



Wirral Council

Wallasey Central Park Management Plan

2022- 2027 Updated February 2022



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Introduction

This management plan is intended to provide a framework for the development and improvement of Wallasey Central Park. If you wish to find out further information about this document or submit any suggestions, or if you wish to join the Central Park Partnership please contact:

Wirral Council Wallasey Town Hall Brighton Street Wallasey CH44 8ED

Web address http://www.wirral.gov.uk



Site map

Aerial photograph -11 accesses (denoted by red dots)



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/fil es/parks-and-green-space-management-plans.pdf

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

1.1. 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: http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50080601/Appendix%201%20Wirral%20Plan%20 2021-26.pdf

1.2. 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%20 and%20open%20spaces/Wirral%20Parks%20and%20Open%20Spaces%20Strategy%2020 14-2024.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.

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

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/coolwirral#:~:text=The%20Cool%20Wirral%20Partnership%20(formerly,Wirral%20Partnership%2 0NHS%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-andwildflower-sites

No Mow May

Throughout the month of May, the council takes part in the <u>No Mow May campaign</u>, 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. <u>https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/trees-hedgerows-and-woodland</u> Wallasey Central Park Partnership was formed in May 2009 to gather together all existing groups including The Friends of Wallasey Central Park, elected Councillors, the Liscard / Egremont Partnership and the Seacombe Neighbourhood Partnership as well as the East Wallasey Neighbourhood Forum and others, to focus on the future improvement of the Park.

Wallasey Central Park vision statement

The Wallasey Central Park Partnership and Friends of Wallasey Central Park are adopting Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council's Mission Statement as a positive way forward for the Park:

'Promoting a healthy, safer lifestyle and improving the quality of life for all'.

With the Aim of:

• *'Enabling sustainable, economic, social, neighbourhood and environmental*

regeneration

- Improving the health and well being of Wirral residents
- Promoting opportunities for personal, community and business development'



Site information

Name: Wallasey Central Park Grid Reference: 331224, 391522 Primary classification: Local Park Ward: The park is in Seacombe ward, with its northern boundary in Liscard ward. Address: Liscard Road, Wallasey, Wirral Total site size: 21.4 Hectares Green flag award scheme winners 2014, 2015,2016,2017

Tenure: The site is owned and managed by the Parks and Countryside Service of Wirral Council's Regeneration and Environment Directorate.

The two cricket pavilions are wholly owned by Parkfield Liscard Cricket Club

Access: see attached 2017 accesses statement.

The Park is near to main bus routes on Liscard Road, Poulton Road and Oxton Road. <u>http://www.merseytravel.gov.uk/Pages/Welcome.aspx</u>

Cycle routes into the park are clearly marked from surrounding streets including national route 56.

Primary entrances have signage indicating site name, contact details and regulations.

Summary of main uses:

- Dog walking
- Football
- · Children's play
- Healthy exercise
- Family recreation
- Fishing
- Bowls
- Cycling
- Cricket
- Basketball

Facilities and features:

- Football pavilion
- Children's play area
- Fitness trail
- Performance area
- 8 football pitches, 3x Senior, 2x 7 aside, 2x 9 a side, 1x5 aside
- 5 Bowling Greens
- 4 Bowls pavilions
- 2 Cricket pavilions
- Cricket wicket and outfield
- Multi-Use Games Area
- Basketball arena
- Walled Garden and Everyone's Café
- Public Toilets including disabled
- 2 Council works buildings / compounds (inc. Area Managers Office, storerooms, staff mess room building, machinery sheds and outside composting / compound area)
- 2 modern statues and performance area
- Boer war memorial
- Cycle Way
- Lighting
- CCTV
- Event and community area with electricity box and water
- Mature deciduous woodland
- Lake and overflow ponds

• Love Lane allotments (not part of Green Flag application)

Partner organisations and stakeholders:

- Wallasey Central Park Partnership WCPP (stakeholder advisory body)
- Merseyside Police
- Wirral Community Safety Team
- Local Schools Park Primary and St albans
- Wirral Social Services linked to Cambridge Road Centre
- Love Lane Allotment Association
- Extended Schools and Youth Services
- Parkfield Liscard Cricket Club
- Junior and Senior Football Clubs
- Dog Walkers
- Bowling Clubs
- Liscard and Seacombe Ward Councillors
- Anglers

Parks and countryside staff and resources:

- 2 local Team Leaders (based at Wallasey Central Park Depot)
- A range of horticultural machinery and tools
- 4 site-based grounds maintenance staff
- Visiting arboriculture team
- Seasonal football attendant
- Play area safety inspection team
- Rangers service started April 2015

Cricket

Both cricket pavilions are owned by Park field Liscard Cricket Club although the cricket outfield, fencing and building footprint are in the ownership of Wirral Council. Both pavilions are enclosed as well as the cricket field,



Bowls

There are 5 bowling greens and four bowling pavilions in the park which are all owned and managed by Wirral Council.

Football

There is currently (2021/22) a lot of demand for football at this site, and all pitches are fully booked throughout the season. There are 3 senior pitches and 5 junior pitches, with senior weekend leagues, a girl's league and junior boy's league. The football pavilion is owned by Wirral Council, and maintained by Asset Management section. It is cleaned by Parks and Countryside staff and the weekend attendant.

Wallasey Central Park: A Brief History

At 21ha Wallasey Central Park is the second largest urban park in Wirral. It is a fantastic resource which is well used and much loved by local residents. Established in 1835 the park predates Birkenhead Park (1847), also Sefton Park and Stanley Park in Liverpool which were opened in the 1870's

In 1802 Mr Francis Price of Birkenhead and Plas y Pys, North Wales, sold a parcel of land to a Mr John Tobin, a merchant ship owner from Liverpool. By 1830, Mr Tobin, now Sir John Tobin had increased his estate with land purchased under the Land Enclosures Acts of 1809 and 1814 and began building his home. The original 'Moor Heys House', built in the neo-classical style, was completed by Sir John in 1835.



In 1841 Sir John sold his home to his son-in-law, Harold Littledale, and the house then became Liscard Hall. During the residence of the Littledales many changes were made to the grounds including a walled garden, lodge and driveway from Liscard Road together with various footpaths that still survive today.

When Sir John died on 27th February 1851 he was buried in the churchyard of St John's Church. The land for the building of the Church had been donated by Sir John who also assisted financially with its construction.

Harold Littledale died in 1889 and in 1890 the Wallasey Local Board under their newly formed policy to provide public open spaces for residents, bought the land then known as the Liscard Hall Estate comprising 35.5 acres for the sum of £17,000. Adjacent fields were also presented to the Board by a Mr James Smith and with the Estate formed the heart and beginning of Wallasey Central Park.

Modern Times

Between 1997 and 2017 a number of schemes for the improvement and development of Wallasey Central Park has been produced and funding amounting to approximately £300,000 was secured by the Wallasey Central Park Steering Group and Council Officers. The main funding sources were 'New Wallasey Single Regeneration Budget and insurance payback from the former Liscard Hall.

Funding of £90,000 was obtained by the Cricket Club for the restoration and development of the two pavilions.

Improvements included dredging of the lake and pond, refurbishment of the Visitor centre, the construction of a Multi-Use Games Area, provision of a well lit cycleway / walk route through the park, CCTV security cameras and full drainage system to the senior football pitches. The children's play area was also refurbished in 2011, funded from the Playbuilder programme.

The development of a fitness trail was completed in 2013. A new community performance area with sculptures was opened in 2014 with funding from the Arts Council.

