

Radnor Gardens Management Plan

Foreword

Radnor Gardens are a vitally important asset for local people and visitors to the borough. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will aspire 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 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 Radnor Gardens 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.

While the section is open to the changing needs of the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough's parks, the Gardens are long established and are well maintained. There have been major renovations that are detailed below: these included the installation of a new playground, major repairs of the boundary wall, transformation of a parks building into a café kiosk and the renovation of the bowling green.

Parks officers, working closely with colleagues in Veolia 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 for improving the facilities. It is hoped that the resulting observations and ideas will result in continually improving management and maintenance practises, as well as careful consideration of ideas to improve and maintain the Gardens.

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 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 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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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Management Plan for Radnor Gardens provides guidance for the management and any relevant development of the Gardens over the next five years. 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

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 big 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:

- To the overall Vision and Priorities of the Council
- To the quality of life of local people
- To the physical, social and economic regeneration of the borough
- To 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

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.

3.1.2 **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.

3.1.3 **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


















3.1.4 **Other relevant council policies**

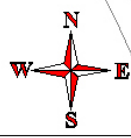
The following policy documents can be found at www.richmond.gov.uk.
Printed versions of these policies are available on request:

- 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

Radnor Gardens

Graphic Key and Quantity

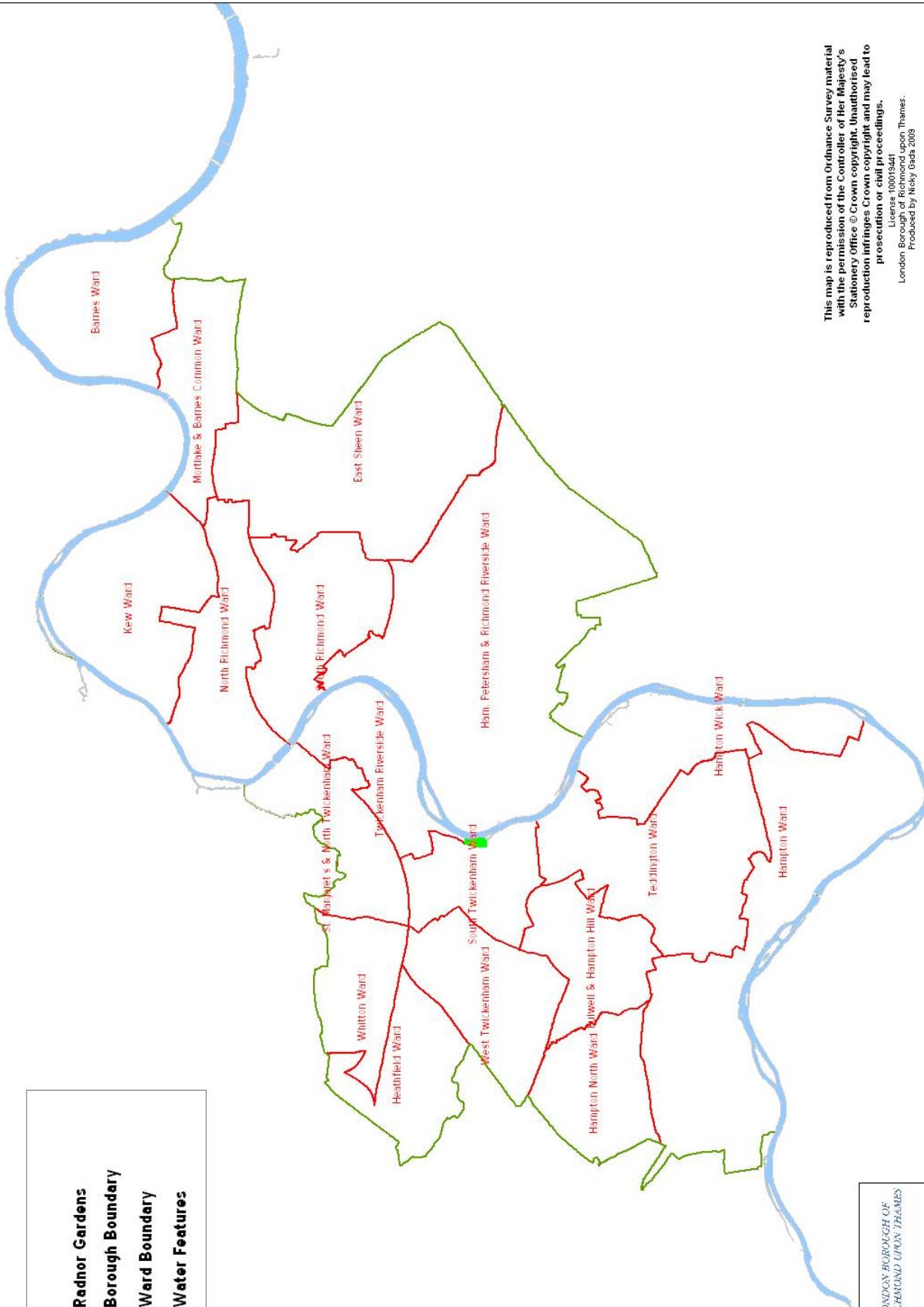
	Site Boundary	18,810m ²
	Shrubs	1010m ²
	Hedge	182m ²
	Grass	14,053m ²
	Hard Surface	2045m ²
	Safety Surface	390m ²
	Dog Bin	2
	Litter Bin	7
	Sign Post	5
	Picnic Bench	1
	Bench	17
	Tree	55
	Hard Edging	874m
	Metal Rail	135m
	Vertical Edge	185m
	Wood Post	20
	Cycle Rack	3



