



Radnor Gardens Management Plan

January 2022 – December 2023

Radnor Gardens Management Plan 2022-23: Foreword

Radnor Gardens are a vitally important asset for local people and visitors to the borough. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (the Council) aspires to maintain and manage the Gardens to the highest standards.

This management plan is based on the use of an audit of the park following central government guidance known as PPG 17. This is explained within this document but the approach is based on common sense. We believe that it is important to get the simple things right. Is the green space clean and tidy? Is the grass cut? Are the trees and shrubs well maintained? Is any graffiti removed effectively and quickly?

Working with local communities to deliver the highest quality of service is top priority and it is hoped that this document will provide a framework for continuing and improving dialogue. The site will be maintained appropriately and the local community will be consulted on any proposed changes or improvements to facilities or infrastructure. In particular, the borough works closely with the Friends of Radnor Gardens. We actively encourage suggestions about all aspects of the park.

While the Council is open to the changing needs of the community with regards to any of the borough's parks, the Gardens are long established and are well maintained. There have been major renovations over the last few years, these include the installation of a new playground; repairs to the boundary wall; shrub bed replanting; transformation of a parks building into a café kiosk and renovation of the bowling green.

Parks Officers, working closely with colleagues in Continental Landscapes and using a partnership approach, regularly monitor Radnor Gardens. Members of the local community are also encouraged to let us know their impressions about the level of maintenance as well as their ideas. It is hoped that the resulting observations and ideas will result in continually improving management and maintenance practices.

The current financial situation will inevitably have a detrimental affect on the resources available to improve and maintain the borough's parks and open spaces. The borough will continue to work closely with its partners, in this case Continental Landscapes and the Friends of Radnor Gardens, to maintain standards. In addition we will need to look for additional ways of funding to maintain and improve the borough's parks, one of our most valuable assets.

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1. Introduction

1.1 This Management Plan for Radnor Gardens provides guidance for the management and any relevant development of the Gardens. It utilises the methodology outlined in the Government’s Planning Policy Guidance note 17 (PPG 17) in order to audit the state of provision of features and facilities in the Gardens.

The Plan includes an Action Plan, which we aim to achieve within the remit of current budgets. The Plan has been drafted for a broad audience interested in the development of the gardens namely:

- The Friends of Radnor Gardens and borough residents;
- The Parks and Open Spaces Service;
- Other services and departments within the London Borough of Richmond;
- Elected members, ward Councillors and portfolio holders;
- National agencies;
- Local businesses; and
- Partners and contractors.

1.2 The Plan will run from January 2022 to December 2023. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2023.

2. National Context

2.1 Parks are managed areas of the green environment which provide opportunities for a range of formal and informal leisure, passive and active sport, recreation and play.

2.2 The significance of parks, open space and countryside provision is clear:

- There are an estimated 27,000 public parks in Britain, visited an estimated 2.6bn times each year (Common Select Committee, 2016).
- There is an estimated 85,847 hectares of Publicly accessible green space in Great Britain, 73,400 in England. (*Natural capital accounts containing information about green spaces in urban areas*, Office for National Statistics, August 2019)
- 17.99% of Greater London is designated Public Open Space; with 3.5% Local Parks and Open Spaces & 5.2% Metropolitan Parks (GiGL, 2019).

2.3 It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality ‘public realm’ facilities such as parks can assist in making an area as an attractive place to live and work, and can result in a number of benefits in terms of economic development and regeneration. A local park can also play a part in promoting healthy living as a place for people to exercise.

2.4 The benefits of safe and accessible parks and open spaces can be summarised as follows:

Social

- providing safe outdoor areas that are available to all members of the local population

- providing opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising
- providing easily accessible recreation as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits
- providing opportunities to improve health and take part in a range of outdoor sports and activities
- providing an educational resource or outdoor classroom

Economic

- adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues for public services
- contributing to attracting visitors, including using parks as venues for events
- encouraging tourism into the area
- helping to create an attractive local image
- helping to reduce social exclusion and its associated costs to society

Environmental

- providing habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity
- helping to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity
- absorbing pollutants in the air and ground water
- providing opportunities for the recycling of organic materials
- providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities, and by providing walking and cycling routes through urban areas

3. Relationship to Council’s Aims and Objectives

The London Borough of Richmond recognises that its parks and open spaces contribute to the:

