

Wirral Council
Neighbourhood Services Department
Parks and Countryside Service

Walker Park

2022-2027
Management Plan



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Preface to the 2017-22 Walker Park Management Plan.

This is the 2022-2027 Management Plan for Walker Park. Since a staffing restructure in 2021 the Gardens has been the responsibility of the Birkenhead General Parks Manager and Team Leader for Rock Ferry, Prenton and Birkenhead, they work closely with staff and friend's groups.

1 Introduction

The plan is intended to provide a framework for the development and improvement of Walker Park. If you wish to find out further information about this document or submit any suggestions, please contact the **Parks and Countryside Service** at Wirral Council on telephone number **0151 606 2004** or report the problem on the website www.wirral.gov.uk or write to:

**Wirral Council
Neighbourhood Services
Parks & Countryside Service
Wirral Council
Wallasey Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
CH44 8ED**

Email: neilgarnett@wirral.gov.uk or bencalcott@wirral.gov.uk

1.1 Purpose and Scope of the Plan

The prime purpose of this Management Plan is to ensure that the future upkeep and management of the park will sustain, and continue to improve on, the quality of the park and the facilities it offers.

This Management Plan covers the period from 2022-27 and will be reviewed and updated on a yearly basis.

The Management Plan is prepared for all those who use, manage or who might have an interest in the park, either now or in the future., it will continue to be subject to discussion and review with key stakeholders, including park users.

2 The Wider Policy Context

Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Service are based within the Neighbour Services Department of Wirral Council.

The content and structure of the Management Plan has been informed by the following guidelines:

A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans (CABE Space, 2004) <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20110118095356/http://www.cabe.org.uk/files/parks-and-green-space-management-plans.pdf>

Raising the Standard: The Green Flag Awards Guidance Manual (Keep Britain Tidy, 2016) www.greenflagaward.org/media/1019/green-flag-award-guidelines.pdf

2.1 Corporate Objectives

The Council's Vision is that Wirral will be a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, where employers want to invest and local businesses thrive, and where good health and an excellent quality of life is within the reach of everyone who lives here.

The Wirral Plan agreed by cabinet in September 2021 sets out a series of pledges which the Council and its partners will work to achieve by 2026 focussing on 5 key themes:

- Inclusive Economy
- Safe and Pleasant Communities
- Sustainable Environment
- Brighter futures
- Active and healthy lives

The Wirral 2021-26 plan is available to download online:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/pp7-wirral-plan-equity-people-and-place-2021-2026.pdf>

2.2 Parks and Countryside Service Objectives

The department's role is to protect the environmental quality of key locations across the borough for all local people, communities, and visitors to enjoy and to influence investors to operate their businesses and encourage new investors. Parks and countryside site maintenance and land uses will be re-aligned where appropriate to achieve resource and economic efficiencies whilst promoting health, social and environmental benefits to our communities.

The Parks and Countryside Service have produced a 10-year Parks and Open Spaces Strategy that will inform and direct the next 10 years for the service (running from 2014-2024). It is available online at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/Leisure%20parks%20and%20events/parks%20and%20open%20spaces/Wirral%20Parks%20and%20Open%20Spaces%20Strategy%202014-2024.pdf>

The Strategy sets out how Wirral Parks and Countryside Service will aim to provide attractive and well managed parks and open spaces, whilst being accessible; and providing positive and healthy activities for all local people, communities, and visitors to enjoy and to attract and retain investment in the borough. The service also intends to contribute to the environmental sustainability and biodiversity of Wirral to achieve a good balance by protecting habitats while supporting economic growth.

2.3 Environmental Initiatives

Wirral Council is committed to carrying out its work in an environmentally responsible manner.

Wirral Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency at Council in July 2019 and through this committed to action to address the ecological and climate crisis that we face.

The commitment to action aims to:

- cut climate damaging pollution locally in line with global targets, whilst developing resilience to more extreme weather patterns and rising sea levels that impact Wirral
- protect and enhance biodiversity

As a local authority, we can have a positive influence through:

- how we organise our operations and services
- the regulations and policies we set
- the goods and services we buy
- the investments we make
- the example we set to others.

Tackling the ecological and climate crisis presents major opportunities locally to improve quality of life, health, wellbeing and the economy.

More information on the Climate Emergency Declaration maybe found at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/climate-change-action>

To deliver against these aims Wirral Has developed 'Cool Wirral'. The Cool Wirral campaign is aimed at encouraging local climate-related action in support of the delivery of the 'Cool 2 Climate Change Strategy for Wirral: -

[View Wirral Council's Cool 2 climate strategy and progress reports](#)

The Cool Wirral Partnership (formerly the Wirral Climate Change Group) co-ordinates local action on climate change. The partnership is supported by Wirral Council and a variety of partnership.

More information on the Cool Wirral Partnership maybe found at:

[https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/cool-wirral#:~:text=The%20Cool%20Wirral%20Partnership%20\(formerly,Wirral%20Partnership%20NHS%20Foundation%20Trust](https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/cool-wirral#:~:text=The%20Cool%20Wirral%20Partnership%20(formerly,Wirral%20Partnership%20NHS%20Foundation%20Trust)

Some key initiatives include: -

Designating Pollinators and wildflower sites

A large proportion of pollinators are flies, including more than 250 species of hoverfly. Bees make up about a quarter of the pollinating insects and in the UK alone there are approximately 250 species of bee, 24 species of bumblebee, 225 species of solitary bee and just one species of honeybee. Butterflies and moths are also pollinators as well as bugs and beetles.

In line with the council's Climate Emergency Response, steps are being taken to prioritise pollinators. Dependant on the location of a verge, pollinators are prioritised in various ways, these methods can include:

- planting pollinator friendly plants
- not mowing grass verges when wildflowers of significance are in season
- reduced weed removal in the area of pollinator sights

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environmental-problems/street-care-and-cleaning/pollinators-and-wildflower-sites>

No Mow May

Throughout the month of May, the council takes part in the [No Mow May campaign](#), which is about stopping mowing in general grass areas in parks to help bees, butterflies and wildlife.

Trees, hedgerows and woodland

The council have been working with partners and stakeholders to develop a 10-year strategy to consider how we manage and respond to the borough's current trees and the future provision of trees. In the ten-year span of this strategy over 210,000 trees will be planted, at least 21,000 per year. In doing so we will replace many times over the number of trees unavoidably lost. The trees that are planted will see Wirral's tree canopy cover doubled by the time they are fully grown.

We will adopt the principle of 'the right tree for the right place' to ensure the most resilient tree population possible. We will establish a clear picture of Wirral's tree stock and its benefits. We will work constructively with individuals and groups to deliver this vision.

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/climate-change-and-sustainability/trees-hedgerows-and-woodland>

3 Visions, Aims and Objectives

Walker Park will be maintained in accordance with its primary purpose as a Local Park and will maintain its standards to achieve Green Flag award.

3.1 Vision

The vision for Walker Park is to maintain the open nature of the park while enhancing its features to provide an area for recreation, health and wellbeing and community development.

3.2 Aims

1. Increase the number of people visiting Walker Park
2. Develop the educational potential of Walker Park
3. Increase Income generated for the park to provide financial security of provision for the future.
4. Work closely with partners to encourage healthy activities in the park.

3.3 Objectives

- 1.1 Achieve the standard as defined by the Green Flag award scheme
- 1.2 Improve signage at entrances to the park
- 1.3 Promote the Park to a wider Audience
- 2.1 Encourage local schools to use park for education and leisure
- 2.2 Form partnerships with local businesses
- 3.1 Promote and encourage events and entertainment, in keeping with the character of the park
- 3.2 To provide corporate days at the park
- 4.1 Develop links with community groups and local sports clubs to Participate in sporting activities.

4) Site information

4.1 Site summary

Name: Walker Park

Primary classification: Local Park

Grid Reference: 330561, 385958

Address: Prenton Hall Road, Prenton CH43 3AW

Ward: Prenton

Size: 5.41 Hectares

Existing facilities and features:

- Mature tree stock
- Open grass areas
- Five-a-side pitch
- Habitat potential

Fig1 Location of Walker Park



4.2 Tenure:

Walker Park is owned and managed by Wirral's Parks and Countryside Service of Wirral Council's Community Services Department

4.3 Summary of main uses:

- Dog walking
- Ball games
- Junior Football
- Dog Training
- Passive Recreation
- Events

4.4 Access:

There are two entrances situated on Prenton Hall Road, the lower entrance is currently unsuitable for wheelchair users, however there are plans to rectify this. The open boundary to Golf Links Road could be used by wheelchair users subject to ground conditions.

The park is located adjacent to a bus route with a stop located on Prenton Hall Road.

4.5 History

Walker Park was given to Birkenhead Corporation on the 7th of June 1928, by Sir Ian Peter Andrew Walker to be used as a public park or pleasure Ground for sports and recreational use. Sir Ian Walkers Grandfather was a local Brewer and became Lord Mayor of Liverpool. He gave the City of Liverpool the Walker Art Gallery.

Fig 2 Walker Family Coat of Arms



During World War II the Park was partially used as allotments to provide food for the local community, it was grassed over in 1970 and over the years it has been used for Five-a-side football.

4.6 Resources:

- General Parks Manager Birkenhead (based at North Lodge Birkenhead Park)
- Team Leader
- A range of horticultural machinery and tools
- Annual revenue budget
- Mobile team of two Parks, Allotments and countryside staff (based at Victoria Park), looking after all parks in the area
- Visiting Arboriculture team
- Volunteers and community groups
- Friends Group
- Grants and donations
- Annual revenue budget
- The area grounds maintenance depot - located at Victoria Park.

The visiting mobile maintenance team is based in the depot in Victoria Park and can be contacted regarding park matters at regular times throughout the week between the hours of 07:00 - 16:00 from February till November and 08:00 - 15:00 from November till February.

4.7 Stakeholders

- Friends of Walker Park
- Prenton Tenants and Residents Association
- Merseyside Police
- Wirral Council's Community Safety Team

5 Green Flag Analysis and Assessment

The intention is for the park to achieve the standards as defined by the **Green Flag Award Scheme**; further details about the scheme are available at www.greenflagaward.org.co.uk.

The following Green Flag assessment criteria are used as a focus for the future development of the park.

1. A welcoming place
2. Healthy, safe and secure
3. Clean and well maintained
4. Environmental Management
5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
6. Community involvement
7. Marketing and Communications
8. Management

The recommendations made by the Green Flag Judges have been incorporated into the plan's Actions (Appendix 9)

5.1 A welcoming park

Access

The park has two entrance points on Prenton Hall Road, and the park is open along its boundary to Golf Links Road. One entrance situated on Prenton Hall Road is currently unsuitable for access by wheelchair users (fig 3).

Fig 3 Prenton Hall Road entrance



Fig 4 Prenton Hall Road lower entrance



The boundary to Golf Links Road is open a long its length bordering the adjacent highway footway.

Fig 5 Golf Links Road boundary



A small mature wood adjoins the open grass area; an unsurfaced path provides an informal route through the wood.

