



# Hatherop Park Management Plan

## **Foreword**

Hatherop Park is an important asset for local people and visitors and has been awarded Green Flag status for three consecutive years. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames aspires to maintain and manage the park 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 the 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 in the form of the Friends of Hatherop Park will be consulted on any proposed changes or improvements to facilities.

We actively encourage suggestions both regarding the management and maintenance of the park and ideas about changes or possible improvements to elements of the park's infrastructure or its facilities.

Parks officers regularly monitoring the site will continue to use the audit as laid out in this plan. Members of the local community are also encouraged to use this approach. It is hoped that observations resulting from these continuing audits will result in continually improving management and maintenance practises as well as careful consideration of ideas to improve and maintain the park.

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 tightening of available budgets seems likely for the foreseeable future. The borough will continue to work closely with its partners, in this case Veolia, to maintain standards. In addition we will need to look for additional ways of funding to maintain and improve the boroughs parks, one of our most valuable assets.

Central to our determination to maintain and if possible improve the facilities and infrastructure of parks and open spaces across the borough is the ongoing review of the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy.

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 This Management Plan for Hatherop Park provides a framework for the management and any relevant development of the park over the current five year period. 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 park.

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 park namely:

- The Friends of Hatherop Park and borough residents
- The Parks and Open Spaces Service
- Other services and departments within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
- Elected members, ward councillors and portfolio holders
- National agencies
- Local businesses

The Plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Following this Introduction the Management Plan is set out in the following sections:

Section 2: Outlining the National Context

Section 3: Describes the plan's relationship to the Council's aims and objectives

Section 4: Site Description and audit of facilities

Section 5: Vision and objectives for the site

Section 6: Management principles and practices and includes the Action Plan

## 2.0 **The 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:

- In 1988 the Audit Commission estimated that local authorities in England and Wales maintained approximately 120,000 hectares of parks and open spaces - an area approximately the size of Berkshire.
- In 2000, the Heritage Lottery Fund estimated that there were approximately 30,000 urban green spaces in the UK, of which 5,000 are urban parks.

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

### 3.0 **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
- The quality of life of local people
- The physical, social and economic regeneration of the borough
- The 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](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

### 3.1 **Richmond's Community Plan**

All Council's are now required to develop a Community Plan as part of their commitment to delivering more 'sustainable communities'. The Community Plan is a top tier strategy that sets out how the Council will target, manage and monitor its services for the benefit of all local people. The Community Plan has been created in partnership with residents and key local stakeholders and is reviewed on a regular basis. The vision of the plan is:

- Inclusive
- Puts protection of the environment at the core of its services and community life
- Delivers quality public services that truly reflect the needs of all its local people
- Addresses its challenges by harnessing the capacity of all its partners in the public, private, voluntary and community sector.

### 3.2 **Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2003**

#### **Vision**

- 'to provide access to an exciting range of open space experiences for all'

#### **Key Principles**

- **Stewardship**
  - Protect visual and physical access to open land
  - Protect, enhance and promote the characteristic features of the Borough particularly the riverside, historic landscapes and features
  - Improve the maintenance infrastructure

- **Management and Use**
  - Plan to provide for the needs of the community and visitors
  - Make the best use of public and private resources and maximise external funding
  - Work in partnership with the community and other local landscape agencies
  - Promote the use of open land for all
  - Reduce the fear of crime by providing healthy, safe environments and promoting activity
  
- **Environmental Protection**
  - Maintain and enhance the Borough's biodiversity
  - Provide high quality, sustainably managed open spaces

This strategy is currently under review.

### 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

### 3.4 **Other relevant council policies**

All the following policy documents can be found at [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk).