Detailed historical information and an archive of photographs is available at the Wallasey Central Park Partnership website here: <u>www.wcpp.org.uk</u>

Green Flag analysis and assessment

The intention is for Wallasey Central Park to continue to achieve the standards as defined by the Green Flag Award Scheme; further details about the scheme are available at <u>www.greenflagaward.org.co.uk</u>

The Park was first awarded Green Flag in 2013. The current condition of the Park has been assessed using the following criteria as defined by the Green Flag Award scheme:

- A welcoming park
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Well maintained and Clean
- Environmental management
- Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
- Community involvement
- Marketing and communications
- Management

1.A welcoming park



The main entrance to Wallasey Central Park is signposted from nearby main roads and is suitable for public vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. There is limited public car parking

adjacent to performance area. There is a welcoming sign next to the main entrance/car park.

All primary entrances are suitable for disabled access, and have entrance signs.

All perimeter and some internal railings are undergoing a rolling programme of painting formerly by the Probation Service, and now by volunteers including children from Park Primary School. The gate pillars at Poulton Road and Devereux Drive may require further inspection.

Information boards

There are four community information boards and they are updated regularly with events, posters and site information by parks staff and volunteers.

Public toilet provision:

Public toilets including disabled are available in the Walled Garden. Which is open 7 days a week and is managed by the café volunteer group'

Sculpture and landscaping

The landscaping of the former Liscard Hall site in the Park was completed in November 2014. Liscard Hall was famous as the Wallasey School of Art but was demolished after substantial fire damage in 2008. Sculptures funded by the Arts Council form the centre piece of the site along with a performance area, seating, shrub and tree planting.



Performance area

Sculptures under the theme 'Just wait for me' designed by Brigitte Jurack, along with the young people of Wallasey; capture the playful spirit of the former art school.



Sculpture installation 'Just wait for me'

1. Healthy, safe and secure

Wirral Council's Health and Safety policy is attached (appendix 4).

Tree Inspections

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

Tree damage is also identified by parks staff as part of daily patrols and reported to the local Team Leader, where upon urgent safety work is carried out directly as needed.

Central park also has tree surgeon contractors they can call on if any urgent tree works need to be carried out.

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 http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/transport-and-streets/roads-highways-andpavements/highway-maintenance/highway-trees

Dog Fouling

We know from the evidence produced from the Wirral Parks Survey (2012) that a dog fouling and dogs off leads are a major concern for park users in Wirral.

The whole of the Wirral Council area is designated under Dog Control Orders that implement section 55 and 56 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Wirral are currently reviewing the Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

Dog waste only' bins are not provided by the Council. The park is very popular with dog walkers and most do clean up after their dogs.

Wirral's Community Patrol Officers are authorised to issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

Anti-social behaviour

Wirral Council operates a 24 hour Community Patrol force who responds to concerns regarding anti-social behaviour on Council owned land. The Patrol can be contacted on: 0151 666 5265.

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

Graffiti checks are carried out daily and graffiti is removed immediately by onsite staff.

2 CCTV cameras linked to the Community Safety and Police control rooms, oversees the main children's play area and anecdotal evidence reports that vandalism has since been reduced.

CCTV cameras (6) are situated around the works yards and entrance these take in parts of the walled garden

The park is covered by Byelaws, made under Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Motor vehicles

Vehicles can access the park via the main Liscard Road entrance. A one-way system for the main car park was installed in 2014; with clearly defined parking bays and this has improved safety for car users and pedestrians.

Perception of personal safety

The Park has dedicated lighting to the cycleway / footpath between Silverbeech Road and Greenheys Road. Also along the main drive to works yard.

The park is overlooked by surrounding property, with approximately 90% being bounded by private housing.

Vegetation around car parks is kept low, and appropriate sight lines are kept clear to maintain a sense of personal safety in the park.

Pathways, pedestrian routes

Tarmac footpaths across the site are generally in good condition, most footpaths are shared with cyclists, without issues.

Provision for health: children's play area

The children's play area is well used with a good range of equipment the play area is fenced off and incorporates a large grass area which is popular for football and for picnicking in the summer. There are also four picnic tables and many seats and bins in the play area. The children's play area flooring was repainted 2017 and funded by everyone's café.



All the play equipment was painted by our volunteer group. Equipment for older children was added to the grass area on site.

The park has a purpose-built Multi Use Games Area installed for a variety of sporting activities which is well used. Also has a singular basketball court.

Outdoor gym exercise circuit

An exercise circuit of 10 fitness stations with 13 units was installed in 2013, made possible by funding from the NHS. Signage onsite (see below) shows the 1500m route and locations of fitness equipment. The outdoor gym has been very popular with a wide age range - many people are now using the circuit.



Outdoor Gym notice board

All play and fitness equipment is inspected weekly by specialist ROSPA qualified staff.

Dog-free and smoke-free play

Wirral council has signed up to a voluntary 'Play Smokefree' code. The aim is too denormalise smoking so that children are discouraged from taking up the habit in later years.

The 'Play Smokefree' code is being run by the 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'.

The play area is also designated 'dog-free'. This is shown on the play area signage and on the tarmac at the entrance points.

3. Well maintained and clean

Horticulture and trees

There are four site-based members of staff, a mobile swing fitter team and a gardener/tractor driver who undertakes tractor mounted mowing of the larger grass areas.

Horticultural maintenance is carried out in accordance with a frequency-based work programme allied to the parks service requirement (appendix 1). A work programme is issued to staff on a quarterly basis; these are used for identifying all maintenance operations on the site and the required standards.

A brief survey of the mature tree stock was undertaken in 2014, and there are now plans to make a more detailed survey in 2018 (see tree survey in appendix 8).

Tree Inspections - see health safety and secure section Play

Children's play areas are inspected weekly. During the 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.

Swing fitter team works 7 days a week and are at hand for emergency's if needed.

Walled garden

Site based staff look after the general maintenance of the garden with input of the volunteer group, the staff do all the maintenance that involve pedestrian machinery – weekly grass cutting/hedges/pruning also keeping all the hard surfaces free of weed. Volunteers do all the maintenance of the garden that don't involve machinery hoeing/handweeding /litter picking/cleaning up/painting/planting etc.

Hard and soft landscaping inspections

Site based staff carry out regular inspections to identify defects within the park that present a safety problem for staff, users and adjacent residents. The following items are appraised annually.

- 1. Paths, steps, ramps
- 2. Walls, fences, gates, park lights
- 3. Buildings
- 4. Furniture signs, seats, litterbins
- 5. Soft landscape grass, planted areas
- 6. Trees



Members of the Parks Partnership/Everyone's café also report problems to site based staff on a day to day basis, they provide an 'eyes and ears' service which supplements the work of paid staff, and represents a valuable contribution to the running of the park.

Buildings

Wirral Council's Asset Management team are responsible for maintenance of the buildings onsite, cleaning and light maintenance is carried out by Parks and Countryside staff.

4. Environmental Management

Energy, water consumption and emissions

Water and energy consumption is monitored and where necessary modification is made to minimise wastage, achieving economies in usage in line with the Council's Environmental Policy (appendix 3).

All vehicles and plant have comprehensive maintenance regimes carried out by operational support services and the parks service workshop technicians.

Tractor and mowing equipment are checked for emission levels.

In 2021 we had a water recycling wash pad installed by "ClearWater Water Recycling Systems"

This uses recycled water (kept in underground tank) to wash down machinery and equipment.

The wash off and detritus is recycled and cleaned in the underground tanks (utilising biological micro-organisms) and reused again and again.

This is good for the environment and in the long term will save us money.

Chemical use

Chemical storage and usage complies with requirements as defined in the current pesticide handling legislation. Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessment records of all chemicals are retained at Central Park Depot.

Pesticide use is minimised, and only glyphosate is used to treat weed growth on hard surfaces.

Composting

There is a suite of bays at the depot in the park. Green waste generated at the Park is separately composted and reused on the site or elsewhere in the borough.

Tree brash is chipped and stored separately in bays on site for reuse in the park or elsewhere in the area.

In 2017 we had 3 more concrete bases installed in the bays for easier and cleaner usage.