Signage

There is a large (one metre) Green standard parks sign adjacent to the main entrance to the park on Prenton Hall Road. Brown tourism signs have been installed at four locations directing users to the park.

Information notice boards

There is currently one main information cabinet at the top entrance on Prenton Hall Road.

Fig 6 Information notice board



5.2 Healthy, safe and secure

Anti-social behaviour

Wirral Council operates a 24-hour Community Patrol service, established to provide a response to any concern notified to them regarding anti-social behaviour occurring within Council owned land. They can be contacted on telephone number **666 5265**.

The Parks and Countryside Service are represented on the A.S.B Governance group. The group is comprised of representatives from various agencies including Merseyside Police, Wirral Council Community Safety, Youth workers, Community groups and other partner organisations. The monthly held meetings of the group provide a multi-agency forum for addressing problems. Any serious issues regarding security in Parks and Countryside sites can be raised at the meeting.

The park is covered by Byelaws, made under Section 164 of the Public Health Act, 1875 and sections 12 and 15 of the Open Spaces Act 1906.

Incident reports compiled by Wirral Council's Community Patrol are made available to the Parks and Countryside Service and are provided to the Team Leader or General Parks Manager.

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling within the park has significantly decreased over the years however incidents do still occur.

The whole of the Wirral Borough is designated under Dog Control Orders (that implement section 55 and 56 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005) providing increased levels of enforcement for five offences prescribed in a dog control order, these are - failing to remove dog faeces, not keeping a dog on a lead, not putting a dog on a lead when directed to do so by an authorised officer, permitting a dog to enter land from which dogs are excluded and taking more than a specified number of dogs onto land. Failure to comply can result in a prosecution and a maximum fine of up to £1,000. Alternatively, offenders may be offered a £50 Fixed Penalty Notice. Wirral's Community Patrol Officers have been authorised to issue notices. In August 2007 a media campaign 'Don't give a dog a bad name' was launched to highlight the new powers.

The Park has signs indicating that the park is a 'clean it up' area incorporated into the entrance signage. Dog walkers are advised to wrap the droppings and place in a litterbin. Many dog walkers do use the litterbins on Prenton Hall Road for the disposal of removed faeces.

For further information regarding dog fouling, visit:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/environmental-problems/street-care-and-cleaning/dog-fouling>

Wirral Council operates a 24-hour Community Patrol Service, established to provide a response to any concern notified to them regarding anti-social behaviour occurring within Council owned land. The Patrol can be contacted on telephone number 666 5265

Staff and Volunteer Health and Safety Procedures

The health and safety of staff and volunteers on site is covered by the Council's Corporate Health and Safety Policy. The policy is available for viewing on the Human Resources section of the Council intranet.

Risk assessments are carried out as needed and copies are kept at Victoria Park

Health and Safety Committee meetings are held every month by the Principal Officer (Parks Management). The meetings involve Senior parks management Trade Union Health and Safety Representatives. Any issues arising can be dealt with at this meeting.

The park at night

The park does not have supplementary lighting, the only illumination available is provided by highway situated lamp columns; these shed light along the park's boundaries to both Prenton Hall Road and Golf Links Road.

Wirral Council currently neither encourages nor discourages the use of the park during the hours of darkness.

Incident reports compiled by Wirral Council's Community Patrol are made available to the Parks and Countryside Service and are provided to the general Parks Manager and Team Leader.

Pathways & pedestrian routes

There are no formal footpath routes within the park, however several informal paths exist

Litter Management

There are currently no litter bins within Walker Park and park users are encouraged to use the two litter bins which are situated directly outside the two main entrances on Prenton Hall Road.

The Friends of Walker Park partake in regular litter picking days each month normally on a Saturday.

The visiting maintenance team will carry out litter-picks prior to their maintenance works.

Any reports of littering or fly tipping are dealt with as soon as possible either by the Team Leader or the mobile Parks and Countryside staff.

Boundaries

The owners of some properties situated in Fairways have taken precautions to deter access into their properties from the park and signs indicate private security protection measures are in place. Self-sown tree species in the park are growing in close proximity to some boundary walls of these properties providing the potential for use as ingress points.

The park shares a boundary of 96 linear metres with Prenton Golf Club, this is defined by a tree-belt and post and wire fence; An unauthorised access point between the park and the golf course has been made.

Fig 7 Golf Course Boundary



The boundary fencing of sixteen properties located in Prenton Farm Road forms the western boundary of the park, various types of timber garden fencing extend along the length of this boundary.

The park's frontage to Prenton Hall Road has a thorn hedge along the entire length (approximately 153 linear meters).

The boundary to Golf Links Road is open along its length of approximately 120 linear meters.

5.3 Clean and well maintained

Horticultural maintenance is carried out in accordance with a frequency-based work programme allied to a specification (see appendix 6).

Machinery in our 'in-house' workshops are regularly maintained and inspected.

The maintenance regime is carried out to meet general standards set out in a Borough-wide grounds maintenance 'frequency based' specification. The specification sets out corporate standards of maintenance.

Trees

Tree safety inspections are conducted by the councils appointed professional arboricultural specialist. Work is then contracted out and conducted on a priority basis.

A tree policy and procedure has been written (see appendix 6) which describes the basic steps when a member of staff has concerns regarding a specific tree or trees. The staff member should report the tree to the Local Team Leader. The team leader then passes the information onto the Tree and Woodland Officer or Area Manager, who will instruct a contractor to do the work if required

Individual property owners who neighbour the site make occasional demands for tree pruning.

There are no site-based members of staff; however, a mobile team based at Victoria Park carry out operations within the park.

An annual Parks Safety inspection is carried out every January (See appendix 4). The inspection is intended to identify defects within the site that present a safety problem for staff, users, and adjacent residents. The checklist requires appraisal of the following items:

1. Paths, steps, ramps
2. Fences, gates
3. Monuments.
4. Furniture – signs, seats, litterbins etc.
5. Soft landscape – grass, planted areas, water features etc
6. Trees

Fig 8 Ditch



Fig 9 Woodland on golf links road



5.4 Environmental Management

Wirral parks and countryside team put sustainability at the heart of decision making and service delivery. Our key commitments are:

- Improve our sustainable performance
- Comply with environmental legislation
- Purchase sustainably
- Use natural resources sustainably
- Travel sustainably
- Minimise waste
- Manage land sustainability
- Raise Awareness
- Work in partnership

Wirral Council is committed to improving its waste management and recycling objectives.

Green waste generated at the park is separated and composted at the area depot (Birkenhead Park) to avoid disposal to landfill; the material is subsequently reused for soil improvement. Brash generated during seasonal tree-work operations is chipped and stored for reuse as mulch.

Any waste timber and metals are also separated for reuse/recycling at the depot.

When opportunity arises any fit for use fallen tree is made into a seat for park users.

Fig 10 Bench made from recycled timber



In November 2018 Wirral Borough Council introduced a single use plastic policy; this can be found following the link below:

<http://wbcnet.admin.ad.wirral.gov.uk/news/news/2018/11/13/single-use-plastic-policy-announced>

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (C.O.S.H.H.) assessment records of all chemical based products used within the park form part of the Departments Quality Assurance procedures. Pesticide records are retained at the district depot (Victoria Park). Chemical storage and usage within the park comply with the requirements defined within the current pesticide handling legislation.

Chemical usage has been severely restricted in 2019/2020 and is now only used in exceptional circumstances or to deal with invasive non-native species. Herbicide usage is restricted to non-residual herbicide.

Tractor and mowing equipment are checked for emission levels.

Peat is not used in any capacity within the park.

The park is well served by public transport (as stated in section 4.4)

Invasive Species Management

In recent years after there has been a vast reduction in Japanese Knotweed within Walker Park after successful programme of treatment. See appendix 9 for Japanese Knotweed mapping and Wirral Councils' policy on dealing with Japanese Knotweed.

5.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

The mature tree stock represents one of the main heritage features of the park. The tree stock is largely overly mature with thorn (*Crataegus* species) predominant within the main tree groups and Ash, Oak and Sycamore occurring. A phased programme of replacement planting with native species in differing stages of maturity is being considered. The existing stock will be appraised, and remedial action undertaken as required, all dead trees will be rendered safe and where possible retained in an upright position in order to create an increase in wildlife habitat.

In May 2018 in partnership with Wirral Council, the friends were successful in obtaining a grant through the environmental agency of £500 and the friends kindly matched that to make a sum of £1000. To develop and create a wildflower area. Local community groups helped plant the wildflower plugs with has proven very successful, 10 types of wildflower plants were planted

- Ragged Robin
- Purple loosestrife
- Primrose
- Foxglove
- Red Campion
- Meadow sweet
- Cowslip
- Yellow flag iris
- Ox-eye daisy
- Bluebell

Fig 11 Wild plants



Nettle beds were introduced in the park to increase invertebrate biodiversity and providing a focal point to attract some of our most colourful butterflies, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Comma.

In 2018 spring and summer meadows were introduced to improve Biodiversity in the park. All new flora and fauna will be recorded. New signage was also displayed to inform visitors of what we are hoping to achieve.

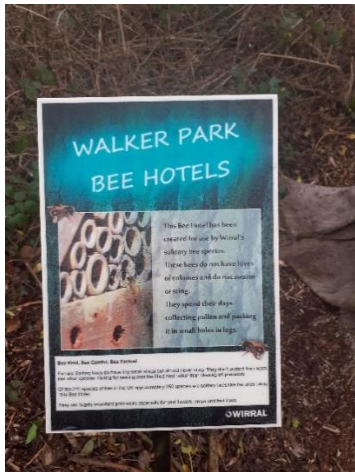
Fig 12 Interpretation signs in the rewilding areas



In 2020 the Grounds Maintenance Team worked alongside the Friends of Walker Park recycled wood from around the site to create a bee hotel which is situated inside the park and attracts plenty of visitors from bees and members of the public.

Fig 13 Bee hotel and signage





Landscape

The park was traditionally managed as a recreational space for the local people, and this idea continues today. All aspects of the park are considered to be of benefit to local people. The main users of the park are dog walkers, sports/recreational activities and activities for children or young families. Therefore, the parks landscape reflects this.

5.6 Community involvement

Stakeholders, partners, volunteers and friends are an integral part of the way the Council will take forward the Parks and Countryside Service.

The park has a very active friends' group, who meet every month. They also have work parties who meet frequently throughout the year. They meet every second Saturday of every month to complete tasks such as litter picking and shrub tidying. Dates are displayed on the information boards.

Fig 16 Picnic in the park



To celebrate National Tree Week 23-29 November 2019, 910 trees were planted at the top end of Walker Park. Two local primary schools, Prenton Primary and Devonshire Primary, joined the Friends of Walker Park, volunteers and Wirral Council's Parks Team to help with the planting. Donated by the council's arboriculture contractor, Mancoed.

Fig 14 Local schools planting



Fig 15 Community woodland tree planting



The trees included a mixture of Oak, Beech, Holly, Bird Cherry, Hazel, Rowan, Guelder Rose, Alder and Goat willow and are a mixture of small (870) and standard (40) trees.