Printed versions of these policies are available on request:

- Community Safety Policy
- Equality and Diversity Plan
- Unitary Development Plan
- Local Agenda 21
- Cultural Strategy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Parks Byelaws

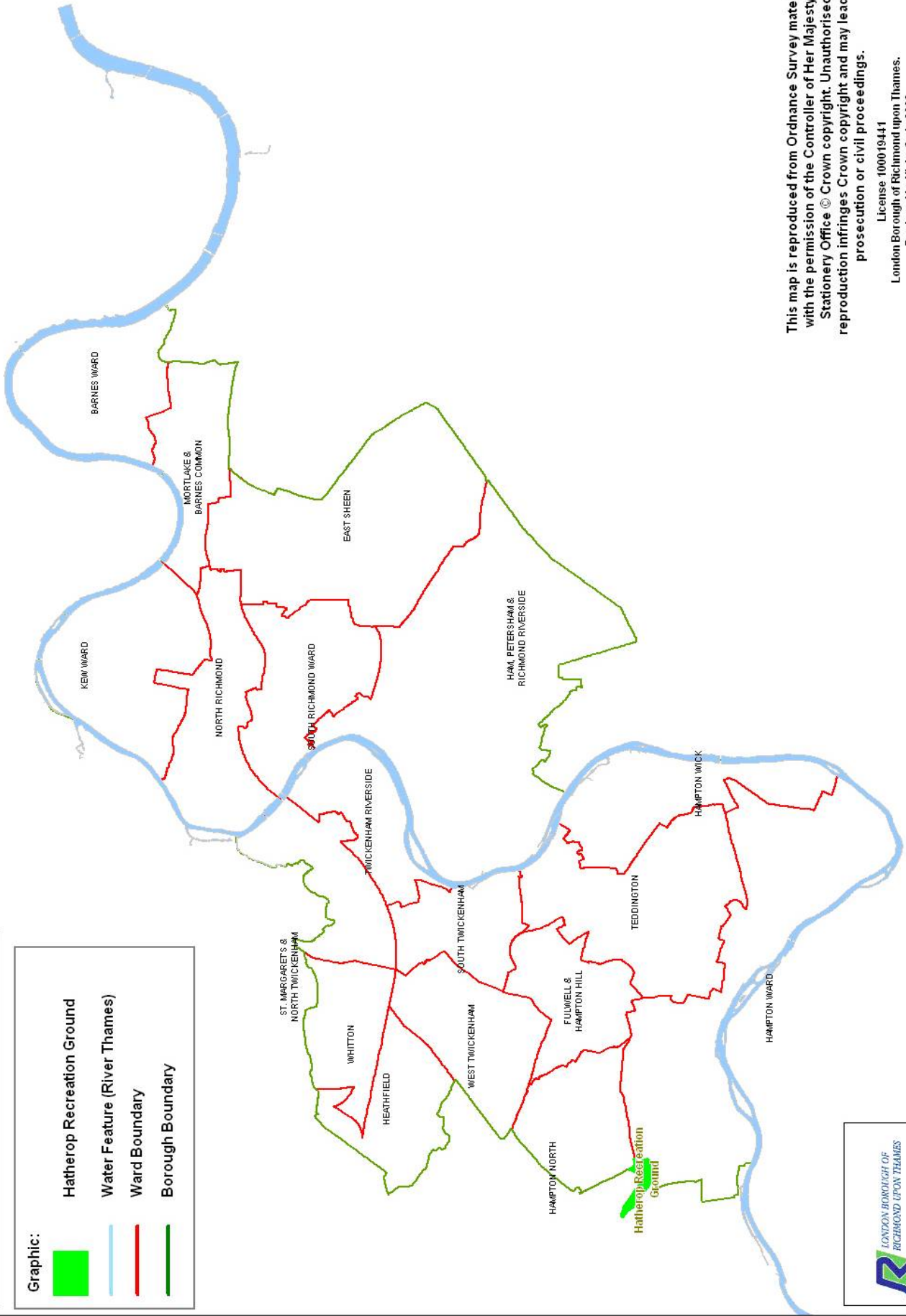
- Customer Service Standards
- Dog Control Orders
- Tree Strategy
- Events Policy



# London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames

Graphic:

-  Hatherop Recreation Ground
-  Water Feature (River Thames)
-  Ward Boundary
-  Borough Boundary



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## 4.0 **Site Description**

### 4.1 **Outline History of Hatherop Park**

Hatherop Park has developed from being a typical 1930's recreation ground used primarily for winter sports activity to being a highly valued community asset. This improvement and development has been primarily driven by the wish of the Council to upgrade all of its parks and open spaces in recent years but also by the formation of the highly successful and dedicated 'Friends of Hatherop Park', inaugurated in December 2003.