- overall vision and priorities of the Council
- quality of life of local people
- physical, social and economic regeneration of the borough
- greening, attractiveness and biodiversity of the area

Accordingly this Management Plan and the Parks and Open Spaces Service are guided by and are in agreement with the aims, objectives and principles of the following plans and strategies. These can be found at: www.richmond.gov.uk

3.1 Richmond’s Community Plan

The Community Plan describes the Council’s vision for the borough and outlines the steps that will be taken, through partnership working, to achieve this vision. The vision is for a borough where:

- local people are engaged and involved in their communities.
- a vibrant and sustainable community and voluntary sector helps residents play a full role in community life.
- the local character of the environment is protected and development is high quality and compatible with local character.
- our towns and local centres are attractive, viable for businesses and contribute positively to the quality of life of residents and visitors.
- people can live as independently as possible in the local community with good health and wellbeing.

For further details of the Community Plan please visit: www.richmond.gov.uk

3.2 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2011

Richmond borough has the largest area of public open space per head of population of any London borough. The Council has a local and national reputation for quality and leadership in the delivery of excellent parks. To ensure the quality of our parks and open spaces remains at a high level, following public consultation, we developed a series of strategic principles by which the parks will be managed:

1. Parks and Open Spaces will be a sustainable legacy for future generations.
2. Parks and Open Spaces will continue to define our borough.
3. Parks and Opens Spaces will enrich the life, health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.
4. The Council will lead in the delivery of excellent Parks and Open Spaces services.
5. Parks and Open Spaces will offer positive experiences to all visitors.
6. Through innovation, the future development of Parks and Open Spaces services will be ensured.
7. Increased community participation in Parks and Open Spaces will be encouraged and supported.
8. Parks and Open Spaces will be celebrated as centres of excellence.

3.3 Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Richmond

The main aims of the plan are:

- To conserve and where possible enhance Richmond’s variety of habitats and species, in particular those which are of international or national importance, are in decline locally, are characteristic to Richmond or have particular public appeal, which can raise the profile of biodiversity

- To ensure that Richmond residents become aware of, and are given the opportunity to become involved in conserving and enhancing the biodiversity around them
- To raise awareness and increase stakeholder involvement in maintaining and where possible, enhancing species and habitats of importance

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan can be found online here: https://habitatsandheritage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Biodiversity-Action-Plan-Richmond_compressed.pdf

3.4 Parks Improvements

The Council have a commitment to continued improvement in our Parks and Open Spaces by improving existing infrastructure and developing and installing new facilities. The Council continues to have a cyclical investment programme to ensure that parks and playgrounds are up to standards, this includes £300k a year for park improvements and £150k for play. One aim of the management plan is to maintain the gains that we have achieved in previous years.

The Council list all major improvement projects on our webpage, which can be found here:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_improvements_and_conservation/latest_parks_updates

4. Site Description

4.1 Outline History of Radnor Gardens

Radnor Gardens is located in an area of Twickenham noted for its previous literary residents such as Horace Walpole (1717 – 1797) and Alexander Pope (1688 - 1744).

The park was created from a small island and gardens of several large houses which bordered the River Thames. In the Gardens are two 18th century buildings- a gothic summer house, once part of the now demolished Cross Deep House and an eighteenth-century bath house (formerly known as a gazebo).

Radnor House, from which the Gardens take their name, was destroyed by bombing in September 1940. The island portion, Cross Deep Ait, was opened to the public as a pleasure garden in 1903 after its surface level was raised by the addition of earth taken from the construction of the nearby Teddington Lock.

In 1968 the channel of the Cross Deep Stream, which separated the two areas was filled in to create the single area we see today.

4.2 General Information

4.2.1 Land Tenure

The site is owned by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and is managed by the Parks and Open Spaces Service.

The enabling acts which confer the specified powers to the Council to administer and maintain the land are listed below:

- Open Spaces Act 1906;
- Local Government Act 1972; and
- Local Government, Planning & Land Act 1980

4.2.2 Location

Radnor Gardens is located within half a mile of the centre of Twickenham. It lies adjacent to the Cross Deep Road which is a major road from Twickenham to Teddington and Kingston. The road forms the park’s western boundary and the River Thames borders its eastern boundary.

4.2.3 Access

As a free and open facility Radnor Gardens has the potential to provide fully inclusive access to local residents and visitors to the area. Pedestrians and those arriving by train and bus and car can currently access the site.

