



Wirral Council
Community services department
Parks & Countryside Service

Victoria Park

2023-2028
Management Plan



Tranmere Cross

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Preface to the 2023-2028 Victoria Park Management Plan.

This is the 2023-2028 Management Plan for Victoria Park. Since 2015 very positive community links have taken place and links between schools and local companies have been formed.

Since a staffing restructure in 2020 the Gardens has been the responsibility of the Birkenhead General Parks Manager and Team Leader for Rock Ferry, Prenton and Birkenhead who work closely with staff and friend's groups.

The new 2023-2028 Victoria Park Management Plan includes the upgrading of the community gardens and a more detailed plan of how to attract a wider audience through park events.

1 Introduction

The plan is intended to provide a framework for the development and improvement of Victoria Park. If you wish to find out further information about this document or submit any suggestions, please contact the **Parks and Countryside Service** at Wirral Council on telephone number **0151 606 2004** or report the problem on the website www.wirral.gov.uk or write to:

**Wirral Council
Neighbourhood Services
Parks & Countryside Service
Wirral Council
Wallasey Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
CH44 8ED**

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Plan

The prime purpose of this *Management Plan* is to ensure that the future upkeep and management of the park will sustain, and continue to improve on, the quality of the park and the facilities it offers.

This Plan covers the period from 2023-2028 and will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

The Plan is prepared for all those who use, manage or who might have an interest in the park, either now or in the future., it will continue to be subject to discussion and review with key stakeholders, including park users.

2 The Wider Policy Context

Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Service are based within the Neighbour Services Department of Wirral Council.

The content and structure of the Management Plan has been informed by the following guidelines:

A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans (CABE Space, 2004) <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/parks-and-green-space-management-plans.pdf>

Raising the Standard: The Green Flag Awards Guidance Manual (Keep Britain Tidy, 2016) www.greenflagaward.org/media/1019/green-flag-award-guidelines.pdf

2.1. Corporate Objectives

The Council's Vision is that Wirral will be a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, where employers want to invest and local businesses thrive, and where good health and an excellent quality of life is within the reach of everyone who lives here.

The Wirral Plan agreed by cabinet in September 2021 sets out a series of pledges which the Council and its partners will work to achieve by 2026 focussing on 5 key themes:

- Inclusive Economy
- Safe and Pleasant Communities
- Sustainable Environment
- Brighter futures
- Active and healthy lives

The Wirral 2021-26 plan is available to download online:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/pp7-wirral-plan-equity-people-and-place-2021-2026.pdf>

2.2. Parks and Countryside Service Objectives

The department's role is to protect the environmental quality of key locations across the borough for all local people, communities, and visitors to enjoy and to influence investors to operate their businesses and encourage new investors. Parks and countryside site maintenance and land uses will be re-aligned where appropriate to achieve resource and economic efficiencies whilst promoting health, social and environmental benefits to our communities.

The Parks and Countryside Service have produced a 10-year Parks and Open Spaces Strategy that will inform and direct the next 10 years for the service (running from 2014-2024). It is available online at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/Leisure%20parks%20and%20events/parks%20and%20open%20spaces/Wirral%20Parks%20and%20Open%20Spaces%20Strategy%202014-2024.pdf>

The Strategy sets out how Wirral Parks and Countryside Service will aim to provide attractive and well managed parks and open spaces, whilst being accessible; and providing positive and healthy activities for all local people, communities, and visitors to enjoy and to attract and retain investment in the borough. The service also intends to contribute to the environmental sustainability and biodiversity of Wirral to achieve a good balance by protecting habitats while supporting economic growth.

2.3 Environmental Initiatives

Wirral Council is committed to carrying out its work in an environmentally responsible manner.

Wirral Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency at Council in July 2019 and through this committed to action to address the ecological and climate crisis that we face.

The commitment to action aims to:

- cut climate damaging pollution locally in line with global targets, whilst developing resilience to more extreme weather patterns and rising sea levels that impact Wirral.
- protect and enhance biodiversity.

As a local authority, we can have a positive influence through:

- how we organise our operations and services
- the regulations and policies we set.
- the goods and services we buy.
- the investments we make.
- the example we set to others.

Tackling the ecological and climate crisis presents major opportunities locally to improve quality of life, health, wellbeing, and the economy.

More information on the Climate Emergency Declaration maybe found at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/climate-change-action>

To deliver against these aims Wirral Has developed 'Cool Wirral'. The Cool Wirral campaign is aimed at encouraging local climate-related action in support of the delivery of the 'Cool 2 Climate Change Strategy for Wirral: -

[View Wirral Council's Cool 2 climate strategy and progress reports](#)

The Cool Wirral Partnership (formerly the Wirral Climate Change Group) co-ordinates local action on climate change. The partnership is supported by Wirral Council and a variety of partnership.

More information on the Cool Wirral Partnership maybe found at:

[https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/cool-wirral#:~:text=The%20Cool%20Wirral%20Partnership%20\(formerly,Wirral%20Partnership%20NHS%20Foundation%20Trust](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/cool-wirral#:~:text=The%20Cool%20Wirral%20Partnership%20(formerly,Wirral%20Partnership%20NHS%20Foundation%20Trust)

Some key initiatives include: -

Designating Pollinators and wildflower sites

A large proportion of pollinators are flies, including more than 250 species of hoverfly. Bees make up about a quarter of the pollinating insects and in the UK alone there are approximately 250 species of bee, 24 species of bumblebee, 225 species of solitary bee and just one species of honeybee. Butterflies and moths are also pollinators as well as bugs and beetles.

In line with the council's Climate Emergency Response, steps are being taken to prioritise pollinators. Dependant on the location of a verge, pollinators are prioritised in various ways, these methods can include:

- planting pollinator friendly plants
- not mowing grass verges when wildflowers of significance are in season.
- reduced weed removal in the area of pollinator sights.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environmental-problems/street-care-and-cleaning/pollinators-and-wildflower-sites>

No Mow May

Throughout the month of May, the council takes part in the [No Mow May campaign](#), which is about stopping mowing in general grass areas in parks to help bees, butterflies and wildlife.

Trees, hedgerows and woodland

The council have been working with partners and stakeholders to develop a 10-year strategy to consider how we manage and respond to the borough's current trees and the future provision of trees. In the ten-year span of this strategy over 210,000 trees will be planted, at least 21,000 per year. In doing so we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost. The trees that are planted will see Wirral's tree canopy cover doubled by the time they are fully grown.

We will adopt the principle of 'the right tree for the right place' to ensure the most resilient tree population possible. We will establish a clear picture of Wirral's tree stock and its benefits. We will work constructively with individuals and groups to deliver this vision.

3 Vision, Aims and Objectives

Victoria Park will be maintained in accordance with its primary purpose as a local park and will maintain its standard to achieve Green Flag award.

Vision:

The vision for the park is to provide a public space that can deliver the recreation and play, community safety, community development and health (mental and physical) needs for the communities of the Birkenhead Area.

Aims

1. Develop the numbers of people using Victoria Park
2. Develop educational potential of Victoria Park.
3. Improved Sports Facilities
4. Increase Income generated by the park to provide security of provision for the future.
5. Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour within the park, safeguard and enhance community safety.

Objectives

- 1.1 Promote and encourage events and entertainment, in keeping with the character of the park.
- 1.2 Encourage local schools to use park for education and leisure.
- 1.3 Achieve the standard as defined by the Green Flag standard.
- 2.1 Form partnerships with local businesses to increase appropriate park use.
- 3.1 Enhance maintenance on sports pitches.
- 3.2 Replace existing M.U.G.A. surface and reinstate with Futsal Surface.
- 3.3. Create measured Fitness trail to, link with the outdoor gym Equipment.
- 4.1 Provide tea/coffee provisions through tendering process.
- 5.1 An improved feeling of security within the park working with partners to provide sports sessions and outdoor activities.

4 Site information

4.1 Site summary

Name: Victoria Park

Grid Reference: 332133, 386795

Address: Bebington Road, Tranmere, Birkenhead, Wirral, Merseyside Ch42 6PX

Ward: Rock Ferry

Current facilities and features:

- One full size and two junior football pitches
- Victoria Park Cricket Club
- Two bowling greens and pavilions
- Football/basketball court
- Mature tree and shrub Features
- Historical stone cross
- Children's play area
- Enclosed community garden
- Architectural sandstone boundary features including gate/fence piers and fence base plinth.
- Park depot with storage and staff facilities

Buildings: All of the Park's built structures other than the cricket pavilion and community are managed by the Council's Parks & Countryside section on behalf of the Asset Management section. The cricket pavilion is owned by the Tranmere Victoria Cricket Club the 'footprint' of the building is leased long-term from Wirral Council.

Size: 11.36 Hectares

4.2 Tenure: Victoria Park is owned and managed by Wirral's Parks and Countryside Service of Wirral Council's Neighbourhoods Department.

The Park has a premises licence (Licensing Act 2003) for the following activities:

- Plays
- Indoor sporting events
- Live music
- Recorded music
- Performance of dance
- Provision of facilities for making music.
- Provision of facilities for dancing

4.3 Park overview:

Victoria Park is a popular and well used park serving the local community. It has fantastic panoramic views across the Mersey towards Liverpool.

A visit to the park in springtime provides displays of daffodils and crocuses. Avenues of European Lime trees provide habitat for birds such as Blue Tits, Chaffinches, Greenfinches, Thrushes and Blackbirds. The Park has an active and enthusiastic Friends Group.

There are opportunities for the local people to participate in a range of sports in the park. Facilities include two bowling greens, one full size football pitch and 2 junior football pitches. Victoria Park Cricket Club is also located in the park. There is a children's play area with facilities for toddlers and juniors and a kick-about area, play equipment for young people.