Sustainable transport

The park is well served by public transport infrastructure and cycle routes. Many paths in the park are shared with cycles.

5. Biodiversity, Landscape and heritage

Natural Heritage

Central Park is the largest area of parkland in Wallasey, comprising approximately 54 acres of formal and informal parkland areas, mature deciduous woodland, ponds, lake, playing fields, bowling greens and amenity and wild flower grassland. This provides both recreational facilities for primarily the local community.

The woodland area in the north end of the park was taken out of the mowing schedule and it was designated as a dog exercise area. It now has a more natural feel and it contributes to the park's biodiversity interest.



Woodland/wildlife area



Laburnum arch

Spring 2021 saw Wirral Council incorporate Plantlife's **#NoMowMay** campaign into the management of its parks & countryside areas. **#NoMowMay** is about stopping mowing in general grass areas in parks to help our bees, butterflies, wildlife and us. This follows Plantlife's national campaign.

Insect pollinator species have experienced national declines and wildflowers provide a vital habitat, food source and refuge for many bees, butterflies, birds, bats and bugs. Wirral's parks and open spaces can provide a vital resource for struggling wildlife species.

Research conducted by Plantlife's Every Flower Counts survey suggest that by not mowing in

May the nectar sugar produced by flowers such as dandelion, white clover and selfheal can

support up to 10 times more bees and pollinators (up to 4000 bees a day!) In practice Wirral Parks & Countryside ceased the mowing of general grass areas within parks and countryside areas for a six week period from the end of April to the middle of June. Sport pitches, bowling greens, churchyards, cemeteries, play areas, outdoor gyms and formal areas were not included in this scheme and were maintained as normal.

As one of the parks that took part in **#NoMowMay** The Breck saw all of its general grass areas (with the exception of the borders of the main paths) left uncut for the six week period. As a pocket of countryside within an urban area The Breck lent itself well to this change in management practice.

There was a definite increase in the presence of flowering plants, in particular common daisy and clover and the feedback from park users was generally positive.

It is anticipated that the **#NoMowMay** initiative will continue in 2022 and future years.



Education

Forest Schools programme is being delivered to local schools in the park by Wirral Council Rangers. The activity takes place in the Walled Garden, and in 2014 benefitted from funding from the NHS. The aim of the programme is to raise the aspirations and selfesteem of those children taking part, and to encourage their understanding and appreciation of their natural environment.

The overflow area called the Duckponds is undertaking a revamp so to add pond dipping stages for schools education.

Built Heritage

There are many features of interest in the park, including stone gate pillars and iron gates at the entrances on Liscard Road. The park layout park itself has some historical significance for the area. The memorial is currently under the management of the Parks and Countryside Department. The Boer War memorial was professionally cleaned in 2013.

Wallasey Central Park Partnership has developed an archive of historical information about the park which has been published to their website. <a href="mailto:



Boer War Memorial

The history of sport in the park

The cricket club published a booklet in 2007 to commemorate their centenary.

Cricket Heritage

For some years there were four clubs on the cricket ground, Liscard St Mary's (later Liscard Central), Egremont, Liscard and St John's (Egremont), however an article in the Wallasey News in the summer of 1901 reported that a meeting of the Parks and Gardens was called to sort out the rash of cricket and football teams playing in Central Park. The meeting decided that football would no longer be played at "Pemberton's Meadow" and that only four cricket pitches would be laid and maintained. The clubs using the field would have to provide their own dressing accommodation and the field would be fenced off.

Liscard Cricket Club was formed in November 1901 and Egremont C.C in February 1902 joining Liscard St Mary's (formed 1892) and Seacombe Wesleyans at the newly designated cricket field. For St Johns the period 1919-1939 appears to have been a fairly quiet period of friendly fixtures and strictly no Sunday cricket.

In 1922, Liscard, now in the Merseyside Competition, moved to Harrison Park where in later years they were to fall on bad times and eventually amalgamate with New Brighton (1935).

Liscard St. Mary's were involved in an upheaval in 1934 when they left the church and changed their name to Liscard Central following a row over the sale of Irish sweepstake tickets.

It was a successful period for St. John's who regularly fielded three teams and was probably the best-supported club in Central Park. They were lucky at this time to have a vicar of St Johns who was a cricket fanatic, the Rev. C.R.Mongomery a brother of the famous Viscount Montgomery of El Alamein. It was said that he asked one thing of his curates; that they played cricket.

Sunday cricket had become a post war fact in Wallasey but the St. John's Parochial Church Council stood firmly against it. Following a final refusal from the Church to start a Sunday fixture list, the Club voted to discontinue its links with St John's Church and at the 1962 A.G.M the name of Parkfield Cricket Club was adopted and sadly a 55-year liaison with the Church ended.

Unfortunately Egremont fell on poor times with the loss by fire of their pavilion in 1973 saw them move to Prenton Dell Road in 1973 thus leaving Parkfield and Liscard Central as the remaining two clubs at Central Park.

The histories of Parkfield and Liscard Central are of course intertwined by their presence at Central Park but a merger between the two clubs was not on anyone's radar until early 1994 however the merger was only finally agreed following a series of meetings in 2002 and 2003. Parkfield Liscard was formed on 1st January 2004 and has performed well since the merger with improved facilities being matched by now playing league cricket in the Liverpool and District Cricket Competition, the premier local cricket league. This is the highest standard of cricket played by a Wallasey Central Park team since cricket teams first played in the park over 110 years ago.



6. Community involvement

Wall garden and café

The Cafe started life as a tea room and over 10 years slowly expanded. In 2015 the Friends of Central Park was reformed to provide active volunteers in the park and run Everyone's cafe. Since then the cafe has expanded rapidly, hot food has been added, deals with Coca Cola have provided the cafe with coolers for free and offered to help with our events and also helped drive our sales. This has worked very well with the management team for the Friends of Central Park and the Cafe as the team all have experience in different areas to help improve the Cafe. The cafe is going from strength to strength and the cafe is bringing more visitors to the park. Our events in the summer attract over 700 visitors to each event most of whom have never visited the park or the walled garden.

Since the Friends of Central Park was reformed in January 2015 they have reconstituted the group and now focus working on improving the park for everyone and providing volunteers in the park & cafe. With the Cafe now open 7 days a week we now have staff or volunteers on site 7 days a week (except Christmas). The friends deal with a number of enquiries from booking the gardens for birthdays to information or history about the park and also take calls and relay information to council staff about any incident in the park. Volunteers are also trained in first aid and deal with a number of incidents from small cuts to children falling from trees.

The cafe plays a vital part of the group in raising funds for the friends to help improve the park alongside Wirral Council park staff. The Walled Garden and Cafe are a central point for families to meet enjoy and relax in a safe friendly environment. The friends work on looking after this vital community asset alongside Wirral Council. The Friends of Central Park are looking to expand the work they do to other parts of the park and will work closely with Wirral Council and park staff to create and maintain a park people want and enjoy. In 2017 the friends paid for the games to be painted on the floor of the playground and also provided volunteers to repaint the equipment.

The future of the Friends group is expanding and work on our phased restoration work to the rose gardens, improvements to drainage in the park will continue over the next 10 years. The friends hope to enlist more volunteers to work out in the park with rangers or gardening staff to maintain the park. The friends also hope to expand on events making the park a destination for a great day out for everyone.

Our website <u>www.centralpark.org.uk</u> also on Facebook.com/Everyone's Cafe and also Facebook.com/Central Park.

Partnership Activities

Central Park C.I.O. Report for the Park Management Plan

Central Park C.I.O. are making steady progress with the Walled Garden and Central Park Café thanks to our Volunteers who keep the Café open seven days a week and have achieved the highest marks for food hygiene. This is proving extremely popular with local residents of all ages. The parks website (centralpark.org.uk) and our social media pages have led to interest from all around the world. Many people are making contact reminiscing about childhood memories before they emigrated to distant lands. With volunteers in the park seven days a week we provide a welcome face to visitors, help, advice, history of the park and first aid.

