

# Parks & Open Spaces Strategy, 2013-15

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# CHAPTER 1: Introduction

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## Foreword

Parks are central to our enjoyment of life for a number of reasons; aesthetic, social, environmental and cultural among them.

The colours, sounds, smells and textures which they contain have an aesthetic value of their own, distinct from the context within which they exist. The changing colours of trees and sky, the scents of flowers, the sound of bird song and the different textures of soft grass and rough bark, among other things, mean that parks make an important contribution to the aesthetic appeal of the towns and villages we live in irrespective of their relationship to the environment around them. This adds greatly to our health and well-being as a community, contributing greatly to our mental well-being and the pleasure which we get from the environment around us as well as being enjoyable places in which to exercise and relax.

In large towns in particular, parks and green spaces also constitute important settings for the built environment, giving it a clear sense of structure and adding to its visual appeal as well as acting to cool otherwise oppressively hot urban environments in warm months, allowing space for environmental management, and preventing the urban environment from becoming inhumanely compressed and over-bearing.

Parks are the deep reservoirs of habitat for the flora and fauna characteristic of the landscape here, constituting the veins through which the natural world can fan out into the man-made world, enriching the latter and conserving the former.

And all of this has important social consequences. Parks are places where we can play and rest, come together as families and communities, or just sit in quietly as individuals. They enable us to have better health, to remain physically active and alert throughout our whole lives, contribute to the pleasure that we take from where we live, and add to the economic attractiveness of a town as a good place to trade and do business.

Across the whole variety of parks and green spaces which we have in Havering, from country parks, to carefully designed landscapes or small town-centre squares and gardens, safe, well-maintained and cared for public parks and gardens add enormously to the pleasure which people get from living and working in Havering, and it is a pleasure to introduce the new Parks Strategy for the borough.

**Cllr. Andrew Curtin**  
**Cabinet Member for Culture, Towns and Communities**

*“In the spring the field was thick with cowslips,  
and in the hedgerows, in the tangled bank,  
under the hawthorn hedge and the ash tree,  
there were pale primroses and violets of many colours,  
from rich purple to a white touched with mauve.”*

A. S. Byatt, ‘Ragnarok’, 2011

## About the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy

Reflecting that of the Culture Strategy, our Parks & Open Spaces Strategy is driven by the very simple **ambition**:

***“To transform lives through participation in, and enjoyment of, our parks and open spaces”***

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The **purpose** of the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy is to:

*‘Provide focus and added value to the efforts of everyone involved in the planning and provision of parks and open spaces, linked to a very clear view of what will be achieved by 2015’.*

Set against Havering’s Living Ambition goals and the objectives in the Culture Strategy, this Parks & Open Spaces Strategy provides a framework for action to continue to provide and manage accessible, safe, clean, attractive, and welcoming parks and open spaces for everyone. It will:

- Provide a strategic framework for the provision and management of Parks and Open Spaces in Havering for the next three years
- Establish a clear sense of direction and provide a focus for resource allocation and action on the ground
- Maximise support for, and advocate the benefits of, Parks and Open Spaces within and outside the council
- Encourage and develop further community and stakeholder involvement and partnership
- Contribute to the following adopted objectives, set out in Havering’s Culture Strategy:
  - 1) Health and Wellbeing
  - 2) Towns and Communities
  - 3) Learning and Personal Development
- Contribute to Havering’s Living Ambitions goals:
  - 1) Environment
  - 2) Learning
  - 3) Towns and Communities
  - 4) Value
  - 5) Individuals

The Strategy has been developed following extensive consultation with the wide range of stakeholder groups, those members of the public who visit our open spaces, those who don’t, and others including providers of open space other than the council. This will be used to guide future provision, planning, management and development of these most valuable assets.

The **Objectives and Principles** of our strategy are also based on those of the Culture Strategy:

**OBJECTIVE 1:  
Health and Wellbeing**

Support a high standard of mental, physical and emotional health for all by increasing the number of people using our parks and spaces, for sport and physical activity, to socialise, to be part of the community, and for pleasure, reflection and relaxation.

**OBJECTIVE 2:  
Learning and Development**

Support learning opportunities for all, by enabling people to take part in new activities within our parks and open spaces, and to encourage enquiry, exploration and learning about our environment.

**OBJECTIVE 3:  
Towns and Communities**

Enriching our towns and communities, through protection and investment in our parks and open spaces, encouraging biodiversity, increasing usage of our parks as community spaces, and supporting the regeneration of local areas.

**PRINCIPLE 1: Community Empowerment**

Promote more active engagement in service delivery, from consultation, to volunteering, to devolving services to the local community.

**PRINCIPLE 2: Work in Partnership**

Continue to work with our partners, internal and external, and regionally across borough boundaries, to achieve shared objectives.

**PRINCIPLE 3: Inclusion & Cohesion**

Be smarter about collecting information on our customers and communities. Target new audiences and broaden access to our services, breaking down barriers to engagement where these exist, facilitating social progress and improved quality of life.

**PRINCIPLE 4: Good Value Services**

Continue to develop innovative, modern and efficient methods of service delivery, thereby maintaining the high quality of our services against a backdrop of reduced budgets, and ensuring that activities are evaluated effectively to retain a focus on outcomes for local people.

# CHAPTER 2: The Value of Parks and Open Spaces in Havering

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## 2.1 The intrinsic and instrumental value of Parks and Open Spaces

### Intrinsic Value

Green open spaces are a beautiful and precious resource that should be protected, enjoyed and celebrated, simply for what they are.

*“the sight of sky and things growing are fundamental needs, common to all”*

(Octavia Hill, National Trust founder, over 100 years ago)

Everyone benefits from parks and open spaces, whether they do so actively or even consciously. Parks and open spaces inject life into the built environment, allowing us to observe the changing seasons and to feel closer to nature and the natural environment. They provide us with a sense of place and belonging whilst also offering an escape from the stress and strain of modern urban living that can sometimes be compounded by the built environment.

### Instrumental Value

In addition to their intrinsic value, parks and open spaces present a number of other benefits which all lead to an improved quality of life for people living, working and visiting Havering. These include:

- the setting and appearance of the urban landscape, and are often part of local regeneration programmes,
- promoting positive physical, mental and emotional wellbeing,
- encouraging social inclusion and cohesion, by being open and accessible to all and acting as a focal point for communities, particularly through intergenerational recreational activities and community events which are often held in parks,
- providing opportunities for cultural participation, including through art, sport, leisure and communities events held in parks,
- promoting healthy lifestyles and providing opportunities for exercise such as walking, jogging and cycling, sports activities such as football, cricket and tennis, and a wide range of other leisure activities,
- providing space for reflection, free association and relaxation,
- promoting good mental health through the calming and therapeutic effect of nature and green space,
- providing space for people to meet in family and friendship groups thereby strengthening relationships and reducing social isolation,
- providing a safe and interesting place for children to play,
- creating nature habitats, supporting conservation and increasing biodiversity,
- improving air quality and reducing pollutants, absorbing noise and cooling air
- providing an outdoor educational resource

- providing free access to recreational activities for those on low incomes,
- providing local access to recreational activities for those with mobility difficulties or unable to travel on their own,
- contributing to the local economy through the provision of a high quality public environment which attracts residents and business to an area, - good quality green space has been shown to boost and stabilise both residential and commercial property prices and to increase trading by attracting more visitors into the area.