4.2.4 Local Transport

Train: Twickenham Station is situated within fifteen minutes walk of the Gardens. Trains from this station run into central London (Waterloo Station via Clapham Junction) and west with trains running to Reading and Windsor and all stations in between. Strawberry Hill station is about five minutes’ walk from the park, with trains serving central London.

Bus: The centre of Twickenham is well served by buses, with routes to all areas of the borough, neighbouring boroughs and the centre of town.

The Gardens are served by the following bus routes:
R68 & 33.

4.2.5 Landscape & Topography

The Gardens are laid out in a formal manner in a roughly rectangular shape. To the east of the Gardens lies the Thames and to the west the boundary is marked by Cross Deep Road. On the Southern and Northern boundaries there is private property

The land is generally flat although it gently slopes down towards the river which is obviously a major feature of the landscape.

The site has a circular path running around the perimeter of the Gardens. It is also divided by a path which runs across the site and by the war memorial. This separates the main area of amenity grassland from the bowling green, café/kiosk and playground.

In terms of horticultural interest there is a raised rose garden and a rockery that lie on the western border of the Gardens.

4.2.6 Listed Historic Buildings

There are two buildings of historic interest, dating from the eighteenth century, a gothic summer house and an eighteenth-century bath house (formerly known as a gazebo).

4.2.7 Facilities

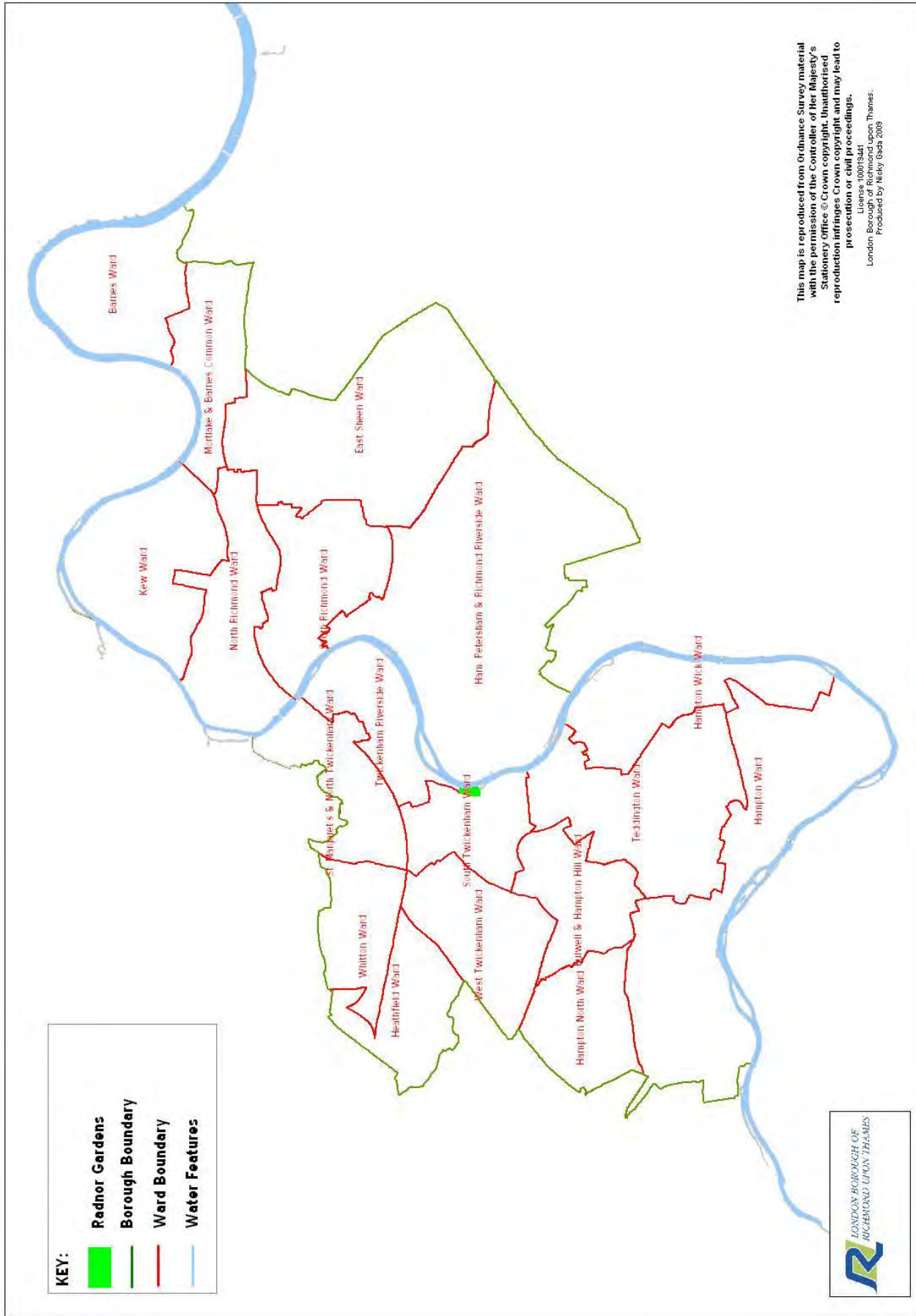
Radnor Gardens contain the following facilities:

