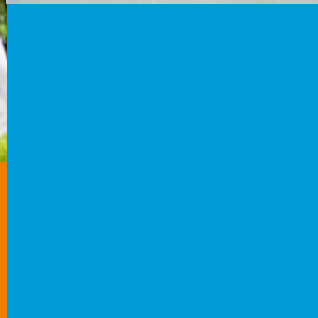
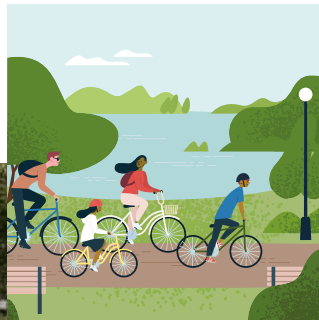




# HARINGEY'S PARKS AND GREENSPACES STRATEGY





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# 1. Foreword



Public parks were developed to improve the health of communities at a time when the industrial revolution led to a growth in urbanisation and a decline in air quality. This vision of our predecessors enabled communities living in cramped and badly

ventilated housing to take outdoor exercise in green open spaces.

The council is the custodian of some wonderful parks across the borough. We have a civic duty to put plans in place to ensure that our residents get the most out of them and that they play their rightful role in the life of the borough. People need parks.

We found out during the pandemic exactly how much our residents needed our parks. People locked down in their homes took daily exercise in local parks, walked dogs, bought bicycles, relaxed and became more active. Local parks, big and small, became far busier and, for many of our residents, they provided a much-needed respite from a world where things were extremely difficult. Covid disrupted lives, and took lives. Very few of us were left unscathed. The safety valve offered by our green spaces helped a lot of people cope with anxiety and grief. Good mental health was as recognised to be as important as good physical health.

Life is unlikely to return to how it was before the pandemic and many people in our community are living healthier and simpler lives now, staying closer to home, volunteering more, valuing their communities, neighbours, family and friends. There is a renewed interest in our green spaces and what they can offer. However, greater use of parks





has led to more informal social gatherings, damage from higher footfall and increased litter and waste, which the council needs to manage.

The council has re-evaluated its approach to parks and used the new evidence we have gathered from residents to develop a draft strategy for the next 15 years. Our parks give us a chance to show our commitment to tackle climate change, promote biodiversity and develop a greener approach to civic life and council services. Our parks can help us manage climate change impact such as warmer temperatures, reduced air quality, increased flooding and carbon capture.

We are also making a commitment to tackle inequality through this strategy. Haringey's parks and greenspaces should be key shared spaces for all our communities. This strategy is intended to explore and dismantle the barriers that prevent some of our residents from using our parks and feeling included and welcome. Some sections of the community do not feel comfortable or even safe in

parks and green spaces. We have taken soundings from a wide range of residents on what needs to change before they see their local park as a space they feel they can use.

We are proud to offer a strategy for discussion which encourages wider sharing of this fantastic public asset, handed down to us from people who understood the importance of parks to mental and physical health and to their contribution towards a sense of who we are as a community.

Through this strategy and the plans and documents that explain and support it, we will set out our vision and priorities for Haringey's parks and greenspaces for the next 15 years between 2023-2038. Please make your views known to us.

**Councillor Julie Davies**  
**Cabinet Member for Communities and Civic Life**





## 2. Introduction

From around the 1840s onwards, designated greenspaces were considered to be the answer to the rapid expansion of towns and cities. Prior to the mid-19th century, public parks did not exist as we know them today. However, there were public walks, pleasure grounds, and public access to Royal Parks.

Concerns grew about urban overcrowding and the condition of the poor as the industrial revolution took hold – from this, the public parks movement was born. Two public parks in Haringey at Alexandra Palace (1863) and Finsbury Park (1869) were amongst the earliest to be created. The statutory power to create parks was originally contained in the Public Health Act of 1875 and since then there has been further legislation that has built upon and extended the original Act.

In June 2018, a coalition of 12 national organisations (38 Degrees, The Parks Agency, Fields In Trust, Llais y Goedwig, Unison, The Gardens Trust, The Parks Alliance, Greenspace Scotland, Friends of the Earth, Keep Britain Tidy, The Conservation Volunteers, and the National Federation of Parks and Greenspaces) launched The Charter for Parks (June 2018), collectively calling for the halt and reverse of the decline of parks and local public greenspaces – particularly acute through the 1980s and 1990s, as well as post-austerity - across the UK. They set out their views in a charter, the six points of which were:

- Celebrate the central role well-run parks play in our neighbourhoods for all sections of our communities

- Recognise the right of every citizen to have access within walking distance to a good quality public green space
- Endorse a legal duty for all public green space to be managed to a good standard
- Embed effective protection from inappropriate development or use, or loss of any part of our parks
- Ensure adequate long-term resources for on-going maintenance, management and improvements
- Encourage and enable community involvement and empowerment of local people and park users

This Strategy sets out Haringey Council's intentions for the future of its parks and greenspaces, which resonate strongly with much of the above. It's important, however, to have a clear understanding over what is meant by 'greenspace.' For the purpose of this Strategy, the following definition is drawn from the Public Health England document, 'Improving access to greenspace: a new review for 2020':

Greenspace is 'Any area of vegetated land, urban or rural. This includes both public and private spaces such as parks, gardens, playing fields, children's play areas, woods and other natural areas, grassed areas, cemeteries and allotments, green corridors, disused railway lines, rivers and canals, derelict, vacant and contaminated land which has the potential to be transformed.'



### 3. Scope of Strategy

There are 151 parks and greenspaces in Haringey, 148 of which are managed by Haringey Council. There are also 59 sites of importance for nature conservation, 27 Council-owned allotment sites, 5 local nature reserves and two cemeteries.

There are approximately 11,500 street trees, 9,000 in parks and greenspaces and 8,000 in housing sites. It is estimated there are at least another 5-6,000 in woodlands, schools and nature conservation sites that are not currently recorded.

The oldest tree on public land in Haringey is probably the veteran oak tree in Bruce Castle Park, which is estimated to be around 500 years old.

There are 37 play areas and 10 outdoor gyms, 56 buildings in parks including 15 cafes as well as toilets and bases for Parks Service staff, who operate 19 Parks Service vehicles. There are also 83 hard sports facilities, 4 skateboard facilities, 22 grass sports pitches, 804 rubbish bins, 1,033 benches, 1,261 bollards, posts and barriers, 754 gates, 39 memorials, 949 signs, 3 rivers, 2 lakes, 5 wildlife ponds and 2 streams.

Parks are key community spaces that anyone in Haringey can enjoy and are very popular with residents. In the 2021-22 Residents Survey (4), 83% reported that they were either satisfied or very satisfied with parks and greenspaces.

The Council has been discussing with partners and stakeholders about the future of its parks and greenspaces.

Over the space of three years there has been a series of meetings with Council Members, with other Council services, with friends of parks, with the Haringey Climate Forum, primary and secondary school heads, faith communities, disabled people, older people, people from BAME communities, people from the LGBTQI community and focus groups with people with disabilities, older people, secondary school pupils and LGBTQI people. Their input and feedback are drawn upon in setting out this draft Strategy.

These discussions have been about a range of topics including future priorities, making parks safer and more welcoming and about funding.

Now, through this draft Strategy, the conversations about the future of parks are being opened out to everyone in Haringey. The Council is seeking input and feedback on a number of questions including:

- Do you agree with the overall Vision for the future of parks and greenspaces?
- Is there something important that has not been sufficiently considered in the Parks and Greenspaces Strategy and its supporting documents?
- How can parks be made safer and help users to feel safer?
- What actions could be taken to help reduce tensions between different user groups?
- Can you be a partner and work with Haringey Council in the future to help it overcome key issues and challenges and deliver against its actions and targets?

The Council is seeking to take a comprehensive approach towards the new Strategy. It has drafted a range of new plans, policies and standards that support and provide critical detail and context for the main Strategy. These documents are summarised later.

The recommendations of the 2017/18 Scrutiny Review of Parks have been drawn upon, as well as two externally commissioned studies that covered:

- How to improve health outcomes from the design and programming of parks
- Accessibility audits of Finsbury Park, Lordship Recreation Ground and Queens Wood

As the final Strategy is being consulted on, we will develop a further supporting plan about the resourcing of the Strategy and will be developing an additional plan for the development of the workforce to support the implementation of the Strategy.

## 4. Vision and Strategic Aims for Haringey's Parks and Greenspaces Strategy

### Vision

***That Haringey's parks and greenspaces become fully inclusive shared spaces that deliver our key aims of inclusion and wellbeing, climate change and sustainability and a quality service.***

### Key Aims

#### Inclusion and wellbeing

Providing inclusive parks and greenspaces that all communities in Haringey can benefit from so that usage and enjoyment of our parks and greenspaces reflects the communities living in Haringey and contributes to improved wellbeing.

