Safeguarding our green spaces

Supporter Update May/June 2020

Parks During the Pandemic



Along with other essential services our parks and green spaces have remained open during the lockdown. The value and benefit of these spaces has never been more keenly felt or acknowledged. Their importance was highlighted in a statement given by Robert Jenrick MP, in April, when he said '***people need parks'*** and that they must remain open ***'for the health of the nation'.***

It's a great reflection on the parks services in London that our parks have been able to stay open under such difficult circumstances.

At Parks for London we have been working with London's landowners, the GLA and London Councils to provide support, covid-19 related parks guidance and to ensure that there is consistent messaging and information in the public domain.

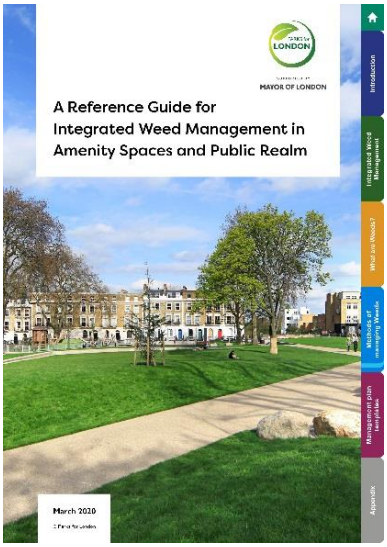
- Guidance is available on our website which includes guidance for: park users, reopening cafés and ice-cream van concessions, volunteering as an individual in parks and green spaces and *allotments,* as well as other useful links. We will continue to update this page regularly, in line with changes to government guidance.
- A Parks Collaboration Alliance has emerged during the crisis, consisting of Parks for London (representing London Boroughs), TRP, LVRPA, QEOP, CoL, the GLA and London Councils, which shares information weekly and ensures consistent public messaging.
- A confidential open doc spreadsheet has been set up for Councils and other landowners to provide up to date information of their parks service provision during lockdown. **Please remember to update for your borough**. If you don't have the link already, please contact us. Thanks to Hackney for getting this doc started.
- Parks Community UK have shared examples of what Friends of Parks Groups have been able to do during lockdown. You can read more here.

Litter in parks

PEL UK Rentals Ltd

PEL Solar Street Bins – offer to Supporters

With the easing of lockdown restrictions, litter is once again becoming a big issue. A reminder that supporters of Parks for London can get a **10% discount on** PEL's Solar Street Bins, to the end of September 2020. The bins reduce carbon emissions and **given current health concerns they can have a CU+ coating, which is an antibacterial agent.** If you are interested in this offer or would like more information, please contact Gerry O'Boyle: gerry@pelmfg.com



Integrated Weed Management (IWM) Policy and Ref Guide

Since the IWM policy & reference guide launch, in March 2020, we have already started issuing licences to download the reference guide, including to English Heritage. The reference guide includes templates to help you develop integrated weed management plans for a range of specific landscapes. It can be accessed on mobile devices so you can use it on-site.

The reference guide is **FREE only to supporters of Parks for London.** We know that many of you have not been able to confirm your support to us for 2020-21, but if you supported us last year, you can still download it - just get in touch with Nina for further details. You can view a sample of the IWM reference guide here.

We plan to develop Integrated Disease and Pest Management guidance, in the future.

Parks and Health & Wellbeing

Health Parks Toolkit

We know that good parks make for healthier communities. They are vital for our physical health and mental wellbeing, this compelling link has been much reported in the media since lockdown. If we want to ensure resilience of funding for these vital spaces, we need to recognise and capitalise on this connection by implementing health strategies for parks and exploring integrated funding with public health departments.

So how healthy are your parks? You can now find out the health status of your park for **FREE**. Health Parks are offering **The Basic Green Space Health Audit** to Friends of Parks Groups, park based charities and Local Authorities at no cost. For more information about this and other initiatives, please download the May 2020 Health Parks Newsletter here.The Health Parks Toolkit provides an opportunity to optimise our parks and green spaces for health, if you would like to access the free audit please contact: info@tisdallassociates.co.uk

Funding for Parks

In response to the coronavirus crisis, HF have set up a package of support for the heritage sector. There are two tiers of **Emergency Fund** grants. Owners and managers of heritage can apply for short term funding, of £3k to £50k, to help deal with immediate risks and provide organisational stability. The second tier of funding, for £50k to £250k, is for immediate risks, other costs and for longer terms recovery. Owners and managers of heritage can also apply, but other criteria will also need to be met. You can find more information at: Heritage Emergency Fund.

Good Parks for London 2020

This year we have seen unparalleled recognition of how important our parks and green spaces are; yet, as the economy recovers from lockdown their funding could still be under threat. We think it's vital to press ahead with publishing the Good Parks for London report this year; to not

only applaud London's parks services and explore the positive impact of parks during Covid-19, but to provide a lobbying tool to protect future funding for parks.
We are currently finalising the criteria, based on your feedback and will start to gather data in June. We are also looking at collating the data into London Borough family groups to give you helpful comparisons.

GROWING GENERATIONS COMPETITION 2020 for apprentices and trainees – 'Design Online - Say it with Plants'

Many gardens have closed across the UK, which has meant horticultural apprentices and trainees have had their training disrupted. So, the Royal Parks Guild and the Royal Hospital Chelsea, have got together to launch this plant focussed competition. It is open to all horticultural apprentices and trainees currently undergoing training within the industry and is free to enter.
Entrants will be asked to create a container feature which describes what horticulture means to them, by 14th August 2020. For further information and to enter contact Mike Fitt, OBE at: competition@trpg.org.uk or visit our website for details.



The Arboricultural Association, the London Tree Officers Association, the Municipal Tree Officers Association and the Association of Tree Officers have launched a **tree watering campaign**, to help ensure that newly planted trees are watered regularly over the summer months. You can find out more at Arboricultural Association, you'll also find links to download the campaign poster and tree tags.

Other Parks for London News

- The Asset Management Action Group had its first meeting in March 2020. We are now busy collating information about best Asset Management Systems and the group will be developing a generic asset management policy.
- Work is underway on our new website, which we will launch in summer 2020, so watch this space!

2020 Diary Dates

11th June, 2-4pm – Heads of Parks Services Meeting – via zoom
12th June 10-11am – LPBG AGM – via zoom

Other Resources available from Parks for London

Covid-19 Guidance for parks
Green Space Quality Manual
Good Parks for London Report
Integrated Weed Management Guidance
Outdoor Events Policy Template
Licence templates for Professional Dog Walkers and personal Fitness Trainers

Contact us

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