

# Mile End Park Management Plan 2015-2020

## ‘New Challenges’

2016-2017 Update



**London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
Parks & Open Spaces  
Arts, Parks & Events Services  
Communities, Localities & Culture Directorate**

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# **1 Introduction**

## **1.1 The plan aims to demonstrate:**

- The history of the Park and how these features are maintained.
- How the Park is promoted to both a local and wider community
- How sustainable methods are introduced to manage the Park using a range of best horticultural practice.
- How the park provides a safe, healthy and secure environment that meets the needs of its users
- How the local community are consulted and engaged to work towards a shared vision.

## **1.2 Objectives of the Park management**

1. Welcome people to park and help them enjoy their visit
2. Manage the park to achieve a high quality, safe environment
3. Improve personal safety of park users and reduce fear of crime
4. Promote biodiversity, sustainable use and management of the site and resolve or minimise the issues and threats identified in this plan.
5. Improve the park's facilities by taking advantage of any funding opportunities and enhance the landscape character of the park
6. Provide a wide range of safe, stimulating and educational play opportunities for children and young people

## **1.3 Guidance on reading the Mile End Park Management Plan**

The Management Plan has four distinct elements.

The overarching Management Plan has a clear contents list to guide the reader. It looks at the successes and some things that were less successful from last year's plan. It is laid out to show the history and development of the park and offers a description of the various zones within the park. Finally it has an action plan for the coming year.

The other three strategies have their own contents page and action plans and are bound as one document to highlight the fact that these are live documents and will be given equal status within the overall management plan.

Each year we give the park a themed focus,

- 1) 2004 Bringing the countryside to the East End
- 2) 2005 Inclusive play.
- 3) 2006 Art for Arts sake
- 4) 2007 Making Ourselves Heard".
- 5) 2008 Building on Success,
- 6) 2009 Playful Park
- 7) 2010 Tightening belts.
- 8) 2011 Means Business
- 9) 2012 Getting fit for the Olympics
- 10) 2013 Leaving a Legacy
- 11) 2014 A Change in Time
- 12) 2015 Investing Again
- 13) 2016 New Challenges

This strategy has worked well for over ten years. 2016 will bring with it “New Challenges” for the park as it continues to strive and achieve greater successes.

The relationship between the Friends and Mile End Park has continued with regular walks and meetings. The Park’s Development Officers are the key link with the Friends Groups and endeavour to meet quarterly to share updates, progress and consult with plans as required.

A new 5 year aspirational plan has been drawn up for 2015 to 2020. This will continue to be reviewed annually, and additional objectives may be introduced whilst others may be amended or deleted as necessary.  
(See 11.6e)

## **2 Site Information**

### **2.1 The Park Deconstructed**

The park can be divided into six segments and whilst these have their own individual characteristics they should blend seamlessly to make the whole park. This is made more difficult by the fact that the park is physically bisected by two busy roads and two railway lines and the design of the park has intentionally incorporated this to make a truly urban park of the 21st century.

6.0.2 The main six segments of the park beginning at the northern most part are: the Play Arena, the Ecology Park, the Art Park, the Green Bridge and Terrace Garden, the Adventure Park, the Children’s Park. In addition to these six segments there are slightly less distinctly defined areas of the park that inter-link the main segments and act as transitional areas for the park visitor.

### **2.2 The Activity Arena**

#### **2.3 Concept**

This area is designed to allow outdoor entertainment to take place, particularly, though not exclusively, for children.



**The Adizone in Wennington Green**

#### **2.4 Description**

The arena comprises a large grass area with some mounding to form a partial amphitheatre. Within the mounding is an outdoor gym (the Adizone) which is brightly coloured and can easily be seen from the road. Fencing defines the area on three

sides and the Regent's Canal marks the other boundary. Trees have been planted around the periphery, but the area is easily visible from the road.

A small playground exists across the small road that divides the grass area from the Bow Wharf development. The play area is designed for the 1 to 8 year old age group.

## **2.5 The Ecology Park and Ecology Pavilion**

### **2.6 Concept**

To offer the casual visitor an insight into ecology and bio diversity that may lead to seeking out further information on the subject elsewhere in the park. Although these themes are present throughout the park, it is intended for this area to be the core focus area and to build on levels of knowledge and involvement.