## **2.2 The value of Parks and Open Spaces to residents**

In the 2011 'Your Council, Your Say' Survey 76.3% of residents said they were either satisfied or very satisfied with their local parks and open spaces. Parks and open spaces were also ranked 7th in the list of priorities for making their area a nice place to live.

People tend to use their local public spaces more, and be more satisfied with them, if they include natural elements - therefore a green and pleasant space is generally also a well-used and valued space.

We are very fortunate in Havering to have approximately 6,000 hectares of green belt, which covers almost half of the borough. Parks and open spaces are one of the most frequently used public services<sup>i</sup>, with over 50% of people visiting a park at least once a week<sup>ii</sup> and many using green spaces as an integral part of daily life.

National research has found that over 90% of the public believe parks and public spaces improve their quality of life<sup>iii</sup> and provide a focal point for their local community<sup>iv</sup>.

## 2.3 Our contribution to Living Ambition

Environment	Providing beautiful and safe green spaces that local people will take pride in, that will help provide cleaner air for all, will provide pleasure, relaxation and recreation for adults, will secure places for children to play, and will contribute to the greening, attractiveness and biodiversity of the borough.
Learning	Providing opportunities for learning, through discovery of nature and heritage, through allotments food growing and horticulture, and through the sports and physical activity undertaken in our parks.
Towns and Communities	Contributing to the physical, social and economic regeneration of the borough through the provision and maintenance of high quality open spaces and by ensuring culture is at the heart of our towns and communities.
Individuals	Contributing to the quality of life of local people, improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities, by providing opportunities for participation in culture within our open spaces; parks, allotments and countryside. Providing activities for everyone, including children, young people and families, older people and disabled people, in a way that is fully inclusive and where people feel welcome and safe.
Value	Continuing to deliver an efficient, innovative and high-quality service, whilst working in partnership with internal and external agencies and through engagement with residents and groups such as Friends of Parks.

As outlined above, the Parks and Open Spaces contribute to all of the goals identified within Living Ambition, and the service is also a key partner in the delivery of a number of key specified actions in Havering's Sustainable Communities strategy, including:

- Delivering reductions in crime, through the work of our Parks Protection Service and working in partnership with the Police and Community Safety.
- Investing in the borough's parks and play areas.
- Working to bring more cultural activities and events into parks and public spaces, including a focus on activities for young people.
- Continuing to work with friends of park groups to improve use of parks and the feeling of public safety.
- Rolling out apprenticeship schemes to support young people into work.
- Encouraging the development of cultural activities in town centres, many of which take place in our parks and open spaces.
- Retaining the eight Green Flags that have previously been awarded for Havering's parks.
- Extending the conservation and biodiversity work we are undertaking with partners and community groups in our green spaces.



## 2.4 How Parks and Open Spaces deliver our objectives

The Parks & Open Spaces Strategy sits beneath the overarching framework of the Havering Culture Strategy and contains three broad objectives that will help us to prioritise our services over the next three years. This section below explains in broad terms how we will deliver against these objectives, with the action plan (page 24) defining the more detailed actions and targets.

### **Objective 1: Health and Wellbeing**

Over the last decade there has been a shift in the health agenda towards promoting healthy lifestyles, and increasing recognition of the role the environment can play in enhancing health. An increasingly inactive population has led to an increase in preventable diseases which are placing increasing pressures on the NHS. Yet green space provides a very cost effective means of promoting health and well-being, providing easily accessible and mostly free recreational opportunities through our parks, countryside, allotments, outdoor sports and events.

Parks provide spaces where people can get some fresh air, go for a walk, play football, exercise or just enjoy the surroundings. Allotments provide exercise, fresh food and opportunities of socialising. They both contribute to all aspects of health and well-being including increasing levels of physical activity, promoting mental well-being, relieving stress, overcoming isolation, improving social cohesion and alleviating physical problems. For example, a brisk walk in your local park every day, can reduce the risk of heart attacks by 50%, strokes by 50%, diabetes by 50%, fracture of the femur by 30%, colon cancer by 30%, breast cancer by 30% and Alzheimer's by 25%<sup>v</sup>.

#### ***Increasing physical activity:***

Research has shown that where people have good perceived and/or actual access to green space they are 24% more likely to be physically active<sup>vi</sup>. Evidence also suggests that participants in exercise programmes based in outdoor green environments are more likely to continue with their programme than if it is based within a gym or leisure centre<sup>vii</sup>.

Parks provide excellent facilities for a wide range of sports, fitness and leisure pursuits, and play (see below) which are open to all at nil or very low cost. For example, those who engage in a range of sport through our pitch lettings, those who participate in the 'walking for health' programme, or make use of the new Sustrans route for walking and cycling in our parks. Activity in parks provide an easy pathway from passive to active recreation, which people often take without realising it.

#### ***Reducing stress and improving emotional wellbeing:***

Clinical evidence suggests that exposure to an outdoor green environment reduces stress faster than anything else. Simply viewing nature can produce significant recovery or restoration from stress within three to five minutes<sup>viii</sup>. As technology, traffic, artificial light and noise increasingly dominate our town centres, a park or green space can be an oasis of tranquillity and calm that has a genuine effect on stress. Green space, including parks and allotments, provide many with a place of escape from their work, school or home life, as well as the stresses of daily urban life.



Focused research on the mental and emotional wellbeing of children has shown that parks and open spaces have a positive impact on children with ADHD, those who are bullied or unhappy at home, and those with high levels of stress, depression, anxiety or aggression<sup>ix</sup>. Similarly, within the field of care for the elderly, studies show that patients exposed to outdoor green environments became happier, slept better, were less restless, were able to concentrate better, were more talkative and coherent, and needed less medication<sup>x</sup>. In addition, elderly people who remain active, i.e. by taking regular walks in their local park, are less likely to fall and cause injury and therefore will continue to be independent at home for longer.

### ***Improving air quality:***

The plant life and trees found in parks and green space play an important role in improving the air quality and reducing pollutants in urban environments, which in turn helps to ease respiratory problems such as asthma and bronchitis. Open spaces also have a cooling effect in urban areas which is particularly important for older people and those who find it harder to breathe.

## **Objective 2: Learning and Personal Development**

### ***An educational resource:***

“Parks and green space provide schools with a living, breathing, fully interactive and continually changing outdoor classroom; a wonderful resource with which to support curriculum activities”<sup>xi</sup>. Access for schools is easy and free, and because they exist locally visits can be frequent allowing longer-term projects to be undertaken. For this reason, local parks have become an increasingly popular destination for study of the natural environment and life sciences.

