tyres are kept at manufacturers recommended pressures. Never carry passengers.	3
6	Contracting dermatitis when refuelling and carrying out maintenance.	8		Where latex gloves, wash hands after operation	2

Definitions:

- Hazard can be defined as the potential to cause harm to people, plant, reputation, product or the environment;
- Risk can be defined as the severity, likelihood and extent of the harm

Risk

The table overleaf should be used to calculate the level of risk. The operation should only continue once the level of risk has been brought out of the shaded area. It should be noted that the risk level estimated in the following assessment is generic and is likely to change from site to site. It is the responsibility of the operator to conduct a site-specific risk assessment and to implement appropriate control measures. If in doubt, do not undertake the proposed operation.

Risk table						
	Trivial	Minor	Single major accident	Multiple major accidents	Death	Deaths
Improbable	1	2	3	8	10	12
Possible	2	4	8	10	12	14
Occasional	3	6	9	12	15	18
Frequent	4	8	12	16	20	24
Regular	5	10	15	20	25	30
Common	6	12	18	24	30	36
Safe Working Method Statement						
<i>Insert details of any safe working methods here</i>						
<p>Machinery to be operated by trained operatives only, operators manual to be read by all operatives, appropriate P.P.E. to be worn when operating machine. Machine to be serviced at recommended intervals. Correct pre-start checks to be carried out before each operation. Machine cleaned and checked after operation. Machine to be stored safely and securely.</p>						

TREES FOR CITIES: RISK ASSESSMENT KING EDWARD MEMORIAL PARK

Date: 27/10/06	Assessed by: Ben Ruscombe-King	Signature:	Location: King Edward Memorial Park	Number:
Task:		Review date: 27/10/07		
Site supervisor: Ben Ruscombe-King		Mobile no: 07952 724 716		
Designated First Aider (if different from above): Ben Ruscombe-King Madail Branco		Mobile no: 07952 724 716		
Nearest hospital: The Royal London Hospital Whitechapel Road Whitechapel London E1 1BB (see map at end of risk assessment)		Hospital tel no: 020 7377 7000		

Location of nearest Hospital:



With your back to the river, turn left on the Highway. Take the third right onto Cannon Street Road. Cross over Commercial Road onto New Road. Continue up New Road and, at junction with Whitechapel Road, turn right and the Royal London Hospital can be found on the right.

	Hazard	Level of risk prior to control	Group at risk	Control measures to be implemented on site	Level of risk following control
1	Death due to fire	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Trainees • Visitors 	All buildings fitted with appropriate extinguisher. Smoking prohibited in all buildings. All staff and trainees made aware of fire drill.	3
2	Injury due to use of dangerous electrical equipment.	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Trainees • Volunteers 	All electrical equipment to be tested annually faulty or unfit equipment to be replaced.	3
3	Injury due to movement of heavy loads (stock, materials, etc)	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Trainees • Volunteers 	All staff, trainees and volunteers to be given instruction on safe manual handling techniques complying with HSE guidance and to lift heavy loads in accordance with that instruction; lifting equipment, barrows, sack barrows etc to be used where practicable and appropriate.	2
4	Injury due to use of machinery	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Trainees • Public 	Operation by trained personnel only; Bystanders excluded from work area. Appropriate PPE to be worn at all times see risk assessment for individual pieces of machinery	3
5	Injury due to machinery, tools and equipment when not in use	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Trainees • Volunteers • Public 	All machinery, tools and equipment to be stored in locked containers whilst not in use.	1
6	Damage to feet from tools heavy weights	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Trainees 	Steel toe-capped boots to be provided and worn at all times on site.	3
7	Accident involving vehicles on site	14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Trainees • Volunteers • Public 	Vehicles to drive at a maximum speed of 5mph and use hazard lights and horn (if necessary). All reversing and tipping vehicles to be guided by a staff or trainee wearing high visibility jacket external to the vehicle at all times whilst on site.	4
8	Injury due to use of spades, shovels, etc.	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Trainees • Volunteers 	All staff, trainees and volunteers to be instructed in correct use of tools; All staff and trainees to wear suitable clothing, rigger gloves and steel toe-capped boots. All volunteers to be advised to wear appropriate PPE and not to participate where risk of injury is high. PPE to be provided where this is reasonably practicable.	4