### 4.2 **General Information**

#### 4.2.1 **Land Tenure**

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

Enabling Acts: Local Government Act 1963, Parks and Open Spaces Order 1971  
Open Spaces Act 1906

Town and Country Planning Act (S. 32.).

#### 4.2.2 **Location**

Hatherop Park is situated on the boundary of Hampton & Hampton North wards, towards the western end of the borough. In terms of green space Bushy Park, Home Parks and Hampton Court provide an impressive list of well-recognised, green space in the area. However these are not regarded as 'local' and would not be considered in the same way as Hatherop Park, at 8.42 hectares easily the largest amenity open space in the area.

Hatherop Park is situated on the western boundary of a relatively large residential area and would currently cater for pedestrian access from that area. Other major influences would be an adjacent sports ground (west) under the ownership of London Borough of Hounslow, disused reservoirs and associated land, under the ownership of Thames Water, and an allotment site.

#### 4.2.3 **Access**

As a free and open facility Hatherop Park 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:**

Hatherop Park is approximately 15 minutes walk from Hampton Station, which is on the overground London Waterloo line.

**Bus:**

R70 from Richmond via Twickenham stops in Broad Lane at the junction of Oak Avenue. 2 minutes walk.

H25 from Hatton Cross

111 from Heathrow

**4.2.5 Landscape & Topography**

The park's layout is irregular in terms of overall shape, comprising of a large rectangular space with a long narrow spur running off to the west. The main area is amenity grass, which is relatively level and flat. The spur area is re-claimed land, which has been capped and is therefore noticeably higher. This area has established 'scrub' coverage.

Towards the south western end of the site a small sunken area is being ecologically developed and contains a small water body and bog area. Planting across the site is limited and generally only used as a boundary treatment.

**4.2.6 Listed Historic Buildings**

There are no listed buildings on the site.

**4.2.7 Ecology**

The nature conservation part of Hatherop is an open area with a diverse range of plants, flowers and fungi growing over the seasons. This site consists of a large area of young 'wasteland' (far from waste in wildlife terms) on the former Council burning ground. There is also a pond and an area of regenerating elm scrub and nettle beds.

The flora is diverse, and probably the best example of wasteland in the Borough. There is great potential for teaching about ecological processes of colonisation and succession as well as plant identification. Among the many colourful, common wild flowers are several species, which are scarce in London including balm (*Melissa officinalis*), hare's-foot clover (*Trifolium arvense*), Greek dock (*Rumex cristatus*) and spotted medick (*Medicago arabica*). On hot days the site is swarming with butterflies and grasshoppers and many bird species use the site including whitethroat, goldfinch, stock dove and green woodpecker.

The trees on the site have been managed on a reactive basis since the park was opened in the early 1900's, with many of the trees being "self sown". They are a prominent feature in both the local and wider landscape, and characterise the Park. Volunteers, with the aim of increasing and diversifying the tree stock, have planted new trees adjacent to the railway line. The dead elms in the northwest provide a valuable source of standing dead wood for woodpeckers, invertebrates

and fungi. A dense bed of nettles among the regenerating elms provides food for the caterpillars of butterflies such as small tortoiseshell, comma and peacock.

The pond is interesting as, although it does not appear on older maps two large coppiced alders indicate that this has been a wet habitat for some time. There is diverse emergent vegetation, some of which may have been introduced. BTCV have constructed a boardwalk around the pond, as well as planted reeds and other marginal plants creating a habitat for wildlife, including frogs, as well as for aesthetic value. The common reed (*Phragmites australis*) planting contributed to targets set within the Richmond, London and UK Biodiversity Action Plans and more planting will be carried out in the future.

#### 4.2.8 Facilities

Hatherop Park contains the following facilities within the park:

- A children's play area equipped to LEAP standard
- A youth facility comprising of a shelter, ball court and outdoor multi gym
- A pavilion containing toilets, changing rooms, and a kitchen space designed for a refreshments kiosk.
- Two football pitches and an informal 5 a side area
- Dog Free Area, fenced off as part of the children's play area
- Nature Conservation Area

## 5.0 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 provided;
- to work towards ensuring an adequate provision of high quality, accessible green space to meet the needs of the 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 PPG 17.