- A bowling green, club and pavilion
- A Cafe/kiosk with toilet
- A playground
- Historic buildings
- War Memorial
- Angling on the Thames is allowed from the site in the fishing season

4.2.8 Maps and Plans

On the following pages, please find:

- Location map of Radnor Gardens within the borough
- Plan map of Radnor Gardens
- Aerial photo of Radnor Gardens





Radnor Gardens aerial photograph



5. Audit of facilities

5.1 The main reasons for undertaking a Local Assessment are:

- to plan positively, creatively and effectively in identifying priority areas for improvement and to ensure, as much as possible, that there are appropriate types of parks and open spaces required
- to work towards ensuring an adequate provision of high quality, accessible green space to meet the needs of community
- to identify the gap between current and desired levels of need and demand, quality and quantity of provision
- to assist in achieving standards such as the Green Flag Award and London in Bloom

5.2. Desirable Outcomes of the Local Assessment

A local assessment of green space will enable planning to be effective and achieve key outcomes required by the National Planning Policy Framework.

These are:

- provision of accessible, high quality park space for sport and recreation that meet the identified needs of residents and visitors
- provision of a park that is 'fit for purpose' – the right type in the right place
- to provide an appropriate balance between new provision and enhancement of existing provision
- setting locally derived provision standards

5.2.1 It is intended that this management plan helps to achieve these outcomes in terms of providing an analysis of existing provision and a plan to effectively maintain and, where appropriate, develop the facilities and infrastructure of the Gardens.

5.2.2 In addition, it produces a series of actions which will help to achieve the standards laid down for Green Flag Award parks:

- A welcoming place;
- Healthy, safe and secure;
- Clean and well-maintained;
- Sustainability;
- Conservation and heritage;
- Community involvement;
- Marketing; and
- Management.

5.3 Methodology

The methodology used was prescribed in the Government’s Planning Policy Guideline note 17 (PPG17) for the provision of public open space. This consisted of a review of the following key areas of provision:

- Main entrance;
- Boundaries;
- Roads, paths, cycle ways and access;
- Parking;
- Cycle stands;
- Information;
- Planted areas;
- Grass areas;
- Cleanliness;
- Provision of litter bins;
- Seating;
- Children’s play space;
- Buildings including toilets;
- Health and safety;
- Nature conservation value; and
- Access for people with disabilities.

5.3.1 Main Entrance

There are three entrances into Radnor Gardens all situated on Cross Deep Road. One of these, the main entrance, is towards the southern end of the park. It is where the kiosk, playground and bowling green are situated and allows vehicle access to the park. The entrances are welcoming and well maintained with appropriate signage.

5.3.2 Boundaries

The western boundary of Radnor Gardens is marked by an attractive brick wall which is in good condition having undergone extensive repairs and renovation. This is a significant wall because the main area of the park lies about three metres below the level of the roadway.

The scenic eastern boundary is formed by the River Thames. At spring tides, the river floods an area of grass within the park as well as the footpath that runs along the water’s edge.

The short boundaries to the north and south are marked by brick walls, which are in good condition. Private property lies behind both these walls.

5.3.3 Roads, Paths, Cycle ways and Access

The tarmac pathways are in good condition and were renovated between 2008 and 2011. They are even and do not present any trip hazards. The edges are well defined. The riverside path is subject to regular flooding.

