Parks for London
Centre for Excellence

Supporter e-Update

Mar – Apr 2022

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Clean Parks for London

We are pleased to share that we launched our pan-London litter campaign during the spring holidays. Our recent litter survey suggests that upwards of £16 million is being spent annually on litter collection and disposal across London's parks and green spaces alone, funds that could be better spent elsewhere. So far the campaign, which encourages park users to take their rubbish home, is supported by 16 land managers and the Mayor of London.

As we approach the summer holidays, our campaign aims to offer supporters more resources such as designs of bin stickers and signages, which can be customised to best suit the needs of each organisation, providing unified messaging across London to help reduce litter.

For more information and to see who is supporting the campaign, please read our media release. If you wish to find out more about the campaign resources, please get in touch.



London Local Elections 2022

With the local elections on 5th May, we are taking the opportunity to raise the profile of parks and green spaces on the political agenda.

We issued a joint statement with the London Friends of Green Spaces Network to encourage friends groups and residents to remind candidates of the importance of their local parks and green spaces and the need to resource them properly.

We also joined the **More Natural Capital coalition** along with 16 other organisations to call on London Borough Councils to pledge to deliver 'A More Natural Capital' for all who live, work and play in London. The agenda calls for commitment and tougher actions around four key themes. You can find out more here.



Young Londoners' Health Survey

The survey has closed with 169 responses from young Londoners aged 16–25, providing us a snapshot of what young people think about parks and green spaces. Preliminary findings show that respondents use green spaces more since the pandemic, and typically visit them 2–3 times a week, either with friends, family or alone, mainly to escape from life's day-to-day stresses, to relax, and because they find them aesthetically pleasing. Survey results suggest young people find spending time in green spaces extremely important for their wellbeing and describe feeling calm, connected to nature, energised, happy and relaxed.

Often-cited barriers to visiting parks more frequently were that they are 'too far away' or the 'weather'. Other significant responses included not having the energy or being too busy, aside from poor lighting, maintenance, not feeling safe or confident, or being put off by reports of negative incidents.

The second phase of research will commence in May with group interviews with young people.

Other Updates

New member of the Parks for London community

We are delighted to welcome the Crystal Palace Park Trust (CPPT) as our new supporter from April 2022. It is exciting times for the Trust as they countdown to the formal transfer of the park to the trust in April 2023. The team, headed by CEO Bill LaSasso, is recruiting their first Park Manager. We are really looking forward to working with them over the coming year. If you are a park trust considering supporting us, please get in touch.

Join our Board of Trustees

We are recruiting two new trustees to formally join our Board in the Autumn, with experience in one or more of the following areas: national or local government; policy & public affairs; community, voluntary and social enterprise; environment and sustainability, and private sector CSR. If this is of interest to you or a colleague, you can find further details here. The closing date for applications is 16th May 2022.

Updates from GLA

Green and Resilient Spaces

Funding has been awarded to 19 projects. The Green & Resilient Space Fund aims to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies by supporting large-scale innovative enhancements to green and blue spaces and the wider public realm. You can find out more about the awards here.

Civil Society Roots Grant

Open until 22nd April, the funding programme is supporting organisations to develop networks, build their capacity and strengthen their voice. The ten boroughs targeted in this round of funding are Bromley, Enfield, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Newham, Redbridge, Sutton, Wandsworth.

Quick bites



From pavement to park

Formerly just a quiet underused road next to Tottenham Court Road, Alfred Place has now been transformed into Camden's newest park as part of the biggest council-led public realm and transport scheme the borough has ever seen. The West End Project is addressing traffic congestion, road safety, poor air quality and limited access to open space and nature in this area. You can find out more here or if you are in the area why not take a look.



Canary Wharf Group x Eden Project

This summer the Eden Project will have a London home in Canary Wharf, to increase biodiversity within the estate. The first project will be the creation of a green spine through the estate's centre to connect people with nature and create extraordinary new environments. The partnership aims to make Canary Wharf estate a global example of best practice and innovation on biodiversity in a dense urban environment.

You can read the full press release here.



Use of plant protection products

A reminder from the Amenity Forum: if your business uses plant protection products in Great Britain in a professional capacity, you are legally required to appear on a central register by 22nd June 2022. This applies to all organisations whatever their size or business structure. The requirement is governed by the Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020. You can register as a user here.

Diary dates

CRP Connect 4

This Earth Day-themed session looks at Sustainable Cities: Reinventing the River. Register here

28th April | 4–4:45pm (online)

Benchmarking Group meeting

Confirm your attendence here

29th April | 10 am–12 pm (online)

Heads of Parks Services meeting

10th May | 10 am–12:30 pm (online)

Green space opportunities

Remember you can advertise your green space jobs for free and explore current opportunities on our website here.

If you are looking for funding for a project, scheme or capital item, please check out over 20 opportunities currently listed on our funding page.

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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