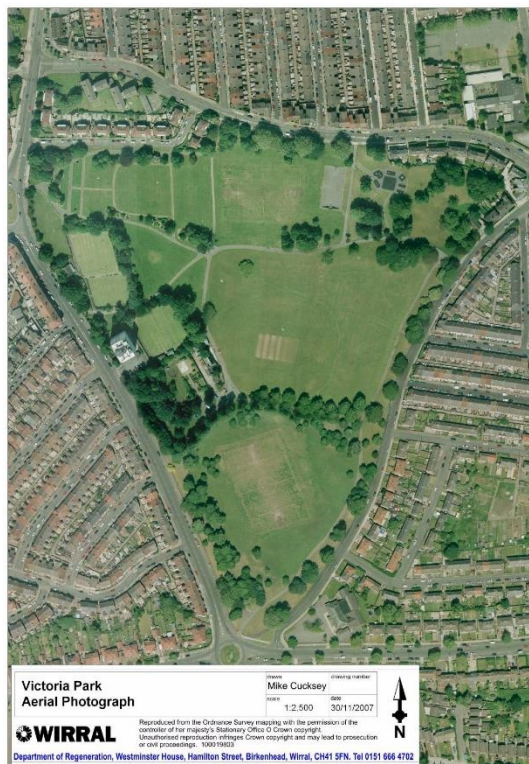
4.4 Summary of main uses:

- Dog walking
- Ball games
- Junior Football
- Cricket
- Bowls
- Children's play
- Passive recreation
- Fitness trail
- Jogging
- Events

Figure 1- Location Plan



Figure 2- Victoria Park Aerial View



4.5 History:

Victoria Park was built on part of the lands originally owned by Mr John Ravenshaw who was the last man in Tranmere to have a large farm (300 acres). The park lands originally housed Tranmere Lodge in the 1820's and housed incumbents of St Catherine's Church Reverend James Newton (1824) and later his successor William Cleminson who left the lodge in 1847 to become the Rector of Waring. After this it became the property of John Ball, and he leased the property to Charles Ashton.

After Ashton vacated the premises, the lease was taken by Victor Poutz. Victor was born in New Orleans in 1811 to Father Jean Paul Poutz, who had nine other children. Jean Paul was originally from an area called Arudy in France, in the Lower Pyrenees. He moved to America and traded as a general merchant (including slaves) and moved back to France in the mid to late 1830's.

After Victor left, the house fell into disrepair but was eventually restored and renamed 'The Towers' because it incorporated the two towers from the original building. Today, standing in its place are the high-rise flats that have retained the name 'The Towers'. The park was acquired in 1900 by Birkenhead Corporation.

Figure 3- Victoria Gardens Birkenhead



At the top end of the park stands the Tranmere Cross, which once marked the entrance to Tranmere on Church Street. This ancient relic is the last reminder of Tranmere as a medieval village. All that remains of the cross today is the standing column which locals at one time believed to be a sundial. Mr.G.W. Haswell, an authority on medieval masonry, finally authenticated its identity as a medieval cross. Further mystery abounded when in 1862 it disappeared. It was rediscovered in 1935 although its whereabouts during this period remain unexplained. It was eventually presented to

Victoria Park before the Second World War, mounted on top of red sandstone steps to mark the village entrance to the park. Close scrutiny of the stone reveals carvings of the faces of gargoyles. Gargoyles were originally carved into stonework during medieval times to ward off evil spirits. Victoria Park opened to the public in 1901.

Figure 4-The Walks Victoria Park



5 Green Flag Analysis and Assessment

The intention is for the park to achieve the standards as defined by the **Green Flag Award** Scheme; further details about the scheme are available at www.greenflagaward.org.co.uk.

The following Green Flag assessment criteria are used as a focus for the future development of the park.

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe and secure
3. Clean and well maintained
4. Environmental Management
5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing and Communications
8. Management

5.1. A welcoming place

Access:

The park has seven entrance points together with open boundaries along Well Lane and Albany Road.

All entrance points and the park's footpath network are all suitable for wheelchairs and mobility scooter users.

Victoria Park's main entrance lies off Bebington Road, on the southwestern side of the park.

An access statement is available and can be found at <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-events/parks-and-open-spaces/victoria-park-rock-ferry>

Signage

There is a large (one metre) Green Sign adjacent to the main road access route to the park, by the roundabout at the northern end of Bebington Road (junction with Church Road). Four of the other park entrances have smaller (A4) green signs of a similar style. Brown tourist signs have been installed at four locations to direct visitors to the park.

Figure 5- Signage in Park



Public transport

Public transport to the park is very good; the park is located adjacent to several bus routes with a stop immediately adjacent to the park's Bebington Road entrance with others located in close proximity to the park on Bedford Road and Well Lane.

The nearest rail station 'Rock Ferry' is situated in Bedford Road 790 metres from the park's Bedford Road entrance.

Information boards

There is currently one main information cabinet adjacent to the Green Flagpole and Gardeners' depot. This is updated regularly by the three key-holders, the Park staff, the friends' group and the Cricket Club.

It is planned to introduce a second information board at the Well Lane entrance, and possibly a third at Albany Road when funding becomes available.

Depot

The site-based gardening staff are based in the depot in Victoria Park and can be contacted regarding park matters at regular times throughout the week between the hours of 07:00- 16:00 from February till November and 08:00- 15:00 from November till late February.

5.2. Healthy, Safe and Secure

Anti-social behaviour

Wirral Council's Community Patrol is established to provide a 24-hour response to any concerns notified to them regarding anti-social behaviour occurring within Council owned land. The Patrol provides a reactive response to calls from the public and Council staff and they do undertake routine patrolling. Problems of a persistent or on-going nature however can be raised with the team. The Patrol can be contacted on telephone number 0151 666 5265.

Incident reports compiled by Wirral Council's Community Patrol are made available to the Parks and Countryside Service and are provided to the General Parks Manager

The Parks and Countryside Service are represented on the A.S.B Governance group. The group is comprised of representatives from various agencies including Merseyside Police, Wirral Council Community Safety, Youth workers, Community groups and other partner organisations. The monthly held meetings of the group provide a multi-agency forum for addressing problems. Any serious issues regarding security in Parks and Countryside sites can be raised at the meeting.

The park is covered by Byelaws, made under Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875 and sections 12 and 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906.

The works depot has had CCTV installed in June 2016 with HD Quality images, which can be viewed on a monitor on site by authorised staff.

Wirral Council's Youth and Community Services Outreach Team regularly work in the Park to engage young people in various diversionary activities. Also, the Outreach Alcohol Team visits the park to raise awareness. The 'Konnecta Bus Project' aimed at providing safety, support, advice, referral to Agencies etc engage with young people in both of the Tranmere parks. Agencies make targeted visits to the park on Friday evenings and weekday evenings.

Lighting is installed along the main footpath route leading from Albany Road to Bebington Road. This provision has improved park user's perception regarding safety.

Dog fouling

Dog fouling within the park has significantly reduced over the years however incidents do still occur. The children's play area is designated as 'dog free'.

The whole of the Wirral Borough is designated under Dog Control Orders (that implement section 55 and 56 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005) providing increased levels of enforcement for five offences prescribed in a dog control order, these are - failing to remove dog faeces, not keeping a dog on a lead, not putting a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, permitting

a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded and taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land. Failure to comply can result in a prosecution and a maximum fine of up to £1,000. Alternatively, offenders may be offered a £50 Fixed Penalty Notice. Wirral's

The Park has signs indicating that the park is a 'clean it up' area incorporated into the entrance signage. Dog walkers are advised to wrap the droppings and place in a litterbin. Many dog walkers do use the park's litterbins for the disposal of removed faeces. The children's play area is designated as a dog free area which is clearly displayed on the play area signage.

For further information regarding dog fouling, visit:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environmental-problems/street-care-and-cleaning/dog-fouling>

Since 2018 Victoria Park, a dog poo bag dispenser has been installed following a successful pilot scheme, this has further reduced dog fouling in the park.

First Aid

In 2022 it was agreed that an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) (defibrillator) will be installed in the park and will be located on the external fencing to the works depot.

Smoking in the play area

Wirral council has signed up to the voluntary "Play Smokefree" code. The aim is to "renormalize" no-smoking so that children are discouraged from taking up the habit in later years. The "Play Smokefree" code is being run by charity Heart of Mersey with Wirral Council and NHS Wirral. Special signage designed by Hayfield School pupils has been installed in the play area asking that children be allowed to "Play Smokefree."

Public toilets

There are no public toilets on site. Toilets are available at the Tranmere Victoria Cricket Club when the club is open on matchdays.

Staff and Volunteer Health and Safety Procedures

The health and safety of staff and volunteers on site is covered by the Council's Corporate Health and Safety Policy. The policy is available for viewing on the Human Resources section of the Council intranet.

Risk assessments are carried out as needed and copies are kept at Victoria Park

Health and Safety Committee meetings are held every month Chaired by the Head of Parks & Countryside . The meetings involve Senior parks management and Trade Union Health and Safety Representatives. Any issues arising can be dealt with at this meeting.

5.3. Clean and maintained

The General Parks Manager and Team Leader are responsible for the management and maintenance of the site. The site is in the Birkenhead District operational area.

Machinery in our 'in-house' workshops are regularly maintained and inspected.

Horticultural maintenance is carried out in accordance with a frequency- based specification allied to an annual maintenance schedule (see Appendix 6) issued to park staff on a quarterly basis in the form of job cards and these are used to identify all maintenance operations and frequencies.

The children's play area and fitness equipment are inspected on a weekly basis by a dedicated play area safety inspection team any problems associated with the areas can be reported to the Council on telephone number **0151 606 2004**.

During the inspection visit the condition of the equipment is assessed and any repair considered necessary is undertaken or the equipment isolated until a permanent repair can be made.

The park's play equipment is independently assessed on an annual basis by an engineer from The Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) in accordance with EN 1176 "Playground Equipment". The Society's inspections cover:

- Site safety
- Suitability and conditions of ancillary items
- Standard compliance, suitability and condition of equipment
- Dimensional compliance, suitability and condition of surfacing

Trees

Tree safety inspections are conducted by the councils appointed professional arboriculture specialist. Work is then contracted out and conducted on a priority basis.

A tree policy and procedure has been written (see appendix 4) which describes the basic steps when a member of staff has concerns regarding a specific tree or trees. The staff member should report the tree to the Team Leader.

Vulnerable trees are identified by Tree Inspection Officers as part of patrols and reported to the General Park Area Manager, whereupon urgent safety work is carried out directly as needed.

Conservation and amenity tree work is carried out where resources allow, as part of the winter works programme.

For details on council owned trees near to or overhanging private property, please refer to the council's policy published on the council website available at:
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/road-maintenance/trees-along-road>

Annual Site safety inspection

An annual Parks Safety inspection is carried out every year between January and the end of March (appendix 9). The inspection is intended to identify defects within the site that present a safety problem for staff, users, and adjacent residents. The checklist requires appraisal of the following items:

1. Paths, steps, ramps
2. Fences, gates
3. Monuments.
4. Furniture – signs, seats, litterbins etc.
5. Soft landscape – grass, planted areas, water features etc
6. Trees

Parks Furniture

The park's furniture including bins, benches and signage are in good conditions, the bins were all replaced in 2017. The ground around the sheltered seating unit can become waterlogged and muddy during wet weather. A soak away was installed to manage the flooding problem.

