Parks for London

SUPPORTER UPDATE

May | Jun 2021

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In June the GLA launched, phase II of its **Cool Spaces Map**. Thanks to all those who registered their spaces .

Meet our new team members

As we progress towards becoming a Centre for Excellence, as defined in last years report by the London Green Spaces Commission, we are pleased to introduce you to our two new members of staff who will help us achieve this ambitious objective.

Dr Meredith Whitten joined us on 1st June as Researcher in Residence, one day per week. She will help establish Parks for London as a leading resource hub for urban green space research by conducting and coordinating research projects; disseminating knowledge; and sharing best practices.

David Thomas joins us on 9th August as our Communications Officer and will be responsible for developing an our communications and engagement strategy. We are really looking forward to working together.



Dr Meredith Whitten



David Thomas

Impact of the Good Parks for London Report 2021

The report is now available on our **website** and was independently undertaken by Dr Meredith Whitten to assess the impact of the Good Parks for London (GPfL) report since its first publication in 2017 and to see if it has helped to improve the quality of green spaces in London. The report reveals that 80% of research participants have a positive impression of GPfL and that it acts as a nudge for change in green space practices. We encourage you to read the report. We will be changing the format of this years report based on the report recommendations.

We have revised the 10 Good Parks criteria for 2021 and have sent these out to participants with this years return template. The report theme for 2021 will be climate change. We look forward to receiving your submissions, do contact us if you have any questions.

Litter and Waste Management

Our **Greenspace Litter and Waste Management Action Group** met for the first time in May, we are developing an action plan for the Group, which will include mapping research, trials, innovations, best practice and enforcement across London to help inform the advice and output of the Group. So we'll be sending you all a survey soon.



We'd previously let you know about a new partnership with **Eco Green Communities** who are offering to install 500 free eco litter and dog stations in parks across London for a 12 months. The first pilot in Brent is already underway (pictured left), dog stations with free biodegradable dog waste bags, have been placed in a selection of parks across the borough where there have been high incidents of dog mess reported since the start of the pandemic. We look forward to hearing about the results after the trial period. If you are interested in installing the dog stations in your parks for free, which can include bespoke messaging, then please get in touch, there are still stations available!

Covid –19 updates

We will continue to keep our guidance page up to date (see quick link below), step 4 of the road map out of lockdown is delayed until 19th July, though this date may change, until then step 3 restrictions still apply to parks and green spaces.

Parkrun is now pushed back to Saturday 24 July, subject to any further changes to government guidance. PfL are working with London Sport and Sport England to resolve outstanding concerns about parkrun's generic risk assessment and we will share that information as soon as it is ready.

The **Community Payback** (CP) Scheme moves in-house this year. We have been approached by them to see how we can help facilitate CP projects across parks in London—bringing you more resources. We'll be able to give you more information in our next update.

Next Heads of Parks Services Meeting is Tuesday 12th October 2021, 10am to 12 noon, via Teams. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Website—Quick links

⇒ News

⇒ Events

⇒ Covid-19 Guidance

⇒ Health Parks Toolkit

⇒ Integrated Weed Management

⇒ Green Space Quality Manual

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