These are:

- provision of accessible, high quality park space for sport and recreation that meet the 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 park.

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
- Management
- Educational value

### 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, cycleways and access
- Parking
- Information available
- Planted areas
- Grass areas
- Cleanliness
- Provision of litter bins
- Seating
- Children's play space
- Buildings including toilets
- Health and safety
- Nature conservation value
- Access for the disabled

#### 5.3.1 **Main Entrance**

The main entrance to Hatherop Park is in reasonable condition. The wrought iron gates and fencing have been painted. The council signage is clear and helpful. In addition the sign advertising the Friends of Hatherop Park is also a good initiative promoting community involvement in the site. The tarmac roadway has been resurfaced and does not present any trip hazards. The shrubbery lining the entrance had been looking tired and possibly in need of replanting, a

process which is ongoing. The borders do provide a good habitat for insects and birds.

### 5.3.2 Boundaries

To the west of the park the boundary is marked by chain link fencing along the adjoining allotment site and the railway line. The fencing is in a reasonable condition. To the east the park has a common boundary with the neighbouring Twickenham Rugby Club. This is marked by shrubs and trees but is not fenced allowing access from many points. To the east the boundary is marked with a mature privet hedge bounding the houses in Hatherop Road. Gaps have appeared in the hedge over the past few years.

- An ongoing project involves the replacement of the dying privet hedge with hawthorn bushes which will form a new hedge

### 5.3.3 Roads, Paths, Cycleways and Access

The roadway into the site has been resurfaced and is in good condition. The tarmac gives way to gravel beyond the playground. There is a tarmac path from the playground through to the ball-court. The gravel roadway leads down to a well established secure compound that is used by council contractors to recycle tree cuttings from across the borough.

### 5.3.4 Parking

There is no public parking in Hatherop Park. This option has been examined as part of the proposed new sports pavilion but it has been decided not to provide a car park within the park. As well as being a park primarily for local people, the cost of building a car park would be prohibitive.

### 5.3.5 Information

Information relating to Hatherop Park is available on the parks section website [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://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

Although the site seem fairly clean and tidy, there is some evidence of litter and this is a concern particularly after weekend football matches. Litter is also being blown across from the neighbouring rugby ground. There is minimal evidence of dog fouling.

- Parks have requested that Sports Bookings remind clubs using the Park to use the bins provided or preferably take their rubbish away with them to recycle at home.

### 5.3.7 Planted Areas

There are virtually no formally planted areas in the park. The exception to this is the perennial display of daffodils along the eastern boundary in the spring.

- The shrubbery at the entrance was replaced with an avenue of birch varieties. This area is to be under-planted during spring 2011 with further planted to be carried out in autumn 2011.

### **5.3.8 Scenic Quality**

Hatherop Park is a large open space that has scenic value, particularly from the plateau of the nature area offering views across the nearby disused Kempton reservoir.

### **5.3.9 Grass Areas**

Most of the area is amenity grassland. This is in good condition and well maintained. The nature area has recently been added to those areas in the borough which have an annual cut and collect regime. This is designed to promote the spread of wild flowers and reduce encroachment by scrub and self sown saplings.

In addition, a strip of grass approximately five metres around an area of the perimeter of the playing field area is left to grow and cut once a year to promote biodiversity.

### **5.3.10 Provision of Litter Bins**

There are certainly enough litter bins in the area around the playground and ball court areas. There may be a need for litter bins in the football area, however we encourage park users to take their rubbish away with them and limit the amount of park furniture.

### **5.3.11 Seating**

The Friends of Hatherop Park raised money to install six benches in the park in 2009. The playground area is well provided for but there was a feeling within the Friends group that more were needed in other areas of the park and particularly around the perimeter.

### **5.3.12 Children's Play Space**

The children's play area is in good condition, has a good variety of equipment and is well used. In addition, in the adjoining area, a ball court, teen shelter and outdoor multi gym have been installed. These are in good condition and appear well maintained and largely free of graffiti.

### **5.3.13 Buildings, including toilets**

Between October 2009 and October 2010 a new pavilion was installed in Hatherop Park.