Figure 6 - Refurbished bench at Victoria Park bowling green



Victoria Park community garden/orchid

The community garden in previous years has been underutilized and fell in a bad state of repair, and our primary aim is to improve and develop the Community gardens. A memorial bench was installed in 2018 and is well visited by family and the local community.

In 2023 working with our in-house tree team additional funding was sourced and we created an orchid within the gardens and working with a local schools eco club, 9 fruit trees were planted. This area will be opened daily allowing residents and park users to access to free fruit all.

The bowling green

The bowling green next to the former community garden had not been used for four seasons and the bowls pavilion was in an unusable state. In 2015 the bowling green was transferred through asset management to Gladstone Bowling Club and they are responsible for all maintenance. The other two Bowling Greens have proven to be popular with local teams and are well used.

Resources:

- Team Leader
- General Parks Manager
- Ground Maintenance operative team and visiting Tractor Driver
- Neighbourhood Wardens
- Tranmere Victoria Cricket Club staff and pavilion
- A range of hand and mechanical maintenance tools
- Annual revenue budget
- Visiting Arboriculture team
- Visiting play inspection team
- Park maintenance depot with garaging, storage and staff facility

5.4. Environmental Management

Wirral Council is committed to improving its waste management and recycling objectives.

Green waste generated at the park is separated and composted at the area depot (Birkenhead Park) to avoid disposal to landfill; the material is subsequently reused for soil improvement. Brash generated during seasonal tree-work operations is chipped and stored for reuse as mulch. Any waste timber and metals are also separated for reuse/recycling at the depot.

In November 2018 Wirral Borough Council introduced a single use plastic policy; this can be found following the link below.

<http://wbcnet.admin.ad.wirral.gov.uk/news/news/2018/11/13/single-use-plastic-policy-announced>

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (C.O.S.H.H.) assessment records of all chemical based products used within the park form part of the Departments Quality Assurance procedures. Pesticide records are retained on site. Chemical storage and usage within the park comply with the requirements defined within the current pesticide handling legislation.

Tractor and mowing equipment are checked for emission levels.

Since 2019, Wirral Borough Councils parks and countryside department has trailed a blanket ban on the use of Herbicide in all our Parks and Open spaces apart from for the treatment of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed.

Peat is not used in any capacity within the park.

The park is well served by public transport (as stated in section 4.1), and it is an aspiration to provide pedestrian signage to the site from nearby railway stations.

5.5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

An assessment of the nature conservation of the park was undertaken (see appendix 5) and the findings from it have been incorporated into the plans actions.

In 2018 we introduced spring and summer meadows to improve Biodiversity in the park. All new flora and fauna will be recorded; nettle beds will also be phased in, increasing invertebrate biodiversity and providing a focal point to attract some of our most colourful butterflies, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma

The main heritage features of the park include the following:

- The medieval Tranmere Cross (Grade 2)
- Original boundary feature sandstone entrance piers
- Boundary walling and original sandstone copings
- The park's mature tree stock

There are some small sections of the sandstone wall that need repairing. The fencing and gate around the Tranmere cross have recently been painted but it is important that there is a regular programme of painting as the Tranmere cross is such an important heritage feature of the site.

In the longer term if resources become available it would be an aspiration to restore more of the park's Victorian heritage. The entire boundary of the park could be enhanced, with the provision of new railings and gates fabricated to original pattern and the cleaning and repair of sandstone piers.

The Tranmere cross fragment is of medieval origin (15th century) the area is enclosed by steel fencing with a lockable gate. It was erected at its present site in 1937.

Figure 7- The Tranmere Cross



5.6. Community Involvement

The Friends of Tranmere Park's represent both Victoria Park and the neighbouring Mersey Park. The park's Friends have been instrumental in attracting funding and raising the profile of the park locally. The Friends of Tranmere Park's meet on the first Tuesday of each month and following that meeting a works party takes place the Saturday after the meeting.

In 2017 in partnership with Bebington Road Society and The Friends of Tranmere Parks, The Tranmere Festival was transformed and has been very successful, drawing crowds of up to 4000 people.

A Wirral Green and Open Space Strategy Key Stakeholder Workshop was held in 2013 to discuss the following topics: the ten year vision; the future role of Council, Friends Groups, volunteers and other partners; and the health, education, environmental sustainability, biodiversity and economic benefits of green and open spaces.

All 46 Wirral's Parks Friends groups are invited to attend a Park's Forum, which is held twice a year. This presents an opportunity for the various groups to network and share their experiences. Collectively the Friends of Wirral Parks produce a quarterly newsletter with contributions from all friends groups.

Stakeholders and Partner Organisations

- The Friends of Tranmere Parks
- Merseyside Police
- Wirral Council Community Safety Team
- Wirral Council Youth and Community Services Outreach Team
- Wirral Council Asset Management
- The Friends of Tranmere Parks
- Tranmere Victoria Park Cricket Club
- Victoria Colts F.C (Charter Mark Award winners)
- The parks management and maintenance staff
- Higher Tranmere Veterans Bowling Club(s) A, B and C
- Gladstone Bowling Club
- Higher Bebington bowling Club
- Victoria Park Ladies Bowling Club
- Cammell Lairds Ladies Bowling Club
- Kings 2000 Bowling Club
- Prenton High School for Girls
- Well Lane Primary School
- Mersey Park Primary School
- Bedford Drive Primary School

The Albany Community Hall is now privately owned and is hoped to be a rest bite for mental health patients.

Demographic information

“Statistics for health in Tranmere and Rock Ferry show residents are more likely to face poor health through their lives and have a greater likelihood that ongoing health problems and unhealthy lifestyles will contribute to life threatening illness and disease than is usually enjoyed in Wirral and nationally”. (JSNA)

Health in the park

The Neighbourhood Health Plan identified the need to improve child health in the area; again the parks have potentially a significant contribution to make towards this issue.

The proposed new measured fitness trail for Victoria Park will help address some of the above issues related to the poor health of residents in the Tranmere and Rock Ferry area as it will provide a free facility for outdoor exercise.

5.7 Marketing and Communication

Web Site

Wirral Council’s Internet web site, Wirral.gov.uk has recently been redesigned and has links to the Parks and Countryside Departments information.

In 2016 the Friends of Tranmere Parks set up their own Facebook page.

[Green Flag Award website](#): Gives a great overview of the site, alongside park facilities and contact details. Allows people to see online that the park has achieved this prestigious award.

Wirral Globe: Local newspaper and online news.

Information boards

Notice boards in Victoria Park provide valuable information to park users such as events, meetings, and any other community information.

A new notice board was installed in 2023 replacing the existing board which was no longer fit for use.

Signage

To promote the park to a wider audience, Brown 'tourism' signs have been strategically placed in surrounding roads to direct the public to the park.

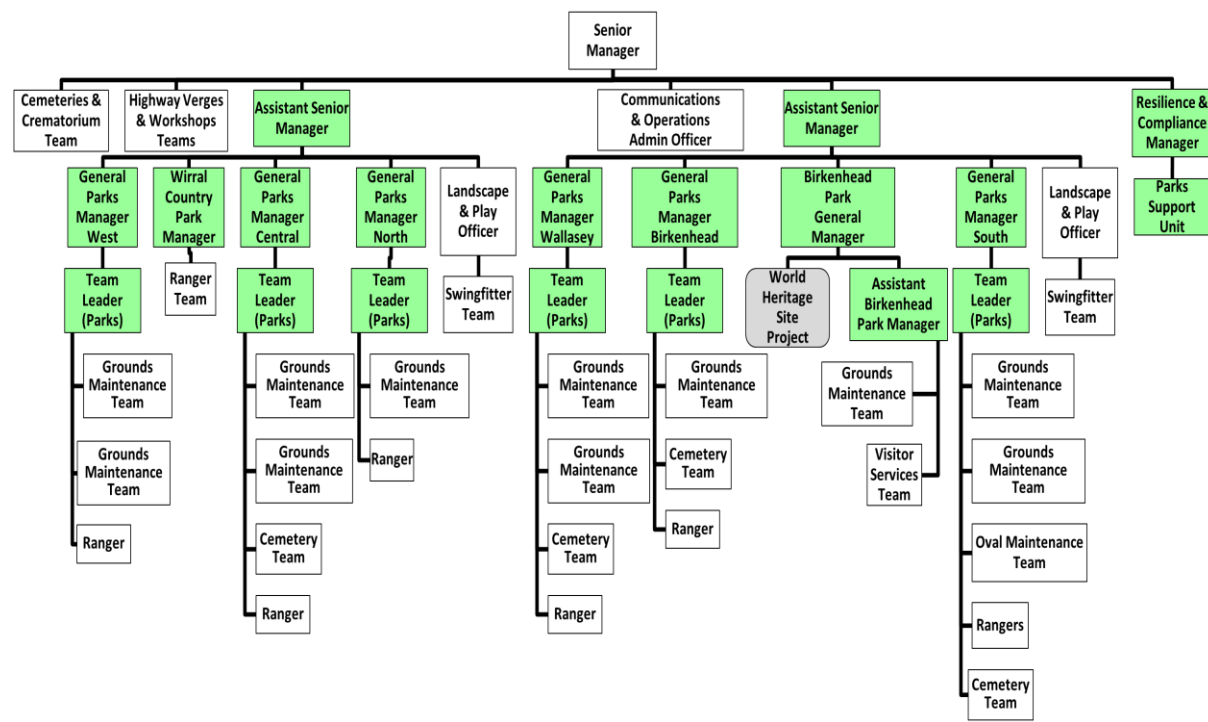
Events

Events are an asset to bring in a wider audience of park users, the Arno has been very successful holding many events in previous years and the aim is to develop this more.

5.8. Management

The Parks and Countryside Service were restructured in 2020.

The diagram below shows the current organisational structure.



General Management of Victoria Park is the responsibility of the General Parks Manager and Team Leader whose key role is to be responsible for the management, maintenance, development, and promotion of Victoria Park

The area grounds maintenance depot is located at Victoria Park. Enquiries regarding the management and maintenance of the park can be made to the Team Leader on telephone number 0151 645 8299.