5.3.4 Parking

There is no public parking within the Gardens. There is restricted parking in the surrounding streets. The nearest public car park is situated in Twickenham’s Holly Road within fifteen minutes walk of the Gardens. There is a large public car park situated in Arragon Road, also within fifteen minutes walk of the Gardens.

5.3.5 Information

Information relating to Radnor Gardens is available on the parks section of the council’s website: www.richmond.gov.uk

The parks signage is attractive and durable, giving appropriate contact details. It uses easily understandable symbols to deter users from inappropriate and anti-social behaviour.

5.3.6 Cleanliness

The Gardens are kept clear of litter and graffiti. Dog fouling is not a major problem.

5.3.7 Planted Areas

A rose garden is tucked away in a raised area on the Western boundary. There is also a rockery which has been renovated, a new knot garden as well as a planted border behind the café/kiosk.

5.3.8 Scenic Quality

The Gardens have a wonderful view of the river running down to the Thames, particularly north towards Ham and Richmond. This adds great scenic value to the site.

5.3.9 Grass Areas

The amenity turf throughout the Gardens is appropriately cut and maintained. The edges are well defined.

5.3.10 Provision of Litter Bins

There are enough litter bins throughout the Gardens, and these are generally in good condition.

5.3.11 Seating

There is no shortage of seating in the Gardens. Benches are in a good condition and are spaced throughout the area offering scenic spots for people to sit. As part of the renovation of the rock garden, new seating is being installed.

5.3.12 Children’s Play Space

There is a modern playground in the Gardens which is in good condition. This was installed in 2006 following consultation with a local school. As with all playgrounds now installed in the borough, there are fully accessible pieces of play equipment.

5.3.13 Buildings, including toilets

The two small 18th century garden buildings – the summerhouse and bath house –these were both restored in 2011.

The 1960s café kiosk building, renovated in 2008/2009 is currently operational. Alternations to the building in spring 2011 provided a public toilet (open only when the café is). This is fully accessible for park users.

The bowls pavilion benefitted from a major Council repairs programme and was fully functional by the start of the 2011 bowls season.

5.3.14 Health and Safety

The paths are in good condition and present no trip hazards. The open river bordering this, does obviously present potential flooding issues but the parallel pathway sits 2 or 3 metres back from the river. This path was re-surfaced in early spring 2011. Other pathways in the gardens were improved between 2008 and 10, with safety and ease of access a priority.

5.3.15 Nature Conservation Value

A preliminary ecological assessment has been completed to identify the habitats present and assess the potential for protected, notable or rare species on all Green Flag sites. The assessment has included the identification of features with potential nature conservation interest within each site and will provide a basis for current and future plans for ecological enhancement to maximise benefits for biodiversity.

In the case of Radnor Gardens, the principal ecological value lies in its position next to the Thames. Radnor Gardens is part of a vitally important wildlife ‘corridor’. It is intended to prioritise the riverside margin and to consider enhancing this area with the planting of wetland species.

5.3.16 Access for people with disabilities

This factor has been included not only to ensure maximum accessibility for those in wheelchairs and for the elderly and the less able-bodied, but also to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Access for people with disabilities is good from the main entrance, the gateway at the northerly end of the Gardens (both entrances on Cross Deep), and around a pathway system that is even and in good condition. The entrance in the middle of the park from Cross Deep is not accessible by wheelchair. There are a set of steps down into the park from the higher pavement area.

6. Vision and Objectives for the Gardens

6.1 The overall vision for the Gardens:

In line with the wishes of the local community the future vision for the Gardens is to preserve the heritage, maintain the aesthetics and interpret the history of this valuable garden area near the centre of Twickenham. The Gardens are a valuable part of the area’s heritage and an integral part of the delightful riverside area of today’s Twickenham. The Council is committed to maintaining and improving the Gardens to a high standard and in a sympathetic manner.

6.2 Aims and Objectives for the Management of the Gardens

- To ensure that the management of the Gardens protects and enhances the biodiversity of the site
- To ensure that all landscape improvement works are supported by a commitment to maintenance of the same
- To ensure that the Gardens are managed in order to provide a high quality service.
- To meet the demands and expectations of the local community primarily as a place of quiet enjoyment
- To encourage and promote community involvement in the implementation of the proposals and in the on-going management of the Gardens.