### **2.7 Description**

The area has three ponds that have already attracted damselfly and dragon flies, both new species to the park. The ponds are designed to give the impression of being linked to the canal, but they are in fact fed from a borehole. The area is somewhat visually dominated by a redundant wind turbine that powered the pump circulating water in the lakes and is an example of wind energy in action. The earth insulated Ecology Pavilion that is largely used as a public building for the display of exhibitions, conferences, and seminars and for private hire, which act as a valuable source of revenue.



### **The Ecology Park**

Work continues here and elsewhere in the park to undertake some trapping of invertebrates to compare the findings with the previous year, in order to monitor the success of the ecology strategy.

## **2.8 The Art Park**

### **2.9 Concept**

To provide a complementary backdrop for art in all its many forms both in the exterior and interior of the park. This would range from temporary to permanent pieces of sculpture and to a range of exhibitions held in the earth insulated Art Pavilion.

### **2.10 Description**

A large pond with cascades, islands, bridges and an arts pavilion dominate the Arts Park. Further south is a partially planted small hill known as the Art Mound, affording views across the park. A set of giant grass steps provides a more energetic method of reaching the top, but a path around the mound allows for a far gentler ascent. There are some beds of imaginative planting that afford interest throughout the year to the front of the Pavilion. To the rear of the Art Pavilion the globular line of willows have been removed and replaced with a series of new beds planted to provide all year round interest.



**The Arts Park**

## **2.11 The Green Bridge and Terrace Garden**

### **2.12 Concept**

The Green Bridge is the iconic statement of the park, making it clear that traffic filled roads will have no dominion over a park of the 21st century. It unites the two halves of the park and allows one to walk through the park oblivious to the four lanes of traffic below on the busy Mile End Road. The Bridge also unites the two communities of Bow and Poplar, as they are no longer physically separated by the busy road and are free to wander through the length of the park.

The Terrace Garden is designed for year-round interest and was laid out with older people in mind. Each level can be reached by a sloped access and there are many



seats from which to rest and watch the fountain play in the more formal water feature. The aesthetic interest of this area makes it a popular meeting place for both young and old alike and in many ways it is the centre piece of the park.

### **2.13 Description**

The Green Bridge, designed by Piers Gough, spans the road and can be easily identified from Mile End Tube station. The original planting scheme was to plant Silver Birch and Black Pines set in grass with a footpath and a cycle path running through the centre. The trees are effectively planted in large containers that are plunged into the polystyrene that fill the bridge and as such must be treated as containerized plants. However there are structural problems which lead to the water from the planting containers dripping into the shops directly beneath.



**The Green Bridge**

The Terrace Garden is a series of terraces leading down from the bridge on the southern side to the pool and fountain. Each terrace is planted to maintain year-round interest and is supplied with the formal steel seats. The water feature has a fountain at one end and five burbling jets at the other. Water travels from one end to the other down a cascade, so providing the noise of running water in the area. The far side of the feature is less formal and reeds and other natural aquatics have been allowed to establish.



**The Terrace Garden**

In 2012, whips of *Alnus incana*, *Ulex europaeus* and *Betula* were planted thickly and will be thinned as appropriate as they grow governed by the degree of rainfall and the depth of soil.

Fencing off the viewing platform has deterred antisocial behaviour which was a problem of the original bridge design.

Natural Play pieces have been installed on the approaches to the bridge. As part of the strategy to promote play throughout the length of the park with pieces that will form play cues to children rather than the usual formal play equipment.

The removal of the central reservation from the section of the bridge itself has enhanced the visual aspect of the Green Bridge and this will continue to improve as the tree seedlings continue to grow.

## **2.15. Adventure Park**

### **2.16 Concept**

The area is designed to appeal to those between the age of 11 and 17. It takes as its starting point that it is impossible to provide a single piece of equipment that would be of interest to both ends of this age range so one item has been provided as a transitional piece in so much as it is a bigger more challenging version of that in the Children's Play Park for the under 11s. From this the younger children can observe the etiquette of this play space and gain confidence before venturing onto the less familiar equipment. The other basis of the design is that most young people in this age category tend to want places that they can sit and chat, away from adults.