The mulch mats and pegs used were bio-degradable, and the tree shelters are re-usable for future projects.

This is the first of many tree planting projects at Walker Park in Line with the five-year tree planting strategy (see appendix 7)

In 2020 a review by the Biodiversity Officer alongside parks grounds maintenance staff will take place in order to look at implementing larger no-cut areas to promote wildflower growth, helping to support invertebrate, mammals and bird species.

400 Hawthorn Sapling were planted in 2020 to complete the hedgerow on Prenton Hall Road.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic there was no tree planting in 2020, however working with our arbour contractors and a local tree and Shrub Nursery JA Jones the below exemplar trees were donated and planting funded by the Councils climate emergency Fund, See Appendix 6 for tree strategy for walker park

ACER PLATANOIDES OLMSTED	AP 35-40CM	1
AESCLUSUS HIPPOCASTANUM	AP 30-35CM	1
AESCLUSUS HIPPOCASTANUM BAUMANNII	AP 35-40CM	2
CATALPA BIGNONIOIDES	AP 40-45CM	1
FAGUS SYLVATICA	AP 30-35CM	1
FAGUS SYLVATICA DAWYCK	AP 35-40CM	1
LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA	AP 30-35CM	1
LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA FASTIGIATUM	AP 40-45CM	2
PRUNUS PADUS WATERERI	AP 30-35CM	1
PRUNUS SCHMITTII	AP 30-35CM	1
PRUNUS SUNSET BOULEVARD	AP 35-40CM	1
TILIA EUROPAEA PALLIDA	AP 35-40CM	1
TILIA PLATYPHYLLOS RUBRA	AP 30-35CM	1
TILIA TOMENTOSA BRABANT	AP 35-40CM	1
TILIA TOMENTOSA BRABANT	AP 30-35CM	1

5.7 Marketing and communications

Wirral Council's Internet web site, www.wirral.gov.uk has recently been redesigned and has links to the Parks and Countryside Departments information.

Green Flag Award website: Gives a great overview of the site, alongside park facilities and contact details. Allows people to see online that the park has achieved this prestigious award.

Information Notice Boards

The notice board gives visitors to the park a great deal of information about the history and details of events. Information about volunteer work can also be found here.

Friends of Walker Park Newsletter.

A newsletter is produced by the friends, Providing information regarding working day and upcoming events.

Friends of Walker Park – Members Update – January 2022

It has been some 6 months since we last made contact but as you probably already know a lot has been going on in the park and we are very much still active with our council contact.

Yet again as treasurer I was prompted by the bank that our account had been inactive for some time. To start the ball rolling I will transfer our £10 in for 2022 to keep it alive. Sadly, on the bank front HSBC now charge £5 per month for charitable accounts and for paying in over the counter. If anyone knows of another bank without charges, please let me know.

We did not have an AGM again however I have done an unaudited overview of our account and can report a balance of £2,298.54. In the current circumstances perhaps understandable

but we only had 14 households contributing to membership in 2021. I would hope we can exceed that number in 2022.

The 'whips' are taking shape near the top gate. We were willing to make a contribution to their planting, but nothing has been requested so we shall roll that forward towards our next venture – having a gate installed at the bottom entrance. It has always been a worry that dogs and children could run out into the road, which as we know, can have vehicles travelling at some speed up and down. Installation will be a tri-partide affair with contributions from the friends account, local councillors Cooke and Gorman funds and council parks funding. The work will involve fitting railings to the sides of the slope and removing the railway sleeper step and fitting the gate higher up the slope.



The whip line near top gate
umping off Golf Links Road



Semi-regular litter picks have taken place and the park is generally litter free this has been helped by anonymous people bagging up rubbish around the park and placing it by the bin for collection. There is also some tree maintenance going on, last week by the Bee House. Not so good is the amount of dumping on the edge of the park off Golf Links Road. When the weather is a little better, we do plan some 'working parties' to make some headway into a few jobs around that area and the 'whips' path.

As you will no doubt have noticed we did achieve Green Flag status for 2021 and have entered again for 2022 so we look forward to maintaining the park status again.

So, back to the financial side of things. To keep things moving with household membership and to keep the account 'ticking' those of you who use internet banking can pay the £10 annual fee online. The account details are HSBC Friends of Walker Park, it is a business account, sort code 40-10-22, account number 52371782. Please use address as reference. If you still use cheques or cash, please feel free to post into 10 Prenton Hall Road with name and house details on the envelope. Bank transfer is best as it will not attract any fees.

We still cannot do newsletter deliveries so if you know another member not on our email list, please share with them if you can.

One of our members is keen to get some 'Old Prenton' photos on to the noticeboard so watch this space for a little history.

As I type this there is a strong morning sun with a light frost on the park. Lovely.

Signage

Several brown directional signs have been located in surrounding roads around the park to promote and encourage more park users. The brown signs are situated on Woodchurch Road, Prenton Dell Road and Storeton Road.

Events

Events recently held in the park have proven very successful and have increased the profile of the park, such as Picnic in the Park and Summer Fun Days, Wildflower, and tree planting days

Fig 16 Picnic in the Park



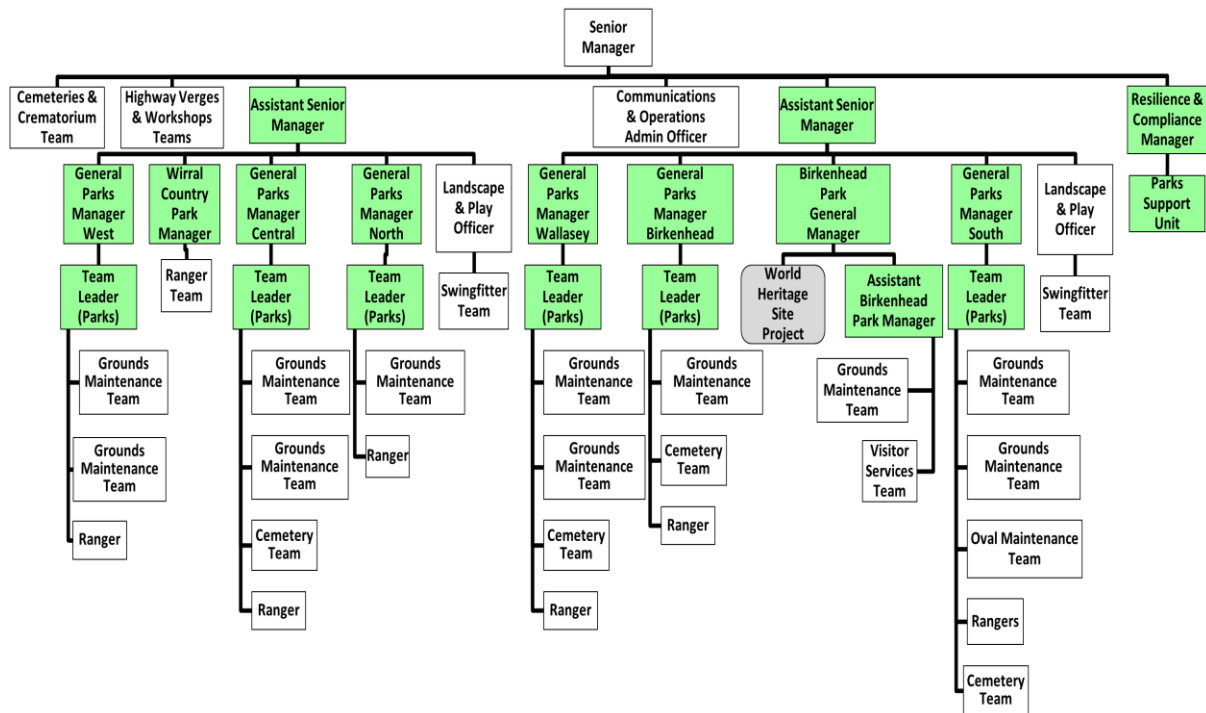
Fig 17 Summer Fun Day event



5.8 Management

The Parks and Countryside Service were restructured in 2020.

The diagram below shows the current organisational structure



General Management of Walker Park is the responsibility of the General Parks Manager and Team Leader whose key role is to be responsible for the management, maintenance, development, and promotion of Hamilton Square Gardens.

The area grounds maintenance depot is located at Victoria Park. Enquiries regarding the management and maintenance of the park can be made to the Team Leader on telephone number 0151 645 8299.

Enquiries about the management of the park should be directed to the General Parks Manager for Birkenhead on **0151 606 2004**. Email: streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

6 Action Plan

	Action	Responsibility	When	Resources
1. To make the park more welcoming				
1.1	To improve Lower entrance make it more accessible for wheelchair users	Team Leader, General Parks Manager	2023 Completed	Within existing funding
1.2	Provide Display Cabinet at the Golf Links Road entrance	Team Leader, General Parks Manager	2025	Within existing funding
1.3	Bulb planting across Park	Friends Area Parks Manager	2022-2026	Within existing funding
2. To make the park healthy, safe and secure				
2.1	Report all incidences of anti-social behaviour to Merseyside Police	Team Leader, General Parks Manager	Ongoing	Within existing funding
2.2	Undertake basic tree inspection for Health and Safety purposes and produce programme of works	Tree Risk Management	Ongoing (every three years)	Within existing funding
2.3	Raise awareness regarding problems associated with dog fouling, leaflet users, appropriate signage etc	Friends of Walker Park, Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing funding
2.4	Liase with Community Safety team and Merseyside Police Community Officer in order to establish the level of response made to anti-social behaviour within the site	Team Leader/General Parks Manager/Friends of Walker Park	Ongoing	Within existing funding
2.5	Annual site safety inspections	Team Leader	Annually	Within existing funding
2.6	Ensure speedy reporting and removal of graffiti	Team Leader/GMOs/Friends of Walker Park'	Ongoing	Within existing funding
2.7	Remove tree stumps	Team Leader/ GMO Supervisor	Ongoing	Within existing funding
3. To ensure the park is clean and well maintained				
3.1	Replace fencing on boundary of Golf Course	General Manager/Team Leader	2025	Within existing funding
3.2	Achieve a good standard of horticultural	Team Leader, Visiting maintenance team	Ongoing	Within existing funding

	maintenance within the period of the plan			
3.3	Clean out blocked drainage ditches and water courses	Team Leader	Ongoing, rolling programme since 2019	Additional resources may be required
4. Environmental management				
4.1	Separate and compost all green waste generated at the park	Team Leader	Ongoing	
4.2	Continue to source non-peat-based compost for bedding plants and other plantings within the park	Team Leader/ Landscape officer	Ongoing	N/A
4.3	Continue to manage identified invasive weed species within Mayer Park in line with current policy and retain chemical application records.	Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing funding
4.4	Reduce the use of herbicide usage in the park	General Parks Manager/Team Leader	Since 2020 Only been used for the treatment of invasive species	
5. Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage				
5.1	Produce a tree/woodland management plan	Team Leader	2024	Additional resources may be required
5.2	Taking into consideration report by Hilary Ash, undertake works program to improve wildlife value woodland Area of the Park	Team Leader	2024	Within existing funding
5.3	Undertake additional planting of trees, shrubs to include a community woodland area	General Parks Manager/Team Leader	2022- 2026	Additional resources may be required
5.4	Continue sourcing seating from sustainable resources	General Parks Manager/Team Leader/Landscape Officer	2022-26	Within existing resources

