

Press Release

Good Parks for London Report 2018: Improving London's parks for all

Wednesday 28 November: Parks for London has tonight published the Good Parks for London Report 2018: Improving London's parks for all.

The Good Parks for London Report 2018 considers the approach that London Boroughs are taking towards parks and green spaces, evaluating them against ten criteria: public satisfaction, awards for quality, health and wellbeing, sustainability, events, supporting nature, skills development, community partnerships, collaboration and strategic planning.

This report comes at a time of continued cuts to Council budgets, huge uncertainty over Brexit and while London faces a growing population and environmental concerns around air quality.

Working in partnership with Glendale, the London Borough of Lewisham has topped the chart for the second year in a row, demonstrating the fantastic work that they are doing to promote and protect parks and green spaces across their Borough. They scored exceptionally well in the criteria of events and health, fitness and well-being.

John Thompson, Group Manager for Green Scene, said: *"Our excellent parks have been achieved by meaningful community engagement and strong working relations with our service partner, Glendale. Each of our parks has its own unique qualities and are managed and used according to the varying needs of residents. Meeting, listening and working with those residents and user groups exemplifies how collective ownership and striving for improvement has produced parks we are both proud of and which serve well the people of Lewisham."*

Boroughs throughout London should also be congratulated on the work that they are doing, and highlights from the report include:

- Over 70% of London Boroughs achieved a very good or higher resident satisfaction rating for their parks
- On average 13% of parks in each Borough will attain Green Flag Awards, over 40% of Boroughs surpassed the London average
- All Boroughs provide outdoor gyms and now 75% provide free drinking water
- 78% of Boroughs have a Biodiversity Action Plan in place
- 65% of Boroughs have a Parks Friends Group Forum
- 66% parks services support apprenticeship schemes
- 46% have green vehicles within their fleet

Tony Leach, CEO of Parks for London said: *"We want to congratulate well performing Boroughs and support all that are struggling to provide an effective parks service; so, we hope Councillors and Council Chief Executives will take time to read the report, recognise the huge value that parks services provide and protect their funding."*

Nigel Thorne, Chair Parks for London said, *"At a time when public parks, some of the capital's greatest assets, are under even more intense pressures, it is with enormous gratitude and thanks to everyone involved that we can present this second edition of the 'Good Parks for London' report. We hope that in highlighting all that is good and positive about London's parks and open spaces, we shall ensure a higher quality future for them all in perpetuity."*

Parks for London would like to thank GL Hearn who have kindly sponsored the launch and publication of this report.

Notes to editors

The Good Parks for London Report is compiled [by Parks for London](#) and sponsored and produced by [GL Hearn](#), part of Capita Real Estate. It is supported by London Boroughs, London Councils, the GLA and other partner organisations.

Criteria used to assess London Boroughs' parks and green spaces services:

1. Public satisfaction with parks
2. Awards for quality (Green Flags and London in Bloom)
3. Collaboration
4. Events: both policy and range and number of events
5. Health, fitness and well-being
6. Supporting nature
7. Community partnerships
8. Skills development
9. Sustainability
10. Strategic planning

For purpose of the report and press release **parks** are defined as all parks and green spaces that are owned and managed by London Boroughs except allotments, cemeteries and housing green space.

7 out of 10 criteria were refined in collaboration with a working group of local authority parks officers. The scores for this year are not directly comparable with last years. However, Ealing, Harrow, Islington and Richmond noticeably climbed up the benchmarking table.

The 2018 report can be found here: <https://glhearn-publications.cld.bz/Good-Parks-for-London-2018>

For reference the first report of 2017 can be found by following this link: <https://glhearn-publications.cld.bz/Good-Parks-for-London-2017>

About Parks for London

The Charity, Parks for London, exists to ensure that London's green infrastructure continues to thrive now and into the future. The charity enables the people who plan, design and manage London's parks and green spaces to share knowledge and experience. Our role is also to maintain and improve quality, maximise services and benefits and get the most from limited resources.

Our vision is a London that is a healthy and sustainable world city. A place where parks and green spaces make a major contribution to the health and wellbeing of Londoners, and to the environment they live and work in.

Our mission is to ensure that London has a strong network of parks and green spaces, which are of a high quality, safe, accessible and stimulating.

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"The measure of any great civilisation is in its cities, and the measure of a city's greatness is to be found in the quality of its public spaces, it's parks and squares."

John Ruskin

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