With the past few years of COVID we have struggled to keep the charity going, however with our membership moving online this helped keep us going. Our membership grew as soon as we reopened the Walled Garden on 19th July 2021. While we had plenty of time on our hands during the lockdown Wirral Council and Central Park C.I.O. worked on our agreement for how we volunteer within the park. We updated a memorandum of understanding setting out clearly our rolls and how we help each other for the benefit of all our visitors to Central Park. This we believe will benefit all of our visitors and make Central Park a great place to visit and enjoy for everyone.

Plans for the coming year

18th May 2022 The Central Park is 131 Years old as a park. The park site is 171 years old. This predates, Birkenhead Park (opened in 1847), and Sefton Park and Stanley Park in Liverpool which were opened in 1870's June – Queens's jubilee, best of British and Best dressed King & Queen August – summer of Fun in the Walled Garden. November to December – Christmas in the Park

More dates and theme days are shown on our website events page and social media pages.

Following discussions with the Park Management Team and the Volunteers it is planned that in future Volunteers will be working to agreed project plans throughout the Park and Walled Garden. This should maximize the benefits for all working over the coming months. We offer task days on a Tuesday & Friday and have split this between the park & walled garden. Our tasks include, painting, planting, path repairs, litter picking and many other tasks. Central Park C.I.O. with Wirral Council gardeners are working on the rockery and plan to invest up to £600 towards this. £300 of this came from a grant and the rest from fundraising through the café. With advice from the park staff and management we will continue to work together and invest funds into the park and provide volunteers. This we believe will make Central Park a great place to visit for everyone.

Pump Track

In 2020 a proposal was made to utilise some of the money from the Liscard Links proposal to install a pump track (BMX Cycle track)

This was agreed in 2021 and after a public consultation to make sure that park users were in favour construction started in January 2022 the design and artist vision is shown below and construction is due to finish at the end of March, with an opening event held at the start of May.

Design & Specification





8. Marketing and Communication

Wirral Parks Survey

This was undertaken in 2012 to find out what visitors think about their parks, beaches and countryside, and to inform management of Wirral's Parks. The Wirral Parks Survey Consultation Summary can be viewed here: <u>https://www.wirral.gov.uk/downloads/5916</u>

Important general information was learned from the survey including the following:

Peak times for use are afternoons, followed by mornings and evenings. Evening use is greater on weekdays than at weekends. The majority of visits are from half an hour to two hours. Around one in five people visit for more than two hours.

One sixth of Wirral people visit parks, beaches and open spaces for events. A quarter said more events would encourage them to use these places more.

Less dog fouling and more and better toilet provision stand out as the top two things that people say would encourage them to use parks, open spaces and beaches more, with 53.7% and 46.5% of responses respectively.

Almost three quarters of people rate Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces as having a very good or good standard of cleanliness and being maintained in a very good or good condition.

Eco counter

Eco vision are a company we have hired in to set up an eco counter on 2 of the entrances to estimate how many visitors we get in and out of central park on a daily basis it was set up on the 16/01/17 and at updating this management plan the last reading I have was averaging 962 people used central park daily..

As a follow up to this survey, a specific regular visitor survey for Wallasey Central Park is now planned

Events

The park has an events programme with a variety of small events run by the local community. The most significant event is the Parks and Countryside funded annual the firework display which regularly attracts over 5000 people.

During 2020 and 2021 all events in the park were Cancelled due to Covid19.

As the Covid pandemic reduces events will now be allowed in the park again.



Christmas time At Central Park Wall garden



Relaxing in the Wall garden pre Pandemic 2019

Wirral Council has an Internet web site that has links to information about Wallasey Central Park and upcoming events at: <u>www.wirral.gov.uk</u>



Mayors visit 2017

Café staff love parks week 2017

Planned 2022 events

Plans for 2022 events are

Easter egg hunt in the walled garden Lark in the Park from 6th May to September (1st Sunday of the month) Farmer's market or craft market 1k Fun Run in the park Halloween October Fireworks Christmas event in Walled Garden.

All events will be updated onto our website <u>www.centralpark.org.uk</u> also on Facebook.com/Everyone's Cafe and also Facebook.com/Central Park and on our social media pages once the bookings are confirmed.

9. Management

The Area Manager for Wallasey district is responsible for the management of the park, in partnership with the Wallasey Central Park Partnership.

This management plan aims to inform staff and members and the public about the aspirations Wirral Council and The Wallasey Central Park Partnership have for the future development and maintenance of the park.

The Parks and Countryside Service like other public services around the country is experiencing budgetary pressure and face challenging times to deliver service improvements. The current operating structure is shown below it incorporates the changes that happened in 2021 to accommodate reorganisation and budget reduction measures.

Parks staff and their functions:

The Wallasey local team leader is responsible for the maintenance of the park.

A team of 1 supervisor and 3 permanent gardeners maintain the park, assisted by a gardener/tractor driver using tractor-mounted equipment for mowing of the larger grass areas.

The play area safety inspection team visits the park once per week.

The arboriculture team visits the park as necessary to carry out seasonal specialist tree pruning and felling work.

Enquiries about the management of the park should be directed to the Wallasey Area Parks Manager on: **0151 606 2004.** <u>http://www.wirral.gov.uk/</u>

New Management structure 2021



Action Plan

Action	Lead Officer	Target date	Resource	Action Completed
A welcoming park				
Maintain one-way system for car park and realign main entrance sign nearer main gates	Park Supervisor	Oct 2017	From existing resources	Yes
Provide new information cabinet to main entrance to include site map	Area Parks Manager	March 2016	Funding to be sourced	Yes
Provide quality signage and interpretative information in the park	Area Parks Manager Landscape Team	July 2017	Funding to be sourced	Yes
Healthy, safe and secure				
Develop and maintain fitness and exercise trail inc 1k meadow run	Landscape Team	2017	Funding secured	completed 2017
Replace / stencil dog 'clean it up' signage to all entrances	Area Parks Manager	Feb 2016	From existing resources	Yes
Monitor levels of anti-social behaviour occurring in the park reporting all incidents to Merseyside Police	Area Parks Manager / Community Police WCPP	Weekly	From existing resources	Ongoing – regular reports to WCPP

Clean and well maintained				
Complete floor stencils on play area	Local team leader	July 17	Donation café	yes
Complete painting of all park railings	Area Parks Manager	March 2016	Parks Service/	Ongoing

			volunteers	
Stencil / clean existing 'dog ban' signage to Children's Play Areas	Area Parks Manager	April 2017	Parks Service/ volunteers	Yes
Remove epicormic growth to all trees + (remove leaning laburnum as described)	Area Parks Manager	winter works on going	Parks Service/ volunteers	Yes
Treat moss to footpaths in bowling green area	Area Parks Manager	Dec 2017	Parks Service/ volunteers	Yes
Repaint play equipment on rolling programme	Area Parks Manager	Sept 17.	Parks Service/ volunteers	Yes
Remove leaf litter from grass areas	Area Parks Manager	Annual Autumn	Parks Service/ volunteers	* 2016 2017/18
Sustainability				
Aim to reduce peat use for the park's bedding plant production.	Area Parks Manager/ volunteers	ongoing	Parks Service/ volunteers	Yes
Continue composting and waste control.	Area Parks Manager/ volunteers	ongoing	Parks Service/ volunteers	Yes
Wood-chipping done on-site and grass cuttings left in place when appropriate.	Area Parks Manager/ volunteers	ongoing	Parks service	Yes
Conservation and heritage				
Retain and maintain feature stonework, ironwork and historic buildings	Area Parks Manager	Annual Inspection	Funding to be identified	Yes
Continue to collect historical information and publish on the Partnership website	WCPP	Ongoing	Volunteer resource	Time line