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KEY:

-  Rednor Gardens
-  Borough Boundary
-  Ward Boundary
-  Water Features



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London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.
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4.0 **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 a gazebo.

Radnor House, from which the Gardens takes its 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.

Enabling Acts: Local Government Act 1963,
Parks and Open Spaces Order 1971
Open Spaces Act 1906
Town and Country Planning Act (S. 32)
Commons Registration Act

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 walking 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 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 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 a gazebo.

4.2.7 **Facilities**

Radnor Gardens contain the following facilities:

- A bowling green, club and pavilion
- A Cafe/kiosk
- A playground
- Angling on the Thames is allowed from the site in the fishing season

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 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

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 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
- 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, 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
- Access for the disabled

5.3.1 **Main Entrance**

There are three entrances into Radnor Gardens all situated on Cross Deep Road. One of these, the main entrance, towards the southern end of the park, where the Kiosk, playground and bowling green are situated, 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 now in good condition having undergone extensive repairs and renovation. This is a significant wall because the main area of the park lies about 3 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 in good condition. Private property lies behind both these walls.

5.3.3 Roads, Paths, Cycle ways and Access

The majority of the tarmac pathways are in good condition having been renovated in 2008/2009. They are even and do not present any trip hazards. The edges are well defined. The one area that is an exception to this is the pathway (referred to above) that runs along the riverside. This is subject to regular flooding. See Action Plan below about remaining footpath works

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 is currently in the process of being renovated, a new knot garden as well as a planted border behind the café/kiosk.

5.3.8 Scenic Quality

Running down to the Thames the Gardens have a wonderful view of the river particularly north towards Ham and Richmond. This gives 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 modern playground of good condition in the Gardens. 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 Gazebo – these are both deteriorating. An English Heritage Grant has been received to carryout a condition survey. Once this has been produced it is intended to refurbish both buildings. This will require a partnership approach to fundraising with assistance from the Friends of Radnor Gardens and other local interest groups.

The 1960's café kiosk building, renovated in 2008/2009 is currently operational and it is envisaged that this facility remain operational for the life of this plan. Alternations to the building in spring 2011 will provide a public toilet.

The bowls pavilion has recently benefitted from a major Council repairs programme and will be 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 in 2009/10, 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 with the LBRUT. 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 the Disabled

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 and 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 a set of steps down into the park from the higher pavement area.

5.3.17 Educational Value

The principal educational value of Radnor Gardens lies in its history and its relationship to the history of Twickenham and the River Thames. In addition to this a major restoration of Strawberry Hill House has just been completed and more visitors will be drawn to the area. This may provide an opportunity to enhance the heritage interpretation and education of Radnor Gardens.

www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/

6.0 **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 The key objectives for the Gardens are to:

- 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 promote the educational value of the site and to encourage local schools to use the Gardens for a variety of educational purposes
- To encourage and promote community involvement in the implementation of the proposals and in the on-going management of the Gardens

7.0 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.

