



Green Flag Award 2012/2013 Streatham Rookery

Bandscores

Desk Assessment	0-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-30			
Field Assessment	20-29	30-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-70
Overall score	30-44	45-54	55-59	60-65	66-69	70-74	75-79	80+

Status – pass

Overall band score 65-69

Desk Assessment Feedback

Band score 20-24

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
Presentation	Good Logic Well written	Include more about the Heritage Lottery Fund as this has a big bearing on the park and was only briefly mentioned at this stage. The “Vision statement” should be expanded with actions at the beginning to reflect recent activity in the garden i.e. a short precis of the garden in 2013 and the things that have been done recently to improve it. The friends’ vision statement as a context would get the energy and actions of the friends and council across
Health, Safety & Security	V thorough risk assessment	
Maintenance of equipment, buildings & landscape	All covered.	

Litter, cleanliness, vandalism	All covered	No mention of recycling, so expand if possible.
Environmental Sustainability	<p>Much is covered. Good use of water in fountains.</p> <p>Water preservation via mulching of beds good (despite the fact no evidence was seen of this on site). Sustainable planting a good idea</p>	<p>Plans for “sustainable planting” mentioned but what and where specifically as to what will be replaced? An audit of planting types in the rookery would be useful including which plants are insect friendly, and which planting beds will be replaced and why.</p> <p>No mention of recycling bins; if there is no need or not possible to install not a problem but should be mentioned</p> <p>Specify what is meant by semi-improved grassland (page 55) and explain if it does it have value for nature.</p> <p>A good aim would be to grow some of the plants for the Rookery in the community garden. This may not be possible (it appeared that funding had been procured on basis of food growth) but it should be explained; could be a sustainable way of doing bedding etc?</p> <p>Bee/insect friendly planting should be a priority with the current situation about bees. Bedding should also provide a nectar source for bees</p>
Conservation of heritage & nature	Good to have unmanaged boundaries for nature conservation. Heritage of the park is frequently mentioned	<p>One of the appendices should be an audit of the key heritage features.</p> <p>A tree survey can be included in this or can be incorporated into the management plan as a separate appendix.</p>
Community Involvement	Good community involvement. Many events listed.	
Marketing Strategy	Good. Centenary a good opportunity to market the Rookery. This is being well exploited. Website mentioned. The book very good	

Overall management	The site is being managed judiciously and carefully. Grass looked fine.	Little mention of where horticultural expertise will come from? Apprentices need to be taught on site by experienced contractors. If these exist, state who they are and what their strengths are, and what they have to offer apprentices. An appendix or subsection detailing the apprenticeship scheme would be a valuable addition to plan
<p>Additional comments</p> <p>It would be interesting to meet the staff who look after the park in the plan. There is experience and expertise amongst the contractors yet this is often overlooked. Any expertise or employment longevity should be recognised and valued. People are any park's, most valuable asset (be they visitors, Friends/community groups or maintenance operatives) and those at the front line of parks maintenance deserve due recognition.</p>		

Field Assessment Feedback

Band score 45 - 49

Criteria	Strengths	Recommendations
A Welcoming Place	Very welcoming. The Carpet bed very good. The naturally welcoming layout of the park draws in the visitor	No comments
Healthy, Safe and Secure	Well used. Young people/groups/families visible which is a good sign.	No comments
Clean and Well Maintained	No litter	Toilets were not well maintained at all. The men's particularly was bad and they need deep cleaning regularly and graffiti must be removed – really no excuse for toilets like this these days Dead ivy could be removed wherever possible as it is unsightly and causes damage.
Sustainability	Facilitation of the community garden on the part of the council is laudable The fountain that recirculates water v. good.	Bedded areas need mulching for water conservation. Mulching for water conservation is mentioned in the plan but limited evidence during visit. Limited organic matter had been incorporated into bedded out areas for some time. Incorporation of organic matter is an integral part of bedding process, and plants will not thrive in the soil conditions. Carpet beds had not been infilled between plants with compost and will dry out very quickly so please address.
Conservation and Heritage	Heritage of the park is respected and conserved	Recognise there is work to be done on the White Garden; horticultural expertise will be necessary to deliver and protect

Community Involvement	Very good to meet the community gardeners. Strong friends group.	More should be done to help community gardeners find more volunteers in the community garden. This is a large site that may seem a bit understaffed?
Marketing	Good to have book about the history of the park. Notice board very informative. Good exploitation of the centenary	No comments
Management	The site is well managed. The mobile team of maintenance operatives have knowledge and enthusiasm and it was good to see one member of staff who has been there for 30 years. It does go without saying that this site is understaffed. The mobile team have several large sites to look after and to take care of the herbaceous beds etc. The council does well under very difficult circumstances	During the summer period supplementary staffing for each site should be routine
Additional Comments		
<p>A lovely park and a pleasure to walk around. The attitude to planting was a bit confused; the judges have nothing against bedding plants but these should be bee-friendly and correctly planted and mulched for water preservation - this should be a priority in these days. There are many herbaceous plants that are drought tolerant and bee friendly and these should be promoted and maintained – indeed a thorough audit of plants and planting areas is necessary. The absence of mulching was also notable, and may hinder plant survival or planting success.</p> <p>The Friends group's enthusiasm was encouraging; Lambeth seem very committed and have cultivated strong relationships with friends' groups and do their best to support them.</p> <p>The community garden should go from strength to strength and was great to see, we enjoyed meeting the keen community gardeners.</p> <p>The toilets must be improved; public toilets that are not looked after especially being next to a café are not acceptable at a Green Flag Award site</p> <p>It was great to meet the staff who maintain the park and to see their knowledge and experience, and it would also be good to meet somebody from the contract side at management level. Many things identified (mulching, graffiti) are part of contract specifications but have to be seen to be done</p>		