Carry out a comprehensive tree survey	Area Parks Manager	2018	Parks service	Amenity tree care 2018
Continue to develop the pond and islands to benefit wildlife inc nest boxes added fish cages main lake	Area Parks Manager	2016/17/18 /19 2017	Rangers Service/ volunteers	yes
Introduce wild flowers into the woodland area	Area Parks Manager/ WCPP	2018	Funding to be identified	ongoing
Produce a poppy display for the Boer war memorial	Area Parks Manager/ WCPP	Annual	Within existing resources	2016* 2017/18/19/
Restock with whips into wet area in the lower park to increase tree cover (80x40m) with St Albans school	Area Parks Manager	2017	Within existing resources	2017 2018 2019

Community involvement				
Support user groups with fund raising and events	Area Parks Manager WCPP	ongoing	Parks service	Yes
Work in conjunction with Parks Partnership to achieve the Green Flag Award	Area Parks Manager/ WCPP	Annual	Parks Service/ volunteers/ grants	2016 2017 2018 2019
Provide operational support to develop the sustainability of the community cafe	Area Parks Manager/ WCPP	ongoing	Voluntary labour and grant applications	Ongoing
Communication between Parks Department and bowling clubs about long term sustainability of bowling provision throughout Wirral due to savings programme	Area Parks Manager/ Bowls clubs	December 2015/16/17 /18/19	n/a	
Update integrated work programme	Park Supervisor	Quarterly	Parks Service	Ongoing
Investigate possibility of restoring the rose garden into a seasonal themed set of planting beds	Area manager /WCPP	May 2016	Parks Service/ Parks Partnership	On going Grant been applied for 2017
Undertake shrub and plant survey	Park Supervisor / WCPP	Dec 2017	Parks Partnership	

Install Pump Track on old bowling green site	contractors		Liscard links	ongoing
Marketing				
Improve the Wirral Council and community websites	Senior Parks Development Officer WCPP	Sept 2016	Parks service	Yes
Continue to update information / interpretative material in walled garden notice board	Area Parks Manager /WCPP	ongoing	From existing resources	2015* 2016* 2017, 2018 2019, 2020 2021
Management				
Pursue funding sources as available to develop and improve the parks range and quality of facilities in line with the objectives set out in the plan	Area Manager/ WCPP Landscape Officer	Ongoing	Funding to be identified	Income generation
Bi-monthly meetings – Parks Partnership Monthly meetings of Everyone's Park	All Trustees	Bi-monthly Monthly	Parks Service/ Parks Partnership	On going
Annual Green Flag and management plan update meeting		Annual	n/a	On going

Appendices

Appendix 1: Parks and Countryside General Service requirement

Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection

Collect and remove litter and refuse from all of the areas included within this plan. In the case of adopted highway verges this responsibility is limited to the occasions immediately prior to grass cutting activities. 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 dispose of the rubbish, clear all litter from around each bin.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 does not specify frequencies and this requires the requisite standards to be maintained by:

ensuring familiarity with site plans and locations programming works effectively applying resources appropriately

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

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

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.

Ensure that all staff uses their reasonable endeavours to collect and minimise the effects of litter on the sites, whenever it is encountered in the pursuance of their duties, whether or not those duties are primarily litter control.

Sweeping and cleansing

This requirement is applicable to all surfaces other than grass within all sites. 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 substantially weed free condition including moss and algae growth.

Fallen leaves

Fallen leaves shall be regularly cleared from areas of:

main entrances and key pedestrian routes and paths visitors' centres and attractions ornamental grass areas soft horticultural features such as bedding and herbaceous borders surfaces within play areas

Leaf clearance shall take place so that the features remain:

in good horticultural condition and / or 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 final clearance of all autumn leaves shall be completed by the end of December in each year of the contract period.

Graffiti and fly-tipping

Offensive or racist graffiti shall be reported as a priority. This shall be reported to the Area Manager within one hour of identification, to enable this to be removed by the Employer's specialist operator within 24 hours.

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. If 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.

All instances of fly-tipping shall be reported to the Area Team Leader.

Grass maintenance

The use of growth regulators will not be permitted.

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 around obstacles and margins shall not be permitted on ornamental and associated grass areas. The use of appropriate herbicides to kill growth around obstacles and margins in other areas shall be permitted unless otherwise stipulated in the relevant site management plan or by instruction from the Area Manager In such areas, the maximum bandwidth of kill shall not exceed 50mm.

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, highway urban verges and rural verges shall not normally require removal, unless excessive growth has occurred, in which case arisings shall be collected and removed for recycling or reuse.

Unless otherwise stipulated in the relevant site management plan, grass areas over naturalised Narcissus, Galanthus and Crocus bulbs etc, shall remain uncut from the commencement of the grass cutting season to the third week in May, unless the bulb leaves have died down sooner, 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 Manager, 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 an obligation remains to control grass and weed flower spikes 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.

General/amenity grass

All general/amenity grass areas shall be maintained within the optimum specified height range:

Minimum height 25 mm Maximum height 60 mm

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

Undertake a rolling programme of condition surveys of the hard landscape infrastructure of parks, open spaces and other sites. All locations covered by a site management plan at contract commencement shall have been subject to a condition survey within three years of contract commencement. All other locations shall have been subject to a condition survey within five years of contract commencement. Following each site condition survey the prepare an improvement plan for inclusion in the relevant site management plan and subsequent submission to the Area Manager, or where there is no site management plan for direct submission to the Service Manager.

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.

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 to visitor and community centres and known problem locations and hazardous gradients.

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

Benches and seating

All benches and seating, including picnic benches & tables, shall be kept 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.

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. All other repairs must be reported to the Area Manager.

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

Regularly maintain gates, locks and mechanisms to ensure good working condition.

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.

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.

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 removed for recycling or reuse.

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

Be aware of his obligations when undertaking any work on or near a highway with regard to public safety and traffic regulations.

Planting areas general – replacement, renewal and new planting

Where requested by the Local team leader proposals for replacement, renewal and new planting of shrubs, roses and hedging shall be submitted.

Public toilets

Be responsible as key-holder for opening, closing and securing the buildings.

Maintain public toilets to a sufficiently high level of cleanliness to protect public health and maintain good appearance.

Toilets shall be kept free from unacceptable odours. All sanitary ware shall be kept free from all, stains; dirt and any build up of lime scale or dry germ. A streak and smear free finish shall be achieved.

Replace where necessary all consumables such as toilet rolls.

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

Store all equipment and materials in a safe condition and provide and display the necessary warning signs/barriers to ensure public safety during cleaning operations.

Remove any graffiti as part of the cleaning operation.

Comply with all the responsibilities and requirements on waste collection and disposal.

Inspect the premises after each cleaning operation and notify the Service Manager immediately of any fitting or part of the building requiring repair or replacement.

Trees and woodland

All tree work shall be undertaken in accordance with BS 3998: 2010 'Recommendations for tree work'. Be responsible for making all necessary checks to determine if there are any laws and regulations, including Tree Preservation Orders that would affect any work proposed, and to ensure that all permissions and licences are gained prior to proceeding with work.

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

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 arrangements to make good any damage to the entire satisfaction of the Area Manager.

Include for stump removal and subsequent surface reinstatement following tree felling in highways locations. Stumps intended for permanent retention should be cut at a specified height and left free from snags.

On completion of all tree work ensure that the work area is thoroughly cleaned and is left in a condition appropriate for its intended use.

All timber and brushwood resulting from tree work shall be disposed of. The only exceptions to this shall be at woodland locations where the Service Manager may instruct timber and brushwood to be retained on site. The Area 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 or bridleways.

