Parks for London

SUPPORTER UPDATE

Nov | Dec 2021

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This year over 130 friends and colleagues joined us in November for the launch of the 2021 Good Parks for London report. Congratulations to Lewisham whose parks service was the best performing this year and to all the boroughs that have shown significant improvement—Barking and Dagenham, Hackney, Hammersmith and Fulham, Hounslow, Newham, Redbridge and Sutton.

This year we put the focus on climate change and included lots of useful case studies on the great work being undertaken in our parks on climate action. Judy Ling Wong, CBE, who attended COP26, was our keynote speaker and gave an inspiring presentation at the launch. In case you missed her presentation you can access the event recording, along with all the presentation slides here.

This year we will be producing bespoke borough reports giving you more detail on how your parks service performed in 2021, the reports will be sent out early in the New Year. As usual we will also be in touch with you to review the Good Parks criteria, we hope you will join the process in 2022.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the report, we could not do it without the amazing work that is happening in our parks. We would also like to thank GL Hearn for sponsoring the report and the Cross River Partnership for hosting the virtual launch event.

Supporter survey 2021

We would love to get your feedback on what you think of the work we are doing, you can access our annual supporter survey **here**, it will be open until 18th January 2022

New website resources

We have just added the State of UK Public Parks 2021 published by APSE to our website. The nationwide picture has not changed much since the last report published in 2016 with investment and workforce remaining major challenges. The report highlighted considerable regional variations when it came to budget cuts and quality, with London and the south east generally fairing more favourably than their northern counterparts. Budget cuts nationally total £190 million over the last 5 years. To help future proof parks there has been an increasing trend for green space strategies to be more integrated into wider organisational strategies. Positively there has also been a marked increase in the number of friends' and user group involvement nationwide.

New resources continued…..

In response to the Omicron variant we reviewed the governments latest **Covid-19** guidance, at the moment new measures do not impact on the management of parks and green spaces, however we have updated our guidance on **volunteering in parks and green spaces** and guidance links which you can access on our Covid-19 webpage. We will continue to monitor and review government guidance to provide you with up to date information.



There are new case studies available from the **Cross River Partnerships Healthy Streets Everyday** project, such as the wonderful pocket park on Mellison Road, Wandsworth (pictured), showing the transformation of an old car park into a fun and interactive space for all to enjoy, it features a playground and sustainable drainage in the form of a rain garden. Visit our Health and Wellbeing webpage to find out more.

We've just added a new **funding opportunity** to our website, the **Rewild London Fund,** to help restore London's most precious wildlife sites and create more natural habitats for plants and animals to thrive, you can find out more about this and many more funding opportunities here.

Parks for London Action Groups

We have set up two new action groups: **Parks Capital Projects** to look at common issues such as tendering and best value and **Safety Audit** to develop an open spaces personal safety audit process, with particular consideration to the risks posed for women and girls visiting parks. Initial meetings will be held early in the new year, if you would like to join either group please contact Nina Obhrai.

And a reminder that we are keeping our **litter and waste management survey** open until 7th January 2022, your data will help support a litter campaign in 2022.

We wish all our supporters and colleagues a safe and merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

The Parks for London Team



Jeanice, Hamida, Nina, Tony, Ed and Meredith

Many thanks to the **Camden Parks Team** who hosted our first team meeting in November, at Pancras Square. It was great to all be together, we will be meeting monthly, though for the time being meetings will be held remotely due to Covid.

Website—Quick links

⇒ Funding Opportunities

⇒ Covid-19 Guidance

⇒ Integrated Weed Management

⇒ Green Space Quality Manual

The next Heads of Parks Services Meeting is Tuesday 18th January 2022, 10am to 12 noon, via Teams.

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