Enquiries about the management of the park should be directed to the General Parks Manager for Birkenhead on **0151 606 2004**. Email: parksandverges@WirralCouncil.onmicrosoft.com

6. Action Plan

<u>No</u>	<u>Action</u>	<u>Lead Officer</u>	<u>Target date</u>	<u>Resources</u>	<u>Target met</u>
1. To make the park more welcoming					
1.1	Replace/repair seating damaged from vandalism	Team Leader/Landscape officer	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
1.2	Liaise with highway Management Division to mark out disabled parking bays either side of the Bebington Road entrance	Team Leader	2024	Requires additional funding - £1k	
1.3	Replace the existing notice board by the works depot	Team Leader	2023	Within existing resources	Yes, new notice board installed in 2023
1.4	Renewal of seating around bowling greens	Team Leader/ General Manager	2024-2026	Requires additional funding	5 benches refurbished in 2024
1.5	Provide information boards at Albany road and Well Lane entrances	Team Leader	2024		
2. To make the park healthy, safe and secure					
2.1	Report all incidents of anti-social behaviour to Merseyside Police	Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
2.2	Tree safety survey conducted: Identify trees that are a safety concern	Team Leader	Ongoing(every 3 years)	Within existing resources	
2.3	To install an AED (defibrillator)	Compliance officer	2024	Requires additional funding - £10,000	
2.4	Retain the presence of on-site staff	General Parks Manager	2023-2028	Within existing resources	
2.5	Provide Dog Poo bags to all park visitors	Team Leader	2023	Requires additional funding	Met 2020
2.6	Annual Site Safety inspections	Team Leader/	Annually	Within existing resources	
3. To ensure the park is clean and well maintained					

3.1	Improve drainage in the park particularly near to Albany Hall.	Landscape Officer, General Parks Manager	2024	Requires additional funding - £1k	
3.2	Undertake a tree survey and produce a tree management plan	Tree officer General Parks Manger	2025	Requires additional funding - £1-2k	
3.3	Repaint Railings surrounding the Tranmere Cross	Team Leader	20225	Within existing resources	
4. To improve the park's environmental sustainability					
4.1	Install recycling bins in the parks depot.	Team Leader	2024	Within existing resources	
4.2	Minimise pesticide usage in the park	Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	MET 2020
4.3	Bird and bat boxes introduced in suitable areas across the park	Team Leader	2023-2028	Within existing resources	
5. To improve the park's conservation and heritage value					
5.1	Produce a tree, Shrub and plant plan and deliver.	Team Leader	2025	Requires additional funding - £1k	
5.2	Continue to provide and develop a wildflower meadow in the park	Team Leader	Ongoing	Requires additional funding - £500	
5.3	Leave standing deadwood in-situ as appropriate and where safe	Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
5.4	Consider the provision of on-site historical interpretive information	Landscape officer/ Team Leader	To be identified	Requires additional funding - £2k	
5.5	Construct wildlife feature 'bug house' and bug informative display panels	Friends of Victoria Park assisted by park staff	2025	Requires additional funding - £2k	
6. To increase community involvement in the site					
6.1	Increase the park's events programme to include a broad age-range appeal	Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	

6.2	Consider available options for increasing activities programme specifically aimed at local schools use of the park	Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
6.3	Investigate the possibility of organising 'Invigorate' buggy runs for mums and tots	Team Lead/Sports development officer			
6.4	Work in conjunction with Parks Partnership to achieve the Green Flag Award	Local Team Leader/ Area Parks Manager/ Friends of Victoria Park	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
6.5	Undertake bulb planting in grass areas	Team Leader/ Friends	2024/25	Within existing resources	
7. To improve the marketing of the park					
7.1	Improve information about Victoria Park on the Wirral Council website	General Manager/ Comms team	To monitor and keep up to date	Within existing resources	
7.2	Update information noticeboards	Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources	
7.3	Erect new entrance signs at all four park entrances	Landscape officer Team Leader	2024	Requires additional funding - £5k	
7.4	Promote use of social media with the council and partners	Comms team/Team Leader	2024	N/a	Ongoing
8. To manage the implementation and review of this plan					
8.1	Follow mechanism to monitor and review progress of both development and the maintenance of the site	Local Area Team Leader	Monitor and keep up to date	Within existing resources	
8.2	Annual review of management plan as part of the Green Flag reapplication process	General Manager Team Leader	Annually	Within existing resources	
8.3	Enhance branding of the park	Comms/ General Manager/ Friends of/ Team Leader	2023-2028	Within existing resources	

7) Monitoring and Review

There is a precise and clear process for monitoring both maintenance and development.

- (i) The General Parks Manager and Team Leader for Birkenhead will incorporate progress on the Management Plan actions into the monthly management team meetings.
- (ii) The Grounds Maintenance Supervisor will report back on progress or shortfalls to the Team Leader after each visit.
- (iii) The Team Leader will carry out random inspections of the site between programmed monitoring visits.
- (iv) The Birkenhead General Manager will undertake a quarterly site inspection with the Team Leader and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor and Friends representatives to oversee the delivery of the Management Plan. The target dates in the five-year action plan will enable people to see how the partnership is making progress and when that action has been achieved.

Appendices

Appendix.1 Location plan



Appendix. 2 Aerial photograph



Appendix 3 Tree Risk Zoning & Tree policy

Tree policy

When considering tree work, whether by inspection or complaint, several issues are taken into account. The primary driver for work undertaken on trees will always be health and safety. While the Council would always want to be a good neighbour in terms of managing our tree stock, we do not automatically prune to reduce height, for light, satellite reception or to control leaf fall etc.

All persons employed to undertake tree work shall be suitably trained and qualified and in possession of the appropriate certification.

All tree work shall be undertaken in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010.

Have a duty of care to ensure that users of parks, green spaces, cemeteries, churchyards and golf courses, and all adjacent land, are not at unreasonable risk from possible failure of trees.

As part of site health and safety inspections, we assess and act on any tree related risks.

Individual trees in parks and green spaces – arboriculture management.

Undertake reactive management of selected trees in parks, green spaces, golf courses, cemeteries and churchyards in response to identified hazard risk identification, through an agreed programme of work. This may be supplemented by requests/complaints received from members of the public and others.

Undertake requests for commemorative and other funded tree planting within cemeteries, parks and green spaces to support the renewal of the tree stock, where these requests align with the design of specific parks and green spaces.

The appropriate Council Officer for each parks and countryside site (usually the Parks, Allotments and Countryside Team Leader for the location) is responsible for making all necessary checks to determine if there are any laws and regulations including tree preservation orders, which would affect any work proposed, and to ensure that all permissions and licences are gained prior to proceeding with work.

Before undertaking work, consider all paths, grassed areas, pavements, kerbs, approach roads, manhole covers, fences, walls, overhead cabling etc. that are either adjacent to or on the work area. These are to be preserved in good condition and make all necessary arrangement to make good any damage to the entire satisfaction of the service manager.

Any work should include, where appropriate, the removal of stumps and subsequent surface reinstatement.

Stumps intended for permanent retention to be cut at a specified height and left.

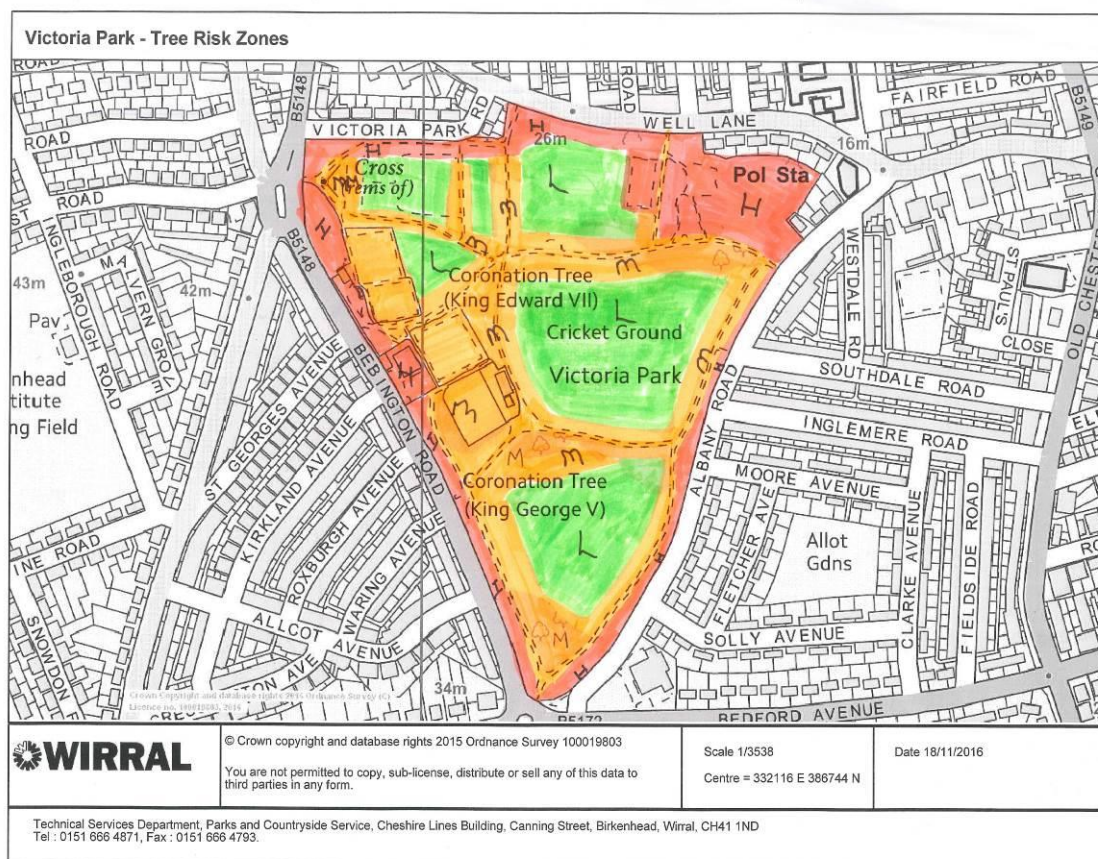
On completion of all work, the work area will be thoroughly cleaned and left in a condition appropriate for its intended use.

All timber and brushwood resulting from tree work is to be disposed of. The only exception to this shall be woodland locations where the service manager may instruct timber and brushwood to be retained on site.

The service manager may on occasion instruct delivery of brushwood chippings to sites within the Borough where these materials are required for composting, mulching or creating footpaths and bridleways.

There is an emergency call out service which provides 24 hours per day, 365 days per year emergency and out of hours call out response service for trees or limbs which have collapsed or are in a dangerous condition. Incidences of this nature are often associated with high winds, collision damage, root severance and acts of vandalism.