**The Skate Park**



**The BMX track**

### **2.17 Description**

The Urban Adventure Base (UAB) building is a large two floored sea container that has been adapted to make office accommodation to house UAB staff and a and its users.

Adjacent to the UAB unit there is the newly developed Short Breaks Gym, which provides various sports and health related exercise and training sessions in particular for young people with special educational needs and disability.

Both and managed under the Council's Youth and Community Services.

### **2.18 The Sports Park**

#### **2.19 Concept**

To provide a wide range of sporting activities within the park, that builds on the already successful athletic track and all-weather sports pitch. The activities should be easily accessible to a wide cross section of the community and have the promotion of healthy lifestyles as a core objective.



**GLL Sports Stadium and Leisure Centre**



## 2.20 Description

The area contains two all-weather surface sports pitches, a full size athletics track and stadium with changing room complex. These facilities are widely used both by local athletes, local schools and the local community. The £15.3 million leisure centre opened in 2006 and incorporates two swimming pools, two gyms, a steam room, a fitness studios, sauna and physiotherapy and massage surgeries together with 10 outdoor football pitches and associated changing facilities.

## 2.21 The Children's Play Park

### 2.22 Concept

To provide a range of child-based activities for children aged between 1 and 11 years of age and to offer a range of support for the parents and carers of children in this age range.



**Bird's eye view of the children's playground during a summer event in 2013**

### 2.23 Description

The outdoor area comprises a number of diverse pieces of fixed play equipment, a water jet feature, an area for imaginative play based around a make believe dry river bed, a small climbing wall and a small ruined castle. In addition there is an area for ball games.

Elsewhere is an area of grass, which is managed as wild meadow for younger children to gain a first understanding of nature. A refreshment kiosk and toilets can also be found in the play area.

More recent additions include outside musical instruments, an outdoor theatre and a range of different swing types and a fire pit where children can learn about fire under the supervision of the rangers or play staff. To the rear of the pavilion is the Growing Zone, which is an area used to offer children the experience of growing fruit and vegetables.



In summer 2015 the playground was closed for of time to allow the Council to fully review and inspect all play equipment's, with repairs and enhancements carried out where necessary. The Council is also currently exploring avenues of funding to re-landscape the mound area. The re-landscaping plans will include a renovation of the mound with new interactive play equipment's, and a planting regime. Funding permitted, the service also aims to install new interactive play equipment's, including accessible an accessible roundabout for wheelchair users.

Although, the playground is currently partially open, the children's growing zone and the play pavilion are fully accessible.

The council have taken measures to ensure all play equipment's are inspected regularly. Staff members from the Arts, Parks and Events Service have been trained and are qualified to conduct monthly operational play inspections. In addition to this Play Workers and Community Park Rangers have also had refresher trainings to conduct daily visual inspections.

The Play Pavilion building is fully equipped with a soft play area, toilets, and a kitchen, office and storage space and provides a large indoor play space. The groups using the centre share a range of equipment, but they may also bring their own age or ability appropriate equipment to enhance their sessions.

There is also a fully operational kitchen which allows for both healthy eating activities and cooking sessions to take place so that children get the opportunity to understand how food is prepared. It is linked with the outdoor growing zone which produces fruit and vegetables.

### **2.3.0 Transport Links**

Bus: There are numerous buses which pass through the Mile End Road junction which are close to the park. These are 25, 277, D6, D7, 205, 323, 339, 425 and N25.

Tube: The nearest station is Mile End. This station is in Zone 2 and is on the Hammersmith and City Line, the District Line and the Central Line.

### **2.3.1 Physical & Geographical Details**

The Park is situated within the Mile End and Bow area, and is geographically best described to be as a vertical column within the centre Tower Hamlets.

### **2.3.2 Area of Site**

The total area of Mile End Park is some 32 hectares (79 acres).



**North and South of the Park**

**Figure 1 Map of Tower Hamlets illustrating location of Mile End Park (North and South)**

### **2.3.3 Grid Reference**

The Ordnance Survey Grid Reference for Mile End Park:

TQ 362827

X: 536201

Y: 182701

Latitude: 51.526808

Longitude: -0.038022995

Due to the size of the park, the grid reference of the Arts Park has been used, for reference only.

