



# King's Field Management Plan

## **Foreword**

The King's Field is an important asset for local people and visitors. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames will aspire 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 of 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.

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, working closely with colleagues in Veolia and using a partnership approach regularly monitor The King's Field. Members of the local community and Richmond Youth Partnership 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 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.

<b>Contents</b>	
<b>No.</b>	<b>Section</b>
1	<b>Introduction</b>
2	<b>The National Context</b>
3	<b>Relationship to Council Aims &amp; Objectives</b>
4.	<b>Site Description</b>
5.	<b>Audit of facilities</b>
6.	<b>Vision and Objectives for the Kings Field</b>
7.	<b>Management of the park</b>
8.	<b>Achievements and Action Plan</b>

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 This Management Plan for The King's Field provides guidance for the management and any relevant development of the park 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 park.

The Plan includes an Action Plan, which should be achievable within the remit of current budgets. The Plan has been drafted for a broad audience interested in the development of the park namely:

- Users of the park 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 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 sports, 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:

- 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](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**

For more details go to [www.richmond.gov.uk](http://www.richmond.gov.uk)

Printed versions of these policies are available on request:

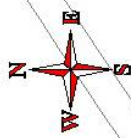
- Community Safety Policy
- Equality and Diversity Plan
- Unitary Development Plan
- Local Agenda 21
- Cultural Strategy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Parks Byelaws
- Customer Service Standards
- Dog control orders
- Tree Strategy
- Events Policy