5.5	Encourage wildlife and diversity through the installation of bird/bat boxes	General Parks Manage/Team Leader/ Friends of Walker Park	2024	Additional resources may be required
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6. Community Involvement				
6.1	Work in conjunction with Parks Partnership to achieve the Green Flag Award	General Parks Manager/Team Leader		Additional resources may be required
6.2	Promote the park as a venue for community-initiated events	Team Leader/Friends of Walker Park	Ongoing	Additional resources may be required
6.3	Provide available options for increasing activities programme specifically aimed at local school's use of the park including bulb planting.	General Parks Manager/Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources
6.4	Continue working with Friends', user groups and the community groups	General Parks Manager/Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources
7. Marketing and Communication				
7.1	Modernise and expand the parks website, with the addition of an events page	General Parks Manager/Team Leader/ Friends Of	2024	Within existing resources
7.2	Promote the site through Council publications and investigate new opportunities	General Parks Manager	2022 onwards	Within existing resources
7.3	Notice board to be kept updated with relevant information about the park	Team Leader/ Friends of Walker Park	Ongoing	Within existing resources
7.4	Provide options for the effective marketing of the park including park leaflets	Team Leader	Ongoing	Within existing resources
8 To manage the implementation and review of this plan				
8.1	Ensure that funding is used in ways which supports the special character of the site.	General Park Manager	Ongoing	Within Existing resources and any additional funding
8.2	Develop new Management Plan with Stakeholders	Team Leader	2022	Within existing resources

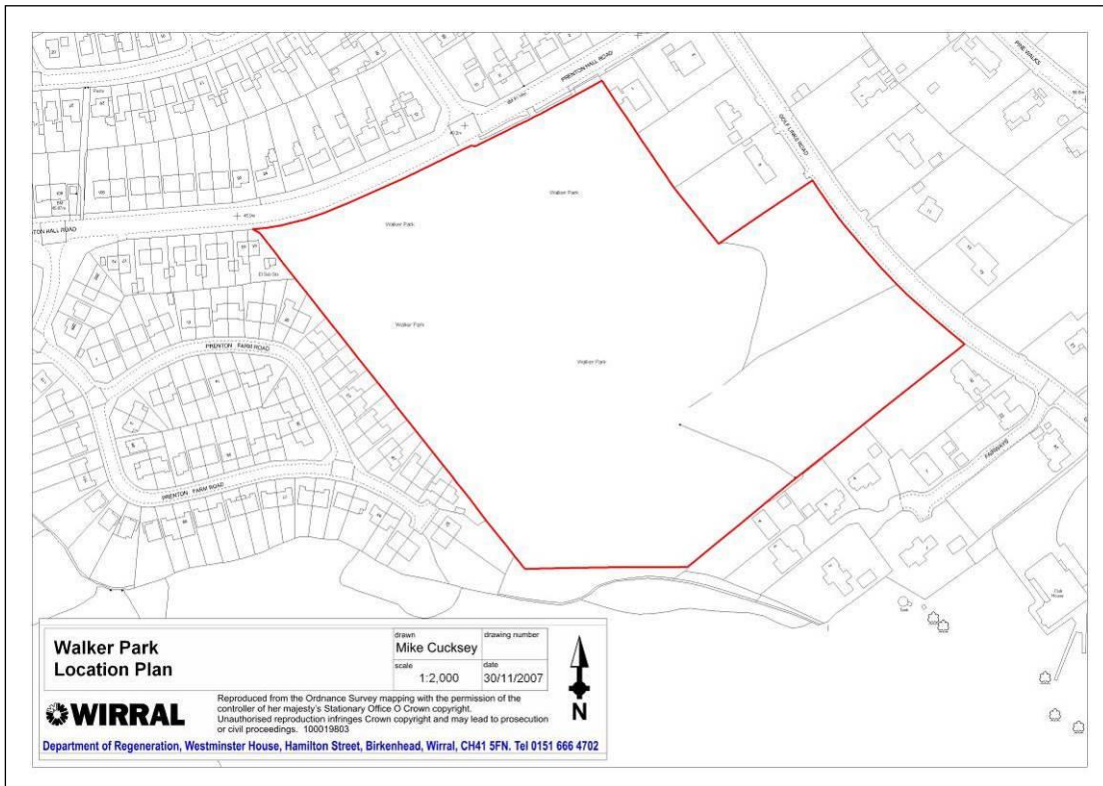
7 Monitoring and Review

There is a precise and clear process for monitoring both maintenance and development.

- (i) The General Manager and Team Leader for Birkenhead will incorporate progress on the Management Plan actions into the monthly management team meetings.
- (ii) The Grounds Maintenance Supervisor will report back on progress or shortfalls to the Team Leader after each visit.
- (iii) The Team Leader will carry out random inspections of the site between programmed monitoring visits.
- (iv) The General Parks Manager will undertake a quarterly site inspection with the Local Area Team Leader and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor and Friends representatives to oversee the delivery of the Management Plan. The target dates in the five-year action plan will enable people to see how the partnership is making progress and when that action has been achieved.

8 Appendices

Appendix.1) Location Plan

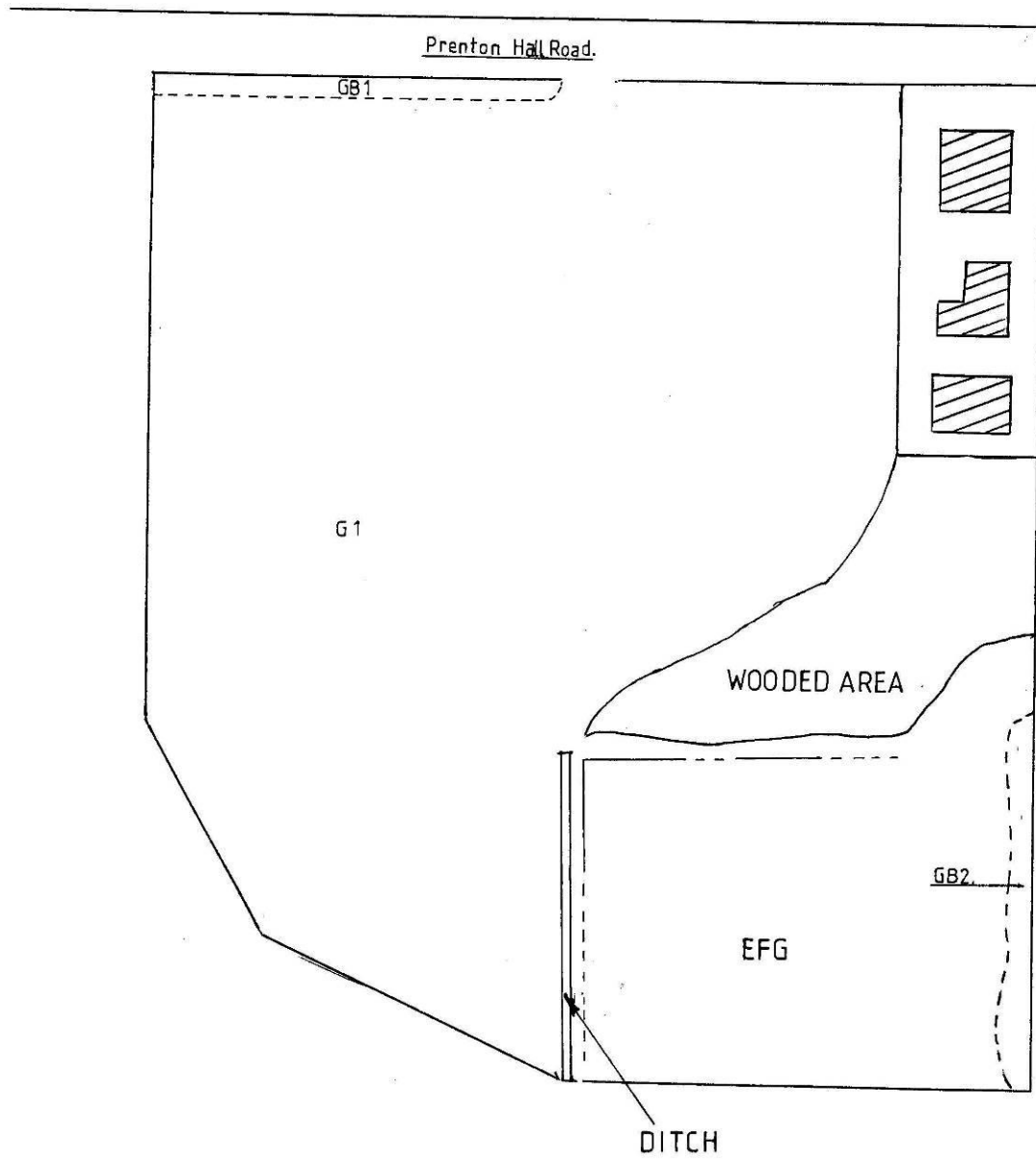


Appendix.2) Aerial Photograph



Appendix. 3 Schematic plan and site quantities

Walker Park



Walker Park

Compartment	Description	Area (M2)	Linear(M)
G1	Field	41,381	-
GB1	Hedge	157	-
GB2	Bank	161	122(T)
RG1	Rough Grass	6862	
W/F Lines		-	90

ITEM	QUANTITY	TYPE
Premium Ornamental Grass		
Ornamental Grass		
General Grass	48569m ²	
Rough Grass		
Wildflower Grass area		
Playing Field		
Soccer Pitch		
Mini Soccer Pitch		
5 Aside Pitch		
Rugby Pitch		
Summer Sports		
Bowling Green		
Putting Green		
Tennis Court		
Cricket Square		
Cricket Artificial Wicket		
Cricket Outfield		
Cricket Nets		
Hedge two side and top	441m ²	
Hedge one side and top		
Hedge one side only		
Annual Bedding		
Perpetuity Grave Bedding		
Herbaceous Border		
Rose Bed		
Shrub Bed		
Hard Surface		
Bitumen Macadam Sports		
Water Bound Hard Porous Sports		
Play Area		
Muga/Goal Ends/Kickabout area		
Skateboard Park		
Ditches and Water Courses	68m	
Lakes and Ponds		
Golf Green		
Golf Green Surrounds		
Golf Bunkers		
Golf Fairways		
Golf Roughs		
Golf Tees		
Golf Automatic Irrigation		
Pitch and Putt Green Surrounds		
Pitch and Putt Grass Banks		
Pitch and Putt Fairways		
Pitch and Putt Tees		
Building		
Tree Stock	Yes	

Woodland	Yes	
Natural area	Yes	

Appendix 4 Annual Parks Site Safety inspection checklist



Parks & Countryside Annual Parks Site Safety Inspection Checklist (excluding children's play areas)

Site: Walker Park	Date: 25/01/2023	Name of Inspector: Ben Calcott
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The inspection is not a condition survey but is intended to identify defects that present a safety problem for staff, users or adjacent residents.