### ***A place for informal learning***

In addition to more formal school-based learning, parks provide informal learning to the wider community through interpretation material, brochures, signs, guided walks and casual observations.

### ***Developing environmental custodians***

The level of direct contact with nature and the natural environment is a key factor in influencing people’s desire to protect and enhance it. By providing opportunities to learn about the natural environment and reconnect with nature, children and adults place a greater value on the environment and become future custodians, fighting against the spiral of local and global environmental degradation.

### ***A space for play***

Open green spaces with trees, grass, streams and nature offer excellent play opportunities for children. Significantly higher levels of creative play are found in green spaces than in the barren areas, and children playing in the green spaces also have more opportunity to be with adults, a factor that can aid the development of interpersonal skills.

## ***Training and apprenticeships***

A skilled workforce is essential in order to maintain the high quality of our parks and open spaces and to achieve the varied objectives set out within this strategy. The Parks Service are committed to ensuring our staff are well trained and equipped to maintain our open spaces, in line with the Investors in People programme and Havering's Personal Development Review programme. The Grounds Maintenance service arranges specialist courses including NVQ level 1 and 2 horticulture for operatives. In addition annual Apprenticeships are now offered in horticulture to at least four applicants. The apprentices are trained at day release college in addition to a programme of site based operations and tasks designed to supplement their college work.

## **Objective 3: Towns and Communities**

Parks and open spaces, much like any other public space, should be designed and maintained in such a way that enables people to live healthy, happy, active lives, whilst maximising opportunities for community activity, inclusion and cohesion, and contributing to their sense of place, safety and security. Parks, allotments and green open spaces are imperative to strong communities and places people want to live, work and visit.

Parks and green space makes an important contribution to the visual appeal of the environment, balancing buildings and the urban environment, and providing a visual appeal in their own right that adds to the pleasure we get from our environment.

While well managed parks and green spaces can encourage visitors, and enhance social inclusion and cohesion, poor quality spaces, scarred by the evidence of vandalism and neglect, dominated by single groups or anti-social behaviour, can blight any community.

Open spaces are both green and civic places, often the focal point for local communities, and key to the development of vibrant, healthy and sustainable towns. They should be open to all, be well used, add value to the local area and economy, and support biodiversity.

"Parks and green spaces are an integral part of daily life; from taking a walk in the local park, enjoying the fresh air and surrounding wildlife in a Country Park, participating in sports at the local recreation ground, taking a family trip to the playground, or having a picnic with old friends, parks and green spaces offer something for everyone."<sup>xii</sup>

### **Open to all, and well used**

One of the reasons parks and open spaces are so highly valued by communities is because they are open and accessible to all, providing free recreational facilities and community space. During times of economic hardship the range of freely available activities and opportunities provided by parks becomes particularly important, especially for lower income individuals and families. Recreational activities within safe and welcoming public spaces provide a means for social interaction that can help to break down the barriers of unfamiliarity, fear and isolation. Parks and open spaces stimulate contact and communication between groups who might not otherwise meet. For example, both younger and older people are regular users of the outdoor gyms provided in our parks.

## **Adding value to the local area and economy**

Parks and open spaces add value to the local area, making residents feel happier about the place they live. For example we know that residents who live near green space are more familiar with their nearby neighbours, socialize more with them, and expressed greater feelings of community and safety than residents who lack nearby green spaces<sup>xiii</sup>.

High-quality green space also has a significant impact on the economic life of urban centres. As towns and cities increasingly compete with one another to attract investment, the presence of good parks, squares and gardens becomes a vital economic lever to first attract and then retain new businesses. Attractive green space also offers very clear benefits to the local economy in terms of stimulating increased house prices, since house-buyers are willing to pay a premium to be near green space<sup>xiv</sup>.

The visual appeal and recreational offer of parks and green space contributes to the attractiveness of town centres as tourist destinations with all the associated economic benefits of this. Parks help to stimulate the recreation industry and, by hosting events, provide business for local entertainment and catering industries. Larger events can attract visitors from outside the borough and generate substantial secondary spend in the local economy. Parks also have significant potential as sites for public art.

## **Supporting biodiversity**

Parks provide valuable spaces for local people, but they also provide important habitats for local wildlife. Conserving our natural environment is important for its own sake, but also because by protecting these habitats we increase the amount and variety of flora and fauna in Havering and allow people to feel closer to nature, which many strongly value for the intrinsic enjoyment it gives them.

## **Green Corridors**

Parks Service working with colleagues in the Regeneration Service has commenced work to improve and promote the Green Corridors linking the rural to the urban areas of Havering. The Green Corridors are important for many reasons and this strategy recognises their importance and targets their development. The Green Corridors are important as they;

- Improve biodiversity by improving the spread of species along the Green Corridors
- Help create an integrated biodiverse network of species
- Provide green routes for the public to access the countryside
- Linkage of existing green spaces
- Encourage activities such as walking and cycling

## CHAPTER 3: Where are we now?

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### 3.1 What facilities and services are provided?

Havering has approximately 6,000 hectares of green belt, and is one of the greenest boroughs in London. The Parks and Open Spaces Service manages 98 sites in the borough. These include:

Eight Parks with Green Flag status:

- Bedfords Park
- Cottons Park
- Harold Wood Park
- Hylands Park
- Lawns Park
- Lodge Farm Park
- St Andrews Park
- Upminster Park

Two Country Parks:

- Havering Country Park
- Hornchurch Country Park

In London in Bloom 2012, Havering's Parks were also awarded:

- London in Bloom Biodiversity Award – Havering was in 1<sup>st</sup> place (for the second year running)
- London in Bloom Allotment Award – Havering was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- London City Award - Silver Gilt Award
- Country Park of The Year - Hornchurch Country Park received the Gold Award
- Large Park of The Year - Bedford's Park received the Gold Award
- Park of The Year - Lodge Farm Park received the Silver Gilt Award
- Small Park of The Year - Langton's Gardens received the Silver Gilt Award

#### **Biodiversity**

The central plank of parks management and maintenance is built around biodiversity. The protection, conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is 'part of the day job' in terms of the management and development of all open spaces. We help to support biodiversity both through sensitive grounds maintenance practices and through the creation of natural habitats such as wildflower and grass meadows, reed beds, butterfly and bee borders, and bird and bat boxes.

Surveys by nature conservation groups and feedback from residents has recorded an increase in species of butterfly such as Small Heath Butterfly, Small Skipper Butterfly and Six Spot Burnett Moth. In addition song birds have increased, particularly Goldfinch and Greenfinch in the borough, along with an increase in the variety of habitat. We now have more Cuckoo Flower, which feeds the Orange Tip Butterfly, Birdsfoot Trefoil which is the food plant for the Common Blue Butterfly, and White Clover which is a favourite plant of bees in the borough.

