Parks for London
Centre for Excellence

Supporter e-Update

Sep – Oct 2022

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We launched our new **Young, Green, and Well** report, which explores the social, cultural, and personal issues faced by young Londoners aged 16-25 when accessing green spaces.

The report provides recommendations for policy makers and project initiators from the green space sector; public realm planners and designers; health professionals, youth workers, and educators in the statutory and voluntary sectors, to improve green spaces to better support young people's mental health and wellbeing.

An online **Action Plan** is open to partners who are equally keen to improve green spaces and access for young Londoners, and progress the recommendations in the report. We welcome contributions here or please feel free to talk to us directly to get involved.

We thank the Greater London Authority for their support, and the Mental Health Foundation for hosting our report launch event on 19 October 2022, which was attended by over 40 colleagues. A recording of the event will be available on our website shortly.



- Overview report
- Request feedback for your borough
- Post-event toolkit
- Presentation slides

Our **Good Parks for London 2022: Keeping Parks Clean** report is now available, with ten practical case studies exploring how landowners are tackling litter and waste in parks and green spaces, from community involvement and litter campaigns, to bin policies and enforcement.

The report was launched on 29 September 2022, with over 140 colleagues joining us in person and online. Congratulations to the London Borough of Southwark who were this year's top performing borough and to the Royal Borough of Greenwich who showed the most significant improvement.

You can watch the event recording here to catch the brilliant presentations by foreword author and keynote speaker Julia Thrift (Town and Country Planning Association), Julian Wooley (GL Hearn), and Councillor Catherine Rose (Southwark's Lead Member for Parks, Streets and Clean Air).

We are grateful to GL Hearn for the continued support and sponsorship of the report, all participating boroughs and report contributors, and Cross River Partnership for once again hosting our launch event.



At a joint event in September with the London Parks Benchmarking Group, we brought together colleagues from housing associations, London boroughs, and independent park trusts who are managing smaller community green spaces.

John Little from the Grass Roof Company gave an inspiring presentation about how his grounds maintenance contract at a Hackney housing estate empowered tenants to manage their surrounding green space and grow food and plants. Nicola Wheeler, from Catalyst Housing, gave a presentation about The Southall Wellbeing Way, a similar project empowering residents in partnership with the Canal and Rivers Trust.

Both projects demonstrate the case for closer working between different landowners and their tenants and residents to create more diverse landscapes that are valued by their communities. You can see their presentations here.

Other Updates

London Green Space Skills Hub

We are delighted to welcome Charmaine Holland, who recently joined Groundwork as the Green Space Skills Hub Manager. The Hub will bring together a partnership of leading green space organisations to identify innovative projects that will lead to an expansion in the ways in which the green space workforce is trained and managed, now and in the future.

As joint Hub lead with Groundwork, we are looking forward to working with Charmaine to achieve its aims. You can contact Charmaine via email at charmaine.holland@groundwork.org.uk



Charmaine Holland
Green Space Skills Hub Manager

New resources

- Making up Ground—The Role of Green Infrastructure in Urban Regeneration
  by Groundwork, October 2022
- Funding Healthy Streets Assets—Guidance for Effective Public Private Partnerships in Delivering Healthy Streets Projects
  by Cross River Partnership, August 2022

Benchmarking

We have updated fees and charges benchmarking for allotments and for professional dog walkers. Results for sports facilities will be available soon. See our benchmarking page here.

Updates from GLA



Abby Crisostomo
Head of Green Infrastructure, GLA

We are pleased to introduce Abby Crisostomo, who is the new Head of Green Infrastructure at the GLA. Abby brings a wealth of experience to the role having previously worked at the GLA, and for the Environment Agency and KLH Sustainability. We are really looking forward to working with her on up-and-coming initiatives.

Rewild London Fund

Grants of up to £150,000 are available for projects to enhance Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). Apply here by 28 November 2022.

Trees for London

Get involved with the Mayor's tree planting programme: sponsor new street trees, or apply for free tree starter packs for community groups or schools.

Diary Dates

Workshops, Talks, Conferences

Take a look at what's on in November here

Benchmarking Group meeting

Managing for resilience

7th December | 10:30 am–3:30 pm (venue & booking details TBC)

Heads of Parks Services meeting

Quarterly in 2023
by popular demand

13th December | 10 am–12 pm (online)

Special Feature





Parks for Health (PfH) is a collaborative project between Camden and Islington Councils, which began in 2019 and was funded by the Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) fund. Their shared vision was to ensure that parks and green spaces are used, enjoyed, and maintained as health assets for all residents, by working with local community groups and organisations, as well as safeguarding investment. The initiative culminated in 2022 with the launch of the Camden and Islington Parks for Health Strategy.

The recent project evaluation highlighted many positive outcomes, such as an increased awareness and use of green spaces, increased green social prescribing activities, the creation of successful stakeholder networks, and great engagement between parks staff and the community. We recommend watching this short ethnographic film, made as part of the evaluation process, of participants engaging in green social prescribing activities in several parks—it wonderfully captures what this project is all about.

PfH has helped to provide a clear vision, purpose, and focus for both parks' services and their contractors, helping to better support the case for investment and resources, and has improved internal collaboration between Council departments. If you would like to speak to Camden and Islington about the project or see the evaluation report, please let us know. Learnings from the project are also available through the FPA resources hub.

Contact

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