Site plans can be used to identify defect locations.

Item	Defect	Action Taken
Paths, Steps, Ramps	OK	
Walls, Fences, Gates	OK.	
Buildings	N/A	
Furniture – Signs, Seats, Litter bins etc	OK	
Soft Landscape – Grass, Planted Areas, Water features etc	OK	
Trees	A few branches broken but hung up	General Manager to liaise with Tree Officer to arrange for work to be done. Not urgent
Invasive weeds	All Japanese Knotweed identified and mapped	Continue with annual treatment in line with policy
Street lighting, Flood lighting, Sports Lighting, Building lighting	N/A	
Other		

Signature of Inspector: Ben Calcott		Date: 25/01/2023
Name of H&S Representative:	Signature of H&S Representative:	

7/1/21

Appendix 5 Nature conservation Assessment (2020)

WALKER PARK, PRENTON

Visit by Hilary Ash with Neil Garnett and John Jakeman
29 May 2020

General notes:

A) The Park looks good, the unmown edges giving it a softer feel than when HA visited in 2014. Visually, the biggest drawback is the garden fencing along the backs of Prenton Farm Road. Screening these would not be easy and would need residents' agreement. One for discussion through the Friends Group. Possibilities that occur to me:

- i) a hedge kept to no more than fence height and set sufficiently far from the fencing that people could get along to re-paint their fences.
- ii) a strip a couple of metres in from the fences of large perennial flowers such as knapweed, purple loosestrife, fleabane, sweet cicely, which once established would need an annual cut down only, in winter. This would not screen the fences as well but would be something.

B) Vandalism and litter are very low.

C) Japanese knotweed is in retreat but needs herbicide treatment for at least two more years.

Areas (matched to previous report in 2014):

1) Hawthorn hedge along Prenton Road.

NG explained that they have cleared a strip ready to extend this along the back of the former elm copse (area 3). They were intending to plant hawthorn, but a mixed hedge would provide greater visual and wildlife appeal for minimal extra expense. Best results in our experience come from laying woven plastic matting, dug in by spade at the edges, and cutting slits in this to plant through. Providing an adult wields the sharp knife to cut the slits, children and adults can plant the hedging whips. This strip then needs little if any weeding and no herbicide treatment. The matting gradually disappears under grass but can be removed once the hedge is established (at least 5 years) though that is a tedious job. (We used this method for example at New Ferry Butterfly Park and at Wingate Road Allotments).

Suitable species would be: -

Acer campestre	field maple
Corylus avellana	hazel
Crataegus monogyna	hawthorn
Ilex aquifolium	holly
Rosa canina	dog rose
Sambucus nigra	elder

Use around 50% hawthorn to make the bulk and choose 3 or 4 other species to have in small groups spaced along it. All can be bought cheaply as bare-rooted whips except holly, which does not transplant well bare-rooted, but needs to be pot-raised.

2) Main grassland.

The 'meadow' at the south end of the main grassland has done well for a grassland which had a been close-mown amenity area for decades. It has proved less fertile than I feared in 2014, though the drought will have kept it extra-short this year. Species list at end. The main grasses are sweet vernal-grass, Yorkshire fog and ryegrass, but the latter is not dominant. Colour is mainly provided by buttercups, so future additions will need to add to that. The flora is at its

best in spring and will look boring after mid-summer. I would recommend planting in more spring species, as has been started with ox-eye daisy and yellow-rattle and aiming for an early to mid-July cut. Once the rattle has shed seed is a good time. Knapweed flowers later, and would need to be uncut until late August, so is better omitted or planted in a few edges where it can be left when the rest is mown.

Yellow rattle: hopefully this will now look after itself, as it has made a good start. Herbicide is un-necessary and probably counter-productive in getting it going – it needs grass root exudates to stimulate germination (as well as cool temperatures over winter). However, the herbicide strips have provided useful paths through the meadow.

In future, I recommend keeping the mown path round the edges, and mowing 2-3 paths through the meadow so people can easily walk through (but not tread into the longer grass). NG and JJ talked of extending the area somewhat, which looks a good idea as the next part of the grassland looks similar.

It would be good to introduce more pot-grown plants of spring species to extend the display and support more invertebrates. These can be bought or, more cheaply, raised by volunteers from seed. Suitable species might be:

Lotus corniculatus	bacon-and-eggs
Primula veris	cowslip
Silene dioica	red campion

Clear grass from a patch roughly 0.5m square and plant 4-5 plants of one species in it (so the pollinators can easily cross-fertilise them). Best done in September but can be done April (and hope for a damp spring not one like this year!)

Cuckoo flower (existing) and ox-eye daisy (planted) are already there – wait and see if they spread naturally.

Management: cut early mid-July once flowers, especially yellow rattle, have mostly seeded. If possible, cut-and-remove, but more likely, cut and flail small so the grass rots in quickly and does not smother growth underneath. Cutting before schools' finish lessens the chances of a grassfire.

3) Tree group east of Prenton Hall Road entrance.

The dead elms have been removed. New suckers are growing, along with a few smaller trees – watch the one ash tree for signs of Ash Dieback disease. The ground flora is highly competitive – stinging nettle, bramble, thistle – which will make planting any more trees awkward. One possibility is to strim patches 2m across to ground and plant a tree in each. The brambles will grow back but maybe not so fast as to overtop the tree. This would not be a good area for orchard trees as those need annual pruning (and picking if it is a community orchard) which would be difficult among thistles, nettles, and brambles.

A community orchard is a good idea providing there are volunteers willing to take on maintenance. The Friends Group might like to talk to Wirral Tree Wardens, who maintain the one at Brimstage, and Incredible edible Hoylake/Transition Town West Kirby, who have planted and maintain the orchard in Grange Park and the Apple Avenue by Gilroy allotments. A possible area would be just east of the tree group (2), in front of (12) the trees and scrub screening the houses in Prenton Hall Road/Golf Links Road corner. (The young trees here include oak, ash, sycamore, and holly)

4) Damp hollow by houses in Golf Links Road

Some marsh species have been planted (by Scouts and Guides), with good success. See species list at end.

There is a bramble patch between the two planting areas, which has Japanese knotweed and pendulous sedge in it. The sedge is proving invasive in recent years. This bramble patch also has a dying elder and a few healthy young trees – ash, goat willow, oak, elder. Recommend:

- Treat Japanese knotweed September
- Nov-Jan, cut all except healthy trees to ground
- Keep short until JK is sorted by annually cutting bramble. This should also get rid of the sedge eventually, or it can have a dose of herbicide when the JK is treated.

The planted areas are doing well, but it might be necessary to `weed` some undesirable plants out, e.g., nettles, thistles and brambles. Continue to cut annually as late season as possible e.g., late September. Clear cuttings or chop up fine.

6,7,8,9) trees and scrub in eastern half of park.

Japanese knotweed in retreat but will need several more years yet.

Monitor ash trees as below.

Lying dead wood is good – retain wherever possible, with smaller pieces built into habitat piles. Retain any standing dead wood that can be, but of course in a park only small standing dead trees are possible for safety reasons. English elm is suckering into some of the cleared areas, but as this is unlikely to get above 10m before Dutch elm disease strikes, it could be supplemented by planting other species such as

Pedunculate oak	Quercus robur
Wych elm	Ulmus glabra
Rowan	Sorbus aucuparia
Wild cherry	Prunus avium

Wych elm forms resistant to Dutch elm disease seem to be reaching maturity in Dibbinsdale and could have seed collected and grown on.

11) Former hedge line across park.

Contains some ash – one sapling was dead with what looked like Ash Dieback discoloration, so the disease has probably arrived. It was found in Prenton Dell in 2019 (and Dibbinsdale, Hooton, Clatterbridge), so it is now all over Wirral. **Check all ash trees annually in late summer. Read current advice from Forestry Research and The Tree Council.** Currently (spring 2020) that says for mature trees to coppice or at least pollard (cut at around 5-6') once the canopy shrinks to less than 50%. Do not stump-kill – a small proportion of trees re-sprout, the others can rot away quietly in situ. It is worth photographing big mature trees to be able to compare a canopy over the next few years. Retain healthy ash as possible parents for more resistant trees in future.

Bee hotel: most of our solitary bees like sunny conditions, so this will not prove attractive to many of them, though no doubt beetles, fungi, earwigs and various other flora and fauna will be already taking up residence. Next time a large tree has to come down or lose a large limb, build another one in a sunny corner, preferably but not essentially one that gets morning sun, and move the notice.

12) New tree planting, done 2019

Good:

- laid out with paths around and between blocks so people can wander
- most of small trees seem to have taken, despite difficult conditions (very wet all winter, drought April-May), so there are now a lot more (small) trees in the park. Some were just beginning to show signs of drought stress on 29/5. Hopefully the recent rain will have helped, otherwise watering will be needed this summer and possibly next.
- posts round edges to warn mower drivers where not to go.

Bad:

- Too close together, so no maintenance of the grass can be done between the trees, with tree mats too small to adequately reduce competition between grass and trees. Young trees like this do not compete well with grass for water – and this year that is serious. Future plantings in any grassland situation should use 2-3m spacings and bigger (?1m) tree mats.
- Standards are mostly beech and mostly dead. Small beech also mostly dead. They probably did not like the high-water table all winter. There is no beech elsewhere in the park – it probably does not like these soils, so was a bad choice in the first place. Do not plant any more.
- In general, planted standards need much more care at planting and subsequently than whips do. They also suffer more transplanting shock and often grow little for several years, so the whips catch them up in 5 years or so. In general, it is better not to plant standards unless taller trees are essential and very good care at and after planting can be given.
- Hollies have died. Neil and John said spring gales turned them brown, but holly is a poor transplanter, especially from bare root, and dislikes very wet soils, so was probably under severe stress already. Wirral Countryside Volunteers buy/rear pot-grown holly or lift very young seedlings (20cms and under) into pots and grow on for a year and plant out while still small (mostly <30cms). That entails weeding for a couple of years until established but works. We have done several short hedges of holly on the Butterfly Park that way (for holly blue butterflies to breed). Probably not worth trying to replace holly on this wet area but could put some in drier corners of the park.

Future management:

- Remove dead standards and hollies once sure they really are dead.
- These blocks will need thinning at intervals where there is good take – they are far too close together for even the shrubs to grow to maturity.
- There is much guelder rose and some other shrubs, which can be coppiced to maintain an understory rather than removed.
- The existing ground flora (see below) is mainly Yorkshire fog and buttercups. Little of this will persist once canopy closes, so in the long term it will be worth trying to introduce woodland flora. Some is present around the park e.g., wood avens and may seed itself in. Good species to try if the soil stays wet (the trees will help to dry it out) would be celandines (*Ficaria verna*) and ramsons (*Allium ursinum*).

Hilary Ash
Hon Conservation Officer
Wirral Wildlife
The Wirral Group of Cheshire Wildlife Trust

Ash dieback: see

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/science-and-research/ash-dieback>

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/pest-and-disease-resources/ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus/>

<http://ntsgroup.org.uk/>

WALKER PARK, PRENTON, WIRRAL SJ305860

P=planted.