Trees and woodland – emergency and out of hours call out service

Provide a 24 hour, 365 days a year, emergency and out of hours call out response service for trees or limbs that have collapsed or are in a dangerous condition. A response unit consisting of a minimum of two suitably trained staff with appropriate vehicle and equipment shall be provided within one hour's notice following notification of an event by the Service Manager or emergency services authority. Incidents of this nature are often associated with high winds, collision damage, root severance and acts of vandalism.

In the event of severe weather conditions or a major disaster provide additional staff and resources as deemed necessary. At such times maintain radio or telephone contact with the Service Manager's staff so that the staff can be directed to other emergencies as necessary.

Provide sufficient labour, vehicles and equipment required for emergency tree work operations. Heavy lifting equipment and cranes will need to be obtained as soon as reasonably practicable for special operations.

Trees in parks

Have a duty of care to ensure that users of parks, green spaces, cemeteries, churchyards and golf courses and all adjacent land and neighbouring properties are not at unreasonable risk from possible failure of trees. As part of the regular site health and safety inspections 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 hazard risk identification, through an agreed programme of work. This may be supplemented by requests/complaints received from members of the public and others.

Individual trees in parks and green spaces – replacement and renewal

Undertake occasional requests for commemorative and other tree planting within cemeteries, parks and green spaces.

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

Work with community stakeholders and partner organisations to reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour in sites covered by the service.

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 his routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor incidents of damage caused by any other source.

Hard landscape infrastructure

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 his 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.

Walled Garden Buildings

A named person shall be responsible as key holder for opening, closing and securing the building.

The café will be maintained to a high level of cleanliness appropriate to its use including public visibility, including, windows (internal & external), toilets, feminine hygiene disposal units, soap dispensers and similar items, inclusive of replacing all necessary consumables such as toilet rolls.

Cleaning operations shall include any vacuuming, dusting, sweeping, polishing, wiping down, disinfecting etc in order to leave the Visitor Centre in a clean, tidy and safe condition.

The best endeavours shall be used to conserve supplied utilities including electricity and water, and arrange access for the reading of meters by the utility suppliers.

All equipment and materials is to be stored in a safe condition.

Provide and display the necessary warning signs/barriers to ensure public safety during cleaning operations.

Remove any graffiti as part of the cleaning operation.

Make provision for the cleaning up of spillages, breakages and similar occurrences during the opening hours of the building.

Inspect the premises after each cleaning operation and notify the Area Manager immediately of any fitting or part of the building requiring repair or replacement.

Appendix 2: Parks managed asset quantities table

Central Park

Item	Quantity	Туре
Premium Ornamental Grass	690m ²	
Ornamental Grass	100m ²	
General Grass	105601m ²	
Rough Grass	3679m ²	
Wild Flower Grass area	NA	
Playing Field	35912m ²	
Soccer Pitch	3 no.	Senior
Mini Soccer Pitch	1 no.	
9v9	4 no	
Bowling Green	6551m ²	
Cricket Outfield	18767m ²	
Cricket Nets	NA	
Hedge two side and top	1138m ²	
Hedge one side and top	509m ²	
Hedge one side only	NA	
Annual Bedding	25m ²	
Rose Bed	8m²	
Shrub Bed	1422m ²	
Hard surface footpaths	Yes	
Hard Surface total	22463m ²	
Bitumen Macadam Sports	1 no.	5 "a "side / basketball
Play Area	1 no.	
Fitness trail	1 no. trail	10 pieces of equipment
Muga	1 no.	
Lakes and Ponds	2 no.	
Boundary railing / fencing / walling	yes	
Buildings (owned)	4 no.	Sports Pavilion, depot and mess room areas, walled garden
Tree Stock	Yes	Mixed
Natural area	Yes	
Benches / seats	32	Plus 16 within Bowling greens
Picnic tables	10	
Litter bins	22	Plus 4 within Bowling greens
Lighting	Yes	
CCTV	Yes	7 cameras (1 fixed 1 R/C)

Appendix 3: Wirral Council environmental policy

Environmental Policy

Wirral Council provides essential services to more than 312,000 residents across a number of key areas and recognises that its activities and services have both beneficial and adverse impacts on the environment.

In working toward a more sustainable future we will:

- Maintain an Environmental Management System which satisfies the requirements of the international standard ISO 14001.
- Comply with all applicable legal requirements and with any other requirements which relate to the Council's environmental aspects.
- Continually seek to minimise negative environmental impacts, prevent pollution and reduce waste during delivery of our services.
- Reduce carbon emissions arising from public sector buildings, operations and service delivery, and encourage others to do so.
- Increase the proportion of socially responsible goods and services that we procure.

- Increase the amount of waste reused and recycled and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.
- Undertake actions to improve our resilience to current and future climate change.
- Improve the quality and sustainability of the built and natural environment.
- Consider environmental costs, risks and impacts when making planning, contracting, purchasing and operating decisions.
- Regularly monitor and review our environmental performance.
- Ensure that all employees are aware of their environmental responsibilities through communication, training and support.
- Communicate this policy to employees, partners and the public.

Eric Robinson CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Date: 9th October 2015

Appendix 4:

General Statement of Intent

Wirral Council accepts its responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and all subsequent regulations.

The council will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of employees, visitors, contractors and any other persons affected by its undertaking.

It is the responsibility of the Chief Executive, to ensure that departments comply with this commitment through the implementation of a robust management system that seeks continual improvement in the health and safety performance of the council.

The council's objectives, so far as health and safety is concerned, are to provide and maintain, so far as is reasonably practicable:-

Plant, equipment and systems of work that are safe.

• Safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances.

 Sufficient information, instruction and supervision to enable all employees to avoid hazards and contribute positively to their own health and safety at work.

· A safe place of work with safe access to and egress from it.

A healthy working environment and adequate welfare facilities.

All staff should be aware of their responsibilities contained within this health and safety policy and report any unsafe acts or situations to an appropriate officer.

Eric Robinson Chief Executive

Date: 25th February 2015

"There is nothing so urgent or important that we cannot take time to do it safely"

Appendix 5: Volunteer plans for walled garden 2021/22

The Walled Garden Central Park

The following is a list of work that the Friends of Everyone's Café & Walled Garden would like to be done with the cooperation of Wirral Council gardeners and Rangers. A list below has be made with the Friends and will consult the park managers to compile a full list of work. The work list that will be created will run on a two week basis with helpers and park staff.

Bed 26		
	 This bed is to be redesigned and made into a sensory garden Remove all plants except Cordyline ,remove remaining stumps and replace soil Replace plants (Sensory) and manage this bed A sensory garden in this area because it is raised and accessible for all sides 	
Bed 31/32/33/34		
	Once a rock garden this bed has become overgrown and now needs clearing and updating/replanting	
	 Remove the certain conifers and non-rock garden plants Reinstate the rock garden, scree and wall troughs with new planting 	
	Doing this work will help with the Green Flag Award and It was mentioned two years ago when applying award. This area could be brought up to date by clearing conifers and shrubs also it will give staff & parents a clear view of the garden while children are playing. During the last couple of years the small fence surround these beds has become rotten and unsafe! This has now been replaced with a new fence incorporating wood from other fences with have been taken down in other parts of the park.	
Bed 1		
	This bed requires general tidying up and maintained it has been agreed volunteers will do on a two week work rota of the garden. The Viburnum needs reducing as it is encroaching onto the path	
Bed 10a		
	This area needs a general tiding up, remove all detritus, rotavating, erection of post and rail fence and replanting	

Bed 10b-13		
	 Herbaceous borders, Work in these areas is to clear all old dying growth, general tidying up of boarders. Spade edge grass off the bricks down each side of borders. Maintain the fence on each side and repaint with plant friendly wood preserver. Volunteers will also check for damage on a daily basis and report to Park supervisor as part of our normal operating procedure. Park staff to provide grass cutting of the area. 	
Allotment - 14		
	The allotment area has been now removed from the Walled Gardens plans. This area will be landscaped for seating are and possible water feature. This will become a relaxation area of the garden. To replace the Conifer hedge with a New Yew hedge	Project bank
Wooded area		
4-5-6-7	There has been some crown raising of the tree stock in early 2016. There is a need for this area to be redesigned and priced for 2018, Area team Leader and volunteer group will meet and discuss this area	
Laburnum Arch		
	The Frame work of the arch has become rotten and so will be replaced in 2022	

CENTRAL PARK - WALLED GARDEN



Appendix 6 Tree Survey.

