Parks for London
Centre for Excellence

Supporter e-Update

A Christmas Special | Nov – Dec 2022

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2022 in review

As 2022 closes, we want to take this opportunity thank our supporters and the GLA, without whom we would not have been able to achieve so much over the past year, some highlights include the launches of our new Clean Parks for London campaign, the Good Parks for London 2022 report on Keeping Parks Clean, and the Young, Green, and Well report. This year we also brought together colleagues that manage smaller green spaces (including from the housing sector) to look at 'Managing London's green spaces with and for communities', we set up a new action group to tackle 'Women's Safety in Green Spaces', and partnered with Groundwork London to set up the London Green Space Skills Hub.

We have more planned for the coming year and are excited to continue working with you all. To help us focus our resources more effectively and to improve our support to you, we will be sending out an **impact evaluation survey**, which you can also access here. We really value your feedback and insights which will help inform our future work, so we do hope you will take some time to complete the survey, due by **13th January 2023**.

Finally, the Parks for London Team would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to working with you in 2023!

Highlights



Despite the recent heavy rainfall and the hosepipe ban ending in November, we are still in a drought and need to consider how parks and green spaces can use and conserve water more efficiently and effectively. Our Researcher-in-Residence, Dr Meredith Whitten has put together some articles and other resources, from the US and UK, which you might find useful:

- Making Every Drop Count: Water Management at Seattle Parks and Recreation
- Why are we still in drought despite recent rain, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
- Why are we still in drought, Water UK
- Projections for winter water resources, Oct 2022 blog from the Environment Agency's National Drought Group
- Doubling Down on Water and Energy Conservation, National Recreation and Park Association
- Keeping Green During Drought, Stanford University
- Watering Urban Green Spaces podcast

This year APSE's Parks & Open Spaces Seminar (Southern Region), focused on the provision of local parks and open spaces within the context of sustainability and climate change. The presentations given at the seminar, including one from our CE Tony Leach on 'Addressing the impacts of climate change', can be found here.



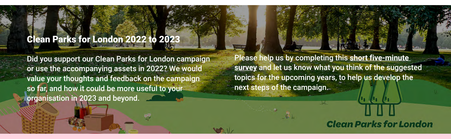
We are sad to say goodbye to Hamida Diriye, our Young Persons Health Project Officer, who over the year has been engaging with young Londoners (aged 16–25), hearing first-hand about how integral green spaces are to their mental health and what prevents them from accessing these spaces more frequently, findings of which are published in our **Young, Green, and Well** report.

We thank Hamida for all her hard work and dedication to this project, which has been kindly funded by the GLA, and wish her well in her future career in the green space sector.



> "It is clear young people want to be involved in the process and want a seat at the decision-making table so they can share their ideas on where improvements can be made in green space design, maintenance, and management. Young people no longer want to be passive participants but key stakeholders, so they can help shape the future and have ownership of these spaces."
> —Hamida Diriye

We want to encourage young people to make the most of our parks and green spaces to support their mental health and wellbeing and drive forward the report's key recommendations. However, we can only do this in partnership with others—policy makers, youth workers, educators, project initiators and voluntary sector organisations, so we are inviting you to add your views to our online **Action Plan** to see how we can best work collaboratively to promote and action the report's recommendations.



Other updates

Disease resistant Elms

Elms4London are now accepting applications from those managing suitable public realm sites, within Greater London, for disease-resistant Elm cultivars, to be planted in February 2023. The closing date for applications is 10th January 2023, you can find out more here.





Avian Flu

We are aware that cases in London, affecting various species including greylag and Canada geese, mute swan, grey heron, black-headed gull, and moorhen, have been reported. Some organisations such as London Wildlife Trust have put out guidance to the public, and we recommend you follow DEFRA guidelines to spot and report cases.

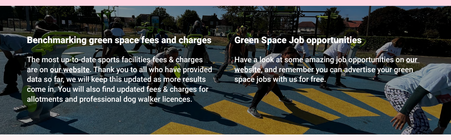
New resources

The Project for Public Spaces developed an excellent Placemaking Primer that identifies 11 key principles for transforming public spaces (parks, plazas, public squares, streets, sidewalks and more) into vibrant community places.

- Placemaking: What if We Built Our Cities Around Places

The Mayor's Good Growth by Design programme looked at women, girls and gender diverse people's safety in public space, to present a framework and a set of questions to help guide urban public projects through key project stages.

- Safety in Public Space - Women, Girls and Gender Diverse People



Updates from GLA

Green and Resilient Spaces Fund Round Two

The second round of the Mayor's Green and Resilient Spaces Fund is now open for applications from councils and other organisations, with £3m available for projects to create or improve green spaces and an additional £800,000 for large scale tree planting to boost London's climate resilience.

Grants on offer include Project Grants of between £250,000–£750,000 for green space projects that can be completed by March 2025 and Development Grants of up to £40,000 for work to be completed by March 2024 in order to create a pipeline of exemplar projects ready to deliver when additional funding becomes available.

Tree Planting Grants of £75,000–£500,000 for large scale tree planting and woodland creation sites over two planting seasons, by March 2025 are also on offer as part of the Mayor's Trees for London programme.

Applications need to be submitted by 10th February 2023, and grant applications will be reviewed by March 2023.

Grow Back Greener Fund Round Three

The Mayor has awarded a further £2 million for tree planting and green space projects across the capital through the third round of his Grow Back Greener Fund.

Diary dates

National Green Infrastructure Framework Launch

Register for the webinar
by Natural England here

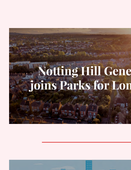
31st January | 10 am–11:30 am
(online)

Heads of Parks Services meeting

Quarterly in 2023
by popular demand

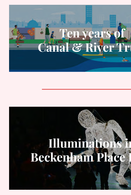
14th March | 10 am–12 pm
(online)

Quick bites



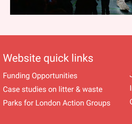
We're delighted to welcome Notting Hill Genesis to the Parks for London community. With over 66,000 homes Notting Hill Genesis are one of the largest housing associations in London.

As well as building and maintaining buildings, they invest in creating high-quality green spaces to provide inclusive and welcoming areas for people to enjoy, and for nature to thrive. We look forward to working with them in 2023.



Congratulations to the Canal & River Trust who are celebrating ten years as a charity, making life better by water.

Find out more about their achievements and how they are celebrating this landmark anniversary here.



Lewisham will be celebrating the grand finale of their year as the London Borough of Culture in the fantastic Beckenham Place Park.

There will be free magical illuminations, featuring DUNDU (see picture), across the darkest days of the year from 20th to 22nd December, showcasing the hidden beauty of the park at night.

Contact

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