### **Grounds Maintenance Team**

Our in-house Grounds Maintenance team undertake the maintenance of the council's parks and open spaces, housing estates and the grass cutting on the street verges. Due to improved management, equipment and supervision the standards have improved considerably, resulting in improved user satisfaction over recent years.

### **Parks Protection Service**

The security of Havering's parks and open spaces is managed by the Parks Protection Service. Their objective is to move away from the prohibitive forms of security management and become leaders in the community, building respect for the park and local peer pressure, which will help make local open spaces more 'self-policing'.

### **Country Park Rangers**

Our two country parks, Havering Country Park and Hornchurch Country Park, are managed by the Park Ranger Service. Country Parks are a great asset to Havering and need to be promoted to encourage more people to use them. Part of the role of the Rangers is to provide environmental education to a wide range of community groups, schools and local volunteers.

### **Parks Maintenance**

A small team of operatives maintain and repair the non-horticultural elements of parks, including repairs to play equipment, park furniture, gates, locks, fencing and surfaces.

### **Parks Development**

The Parks and Open Spaces Section manages 880Ha of open space. The development and public liaison officers who plan the improvement programmes in parks, manage the standards of maintenance, deal with the day to day issues, consult with the public and attend with the Friends of Parks.

### **Allotments**

The Parks and Open Spaces Service manages 27 allotment sites in the borough. See Appendix 3 for the full list.

### **Rural Public Rights of Way**

The Parks and Open Spaces Service have a maintenance responsibility for ensuring there is uninterrupted access to the rural public rights of way. This includes public footpaths and bridleways. We are also responsible for maintaining the accessibility of the paths, both directly and indirectly.

## **Historic Buildings and Landscapes**

The Parks and Open Spaces Service have a number of sites that have a rich heritage. In addition there are many buildings and structures located in our parks of historical importance and value. The Historic Buildings and Landscapes officer provides technical advice on the maintenance, restoration and promotion of historic buildings and landscapes. See the Heritage and History Strategy for more information.

## **Partner Organisations who manage open space within Havering**

There are many organisations who manage open space within Havering. Some of these are internal departments such as Streetcare with responsibility for roadside verges, Homes in Havering with responsibility for communal housing open space and the schools and academies with their playing fields and school grounds. Havering's Cemetery Service manage graveyard in Upminster, Romford and Hornchurch.

There are a number of external organisations who manage open space in Havering, key amongst these are:

- the Forestry Commission under Thames Chase who manage Pages Wood, Sealy Wood, Berwick Glades, Honnetts Wood, Folks Lane Woodland, Harold Court Woods, Ingrebourne Hill, Mardyke Woods, Thames Chase Forestry Centre and Tylers Wood.
- the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) with their management of large areas of Rainham Marshes.
- Tarmac with their management of Berwick Woods,
- the Stubbers Adventure Centre at Upminster, which is independently managed as a youth adventure site.

All of the green space managed either by Havering Council or by external organisations will have a recreational and biodiversity value.

## **The Friends of Havering's Parks**

Havering is fortunate to have a large number of people who actively support the parks through their local Friends groups. The groups carry out a range of tasks that improve the park and supplement the works of the grounds maintenance team. The groups are categorised into two types - the "Friends" groups and the "Official Friends" groups. See Appendix 2 for the list of Friends groups and their activities.

The Official Friends is a voluntary scheme open to all Friends groups. To be awarded Official Friends status the groups need to meet a number of criteria. They then enter into a contract with the Parks Service which states they will undertake a number of tasks and they will operate to an agreed code of practice. In return the Parks Service provides resources to each of the Official Friends groups in the form of support and financial assistance.

## **Allotment Societies**

The Council works in partnership with seven Allotment Societies who have day to day management responsibility of allotment sites across the borough. See Appendix 3 for the full list.

## 3.2 Significant achievements since the last Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

Just a few examples of achievements and service improvements delivered over the last few years include:

- Crime and anti-social behaviour in open spaces has been more effectively identified and tackled through the work of the Parks Protection Team, and we have a strong partnership with the Metropolitan Police to work jointly to reduce crime, the fear of crime and other issues within open spaces.
- Significant external investment for pitches and changing facilities has been made, and we have provided additional football pitches, an additional ATP (at Broxhill) and refurbished tennis courts in line with the last needs assessment of green spaces.
- Opportunities for sustainable self-management of local open spaces by community groups has been evaluated and developed.
- Play equipment suitable for disabled children has been installed in a number of parks.
- Nature conservation and biodiversity now form an inherent part of the development and maintenance of all parks and open spaces.
- Eight Green Flag have been awarded, and maintained over the last three years.
- Eight park-specific leaflets have been published annually.
- Creation of the “Official Friends programme”, in partnership with Friends of Parks groups.
- Creation and development of the Havering Open Spaces Forum.
- Implementation of a new policy for the management arrangements for tennis courts in Havering through the new Tennis Strategy.
- Realignment of the Parks and Open Spaces revenue budgets in order to aid management and control.
- Review of parks bylaws undertaken.
- Improvement plans produced for the Country Parks to include interpretation, signage, visitor facilities, car parking, play equipment and play in the natural environment. We also reviewed staffing arrangements and increased the number of Park Rangers.
- Cleansing operations in parks and open spaces reviewed and improved.
- CCTV installed in key locations in parks and open spaces.
- All open space facilities audited and actions identified to ensure we meet our obligations in the Equality Act 2012 and Public Sector Equality Duty.
- New parks signage installed in many of our parks.
- Biodiversity improved as a result of changing the management of grass mowing and sowing wild flower meadows.
- Regulating the use of parks for football training thereby improving the service to clubs and safeguarding children.
- Recruiting seasonal employees rather than agency staff within the Grounds maintenance Service.
- Acquiring the lodge in Raphael Park as a base of operations for the out of hours service.
- Tighter controls imposed on the locking/unlocking procedure for parks.
- Computerisation of grounds maintenance management by using the Mayrise system.
- Recruitment of apprentices on an annual basis and training them to NVQ level 2.
- Delivery of the Playbuilder project, which improved over 14 play areas in parks across the borough.
- Successful applications made for funding to enable the restoration of Raphael Park and Langtons Gardens.