### **2.3.4 Access**

With the exception of the playground in Locksley Street (locked every day at dusk), the park is always open throughout the year. The layout of the park does not make it suitable to be closed, however the parks 24 hour access is useful for local users who can access many of the parks amenities through day and night.

The park serves well with numerous entrances located across the different sections of the park. Vehicle access to the park is for Council Services and contractors; all other vehicles are prohibited from entering without prior consent from the Council, unless for emergency access by police or ambulance.

With the exception of a handful of stair way entrances via Regents Canal, all entrances are accessible to the disabled. Given its gradients it is traversable by buggies or wheelchairs but also walking disabled. Access to the park is practical from all sections and connects very well to the main amenities of the park. The accesses are also very well lit, spacious and some covered by CCTV.

2.3.5 Figure 1: Map showing access points in Mile End Park



## 2.4 Land Tenure

The land ownership of the park is two; Fields in Trust and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council. The Council own sections Brickfield, Gardens, Agnes Green, Kirks Place and the Locksley Street Playground. All of which are located within the south of the park. Fields in Trust own the rest.

## 2.5 Public Rights of Way

No public rights of way are known to exist across the site; all paths are permissive.

## 2.6 Planning Authority

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets is the Local Planning Authority.

## 2.7 Electoral Information

Mile End Park is located in the Bow West and Mile End ward (Figure 3).



2.7.1 Figure 4. Electoral wards for the borough of Tower Hamlets. The park is located on the Bow West and Mile End ward.

### **3.0 History and Current Status**

3.0.1 The park was constructed from several pieces of land and was originally designed to become an almost continuous green strip less than half a mile from Victoria Park in the north and reaching to within 0.75 mile of Limehouse in the south.

3.0.2 Although the park doesn't quite reach Limehouse and there remain three roads that divide the park, the presence of the towpath along the Regents canal allows for an unbroken walk through the park.

3.0.3 The concept of the park for the 21st century sprang from the local community following a "planning for real" weekend where they were invited to meet and discuss what they would like to see in the park. In September 1995, 300 people attended the Mile End Park planning weekend in a local school adjacent to the park. Participants were given blank copies of the park out line and the broader strategic plan and asked to write down what they would like to see in their park and to list their priorities for the site.

3.0.4 A park for the 21st century was about to spring up from true consultation and only when the results of that consultation had been assessed would the professionals be brought in to make the park a reality.

3.0.5 As with any scheme of this scale not every element could be completed on time and to budget, nor did all the assumptions made for a revenue stream occur exactly as predicted.

3.0.6 This resulted in compromises being made and some elements remaining to be completed. Almost all of these elements have been successfully implemented with the exception of the proposed completion of the solar canopy above the go kart track.

3.0.7 Like anything organic the park continues to develop, but it has at its core the dreams and aspirations of the people drawn from the local community who made their views known at that first consultation meeting.

### **3.1.0 Historical Context**

3.1.2 Mile End Green was the place that Watt Tyler, Leader of the Peasant Army met King Richard II and his assembled army in 1381.

3.1.3 In 1820-1838 it was the site of a famous pleasure garden or tea garden, known as the New Globe Inn Gardens. These pleasure gardens were slightly less fashionable than Vauxhall and Raneleigh Gardens, but at sixpence entry fee, still considering itself genteel. The New Globe Inn can still be seen today with its characteristic globe on the roof.

3.1.4 In 1936, following the death of King George V, a charity was formed to improve playing fields and recreation grounds across the country in commemoration of the late King. Mile End Park received the single largest grant of any park in the country and the commemorative plaques can be seen embedded in the gate piers adjacent to Copperfield Road.

3.1.5 In 1944 Lord Abercrombie developed the most ambitious plan for the establishment of parks in London. Amongst the proposals was the establishment of parkland linking Victoria Park to Limehouse effectively elongating Mile End Park.

3.1.6 The first V2 bomb dropped on the railway bridge adjacent to Mile End Park in 1944 and the blitz continued to devastate the East End. Such devastation made possible the potential implementation of the Abercrombie Plan.