The new pavilion contains toilet facilities, new changing rooms, and provision for a refreshment kiosk. Bids to operate the kiosk are currently being assessed.

#### **5.3.14 Health and Safety**

The paths and the playground are in good condition and present no obvious dangers to members of the public.

#### **5.3.15 Nature Conservation Value**

There great ecological value and potential to Hatherop Park. There is a large area of grassland (mentioned above) that is a wildlife area. This, coupled with the neighbouring green spaces, allows the park to host a thriving ecosystem.

#### **5.3.16 Access for people with disabilities**

Access to the park is along a tarmac roadway that stretches as far as the playground and continues into the ball court. Access beyond these areas would be difficult for some people with disabilities.

#### **5.3.17 Educational Value**

Hatherop Park provides educational potential in relation to its varied wildlife and ecology.

## **6.0 Vision and Objectives for the park**

### **6.1 The overall vision for Hatherop Park:**

Following consultation with the local community and as a result of the development of this Management Plan, the future vision for the Park is to:

'Continue to support the transformation of the park into a well-used open space with a wide range of amenities for all ages and groups and to maintain the facilities and infrastructure to the highest standards'.

### **6.2 Aims and Objectives for the Management of the Park**

This section sets out the aims and objectives for the management of Hatherop Park as follows:

- To identify and cherish the special character of the Park
- To ensure that the management of the Park protects and enhances the biodiversity of the site
- To ensure that the management of the landscape maintains the character of the Park
- To ensure that all landscape improvement works are supported by a commitment to maintenance of the same
- To ensure that the Park is promoted and managed in order to provide a high quality service
- To meet the demands and expectations of the local community primarily as a recreational, diverse and enjoyable place
- To promote the educational value of the site and to encourage local schools to use the Park for a wide variety of educational purposes
- To encourage and promote community involvement in the implementation of the proposals and in the on-going management and development of the Park

## 7.0 **Management of the Park**

### 7.1 **Introduction**

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

Management needs to deliver high standards of maintenance of all aspects of the soft and hard landscaping of Hatherop Park within existing revenue budgets. Developments have been funded by a major borough wide capital investment programme that began in 2005 and ended in 2010.

The parks section is headed up by the Head of Parks. It is made up of three sections.

- The Operations team is responsible for liaising with contractors and monitoring the parks. The team includes an ecology officer and a GIS mapping officer.
- The Service Development team which is responsible for consultation and the planning and initiation of projects.
- The Arboricultural team is responsible for all street trees and arboricultural work in council managed parks and open spaces.

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

The Council works and consults with the Friends of Hatherop Park. This assists the Council to work in harmony with users' and local residents' views.

The Council works in partnership with Veolia Environmental Services in a contract that began in 2003 and will end in 2013. In broad terms maintenance will be carried out by the contractor's operatives who have the necessary skills to achieve high and consistent standards.

Veolia Environmental Services has a contracts manager in overall control of the service. It is made up of grass cutting teams and mobile maintenance gangs who are managed by supervisors who monitor the work. The Parks Patrol Service is managed by Veolia Environmental Services. They play a community safety role patrolling the parks and also inspecting playgrounds on a daily basis. The patrol will attend incidents involving anti-social behavior and liaise directly with Police Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

#### *Grounds Maintenance Staff - Health and Safety*

All staff complete a company induction before they commence their employment. The induction includes relevant Health & Safety legislation and responsibilities along with environmental awareness training.

An assessment is carried out on each employee to ascertain their skill and competence levels. This includes manual handling training and driver assessment where applicable.

Following a 6 month probationary period for new employees, the new employee will complete a one to one personal development plan with their line manager which will set key targets for development and training needs. The information will be entered on the staff training matrix and is reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

Throughout the year, a refresher programme of tool-box talks, including Health & Safety issues, new legislation and machinery training, is given to all employees.

All employees have the opportunity to raise any Health & Safety concerns at monthly meetings through their nominated Health & Safety representative who is invited to all contract Health & Safety meetings.

The maintenance works will be monitored effectively and regularly by parks officers who understand the nature and purpose of the works being carried out. Any points and actions arising from monitoring will be communicated to the parks contractors and officers will ensure that any necessary work is completed.