### 3.3 SWOT analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong public and political support</li> <li>• Strong, active and numerous Friends Groups</li> <li>• Proactive and experienced Parks Management team</li> <li>• Wide range of park types available in the borough</li> <li>• Good level of security in parks</li> <li>• High levels of consultation activity</li> <li>• Public satisfaction is rising each year</li> <li>• Consistently maintaining eight Green Flags</li> <li>• Effective corporate method of tree management</li> <li>• Highly rated parks management plans</li> <li>• Good range of children’s play areas</li> <li>• A number of sites are protected (SSSI and QE2 sites)</li> <li>• Biodiversity is seen as a core plank for developing parks</li> <li>• Wide range of sports played in parks</li> <li>• Equipment/plant/machinery all recently renewed</li> <li>• Good data available (e.g. Mayrise mapping of parks, QVA data over last 4 years, Iris2 parks protection tool)</li> <li>• Good geographic spread of parks that match the areas of highest population.</li> <li>• Maintenance is at different standards (i.e. Green Flag parks and Top25 Parks have higher level of maintenance)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparatively low level of financial resources given the extent of the area to be managed</li> <li>• Over-stretched in peak periods or poor weather</li> <li>• Unable to resource events or play programmes</li> <li>• Depots for grounds maintenance are of a poor standard</li> <li>• Litter management could be improved</li> <li>• Dog fouling continues to be a problem for the public</li> <li>• Flytipping continues to be a problem in some parks although the Parks Protection Team respond to this well</li> <li>• Demand for pitches often outstrip their availability</li> <li>• Cricket costs are only partially recovered (considering pitch maintenance)</li> <li>• Bowling clubs are declining and some may soon cease to exist</li> <li>• Lack of public toilets</li> <li>• Only a few parks have an on-site presence</li> <li>• No current Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>• Low insurance cover</li> <li>• Too many trees to manage proactively within current resources</li> <li>• A number of paths are in a poor condition</li> <li>• Large capital investment is required to improve the standard of some parks</li> <li>• Lack of data collected about the usage of our parks</li> </ul>



Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further income generation methods to be explored</li> <li>• Opportunities for external funding</li> <li>• Increased use of the web and internet to communicate with our customers</li> <li>• Staff training could be increased (e.g. grounds maintenance)</li> <li>• Volunteering could be increased, particularly in Country Parks</li> <li>• More scope for Friends groups to run activities in parks</li> <li>• Could run more educational walks and talks</li> <li>• High level stewardship (using agricultural methods to maintain grassed areas)</li> <li>• Grants for woodland management schemes</li> <li>• Scope for more play areas to be more inclusive</li> <li>• Catering opportunities</li> <li>• Not all sites have notice boards</li> <li>• Adopt new byelaws</li> <li>• Work with partners to develop sites</li> <li>• Opportunities for public art in parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local government funding budget cuts</li> <li>• Restructuring and reprioritisation of Council resources</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Fire damage on grassland meadows</li> <li>• Break-ins at depots and loss of plant/machinery</li> <li>• Injuries to children in play areas</li> <li>• More services being added to those already delivered without equivalent increase in resources / funding</li> <li>• Some income targets are historically high and therefore challenging</li> </ul>

### 3.4 Responding to a changing community

Over the next decade the demographic make-up of Havering's population will change. The Parks and Open Spaces of Havering will take account of the predicted changes to the community needs and demands when planning future service delivery.

At the time of writing, there are approximately 240,000 people living in Havering, with population projections predicting a 5% increase by the end of this strategy (2015) and a 13% increase by 2021<sup>xv</sup>.

- It is anticipated that the current provision of parks and open spaces, in terms of area, would be adequate to absorb this increase in population. However there will be areas (Gooshays) where the population is expected to rise significantly due to local development. The parks in these areas would need to be reviewed and where required improved to take the anticipated additional usage. Gooshays remains the most deprived ward in Havering and has greater health issues.



#### An ageing population

The 2011 census calculated the average age for residents in Havering as 40 – the highest average age in London and above the England average. 17.9% of residents were over 65 and 2.6% were over 85. The percentage of older people is due to increase significantly over the next few years. In 2011 there were 1,937 people over 90, by the end of this strategy (2015) there will be 2,496, and by 2021 there will be 3,297 (a 70% increase).

- We will need to respond to this aging population and associated demands / pressures on the service. Older people require more benches, good pathways and more types of passive recreation facilities such as walks to encourage people out into the parks to keep them healthy. In addition the programme of outdoor gyms being installed provides free exercise facilities and a social meeting area for older people.

#### Increasing children and young people

The 2011 census found 5.8% of Havering's population were under 5s – the lowest in London (though set to increase by 15% in 2015 and by 23% in 2021). The 5-9 bracket is currently about average for London, but is set to increase significantly over the next few years (from 13,307 in 2011 to 15,157 in 2015 and 18,424 in 2021 – a 38% increase).

An estimated 19% of children are thought to live in poverty in Havering, 27% live in lone-parent families, and approximately 400 families have been categorised as having multiple complex needs, with a further 2,000 families categorised as 'barely coping'.

- The free recreation and play that the parks provide are a key factor in ensuring the wellbeing and social development of children.
- To meet the demand of additional children the issue of Play will require strategic delivery to ensure maximising the potential benefit of facilities for children. In order to deliver Play strategically in Havering a Play Strategy has been drafted. This document focuses on bring the joint resources of the many agencies who deliverer play services in order to provide a co-ordinated approach and to ensure the use of resources is targeted and delivered with the best possible efficiency.

## **Ethnicity**

The population of Havering is the least ethnically diverse in London, but it is becoming more diverse. The highest ethnic diversity in Havering is amongst young people, with 23% of school pupils in 2011 coming from non-white ethnic backgrounds, primarily Black African descent. Some estimates predict the current percentage of BME residents could grow 21% by 2016 and 40% by 2021<sup>xvi</sup>.

## **Disability**

Approximately 17.5% of working age residents in Havering are disabled<sup>xvii</sup>, and approximately 49% of Havering residents aged 65 or older have a limiting long term illness<sup>xviii</sup>. Of these 65+ residents with a limiting long term illness, 7,742 also live alone<sup>xix</sup>. The JSNA states that this number of disabled people in Havering may increase by 7% over the next ten years, while the number of adults with learning disabilities may increase by the same amount.

- The Parks must comply with the requirements of the 2010 Equality Act and Public Sector Equality Duty in order to provide open access to all members of the community.
- Our play areas must be designed to be inclusive to children with a range of disabilities.

## **3.6 An overview of strategic national, regional and local documents relevant to the delivery of parks and open spaces**

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

The NPPF was published at the end of March 2012 and sets out the Government's planning policies for England. It replaces 44 Planning Policy Statements (PPS), Planning Policy Guidance (PPG), Circulars and Letters with a concise framework of around 50 pages.

The protection for open space and playing fields is reinforced in the new NPPF, stating that such land should not be built on unless an assessment shows that: i) the land is surplus to requirements, ii) the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in a suitable location, or iii) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

The NPPF includes provisions for the designation of Local Green Spaces by communities. Where open spaces which are "important to local communities" (which may include playing fields) are designated as Local Green Space in the development plan, they will be protected as strongly as Green Belt.

The Government continues to attach great importance to the Green Belt concept saying that boundaries should only be altered in exceptional circumstances. The NPPF also recognises the 'the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside' as a core planning principle which applies whether that countryside is specifically designated or not.