A New tree survey has been carried out in late 2021 but as of yet it has not been published due to storm Arwen bringing down a number of trees In the park

CENTRAL PARK TREE SURVEY 2014

AREA NO

TREE SPECIES

-		
Α	31	Syc,haw,bch,pop,con,bchc
B·	15	Ash,haw,elm,syc
C	14	Ash, haw, bch, syc
D	60	Ch,syc,haw,bir,pop,oak,wil
E	35	Bch,syc,ch,
F	37	Oak,syc,lme,pop
G	11	Syc
Η	84	Oak,bch,pop,syc,haw,lme,oake,am,bir
Í	51	Lme,bir,haw,pop,ch,syc
J	19	Lab,ash,bch,syc
K	43	Hawps, lme, bir, sbir, chy, app, syc, sct,
L	3	Wil,
Μ	36	Wil,syc,chy,pop,bch,lme
N	42	Bpop,pop,wil,syc,lpn,oak
0	18	Ash,syc,ch,hol,lme,sbir
Р	1	Chy,
Q	33	Lme,syc,ch,bir,lpn,hol,pop,
R	89	Chy,pop,syc,lme oak,bir,sbir,hbn,am,ash,
S	39	Syc,pop,lme,lpn,
Т	1	Syc,
U	22	Lpn,syc,lme,
V	18	Syc,bch,ch
W	15	Sbch, bir, chy
X	680	Oak,syc,hol,bch,bir,bchc,lme,chy,pop,ch,lpn,app
Y	54	Ash,syc,chy,appc,lme,bchc,ch,am,
Ζ	26	Chy,con,rob,lab,app,appc,pne,bchc,lch,hol,sbch

TOTAL NUMBER OF SEMI/MATURE TREES 1477

CENTRAL PARK TREE STOCK

TREE SPECIES	COMMON NAME	INITIALS	
 IREE SPECIES		INITIAL5	
1. Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse chestnut	hc	사람은 도 같을
2. Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	syc	
3. Amelanchier ballerina		am	
4. Betula albosinensis	Common Birch	bir	
5. Betula pendula	Silver Birch	sbir	
6. Carpinus betulus	Hornbeam	hmb	
7. Castenea sativa	Sweet Chestnut	sct	
8. Cratagus laevigata	Hawthorne "pauls scarlett"	hawps	
9. Cratagus monogyna	Hawthorne	haw	
10. Cupressocyparis leylandii	Leyland conifer	ley	
11. Fagus silvatica	Common Beech	bch	
12. Fagus silvatice "purpurea"	Copper Beech	bchc	
13. Fraxinus augustifolia	Ash	ash	
14. Ilex aquafolia	Holly	hol	
15. Laurus noblis	Bay	bay	
16. Laburnum waterii	Golden rain	lab	\sim \sim \sim
17. Larix occindentalis	Larch	lch	
18. Malus buccata	Crab apple	appc	
19. Malus Various species	Edible apple	app	
20. Poplus deltoidies	Poplar	pop	
21. Poplus nigra	Black Poplar	popb	,
22. Platanus hispanica	London Plain	lpn	
23. Pinus Various species	Pine	pne	
24. Prunus Various species	Ornamental Cherry	chy,	
25. Quercus laurifolia	Evergreen Oak	oake	
26. Quercus robur	Oak	oak	
27. Robinia pseudoacacia		rob	
28. Salix Various species	Willow	wil	
29. Tilia cordata	Lime	lme	
30. Various conifer species		con	



Appendix 9: Project Bank 2018



Project Bank Central Park Walled Garden

The area in question has traditionally been used as an allotment plot and community growing space by Friends of Everyone's Café and Walled Garden volunteers. However, due to the public accessibility of the site, the plot was always difficult to maintain as it was frequently trampled by children playing in the Walled Garden. With this in mind it is proposed that there is a change of use for the site.

'Friends' volunteers intend to turn the plot into an informal seating area (possibly using recycled logs for seating) for use by the public for picnics and relaxation. The Friends group also hope to install a small water feature to add to the relaxing feel of the site and to promote interest for wildlife.

Appendix 10: Publicity and marketing information

GREEN FLAG SUCCESSES

Once again the Wirral has increased the number of parks and open spaces than have achieved the Green Flag Award this year. Locally Central Park, Vale Park, North Wirral Coastal Park and Rake Lane Cemetery have retained their awards and The Breck has achieved the award for the first time.



The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the managemen of recreational outdoor spaces across the United

Kingdom and around the world. Amongst it's aims are that everyone has access to quality green open spaces that meet the needs of the local community, and that the award recognises the hard work of staff and local volunteers.

BLUE FLAG BONUS

In addition to the green flag successes, Wallasey Beach, Harrison Drive has achieved a blue flag as a recognition that it is a beach where you can be sure it is clean and safe, meets the highest environmental standards and the tough international bathing water quality standards.

New fund launched to reduce litter through innovative projects

Almost £500,000 will be awarded to community projects to tackle the blight of littering. The money will support the development of new innovation and approaches for tackling litter, from behavioural research for better positioned bins and recycling points so more people throw their rubbish away, to digital technology. This includes apps and 'smart-bins' that can text alerts to rubbish collectors when they are full, stopping nasty litter from spilling out onto our high streets or leading people to litter nearby....



Local authorities, community groups, charities, educational institutions and small and medium enterprises can all apply for funding and there is a separate pot for preventing/reducing litter entering the marine environment

For more information please see the link below: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-fund-launched-to-reduce-litter-through-innovative-projects

Angel Fun Run - Central Park 1K Sat 30th Sep 12:00pm - 2:00pm

Raise some funds for your local community group or favourite charity. Saturday 30th September 12pm Register at Everyone"s Cafe from 11am. Entry fee £3, 1Km course. Set our own target! Go round as many times as you like. Parking available in park and adjoining roads. Come and stretch your wings!

liscard@regional-media.co.uk





KEEP CALM AND BECOME A VOLUNTEER

with

Wallasey Central Park Partnership

We're always looking for help in the gardens, painting, DIY, decorating and our veggie patch. If you think you can help out with just a few hours a week, you'll be surprised by your sense of acievment

For more information, please enquire at the cafe in the Walled Garden or the Depot office

Wallasey Central Park Partnership is a registered charity website: www.wcpp.org.uk

Parkfield Liscard Cricket Club

JUNIOR CRICKET SECTION

Parkfield Liscard Cricket Club is working closely with Coaching Officers from the Cheshire Cricket Board (CCB) to deliver coaching to local children from the age of 5. During May, June and July the Club has been hosting "All Stars Cricket" a new national entry level cricket programme for 5 to 8 years old children created by the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB). Twenty local children have been attending All Stars sessions on Friday afternoons. The Club's All Stars Activators Paula and Erika with the help of parents have been giving the children first experience of cricket.

The Club has again worked with CCB to provide exciting soft ball "Twilight" cricket sessions for children at local primary schools in Years 4, 5 and 6. These sessions, held during April and May were led by a professional ECB coach with an emphasis on fun, participation and teamwork.

For older children there has been more cricket in Wallasey Central Park than in past years. Parkfield Liscard is running Under 9's, Under 11's and Under 13's teams in the Wirral Junior Cricket League. Training for these teams is held throughout the summer on Friday evenings, starting at 6.0 pm. A full set of Sunday league fixtures for the three age group teams continues until the end of July.