#### Climate Change and Sustainability

Supporting the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency by reducing the carbon footprint of parks and greenspaces, protecting and promoting biodiversity, and helping educate everyone in Haringey about contributing towards saving the planet.

#### A Quality Service

Securing investment, improving standards, partnerships, communications, and outcomes.

The Council proposes to use the following measures to help track progress towards achieving these three key aims.

#### For the Inclusion and wellbeing Aim

- The profile of park users compared to that of the population of the borough
- The overall number of visitors to a representative sample of parks
- The number of community groups active in parks and greenspaces

#### For the Climate Change and Sustainability Aim

- Increase tree planting across the borough and develop strategies to increase canopy cover across public and private land in the borough.
- To establish new local nature reserves and sites of importance for nature conservation and create new wildlife habitat every year in parks and greenspaces
- Decarbonise the core operational buildings and all transport related activities for service delivery

#### For the Quality Service Aim

- The number of parks and greenspaces with a Green Flag accreditation
- The proportion of park users who are very satisfied or satisfied with Haringey parks
- Percentage of park assets that are graded good or excellent
- The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) parks staff per hectare of managed greenspace





## 5. Main Issues and Challenges to be addressed in the delivery of the Key Aims of the Strategy

The Council has talked with a range of partners and stakeholders about what its Aims for the Strategy should be and what needs to be done, as well as what needs to change, to achieve the Aims.

Relevant research and the experience of other organisations involved with parks and greenspaces has also been reviewed.

These activities have helped to identify a number of key issues and challenges that, if not addressed, may prevent the Strategy from achieving its Aims.

### **Key issues and challenges for parks becoming more inclusive places that promote wellbeing**

Haringey's parks are wonderful assets for its communities and extensively used by the majority of residents.

The profile of users is not known, however, or the extent to which the current parks offer meets the needs of different users such as those with disabilities, older people, younger people, women and girls, LGBTQI people and people from BAME communities.

Conversations held in developing the Strategy indicate that parks need to be doing more to better address the needs of these groups.

This is particularly important because people from these groups tend to more frequently experience the adverse health conditions that are described later under the section on Benefits of using parks and greenspaces.

Safety including, feeling safe, can have a significant influence for many different users on whether or not people use parks. Young people have raised safety issues including about the presence of other hostile young people, about knives being carried and being concerned that bikes or phones might be stolen from them.

Parks can also be contested spaces where the presence and behaviour of different groups of users can be off-putting for other groups.

The initial key challenge is to engage more with groups to better understand their needs and thereafter to identify the resources and support needed to improve provision.

These and other identified key issues and challenges for progressing the Inclusion and Wellbeing Aim are summarised below:

- Long-established focus by the Council on the physical condition of parks and greenspaces rather than on users and outcomes
- The parks profession as a whole has limited expertise about inclusion and wellbeing issues
- A need to engage with a broader and more diverse group of stakeholders and support them to influence the Haringey parks 'offer' including by advocacy and engagement, through new or reconfigured provision of facilities, management, activities and marketing
- A lack of resources to address and overcome barriers, a lack of partnerships with relevant organisations and physical barriers can also be obstacles that get in the way of communities enjoying parks and greenspaces in the borough
- There is limited shared knowledge and experience as to what is meant by an inclusive park so training and support may be required for staff and stakeholders to develop their understanding of what it means to provide inclusive parks
- Officer capacity is needed to take this agenda forward and make inclusion and wellbeing become an important part of everyone's role
- Parks are not felt to be welcoming for some communities
- The current workforce needs to become more representative of the Haringey community, otherwise it may undermine the achievement of the Inclusion and Wellbeing Aim
- Obtaining relevant baseline data about the profile of park users and then being able

to monitor progress over time to see how this changes

- Establishing and maintaining mutually beneficial and meaningful relationships with groups

### **Key issues and challenges to mitigate climate change and promote sustainability through parks, greenspaces and biodiversity**

Parks are thought of as 'green' spaces and they are major contributors in supporting nature and biodiversity.

One important area to address is to obtain more and better information about Haringey's natural areas and the habitats and species that exist in them so that there is a better level of insight and understanding.

There is also the need to try and better protect those natural spaces from both inappropriate usage and overuse.

But the management, maintenance and usage of parks also adds to the borough's carbon footprint at a time when it is very clear that this footprint must be reduced or eliminated to save the planet for future generations.

To meet this Aim, the Council needs to progress a series of actions (for areas such as park buildings, vehicles and plant and machinery) that will lower carbon emissions. In addition, the council will seek to diversify its maintenance regimes and plant types to capture more carbon.

Feedback from engagement meetings has strongly communicated an expectation that the Council acts in a more strategic and joined-up way to achieve gains for nature and biodiversity.

This and other key issues and challenges to progress the climate change and sustainability aim are set out below.

- Improved inter-service coordination / joint working to achieve a more strategic and joined up approach
- Biodiversity has not been a historic priority for government and has been poorly resourced so there is a need to seek to generate enhanced resourcing of carbon reduction / biodiversity within parks and greenspaces
- A lack of reliable baseline data for SINC's, species and habitats and having the resource capability

to continue to undertake and/or facilitate the updating and review of data at regular intervals

- Obtaining the active support of the wider Parks and Leisure Service workforce
- Resourcing carbon reduction from the use of park buildings, vehicles, plant and machinery and for the overall target of a net carbon neutral service
- The need to better protect natural spaces from inappropriate use through clearer policy with enhanced enforcement to support policy
- Obtaining the support and buy-in of other key stakeholders, including other Council services, Friends of parks and the wider community to help in delivering the key actions
- Improving access to nature for BAME communities to address unequal access.
- Residents sometimes do not know what the Council is doing and why it is doing it so there is a need to better inform and educate residents about what the Council does and why, in order to better manage resources
- Developing alternative strategies to remove the need to use herbicide in parks and greenspaces to protect the environment





**Key issues and challenges to secure investment, improve standards, partnerships, communications, and outcomes by improving service quality**

Since 2011, when public sector austerity started to occur, parks have been severely affected by cutbacks in expenditure.

As a non-statutory service, the Parks Service was one of the service areas most immediately impacted. It had to achieve savings to a scale and at a speed that was damaging for parks and for the relationship between the Parks Service and its stakeholders.

Subsequently, there has been some excellent work done to mitigate and reverse the previous cuts. However, the service continues to be challenged today by the available levels of both capital and revenue funding and from the impact this resource availability has had on the way the Council works with the community. Those challenges are:

- Increased usage of parks requiring additional ongoing capital investment to maintain park fabric and assets in good condition
- Seeking to ensure that the range and quality of facilities within parks supports usage by all sections of the community
- Addressing issues of skill shortages and core competencies within the operational workforce so that they are a significant contributing factor in achieving the future Aims
- Greater use of headline KPI's to help the service to focus on key priorities in its use of resources.
- The Council's resources will always be limited so seeking to make more use of /developing corporate volunteering and similar schemes offering social and practical benefit can add value to Council funding
- There is limited usage made of external intelligence and best practice, mainly because of the limited current resource availability which tends to have to prioritise immediate operational issues.
- Feedback indicates that a much greater commitment to communication and informing residents would help to promote better public involvement and understanding as well as to support behaviour change/behaviour modification
- There is relatively little current project management capacity to help drive key operational change (such as for waste and litter)
- There has been limited frontline gardener resources for over a decade and this limited resource directly impacts on the ability of the service to maintain parks to a decent/good standard.
- There has been consistent feedback from users and stakeholders about the need to have enforcement capacity to assist in encouraging appropriate and sociable behaviour in parks.





## 6. Policy Context

In 2018, the Government published its 25-year environment plan whose goals were 'cleaner air and water; plants and animals which are thriving; and a cleaner, greener country for us all'. The aspiration was 'using our land more sustainably and creating new habitats for wildlife, including by planting more trees, we can arrest the decline in native species and improve our biodiversity.'

The Environment Act 2021 has sought to advance these goals by setting targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water and waste, as well as including an important new binding target to reverse the decline in species abundance by the end of 2030.

The Parks and Greenspaces Strategy and its supporting documents must appropriately align with this new legislative framework; However, the Strategy must also take account of the wider issues for which the Council is responsible within Haringey. In that respect, the most important piece of current legislation is probably the Local Government Act 1999 that provides local authorities with the powers to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their communities.