**Kings Field, Hampton Wick**

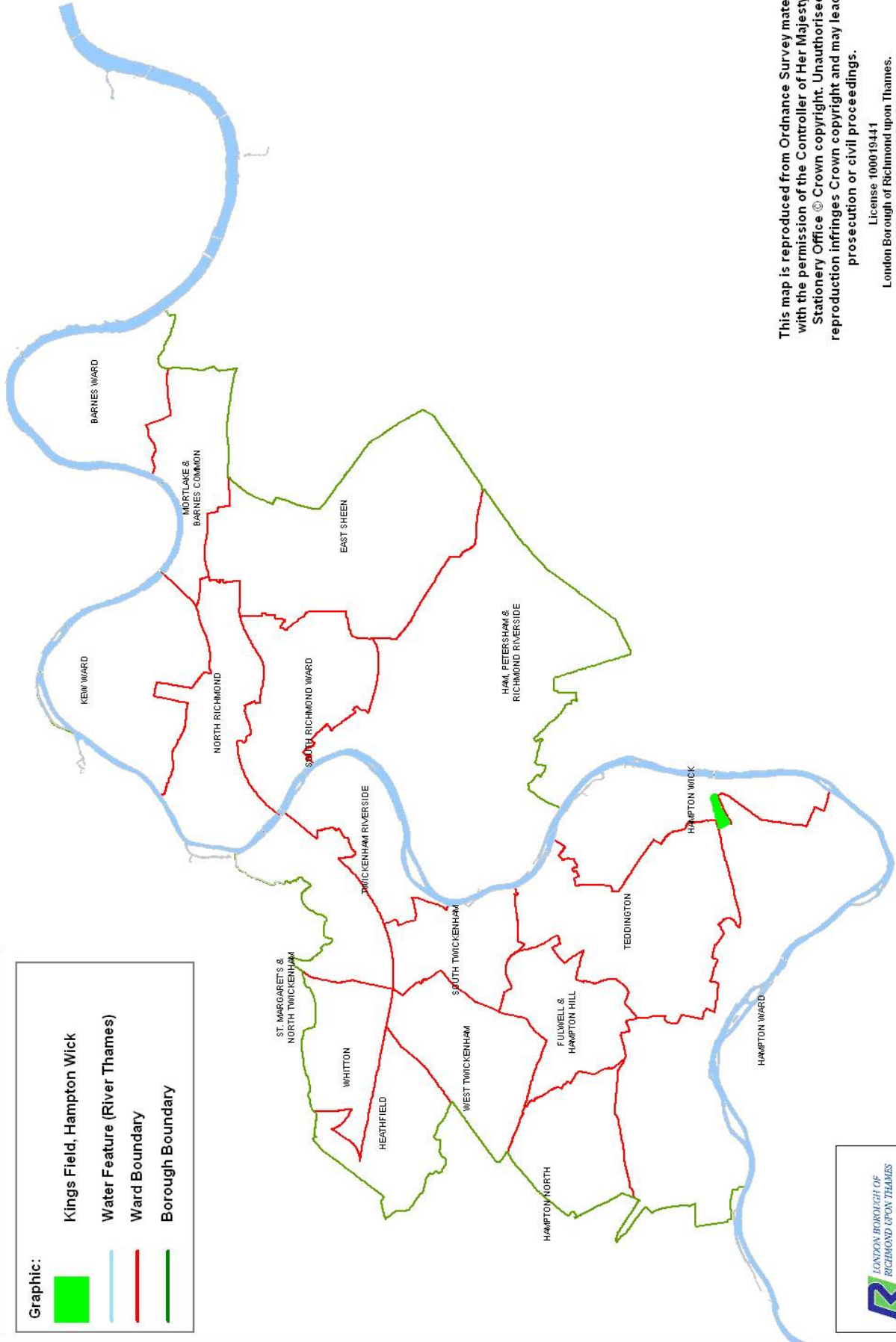


**Graphic Key and Quantity**

	Site Boundary	42,980m <sup>2</sup>		Grass Maintained by Cricket Club	37,170m <sup>2</sup>		Bench	5
	Shrubs	37m <sup>2</sup>		Litter Bin	2		Tree	9
	Safety Surface	277m <sup>2</sup>		Dog Bin	0		Vertical Edging	1133m
	Grass	2880m <sup>2</sup>		Lamp Post/ Telephone Post	0		Hard Edging	141m
	Tarmac	1903m <sup>2</sup>		Sign Post	3		Chain Link Fence	192m
							Metal Fence	57m



### London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

License 100019441  
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.  
Produced by Nicky Gada 2008



## 4.0 **Site Description**

### 4.1 **Outline History of The King's Field**

There is very little information available about the history of the King's Field. It has been a green space for several hundred years and was originally part of the royal hunting grounds along with Bushy and Home Parks. All three parks were originally linked to Hampton Court Palace. Following the Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937 the land was passed to the local authorities to manage as a public facility.

### 4.2 **General Information**

#### 4.2.1 **Land Tenure**

The site is owned by the Royal Parks, it is managed by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

#### 4.2.2 **Location**

The King's Field is situated in Hampton Wick near Kingston Bridge. It borders Bushy Park from which it is separated by brick walls on two sides.

#### 4.2.3 **Access**

As a free and open facility The Kings Field provides 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 which is open between dawn and dusk.

#### 4.2.4 **Local Transport**

##### **Train:**

The King's Field is approximately 10 minutes walk from the centre of Kingston, which is on the over ground Waterloo line.

Hampton Wick, is also within 10 minutes of the site, and on the over ground Waterloo line.

##### **Bus:**

Kingston and the surrounding area are well served by buses, including the 281, 285 & 465.

##### **Car**

There is limited pay and display parking outside the site.

##### **Cycle**

Cycle racks are available on site.

#### 4.2.5 **Landscape & Topography**

The King's Field is rectangular. The ground is generally flat. There are brick walls along each boundary of the park. Mature trees are planted inside the boundary wall. The majority of the trees are limes.

#### 4.2.6 **Listed Historic Buildings**

Rose Cottage is a residential property within The King's Field. It is a building with a local listing because of its Townscape Merit, for more information go to [www.richmond.gov.uk/planning\\_information\\_townscape\\_merit-2.pdf](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/planning_information_townscape_merit-2.pdf)

#### 4.2.7 **Ecology**

The King's Field is a large open space that is mainly used for amenity purposes. However, it is surrounded by avenues of trees on three sides which provide important wildlife corridors for bats and other species to enable movement from Bushy Park to the River Thames. There are several patches of bramble around the North and West sides of the field which combined with the mature trees provide valuable habitat for invertebrates, birds and small mammals. There is scope for improvements through planting a small hedge, creation of habitat piles, planting of fruit trees and a more relaxed mowing scheme. The LBRuT Ecology officer is in discussion with RYP to implement some of these options.

#### 4.2.8 **Facilities**

The following facilities are available in The King's Field

- A skateboard and BMX park
- Tennis courts
- Cycle stands
- Playground
- KCafé hosting youth work sessions inc. vegetable planters and chicken coup
- Football pitches
- Cricket square and equipment store
- Public Toilets in the KCafé
- Recycling bins

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 and to recognise a duty to equality and diversity to provide equally for diverse groups of users
- 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 is 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/recycling
- Seating
- Children's play space
- Buildings including toilets
- Health and safety
- Nature conservation value
- Access for the disabled.