### **Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services**

This ambitious biodiversity strategy for England builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and provides a comprehensive picture of how we are implementing our international and EU commitments. It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade, building on the successful work that has gone before, but also seeks to deliver a real step change. The strategy aims to deliver outcomes in four areas:

- a more integrated large-scale approach to conservation on land and at sea
- putting people at the heart of biodiversity policy
- reducing environmental pressures
- improving our knowledge

### **The London Plan, 2011**

The Mayor has published the replacement of the spatial development strategy for London – known as the London Plan. The London Plan is the overall strategic plan for London, and it sets out a fully integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the

development of the capital to 2031. It forms part of the development plan for Greater London. London boroughs' local plans need to be in general conformity with the London Plan, and its policies guide decisions on planning applications by councils and the Mayor.

London's public spaces should be secure, accessible, inclusive, connected, easy to understand and maintain, relate to local context, and incorporate the highest quality design, landscaping, planting, street furniture and surfaces.

London's heritage assets and historic environment, including registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account. London's landscape heritage provides a depth of character that has immeasurable benefit to the city's economy, culture and quality of life. Natural landscapes can help to provide a unique sense of place.

*Policy 7.16 : Green Belt*

The Mayor strongly supports the current extent of London's Green Belt, its extension in appropriate circumstances and its protection from inappropriate development. The strongest protection should be given to London's Green Belt, in accordance with national guidance. Inappropriate development should be refused, except in very special circumstances. Development will be supported if it is appropriate and helps secure the objectives of improving the Green Belt as set out in national guidance.

*Policy 7.18 : Protecting local open space and addressing local deficiency*

The Mayor supports the creation of new open space in London to ensure satisfactory levels of local provision to address areas of deficiency. The loss of local protected open spaces must be resisted unless equivalent or better quality provision is made within the local catchment area. Replacement of one type of open space with another is unacceptable unless an up to date needs assessment shows that this would be appropriate.

When assessing local open space needs, LDFs should:

- a) include appropriate designations and policies for the protection of local open space
- b) identify areas of public open space deficiency, using the open space categorisation set out in Table 7.2 as a benchmark for all the different types of open space identified therein
- c) ensure that future open space needs are planned for in areas with the potential for substantial change such as opportunity areas, regeneration areas, intensification areas and other local areas
- d) ensure that open space needs are planned in accordance with green infrastructure strategies to deliver multiple benefits.

**All London Green Grid SPG (2012)**

The All London Green Grid takes the principles of the East London Green Grid and applies them across London. The concept of a "green grid" – an integrated network of green and open spaces together with the Blue Ribbon Network of rivers and waterways – is at the centre of the London Plan's approach to the provision, enhancement and management of green infrastructure (Policy 2.18). This network of spaces functions best when designed and managed as an interdependent 'grid'.

The ALGG SPG aims to promote the concept of green infrastructure, and increase its delivery by boroughs, developers, and communities, by describing and advocating an approach to the design and management of green and open spaces to deliver hitherto unrealised benefits. These benefits include sustainable travel, flood management, healthy living, and creating distinctive destinations; and the economic and social uplift these support.

### **Havering Local Development Framework**

Havering's Local Development Framework has a number of conditions and policies which aim to protect and enhance the green environment of the borough. Two of the key policies are listed below:

- **DC18 – Protection of Public Open Space, Recreation, Sport and Leisure Facilities**
- **DC20 – Access to Recreation and Leisure including Open Space**

## CHAPTER 4: Our Action Plan (2013-15)

### OBJECTIVE 1: Health and Wellbeing

Support a high standard of mental, physical and emotional health for all by increasing the number of people using our parks and spaces, for sport and physical activity, to socialise, to be part of the community, and for pleasure, reflection and relaxation.

Objective / Tasks	Base line position 2012	Target 2015	Culture Strategy Principle
Annually undertake an assessment of Children's Play Areas, MUGAs/Teenage areas in line with GLA guidance. This will include an assessment of current provision and future requirements for outdoor play facilities in the borough for children and teenagers	Independent play area inspections carried out annually for all Children's Play Areas, MUGAs/ Teenage areas in line with GLA guidance.	Continue to undertake independent play area inspections carried out annually for all Children's Play Areas, MUGAs/Teenage areas in line with GLA guidance.	3,4
To hold quarterly meetings with Allotment Society representatives and to produce an annual allotment improvement plan.	Quarterly meetings held with Allotment Society representatives and an annual allotment improvement plan is produced.	Continue to ensure quarterly meetings are held with Allotment Society representatives and an annual allotment improvement plan is produced.	2,4
Develop a Public Art Plan for Havering to include opportunities for high quality public art in open spaces throughout the borough	No public art plan for art in public open spaces	Public Art Plan agreed by Lead Member	2
Increase the use of parks for playing sports, targeting football and seek investment for pitches and changing facilities from private investors, the Football Foundation, the FA, Sport England or through Section 106 agreements	Limited external funding for investment for pitches and changing facilities	New facilities delivered through external investment	2,4
Provide additional football pitches, an additional Astroturf Pitch (ATP), and refurbished tennis courts	No ATPs in Havering's parks managed by the Parks Service. Under-used courts at Broxhill and Spring Farm Park	Install a new ATP and develop the tennis facilities at Broxhill.	4

Continue the development of tennis in the borough, as set out in the Tennis Strategy. Hold quarterly meetings with the Tennis Forum to review/ develop management arrangements for tennis courts in Havering.	Tennis Strategy in place and quarterly meetings held.	Review of the tennis strategy. Quarterly meetings continue.	2
To hold an annual meeting with the clubs that use Havering's football pitches in order to review and develop the management arrangements for football in Havering	Annual meeting held with the clubs that use Havering's football pitches	Havering Football Forum established	1,2,4
Provide a skate facility for young people in the Harold Hill area	No skate facility in Harold Hill	New skate facility in Harold Hill	1,4
Continue to make sure that open spaces are safe and secure for children and young people by controlling anti-social behaviour	System of play area inspections requires revision and systems analysis	Revised play area inspections system established	3
Undertake annual efficiency reviews on the rationalisation of the fleet operations	Efficiency review last undertaken 2010	Efficiency review undertaken annually	4
Ensure that play equipment and teenage facilities offer opportunity for all young people including girls and those with disabilities	Many play areas have items for young people including girls and those with disabilities	All play areas have items for young people including girls and those with disabilities	3
Reduce the problems caused by irresponsible dog owners in parks i.e. dog fouling and aggressive dogs	No campaign in place to educate the public, limited data on scale of the problem	Public awareness campaign in place and good data available on dog issues.	1,4
Install out door gyms to improve local access to fitness equipment	9 sites with outdoor gyms	13 sites with outdoor gyms	4
Draft an improvement plan to ensure that all sites are accessible to disabled people	No plan in place for the improvement of disabled access	Plan for the improvement of disabled access reviewed annually	3
Annually set affordable fees and charges that cover the cost of provision for some activities in parks	Not all costs recovered by all activities	Fees and charges cover a higher percentage of costs for activities	4



Continue to develop a permit system with our partners to ensure that people coaching sports in our parks are qualified and safe to do so.	Permit system trialled in first year	Permit system established	2,3
Create groups of conservation volunteers	No clear groups of conservation volunteers	Conservation groups established and operational	1
Annually review and report cleansing performance indicators.	Cleansing performance indicators reviewed reported on annually	Continue to review and report on cleansing performance indicators annually	4
Continue to work with partners to encourage use of open spaces for walking and cycling, and identify opportunities to develop these.	Strong walking for health programme, sustrans route, and other initiatives. Exploring 2012 cycling legacy.	Continue to support the walks programme, promote the sustrans route and work with partners to identify new opportunities.	2

## OBJECTIVE 2: Learning and Development

Support learning opportunities for all, by enabling people to take part in new activities within our parks and open spaces, and to encourage enquiry, exploration and learning about our environment.