3.1.7 In 1950 the park was created out of the devastation of the Second World War with the beginning of compulsory purchasing of houses and factories.

3.1.8 In the 1980s the GLC (Greater London Council), who managed the original park, resurrected the plans first formulated by Patrick Abercrombie MP and indeed drew up extensive plans. The GLC were abolished by central Government before the plans could be fully implemented.

3.1.9 In 1994 the newly established Millennium Commission sought suitable projects to mark the new millennium. The London Borough of Tower Hamlets joined forces with the Environment Trust and the East London Business Alliance to form the Mile End Park Partnership.

3.1.10 In January 1998, building work began on the new Mile End Park and by September the first major construction begins with work on the Terrace Garden and the centrepiece of the scheme "the Green Bridge" that would span the busy Mile End Road.

3.1.11 Work on the Green Bridge was completed by July 1999, followed in October by the start of phase two: the construction of the Art Park and the Ecology Park.

3.1.12 Late 2001 saw the construction of phase three the Children's Park and the Children's Pavilion. The Children's Park became fully operational in 2003.

3.1.13 A new bridge was opened on October 20th 2009 effectively joining a piece of land on the other side of the canal to Mile End Park and encouraging wider use of the park to a greater number of people. This was the final piece of outstanding work that was promised to the Millennium Commission.

3.1.14 The Park's urban adventure amenities expanded further with the official opening of the Skate Park in the summer of 2011. The Skate Park is managed by the Council's Youth Services, who also manage the newly created BMX track just adjacent to their office.

### **3.2 Key amenities of Mile End Park**

All sections of the park are very well utilised and serve well for recreational, community, adventure, ecology, play, heritage and conservation which helps attract and retain users. The various amenities are spread into a number of areas which reflects its origins, layouts and character.

3.2.1 From South to north of the park:

#### **Brickfield Gardens**

- Play area

#### **Agnes Green**

- Picnic area

#### **Locksley Street Playground**

- Enclosed Playground
- Growing Zone
- Fire Pit
- Pond area
- Café
- Play Pavilion
- Public Toilets

#### **Kirks Place**

- Enclosed Conservation Area
- Picnic Area

#### **King George's Field**

- Picnic Area
- Meadow Area
- 11 aside Astro Turf

#### **Adventure Park**

- Skate Park
- Graffiti Arch
- Revolution Karting
- Unit Arches include service: Somali Integration Team, Skate Shop, Indoor Skate Area, Concordia Community Centre, Dog Wares
- Five aside Football Pitches
- Mile End Stadium
- Mile End GLL Leisure Centre
- Short Breaks Gym
- Urban Adventure Base
- BMX Track
- Play equipment for elder children
- Multi Use Games Area
- Dog Gym
- Copperfield Woodland Walk

#### **South Park / Events Field**

- Picnic / Recreation Area
- Terrace Gardens
- Cascade Fountain

#### **Green Bridge**

Units include:

- Costa



- Peri Peri Chicken
- Zeera (Indian Restaurant)
- Nandos
- Meades Estate Agents
- Co-operative Supermarket
- Starbucks
- Krepe Shop
- Public Car Park



3.2.2 Figure 6 Green Bridge Units

#### **Arts Park**

- Older People's Community Garden
- Chris's Wood
- Arts Mound
- Arts Pavilion
- Arts Lake
- Dedicated Conservation Area
- Bee Hive

#### **Ecology Park**

- Haverfield Open Space
- Haverfield Woodland Walk
- Haverfield Road Public Car Park
- Climbing Wall
- Meath Bridge
- Ecology Park
- Ecology Lakes x3
- Ecology Pavilion
- Compost Bin Area

#### **Wennington Green**

- Adizone Outdoor Gym
- Picnic / Recreation Area
- Children's Playground

#### **Overall Park**

- Dedicated cycle path throughout the park
- Walking path throughout the path
- 3 Woodland Walk
- Central Reservation Planting
- 2 Canal Bridges: Meath Bridge and Solebay Bridge

3.2.3 Figure 5 Map showing amenities in Mile End Park



### **3.3.0 Interlinking Elements**

3.3.1 Within Mile End Park there are several spaces that interconnect the themed areas and whilst not necessarily featuring so prominently on plans or in accompanying text, they are no less clearly defined and make a significant contribution to the overall success of the park. Sometimes these are fully developed and with a clear purpose and at other times they are flexible spaces without any defined role.