#### 5.3.1 **Main Entrance**

There is one main entrance into The King's Field. This is situated on Church Grove through a gateway in the wall that surrounds the site. The tarmac area immediately inside the gate and the area of paving outside are in good condition.

#### 5.3.2 **Boundaries**

A significant and historic wall maintained by The Royal Parks marks the boundary around the whole site. This is well maintained and free of graffiti. It is noted that no signage is allowed on the walls.

### 5.3.3 Roads, Paths, Cycleways and Access

There is one footpath linking the main entrance to the BMX and skateboarding area. There are no other official paths across the site. However, with the imminent redevelopment of the Skate Park and lay facilities, this may be addressed once the requirements of the new facilities are known.

### 5.3.4 Parking

The King's Field does not have a public car park although there is a small area immediately inside the entrance that is used for deliveries to the refurbished pavilion which is now a youth café, known as the KCafé, managed by Richmond Youth Partnership. It would not be practicable or desirable to create a public car park in a green space of this nature.

Available car parking in the immediate area is limited to on street pay and display car parking.

### 5.3.5 Information

Information relating to The King's Field is available on the LBRuT website under Parks and Open Spaces [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

The parks contractors, Veolia, supply a member of staff to sell tickets to the skateboard park and to oversee the use of the facility. Part of the operative's duties is to pick up litter and to ensure that the site is kept clean. All general litter bins have been removed and replaced with dual recycling bins. These are near the entrance and in the Skate Park.

### 5.3.7 Planted Areas

There are limited shrub and flower beds in The King's Field mainly around the KCafé. As indicated above trees mark the boundary of the field. The majority of these trees are mature. They are healthy and well maintained. RYP have built planters adjacent to the café where they are trialling the growth of fresh vegetables for use in the KCafe.

### 5.3.8 Scenic Quality

The park is an attractive open space offering a fine view into the neighbouring Bushy Park. The most significant facility in the park is the skateboarding/BMX area which is not unattractive and is obviously an important asset for young people both inside and outside the borough.

### 5.3.9 Grass Areas

The amenity grass is in good condition for the sports it hosts. More than half of the park's grass is cut by contractors paid by the Hampton Wick cricket club under a

leasing arrangement with the council. This seems to work well but dictates that there should be effective liaison with the club.

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

Recycling bins are now permanently sited after a successful trial project. The Veolia Attendant prepares the recycling for collection on a weekly basis.

#### **5.3.11 Seating**

There are enough seats in the area of the Skateboard Park, the playground and KCafé. Seating seems to be most commonly used by young people watching the skateboarding/BMX or those taking a break from the activity. There are benches around the play area and these are supplemented by outdoor tables and chairs which are available when the KCafé is open.

Consideration might be given to providing seats in the large expanse beyond the skateboard park. There are currently none in this area.

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

There is a small toddlers' playground in The King's Field. This is designed for younger children. It is well maintained and in a good condition.

There is also a play area for older children which include swings and a fitness trail. It is due to be replaced entirely in 2011 and relocated away from the skate park.

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

There are three buildings in the park. The KCafé was for many years a boarded up and decaying parks pavilion with changing rooms. This building was transformed into a café during 2008 under a partnership with Richmond Youth Partnership. Richmond Youth Partnership (RYP) is a youth agency delivering professional, specialist and complementary youth services, and supporting other youth agencies within Richmond Borough.

There is a small cricket pavilion that is maintained by the council and used by the Hampton Wick Cricket Club.

Rose Cottage, situated within the boundary of The King's Field is owned by the Crown and managed as a private residence by the Royal Household.

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

Health and safety is not a major problem at The King's Field. Skateboarding and BMX riding does have some risk associated with the sport but it is noted that the facility is only open when the site is staffed. The Veolia operative advises that skaters and BMX riders wear the appropriate safety equipment.

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

The King's Field's position next to Bushy Park and surrounded by avenues of trees already means that it has an important value as a corridor for wildlife. The site's proximity to the river is also significant. With its small patches of bramble and the mature trees on site food and shelter is provided for insects, birds and mammals. The site could be improved through planting a small hedge or fruiting trees, relaxing the mowing schedule and creation of dead wood habitats. Although it would have to be on a relatively small scale to accommodate the sports facilities on site, it would still be of great benefit to the biodiversity on site.