King Edward Memorial Park Management Plan January 2008

9	Injury due to contact with plant material	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Trainees • Volunteers 	All staff, trainees and volunteers to be advised of dangers of sharp/thorny stock, etc; All staff, trainees and volunteers to wear suitable clothing and rigger gloves;	4
10	Disease due to contact with the soil	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Trainees • Volunteers 	All staff, trainees and volunteers to wear rigger gloves; Staff to clear work area of dog faeces prior to work commencement using bags provided and dispose of in designated dog bins; All staff, trainees and volunteers to be advised of diseases associated with contact with the soil and symptoms. All staff and trainees working at KEMP to have up to date tetanus jabs Hand washing facilities and/or antiseptic hand wipes to be made available when work completed;	3
11	Injury caused by working in a public place	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public 	Hazard signage to be installed at all site access/egress points to work area. Exclusion zone to be established if appropriate.	3
12	Injury due to excavation of underground services	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff • Trainees • Volunteers 	Statutory services search to be undertaken prior to work starting. All work areas to be CAT scanned for electrical cabling and BT lines	3

Definitions:

Hazard can be defined as the potential to cause harm to people, plant, reputation, product or the environment;

Risk can be defined as the severity, likelihood and extent of the harm

Risk

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Occasional	3	6	9	12	15	18
Frequent	4	8	12	16	20	24
Regular	5	10	15	20	25	30
Common	6	12	18	24	30	36

Safe Working Method Statement

Insert details of any safe working methods here

All staff, trainees and volunteers to undergo health and safety induction before any work is undertaken.

All work to be supervised by Trees for Cities supervisors.

All staff, trainees and volunteers to wear steel toe capped boots when on site. Anybody not wearing suitable clothing will not be allowed to participate in the landscaping activities. Work to cease in high winds or very cold weather.

All Trees for Cities staff with responsibility for trainees will be first aid trained. First Aid provision to include First Aid kit. Supervisor to advise of health and safety considerations, emergency procedures and tool use before undertaking each new activity.

C.2: OPERATION OF FIDO MACHINE

The **FIDO** (**F**aeces **I**ntake and **D**isposal **O**peration) machine is manufactured on a Kawasaki Mule 550, street legal utility vehicle, which can be fitted with a weather break cab and sides. With low-pressure ground tyres, it can mount kerbs with ease without damaging wheel rims or pavements, and is ideal for travelling across grassed areas and streets collecting dog faeces or litter, without damaging the grass. Being street legal not only enables easy transportation between parks, it also allows removal of dog faeces or litter from paths, grass verges and streets on the way.



The collection unit contains its own engine, which drives a powerful vacuum unit capable of collecting 120 litres of all types of dog faeces. Once collected into a stainless steel container, it is mixed with disinfectant and water, which turns into slurry, leaving it pourable for disposal. A disinfectant spray pump is also fitted, not only to ease removal of stubborn faeces, but also to wash and disinfect the offending areas helping to protect children from toxocara canis.

The above system is used on a weekly basis within all of the Boroughs sites to ensure pathways and grassed areas are kept clear of dog faeces, particular attention is paid to sports surfaces prior to the commencement of matches.