7. Management of Radnor Gardens

7.1 Introduction

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

7.1.1 The Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Service

The Parks Service is overseen by the Head of Culture, assisted by the Parks Service Manager. It is made up of three teams:

- The Operations team is responsible for liaising with contractors and monitoring the parks. The team includes a parks operations manager, a parks officer, an ecology officer and a support officer.
- The Development team which is responsible for consultation and the planning and initiation of projects. The team consists of a group of local expert consultants coordinated by the Service Manager and assisted by the parks officer.
- The Arboricultural team is responsible for all street trees and arboricultural work in council-managed parks and open spaces, as well as assisting with planning issues. The team consists of a manager, four tree officers and a support officer.

We value diversity and are committed to delivering a service that puts equality of opportunity as a priority.

Management of the park needs to deliver high standards of maintenance of all aspects of the soft and hard landscaping of the park within existing revenue budgets. Developments have been funded by major borough-wide capital investment Parks Improvement Programmes between 2005 and 2010 and 2012 and 2017.

7.1.2 Delivery partners

The Council works and consults with the Friends of Radnor Gardens. This assists the Council to work in harmony with users' and residents' views regarding the facilities and any impact that is made on their lives. Continued working with the Friends has a very high priority in relation to the continued management of the park.

For parks maintenance, a new approach was introduced from April 2013, with services split into eleven separate lots and being delivered through a framework contract. In broad terms maintenance will be carried out by the contractors' operatives who have the necessary skills to achieve high and consistent standards. As a framework, the contracts will also be available for other authorities and organisations in London and the south-east of England.

Parks Framework contract: February 2018 – February 2021 (renewed March 2021 – 2025)

Following an open and thorough procurement process that began in spring 2017, contractors were appointed to seven service areas to start 36 month contracts in February 2018 (now renewed to 2025). Evaluation was on an 80% cost and 20% quality basis.

1 Amenity Landscape Management	5 Parks Patrol
2 Arboriculture Management	6 Events Management
3 Oak Processionary Moth management	7 External Planting
4 Play Inspection & Maintenance	

Procurement was written in an output style with built-in quality measures and performance indicators, and asking qualifying contractors to design excellent services using their knowledge and experience.

Relevance to Radnor Gardens

Continental Landscapes are the main grounds contractor, undertaking amenity management (grass cutting, shrubs, hedges, sports bookings and pitch maintenance), small works (hard landscaping, infrastructure and furniture installation, etc.) gate locking operations, plus undertaking play inspection and maintenance. They also undertake parks cleansing alongside existing street cleansing and graffiti removal to create a joined-up operation.

KPS are the arboricultural contractor, working closely with the Council's tree team who undertake inspections and specify works, with Bartlett Tree Experts undertaking Oak Processionary Moth management.

Events in parks are managed by The Event Umbrella, a company who specialise in managing outdoor events in the public sector.

Park patrols are undertaken by Parkguard, a company specialising in education, support services and enforcement in parks and open spaces.

7.2 A Welcoming Place

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Radnor Gardens continues to be a welcoming area.

7.2.1 Graffiti removal

As a part of our aim to make the Borough safe, green and clean we are committed to reducing and removing graffiti. The Green will be inspected daily for graffiti. The full details of the borough’s commitment to the prompt removal of graffiti can be viewed at: www.richmond.gov.uk

There is an agreement with the Council’s street cleansing contractor, Continental Landscapes Ltd, to manage the removal of all graffiti within five working days. Where the graffiti is offensive it will be removed within one working day of notification.

7.2.2 Signage

Signage will be kept clean and will be regularly inspected. Any necessary repairs will be carried out promptly.

7.2.3 Pathways

All paths will be inspected annually with regular monitoring throughout the year. Any necessary repairs will be carried out as promptly as possible.

7.3 Healthy, Safe and Secure

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Radnor Gardens continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

7.3.1 Community Safety

All contractors working in the Gardens undertake an important role in terms of a visible staff presence and structure their maintenance work accordingly. All contractors are uniformed and wear highly visible clothing.

In addition, as part of the Twickenham Safer Neighbourhood initiative, the Police Neighbourhood team regularly patrol the Gardens on foot.

7.3.2 Dog fouling

The Council and their contractors make efforts to educate dog owners to be responsible for their dog’s waste as the dangers of humans coming into contact with dog faeces are well known.

Signage clearly indicates that dog mess should be picked up and disposed of by those walking their pets.