3.3.2 “Fishy places” was a piece of artwork designed by local children to interact with the local anglers that fish the canal. It is situated within the park at the point that the canal flows under Roman Road at the entrance to the Ecology Park.

3.3.3 The Meath Bridge dominates the area in front of the climbing wall. The bridge crosses the canal connecting the park to Meath Gardens. This was a requirement of the Millennium Commission and was a part of the original scheme. The bridge opened on October 20th 2009 and has proved very popular with people on the Meath Garden’s side of the canal continues to bring a new audience into Mile End Park.

3.3.4 The Climbing Wall is commercially let and managed and is situated adjacent to the canal and in the area that separates the Ecology Park from the Art Park.

3.3.5 Behind the Climbing Wall premises, and bound on its furthest side by Grove Road, is an area of open grass. This space known locally as Haverfield Green is used for informal games of football and as a space that can be used for larger Park Events e.g. Park Life that is organised by the Friends of Mile End Park.

3.3.6 Woodland walk areas have been introduced to three areas of scrub on the periphery of the park. The first woodland walk is sited just off Copperfield Road, adjacent to the Dog Exercise areas. This area provides a junction of natural walks providing access to different directions within the south of the park. The second is along the Chris’s Wood and the third is the largest, known as the Haverfield Woodland Walk. These areas provide play space taking over a natural area of scrub and insert a series natural play features making them very popular amongst children and schools.

3.3.7 The older people’s garden is sited at the southern end of Clinton Road and was a remnant of an older park design. It was an area of traditional shrubs and grass fenced off from public access and so served no purpose to the park

3.3.8 Shops and Restaurants are built into the Green Bridge and the rent derived from these units is part of the revenue stream for the park. The units were leased as empty shells and in return for six months free rental, the tenants were expected to fit out the units using high quality design and materials. The units on the north side comprise an estate agent, a coffee bar and a supermarket, whilst on the south side three restaurants offer cuisines to a wide range of visitors.

3.3.9 The South Park links the Terrace Garden area to the Adventure Park and is an area of short grass and trees. Like the area behind the climbing wall, open areas of grass are useful to balance the more developed areas of the park. However, there are some important areas of scrub and these will be managed in the interests of bio diversity to form mixed woodland areas.

3.3.10 The Borehole, by its nature, cannot be seen, but the effect on the park cannot be underestimated. The park has a licence to remove water directly from the water table beneath the park. Water from the borehole is pumped into the lake and also

feeds the automatic irrigation system to water the trees on the Green Bridge and along the spinal path.

3.3.11 At the north end of Copperfield Road on a space that had no obvious purpose even for informal recreation a Dog Gym or Dog Agility course has been introduced.

3.3.12 The Railway Arches are situated beneath a busy mainline railway and act as a visual as well as physical barrier. They had acted as a blot on the park landscape as they were filled with examples of “dirty industry”, for example garages and breakers yards etc. A policy decision was taken by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to lease the arches on a 99-year lease from Rail track and to re-let them to selected sub-tenants. This has had the effect of cleaning up an untidy area and the new tenants include the Animal Wardens’ operational headquarters with an animal operating theatre and holding pens as well as Venture, “Concordia” which boasts a recording studio and mixing suite and is used by young people from the Somalian, Bangladeshi and English communities. In addition, English as a Second Language and IT skills are taught in classrooms within the centre.

3.3.13 One arch has walls housing official graffiti boards, where local artists are able to design graffiti art and which fellow artists will wipe out in time to allow new art to be displayed. This central archway leads through to the go-karts and Skateboard Park, the latter offering more graffiti boards. The central arch will remain as a linking space between the 5-a-side football facilities and the path leading to the children’s Play Park. The two remaining arches will be used to house a half pipe to allow skateboarding in wet weather and a skateboard outlet which will offer supervision of the site and youth chill out area/cafe.

