



Safeguarding our green spaces

# Supporter Update March/April 2020

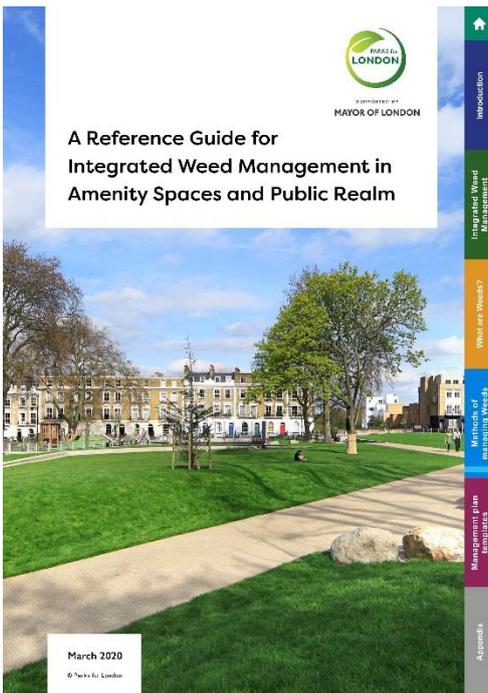


Tony Leach, Cllr Jon Burke (Hackney), Bill Wyatt (Sutton) and Kevin Crook (Lambeth) – the IWM launch panel

On 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020, we launched our **Integrated Weed Management** documents, written in collaboration with the Amenity Forum and supported by the Mayor of London. The launch event, kindly hosted by Lambeth Council and sponsored by the GLA, was very well attended and the documents have already generated lots of interest.

The documents have been produced to help Councils and other landowners to focus on managing the limited number of plant species which are either invasive; damaging to structures or sports pitches; or create health and safety problems, and to help drive down the use of herbicides such as glyphosate. Legislation regulating the use of herbicides requires all users to assess the options for control so that herbicide use is minimised. The reference guide is designed to help land managers to consider the options available in the least harmful way to people, water, wildlife and the wider environment. It details a range of solutions for managing weeds and the process of preparing detailed **integrated weed management plans**. **The reference guide** includes templates for a wide range of specific landscape uses, these can be accessed on mobile devices to be used on site and can be shared with colleagues.

The **Policy Template**, created for LA's and others as a generic policy framework to underpin the development of integrated weed management plans (IWMPs) and **Reference Guide** (produced as an interactive pdf to help landowners and managers prepare IWMPs, can be downloaded [here](#). Supporters of Parks for London can **download the Reference Guide and Policy Template for free**.



## PEL Solar Street Bins

A reminder that supporters of Parks for London get a **10% discount on PEL's Solar Street Bins**, this offer has just been extended to the end of September 2020. The bins not only reduce carbon emissions, but given current health concerns you may like to know that they are made from galvanised steel and can have a CU+ coating which is an antibacterial agent. If this offer is of interest, please get in touch with us.



## Updating Event 2020

In February 2020, we hosted the Amenity Forum's London updating event, bringing the latest news from the amenity sector to practitioners. The event covered an update on the UK's Nation Action Plan for the sustainable use of pesticides and the Environmental



Plan; the latest changes and challenges facing the sector and integrated weed management. Presentations from the event will be available in the coming weeks from the Amenity Forum's website under: [resources](#).

Please note that updating events planned for the coming months have now been cancelled due to concerns about the Coronavirus.

A reminder that London Boroughs supporting Parks for London can sign up for Associate Membership to the Amenity Forum for free. If you have not already signed up and would like to do so please contact us.

*Left: Professor Jon Moverley, OBE, Chairman of the Amenity Forum and Tony Leach, CE, Parks for London - at the Updating Event.*

## Parks and Health and Wellbeing – Latest News

We all know there is significant evidence that our parks and green spaces make a huge contribution to our health and wellbeing, in fact it is estimated that in the UK parks, green spaces and the natural environment save the Exchequer around £111m per year based solely on a reduction in GP visits (ref: Fields in Trust report: Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces 2018).