The following management processes and regimes are listed below under the Green Flag standards listed in 5.2.2. Any new initiatives in the following sections will also be included in the action plan that follows.

## **7.2 A Welcoming Place**

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Hatherop Park continues to be a welcoming area. Work around the entrance is continuing.

### **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 site 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](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

There is an agreement with Councils Street Scene Contractor Continental Landscapes to manage the removal of all graffiti within five working days. Where the graffiti is racist or 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 as promptly as possible.

### **7.2.3 Pathways**

All paths will be inspected annually. 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 Hatherop Park continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

#### 7.3.1 **Community Safety**

All operatives working at Hatherop Park undertake an important role in terms of a visible staff presence in the park and structure their maintenance work accordingly. All staff are uniformed and wear highly visible clothing. The Parks Patrol regularly patrols the site.

In addition the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team regularly patrol the park on foot.

#### 7.3.2 **Dog fouling**

The Mobile Litter gang, Parks Patrol and the Parks Service make efforts to educate dog owners to be responsible, particularly close to areas where people are liable to be eating or children playing. Signage clearly indicates that dog mess should be picked up and disposed of by those walking their pets.

Dog bins are emptied on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and more if required. Richmond has adopted the new dog control orders [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk).

### 7.2.3 **Clean and Well Maintained**

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

#### 7.4.1 **Grass Maintenance**

Grass within Hatherop Park is 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.

Areas of grass on the perimeter of the amenity turf are being left to flower and seed in the summer/autumn to encourage insects and butterflies.

In August 2009 the football area of the grass was sprayed off, rotivated, levelled off and overseeded. This will give added scope for the location of pitches,

minimising wear and tear. In February 2011 the whole playing area was verti-drained to relieve further compaction.

It will be overseeded in March 2011.

#### **7.4.2 Trees**

The trees on the site have been managed on a reactive basis since the Park was opened in the early 1900's, with many of the trees being "self sown". They are a prominent feature in both the local and wider landscape, and characterise the Park.

New trees have been planted on a regular basis in the last 10 years to try and increase and diversify the tree stock following many requests from local residents. These new trees are growing well and are principally planted around the perimeter of the Park to maintain the open feel of the site.

The trees are all currently inspected on an annual basis and following periods of high wind, following which any dangerous trees or limbs are removed/pruned. Any removed trees are subsequently replaced with new specimens of the same species in the next planting season. Local residents assist with the maintenance of the new trees through the Council's 'Adopt a Tree Scheme'.

The dead elm trees to the North of the park are under third party ownership (London Borough of Hounslow). Whilst these trees are not London Borough of Richmond's responsibility, they are included within the inspections and any dangerous trees removed as part of our risk management policy in close co-ordination with the owners of the trees.

The trees will continue to be inspected on an annual basis and following periods of abnormal weather. The site is currently at its maximum tree density, when considering other features of the site such as sports pitches and play areas, however we will continue to re-stock new sites as and when they become available.

#### **7.4.3 Cleansing**

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the Park and in the consequent respect with which people will treat and use it. Litter is collected on a daily basis with a litter pick of the park being carried out before 10.30am each day by the Mobile Litter gang.

The Mobile Litter gang carries out litter picking, emptying of litterbins and the sweeping/blowing of paths. The zone applies to all surfaces, paths lawns and beds.

To prevent bins overflowing on days when the park has high numbers of visitors, the Mobile Litter gang will carry out additional emptying with the litter bags 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 Mobile Litter gang and Parks Patrol ensure that all park 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 the Mobile Litter gang and Parks Patrol on a Defect Report and repairs will be carried out promptly. Any single replacement or repair will match the existing furniture so that the style of the seat remains consistent.

The playground is inspected daily by the Parks Patrol service for any hazards. There is also a monthly health and safety inspection by contractors R.S.S who rectify any faults. In addition there is an annual inspection to ensure that the playground meets ROSPA standards.

#### **7.4.5 Hard Surfaces**

Hard surfaces will be kept clean, with litter swept from surfaces regularly by the Grounds Maintenance Team. The Mobile litter gang will carry out further sweeping.

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, all paths being inspected annually and any repairs ordered to be carried out between March and November.

Drains and gulleys will be inspected regularly by the Mobile Litter gang and Parks Patrol. Kerb edges are swept twice a week and cleared of all litter.