3.3.14 The Skate Park has a polished concrete floor and is designed to provide an experience for all abilities from the absolute beginner to the advanced practitioner of the sport. It attracts a wide variety of age groups and although the predominant use is skateboarding it is also used for BMX and in line skating.

3.3.15 Revolution Go-Karting is another tenant of the park and rental from the track is another important source of revenue to the park. 3.3.16 Kirk’s Place is a piece of grass that flanks the Regent’s Canal and visually at least it does not currently connect with the park. Linking the Sport Park via the brick gate pierced entrance/exit, (which still includes the plaque commemorating King George V Playing Fields) and crossing the busy Rhodeswell Road accesses the site. A listed vented brick sewer chimney dominates the area, belonging to Thames Water whilst the Canal and River Trust is responsible for the canal and towpath. It is also the site of the Bombardier beetle, only the second in the country, although this could not be confirmed in 2012.

3.3.17 The Spinal Path is the main path that travels north/ south through the centre of the park. It is divided into two sections so as to separate cyclists and pedestrians and is constructed of two surfacing materials a tarmac and a hot tar resin bound surface. A narrow linear shrub border containing mixed shrub and tree planting that is protected by temporary fencing separates the two paths. The cycle path has periodically placed rumble strips to slow down cyclists as they traverse the park in order to protect the health and safety of all park users. An application for funding in the region of £60,000 was successful in 2013 and in order to remove the top soil and replant the area. The planting was completed in autumn of 2014 and we hope to follow it up with something robust fencing line to ensure the planting are not damaged.

## **4.0 A Welcoming Place**

### **4.1 Objectives**

To be welcoming the following objectives have been developed for the park:

- It will be managed to ensure a healthy, safe and secure place for all members of the community.
- An inter-departmental approach to ensure proactively reduces Anti-Social behaviour.

### **4.2 Accessibility**

The Park is open all day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Tower Hamlets ensure all gates are kept open to ensure the Park remains inviting. Sightlines are maintained by the Grounds maintenance teams and surrounding meadows are kept low or back from paths to improve views to ensure that all areas of the Park are visible. This assists in not only the reduction of ASB but also the feeling of a secure environment to visit. Vehicle access is restricted to service provider and grounds maintenance teams.

Facilities such as playground, wildlife area, picnic and church are close to main gates and paths, allowing quick safe access

### **4.3 A visible presence**

The Park has the benefit of regular visits and inspections by a range of council officers and service providers. Both the grounds maintenance team and cleansing service provider regular visit the Park along with officers from both the Clean and Green and Arts Parks and Event section. This is in addition to regular patrols from both local Safer Neighbourhood Teams and for Tower Hamlets Enforcement officers. All the Community Park Rangers and Play Workers are uniformed and easily identifiable which creates a feeling of security within the Park.

### **4.4 Community Park Rangers**

The role of the Community Park Rangers is key to a positive visitor experience – please see section 5.3 for details.

### **4.5 Signage**

Interpretation, historical, educational and navigation signage are installed throughout the stretch of the park. Please see section 8.3 and 8.4. For details

## **5 A Healthy, Safe and Secure Place**

### **5.1 Objectives**

To be a healthy, safe and secure place, the following are applied at Mile End Park:

- It will be managed to ensure the personal safety and wellbeing of all park users is given the highest priority.
- It will be promoted as a place for physical activity, including play, sports and exercise, as well as for promoting mental wellbeing and social confidence.
- Ensure play areas are inspected daily, monthly and annually by Community Park Rangers, Parks Officers and externally by qualified RPII inspectors.

The Borough is committed to promoting the Health, Safety and Welfare of all employees and of the public who come into contact with its premises and services. It is the policy of the Directorate to develop a positive Health and Safety culture throughout the organisation because we believe that good safety is good business. This Health and Safety Policy intends to set the ground rules through which continuous improvement of the standards of

### **5.2 Play Equipment**

Monthly operational inspections are carried out within the park This is in addition to the daily visual inspections and the annual independent assessment by ROPSA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents). Risk Assessments for the park, children's play area and any events in parks are reviewed annually. These are checked by the Parks Manager who also takes responsibility for ensuring that any resulting actions are monitored and carried out to the required timescales. The service also has trained operational play inspectors and all training for Play Workers and Community Park Rangers is refreshed on an annual basis.