Dog waste can now be disposed of in normal litter bins and these bins are emptied daily by the Council’s grounds maintenance contractor.

The Council has adopted dog control orders.

7.4 Clean and Well Maintained

The following regimes are designed to ensure that the Gardens are clean and well maintained.

7.4.1 Grass Maintenance

Grass surfaces within the Gardens are mainly classed as amenity grass. Amenity turf is those areas used for general recreation and formal and informal sports and can include wide-open spaces or those areas planted with trees and shrubs. The height of this grass is kept between 15 and 25mm throughout the year.

The level of maintenance will depend on the level of use, with increased repairs, fertilising, and scarifying of those areas subject to heavy wear. Most repair works to turf will be carried out in the autumn or spring, with areas either re-turfed or seeded.

Grass edges, whether they are against paths, fences or walls will be cut at the same time as the rest of the grass using strimmers in most areas.

Maintenance of the bowling green area is dealt with below.

7.4.2 Trees

Trees within parks are subject to inspection by suitably qualified and experienced Arboriculturalists, this is in order to identify and remedy any unacceptable risks to people using the sites, an example of this is the prophylactic treatment of oak processionary moth or the removal of trees that are extensively decayed compromising their structural integrity.

Tree pruning is only carried out where necessary for risk management purposes or where formative pruning is necessary; this approach allows Richmond's parks to retain a natural landscape with well-formed specimens. Where there is a particular characteristic by way of species composition, size or natural distribution the Council seeks to maintain this through selecting appropriate replacement and new trees. All tree works are in accordance with our Tree Management Policy.

Richmond Council encourages the Friends of Radnor Gardens to consider the tree population within parks and to communicate with the parks and open spaces team in order to make improvements and ensure that there is continuity in the way that the trees are managed.

A key feature of Radnor Gardens is the riverside weeping willows. These vary in age and size and are in keeping with the riverside setting. The larger specimens are becoming over-mature and have been heavily reduced in order to manage the risk of limb failure. Internal to the site is a mixture of ornamental plantings which include beech, cedar, Indian bean tree and foxglove.

7.4.3 Cleansing

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the Green and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. Litter

is collected on a daily basis before 10.30am each day by the park cleansing contractors.

The park cleansing contractors carry out litter picking, emptying of litterbins and the sweeping/blowing of paths. This applies to all surfaces, paths, lawns and beds.

When the Gardens have high numbers of visitors and large amounts of litter is expected, the parks cleansing contractors will carry out additional visits to empty the bins. The full litter bags will be collected and removed from the site on the same day. In addition, the bins are cleaned and disinfected quarterly to avoid an unsightly accumulation of dirt.

7.4.4 Park Furniture and Fittings

The grounds maintenance contractors ensure that all furniture is clean and will check benches, notice boards and bins on a regular basis. Items will be cleaned on a monthly basis or more frequently when heavily used. Repairs will be requested by contractors on a Defect Report and carried out promptly. Any single replacement or repair will match the existing furniture so that the style of the seat remains consistent.

7.4.5 Hard Surfaces

Hard surfaces will be kept clean with litter swept from surfaces regularly by the grounds' maintenance contractor.

Hard surfaces will be maintained in a weed free state with spot treatment weed spraying between March and November. Paths will be kept in a good state of repair and all paths being inspected annually and any repairs ordered to be carried out between March and November.

Drains and gulleys are inspected regularly

7.4.6 Sports Facility Maintenance

The only sports facility within the Gardens is the bowling green.

Bowling Green maintenance

- Swish/drag brush green daily to remove dew
- Mow green 8-10mm weekly, lower height of cut by 2mm increments at weekly intervals until down to 5mm
- Apply moss killer if required (Allow 7 days after treatment before scarifying)
- Scarify green in two directions, overseed and lightly top dress where needed
- Apply Spring/Summer fertilizer
- Roll green with 150 - 250kg roller when required
- Clean ditch of debris as required
- Trim edging of green when required

7.5 Environmental Sustainability

The following regimes are designed to ensure that the Gardens are managed in a sustainable way.

7.5.1 Recycling

At present we do not have recycling facilities available in this park. However, residents can recycle at some of our other parks and open spaces as well as the cafes situated within them.

7.5.2 Recycling green waste

The Council’s ground maintenance contractor takes all green waste to Townsmead recycling centre.