Management needs to deliver high standards of maintenance of all aspects of the soft and hard landscaping of the gardens within existing revenue budgets. Any developments have been funded by a major borough wide capital investment programme that began in 2005 and is due to be completed 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 Radnor Gardens. This assists the Council to work in harmony with users' and 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 behaviour 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.

Client / Contractor jointly inspect 25 sites a month on a random basis. Comments are made at the time and the client will advise the contractor of any items below specification that need to be put right, before the site is passed. The inspections are recorded and are scored to provide a % satisfaction figure for that particular month.

The Client / contractor site inspections for Green Flag sites (and those parks that have received major investment) also include comments and proposals to protect the investment of both hard and soft landscaping

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 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 site will be inspected daily for any evidence of 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 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 repairs will be carried out promptly.

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 Radnor Gardens continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

7.3.1 Community Safety

All operatives working at Radnor Gardens undertake an important role in terms of a visible staff presence in the Gardens and structure their maintenance work accordingly. All staff are uniformed and wear highly visible clothing. The current Parks Patrol personnel have worked in the Gardens for a number of years. They are consequently well known by park users.

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 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.

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**

The trees on the site have been managed on a reactive basis since the Gardens were first opened in the early 1900's. They are a prominent feature in both the local and wider landscape, and characterise the Gardens.

Many of the trees within the grounds are particularly noted for their diversity and taxonomic interest, with several rare trees present of both native and exotic origin. The most notable trees on site are the weeping willows on the river frontage.

New trees and shrubs have been planted over the years to continue to increase and diversify the magnificent tree stock.

Current Management:

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.

Future Management

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 site features, 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.

Site based staff carry 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, Veolia will carry out additional emptying with the litter bags being 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 Parks Patrol ensures 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 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.

7.4.5 **Hard Surfaces**

Hard surfaces will be kept clean, with litter swept from surfaces regularly by the mobile litter staff.

Paths will be kept in a good state of repair, all paths being inspected annually and any repairs carried out as promptly as possible.

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**

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 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 Radnor Gardens are taken to the compound within Hatherop Park and left there for approx 1.5 years to mulch down. The mulch is

then used on the flowerbeds around the borough as both compost and a weed control.

7.5.2 **Pesticides**

Pesticides are used as and when necessary however this is kept to a minimum in the interests of nature conservation and ecology.

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**

In relation to Radnor Gardens the policy of the Council 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 which can be found at www.richmond.gov.uk

7.6.2 **Marketing**

Promotion and marketing of Radnor Gardens 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

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

Internet

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

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.

8.0 Achievements and Action Plan

8.1 Achievements

Changes and improvements made to Radnor Gardens over the last five years are listed below:

- A playground was installed in 2006
- The pathway system was extensively renovated in 2008/2009
- Cycle stands were installed in 2009
- The bowling green was renovated in 2009
- The walls and entrances have been repaired and where necessary rebuilt in 2009
- Borough wide parks signage was installed in 2008
- The café kiosk has been renovated and was let as a concession in 2009
- New bins and benches were installed in 2010, the boundary fencing was painted, and new trees were planted.
- Flag Pole was replaced by bowling green.
- Footpaths have been improved and re-routed so as to be DDA compliant.
- The rose garden was replanted in 2010.
- The rockery has been part planted during winter 2010/11
- Viewing area: The shrubs being reduced and the tree canopy lifted. Opening up the view to the river. The wall repairs were also completed.
- Store shed/ hard standing area: The condition of the roof was checked and necessary repairs made. The walls and storage area were repainted.
- Yew trees: The two closest Yew trees to the boundary wall of the Rose Garden were removed. The footpath was also be re-routed at the base of this area & planted up.
- New Knot Garden created
- Lower river path resurfaced
- English Heritage Grant received for condition survey of Summer House and Gazebo

The following action plan is divided into three sections:

8.1 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 three 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.

Green Flag Priorities:

1. Complete re-planting of the rockery
2. Consider implementing recycling on site
3. Progress Summer House and Gazebo restoration initiative

Further works scheduled for 2011:

Kevin is this list correct?

- The replanting of the border by the café [to be done spring 2011]
- Replanting at the mound area [spring 2011]
- A wildflower meadow on the North side

8.2 Community Engagement

The parks section 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.

The annual customer satisfaction survey was carried out across the borough parks and open spaces during September 2010. This included Radnor Gardens.

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.

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
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. This Management Plan will be reviewed annually.

Appendix 1