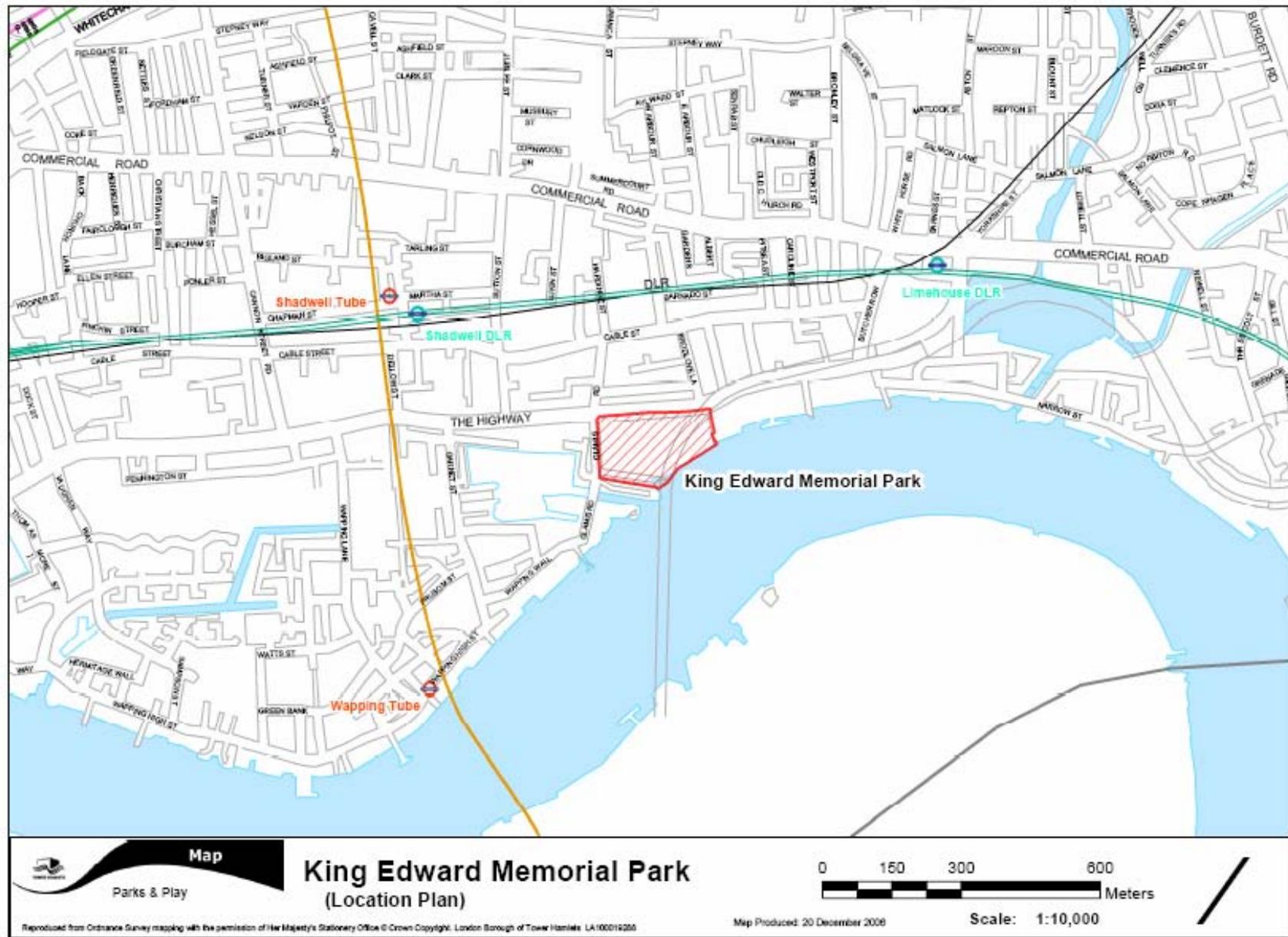
APPENDIX D
MAPS & PLANS

D1: Location of King Edward Memorial Park

D2: Aerial Photograph

D3: Park Plan

D1: Location of King Edward Memorial Park



D2: Aerial Photograph



D3: Park Plan