Species abundance is estimated within the habitat on the DAFOR scale: D=dominant, A=abundant, F=frequent, O=occasional, R=rare, L=locally.

Area 2 Wildflower meadow

Agrostis stolonifera	creeping bent	O, LF
Alopecurus pratensis	meadow foxtail	O
Anthoxanthum odoratum	sweet vernal-grass	A
Cardamine pratensis	cuckoo-flower	R
Centaurea nigra P	knapweed P	R
Cynosurus cristatus	crested dog's-tail	O
Heracleum sphondylium	hogweed	R
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire fog	A
Hypochaeris radicata	cat's-ear	R
Leontodon autumnalis	autumnal hawkweed	R
Leucanthemum vulgare P	ox-eye daisy P	R
Lolium perenne	ryegrass	F
Plantago lanceolata	ribwort	O
Ranunculus acris	meadow buttercup	F
Ranunculus repens	creeping buttercup	A
Rhinanthus minor P	yellow rattle P	O
Rumex acetosa	common sorrel	O
Senecio jacobaea	ragwort	R
Stellaria graminea	lesser stitchwort	O, LF
Taraxacum sp	dandelion	O
Trifolium pratense	red clover	O

Area 3 Tree belt by gate.

Cirsium arvense	creeping thistle
Elymus repens	couch-grass
Fraxinus excelsior	ash
Rubus fruticosus	bramble
Rubus idaeus	raspberry
Ulmus procera suckers'	elm suckers
Urtica dioica	stinging nettle

Area 4 damp patch. P = planted (also planted but seem to have failed, cowslip, primrose, purple loosestrife)

Agrostis stolonifera	creeping bent	F
Bellis perennis	daisy	R

<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	large bindweed	R
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	cuckoo flower	R
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	creeping thistle	O
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	great hairy willowherb	F, LA
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	broad-leaved willowherb	F
<i>Epilobium obscurum</i>	short-fruited willow-herb	O
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i> P	meadowsweet P	O, LA
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	hogweed	R
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	O, LF
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i> P	yellow flag P	O
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i> P	ox-eye daisy P	F
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	ryegrass	R
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	green alkanet	R
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	rough meadow-grass	F
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	meadow buttercup	O
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup	F, LA
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	bramble seedling	R
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	broad-leaved dock	O
<i>Rumex sanguineus</i>	wood dock	R
<i>Silene dioica</i> P	red campion P	R
<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i> P	ragged robin P	O

Area 12: new tree planting (2019)

Ground flora.

<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>	marsh foxtail	A
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	meadow foxtail	F
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	sweet vernal-grass	O
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	daisy	R
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	A
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	ryegrass	F
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	rough meadow-grass	F
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	meadow buttercup	A
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	creeping buttercup	A
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	common sorrel	R
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	curled dock	R
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	broad-leaved dock	R
<i>Taraxacum</i> sp	dandelion	O

And some well-fed red-tailed bumble bees who were busy on the buttercups on areas 2 and 12.

Appendix 6 Walker Park Service Requirement

Wirral Parks and Countryside Maintenance Specification

1. Cleansing: (litter, rubbish & leaf collection)

1.1 Litter control

Collect and remove litter and refuse from the entire park. Government guidance and Regulations for the disposal of noxious or hazardous waste, for example empty chemical containers or 'sharps' shall be followed.

Inspect and empty all litter bins and disposing of the rubbish and for clearing all litter from around each bin.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 does not specify frequencies. Requisite standards shall be maintained by:

- o Ensuring familiarity with site plans and locations
- o Programming works effectively
- o Applying resources appropriately

Litter control shall conform to the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (updated November 2006).

The site shall be maintained to Grade B standard in accordance with the Code of Practice Part 1: litter and refuse.

- o Predominately free of litter and refuse apart from some small items

The maximum response time to restore to Grade A standard (no litter or refuse) if it falls below Grade B shall be 1 day; this means by 6pm the following day.

All staff shall ensure that they use their reasonable endeavours to collect and minimise the effects of litter on the site, whenever it is encountered in the pursuance of their duties, whether or not those duties are primarily litter control.

1.2 Sweeping and Cleansing

This requirement is applicable to all surfaces other than grass within the park. The entire surfaces of all tarmac, concrete or paved areas, rubberised surfaces and tiles, including play facilities and safety surfaces and other surface areas including loose surfaces such as bark and shale shall be kept clear in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act 1990: Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse (updated November 2006) to Grade B standard.

Sweeping, including gutters and drainage channels within the surface areas, shall be carried out by appropriate methods that do not damage or disrupt the surface.

Surfaces shall be washed down whenever necessary in order to maintain a clean and useable area.

All paths and hard surfaces shall be swept at even intervals and be kept cleared of grass cuttings following mowing operations.

All slippery surfaces caused by whatsoever nature, shall be made safe by the removal and / or treatment of the hazard.

All hard surfaces shall be maintained in a weed free condition including moss and algae growth.

1.3 Fallen Leaves

Fallen leaves shall be regularly cleared from areas of:

- o Main entrances and key pedestrian routes and paths
- o Key buildings and structures (e.g. public toilets, visitor centres)
- o Sports pavilions
- o Grass sports pitches and facilities
- o All weather sports pitches and facilities
- o Surfaces within play areas
- o Soft horticultural features such as bedding and herbaceous borders

Leaf clearance shall take place so that the features remain:

- o In good horticultural condition
- o Useable for sports play
- o With a safe, well drained hard surface

Any leaves that have accumulated into drifts or are unsightly or damaging to plants and bulbs shall be removed as a priority.

The operation shall be carried out frequently throughout the autumn in order to facilitate shrubbery and rose bed cultivation, and to prevent leaves from spreading back onto lawns, paths, hard surfaces, sports, and horticultural features. Where necessary, after leaf clearance, beds shall be lightly pricked through to remove footmarks.

The standard target will be to clear all autumn leaves by the end of December in each year, however these targets may vary annually due to seasonal shift. Where feasible, collected leaves will be recycled and utilised as mulch for shrub beds and herbaceous borders.

1.4 Graffiti and fly-tipping

Maintenance teams shall collect information on graffiti and fly-tipping during weekly site checks and inspections and shall report any incidence of these to the area manager for action.

Minor graffiti should be removed as soon as possible in cases where it is practical to do so. More significant graffiti should be reported to the Facilities Management team for action. Incidences of offensive or racist graffiti shall be prioritised for urgent removal within 24 hours by the appropriate contractor. Data for incidents of graffiti shall include:

- o Location
- o Surface type
- o Paint type

- o Description including offensive characteristics.

Fly-tipping shall be defined as any single quantity of tipped material that cannot be lifted by two members of staff and removed from the site. All instances of fly-tipping should be reported to the service area manager.

Where tipped material can be lifted by two members of staff, it is deemed to be covered by the litter control clauses of this service requirement and should therefore be removed from site as soon as possible.

Tipped materials which are not removable by service members should report the instance to the Waste Management Team for removal within 48 hours.

2. Grass maintenance

2.1 Annual grass maintenance programme

Maintenance of grass within Parks and Countryside sites will be carried out in accordance with the following grass-cutting programme throughout March to October on an annual basis.

Grass Category	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
General Park Grass	No Maintenance	Two cuts	Cease Maintenance (No Mow May)	Two Cuts	One Cut	One Cut	One Cut	One Cut
Formal Areas & Play Area Boundaries	One cut	Fortnightly	One Cut (end of the month)	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	Fortnightly
Rewilding areas	No Maintenance	One Cut (Spring meadow only)	No Maintenance	No Maintenance	No Maintenance	One Cut (Summer meadow only)	No Maintenance	No Maintenance

The grass categories in the above programme are defined as follows:

- General Park grass areas are defined as all general use grass within Wirral's Parks.
- Formal Areas are defined as ornamental lawns and gardens within Wirral's Parks. Play Area boundaries are classified as grassed areas within a fenced play area.
- Rewilding areas are those areas within parks which have been designated as meadows and are left unmaintained for the majority of the area for the benefit of biodiversity.

2.2 Grass maintenance general

All grass cutting machinery used across the entire range of standards shall be appropriate and fit for the purpose of achieving the specified standard.

On each occasion that grass cutting takes place the following shall be achieved:

- An even, uniform sward to the requisite height across 100% of the surface area, including all obstacles, grass margins, weed growth, seed and flower spikes and bents.
- Litter on areas to be mown shall be removed immediately prior to mowing.
- Any litter subsequently shredded as a result of the mowing operation, shall be collected, and removed.

Should grass exceed the maximum permissible height, the grass shall be brought back into conformance by frequent repeat mowing.

The use of herbicides is not permitted within Wirral's Parks and Countryside sites.

The use of growth regulators will not be permitted.

The edges of turf adjacent to hard surfaces, cutbacks, planted borders, beds, channels and kerbs shall be kept maintained to a neat even line. On each occasion of re-cutting, all finished bed edges shall be sharp, neat, and vertical.

All cuttings, clippings, or other mowing arisings across the complete spectrum of grass mowing operations which land on hard surfaces, shrub borders or flower beds shall be cleaned up and removed immediately on completion of mowing.

Arisings that fall on general grass/amenity grass, shall not normally require removal, in which case arisings shall be collected and removed for recycling or reuse.

Unless otherwise stipulated, grass areas over naturalised Narcissus, Galanthus and Crocus bulbs etc., shall remain uncut from the commencement of the grass cutting season to the first week in June, at which time the grass and bulb tops shall be cut and removed and the areas brought into conformance with the surrounding areas. Subsequently these areas are to be maintained to the same standard as the rest of the area.

In drought conditions, subject to the approval of the Area Team Leader or Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, the height of cut shall be adjusted so as not to cause added stress and damage to the sward. If grass growth is at a standstill, grass control and weed flower spikes will be carried out by cutting.

On resumption of mowing operations after adverse weather conditions have caused them to cease, ensure that a return to the appropriate standard is achieved by increasing the frequency of mowing.

2.3 No Mow May

Maintenance on general park grass areas (excluding sports pitches) is halted during May in accordance with the national "No Mow May" campaign (<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>), to promote biodiversity and provide opportunity for pollinators to flourish.

2.4 Premium ornamental and ornamental grass

All premium ornamental and ornamental grass areas shall be maintained to an appropriate height range that befits the area.

In the case of ornamental lawns all cuttings, clippings or other mowing arisings, no matter where they fall, shall be removed for recycling, or reuse immediately on completion of the operation.

2.5 Rewilding Areas

Rewilding areas will be maintained as meadows (dependent on area) and will not be maintained for the majority of the year, with a single cut taking place in April or August.

Where possible – arisings are to be collected, otherwise cuttings and other arisings shall be finely cut and left to lie evenly distributed.

Perimeter cuts along park boundaries (at a width of 1m, unless otherwise required) and selective pathways where natural desire lines will be maintained on a regular basis.

