Parks for London
Centre for Excellence

# Supporter e-Update

Jul – Aug 2022

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## Highlights




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It has been the driest July since 1935, with the hottest temperatures ever recorded in the UK. Our green spaces were turning into brown spaces, and a drought has been declared across many parts of England. What does this mean for our parks, green spaces, and other green infrastructure? Dr Meredith Whitten addresses this topic in a new piece on our website titled '**The Heat is On**.' The article looks at the 'urban green cooling effect' of our parks and green spaces, how urban planning needs to be more imaginative in its approach to increasing green infrastructure, and the urgent need for these spaces to be "actively managed and appropriately funded to continue to be a lifeline for people and the planet."

A hosepipe ban is coming into force in London on 24th August. Read the prohibited uses and exceptions here. The Royal Parks has issued a statement about how they are managing parks in the heatwave which you can access here. You may also want to share the GLA's Cool Spaces map.




This summer, the Clean Parks for London campaign puts the spotlight on abandoned picnic litter, which increases significantly during warmer months. We have published a guide on our website to encourage visitors to be a part of the solution, and do their part in holding more sustainable and litter-free picnics. You can find the '**Picnic in, Pack it out**' guide here, or stay tuned to our social media platforms for more from the campaign.

We are also delighted that Habitats & Heritage have joined the campaign. Do contact us if you wish to learn more about the campaign resources.

Keep Britain Tidy is collecting evidence from local authorities on approaches to enforcement to understand how its effectiveness could be improved. Please share your views here by 31st August.




We are excited to launch the Good Parks for London 2022 report on 29th September (Thursday) from 4–4:45 pm. Hosted by the Cross River Partnership, this will be a hybrid event at Westminster City Hall and online.

We hope you can join us either in person or online, so **SAVE THE DATE!** Registration to join online is open here, and invitations to attend in-person will be sent on 5th September so keep an eye out.

This year's report, headlined 'Keeping Parks Clean', looks at waste and litter management and features topical case studies sharing how some landowners and other groups are tackling this intensifying issue.

## Other Updates



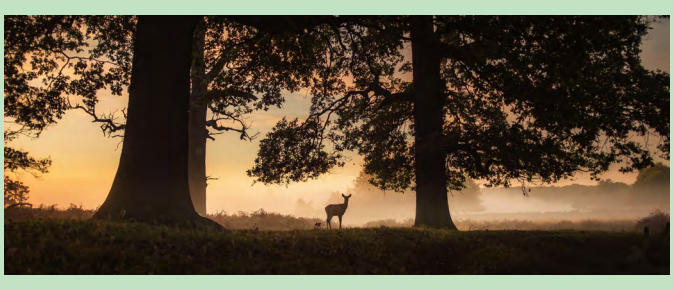
**Women's Safety in Parks Action Group**

Our new Action Group brings together a range of London's landowners and other interested organisations to explore how we can make parks and green spaces safer for women.

In 2021, the Safer Ealing Partnership (SEP) undertook a successful listening exercise, engaging with women across the borough to understand what makes them feel unsafe in and around Ealing's parks and green spaces and what would need to change to make them feel safe. Colleagues from the SEP presented their findings from the consultation to the Action Group, and these will be helpful for anyone working to improve safety for women. You may watch their presentation on our website.

**Latest on glyphosate**

Many councils across the UK are banning or reducing the use of glyphosate, but are these decisions made by those with appropriate expertise in what is a complex area? The Amenity Forum, who support the integrated use of any vegetation management techniques, published their latest update on glyphosate based on the science and real impacts of these techniques.



**Deer Strategy for London**

The London Wildlife Trust is leading on the development of a Deer Strategy for London. Their survey (open until 16th September) hopes to assess the distribution and abundance of wild deer around Greater London, and their impacts on woodlands and other green spaces.

**Advice regarding polio risks**

In response to concerns about the risk of polio infection in connection with use of outdoor water facilities such as paddling pools, the Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) have advised that currently the risk of polio transmission from a paddling pool is miniscule and there are no additional precautions necessary other than measures that will already be in place to minimise the transmission risk of gastro intestinal infections. The PWTAG recommend parents follow NHS advice with regards to polio vaccinations and that children should not use pools or paddling pools if they are ill, or for a few days after an illness has stopped, that period should be extended to 14 days in cases of Cryptosporidiosis.

## Diary dates

**Heads of Parks Services meeting**

**13th September | 10 am–12:30 pm (online)**

**Managing London's Green Spaces with and for Communities**

Register here

**14th September | 10 am–3 pm (BOST @ The Living Space)**

**City of London photography exhibition**

'A visual History of London's Parks and Open Spaces'

**closes 18th September** (various locations)

**GoParksLondon campaign update**

Reflecting on the project's last three years and vision for the future
See how to join here

**27th September | 10–11 am (online)**

**Apprentice and Trainee Discovery Day 2022**

Free event exploring health and wellbeing benefits of greenspace
Register here

**28th September | 9:45 am–4 pm (Wisley Gardens)**

**Good Parks for London report launch**

This is a hybrid event. To join online, register here; invitations to attend in-person will be sent on 5th September

**29th September | 4–4:45 pm (online / Westminster City Hall)**

## Quick bites




Green space around housing association properties accounts for a significant part of London's green spaces. It is vital that all involved in managing these publicly accessible spaces collaborate if we are to make the most of these green assets and address inequalities in their provision and benefits.

We have partnered with the London Parks Benchmarking Group to bring together colleagues from parks operations with their counterparts engaged in green infrastructure on housing land on 14th September, with keynote speaker community development and green space expert John Little. See diary dates above.




The NHS has teamed up with the RHS to co-create healing gardens across the UK. The first of which opened this summer at University Hospital Lewisham where Landscape designer Adam Frost transformed a previously under-utilised outdoor space into a place where staff and patients can reflect and recharge. The RHS is also training and upskilling local volunteers and NHS staff to look after the garden. Find out more here.




Congratulations to the Horniman Museum and Gardens who have been announced as Art Fund Museum of the Year 2022 for their work in reaching diverse audiences and engaging with people to address the climate emergency. The £100,000 award will go to funding among other things a programme of outdoor learning activities aimed at pupils in receipt of free school meals.

**Funding opportunities**

The GLA's Grow Back Greener Fund returns for 2022, supporting London's communities to create and enhance green space and increase climate resilience. The fund will prioritise projects in areas with low tree canopy cover, at high climate risk, or where a green space is more than a 10-minute walk away. Find this and other funding opportunities here.

**Job opportunities**

There are new and exciting job opportunities at the Crystal Palace Park Trust and within the GLA Green Infrastructure Team. Find these and other posts on our website.

Remember you can advertise your green space jobs with us.

### Website quick links

Funding Opportunities
Latest News
Parks for London Action Groups
Jobs
Integrated Weed Management
Green Space Quality Manual

### Contact

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