### Building a fairer, greener borough – Haringey Labour Manifesto 2022-26

Following the local elections in May 2022 the Council's ambition and priorities are based on putting residents at the heart of everything the Council does. For the remainder of 2022 and into 2023, the Council will work with residents to develop the Haringey Local Deal. The Haringey Local Deal will seek to empower communities to make change, putting local people at the forefront of decision-making. The Parks and Greenspaces strategy will support the delivery of the Haringey Local Deal and in turn the manifesto commitments.

**Below we have included extracts from the Manifesto that this strategy will help to either directly deliver or support**

### Inclusion and Wellbeing

Directly deliver:

- Community gardening and tree planting on estates and trees
- Co-produce designs for pocket parks, community gardens and street side verges
- Women at the heart of designing parks
- Increase access to sports and exercise classes for disabled people
- Keep fit Haringey campaign for over 50's

Support:

- Participatory budgeting to help the council set its spending priorities
- Contribute to the development of the Young Voices Programme
- Assist in developing a community health and wellbeing network

### Climate Change and Sustainability

Directly deliver:

- Decarbonise all parks vehicles by 2027
- Plant street trees until each ward reaches 30% canopy cover
- Plant 10,000 new trees by 2030
- Invest in sustainable drainage systems to reduce flooding
- Work to create three brand new nature reserves by 2026 and introduce Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Increase recycling in parks to 50% by 2030

Support:

- Reduce and eliminate the use of single use plastics.
- Install green pollution barriers on schools on main roads
- Explore green energy production in parks
- Identify sites for local food growing can take place

- 50% of council contracts to local business to keep more wealth in the borough

### Quality Parks

Directly deliver:

- Host or support more music festivals and events
- Install more LED Parks lighting to keep people safe

Support:

- Apprenticeships
- SEND opportunities
- Turkish and Kurdish theatre festival

### Equalities

The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not

The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic."

There are two further high-level strategic documents that have a major influence on our parks. These are:

### The Local Plan

<https://www.haringey.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning/planning-policy/local-plan>

The Local Plan, which is currently being updated, sets out how all land in Haringey will be used including the approach to be taken towards the provision of parks and greenspaces, sites of importance for nature conservation (SINC's), sports, play, allotments and trees as well as for housing, employment, transportation etc

### The Haringey Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 – 2024

The Haringey Health and Wellbeing Strategy seeks to "improve the health and wellbeing of people in Haringey, so that people can thrive and contribute to their communities."

It is organised around five key themes: These are:

- Creating a healthy place
- Start Well
- Live Well
- Age Well
- Violence prevention



A key challenge for the Strategy is to address the gap in healthy life expectancy between the richest and poorest areas which is 15 years for men and 17 years for women.

The Strategy recognises that air quality, communal facilities, good quality housing and greenspaces all contribute to healthy, connected communities and prevention of mental and physical long-term conditions and aligns strongly with the Parks and Greenspaces Strategy in seeking to improve access to greenspace and improve air quality.

As is highlighted in the next section on "Benefits," there are multiple benefits for health and wellbeing associated with use of greenspace.

### Other relevant policies

Each of the supporting documents for this Strategy has its own specific policy section that can be found in that document. These policies cover areas such as the provision of trees, biodiversity, watercourses and flooding, and volunteering as they all impact on parks.





## 7. Benefits of Parks and Greenspaces

This section of the Strategy is mainly drawn from the previously referenced Public Health England document 'Improving access to greenspace, A New Review for 2020'.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/904439/Improving\\_access\\_to\\_greenspace\\_2020\\_review.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904439/Improving_access_to_greenspace_2020_review.pdf)

This report contains a range of evidence of the benefits associated with use of greenspace including:

Improved physical health including better heart health, lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels, a lower incidence of diabetes, a higher chance of maintaining a healthy weight, lower obesity levels and a healthier immune system.

Being more physically active helps lower the risk of type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cognitive impairment and some cancers. There is strong evidence that regular physical activity supports both individual and community outcomes such as increasing educational attainment, improving self-esteem and reducing social isolation. Physical inactivity is a top 10 cause of the disease burden in England (117). It is responsible for one in 6 UK deaths and is estimated to cost the UK £7.4 billion annually (including £0.9 billion to the NHS alone) (118). [www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-applying-all-our-health/physical-activity-applying-all-our-health](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/physical-activity-applying-all-our-health/physical-activity-applying-all-our-health). 2019

Mental health benefits that include emotional wellbeing, reduced stress and improved resilience for children and young people as well as reduced rates of hyperactivity and inattention.

In adults, higher life satisfaction and reduced mental distress, reduced levels of depression, anxiety and fatigue with the greatest benefits being for socioeconomically deprived groups.

Evidence indicates that people who report feeling more 'connected to nature' tend to have a more positive outlook on life (positive affect), increased vitality, life satisfaction, feelings that life is worthwhile and of personal growth compared to those who feel less connected. There is also an association with more pro-environmental and pro-conservation behaviours (5).

Community and social cohesion benefits that include improving social cohesion and bringing communities closer together, communities coming together to engage in social activities and formal and informal interactions with people from different cultural backgrounds, and this in turn potentially leading to increased social cohesion and inclusion.

Environmental benefits such as improved air quality, the reduction / removal of background environmental noise that has been linked to sleep disturbance, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, reducing temperatures and flood risk.



## 8. Partners

There are lots of different groups and organisations that work either directly or indirectly with the Council in helping to improve the management and usage of parks and greenspaces.

Their contributions make a big difference to our enjoyment of parks as they add value through being able to offer additional activities such as engagement with nature, enjoying sport, learning more about the environment and undertaking practical volunteering.

Partners are particularly important in generating the community and social cohesion benefits described above. Partners in Haringey include:

### Friends of parks groups

There are at least 50 Friends of parks groups in Haringey who have joined together to help promote, animate, improve and protect their local park. Friends' groups improve parks through undertaking practical tasks, fundraise for and provide events and activities, bring local people together and tend to know what is happening in their local parks. They report maintenance issues, fundraise for improvements, help develop long-term vision for a site, and generally engage with management.

There is also a Haringey Friends of Parks Forum, set up in 2001, that meets at least every two months where representatives of the different Friends' groups meet up to discuss matters of mutual interest, and to engage with Council officers and representatives present.

### The Conservation Volunteers

More commonly referred to as TCV, they are long standing partners of the Council who have a lease to look after Railway Fields Local Nature Reserve and lead volunteer activity on a number of other sites to carry out practical volunteering. TCV run practical training courses to train and upskill volunteers in our parks and nature reserves. TCV also help by preparing Conservation Management Plans for sites including each Green Flag Park.

In the last couple of years this relationship has extended to include being part of the efforts to develop The Paddock to become designated as a new Local Nature Reserve. It is proposed that in partnership with the Friends, TCV's role at The Paddock will continue once the physical improvement works currently being progressed are completed.

### Parks-Based Organisations

There are lots of organisations based in parks who provide both services and additional opportunities for community involvement. These include: park cafés, Wolves Lane Consortium who manage the former Wolves Lane Nursery, Trees for Streets who are partners with the council to support street trees, Living Under One Sun, who involve local people in nature, the environment and local regeneration, Furtherfield, an arts charity based in Finsbury Park, The Finsbury Park Sports Partnership who provide a range of sports opportunities for the community, Pedal Power, a cycling club for teenagers and adults with learning disabilities and a whole myriad of other organisations.

Additionally, there are many other organisations who add value to the borough's parks and greenspaces.

## 9. Key Documents Supporting the Overall Strategy

In this section we describe and provide links to the other key plans and policies that inform the overall Strategy.

The approach being taken is:

- To introduce and describe the scope of the Plan
- To state the Objectives
- To describe some of the key issues and challenges that the Plan or Policy is seeking to address
- To set out a small number of the key actions contained in the Plan

Each of the following plans are available in full for review and comment.

### Community Engagement and Volunteering Plan

The Community Engagement and Volunteering Plan has been developed to inform how the council will seek to further extend the ability of communities to work with the council in shaping the design, management, activity offer and marketing of Haringey's parks and greenspaces and to build on and strengthen the current levels of community and corporate volunteering.

Haringey's parks and greenspaces already benefit from the existence of the many (50+) Friends of parks groups that help to make parks significantly better than they would otherwise be, by contributing in a number of ways including through practical volunteering, by providing activities and events, by providing feedback to the council on problems and by offering a means for local people to become involved.

However, the people currently attracted to become involved with Friends groups tend to be older, from the white community and have above average educational achievement.

The voices of other communities, such as from BAME communities, people with disabilities and younger people, are rarely asked and hence have limited opportunity to influence what is provided and what happens in Haringey's parks.

Through the Community Engagement and Volunteering Plan, the Council describes how it will seek to broaden engagement and to strengthen volunteering.

As part of this Plan, the Council also wants to develop new opportunities to look after smaller and more local spaces and features, such as neighbourhood greenspace, street planters and street tree planting.