Tree Risk zoning



High Risk

1. School playgrounds
2. In High-use parks/public areas: Permanent structures with a constant target
3. Permanent structures with a value in excess of £50,000 or are habitable.
4. Seating areas
5. Camp sites
6. Known informal recreation “hotspots” used for impromptu “gatherings”.
7. Car park areas adjacent to high use public areas
8. Footpaths/access ways with greater than 36 pedestrians per hour
9. Individual trees or groups of trees with high-risk tree characteristics such as:
 - standing dead trees or those with very poor condition
 - trees that visually obstruct traffic signs, traffic lights, or streetlamps
10. Railway lines
11. A Class road, strategic and distributor
12. Principal Roads in built up areas
13. Guide: Pedestrian rates over 36 per hour, Structures over £50,000.

Medium Risk

1. „B” Class roads, secondary distributor and visually obstructed lights and signs
2. In High use Parks/Public areas: informal play areas, minor paths, grass
3. Golf Courses (excluding areas in High Hazard Zone)
4. Car parks adjacent to moderate/low use areas
5. Bus stops in high use thoroughfares.
6. Trees with medium risk characteristics, such as:
 - Old and veteran trees
 - High density of large or mature trees
 - Areas of recent root disturbance such as footway reconstruction, trenching, drainage etc.
 - Storm damaged trees
7. Guide: Pedestrian rates between 1 – 36 per hour, Structures £2,000 – £50,000

Low Risk

1. Unclassified roads: congested junctions and visually obstructed traffic
2. Trees with medium to low densities of large diameter, mature or “problem” species trees
3. Moderate to low use parks, playgrounds and picnic areas
4. Public areas with dispersed recreation
5. Open areas, woods, riparian and peripheral areas with limited use or access
6. Guide: Pedestrian rates lower than 1 per hour and structures up to £2,000

Appendix. 4 Nature Conservation Assessment of Victoria Park

Description of assets

Victoria Park is a medium sized urban park with an open aspect but with some good nature value. There are mature shrub beds, areas of wildflowers and a good mixture of ornamental and native trees. There is a surprising amount of bird song in the park for such an urban area. It would be beneficial for bird boxes to be installed in the park if there is funding available.

Potential for enhancement of nature conservation value

Trees

There is a mixture of ornamental and native trees of differing ages some are mature, these should be retained and additional stock added. Where trees are planted they should preferably be native species.

Where appropriate felled trees should be left on the ground out of the way, to provide habitat for invertebrates. Consideration should be given to retaining standing deadwood after it has been made tidy and safe, to provide habitat for invertebrates.

It is good practice to mulch under trees as this protects the tree from damage from mowers and the mulch also retains moisture and prevents competition from grass. This will ensure that the health of the tree is maintained and therefore its nature conservation value.

Some areas of the park are bare grassland so there is potential here for creating shrub beds and for tree planting where appropriate.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/trees-hedgerows-and-woodland/tree-hedgerow-and>

Shrub beds

The park accommodates some shrub areas that are very beneficial to wildlife, notably on one side of the flats and around the bowling greens. These shrub areas are less intensively managed more informal areas where there are denser shrubs of differing heights. These informal beds should be retained if the wildlife value of the park is to be maintained.

Other shrub beds in the park have been severely trimmed and consist of separate pruned bushes with spaces between. These beds have limited value for wildlife and there is less bird activity than in the denser shrub areas.

Hedges

There is potential for planting wildlife hedges in the park, particularly where there are boundary walls.

Grassland

Islands could be created around trees where mowing takes place less frequently to reduce chemical use and to benefit invertebrates. These islands could contain a number of trees. Longer grass around tree bases would benefit invertebrates and birds.

Pesticides

To reduce the use of pesticides an option is to mulch under the trees and shrubs in the park. This will save both time and money as the woodchip is available from all the tree work carried out.

Appendix 5: Victoria Park Service Requirement

Wirral Parks and Countryside Maintenance Specification

1. Cleansing: (litter, rubbish & leaf collection)

1.1 Litter control

Collect and remove litter and refuse from the entire park. Government guidance and Regulations for the disposal of noxious or hazardous waste, for example empty chemical containers or 'sharps' shall be followed.

Inspect and empty all litter bins and disposing of the rubbish and for clearing all litter from around each bin.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 does not specify frequencies. Requisite standards shall be maintained by:

- o Ensuring familiarity with site plans and locations
- o Programming works effectively
- o Applying resources appropriately

Litter control shall conform to the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (updated November 2006).

The site shall be maintained to Grade B standard in accordance with the Code of Practice Part 1: litter and refuse.

- o Predominately free of litter and refuse apart from some small items

The maximum response time to restore to Grade A standard (no litter or refuse) if it falls below Grade B shall be 1 day; this means by 6pm the following day.

All staff shall ensure that they use their reasonable endeavours to collect and minimise the effects of litter on the site, whenever it is encountered in the pursuance of their duties, whether or not those duties are primarily litter control.

1.2 Sweeping and Cleansing

This requirement is applicable to all surfaces other than grass within the park. The entire surfaces of all tarmac, concrete or paved areas, rubberised surfaces and tiles, including play facilities and safety surfaces and other surface areas including loose surfaces such as bark and shale shall be kept clear in accordance with the

Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (updated November 2006) to Grade B standard.

Sweeping, including gutters and drainage channels within the surface areas, shall be carried out by appropriate methods that do not damage or disrupt the surface.

Surfaces shall be washed down whenever necessary in order to maintain a clean and useable area.

All paths and hard surfaces shall be swept at even intervals and be kept cleared of grass cuttings following mowing operations.

All slippery surfaces caused by whatsoever nature, shall be made safe by the removal and / or treatment of the hazard.

All hard surfaces shall be maintained in a weed free condition including moss and algae growth.

1.3 Fallen Leaves

Fallen leaves shall be regularly cleared from areas of:

- o Main entrances and key pedestrian routes and paths
- o Key buildings and structures (e.g. public toilets, visitor centres)
- o Sports pavilions
- o Grass sports pitches and facilities
- o All weather sports pitches and facilities
- o Surfaces within play areas
- o Soft horticultural features such as bedding and herbaceous borders

Leaf clearance shall take place so that the features remain:

- o In good horticultural condition
- o Useable for sports play
- o With a safe, well drained hard surface

Any leaves that have accumulated into drifts or are unsightly or damaging to plants and bulbs shall be removed as a priority.

The operation shall be carried out frequently throughout the autumn in order to facilitate shrubbery and rose bed cultivation, and to prevent leaves from spreading back onto lawns, paths, hard surfaces, sports, and horticultural features. Where necessary, after leaf clearance, beds shall be lightly pricked through to remove footmarks.

The standard target will be to clear all autumn leaves by the end of December in each year, however these targets may vary annually due to seasonal shift. Where feasible, collected leaves will be recycled and utilised as mulch for shrub beds and herbaceous borders.

1.4 Graffiti and fly-tipping

Maintenance teams shall collect information on graffiti and fly-tipping during weekly site checks and inspections and shall report any incidence of these to the area manager for action.

Minor graffiti should be removed as soon as possible in cases where it is practical to do so. More significant graffiti should be reported to the Facilities Management team for action. Incidences of offensive or racist graffiti shall be prioritised for urgent removal within 24 hours by the appropriate contractor. Data for incidents of graffiti shall include:

- o Location
- o Surface type
- o Paint type
- o Description including offensive characteristics.

Fly-tipping shall be defined as any single quantity of tipped material that cannot be lifted by two members of staff and removed from the site. All instances of fly-tipping should be reported to the service area manager.

Where tipped material can be lifted by two members of staff, it is deemed to be covered by the litter control clauses of this service requirement and should therefore be removed from site as soon as possible.

Tipped materials which are not removable by service members should report the instance to the Waste Management Team for removal within 48 hours.

2. Grass maintenance

2.1 Annual grass maintenance programme

Maintenance of grass within Parks and Countryside sites will be carried out in accordance with the following grass-cutting programme throughout March to October on an annual basis.

Grass Category	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
General Park Grass	No Maintenance	Two cuts	Cease Maintenance (No Mow May)	Two Cuts	One Cut	One Cut	One Cut	One Cut
Formal Areas & Play Area Boundaries	One cut	Fortnightly	One Cut (end of the month)	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly
Rewilding areas	No Maintenance	One Cut (Spring meadow only)	No Maintenance	No Maintenance	No Maintenance	One Cut (Summer meadow only)	No Maintenance	No Maintenance

The grass categories in the above programme are defined as follows:

- General Park grass areas are defined as all general use grass within Wirral's Parks.
- Formal Areas are defined as ornamental lawns and gardens within Wirral's Parks. Play Area boundaries are classified as grassed areas within a fenced play area.
- Rewilding areas are those areas within parks which have been designated as meadows and are left unmaintained for the majority of the area for the benefit of biodiversity.

2.2 Grass maintenance general

All grass cutting machinery used across the entire range of standards shall be appropriate and fit for the purpose of achieving the specified standard.

On each occasion that grass cutting takes place the following shall be achieved:

- An even, uniform sward to the requisite height across 100% of the surface area, including all obstacles, grass margins, weed growth, seed and flower spikes and bents.
- Litter on areas to be mown shall be removed immediately prior to mowing.
- Any litter subsequently shredded as a result of the mowing operation, shall be collected, and removed.

Should grass exceed the maximum permissible height, the grass shall be brought back into conformance by frequent repeat mowing.

The use of herbicides is not permitted within Wirral's Parks and Countryside sites.

The use of growth regulators will not be permitted.

The edges of turf adjacent to hard surfaces, cutbacks, planted borders, beds, channels and kerbs shall be kept maintained to a neat even line. On each occasion of re-cutting, all finished bed edges shall be sharp, neat, and vertical.

All cuttings, clippings, or other mowing arisings across the complete spectrum of grass mowing operations which land on hard surfaces, shrub borders or flower beds shall be cleaned up and removed immediately on completion of mowing.

Arisings that fall on general grass/amenity grass, shall not normally require removal, in which case arisings shall be collected and removed for recycling or reuse.

Unless otherwise stipulated, grass areas over naturalised Narcissus, Galanthus and Crocus bulbs etc., shall remain uncut from the commencement of the grass cutting season to the first week in June, at which time the grass and bulb tops shall be cut and removed and the areas brought into conformance with the surrounding areas. Subsequently these areas are to be maintained to the same standard as the rest of the area.

In drought conditions, subject to the approval of the Area Team Leader or Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, the height of cut shall be adjusted so as not to cause added stress and damage to the sward. If grass growth is at a standstill, grass control and weed flower spikes will be carried out by cutting.

On resumption of mowing operations after adverse weather conditions have caused them to cease, ensure that a return to the appropriate standard is achieved by increasing the frequency of mowing.