#### **7.4.6 Sports Facility Maintenance**

All sports surfaces are maintained in accordance with the needs of each sport.

##### **Football pitches**

The general public books the football pitches from September to April. During the playing season they are overmarked weekly and spiked and chain harrowed monthly.

At the end of the playing season the posts are removed and sockets covered. The pitches are over seeded with a rye grass mixture.

#### **7.5 Sustainability**

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

##### **7.5.1 Recycling green waste**

From a number of points of view, sustainability, environmental considerations and to comply with Local Agenda 21, efforts should be made to recycle green waste. In doing so it is essential to ensure that the recycled waste only includes acceptable material, i.e.

- Grass clippings – these are left in situ in the park
- Grass edgings – reused to fill hollows and dips in the park
- Soft herbaceous cuttings (not woody)
- Broken turfs (after lifting and turfing operations)
- Shredded shrub pruning's – chipped along with tree waste

Wood chippings from Hatherop Park are taken to the compound within the park and left there for approx 1.5 years to mulch down. The mulch is then used on the flowerbeds within the park and around the borough as both compost and a weed control.

## 7.6 Conservation and Heritage

### 7.6.1 Pesticides

The use of pesticides in Hatherop Park will be minimised as much as possible in the interests of nature conservation and ecology.

### 7.6.2 Biodiversity

#### **Current Management**

The management of the conservation area includes work on the pond area, the small copse and the scrub around the periphery of the football pitches. The maintenance is undertaken by BTCV volunteers and is occasionally complimented by the Friends of Hatherop Park.

BTCV volunteers over the past few years have cleared areas of scrub (mainly bramble), created a wildflower meadow (details below), planted trees, created a pathway with wooden edging from the football pitches down to the pond using woodchips from the compound, helped to control the Japanese Knotweed by cutting the dead stems down in the winter months, worked on the pond and undertaken regular litter picks throughout the site.

The wildflower mix included 80% grasses and 20% wildflowers for an area of neutral soil.

**Herbs:** Yarrow, Black Knapweed, Meadow Buttercup, Self Heal, Ribwort Plantain, Birds-foot Trefoil, Ox-eye daisy, Autumn Hawkbit, Common Cat's-ear, Perforate St. John's Wort, Field Scabious, Bulbous Buttercup, Yellow Rattle, Common Sorrel, Lady's Bedstraw and Salad Burnet.

**Grasses:** Fine Bent (Common/Brown bent), Crested Dogs-tail, Meadow Foxtail, Red Fescue, Smooth Meadow Grass and Common Quaking Grass.

The meadow has an annual 'cut and remove' hay cut at the end August beginning of September, to ensure the nutrient level does get too high.

There are a couple of small stands of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia Japonica*) on site; near to the pond/woodland area and another one next to the two benches overlooking the adjacent reservoir. These are treated three times/year with a contact herbicide called Roundup Pro Biactive by a specialist company. This control programme began in 2005 and the JK is very nearly eradicated, it is monitored every year and any outlining stands are treated.

### **Green Roof:**

The new pavilion in the park has been constructed with a sedum Green Roof. Green roofs last longer than conventional roofs, reduce energy costs with natural insulation, create peaceful retreats for people and animals, and absorb storm water, potentially lessening the need for complex and expensive drainage systems. On a wider scale, green roofs improve air quality and help reduce the Urban Heat Island Effect, a condition in which city and suburban developments absorb and trap heat.

### **Future Management/Proposals:**

The wildflower meadow will continue to have its annual hay cut and selective weed removal such as docks, nettles, thistles and coarse grasses and if needed over time, more plants will be added. The maintenance of this area will also include cutting back the overhanging branches and vegetation to ensure the area is not overshadowed and there is enough light for the wildflowers to establish.

Both bird and bat boxes were erected on the trees around the site to provide additional roosting as many of the trees are not mature enough to provide natural cavities where birds or bats could roost.

The hedge that runs along the railway line was traditionally hedge-layed to create a thick wildlife corridor and will be completed over a number of years.

The areas of scrub will also be maintained on a rotational basis so that there is enough habitat/cover for birds to nest and feed during the winter months.