7.5.3 Pesticides

Pesticides are used as and when necessary however this is kept to a minimum in the interests of nature conservation and ecology. An Integrated Weed Management policy has been developed to assist decision-making.

7.6 Community Involvement

Engagement with the local community is carried out by working together with the long-established Friends of Radnor Gardens. There are regular meetings with members of this group to discuss their concerns and to consult with them on maintenance issues and improvement projects. The views of this group are given serious consideration in the planning of maintenance and improvements.

7.6.1 Parks Events

The Council’s policy in relation to Radnor Gardens is to encourage the hire of parts of the Gardens to appropriate organisations or groups. The layout and location of the Gardens obviously dictates the kind of events that would be suitable.

Local Ward Councillors and the Friends are consulted before permission is granted for any new event. An evaluation process is held after each event.

Events are held in accordance with the Parks and Open Spaces Events Policy found at: www.richmond.gov.uk

7.6.2 Marketing

Promotion and marketing of Radnor Gardens is carried out using a range of measures, including the Council’s website and publicity materials, to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility.

Entrance Signage

A corporate style of signage for Richmond’s parks and open spaces was launched in 2007. Radnor Gardens has these attractive and informative signs.

Internet

Radnor Gardens features on the council's website and can be accessed from the Parks and Open Spaces link: www.richmond.gov.uk

Information on the Friends group can be found here: <http://www.swlen.org.uk/looking-for-a-group/radnor-gardens/>

General Promotion

In order to create community awareness for all of its facilities the Parks Service regularly and systematically produces articles and press releases about activities and facility development.

8. Achievements and Action Plan

8.1 Achievements

Changes and improvements made to Radnor Gardens during 2020-21 were:

- Re-plant a second section of the rockery garden in partnership with the Friends Group and our grounds maintenance contractor
- Carry out enforcement action of our Public Space Protection Orders for anti-social behaviour.
- Remove giant hogweed from the river bank

8.2 Action Plan

The following action plan is divided into three sections:

Item of work and location	Year		Timing	Resources
	2022	2023		
Maintenance/replacement of benches and install additional furniture	Y	Y	Ongoing	LBRuT/Continental Landscapes
Look to install a trim trail marking 500m around the park so that users can use this as part of exercise routines	Y		Winter 2021	Parks Team & Friends Group
Explore a new planting scheme for the 'rose garden'	Y		Spring 2022	Parks Team & Continental Landscapes
Refurbishment of the playground with a new safety surface laid throughout	Y		Spring 2022	Parks Team, Continental Landscapes
Additional Tree Planting	Y		Winter 2021	Parks Team & KPS Contractors

8.2.1 Development and renewal

As indicated previously, while the Council is open to the changing demands from the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough’s parks, the Gardens have had significant renovations and additions made to them over the last five years. The major challenge is to maintain high standards of maintenance and to plan for effective repair and renewal of the major elements of a park’s hard landscaping or infrastructure e.g. path system.

8.2.2 Community Engagement

The Parks team intends to continue to work with the Friends of Radnor Gardens. We are committed to being receptive to concerns and suggestions voiced individually or through community groups.

8.3 Operational Commitments

This is presented in tabular form and includes the most important elements of the day to day maintenance of the Gardens, grass cutting, trees and shrubs, litter collection and maintenance of parks furniture. Monitoring and inspection duties are included. Biodiversity management and initiatives are also included in this section and will work to the guidelines as set out in our Nature Conservation Policy Statement.

Element	Action	Frequency
Grass Maintenance	Kept to a height of between 15mm & 25mm	Cut approximately every 10 days during the growing season
Tree maintenance	Inspection Replacing and expanding variety and stock	Annual As required
Shrub Maintenance	Kept weed free Mulching Pruning	As required Annual As required, dependent on species
Litter collection	Litter picking Emptying of bins	Daily Daily
Graffiti	Removal of obscene/offensive Removal of other	Within 24 hours Within 5 working days
Parks furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	Annual As required
Playground inspection	Visual inspection Detailed inspection ROSPA standard	Twice per week Monthly Annual
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Weekly inspection with contractors
Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual

8.4 Conclusion

This Management Plan is not 'set in stone'. It provides a framework and guidelines that enable the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to manage the site to a high standard in a sustainable way. The Council is open to the changing needs of local communities and will continue to work closely with the Friends of Radnor Gardens. The Plan will run from January 2022 to December 2023. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2023.