2.3 No Mow May

Maintenance on general park grass areas (excluding sports pitches) is halted during May in accordance with the national “No Mow May” campaign (<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>), to promote biodiversity and provide opportunity for pollinators to flourish.

2.4 Premium ornamental and ornamental grass

All premium ornamental and ornamental grass areas shall be maintained to an appropriate height range that befits the area.

In the case of ornamental lawns all cuttings, clippings or other mowing arisings, no matter where they fall, shall be removed for recycling, or reuse immediately on completion of the operation.

2.5 Rewilding Areas

Rewilding areas will be maintained as meadows (dependent on area) and will not be maintained for the majority of the year, with a single cut taking place in April or August.

Where possible – arisings are to be collected, otherwise cuttings and other arisings shall be finely cut and left to lie evenly distributed.

Perimeter cuts along park boundaries (at a width of 1m, unless otherwise required) and selective pathways where natural desire lines will be maintained on a regular basis.

3. Sports Pitches

3.1 Bowling greens

Bowling greens shall be maintained in a way that allows for the playing of the game of bowls in accordance with the rules and requirements of the game, throughout the bowls season, which is normally April to September.

Bowling green maintenance shall include all necessary:

- Swishing
- Brushing
- Mowing
- Scarification
- Rolling
- Aeration
- Irrigation
- Weed, disease, moss and pest control
- Fertilizing & lawn sand application
- Solid spiking/hollow coring
- Top dressing
- Worm casting control
- Channel maintenance
- Renovation and over-seeding

All operations shall be carried out in a manner that accords with good green keeping practice in order to maintain the greens free from thatch, weeds, pests and diseases, whilst encouraging the growth of fescue and bent grasses and helping to eliminate annual meadow and other weed grasses.

Bowling green turf grass shall be maintained within the specified height range of:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| • Mid-Oct to end of March | 8mm -10mm |
| • April | 6mm - 8mm |
| • May to Mid-Oct | 5mm - 7mm |

It shall be the responsibility of the Grounds Maintenance Team to:

- Provide true, level, uniform playing surfaces
- Keep all integral landscaped features, green surrounds, surfaces and ancillaries well maintained and safe

Surrounding areas to be maintained in line with the above grass maintenance specification stated in section 2 (general grass) but will not adhere to “No Mow May.”

3.2 Cricket

At certain locations part of the cricket pitch maintenance activity is undertaken by the local club.

Cricket pitches (tables and outfield) shall be maintained in a way that allows for the playing of the game of cricket in accordance with the rules and requirements of the game, throughout the cricket season, which is normally April to September.

Cricket pitch maintenance shall include all necessary:

- Swishing
- Brushing
- Mowing
- Scarification
- Rolling
- Aeration
- Irrigation
- Weed, disease, moss and pest control
- Fertilizing & lawn sand application
- Solid spiking
- Applications of compatible top dressing
- Worm casting control
- Renovation and over-seeding

All operations shall be carried out in a manner that accords with good groundskeeping in order to maintain the playing surface to the required standard.

Cricket tables shall be maintained within the specified height range of:

- Minimum 8mm
- Maximum 14mm

Cricket wickets shall be prepared in a way, which is consistent with good play.

Prior to each match played, the Clubs shall set out and mark wickets and the boundary in compliance with the rules of play.

Following the completion of matches, cricket wickets shall be appropriately repaired ready for subsequent re-use. Particular regard should be paid to the reinstatement of the wicket ends such as batsman's 'block-holes' and bowler's footmarks within and around the creases. This is currently undertaken by the two clubs.

Cricket outfield is to be maintained within the specified height range of:

- Minimum 15mm

- Maximum 30 mm

It shall be the responsibility of the District Grounds Maintenance Team to provide true, level, uniform playing surfaces and outfields. This work is partly done by the two cricket clubs for their tables, and by Birkenhead Cricket Club for their Outfields.

3.3 Football

In general, the seasons for these sports fall between the following dates:

Football Season - commences the third Saturday in August and extends to, and includes, the first week in May.

All operations shall be carried out in a manner that accords with good groundskeeping in order to maintain the playing surface to a playable standard.

Winter sports pitches shall be maintained in a condition that meets the standards required by the National Governing Bodies of these sports, in order for play to take place safely, effectively, and fairly.

All pitches will be maintained to the requisite standard to the satisfaction of the Parks and Countryside Service Manager and participating players.

Grass cutting and pitch surface management operations shall be performed with professional equipment fit for the purpose of achieving the requisite standard.

Grass on sports pitches shall be maintained to the appropriate height as specified by the relevant sporting body.

Pitches will be inspected on a weekly basis during the playing season to determine their suitability for use during fixtures. Pitch conditions will be reported to the service manager for report to the relevant sporting authority as to whether the pitches can be used during that period.

All goal posts and cross bars to pitches shall be provided and erected in their respective positions at least one week before the commencement of the season.

All posts and crossbars shall be inspected when other maintenance operations take place on each site in order to ensure that they are safe, upright, secure, and well coated with paint. Minor repairs will be carried out throughout the playing season where required.

At the end of the season and not later than the third week of May, all goals and associated parts shall be removed and stored safely until required for erection prior to the commencement of the next season. Any repairs and maintenance to goals and associated parts (e.g. repainting) shall be carried out during this time. The remaining ground sockets shall be made safe.

Any significant damage or missing posts; and damage to sockets, will be reported to the service manager, and replacement goals or associated parts will be supplied where needed prior to the commencement of the next playing season.

Between 5 and 10 days prior to the beginning of the football season, all pitches shall be set out and marked to the required dimensions conforming to the requirements, measurements, and rules of the sport's relevant Governing Body.

Pitches shall be over-marked when required during the playing season to maintain pitch marking integrity.

Football pitch maintenance shall include all necessary:

- Divotting
- Rolling
- Stone and litter picking
- Harrowing
- Spiking, slitting, and verti-draining
- Overseeding
- End of season pitch surface renovation

All pitch drainage systems shall be maintained in good working order to ensure that playing surfaces are adequately drained appropriate to their use.

4. Hard landscape infrastructure: hard surfaces – roadways, pathways, car parks; site infrastructure – benches, lighting, fencing, walls (see also Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection)

4.1 Hard landscape infrastructure: condition surveys and improvement plans

An annual condition survey of the hard landscape infrastructure shall be carried out by the service area team leader/manager. Any defects will be included in the annual improvement plan, and repairs arranged by either the landscape development team, or facilities management team.

4.2 Hard surfaces weed control

Undertake a programme of effective weed control on all hard surfaces including roads; footpaths, car parks, steps, ramps and bridges, including the bases of all walls and fences where adjoining hard surfaces, along kerbstones and around landscape and park furniture. The use of residual herbicides shall not be permitted.

All hard surfaces including all edgings, kerbs and channels are to be kept weed-free by use of a non-residual translocated herbicide.

A well-timed programme and effective application linked to the growth of weeds is essential.

4.3 Hard surfaces gritting, salting and snow clearance

Hard surface gritting, salting and snow clearance is required to ensure that, where reasonably practicable, safe passage along a road or footpath is not endangered by snow ice.

Although there is no requirement to treat all roads and footpaths there are locations where this is required. The sites and areas to be treated are limited to those where essential only access is required which includes to the visitor centre and depot.

Treatment shall include pre-treating to prevent ice from forming and post treating when ice has formed, or snow has accumulated.

4.4 Benches and seating

All benches and seating, including picnic benches & tables, shall be kept clean and in good order through the use of such means as repainting or re-staining/oiling surfaces according to type of material.

4.5 Fences, railings, walls, gates, handrails, stiles, boardwalks, revetments and bollards

Any minor repairs such as loose bolts, protruding nails and sanding of sharp edges shall be undertaken on-site where possible. All other repairs should be reported to the landscape development team or facilities management team.

Defects which represent a hazard that cannot be repaired immediately must be made safe until an effective repair can be undertaken.

All gates, locks and mechanisms will be regularly maintained to ensure good working condition.

4.6 Notice boards and signs

Keep all signs, signposts and notice boards clean at all times and in good order through the use of such means as repainting or re-staining surfaces according to type of material of construction.

Noticeboards should be kept up to date with appropriate information and posters where appropriate.

5. Shrubs, Herbaceous and Bedding

5.1 Shrub and rose bed

Shrub beds shall be maintained to attractive presentation, and kept free of litter, weeds, other unwanted vegetation, and pests and diseases. The use of residual herbicides shall not be permitted.

Shrubs shall be maintained by pruning and training using the best horticultural practices to allow the development of each shrub in keeping with its habit, location and purpose.

Cultivation work in weather or ground conditions that would be harmful to the soil condition and its structure shall not be undertaken.

Observe that the purpose of pruning is to establish a strong framework of branches, keeping the shrubs healthy and vigorous, maintaining the size, shape and balance, whilst ensuring the maximum amount of flowering wood and fruit are produced.

Carry out the pruning of individual shrubs and roses appropriate to the requirements of each species or cultivar.

5.2 Herbaceous bed/border

Herbaceous beds shall be maintained to ensure their best appearance at all times.

The use of herbicides in areas planted with herbaceous plants shall not be permitted, and no cultivation works in weather or ground conditions that could be harmful to the soil condition or its structure shall be undertaken.

During each maintenance operation, the plants shall have all dead or faded blooms removed. All weeds, dead flowers, dead foliage, unwanted vegetation, and litter shall be removed for recycling. The planted area and its surrounds should be left in a neat and tidy condition.

Staking and/or tying in of the plants in accordance with good horticultural practice shall be undertaken during maintenance.

5.3 Hedges – ornamental and non-ornamental

Maintain all ornamental and non-ornamental hedges to their previously cut height, width and shape, ensuring that the top and sides of each hedge are cut neatly so that all growth is removed to the point of the previous cut on the old wood. Maintain hedges to ensure the safe and free flow of motor traffic along adopted highways and other vehicle routes, and to ensure the safe and free flow of pedestrians and cyclists along adopted highway footpaths and all other access routes across sites.

All trimmings shall be for recycling or reuse.

The base of the hedge clean, tidy and vegetation free on every occasion the hedge is cut.

All maintenance staff shall be aware of obligations when undertaking any work on or near a highway with regard to public safety and traffic regulations.

Hedge maintenance shall be carried out at an appropriate time of year to as not to impact bird nesting season in accordance with Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

6. Children's Play Areas and Outdoor Gym Equipment

Play areas and outdoor gym equipment are inspected weekly by our Play Area Maintenance Team, who will identify, prioritise, and report any defects, faults or repairs that are needed or have been completed using the appropriate format. The Play Area Maintenance team are qualified RPII (Register of Play Inspectors International) Operational Inspectors.