The patches of Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia Japonica*) will continue to be monitored and treated if necessary.

- In 2009 6 bat boxes were installed in the pond area of the park.
- In winter 2008/2009 BTCV laid an area of hedge along the railway line. This enabled a better view into the reservoir area on the other side of the tracks. The project was completed in the winter of 2009/2010.

## 7.7 **Community Involvement**

This is crucial to the management of the park. The park has been developed in close co-operation with the Friends of Hatherop Park. A full account of the evolution of the Friends of Hatherop Park and the way in which the council agreed priorities and projects with the group is contained in the Management Plan produced in 2006. Working closely with the group will continue.

### 7.7.1 **Parks Events**

In relation to Hatherop Park the policy of the council is to encourage the hire of parts/all of the park to appropriate organisations or groups and to promote and hold its own events and activities.

Events are held in accordance with the Parks and Open Spaces Events Policy found at [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk).

### 7.8.1 **Marketing**

Promotion and marketing of Hatherop Park is carried out by means of a range of measures to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility.

#### **Entrance Signage**

There is an existing entrance sign, which was installed after funds were raised by the Friends of Hatherop Park. A new corporate style of signage for Richmond's parks and open spaces was installed in early 2007. Hatherop Park was one of the first parks to benefit from these attractive and informative signs.

#### **Internet**

Hatherop Park features on the council's website and can be accessed from the Parks and Open Spaces link [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

#### **General Promotion**

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

## 8.0 Achievements and Action Plan

### 8.1 Achievements

Changes and improvements made to Hatherop Park during 2010 are listed below:

- In October 2010 the installation of a new pavilion was completed, the council are currently considering offers to lease the kiosk. The pavilion building includes toilets and changing rooms, and the building has a Green Roof.
- In early 2010 the project to introduce hedging along the railway line begun by BCTV in 2008/9 was completed. This enabled a better view into the reservoir area on the other side of the tracks.
- The replacement of the dying privet hedge with hawthorn bushes, which will form a new hedge, is continuing and will be finished in early 2011.
- Landscaping around the entrance to the park has almost been completed. This included the planting of silver birches in 2010. Under planting will be carried out in 2011.

The following action plan is divided into three sections:

### 8.2 Development and renewal

LBRuT is open to the changing needs of the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough's parks. Hatherop Park has benefited from major capital investment over the last five years culminating in the installation of the pavilion this year. It is not envisaged that there is likely to be any other major addition to the parks facilities. The major challenge is to maintain high standards of maintenance and to plan for effective repair and renewal of the major elements of the park's hard landscaping or infrastructure e.g. path system.

The following projects will be completed in 2011

- Arrangements for the leasing of the new kiosk.
- Planting of woodland perennials around the entrance.
- Planting of a selection of fruit and nut trees (orchard); in the conservation area by BTCV, Friends of Hatherop and local volunteers.

#### **Green Flag Priorities**

1. Planting in entrance beds to compliment the Silver Birch.

2. Re-stake trees, replant hedge on gardens boundary with hawthorn, replace and repair park furniture as appropriate.

### 8.3 Community Engagement

The parks section intends to continue to work with the Friends of Hatherop Park. The Council has and will continue to consult with the Friends and local ward councillors in relation to any new initiatives. We are committed to being receptive to concerns and suggestions voiced individually or through community groups.

An annual survey of Hatherop Park's users, along with other park users across the borough, was carried out in September 2010. Only four respondents from Hatherop Park filled in the survey on site, along with three users who filled in an online survey form. In keeping with high scores across the borough, these respondents were pleased with Hatherop Park.

### 8.4 Operational Commitments

This is presented in tabular form and includes the most important elements of the day to day maintenance of a park, grass cutting, trees and shrubs, litter collection and maintenance of parks furniture. Monitoring and inspection duties are also included. Biodiversity management and initiatives are included in this section.

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 to minimise weed growth 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	Inspection	Daily – park patrol Monthly – RSS contractors Annual – Rospa standard
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Weekly inspection with contractors

Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual
Biodiversity opportunities and actions	Pond management Hedgelaying Hay cut Scrub clearance	Annual

### 8.3 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 Hatherop Park. This Management Plan will be reviewed annually.