#### **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 to The Kings Field and KCafé is good.

#### **5.3.17 Educational Value**

There is educational value at The King's Field. The skate park is now being used by groups and schools to teach skateboarding. In addition the tennis courts and pitches facilitate tuition.

## 6.0 Vision and Objectives for The King's Field

### 6.1 The overall vision for The King's Field is to:

"Maintain and improve the park so as to continue to provide a park where there are opportunities for outdoor contemplation, recreation and education in keeping with its urban location"

Great progress has been made in the partnership established with the Richmond Youth Partnership. It is envisaged that this, along with working closely with local people and The Royal Park - Bushy Park, LBRuT will provide the basis for an open space that will continue to provide recreational opportunities for, in particular, young people.

### 6.2 The key objectives for The King's Field are:

- To continue to work closely with Richmond Youth Partnership and users of the facilities so as to adequately maintain and improve the facilities
- Ensure that The King's Field is a place that is secure, safe to use and is clean and well maintained
- To ensure that the management of the landscape maintains the character of the park
- To ensure that the park is promoted and managed in order to provide a high quality service for the people using it
- To continue to encourage and promote community involvement in the management of the park. This will be done primarily through joint working with the Richmond Youth Partnership
- To ensure that the management of the park protects and enhances the biodiversity of the site
- To ensure that the park is managed sustainably
- To maintain partnership approach to management of the site with The Royal Parks - Bushy Park

## **7.0 Management of The King's Field**

### **7.1 Introduction**

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

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.

Management of the park needs to deliver high standards of maintenance of all aspects of the soft and hard landscaping of The King's Field within existing revenue budgets. Developments have been funded by a major borough wide capital investment programme that began in 2005 and was completed in 2010.

The Council works closely with the Richmond Youth Partnership both in consulting with young people who use the facilities and local people regarding their views of the facilities and any impact that is made on their lives. Continued working with the Youth Partnership has a very high priority in relation to the continued management of the park.

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 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.

Veolia's maintenance works are 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 and will form part of the revenue infrastructure and planting programmes.

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 The King's Field 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 graffiti. The full details of the borough's commitment to the prompt removal of graffiti can be viewed on the LBRuT website [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**

Park signage will be kept clean and will be regularly inspected. Any repairs will be carried out promptly.

### **7.2.3 Pathways**

All paths and hard surfaces will be inspected annually. Any necessary repairs will be carried out as promptly as possible. 'Desire lines' will be assessed for permanent construction.

### **7.3 Healthy, Safe and Secure**

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that The King's Field continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

#### **7.3.1 Community Safety**

All operatives working at The King's Field 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.

Veolia Environmental Service provides a permanent site based member of staff to sell tickets for the Skate Park and to oversee activities. The Parks Patrol regularly patrols the site.

In addition the local Police Safer Neighbourhood for Hampton Wick regularly patrol the area on foot.

RYP also have an important community safety role as their presence on the site means that they are in contact with most of the young people using the facility. They have promoted responsible use of the Skate Park and have encouraged young people to keep the site safe.

#### **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 Kings Field is clean and well maintained.

#### **7.4.1 Grass Maintenance**

Grass surfaces within the park are mainly classed as amenity grass. Amenity turf is 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.

There is an agreement with the Cricket Club, based in Bushy Park, to cut an agreed area of grass. The arrangement works well.

#### **7.4.2 Trees**

The tree cover within the site is limited, and the majority of tree amenity afforded to the site is from the trees within adjacent sites, under third party ownership.

The trees within the site are all currently inspected on an annual basis and following periods of high wind, following which any dangerous trees or limbs are removed / pruned. Though not under the London Borough of Richmond management, trees on adjacent sites are inspected for any gross defects, which are then reported to the appropriate party as a priority for any action.

The site lends itself to the planting of new trees, which would be especially welcome within the playground area. A program will be made to plant new trees each year for the next 5 - 10 years (in liaison with The Royal Park – Bushy Park) to try and diversify and enhance the tree stock.

There will be no planting of trees in winter 09/10. The replacement of the Skate Park will provide some wider landscaping possibilities and tree-planting will happen as part of the re-landscaping.

#### **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 Veolia operative.

The Veolia operative carries out litter picking, emptying of recycling bins on a weekly basis 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 Veolia operative will carry out additional emptying of the recycling bins and then bags will be stored or if possible 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 Veolia operative 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 Veolia operative 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 and skate park are 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 and skate park meet ROSPA standards.