An annual independent inspection of all play areas and gym equipment shall be arranged and undertaken by a suitably qualified RPII accredited inspector. The inspection shall be a full mechanical and physical examination and include a risk assessment for each play area.

The team will also carry out regular routine maintenance and repair of all specified equipment and safety surfacing to ensure equipment is in a good and safe working order and ensure that the areas are free from litter, broken glass, and other debris.

Parks teams will carry out general maintenance of play area and gym equipment safety surfaces to include maintaining edges and spraying surfaces with appropriate herbicide to prevent weed and moss growths.

Minor repairs shall include replacement of swing seats, chain, links, bearings, and loose-fill safety surfacing and rubber tiles.

Major repairs identified during the inspection shall be reported immediately to the appropriate landscape development officer.

Any large-scale repairs or damage identified during the inspection shall be made safe and reported immediately to the landscape development officer, who will arrange for a suitable Contractor to undertake any necessary works.

7. Waterbodies, Watercourses & Drainage Elements

7.1 General

All waterbodies' watercourses and drainage elements will be appropriately maintained to ensure that all land is drained to a standard that is adequate and appropriate to its use.

All litter and debris will be removed from all water bodies, watercourses, and drainage elements.

All existing drainage infrastructure will be maintained to ensure that they are in good working order and kept free flowing at all times.

Consideration will be given to the potential for all waterbodies, watercourses, and ditches to support wildlife. Where protected species are present, waterbodies are considered to be National Biodiversity Priority Habitat. Appropriate advice shall be sought about the extent and timing of works before vegetation management or dredging takes place.

All gully pots, catchpits, inspection chambers, silt chambers, drainage outlets, sluices and outfalls are to be kept free from fallen leaves, litter, debris and other obstructions.

Water bodies shall be managed with the full involvement of user groups including Wirral Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency.

Instances of suspected Avian Influenza will be reported to DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) for collection of samples. Appropriate signage and DEFRA controls around waterbodies and watercourses shall then be implemented.

8. Buildings

8.1 Bowling and Sports Changing Pavilions

Pavilions are to be hired out to users of bowls and football facilities during relevant sports season.

Hiring parties and parks service teams to be responsible as key-holders for opening, closing, and securing the buildings during periods of use.

Bowling clubs and users shall utilise and maintain bowling pavilions responsibly on days of hire in accordance with the bowling greens hire agreement.

Bowling clubs and users shall report any damage or defects within the building to the parks service area manager/team leader for repair.

Quarterly and Annual Health and Safety inspections will be carried out to ensure the safety of the pavilions for users.

8.2 Service Depots

Parks service teams will be responsible for the safe operation, cleanliness, and general maintenance of service depots. Depots will remain secure at all times and will not be open for general public access.

All equipment, machinery, materials, and chemicals to be stored in a safe condition and in accordance with relevant legislation.

Use best endeavours to conserve supplied utilities including electricity and water and arrange access for the reading of meters by the utility suppliers.

All damages and defects to be reported to facilities management team for repair as required.

Quarterly and annual Health and Safety inspections will be carried out to ensure the safety of all staff, contractors, and volunteers.

9. Trees and woodland

9.1 Trees and woodland general

All activities related to trees and woodland must adhere to Wirral's Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy 2020 to 2030. This strategy aims to protect, regenerate, and care for Wirral's existing trees, hedgerows and woodlands. Additionally, it promotes the planting of trees based on the principle of the 'right tree for the right place' and encourages natural regeneration.

Prior to commencing any tree and woodland work, consultation with the Parks Tree Management Officer is mandatory. Significant tree works must be carried out by the Council's approved contractor, while minor tree work by the Parks Service Team requires oversight from the relevant supervisor.

All tree work undertaken should be done in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 and by competent persons insured with public liability cover of at least two million pounds.

All operations should take account of legal obligations on the protection of wildlife species and habitats and should be planned to take advantage of appropriate weather conditions and time of year to ensure minimum disturbance.

Any tree work should take place outside the bird nesting season (which typically extends between March to September). Should this not be possible, trees must be checked for nesting birds by an experienced ecologist immediately prior to the commencement of works. If nesting birds are found, work must be delayed until the young have fledged.

Some species of bat roost in tree features often associated with mature, veteran and storm damaged trees. All bat species are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. If tree work is planned on any trees considered suitable for roosting bats, a survey should be carried out by a qualified ecologist to identify any potential roost sites.

No works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order shall take place without approval from the Parks Tree Management Officer and Local Planning Authority.

All persons undertaking tree works, shall be suitably trained and qualified and shall be in possession of appropriate certification.

The Parks Service Team and approved contractor shall consider all paths, grassed areas, pavements, kerbs, approach roads, manhole covers, fences, walls, overhead cabling etc. that are either adjacent to or on the work area shall be considered by staff and/or approved contractors. These are to be preserved in good condition and all necessary arrangements to make good any damage to the entire satisfaction of the Parks & Countryside Service Manager shall be made.

Stumps intended for permanent retention should be cut at a specified height and left free from snags.

On completion of all trees work the work area shall be thoroughly cleaned and should be left in a condition appropriate for its intended use.

All timber and brushwood resulting from tree work, except in woodland locations where retention is encouraged for deadwood habitat, must be removed from the site by the parks service team or approved contractor.

9.2 Tree hazard risk

All Parks and Countryside sites are incorporated into the Council's Tree Risk Management System (TRMS) which is managed by the Wirral Tree Team. The implemented TRMS ensures a balanced distribution of tree risk within an acceptable threshold. Resources are prioritised based on risk levels, with cyclical inspections conducted on all tree stock. The primary focus is on tree works necessary for public safety.

The Parks Service Team have a duty to report any observed tree risk or hazards to the Wirral Tree Team. Observations may occur during regular site health and safety inspections, following storm incidences, reports from the public or ad hoc inspections.

Following incidences of high winds and storms, all parks and countryside service areas will carry out priority checks on woodland areas for any damaged or fallen trees and report to the Wirral Tree Team for action.

10. Vandalism and third-party damage (see also Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection)

10.1 General

Work with the community, stakeholders, and partner organisations to reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the park.

10.2 Soft landscape


Rectify minor incidents of vandalism or third-party damage to soft landscape features including trees, planted and grassed areas within 24 hours, inclusive within the routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor incidents of damage caused by any other source.

10.3 Hard landscape infrastructure




The Grounds Maintenance Team shall rectify minor damage to fencing, gates, walling, furniture, signage, notice boards, lighting and surfacing and other hard landscape infrastructure resulting from any act of vandalism or third-party damage within 24 hours, inclusive within the routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor damage caused by any other source. Minor damage shall be defined as requiring no more than 1 hour of labour per occasion to rectify with a minimal requirement for materials.

For more significant incidents of vandalism or third-party damage, make safe immediately, and refer to the facilities management team for repair. Significant vandalism should be reported to the police where necessary and be highlighted to the service manager.

Appendix. 6 – Green Flag judges feedback report 2022/23

 <h1>Green Flag Award Mystery Shop</h1>					
Name of Site	Victoria Park, Wirral		Managing organization	Wirral Council	
Weather Condition	Overcast				
Date of assessment	19/11/22		Time (from –	13:30-14:00	
Result:	Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard? Green Amber Red				
Grading			Comments and Recommendations		
Please mark each section as Green, Amber or Red If there is no evidence or the section is not applicable mark as NG (not graded) and			Comments should be provided to support each grading *Please include photographs to support your grading where applicable		
A Welcoming Place					
1. Is the site welcoming?	NG	G	A	R	The site has clear, open views across the park and it was being well used with dog walkers, runners and lots of young people on the play area and MUGA. There were several entrances
		X			
2. Is the site easy to find?	NG	G	A	R	I had no problem finding the park and there was plenty of on street parking for a non-local visitor.
		X			
3. Is signage in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	Most signage was in good condition, however, there were a few signs that have been damaged and not yet repaired.
			X		
4. Is the site accessible to all users?	NG	G	A	R	The paths around the park are all in relatively good condition and accessible for wheelchairs and push chairs. However, some paths are
		X			
Healthy, Safe and Secure					
5. Are facilities on site in good and safe condition?	NG	G	A	R	Most facilities on site are in good condition, however, there is some graffiti and vandalism that is not in line with the Green Flag Award standards. For example, an entrance sign and
			X		
6. Did you feel safe during the visit?	NG	G	A	R	There were a mixture of people using the park and the park felt safe and open to all.
		X			
7. Are dogs being controlled and the site free of dog fouling?	NG	G	A	R	I did not encounter any dog fouling and dogs encountered were under control. There were signs encouraging positive behaviour at the
		X			
Well Maintained and Clean					
8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed?	NG	G	A	R	The bins had been emptied and the park was generally tidy, though there were hotspots with litter. This might be expected on a Saturday and
		X			

9. Is there a good standard of horticulture maintenance?	NG	G	A	R	The park appears to be managed as a recreation ground, with predominantly grass and trees, with a few shrubs and beds in one part of the park. As this visit was carried out in November, it was difficult to see how successful the wildlife friendly areas are. The sports pitches all appear in excellent condition. There were some areas that needed weeding, e.g. the front of the pavilion.
			X		
10. Is there a good standard of arboriculture maintenance?	NG	G	A	R	The trees appeared in good condition and there have been new trees planted recently adding to the variety within the park.
		X			
11. Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good	NG	G	A	R	Most paths, railings, walls etc were in good condition, however, some paths are beginning to deteriorate and will need attention in the near future.
		X			
12. Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	Most equipment, e.g. the play equipment and MUGA, was in good condition. It was all being used so I didn't inspect it too closely. However, there were several benches that had been badly vandalised and not properly repaired yet. The noticeboard was quite difficult to read and was damaged.
			X		
Environmental Management					
13. Is there evidence that the site is managed to have a positive impact on the environment?	NG	G	A	R	There is evidence that this is happening to a limited extent, including wildlife areas and new tree planting.
		X			
Landscape and Heritage					
14. Are heritage and/or landscape features in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	These feature appear to be limited to walls and gate posts, which all appeared in good condition. The Tranmere Cross is well maintained and protected by fencing.
		X			
Community Involvement					
15. Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement?	NG	G	A	R	The park was being used by a variety of groups and the Cricket Pavilion on site shows that the park is used by other groups as well as the Cricket Team(s). There is also a Friends group for the park and a community garden.
		X			
16. Is user feedback positive?	NG	G	A	R	I spoke to one person who enjoyed using the park regularly. They commented that there is anti-social behaviour which makes it challenging for the parks team to maintain the park, but were positive about the parks team and how they try to keep the park well maintained.
		X			
Marketing and Communication					
17. Is there evidence of marketing and promotion, including events? e.g. notice boards, in buildings.	NG	G	A	R	Events and notices were visible in the noticeboard. The Pavilion advertises groups, e.g. Slimming World and Friends group. The website has good information about the park.
		X			
18. Is the correct year flag flying and certificate on display?	NG	G	A	R	The flag is next to the Pavilion and the certificate in the noticeboard.
		X			