- In January 2020 **The University of Sheffield published a report [Space to Thrive](#)** (funded by HLF-Community Fund), which reviews the benefits of parks and green spaces for people and communities. Its key findings show that use of parks and green spaces enhance our physical and mental health, improve social cohesion and community engagement and support local economies. The report also touches on how our parks and green spaces highlight inequalities in our society, evidence shows the quality of parks can be worse in lower income areas and are less accessible for marginalised groups.
- This report coincides the publication of The **Institute of Health Equity's report to mark 10 years on from the landmark study: *The Marmot Review - Fair Society, Healthy Lives***; highlighting the health gap between deprived and wealthy areas and touches on the need to improve air quality and mitigate climate change to improve health. You can download the **Marmot Review 10 Years on [here](#)**.
- The Landscape Institute will be running a seminar exploring **Health, Wellbeing and Place: How landscape delivers positive change**, on 26<sup>th</sup> March – see diary dates below for the link to book a place.



### Health Parks Toolkit

Last year we launched the [Health Parks Toolkit](#), developed with Tisdall Associates, which allows stakeholders to produce a Health Audit of any Park, and forms the basis for the development of a Parks

Health Strategy. It brings together health and well-being, the environment and biodiversity within a single unique assessment model. The Health Parks Toolkit provides an opportunity to optimise our parks and green spaces for health, alongside other initiatives. **The Basic Green Space Health Audit is now available for free** to Parks Groups, park based charities and Local Authorities, if you would like to access the free audit please contact: [info@tisdallassociates.co.uk](mailto:info@tisdallassociates.co.uk)

# MAYOR OF LONDON **London Green Space Commission**

The Green Space Commission will shortly publish its findings after working together for a year. We will update you on the findings and recommendations in the coming months.

## Other Parks for London News

- In May, we will invite you to participate in the **Good Parks for London 2020** report as we start to collect parks data. If you have not already fed back about the updated Good Parks criteria, please get in touch, we want to continually improve and develop the report and really value your input. This year we put the spotlight on parks and climate change.
- We have set up a new action group which will focus on **managing tangible park assets**, the group will review the most used Asset Management Systems in terms of ease of use and cost implications and share the experience of users to help others. The group will also develop a generic asset management strategy. If you would like to join the group, please let us know.
- We are delighted to report that we have appointed [Open Culture](#) to design our **new website**. We are looking forward to working with this small creative company to bring you an up to date website with excellent resources and information; we plan to launch it in the summer to coincide with Love Parks Week.



## Urban Tree Festival 2020

The third urban tree festival, organised by the Museum of Walking, is planned for 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - a week of events to celebrate London's trees. If you would like to organise an event that celebrates trees during the festival it can be advertised through their event programme. Please contact: Andrew Stuck [andrew@museumofwalking.org.uk](mailto:andrew@museumofwalking.org.uk)

## 2020 Diary Dates

26<sup>th</sup> March, all day – Landscape Institute: Health, Wellbeing and Place~ How landscape delivers positive change - Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre, you can book a place via Eventbrite [here](#).

23<sup>rd</sup> April, all day – APSE Sports and Leisure Seminar – the Oval, London, you can view details [here](#).

15<sup>th</sup> May, 11am to 4pm – London Parks Benchmarking Group meeting – venue and topic tbc

16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> May – Urban Tree Festival - across London

11<sup>th</sup> June, 2-4pm – Heads of Parks Services Meeting – City Hall

Tbc Oct, 6-8pm – Good Parks for London 2020 launch - NLA

## Resources available from Parks for London

[Integrated Weed Management Guidance](#)

[Good Parks for London Report](#)

[Green Space Quality Manual](#)

[Outdoor Events Policy Template](#)

[Licencing](#): -

1) Professional Dog Walkers

2) Personal Fitness Trainers

## Contact us

Tony Leach, CE: [tony.leach@parksforlondon.org.uk](mailto:tony.leach@parksforlondon.org.uk)

Nina Obhrai, Admin and Finance Manager: [nina.obhrai@parksforlondon.org.uk](mailto:nina.obhrai@parksforlondon.org.uk)



[@parksforlondon](#)