### Objectives

#### Inclusion and wellbeing

- To create a framework that will help the Council work cooperatively with all park users and stakeholders, including targeted engagement with seldom heard from communities
- To better understand, appreciate and celebrate the role of Friends Groups and other key stakeholders
- To work with partners to identify and reduce areas of conflict in parks and greenspaces
- To develop a Plan with identified actions and targets to support community engagement and volunteering in parks, greenspaces and street planting
- To expand on the range of groups that contribute to the design, management, marketing and usage of parks and greenspaces by developing regular and ongoing engagement with BAME communities, faith, younger, older, disabled and LGBTQI communities
- Developing more active, independent community groups in parks and greenspaces
- Engaging a more diverse group of people in volunteering in parks and greenspaces and in street-based volunteering



## Climate Change

- Improving access to nature for BAME and other seldom heard from communities
- Offering skills and knowledge training for volunteers to enable them to better contribute towards meeting targets for biodiversity

## Service Quality

- To develop more opportunities for corporate volunteering and similar schemes that provide social benefit
- To celebrate the achievements of the parks and greenspaces sector
- To improve communications between the council and key stakeholders to enable better partnership working for the benefit of Haringey's parks and greenspace users

Selected key issues and challenges that the Volunteering and Community Engagement Plan is seeking to address

### 1. Inclusion and diversity

Natural England research indicates people from BAME communities are less likely to have visited the natural environment with 44.2% of people from white communities reported as visiting the natural environment in the last 7 days, compared with 26.2% from black communities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/monitor-of-engagement-with-the-natural-environment-2015-to-2016>.

The former council wards of Tottenham Hale, Tottenham Green, Bruce Grove and Northumberland Park have the highest % of black residents and are also amongst the wards with the poorest access to green space. Pollution levels are higher in areas where BAME communities live.

[https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/documents/s107023/\\_Borough%20Plan%20EQIA\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/documents/s107023/_Borough%20Plan%20EQIA_FINAL.pdf)

A recent report from Groundwork UK stated that for access to urban nature that 'people from low-income households or areas, people from ethnic minority backgrounds and disabled people are among the groups currently missing out.

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/about-groundwork/reports/outofbounds/>

Currently there is little engagement with seldom heard from communities such as BAME communities, disabled people and young people to better understand how they use parks and what improvements or activities might help them to increase their use and engagement in the development of parks and greenspaces.

The Council would also wish to see the development of more autonomous community groups in parks and greenspaces who broaden the range of organised activities on offer and the people engaging in these opportunities.

### 2. Usage and behaviour in parks

Parks can be contested spaces, with the use and behaviour of different groups being off putting to, or unappreciated by other users. Conflicts can arise between different groups for a variety of reasons; young people being loud can make older people feel unsafe, dogs are seen as unclean by some religious groups and are frightening to other groups: cyclists and joggers 'taking over' footpaths and moving too fast for users with less or limited mobility and lighting being requested by some users to make people feel safer but opposed by others because of the potential impact on wildlife for example. Tackling these conflicts will be challenging and require engagement with and support from a range of stakeholders including Friends, seldom heard from groups and from the council's Communications and Enforcement Services.

### 3. Supporting the development of volunteering

Volunteering plays an important role in the improvement and development of parks and greenspaces. A 2019 survey of Haringey's Friends of parks groups revealed that an estimated 45,000 volunteer hours were spent improving parks and greenspaces worth approximately £600,000 of in-kind value annually.

The council believes this can, with the support of partners and particularly Friends groups and TCV, be further developed in several areas including:

- Improving training support to groups to widen their ability to undertake more activity
- Expanding TCV's role across more sites in the borough e.g. The Paddock
- Expand doorstep volunteering including to support new parklets and street greening
- Celebrating the community's contributions to the usage and quality of Haringey's parks

#### Selected key actions from the Community Engagement and Volunteering

- Employing a Community Engagement and Partnerships Officer to identify groups or organisations and partners that already have relationships with seldom heard from communities, so that the council better understands and can work towards overcoming barriers to usage and involvement
- Develop a programme of activities and events that showcases and supports increased usage and involvement by seldom heard from groups including activities to involve communities in nature
- To recruit a Greenspace Volunteer Coordinator to develop volunteering opportunities for new groups, to develop an improved corporate volunteering offer and to support volunteering amongst existing groups.
- Supporting the development of more active, independent community groups in parks and greenspaces
- Hold an annual celebration of community involvement and activity in parks
- Review internal and external funding options to further support inclusive parks

- Supporting the emergence of greenspace champions from seldom heard from communities

Final link to be inserted

### Physical Activity and Sport Strategy 2019-2023

This Strategy was adopted in 2019 to inform the future approach towards the provision of physical activity and sport.

The Strategy has its own Vision to:

- 'create and embed a culture of activity so that Haringey becomes one of the most physically active and healthy London boroughs.'

The approach taken in the document is based on three overarching themes of Active People, Active Place and Active Economy.

Through the Active People theme the council is seeking 'to get more people, of all ages, backgrounds and abilities, regularly active; and use physical activity and sport to connect communities and improve health and wellbeing.'

Through the Active Place theme, the strategic outcome is 'to position physical activity at the heart of place shaping and ensure a network of





high quality, safe and accessible environments exist to make it easier for people to be active.'

Through the Active Economy theme, the aim is 'to maximise the sector's contribution to economic growth through training, skills development, employment and the creation of more healthy, productive work environments.'

The Strategy has a strong emphasis on Inclusion with a focus on tackling inactivity. This is much more prevalent in the east of the borough and is strongly linked with deprivation.

It contributes toward the Climate Change and Sustainability aim by taking a 'whole systems approach' where physical activity is a natural and sustainable way of life for the majority of residents through increased levels of active travel, visits to parks and greenspaces and interaction with a high quality animated public realm.

## Objectives

There are 12 objectives overall for the Strategy, with four under each theme.

## Active People

- **Active Mindsets:** people are motivated and empowered to change their behaviours and physical activity is considered a normal part of everyday life
- **Children, Young People and Families:** every child, young person and family, whatever their background, will be engaged, confident and able to be active every day
- **Opportunities to be Active:** a wide range of partners provide and promote high quality opportunities to engage residents and sustain activity across the life-course
- **Care Pathways:** physical activity is visible and pro-actively used in health and social care pathways to improve physical and mental health and well-being

## Active Place

- **Accessible and Active Environments:** protect, enhance and provide a network of well-planned and accessible environments for formal and informal physical activity, active play and sport





- Walking and Cycling: improve air quality and increase the number of people walking, cycling and scooting via continued promotion and public realm improvements
- Safer Communities: ensure more people feel safe being active in public spaces and use physical activity and sport as a positive diversionary tool amongst people vulnerable to risky behaviours
- Animated Places: activate the community by making activity more engaging and visible in community setting

### Active Economy

- Strong, Resilient Workforce: strengthen, grow and diversify the sector's paid and volunteer workforce to ensure they are equipped to promote and deliver physical activity and sport at all levels
- Training, Skills and Jobs: use physical activity and sport as a tool to enhance self-efficacy, training, skills development and routes into employment

- Active Workplaces: create active workplaces and promote the benefits of a more active, healthy and productive workforce
- Open for Business: support Haringey's talent and champion the borough as a destination for sector businesses, providers, events and investment

Selected key issues and challenges that the Physical Activity and Sport Strategy is seeking to address

### 1. Inclusion

There is a strong correlation between physical inactivity and deprivation and between being active as a child and continuing to be active into adult life.

The Strategy is seeking to involve organisations who may be in a position to provide a positive influence and encourage active lifestyles and is taking a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary approach that involves GP surgeries, Public Health, Social workers, family support workers, educators etc supporting the people they work with to be physically active.



## 2. Improving access to good quality, active environments

Activity takes place across a range of environments including in parks and greenspaces, play facilities, leisure centres and as part of our day-to-day life by walking and cycling.

Access to parks and greenspaces is poorer in the east of Haringey and the street environment is also less attractive for walking and cycling because of high traffic flow and greater housing density so physical improvements are required to create better conditions and facilities and improve access.

## 3. Budgets

The Strategy identified that budgetary support would be needed to better engage with and provide activities for people who were physically inactive and resolved to seek to collaborate more closely with colleagues from a range of Council services such as Health, Regeneration, CYPS etc to better align budgets for tackling disadvantage.