#### **7.4.5 Hard Surfaces**

Hard surfaces will be kept clean, with litter swept from surfaces regularly by the Veolia operative.

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 will be carried out as promptly as possible.

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

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

The cricket pitch and football pitches are all maintained by contractors at the expense of the cricket club. It is recognised that there needs to be closer working with the cricket club in relation to the maintenance and management of the sports facilities.

The skateboard park is inspected on a daily basis by the Veolia operative and monthly by RSS contractors. There are regular thorough checks of the facility.

The Skate/BMX facility is currently closed for a complete refurbishment, to be carried out in spring 2011, subject to weather conditions.

#### **7.4.3 Environmental Sustainability**

The following regimes are designed to ensure that The King's Field 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 The King's Field 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

The use of pesticides at The King's Field will be minimised.

## 7.6 Community Involvement

This is crucial to the management of The Kings Field. LBRuT works closely with the Richmond Youth Partnership, and a consultative group of skateboard park users and local residents. This will continue to be of the utmost importance.

### 7.6.1 Parks Events

The Council encourages the hire of parts of the area to appropriate organisations. In reality this is likely to centre around the Skateboarding facility. Local ward Councillors are consulted before permission is granted for any new event. An evaluation process is held after each event.

A 'Larks in the Parks' theatre performance event was held at the site during the school summer holidays 2008 & 2009. This was part of a Parks and Open Spaces funded initiative, delivered by the Council's Arts Service and aimed at younger children.

The Richmond Youth Partnership organise an annual local competition for local skateboarders and BMX riders.

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

## 7.7 Marketing

Promotion and marketing of The King's Field 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.

### Internet

Information about The King's Field is 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 Service regularly and systematically produces articles and press releases about activities and facility development.

In addition the skateboard/BMX Park and KCafé is promoted by Richmond Youth Partnership on the web at [www.richmondyouth.org.uk](http://www.richmondyouth.org.uk)

Other promotion

- School holiday Council activity publications – ‘Live it up’
- Richmond Housing Partnership publications and website [www.rhp.org.uk](http://www.rhp.org.uk)

## 8.0 **Achievements and Action Plan**

### 8.1 **Achievements**

Changes and improvements made to the Kings Field during 2010 are listed below:

- Funding has been achieved for the new skate park through the Council's 'Youth Capital' Initiative.
- We have continued to develop our partnership with Richmond Youth Partnership as well as our relationship with the users of the King's Field.
- Funds have been identified for new play facilities targeted at older children.

#### **Action Plan**

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. The King's Field has benefited from major capital investment over the last two years in the form of a disused pavilion being virtually rebuilt into a Café managed by the Richmond Youth Partnership. It is not envisaged that there is likely to be any major addition to the parks facilities apart from the upgrading of the skate park. 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, sports facilities, playground.

During 2011:

- The major project currently being planned is the replacement of the Skate/BMX Park. An upgrade had already been scheduled and a consultation process launched in cooperation with RYP. The operation of the facility will be a great opportunity to develop further youth work, sports and community cohesion initiatives all in partnership with RYP and young people. Work is scheduled for early 2011.
- The new play facilities for older children and teenagers are to be located nearer to the other play facilities, rather than right next to the skate park. This work is also scheduled for early 2011.

#### **Green Flag Priorities:**

1. Continue to work with facility users on the upgrade of the skate park.
2. Replace the youth/teenage trail and move it to a more suitable area.
3. Build up the edges of the new path with topsoil. Also re-seed bare areas and tarmac the entrances to the play area.

### 8.3 **Community Engagement**

The parks section intends to continue to work with the Richmond Youth Partnership, The Royal Parks – Bushy Park and update The Hampton Wick

Association and local residents. In addition a group of younger people who use the park are regularly consulted.

We are committed to being receptive to concerns and suggestions voiced individually or through community groups.

In September 2010 people using The King's Field along with other park users across the borough were surveyed about their opinions in relation to a number of parks across the borough. The only criticisms present in surveys collected from the King's Field related to the need to update play facilities – which will be undertaken in 2011.

#### 8.4 Operational Schedule

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 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 Recycling	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 & skateboard park 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	Planting hedges Planting fruit trees Creation of dead hedges Installation of bird/bat boxes Relaxing mowing regime	Programme over 5 years
Tree planting	Identify planting	Programme over 5 years

	opportunities	
--	---------------	--

## 8.5 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 Richmond Youth Partnership and a group of Skate Park users who serve as a consultation group. This Management Plan will be reviewed annually.