More coach support is available at the Club this summer with six members and parents attending an ECB training course in early May.

Parents bring your children to Wallasey Central Park and enjoy watching them play cricket and meet new friends and you can then relax in the comfort of the Parkfield Liscard clubhouse.

New players are required at all ages so If you want to play just come to Friday night practice sessions or better still register your interest as detailed at the end of this article. Coaching and kit provided.

SENIOR CRICKET SECTION

This year Parkfield Liscard is running 1st and 2nd teams in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition. Competition matches are normally played on Saturdays. An exciting new opportunity to play cricket this year is the formation of the Sunday Development League by Cheshire Cricket. The Club is one of 14 teams playing in this new league which will give younger players the chance to develop from Junior to Senior cricket.

The main senior practice night is Thursday with practice sessions also held on most Tuesdays. The sessions start at 6.00 pm and are held throughout the summer from early April.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

If you want to play cricket at Junior or Senior level call at the Club any evening after 5.00 pm and sign up. Alternatively go onto the Wallasey Central Park website at www.centralpark.org.uk - attractions - cricket club and provide your details. There is also a Facebook page.

If you don't want to play cricket just come along to the clubhouse in Central Park to relax and watch the cricket. The clubhouse is also a great location to hold family events. Just ask behind the bar.

CRICKET FOR ALL AGES IN CENTRAL PARK WALLASEY





Central Park is the place to be this summer to come and play cricket. There are opportunities for anyone from 5 years old and above.

liscard@regional-media.co.uk



WCPP & EVERYONE'S PARK REPORT TO THE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

We are making steady progress with the Walled Garden and Everyone's Café thanks to our Volunteers who now have the Café open seven days a week. This is proving extremely popular with local residents of all ages. The WCPP website and our Facebook and Twitter pages have led to interest from as far away as Australia and America with people making contact reminiscing about childhood memories before they emigrated to distant lands.

July 2015 saw the celebration of 30 years since the Walled Garden was opened and 10 years since Everyone's Café began. On 20th September the Octopus Project held an "End of Summer Festival" in the Children's Play Area and 31st October saw a very successful Halloween event in the Walled Garden. On 5th December Father Christmas visited his Grotto Home in the Walled Garden Allotment Shed and the Café closed from 23rd December until 4th January 2018.

Plans for the coming year start with Pancake Races in the Children's Play Area on Sunday 7th February, followed by a Valentine's Day Tea in the Walled Garden on Sunday 14th February. These will followed by an Easter Egg hunt in the Walled Garden on Easter Sunday.

On 18th and 19th of June there was a Summer Gala to celebrate 125 years since the opening of Wallasey Central Park as a Public Park. Halloween and Father Christmas are now permanent fixtures on the Park Calendar and dates are shown on our website events page, wcpp.org.uk, also on Facebook.com/Everyone's Cafe and also Facebook.com/Central Park

Following discussions with the Park Management Team and the WCPP Volunteers it is planned that in future Volunteers will be working to agreed project plans throughout the Park and Walled Garden. This should maximise the benefits of team working over the coming months.

Central Park Wallasey. Survey Proposal. November 1st 2014 Nery's Davies <u>PROPOSED METHODS</u>

The purpose of the survey is to determine what the local community wants from the park, to what extent the requirements are being met and in what ways they could be improved. Opportunities for volunteer involvement will also be investigated.

- 1. Observation sessions to study park usage. Numbers of park users will be estimated at different times of day and on weekdays and weekends. Note will be made of the facilities being used, events taking place and other factors of interest.
- 2. Group discussions with park users and local residents of all ages, with particular emphasis on young people. One of the aims of this session will be to assess the added value of the new facilities introduced in the park since the last survey in 2010. These include performance area, trim trail, improved play area and sculpture features. The discussions will also aim to obtain local views on the role of young park users and how the generations could work together for mutual community benefit. This activity will determine whether currently available activities, events and facilities are appropriate for the needs of the local population and will also investigate the scope for youth and adult volunteering.
- 3. Individual interviews to be conducted using a questionnaire method. The aim is to obtain the views of at least 100 individual respondents covering a full range of ages and will be balanced on gender and usage activity. The respondents will include park users within the park boundary and local residents in the streets adjacent to the park.
 - Adult users of the park will be asked if they are willing to participate in faceto-face interviews.
 - Respondents under 18 will also be asked to participate in this study to canvas more views and attitudes. Young users may be recruited through school involvement. If local schools agree to become involved, questionnaires could be distributed via teachers and participation would be subject to the consent of both the junior respondents and their parents.
 - The questionnaires will include a section on the respondents' current volunteering activities in the park and also on potential interest in volunteering.
- 4. Questionnaire analysis and report. Feedback from the observation sessions, discussions and questionnaire will be analysed and the information obtained will be used to ascertain how the park could be improved in ways that would encourage public involvement. The report will emphasise any opportunities available with respect to youth volunteering and skill enhancement activities.

This survey was completed for Wallasey Central Park Partnership Group and the Wallasey Central Park Consultation survey was published in May 2015 .

<u>There is a copy kept within the Central Parks Team Leaders office also a copy in</u> <u>Everyone's café office</u>

Access statement Central Park 2017

Central Park has 11 entrances and exits located respectively all entrances are tarmac surfaces .The main entrance is in Liscard road.

1. Liscard road

Main entrance

This is the main entrance; it has a fully marked car park controlled by a one way system.



Accesses – Large enclosed playarea, Walled garden community gardens with everyone's café is at the heart of the garden, Boer war memorial 2x 9 aside football pitches

Events field/blocked paved staging and gardens

Cricket field

Outdoor gym circuit

Enclosed play area

2, Liscard rd / Martins lane



Accesses – Main entrance to access Parkfield cricket club pavilion and for the usage of the cricket field. And has a footing for a removable bollard for vehicles servicing the cricket pavilion and pedestrian access Football pavilion and 3 adult size pitches Outdoor gym circuit

3, Liscard rd opposite junction of Church rd

Accesses - Entrance on Liscard Road opposite the junction with Church Street is gated and locked. It is for pedestrians and cyclists only and forms part of the 'safer routes to school' (part of Wirral Council's transport plan) and Wirral's Cycleway MUGA unit Outdoor gym circuit

4, Parkside rd/ Withington Road entrance



Accesses – entrance is a locked double gate with side pedestrian access Pedestrian only, MUGA unit, Outdoor gym circuit, Events field 2x 9 aside football pitches.

5, Silverbeech rd



Entrance has a footing for a removable bollard mainly used as a pedestrian entrance. Silver beech continued

Accesses – Main lake overflow known as the "duckponds" Events field/2x 9 aside football pitches. Cycle route MUGA unit Outdoor gym circuit

6, Pendennis rd



Accesses – this entrance is a side entrance down an "entry" at the top of the road Main lake

7, Devereux drive



Devereux drive continued

Accesses – This entrance is a locked double gate with permanent pedestrian opening Oxton field /Bowling greens and best entrance for the main lake .and to access the bottom end of Love Lane allotments



8, Oxton field via Poulton rd

Accessing - This entrance it is a permanently opened double gated front. Oxton field which is mainly used for 9 aside football.

9. Oxton rd



Oxton rd continued overleaf

Accesses - This entrance is a pedestrian only entrance and shares the entrance with Park primary school

It is for pedestrians and cyclists only and forms part of the 'safer routes to school' (part of Wirral Council's transport plan) and Wirral's Cycleway.



10. Greenheys rd

Accesses- This entrance is pedestrian only 3 full size football field and pavilion also its path runs alongside the 5 bowling greens and eventually ends up at the main lake. <u>11, Greenhays rd/Parkfield rd</u>



Accesses - Parkfield cricket club and cricket pitches,

3 full size football field and pavilion and access to main lake this is also used as a pedestrian short cut from Seacome/Poulton wards for Liscard shopping centre.