### Selected key actions from the Physical Activity and Sport

- To work with health colleagues to deliver projects that utilise a 'community solutions' approach to attracting underrepresented groups to visit and enjoy parks and greenspaces more
- Utilise available budgets (from across the council e.g., Leisure, Health, Regeneration, CYPS etc) to deliver programmes that encourage and enable inactive residents to enjoy parks and greenspaces more
- To exploit all available communication channels to promote physical activity opportunities as effectively as possible for residents

[Insert link to strategy](#)

## New Policies for Parks and Greenspaces

The Council proposes to adopt policies to both help inform its approach to the future management of parks and greenspaces and to provide clarity about behaviour that is permitted or not permitted, to ensure that parks can be enjoyed by everyone.

The policies cover a wide range of topics but are not set in stone and policies may be amended or added to over time. Further policies may also be developed in response to new challenges or issues. It is intended to review each policy from time to time to ensure it remains relevant and appropriate.

The purpose of having policies is to ensure that everyone – park users, staff, residents, councillors, partners etc - is clear about how the Council is seeking to manage parks and greenspaces. The policies also seek to set out the behaviour that is permitted (or not permitted) to ensure that parks and greenspaces are places that can be enjoyed by all.

A rationale for the policy position is set out in each policy document.

As noted above, whilst some policies are about the management of parks and greenspaces, others are about the behaviour of the people within these parks and greenspaces.

While it is the Council's intention to engage, educate and encourage everyone to comply with the policies set out below, it may sometimes be necessary to take enforcement action to ensure compliance. A policy for the approach to enforcement has been included within the overall range of policies. Enforcement will be preceded by engaging, educating and encouraging people to comply with the policies.

In many cases policy is underpinned and / or driven by legislation, bye laws or public spaces protection orders (PSPOs), such as in relation to littering, fly-tipping or the behaviour of dog owners (and their dogs) in parks and greenspaces. In such cases enforcement action may take the form of fixed penalty notices or legal action.

Where necessary bye laws or PSPOs may be sought to enable policy to be enforced.

Below is the list of proposed new policies together with a link to the full documents.



PGSS1	Barbecues and fires in parks and greenspaces
PGSS2	Alcohol in parks and greenspaces
PGSS1	Barbecues and fires in parks and greenspaces
PGSS2	Alcohol in parks and greenspaces
PGSS3	Smoking and vaping in parks and greenspaces
PGSS4	Dogs and dog control in parks and greenspaces
PGSS5	Boundaries and security in parks and greenspaces
PGSS6	Chemicals and pesticides in parks and greenspaces
PGSS7	Invasive non-native species in parks and greenspaces
PGSS8	Lighting in parks and greenspaces
PGSS9	CCTV in parks and greenspaces
PGSS10	Vehicles in parks and greenspaces
PGSS11	Sustainable waste management in parks and greenspaces
PGSS12	Amplified music and speech in parks and greenspaces
PGSS13	Camping and sleeping rough in parks and greenspaces
PGSS14	Toilets, urination and defaecation in parks and greenspaces
PGSS15	Permitted activities for commercial gain in parks and greenspaces
PGSS16	Graffiti, fly posting and banners in parks and greenspaces
PGSS 17	Enforcement in parks and greenspaces

Final link to Introduction and the Policy pack to be inserted





## Service Standards for Parks and Greenspaces

As part of the overall approach towards the future provision of parks and greenspaces in Haringey, the Council proposes to introduce three new measures to help in establishing the standards, amenities and management progress in meeting the overall Strategy Aims through the provision of parks.

### These measures are:

1. A statement to help inform what visitors to a Haringey Park or green space can expect in terms of amenities and overall management, maintenance and investment and to inform longer term aspirations for development and improvement.
2. Service standards that will help to define what park users can expect from the day-to-day management of a park and remind management and staff of the challenges and obligations that they should meet in delivering the service as well as informing longer term aspirations for development and improvement.
3. A smaller number of quality measures that link directly to the strategic priorities of the Parks and Greenspaces Strategy and help to assess the extent to which parks and greenspaces are meeting the needs and aspirations of residents and providing wider environmental benefits.

### 1. What you can expect when you visit a Haringey Park

Haringey's parks offer a different range of facilities and management depending upon the size and character of the park. Large parks will tend to offer more facilities and be looked after to a higher standard because they are used by more people

and from a wider catchment area. Smaller parks will offer less facilities and receive less management. Sites vary in character and may be nature reserves, recreation grounds, woodlands, or a combination of varying character and facilities.

Sites designated as nature reserves are not included as part of the Standards and should have their own site-specific management plans.

Investment levels will also differ as the larger parks will be providing more, so will need more expenditure to support this level of provision.

Below is a table setting out what visitors to a Haringey Park or green space can expect in terms of amenities and overall management, maintenance and investment. The table describes three different types of parks: district, local and small local.

The district parks are the largest sites in Haringey such as Finsbury Park and Lordship Recreation Ground.

Local parks are smaller, likely to be offering less facilities than district parks but significant within their local area. Parks such as Priory, Markfield, Russell and Ducketts Common fall into this category.

Small parks would serve a predominantly local audience and offer less facilities again than district or local parks. Examples of small parks include Brunswick Park, Chapmans Green, Fairland Park and Stationers Park.

An appendix listing all 148 parks managed by the Council can be found in the Asset Management Plan (insert link to appendix for list of parks).

High level 'offer'	A2. District Parks	A3. Local Parks	A4. Small parks
High level 'offer'	A2. District Parks	A3. Local Parks	A4. Small parks
Overall 'standard'	Green Flag	Green Flag or future Green Flag sites	Aspire to Green Flag or Community Green Flag
Amenity	Toilets and cafe	Toilets and café where appropriate	Toilets and/or café (only if currently provided)
Staffing	Permanent staffing presence	Mobile/occasional staffing presence and aim for dedicated on-site staffing subject to available resources.	Occasional visits by parks staff and/or Veolia and aim for regular visits subject to available resources
Horticulture	Good standard	Good standard	Acceptable standard

High level 'offer'	A2. District Parks	A3. Local Parks	A4. Small parks
Recreation	Managed and informal opportunities	Active and informal opportunities	Passive recreation / travel routes
Habitats	Range of habitats	Limited habitats	Simple habitat
Investment	Priority for annual investment	Aim for planned regular investment	Occasional Council investment and Community-led investment
Asset inspections	Undertake at least quarterly	Undertaken at least quarterly	Undertaken at least twice a year
Visitors	Attracts visitors from inside and outside the borough	Serves local needs and predominantly local visitors	Serves local needs

## 2. Service Standards

The Council is proposing to introduce Service Standards for Haringey parks. These cover areas of management and maintenance that are important for most park users such as grass cutting, horticulture, litter and the inspection of play facilities.

The areas that the proposed Service Standards would cover are set out below. The more detailed Standards are contained within the Service Standards in Haringey parks and greenspaces main document and include columns that state what the standard is, how it will be measured or assessed, and whether the results will be reported at a park, area or Haringey-wide level.

Service area	Detailed aspect of service
Horticulture and turf	Grass cutting and maintenance
	Bulb maintenance within grassy areas
	Hedge maintenance
	Tree maintenance
	Flower beds
	Shrub and shrub bed maintenance
	Wildflower and meadow maintenance
Sports pitches and courts	Football and rugby pitch maintenance
	Sports courts and multi-use games areas
Infrastructure	Playground equipment and surfaces
	Hard assets (e.g. paths, benches, lamps, fences etc)
Cleansing	Litter management
	Hygiene and cleansing
	Fly-tipping and dumped rubbish
	Graffiti
Site security	Preventing and deterring unauthorised and inappropriate access to and behaviour within parks (e.g. gates, entrances, buildings, lighting)

### 3. Quality measures

The quality measures will be used to monitor progress against a limited number of key areas that indicate progress towards meeting the Strategy Aims.

Strategic Aim	Quality measure	Purpose
Inclusion	Profile of park users compared to that of the population of the borough	To identify any gaps in provision/use.
Inclusion	Number of visitors to a representative sample of parks	How well-used/popular are parks.
Inclusion	Number of community groups active in parks and greenspaces	Community involvement, engagement and partnership
Climate Change and sustainability	Increase tree planting across the borough and develop strategies to increase canopy cover across public and private land in the borough.	Conservation and environmental stewardship
Climate Change and sustainability	To establish new local nature reserves and sites of importance for nature conservation and create new wildlife habitat every year in parks and greenspaces	Supporting wildlife and biodiversity
Climate Change and sustainability	The core operational buildings and all transport related activities for service delivery to be net zero carbon by 2027.	Reducing the carbon footprint of parks
A Quality Service	Number of parks and greenspaces with a Green Flag accreditation	An independent measure of quality
A Quality Service	The proportion of park users who are very satisfied or satisfied with Haringey parks	Shows perceived quality of parks
A Quality Service	Percentage of park assets that are graded good or excellent	Indication of asset quality over time
A Quality Service	The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) parks staff per hectare of managed greenspace	Staffing numbers as a proxy for investment and visible presence in parks. Track over time

Insert link to final Standards doc



## Asset Management Plan

Haringey has 148 parks and greenspaces and 27 allotment sites that are directly managed by the Council. Within these spaces there are a range of hard and soft assets.