Objective / Tasks	Base line position 2012	Target 2015	Culture Strategy Principle
Install new signage at 10 parks and open spaces entrances throughout the borough by the end of the Strategy period	Old signs at affected parks and open spaces	10 sites with new signage installed	4
Deliver an 'Annual Report' to the general public regarding the development of Parks and Open Spaces in the previous year to the Open Space Forum.	Report delivered annually at the Open Space Forum	Report delivered annually at the Open Space Forum	1,2,4
Annually provide information to be publicised the Heritage Brochure working together with a range of partners including other departments, local community groups and others.	Information provided for the Heritage Brochure, and for Discover Havering 2012	Continue to provide information to the Heritage Brochure. Next publication due for 2013.	1,2,4
Create a Friends of Havering Open Spaces Forum, led by the community and supported by the council, which will serve as an umbrella	First meeting of the Friends of Havering Open Spaces Forum	Regular meetings of the Forum all Official Friends Groups to send representatives.	1,2

organisation to 'Friends of' groups and organise an annual Open Spaces conference			
Develop partnerships with external agencies such as East London Green Grid, GreenSpace, London Parks and Greenspace Forum and the London Parks Benchmarking Group.	Regular meetings with GreenSpace, London Parks and Greenspace Forum and the London Parks Benchmarking Group	Partnership working established with East London Green Grid	2
Liaise with local schools in order to reduce issues of anti-social behaviour and promote the parks	Some engagement with schools	Increased engagement with schools	1,2,3
Undertake educational programmes in schools and on site targeted at reducing anti-social "hot-spots"	No educational programmes in schools and on site targeted at reducing anti-social "hot-spots"	Educational programmes in schools and on site targeted at reducing anti-social "hot-spots" established	1,2,3
To assist with the development of the revised Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), including setting targets that are measured annually	BAP in need of revision	Revised BAP in place	4
Play a leading role in the BAP Partnership in promoting the BAP	No BAP Partnership in place	Parks with a leading role in the BAP Partnership in promoting the BAP	2
Ensure that nature conservation forms a central plank in the development and maintenance of all parks and open spaces	Biodiversity is delivered non strategically	Biodiversity issues included in all parks management plans and staff training and awareness.	4
Increase the amount of downloadable material on the heritage and biodiversity of our parks and open spaces	Limited sites (Green Flag Parks) with information available on the heritage and biodiversity of our parks and open spaces	Each site to have information on the web on heritage and biodiversity.	1
Investigate the use of High Level Stewardship in managing large areas of country park. To have at least one extra park where this method of management has been adopted by the end of this strategy	Only one site with High Level Stewardship in place	High Level Stewardship used at most of the large country style parks	4
Ensure that biodiversity is considered on a par with other issues when drafting management	Biodiversity issues included in all parks management	Biodiversity issues remain included in all parks	4

plans, maintenance specifications and development plans for our parks and open spaces	plans management plans, maintenance specifications and development plans for our parks and open spaces	management plans management plans, maintenance specifications and development plans for our parks and open spaces	
Ensure that biodiversity issues are inherent and understood in all open spaces management operations e.g. use of pesticides, choice of plant species, maintenance operations, training of staff and contractors	Biodiversity issues included in management plans, but limited staff training and awareness	Biodiversity issues included in all parks management plans, more staff training to be provided and awareness increased.	4
Annually review Management Plans for the Country Parks	No full management plans for all Country Parks	Management Plans drafted and reviewed in December annually	4
Develop and train our staff, partners, community groups and volunteers where appropriate in order to bridge any skills shortages that are identified and these are rectified.	No programme for training partners, community groups and volunteers	Training programme established at Bedfords Park Walled Garden for training partners, community groups and volunteers	1,2,3,4
Invest in the annual employment of a number of Horticultural Apprentices	Two apprentices employed	Four apprentices employed	4
Review the opportunity for external funding for improvement projects in the Parks and Open Spaces	No reviews held	Annual external funding opportunity reviews established	4
Produce a prioritised list of sites that require a management plan and ensure these are completed before the end of this strategy.	Only 8 Green Flag Parks have full management plans	16 parks to have full management plans	4
Negotiate with other service departments to introduce the Mayrise computerised Grounds Maintenance software management programme to the grounds maintenance of Housing estates and the grass cutting on the street verges	Only Parks Service using Mayrise	Mayrise used on all sites that have grounds maintenance	2,4
Set up a number of measurable projects delivered through the Probation Service	Very limited use of the Probation Service	A range of SMART targeted projects being delivered using the Probation Service	2,3

### OBJECTIVE 3: Towns and Communities

Enriching our towns and communities, through protection and investment in our parks and open spaces, encouraging biodiversity, increasing usage of our parks as community spaces, and supporting the regeneration of local areas.

Objective / Tasks	Base line position 2012	Target 2015	Culture Strategy Principle
Develop online performance monitoring systems for crime and anti-social behaviour issues working in partnership with other agencies.	System under development	System fully tried tested and in operation	4
Annually undertake Quality and Value assessments of all open spaces in a systematic manner	QVA's undertaken systematically annually	Continue to undertake QVA's systematically annually	4
Continue to compile a photographic library of Havering's parks and open spaces	Parks photographed on a random basis	Regular annual photographic recording set up.	4
Develop and publicise an annual events programme in Havering's open spaces by working together with a range of partners including Sports and Arts teams, the Youth Service, Thames Chase, Havering Country Parks and local community groups.	No annual events programme	An annual events programme developed and publicised	1,2
Develop the 'Official' Friends groups and provide further incentives to encourage them to make positive active contributions to improve parks and open spaces.	Seven Official Friends groups	Twelve Official Friends groups	1
Meet the Metropolitan Police, the Community Safety Partnership and other land owners on a regular basis in order to work jointly to solve crime and disorder issues within parks and open spaces	Meetings with the Met Police, the Community Safety Partnership and other land owners on a regular basis, to work jointly to solve crime and disorder issues within parks and open spaces.		2
Produce a policy for the licensing of public events	No policy for licensing of public events	Policy for licensing public events established	4