3. Hard landscape infrastructure: hard surfaces – roadways, pathways, car parks; site infrastructure – benches, lighting, fencing, walls (see also Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection)

3.1 Hard landscape infrastructure: condition surveys and improvement plans

An annual condition survey of the hard landscape infrastructure shall be carried out by the service area team leader/manager. Any defects will be included in the annual improvement plan, and repairs arranged by either the landscape development team, or facilities management team.

3.2 Hard surfaces weed control

Undertake a programme of effective weed control on all hard surfaces including roads; footpaths, car parks, steps, ramps and bridges, including the bases of all walls and fences where adjoining hard surfaces, along kerbstones and around landscape and park furniture. The use of residual herbicides shall not be permitted.

All hard surfaces including all edgings, kerbs and channels are to be kept weed-free by use of a non-residual translocated herbicide.

A well-timed programme and effective application linked to the growth of weeds is essential.

3.3 Hard surfaces gritting, salting and snow clearance

Hard surface gritting, salting and snow clearance is required to ensure that, where reasonably practicable, safe passage along a road or footpath is not endangered by snow ice.

Although there is no requirement to treat all roads and footpaths there are locations where this is required. The sites and areas to be treated are limited to those where essential only access is required which includes to the visitor centre and depot.

Treatment shall include pre-treating to prevent ice from forming and post treating when ice has formed, or snow has accumulated.

3.4 Benches and seating

All benches and seating, including picnic benches & tables, shall be kept clean and in good order through the use of such means as repainting or re-staining/oiling surfaces according to type of material.

3.5 Fences, railings, walls, gates, handrails, stiles, boardwalks, revetments and bollards

Any minor repairs such as loose bolts, protruding nails and sanding of sharp edges shall be undertaken on-site where possible. All other repairs should be reported to the landscape development team or facilities management team.

Defects which represent a hazard that cannot be repaired immediately must be made safe until an effective repair can be undertaken.

All gates, locks and mechanisms will be regularly maintained to ensure good working condition.

3.6 Notice boards and signs

Keep all signs, signposts and notice boards clean at all times and in good order through the use of such means as repainting or re-staining surfaces according to type of material of construction.

Noticeboards should be kept up to date with appropriate information and posters where appropriate.

4. Shrubs, Herbaceous and Bedding

4.1 Shrub and rose bed

Shrub beds shall be maintained to attractive presentation, and kept free of litter, weeds, other unwanted vegetation, and pests and diseases. The use of residual herbicides shall not be permitted.

Shrubs shall be maintained by pruning and training using the best horticultural practices to allow the development of each shrub in keeping with its habit, location and purpose.

Cultivation work in weather or ground conditions that would be harmful to the soil condition and its structure shall not be undertaken.

Observe that the purpose of pruning is to establish a strong framework of branches, keeping the shrubs healthy and vigorous, maintaining the size, shape and balance, whilst ensuring the maximum amount of flowering wood and fruit are produced.

Carry out the pruning of individual shrubs and roses appropriate to the requirements of each species or cultivar.

4.2 Herbaceous bed/border

Herbaceous beds shall be maintained to ensure their best appearance at all times.

The use of herbicides in areas planted with herbaceous plants shall not be permitted, and no cultivation works in weather or ground conditions that could be harmful to the soil condition or its structure shall be undertaken.

During each maintenance operation, the plants shall have all dead or faded blooms removed. All weeds, dead flowers, dead foliage, unwanted vegetation, and litter shall be removed for recycling. The planted area and its surrounds should be left in a neat and tidy condition.

Staking and/or tying in of the plants in accordance with good horticultural practice shall be undertaken during maintenance.

4.3 Hedges – ornamental and non-ornamental

Maintain all ornamental and non-ornamental hedges to their previously cut height, width and shape, ensuring that the top and sides of each hedge are cut neatly so that all

growth is removed to the point of the previous cut on the old wood. Maintain hedges to ensure the safe and free flow of motor traffic along adopted highways and other vehicle routes, and to ensure the safe and free flow of pedestrians and cyclists along adopted highway footpaths and all other access routes across sites.

All trimmings shall be for recycling or reuse.

The base of the hedge clean, tidy and vegetation free on every occasion the hedge is cut.

All maintenance staff shall be aware of obligations when undertaking any work on or near a highway with regard to public safety and traffic regulations.

Hedge maintenance shall be carried out at an appropriate time of year to as not to impact bird nesting season in accordance with Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

5. Trees and woodland

5.1 Trees and woodland general

All activities related to trees and woodland must adhere to Wirral's Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy 2020 to 2030. This strategy aims to protect, regenerate, and care for Wirral's existing trees, hedgerows and woodlands. Additionally, it promotes the planting of trees based on the principle of the 'right tree for the right place' and encourages natural regeneration.

Prior to commencing any tree and woodland work, consultation with the Parks Tree Management Officer is mandatory. Significant tree works must be carried out by the Council's approved contractor, while minor tree work by the Parks Service Team requires oversight from the relevant supervisor.

All tree work undertaken should be done in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 and by competent persons insured with public liability cover of at least two million pounds.

All operations should take account of legal obligations on the protection of wildlife species and habitats and should be planned to take advantage of appropriate weather conditions and time of year to ensure minimum disturbance.

Any tree work should take place outside the bird nesting season (which typically extends between March to September). Should this not be possible, trees must be checked for nesting birds by an experienced ecologist immediately prior to the commencement of works. If nesting birds are found, work must be delayed until the young have fledged.

Some species of bat roost in tree features often associated with mature, veteran and storm damaged trees. All bat species are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. If tree work is planned on any trees considered suitable for roosting bats, a survey should be carried out by a qualified ecologist to identify any potential roost sites.

No works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order shall take place without approval from the Parks Tree Management Officer and Local Planning Authority.

All persons undertaking tree works, shall be suitably trained and qualified and shall be in possession of appropriate certification.

The Parks Service Team and approved contractor shall consider all paths, grassed areas, pavements, kerbs, approach roads, manhole covers, fences, walls, overhead cabling etc. that are either adjacent to or on the work area shall be considered by staff and/or approved contractors. These are to be preserved in good condition and all necessary arrangements to make good any damage to the entire satisfaction of the Parks & Countryside Service Manager shall be made.

Stumps intended for permanent retention should be cut at a specified height and left free from snags.

On completion of all trees work the work area shall be thoroughly cleaned and should be left in a condition appropriate for its intended use.

All timber and brushwood resulting from tree work, except in woodland locations where retention is encouraged for deadwood habitat, must be removed from the site by the parks service team or approved contractor.

5.2 Tree hazard risk

All Parks and Countryside sites are incorporated into the Council's Tree Risk Management System (TRMS) which is managed by the Wirral Tree Team. The implemented TRMS ensures a balanced distribution of tree risk within an acceptable threshold. Resources are prioritised based on risk levels, with cyclical inspections conducted on all tree stock. The primary focus is on tree works necessary for public safety.

The Parks Service Team have a duty to report any observed tree risk or hazards to the Wirral Tree Team. Observations may occur during regular site health and safety inspections, following storm incidences, reports from the public or ad hoc inspections.

Following incidences of high winds and storms, all parks and countryside service areas will carry out priority checks on woodland areas for any damaged or fallen trees and report to the Wirral Tree Team for action.

5.3 Woodland management

Parks and Countryside Area Managers and Wirral Tree Team will develop woodland management plans in compliance with Wirral's Tree Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy. These shall follow the Forestry Commission's 'Woodland Management Plan Template' or equivalent. Consideration will be given to the continued health and development of the woodland for wildlife and amenity benefits. This includes retaining safe standing deadwood, when possible, for wildlife benefits and implementing measures to improve resilience to emerging pests, diseases, and extreme weather conditions.

6. Vandalism and third-party damage (see also Cleansing: litter, rubbish & leaf collection)

6.1 General

Work with the community, stakeholders, and partner organisations to reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the park.

6.2 Soft landscape

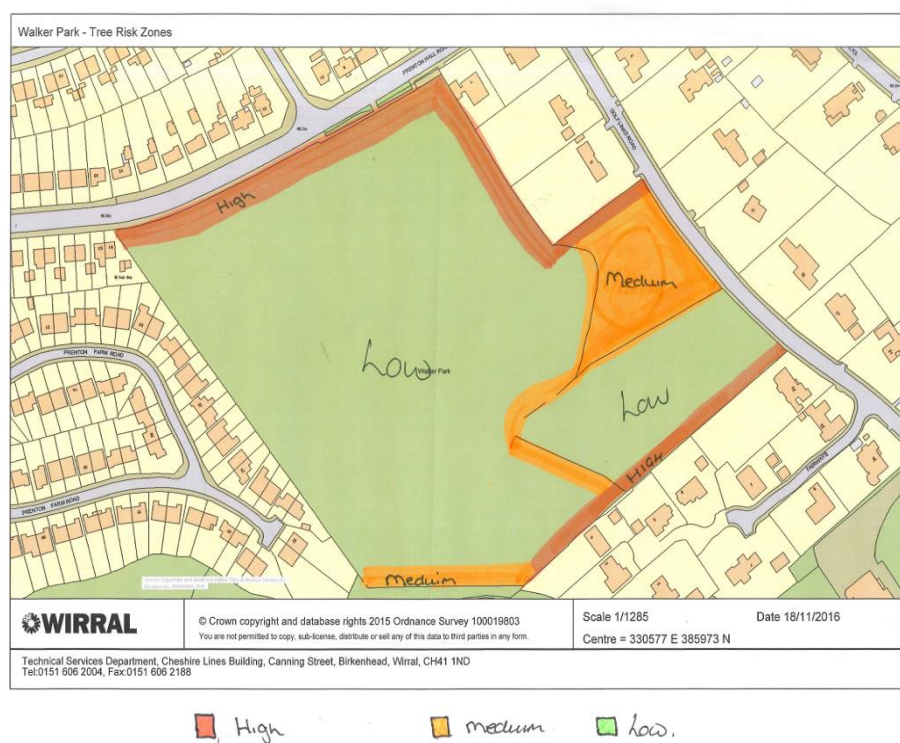
Rectify minor incidents of vandalism or third-party damage to soft landscape features including trees, planted and grassed areas within 24 hours, inclusive within the routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor incidents of damage caused by any other source.

6.3 Hard landscape infrastructure

The Grounds Maintenance Team shall rectify minor damage to fencing, gates, walling, furniture, signage, notice boards, lighting and surfacing and other hard landscape infrastructure resulting from any act of vandalism or third-party damage within 24 hours, inclusive within the routine maintenance activities. This shall include any minor damage caused by any other source. Minor damage shall be defined as requiring no more than 1 hour of labour per occasion to rectify with a minimal requirement for materials.

For more significant incidents of vandalism or third-party damage, make safe immediately, and refer to the facilities management team for repair. Significant vandalism should be reported to the police where necessary and be highlighted to the service manager.