Hard assets include buildings, bins and benches, fences and railings, paths and hard surfaces, play equipment, outdoor gyms, hard sports courts, paddling pools, bridges and structures, lighting and signage.

Soft assets include sports pitches, areas of grassland, shrub beds, hedges, and areas of woodland.

Based upon the most recent survey completed to help inform the new Strategy, there are 10,662 hard assets and 2,995 soft assets within parks, greenspaces and allotments. The replacement value of these assets, based upon replacement over a 20-year period, is estimated at £40m.

The Asset Management Plan (AMP) has been developed to help inform decision making about the level of funding that can be made available for asset repairs and replacement between 2022 and 2036 informed by an analysis of costs and available resources.

The final AMP will also include a Parks Style Guide, which sets out the approach to the type, style and design of assets that the council proposes should be used both by the Council and any other organisation wanting to provide a new or updated asset in parks and greenspaces.

To help inform decision making for future investment in parks and greenspaces, the Council has also commissioned a Natural Capital account that estimates over the life of the account, calculated from 2020 to 2080, that the borough's parks and greenspaces, covering both hard and soft assets, will have produced over £1,000m of benefits in terms of carbon sequestration, reductions in air pollution and, making up 80% of the total, health and wellbeing benefits through physical activity and recreation.

### Objectives

- To provide facilities and signage that are accessible and meet the needs of all Haringey's communities
- To establish and maintain an up-to-date digital record of all parks and greenspaces infrastructure & assets



- To establish an accurate understanding of the financial value of existing parks assets, as well as identifying reasonable estimates of the likely ongoing costs associated with managing and maintaining parks assets to a good level for the next 15 years
- To use the AMP data to recommend and prioritise where to best focus finite existing resources and targeted funding bids, through the establishment of an annual asset repair & replacement programme
- To use the AMP data to better target resources and procurement practices for renewal or renovation (replacement or repair)
- To reduce insurance claims and provide a robust insurance defence evidence base (subject to an effective inspection process)
- To ensure that parks and greenspaces, buildings and structures meet Government legislative and health and safety requirements, including for sustainability and climate change
- To ensure that Haringey's parks and greenspaces have a clear and legible infrastructure of standardised assets, whilst retaining their own individuality and character
- To ensure that all parks development schemes and asset replacement schemes (as well as regeneration / development schemes) adhere to this standard, and that over time, as budgets allow, all parks and greenspaces assets adhere to the style guide, whilst retaining their own unique sense of identity.
- To ensure that the design and installation of assets supports biodiversity and nature conservation interests
- To ensure that all new planting schemes are in line with a standard set of criteria, reflect seasonal changes, are sustainable in terms of their procurement, adaptation to climate change, and 'right plant for right place,' and can be maintained within existing maintenance resources

#### The proposed objectives for the Parks Style Guide are:

- To set out a consistent set of standards, design guidance, and quality criteria for new assets and asset repairs
- To ensure the standards reflect the available resources, robust anti-vandal criteria, accessibility and sustainability



## Selected Key issues and challenges that the Asset Management Plan is seeking to address

### 1. Inclusive and accessible

We want our parks and greenspaces to be safe, welcoming and accessible places for all Haringey communities.

Research and feedback indicate that communities from black and Asian ethnic backgrounds have different preferences about the facilities they most want to use in parks than people from a white ethnic background but that parks are overwhelmingly designed based upon the preferences of people from a white ethnic background.

Feedback from people with disabilities and from people from LGBTQI communities indicates that parks can be or can feel inaccessible and unwelcoming. Feedback from women and girls indicates that parks can feel unsafe.

The Council wants parks to be used by the whole community and in the future may develop new facilities that encourage usage by specific communities such as deaf and disabled people or BAME communities, women and girls,



LGBTQI communities, people with dementia, or people for whom English is not their first language.

## 2. Contributing to the mitigation of climate change

Though we think about our parks and greenspaces as 'green' spaces that support nature and our ability to enjoy the natural environment, parks are currently contributing to the overall carbon footprint of Haringey through areas such as buildings, machinery, maintenance vehicles, paths, lighting and the day-to-day footprint generated by management and maintenance activities, including the need of staff to travel to work and to travel around the borough.

As part of the AMP, we will be seeking to take forward schemes for the replacement or refurbishment of buildings, vehicles, plant and machinery as part of an overall commitment towards seeking to make the management and maintenance of our parks carbon neutral by 2041 that supports the council's overall Strategy for Climate Change mitigation.

## 3. Improving service quality

Two of the main components that improve service quality are:

- Ease of maintenance
- The sufficiency of resources available for maintenance and replacement

Through the AMP we are seeking to adopt a more standardised approach so that, for instance, all waste bins in parks are from the same supplier and have been correctly installed so that they are less likely to be damaged, are easier to empty and have been tested as robust with long life expectancy.

For other assets such as paddling pools we will need to consider updating and replacing these features with more modern water-based play that can also support our Climate Change and Sustainability Aim.

Parks are valued and valuable assets which if created today from scratch would cost tens of millions of pounds to provide.

The council recognises the importance of parks and greenspaces in making Haringey the place it is, and their role in supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents, workers, students and visitors; and will seek to provide additional funding both from its own funding and through the generation of

external funding to manage and maintain parks to a high standard.

## Selected key actions from the Asset Management Plan

- To identify changes in the design of parks and greenspaces to make them more attractive, safer, more welcoming and accessible for everyone and particularly for seldom heard from groups
- To carry out carbon audits of the fourteen parks operations buildings and then to undertake alterations, adaptations, and retrofitting to reduce their consumption of energy and water as well as to propose new ways of generating energy to become self-sufficient
- That future capital and revenue funding needs are identified and a Funding Plan is developed to address those needs

[Link to final AMP and appendices to be inserted](#)

## Biodiversity Action Plan

Haringey Council seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity value across the borough for the benefit of all those that live and work in Haringey, and in doing so support regional, national, and global efforts to halt the decline in biodiversity and support the delivery of carbon reduction projects in line with the Haringey Climate Change Action Plan.

[https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/final\\_haringey\\_climate\\_change\\_action\\_plan\\_-\\_march\\_2021\\_accessible\\_version\\_0.pdf](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/sites/haringeygovuk/files/final_haringey_climate_change_action_plan_-_march_2021_accessible_version_0.pdf)

The Council made a declaration of Climate Emergency in 2019 with a target of being net carbon zero by 2041 and the Biodiversity Action Plan will make an important contribution towards achieving this target, by protecting and improving Haringey's natural environment and helping to remind everyone about the fundamental importance of biodiversity of species and habitats to our futures.

Haringey has a wealth of natural assets including designated Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and 5 Local Nature Reserves. Key elements of this infrastructure are:



- The Lee Valley Regional Park that straddles the eastern boundary of the borough and is home to European designated sites and many Sites of Special Scientific Interest
- 148 Council managed parks and greenspaces
- 59 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's)
- 27 Council managed allotments (plus 3 externally managed)
- Alexandra Palace and Park and Highgate Woods

The Plan considers all land within the borough, including the contribution that can be made by the built environment in supporting nature, and seeks to describe a detailed picture of current biodiversity and the issues affecting it and then proposes a series of conservation actions.

The actions take a cross themed agenda towards biodiversity with the intention that this approach is integrated into the delivery of all Council services.

### Objectives

- Promote community participation to raise awareness about the importance of wildlife, climate change and wellbeing to increase access to the natural environment that involve the local community
- Enhanced climate resilience by developing habitat management plans that diversify habitats and enhance priority species
- Ensure the protection of Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) focusing on key areas of improvement
- Restore and enhance the boroughs biodiversity and habitats helping wildlife populations to grow and move
- Inform future projects and strategies around the built environment and the greening of the urban environment to increase green connectivity across the borough
- Identify operational management opportunities for biodiversity enhancement work programmes to raise quality and standards needed to protect our parks and open spaces from ecological degradation

### Selected key issues and challenges that the Biodiversity Action Plan is seeking to address

#### 1. Engagement

Biodiversity can be viewed as something mainly of interest to people of a predominantly white and middle-class background. As part of the BAP, the Council wants to engage with a wider range of communities, including people from BAME communities, disabled people and young people, in discussion, activities and volunteering that supports the natural environment.

#### 2. Obtaining and then building on good quality baseline information

There is a lot of nature in Haringey and having good quality information about sites, habitats and species is an ongoing challenge that requires input and joint working from a range of partners.