Monitor the use of open spaces by all community groups on a regular and systematic basis by means of surveys	Surveys not set up on an annual basis	Regular annual surveying taking place	1,4
Ensure that 'Official Friends groups' are representative of their local community	Friends group numbers are falling, with few new members taken on, and limited targeting of membership from underrepresented groups in the community	Friends groups more representative of the local community	1,2
Work with all sections of the community to hold events that reflect the needs of the community	Official Friends Groups hold Family Fun days	Fun days expanded to sports clubs and other Friends groups	1
Liaison will take place on a regular basis in order to understand the views and needs of the community.	Officers regularly attend meetings of all the parks Friends of groups	Officers continue attend meetings of all the parks Friends of groups	1
Improve and develop Central Park under the Harold Hill ambitions programme	Improvements to Central Park in the planning stage	New park landscape delivered	1,2,3,4
Improve and develop Raphael Park under the Heritage Lottery Fund - Parks for People Programme	Improvements to Raphael Park in the planning stage	New park landscape delivered	1,2,3,4
Improve and develop Langtons Gardens under the Heritage Lottery Fund - Parks for People Programme	Improvements to Langton Gardens in the planning stage	New park landscape delivered	1,2,3,4
Improve and develop the Walled Garden at Bedfords Park via external funding and partnership arrangements	Improvements to the Walled Garden at Bedfords Park in the planning stage	Wall Garden restoration project delivered	1,2,3,4
Improve and develop Broxhill Park under the Harold Hill ambitions programme	Improvements to Broxhill Park in the planning stage	New park landscape delivered	1,2,3,4
Update the byelaws for Parks and Open Spaces	Comprehensive review of byelaws for Parks and Open Spaces undertaken	New Parks and Open Spaces byelaws adopted	4
Target the main areas of anti-social behaviour and forms of antisocial behaviour, including: Poaching, Motorbikes in parks, Dogs and Horse Riding.	Targeting methods in trial period	Targeting methods established and fully operational	1,2,3,4

Develop the use of CCTV in parks and open spaces in order to protect key high security areas, e.g. Depots.	Limited use of CCTV at some depots	CCTV used in parks and open spaces to protect all key high security areas	4
Continue to develop "Park Watch" schemes.	Limited Park Watch areas	All major parks with established Park Watch schemes	1,2,3,4
Maintain partnerships with local schools, Friends groups , Essex Wildlife Trust, Thames Chase and other nature conservation groups (including Havering Wildlife Trust) to develop tasks, events and initiatives in parks and open spaces with a nature conservation purpose	Partnerships established but few tasks and events delivered in parks and open spaces with a nature conservation purpose	A range of tasks and events delivered through partnerships with local schools, Friends groups , Essex Wildlife Trust, Thames Chase and other nature conservation groups (including Havering Wildlife Trust)	2
Undertake a study of signage and interpretation within the parks to improve physical and intellectual access for visitors	No study on signage and interpretation within parks to improve physical and intellectual access	Study undertaken and information used to improve signage physical and intellectual access for visitors	1,2,3,4
Make applications for the existing eight Green Flags in each year of this Strategy	8 Green Flags retained	8 Green Flags retained	4
Make applications for further Green Flags to any Heritage Lottery Funded redevelopment schemes carried out during the term of this strategy.	8 Green Flags	10 Green Flags (HLF requirement of Langtons and Raphael Park)	4
Consider the issue of sustainable self-management of local open spaces by community groups or partners where appropriate	Limited use of sustainable self-management of local open spaces by community groups or partners	Targeted sites - Secret Garden and Bedfords Walled garden managed through sustainable self-management	1,2,4
Agree a way forward for Bretons	No agreement yet reached	Masterplan for Bretons agreed	1,2,3,4
Improve and develop Upminster Windmill under the Heritage Lottery Fund -Parks for People Programme	Improvements to Upminster Windmill in the planning stage	Funding Awarded and restoration project in progress	1,2,3,4
Improve and develop Parklands Bridge	Improvements to Parklands Bridge in planning stage	Bridge fully restored	1,2,3,4
Rivers Officer and Parks & Open Spaces team to discuss management of the Ingrebourne River.	Current problems with flooding need addressing	Problems with flooding resolved.	2

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- <sup>i</sup> CABE Space (2010) Urban Green Nation: Building the Evidence Base
- <sup>ii</sup> Keep Britain Tidy (2010) People, Places and their Green Spaces
- <sup>iii</sup> CABE Space (2005) Parks and Squares: Who Cares.
- <sup>iv</sup> GreenSpace (2010) GreenSTAT visitor survey system
- <sup>v</sup> Bird, W.(2002) Green Space and our Health; paper to London Greenspace conference
- <sup>vi</sup> Natural England (2009) Technical Information Note TIN055: An estimate of the economic and health value and cost effectiveness of the expanded WHI scheme 2009
- <sup>vii</sup> British Military Fitness (2001) Paper to UPF conference; Parks, what's the use?
- <sup>viii</sup> Ulrich, R. S. (1999) Effects of gardens on health outcomes: Theory and research. In C. Cooper-Marcus & M. Barnes (Eds.), Healing Gardens: Therapeutic Benefits and Design Recommendations. New York: John Wiley, pp.27-86.
- <sup>ix</sup> GreenSpace (2011) Understanding the Contribution Parks and Green Spaces can make to Improving People's Lives
- <sup>x</sup> Grahn P (1989) Att Uppleva Parken, taken from GreenSpace (2011) Understanding the Contribution Parks and Green Spaces can make to Improving People's Lives
- <sup>xi</sup> Urban Parks Forum. (2002). Your Parks: the benefits of parks and green space
- <sup>xii</sup> GreenSpace (2011) Understanding the Contribution Parks and Green Spaces can make to Improving People's Lives
- <sup>xiii</sup> GreenSpace (2011) Understanding the Contribution Parks and Green Spaces can make to Improving People's Lives
- <sup>xiv</sup> GreenSpace (2011) Understanding the Contribution Parks and Green Spaces can make to Improving People's Lives
- <sup>xv</sup> Interim 2011-based Subnational Population Projections
- <sup>xvi</sup> Projected Ethnicity Growth in Havering, London & Outer London Boroughs 2011-2021. Round Population Group Projections, Greater London Authority, 2010 (14).
- <sup>xvii</sup> Working Age People with Disabilities, Annual Population Survey: Department for Work and Pensions, (2012).
- <sup>xviii</sup> Limiting Long Term Illness in Havering, Census: Office of National Statistics, (2001).
- <sup>xix</sup> Residents Aged 65+, Living Alone with LTLI, POPPI, (2012). Available online at [www.poppi.org.uk](http://www.poppi.org.uk)