Appendix 7 Tree Zoning & Five-year Tree Planting Strategy



Walker Park Five-year Tree planting strategy

Purpose of this document is to create a basic framework within which to work over the next five years in order to start the process of replacement tree planting within the site. It should be used in conjunction with the plan of the site, drawn up at the same time, which illustrates the approximate areas that should be considered during each year. It should be considered as an adaptable, working document that can be revised and adjusted at any time during the five years in order to consider changes in the park (Other planting schemes, projects, etc.) and the Council (Finances, resources, etc.). It is in no way a definitive list of what should occur but simply provides the route that can be followed over the course of the five years, at which point it should be properly reviewed to assess progress and to compile a similar strategy for the following 10 years.

Site

Overall classification of the site would be an urban park, but very much with a natural feel. The tree stock consists of a range of species, but the representative age range is quite narrow, meaning there are a large number of mature trees. Despite this, due to the parks size there are a lot of opportunities for replacement planting.

Aim

Given the current layout and planting of the site, the overall aim for the park should be to establish more native tree species. An increase in the range of species as well as the size and age range will help to increase biodiversity, overall population resilience to pests and disease, improve visual interest and help lessen the impact in future years when removal and replanting is required.

When planting new trees, the overall aim should be that the tree will be allowed to get to a reasonable mature size for the species with the minimum of external management. In order for this to happen proper long-term planning is essential and the tree must be planted in a position with enough space around it to grow into, in order to achieve a balanced, self-optimised structure.

Five-year plan

- Woodland scheme. Replant the area known as the 'Horse jumps' to extend the native woodland area.
- Up to five large (Mature size over 10 metres), native specimens every year. Preferably planted as a large specimen. Preferably planted in as large a size as possible.
- Around five small (Mature size up to approximately 10 metres), native specimens every year, to help provide more year-round interest. Preferably planted in as large a size as possible.
- A selection of whips to increase the native plantings through the site.
- Involve various stakeholders in the park with specific planting schemes, following a more detailed long-term plan integrating the schemes together. Friends of Walker Park, Prenton Primary School, Local Scout and Brownie groups.

All trees should be from a reputable, fully traceable source and should ideally have been grown in the UK for at least the last three seasons.

Proposed woodland planting scheme

Latin	Common	Size	Total no.
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	60-80cm/Bareroot	23
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak	8/10cm Standard	5
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	60-80cm/Bareroot	22
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech	8/10cm Standard	5
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly	2L or 9cm containerised	45
<i>Prunus padus</i>	Bird cherry	60-90cm/Bareroot	135
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	60-90cm/Bareroot	180
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	40-60cm/Bareroot	135
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder rose	40-60cm/Bareroot	180
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow	40-60cm/Bareroot	90
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	40-60cm/Bareroot	90
			910

Total measured area 100 metres x 40 metres. Planting at 2 metre x 2 metre intervals. Total of 1000 plants, less 100 plants to allow for a 2-metre-wide path through centre.

2021 tree planting site map

Walker Park



Appendix 8: Parks & Countryside Tree Policy

When considering tree work, whether by inspection or complaint, a number of issues are taken into account. The primary driver for work undertaken on trees will always be health and safety. While the Council would always want to be a good neighbour in terms of managing our tree stock, we do not automatically prune to reduce height, for light, satellite reception or to control leaf fall etc.

All persons employed to undertake tree work shall be suitably trained and qualified and in possession of the appropriate certification.

All tree work shall be undertaken in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010.

Have a duty of care to ensure that users of parks, green spaces, cemeteries, churchyards and golf courses, and all adjacent land, are not at unreasonable risk from possible failure of trees.

As part of site health and safety inspections, we assess and act on any tree related risks.

Individual trees in parks and green spaces – arboricultural management.

Undertake reactive management of selected trees in parks, green spaces, golf courses, cemeteries and churchyards in response to identified hazard risk identification, through an agreed programme of work. This may be supplemented by requests/complaints received from members of the public and others.

Undertake requests for commemorative and other funded tree planting within cemeteries, parks and green spaces to support the renewal of the tree stock, where these requests align with the design of specific parks and green spaces.

The appropriate Council Officer for each parks and countryside site (usually the Parks, Allotments and Countryside Team Leader for the location) is responsible for making all necessary checks to determine if there are any laws and regulations including tree preservation orders, which would affect any work proposed, and to ensure that all permissions and licences are gained prior to proceeding with work.

Before undertaking work, consider all paths, grassed areas, pavements, kerbs, approach roads, manhole covers, fences, walls, overhead cabling etc. that are either adjacent to or on the work area. These are to be preserved in good condition and make all necessary arrangement to make good any damage to the entire satisfaction of the service manager.

Any work should include, where appropriate, the removal of stumps and subsequent surface reinstatement.

Stumps intended for permanent retention to be cut at a specified height and left.

On completion of all work, the work area will be thoroughly cleaned and left in a condition appropriate for its intended use.

All timber and brushwood resulting from tree work is to be disposed of. The only exception to this shall be woodland locations where the service manager may instruct timber and brushwood to be retained on site.

The service manager may on occasion instruct delivery of brushwood chippings to sites within the Borough where these materials are required for composting, mulching or creating footpaths and bridleways.

There is an emergency call out service which provides 24 hours per day, 365 days per year emergency and out of hours call out response service for trees or limbs which have collapsed or are in a dangerous condition. Incidences of this nature are often associated with high winds, collision damage, root severance and acts of vandalism.

Appendix 9 - Japanese Knotweed

Mapping







POLICY REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF JAPANESE KNOTWEED BY WIRRAL COUNCIL

The treatment of Japanese Knotweed by Wirral Council involves the following:

- Taking into account specific site requirements, the Japanese Knotweed will either be stem injected (particularly on sites close to water courses or other sensitive plants) with a solution of Glyphosate or sprayed using a solution of Glyphosate and Icade (Triclopyr).
- If stem injection is the method chosen this will be undertaken by an appropriately trained member of staff or a contractor, the operative undertaking the work will be trained and qualified in stem injection holding the relevant PA61NJ licence.
- The spraying is undertaken by a member of Wirral Council staff trained and qualified in chemical application and holding a PA6 license
- Spraying takes place using a knapsack sprayer and continues for a minimum of 3 years to suppress and potentially eradicate the plant.




- The Council is committed to continuing with its spraying programme longer than 3 years in order to ensure that the plant is eradicated.
- The cycle of spraying takes place throughout the growing season usually March to October and involves 3 specific spraying sessions.
- Spraying cannot take place when it is raining or when there are high winds as this would render the treatment ineffective. As such specific dates are not identified where spraying can take place instead this is left to the decision of the qualified staff member.
- Dead Japanese Knotweed stems and plant material is either burnt on site or is taken off site and disposed of by a registered contractor at a site registered for disposal.
- The programme of treatment outlined above complies to and follows the Environment Agency Guidelines and Code of Practice on the treatment of Japanese Knotweed.

Appendix 10 Green Flag Assessment 2023

 Site Quality Evaluation (Mystery Shop)				
Name of Site	Walker Park		Managing organisation	Wirral Borough Council
Weather Conditions	Cool cloudy day			
Date of assessment	Wednesday 30 August		Time (from – to)	9.15am – 10.15am
Overall Result	<p>Green – Meets the standard with no concerns raised</p> <p>Amber – Meets the standard but with some minor areas of concern</p> <p>Red – Does not meet the requirement with major issues identified</p>			
Result: (✓)	<p>Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard?</p> <p>Green  Amber  Red </p>			
Grading			Strengths and Recommendations	
<p>Each question is graded Green, Amber or Red NG (not graded) is used when the question can't be answered or is not applicable – for which an explanation is provided.</p>			<p>Strengths and recommendation are provided to support each grading.</p> <p>Photographs can be included throughout, or at the end of the report to support the feedback from the judge(s) in relation to both strengths and recommendations.</p> <p>Please refer to the Raising the Standard guidance manual here for further information on the criteria.</p>	
A Welcoming Place				
1. Is the site welcoming?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		
2. Is the site easy to find?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		
3. Is signage in good condition?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		
4. Is the site accessible to all users?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		
Site is accessible, I note pathways are desire lines rather than formal hardstanding pathways which may prove challenging during winter months or during prolonged weather which may limit usage by people with mobility issues.				
Healthy, Safe and Secure				
5. Are facilities on site in good and safe condition?	NG	G	A	R
		✓		

6. Did you feel safe during the visit?	NG	G	A	R	Open aspect with many properties overlooking the site. A number of dog walkers on site at time of visit.
		✓			
7. Are dogs being controlled and the site free of dog fouling?	NG	G	A	R	No fouling noted from visit.
		✓			

Well Maintained and Clean					
8. Is litter, waste and recycling managed?	NG	G	A	R	Bins had recently been serviced. No litter noted during visit
		✓			
9. Is there a good standard of horticulture maintenance?	NG	G	A	R	The site is more natural with wildlife buffer zones, woodland planting, and some ornamental shrub planting. No formal bedding or ornamental areas that I noted. Notice displayed that relaxed maintenance regime is to support biodiversity.
	✓				
10. Is there a good standard of arboriculture maintenance?	NG	G	A	R	Generally yes but did note some younger trees were showing signs of poor growth or disease. (see photos attached).
		✓			
11. Are buildings and infrastructure such as walls, paths, steps and structures in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	Limiting infrastructure, but fencing, gates, bins and the one seat I located were in good order.
		✓			
12. Is equipment used by the public and staff in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	Goals recently been painted and informal pitch cut to encourage usage Site has limited equipment, no formal play provision etc.
		✓			
Environmental Management					
13. Is there evidence that the site is managed to have a positive impact on the environment?	NG	G	A	R	Notice stating maintenance regime ie grass cutting reduced to support biodiversity. Areas left for long grass to support insects. Did not note any recycle bins on site.
		✓			
Landscape and Heritage					
14. Are heritage and/or landscape features in good condition?	NG	G	A	R	
	✓				
Community Involvement					
15. Is there evidence of community involvement and engagement?	NG	G	A	R	Notice board displayed Friends group information. Just needed some update. Noted!
		✓			
	NG	G	A	R	

16. Is user feedback positive?	✓				
Marketing and Communication					
17. Is there evidence of marketing and promotion, including events? e.g. notice boards, in buildings, website & social media.	NG	G	A	R	Basic information about park on council's website. Notice board displayed park and friends group info.
		✓			
18. Is the correct year flag flying and certificate on display?	NG	G	A	R	Yes clearly on display at time of visit
		✓			
Overall Result (✓)	Is the site of Green Flag Award Standard? Green  Amber  Red 				
Final comments: Never visited before, nice site, popular with dog walkers. Only comment to make relates to some young trees which do not appear to be establishing well.					

Appendix 10 – Project Bank

The project bank is intended as a quick win list of relatively easy to deliver projects should unexpected resources become available (such as under spend on other projects)

Inclusion here does not imply Planning Permission or Public Consultation has been undertaken, only that they are suggested for discussion.

'PROJECT BANK'		
Project	Cost estimate (inc design and contract management fee)	Justification – e.g., policy 'fit' and needs evidence
Community Orchard	£20,000	Visitors to the park will be able to pick fresh fruit and encourage healthier eating habits
Improve and clear ditches to improve drainage	£10,000	In recent years some areas of the park have become unusable due to waterlog ground. Improving drainage would resolve this problem