The Council is currently updating its baseline information for SINC's and is also strengthening its approach towards improving support for nature through the planning process.

Combined, these two activities will provide better baseline information about the natural environment which will then need to be sustained by the support of the Council and partners including the community who can help by undertaking future surveys.

#### 3. Improved inter service coordination / joint working

Feedback from engagement sessions undertaken to inform the development of the Strategy has highlighted frustration by some members of the community at what is perceived as a lack of joined up working between Council departments to protect and improve biodiversity.

The Council acknowledges this feedback and is taking steps to address it as part of its wider commitment to address Climate Emergency.

### Selected Key Actions from the Biodiversity Action Plan

- To establish an interdepartmental coordinating group with representation from Parks, Planning, Housing, Highways, Flood Management and Regeneration to ensure effective collaboration between services in the development and

ongoing management of programmes and policies that support the Council's approach towards Climate Emergency with regards to green and blue infrastructure, climate vulnerability and the natural environment

- Engaging a new officer to strengthen the role of new development in contributing to biodiversity gain including new tree planting
- Support and encourage Friends groups and the wider public to carry out wildlife surveys and send data to GIGL
- Creating new Local Nature Reserves, 10 additional SINC's and creating 250sqm new wildlife habitat areas each year in parks and greenspaces
- Engage Haringey residents and raise awareness of biodiversity through public events in parks, nature reserves and housing estates
- Restore and enhance the management and maintenance of local nature reserves, ancient woodlands and sites of importance for nature conservation

Final link to BAP to be inserted

## Tree and Woodland Plan

The urban forest, which includes both public and privately owned trees, plays a key role in making cities habitable environments for people. Trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, filter air pollution and produce oxygen.

They play a role in combating Climate Change and extreme weather events by providing shade, cooling the air and absorbing storm water.

Trees and greenspaces also provide a range of social, cultural and health benefits and have a positive impact on people's physical and mental wellbeing.

On Haringey's streets, trees help to create an attractive environment that encourages sustainable travel through walking and cycling.

Many people care passionately about trees and the Trees and Woodlands Plan will consider the management of all trees in the borough on council land and the management of private trees covered by Planning Legislation e.g., Tree Preservation Orders or those trees within Conservation Areas.

As well as parks and greenspaces, the Plan will consider the ancient woodlands in the borough and the management of trees on the public highway and other council owned sites.

The plan will also explore the opportunities for partnership working to improve standards within our woodlands and for the management of individual trees.

## Objectives

- Provide a document that details how Haringey aims to manage our trees and woodlands in a sustainable way
- Ensure Haringey's tree population is healthy, varied in age and diverse in species
- Increase tree canopy cover in Haringey, particularly in areas of deficiency, with the aim of achieving a minimum of 30% cover in each ward
- Secure greater levels of external funding and increase public sponsorship of new trees to address areas with low tree canopy cover
- Ensure that trees on private land have the best protection through new guidelines, existing legislation and the emerging Local Plan
- Improve our proactive tree maintenance programme to reduce subsidence claims and allow for the retention of more trees
- Quantify the value and benefits that Haringey's expansive urban forest provides
- To enhance engagement and communication with the public to create a better understanding

## Selected key issues and challenges that the Trees and Woodland Plan is seeking to address

### 1. Increasing tree canopy cover in wards that are below the 30% target

Haringey's tree canopy cover is much greater in the west of the borough than in the east of the borough where health outcomes are also much poorer.

Given the health benefits associated with trees, there is a need to plant more trees in those wards highlighted in red below that are below. Achieving more tree planting will contribute towards achieving better health outcomes for people living in the east of Haringey.

Ward name	Hectares	Canopy cover %	Ward name	Hectares	Canopy cover%
Alexandra	261.4	31.9	Northumberland Park	188.8	16.4
Bounds Green	138.6	21.4	Seven Sisters	129.5	18.7
Bruce Grove	93.7	14.9	St. Ann's	109.4	18.7
Crouch End	144	32.9	Stroud Green	109.4	30.6
Fortis Green	199.1	32.7	Tottenham Green	135.9	17.2
Harringay	156.7	23.3	Tottenham Hale	191.2	22.8
Highgate	249.5	45.5	West Green	139.9	19.1
Hornsey	105.4	17.0	White Hart Lane	169.9	21.6
Muswell Hill	165.3	39.1	Woodside	149.7	16.2
Noel Park	122.6	13.8			

**Note.** Changed Council ward boundaries have now been implemented and the number of wards has increased from 19 to 21. This table will be updated for the final strategy document to show canopy cover based upon the new ward boundaries.

## 2. Better engaging with and informing the public about the reasons for tree pruning or removal

People are, with good reason, very passionate about trees and do not want to see trees removed or significantly pruned.

However, there are occasions, overwhelmingly either because of insurance claims or for safety reasons, where removal or large-scale maintenance may be needed.

The Council wants local people to understand and support its approach to trees. The Council is passionate about trees and is proposing to introduce a Tree Management Policy that clearly states the circumstances under which trees will not be removed or pruned, and the circumstances under which they will be.

## 3. Seeking to improve the overall quality of management and maintenance of trees

Excluding trees in private gardens, there are approximately 34,000 trees in Haringey that will be looked after by a team of 4 people plus a manager who is also responsible for other service areas including nature conservation and allotments.

This team is responsible for inspections and surveys, managing planned and reactive tree works, new tree planting, dealing with planning applications that involve trees, managing any

existing or proposed new Tree preservation orders and dealing with enquiries and complaints.

Climate Change has put trees under increased strain both because of more extreme weather and because of new pests and diseases previously only found in Europe that have affected some of our most commonly found tree species such as Oaks, Ash, Horse chestnut and London plane.

Our plans for seeking to respond to these pressures includes the development of new partnerships, seeking more community involvement in tree care and generating more funding for trees.

## Selected key actions from the Trees and Woodland Plan

- Increase tree planting across the borough and plant at least 10,000 new trees by 2030.
- Achieve a minimum of 30% canopy cover across all Council wards
- Review the current tree maintenance programme to determine if an increased pruning regime will result in a reduction in tree root claims and greater tree retention
- Create new areas of woodland, including mini-forests and expand our hedge network
- Review and update information on tree management procedures on the Council website as part of an overall approach to providing more and better information for the public
- Seek to establish a Tree Forum, where residents groups and other organisations can meet to



discuss important issues and seek to cooperate on joint initiatives

Final link to be inserted

## Watercourse and Flood Risk Plan

Water bodies and features are an important part of the overall parks and green space offer and key contributors to wildlife and the natural environment.

They provide a range of benefits including for nature and biodiversity, cooling, flood management and relief and supporting flora and fauna.

As the impacts of Climate Change become more noticeable with heavier rainfall and increased flooding etc, the role of parks and greenspaces in helping to mitigate these impacts has increased in importance.

Through the Watercourse and Flood Risk Management Plan the Council is seeking to provide information and direction for the future approach to water and water management in parks and greenspaces, to identify issues and challenges that impact on the management, maintenance, development and usage of water bodies, to set this against a policy framework associated with water and to identify different agencies involved with water and their roles.

Two of the most important underpinning documents for the Watercourses Plan are:

- The Haringey Flood Risk Management Strategy and
- The Haringey Integrated Catchment Management Study

### Objectives

- To increase access to nature by seldom heard from groups
- To help residents and users better understand water features and their value by developing education and interpretation materials
- To develop more water features in parks and greenspaces that support nature, increase biodiversity and contribute to flood relief and urban cooling
- To develop a volunteer training programme that enables volunteers to take on enhanced

roles in the development and management of water features

- To improve staff knowledge, skills and performance through guidance and training
- To promote better coordination, communication and liaison between Council departments involved in SuDS schemes in parks and greenspaces, as well as the wider management of water and flood relief
- To improve access to amenities and facilities through a reduction in flooding incidents
- To improve the quality of water features through regular maintenance, water quality testing and appropriate signage

## Selected key issues and challenges that the Watercourse and Flood Risk Management Plan is seeking to address

### 1. Adapting parks and greenspaces

Climate Change and urban growth have combined to make weather patterns more extreme and the ability of the built environment to deal with these overwhelmed. Further, and again as a result of Climate Change, more extreme weather and the growth of the built environment, we are losing valuable habitat and species.

Parks and greenspaces can help to mitigate these impacts by providing opportunities for natural drainage systems that can support nature and help with urban cooling.

Water features can also play a role in helping to educate and expand wider understanding and support for the roles that water features in parks can contribute.

### 2. Developing skills and resources to better manage and maintain water features

Managing water and water features is a specialist area requiring knowledge and training.

The Council needs to address this within its own workforce and wants to support its partners, especially community organisations such as Friends' groups who play an important role in maintaining some of the water features in Haringey, by offering training.