Overall Result (✓)	<div data-bbox="475 197 552 230">Green</div> <div data-bbox="579 203 646 266"></div> <div data-bbox="691 163 1329 203">Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard?</div> <div data-bbox="770 197 858 230">Amber</div> <div data-bbox="933 203 1000 266"><div data-bbox="933 203 1000 266"></div>X</div> <div data-bbox="1222 197 1273 230">Red</div> <div data-bbox="1417 203 1484 266"></div>
<div data-bbox="92 297 349 324">Additional comments:</div> <div data-bbox="92 329 1465 448">Overall the park was enjoyable to visit and it's clear that a lot of work has been put in over the years to provide a variety of facilities and engage the community. However, on this occasion there were a few things that let the park down and posed a danger to users. I'm sure these will be dealt with quickly and the park will return to its former high standards.</div>	

Appendix 7 – Green Flag Judges feedback form 2023/24



FEEDBACK REPORT: 2023-24

Name of Site	Victoria Park
Managing Organisation	Wirral Council
Date of Assessment	10/05/2023

OVERALL RESULT	Pass	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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NOTES ABOUT THIS REPORT
Strengths and recommendations are provided for each criteria. Photographs are included, where appropriate, to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations. Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual here for further information on the criteria.

DESK ASSESSMENT

(Management plan and supporting documentation)

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Presentation	Well laid out Document	Need to read Document Park is no reflection to the Management plan
Health, Safety & Security		no issues
Maintenance of Equipment, Buildings & Landscape	Play Equipment in good maintained order	Buildings looking un-Maintained

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Litter, Cleanliness, Vandalism	Litter free	General Appearance for the park is not with keeping with Documentation
Environmental Management	Evidence for recent tree planting	Majority of trees require 4m lifts Dead wood removal evidence of lack of inspections
Biodiversity, Landscape & Heritage	Well laid out park	
Community Involvement	Park is well used by local public Park has friends' group	Consult more with Friends groups
Marketing & Communication		Notice board needs updating Out of date information in some parts
Overall Management		Management plan is no reflection to maintenance of this park

FIELD ASSESSMENT

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	Nice laid out park plenty facility's/Activities for public	Maintenance and Appearance of the park no reflection to what it can be
Healthy, Safe & Secure		Lack off Maintenance starting to make park unsafe space
Well Maintained & Clean	Play Equipment in good order	Park Maintenance is not with in keeping for green flag ethos No mow May is having a detrimental effect for the park's appearance. It will also have a negative effect once mowing commences in June, unable to catch up with mowing frequencies litter shredding Additional cost for fuel /Machine maintenance I would consider a Re-Think with this policy Excessive weed growth on pathways/shrub areas & fence lines
Environmental Management	Tree planting	Create Environmental/Ecological Boundary line around park 3metres wide would be more acceptable to park users plus will be better suited for wildlife
Biodiversity Landscape & Heritage	No peat usage evident	
Community Involvement		Friends' groups limited on what they are allowed to do Need to market for more friends for this park

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Marketing and Communication		As above
Management	Good laid out Document	Need a Re-Think on service delivery

Summary and additional comments:

(Highlighting the result, and the main areas of strength and recommendation)

park is lacking in maintenance giving appearance people have given up issues need to be addressed Mowing/maintenance /weed growth path maintenance & signage information.
 No Mow May / Picture Framing is not a long term solution Consider Ecological Boundaries around large spaces will benefit wildlife and more socially Acceptable
 Management 5yr plan needs addressing is not a reflection on what is actually happening in the field,
 Friend's groups need to be consulted for the good of the park

Appendix 8- Annual Safety Inspection

Parks and Open Spaces Annual H&S Inspection

SITE	Victoria Park.	
Date of inspection:	15/3/22	Signed:
Inspector (1):	Ben Calcott	B. Calcott
Inspector (2):		
<p>Items referred to (Asset Department) / (External Contractor) for repairs:</p> <p>Fencing at Bebington road needs erecting. Have logged with FM Helpdesk. Awaiting update.</p> <p>Several benches need repairing. Jackie Smallwood is aware and in process of ordering replacement slats.</p> <p>General comments/observations/recommendations:</p> <p>Wall is in generally good condition. Few missing bricks but all coping stones are present and secure.</p> <p>Items for Managers attention:</p>		
Manager name:	Nene Garnett	Signed: Nene Garnett
Date checked:	18.03.22	
<p>Manager's comments:</p> <p>N.G. to Monitor all repair works</p> <p>An Audit and a Condition Survey will ^{be} take carried out in all Parks.</p>		

Are interpretation lecterns in a safe condition with no damage, securely fastened, with no sharp edges or protruding fixings? Are they eligible and free of graffiti?		✓		Ground Maintenance team to carry out cleaning of signs
Are upright notice boards/interpretations in a safe condition with no damage, securely fastened, with no sharp edges or protruding fixings? Are they eligible and free of graffiti?		✓		11
Are entry signs in a safe condition with no damage, securely fastened, with no sharp edges or protruding fixings?		✓		11
Fire assemble points are present, and are the signs visibly clear and in the correct position?			✓	
Vehicle restrictions - are they in the correct place and are clear to read?			✓	
Service yard site safety signages - are they in the correct place and are clear to read?			✓	
MONUMENTS AND SCULPTURES	☑	☒	N/A	FURTHER ACTION
Monuments, bandstands, flagpoles, and sculptures appear structurally sound? Are they free from damage/graffiti?	✓			
Do walls appear structural sound: free from bowing, large mortar cracks, loose/missing bricks, or copings.		✓		Various loose/missing brick. No immediate safety concern.
SPORTS AND PLAY FACILITIES	☑	☒	N/A	FURTHER ACTION
Are tennis court surfaces, signage, nets, fencing, gates and surrounds safe and in visibly good condition?			✓	
Are MUGA surfaces, signage, fencing, gates and surrounds, goalmouths, and basketball hoops safe and in visibly good condition?	✓			
Are Outdoor Gym surfaces, signage, and equipment safe and in visibly good condition?	✓			
Play Area landscape features: Shelters, fencing, trees and vegetation safe and in visibly good condition?	✓			
Are games greens fencing, surrounds, gates, and surfaces safe and free from damage or deterioration? Has the irrigation system been tested recently and serviced?		✓		See notes.
EXTERNALS OF BUILDINGS	☑	☒	N/A	FURTHER ACTION
Are building roofs visibly in good condition with no missing tiles or lead?	✓			
Are building walls visibly in good condition? (Timber cladding, brick, plaster)	✓			
Are gutters, downpipes and surface water drains visibly clear?	✓			
Are manholes sitting flush and secure to the frame? Is drainage from buildings free from issues?	✓			

ENVIRONMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	FURTHER ACTION
Is the tree canopy above footpaths and play areas visibly free of dead, dying, diseased or loose branches?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Is the tree canopy above surrounding pavements/roads visibly free of dead, dying, diseased or loose branches?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Are all footpaths clear of overhanging vegetation/branches that could make contact at head height or below?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Are all invasive or poisonous plant species identified with the team and either cordoned off, due to be removed or on a treatment plan?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Have all known hotspots been checked for sharps/needles/drug paraphernalia or broken glass?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Are there clear sightlines that enable people and vehicle users to see what's ahead and around them?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
INFRASTRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	FURTHER ACTION
Are footpaths in a safe condition and free of trip hazards?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Are steps in a safe condition and free of trip hazards?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are bridges in safe condition with no visible subsidence of the balustrades, walking surfaces safe and railings securely fitted?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are fencing and gates safe with no gaps, sharp edges, or protruding fixings?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		See notes.
Are culvert grills safe, clear, adequately fixed, and free-flowing?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
STREET FURNITURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	FURTHER ACTION
Are the benches safe to sit on with no cracks or visible signs of damage? Are the legs free from cracks and have no visible sign of damage?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		See notes.
Are the bins set in the ground correctly? Are the frames free from visible signs of damage? Does the bin have a liner in it?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Are the lampposts/Telegraph poles structurally sound (free of cracks/splits), free of damage and access hatch securely fastened?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Are the feeder pillars free of paint damage, structurally sound (free of cracks/splits), and door secure and locked?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are CCTV camera poles structurally sound (free of cracks/splits), free from damage? Are the cameras/LED units damaged at all?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
SITE SIGNAGE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	FURTHER ACTION
Are water safety warnings visible and free of surrounding vegetation?			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are fence notice boards or signage in a safe condition with no damage, securely fastened, with no sharp edges or protruding fixings?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			

Appendix 9 – Project Bank

The project bank is intended as a quick win list of relatively easy to deliver projects should unexpected resources become available (such as under spend on other projects)

Inclusion here does not imply Planning Permission or Public Consultation has been undertaken, only that they are suggested for discussion.

‘PROJECT BANK’		
Project	Cost estimate (inc design and contract management fee)	Justification – e.g., policy ‘fit’ and needs evidence
Restore the removed Victorian Fencing to the Parks Perimeter	£250,000	Making the Park secure and putting back something removed in 1940 for the war effort. Historic rebuilding
Develop the former community garden	£15,000	Fits with draft Wirral Green and Open Space Strategy policy 2.2e, helping people ‘connect’ with local green spaces. Increased opportunities for environmental education and enhancing biodiversity in an urban
Parking signs within Victoria Park for Blue Badge holders.	£2,000	To help Blue Badge holders to safely use the parks facilities (Cricket club NHS classes)
Install protective bollards down the main drive in Victoria park so cars cannot drive on pathways or grass verges	£4,000	Protect the users of the site.
Develop a detailed tree/shrub survey and produce a tree/shrub management plan	£5,000	To improve management of the park’s tree and shrub stock.
Marketing Strategy	£2,000	To develop a marketing strategy for Victoria Park
Improve Drainage	£40,000	Less standing water and reduce wear on our paths. Improving access to Park