### 3. Increasing access to water features and habitats.

There are limited opportunities for the community to access water features in parks and greenspaces, particularly in the east of Haringey.

Arising from the Watercourses and Flood Risk Plan, we will be seeking to develop a programme of activities and events that will include activities to increase the involvement of communities in nature.

#### Selected key actions from the Watercourses and Flood Risk Management Plan

- Developing further water features in parks and greenspaces as opportunities arise including further SuDS schemes and de-culverting
- Developing greater skills, knowledge and expertise amongst the Parks Service workforce and our key partners
- Providing new educational and interpretation materials that help in broadening understanding

of the importance of water in supporting nature and mitigating Climate Change

- To establish an interdepartmental coordinating group with representation from Parks, Planning, Housing, Highways, Flood Management and Regeneration to ensure effective collaboration between services in the development and ongoing management of programmes and policies that support the Council's approach towards Climate Emergency with regards to green and blue infrastructure, climate vulnerability and the natural environment

Final link to be inserted



## 10. Additional Studies

### Haringey Green Space Health Strategy Pilot Report

This report was commissioned by the Council in 2019. It is based upon a survey of four parks, Belmont, Downhills, Chestnuts and Lordship Recreation Ground and uses a methodology called the Parks for Health toolkit.

The report identifies the incidence of a range of health conditions for the communities living within access of these parks that could be mitigated or improved by access to greenspaces.

These conditions include cardiovascular disease, diabetes, childhood obesity, adult obesity and hypertension

It then looks in detail at the facilities and activity programmes offered at each of the four parks as well as the opportunities they could offer for GP referral and makes a series of recommendations for changes that would improve health outcomes for these conditions.

The Council will draw on the findings of this report to help inform future changes and improvements to improve health outcomes for parks and greenspaces.

Final link to be inserted

### A Natural Capital Account for Haringey

Natural capital is 'the stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources (e.g., plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) that combine to yield a flow of benefits to people' (6).

The Council commissioned a Natural Capital Account for Haringey to help to demonstrate the contribution and benefits made by the borough's natural capital assets. These are benefits that would not be captured in mainstream capital accounts.

Using what is still fairly new and still emerging methodology, the account, which is presented in balance sheet format, shows:

- Over the 60-year period of the account (2020-2080), the borough's greenspaces will produce benefits of over £1,000 million in present value terms
- 90% of this value is for public benefits including carbon sequestration, reduction in air pollution, and physical health and wellbeing from recreation
- The most significant benefits are physical health and wellbeing benefits from recreation which make up around 80% of the value
- The benefit estimates reflect the assumption that these natural capital assets of the borough will be maintained, and the population will increase. The value would go down if the assets are not maintained to meet the needs of the existing or growing population. Different future scenarios could be tested using the baseline natural capital accounting approach followed here.

The Council did not include the impact on property values in calculating the account as it wanted to identify the public benefits accruing to the wider community. Had property values been added, they would have significantly increased the overall value.

Further information about the Haringey Natural Capital Account can be found in the Asset Management Plan.



## Access audits for Finsbury Park, Lordship Rec and Queens Wood

Making Haringey's parks more accessible and welcoming for everyone is one of the three Aims of the Strategy.

To help in identifying what changes are needed in parks and greenspaces to make them more accessible, access audits have been carried out in the three District Parks at Finsbury Park, Lordship Recreation Ground and Queens Wood.

These audits have made a number of recommendations covering the areas of:

- Facilities and Design
- Management and Operations
- Activities and Behaviour
- Marketing and Communications

The main recommendations from the reports will be summarised into a single document that will be used by the Council to inform the range of adjustments or procedures that could be implemented by the Council and its partners to make the borough's parks and greenspaces as accessible as it can to as many people as possible.



## 11. Actions Proposed to Deliver the Key Aims

### Overall Outcome of Inclusion and Wellbeing

Providing inclusive parks and greenspaces that all communities in Haringey can benefit from, so that usage and enjoyment of our parks and greenspaces reflects the communities living in Haringey.

#### The 10 main actions to achieve more inclusive parks

1. Over time, adapt the parks workforce to become representative of who lives in Haringey
2. Recruit a Community Engagement Officer whose main priority is to work with seldom heard from groups to ensure that new and different voices can contribute to future service delivery
3. To develop additional open space in areas of deficiency, particularly in the east of Haringey
4. Undertake an annual survey to identify the profile of park users and use this survey as the basis for monitoring changes in usage
5. Identify changes in the design of parks and greenspaces and facilities offered by parks and greenspaces to make them more attractive, safer, more welcoming and more accessible to seldom heard from groups
6. Support the development of new user groups and develop a programme of activities and events that showcase and support increased usage and involvement by seldom heard from groups, including activities to involve communities in nature, to improve health and wellbeing and activities to support thoughtful behaviour
7. Develop a Marketing and Communications Plan that supports increased usage and involvement by seldom heard from groups
8. Communicate with key partners and stakeholders to help them understand and support the Priority of more inclusive parks in Haringey
9. Hold an annual celebration of community involvement and activity in parks
10. Review internal and external funding options to further support inclusive parks

### Overall Outcome of Climate Change and Sustainability

Supporting the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency by reducing the carbon footprint of parks and greenspaces, protecting and promoting biodiversity, and helping educate everyone in Haringey about contributing toward saving the planet.

The 10 main actions to mitigate Climate Change through parks, greenspaces and biodiversity

1. To work towards making the management of Haringey's parks net zero carbon by 2041, by reducing or eliminating carbon generation from buildings, plant, vehicles and machinery and the overall delivery of the Parks Service
2. To establish an interdepartmental coordinating group with representation from Parks, Planning, Housing, Highways, Flood Management and Regeneration to ensure effective collaboration between services in the development and ongoing management of programmes and policies that support the council's approach towards the Climate Emergency with regards to green and blue infrastructure, climate vulnerability and the natural environment
3. To increase the overall area of greenspaces in Haringey in new developments and through the delivery of pocket parks by 250sqm each year, supported by the new Local Plan

4. To recruit a new officer to strengthen the contribution made from planning applications for trees and biodiversity through enhanced protection and biodiversity net gain
5. To undertake a review of all current SINC's with a view to updating SINC designations and habitat and species information for SINC's
6. To develop updated management plans for Local Nature Reserves
7. To increase tree canopy cover in Haringey from 25% (2020) to 30% and plant a minimum of 10,000 new trees by 2030 in order to reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, improve air quality and reduce ambient temperature.
8. To develop new Local Nature Reserves and ten new SINC's.
9. To encourage biodiversity improvements to be delivered through sustainable urban drainage systems
10. Provide activities and events that help promote access to the natural environment to people from BAME communities

### Overall Outcome of Service Quality

Securing Investment, improving standards, partnerships, communications, and outcomes.

The 10 main actions to deliver better service quality

1. Increase the number of parks and greenspaces with a Green Flag accreditation from 22 to 30
2. To secure additional capital funding for parks to maintain assets to a good standard
3. To adopt clear policies to inform the management, operation and usage of our parks for a range of areas including toilet provision, vehicles in parks, lighting and CCTV, use of herbicides, dogs and dog control, smoking and alcohol
4. To have more and better targeted enforcement activity in parks and greenspaces and sites of importance for nature
5. To secure resources to provide more front-line gardening staff
6. To provide more information in parks and via council, Friends and other partner websites that support the Strategy priorities of Inclusion, Climate Change and Sustainability, and improving Service Quality
7. To reduce the costs of managing litter and waste in parks and reinvest the savings in support of parks feeling safer and more welcoming
8. To recruit a Green Space Volunteer Coordinator to develop volunteering opportunities for new groups, to develop an improved corporate volunteering offer and to support volunteering amongst existing groups.
9. Increase the resources available to manage high risk trees to ensure more can be retained and not implicated in insurance claims, giving rise to damage to residents' homes
10. To ensure the protection of all parks and greenspaces in Haringey via a 5-year programme of Fields in Trust dedications



## 11. References

- (1) disabled people have accounted for 59% of all COVID deaths
- (2) and unsurprisingly more have also indicated a greater impact on their lives
- (3) In May 2020, 36% of people responding to the People and Nature Survey by Natural England said they were spending more time outside during the pandemic than before.
- (4) Veolia Haringey survey report 2020-2021
- (5) Richardson M, Hunt A, Hinds J, Bragg R, Fido D, Petronzi D, et al. A Measure of Nature Connectedness for Children and Adults: Validation, Performance, and Insights. Sustainability. 2019;11(12):3250
- (6) Natural Capital Protocol <https://naturalcapitalcoalition.org/natural-capital-protocol/>