### **5.3 Security and the Community Park Rangers**

There are four full time and two part time Rangers' based in the park. The Rangers are responsible for the safety and enjoyment of the park users and will encourage the park bylaws to be up held. The Rangers wear high visible uniforms allowing easy identification from a distance. Park personnel are the point at which members of the public can voice their concerns, get information about what is happening in the park or can give general feedback whilst carrying out their general day to day duties.

Rangers supplement the contracted litter collection and they react to spot littering e.g. fly tipping or broken glass.

Graffiti removal occurs each morning, so that the perpetrators of the graffiti get bored, as their work cannot last for more than a few hours and always less than 24 hours. This has proved very successful in deterring graffiti although it has attracted major attacks from gangs outside the area who presumably see it as a challenge.

The rangers undergo regular DBS checks so that they are able to undertake the role of play workers and provide school holiday activities both in the park and in the Play Park. The aim of this is to encourage local children to grow up with very positive experiences of the Rangers and a more interactive experience of using the park.

In their role as the visible presence of the park the Rangers organise, publicise and lead a range of guided walks as part of an annual programme of events that will

encourage more and wider use of the park as well as ensure that the byelaws of the park are enforced.

#### **5.4 Tower Hamlets Police and Community Safety**

The policing of park comes under the authority of the Tower Hamlets Metropolitan Police Service. As well as officers attending parks in response to emergencies or special operations, a local policing initiative is in place within London to increase safety and perceptions of the public realm, including parks, known as 'Safer Neighbourhoods', based around electoral wards with officers having local knowledge.

Working alongside the Police is the Safer Community service, a division of the council tasked with delivering the Tower Hamlets Safer Communities Strategy to reduce crime, improve quality of life and help to make the borough a safer place. The Safer Neighbourhoods Team, the Council's Parks Team and Safer Communities share intelligence and information not just on antisocial issues but also on more positive ones and support each other to help 'design out crime' or respond quickly to vandalism or damage. There is also a dedicated Tower Hamlets Enforcement Team which patrol parks in the borough on a programmed basis.

CCTV cameras are in operation through the centre of the park and also in the Children's Play Park. The cameras are monitored from a control room that is linked to the local police station. Cameras are also in operation on the outside of the park at either side of the Green Bridge.

Lighting in the form of lampposts occurs along the spinal path, the towpath, and at crossover points on major routes. These are particularly important as the park boasts unfettered access around the clock seven days a week throughout the year. The lighting in the park has been enhanced with the addition of new lights and the replacement of some lights with stronger outputs.

Police liaison occurs between the Parks Officers and the local Police. Officers on police horses continue to be regularly seen patrolling the park.

#### **5.5 Tower Hamlets Parks & Open Spaces Byelaws**

The Park is covered by a set of 'local laws' specific to Tower Hamlets Council's parks and open spaces, which are known as the 'Tower Hamlets Parks and Open Spaces Byelaws'. Byelaws are designed to encourage, regulate and manage the proper use of the all Parks and Open Spaces. The park is also covered by other laws not mentioned in the Byelaws. This includes drinking alcohol, dog control and graffiti; there are other powers available to the council and Police to take action or deal with offences, including being drunk, disorderly or aggressive. The Byelaws can be enforced by any officer of the council, including the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers, and the Police. The first objective is to inform and educate, so that an offence is not committed or not repeated.

The new Byelaws came into force on 2013 and replace an older set of byelaws which dated back to 1932. The new Byelaws reflect the different ways open spaces are now used, and are easier for people to understand and the council to enforce. The Byelaws covered aspects such as Open Fires, Cycling, and the protection of wildlife.

[http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/leisure\\_and\\_culture/parks\\_and\\_open\\_spaces.aspx](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/leisure_and_culture/parks_and_open_spaces.aspx)

## 5.6 Dog Control

The Parks Byelaws do not mention dogs as they are supplemental to existing law.


Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 LBTH Animal Wardens, Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers and The Police have powers to fine any persons allowing a dog under their control to foul and not dispose of the waste within any of the borough's public open spaces.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 replace powers made under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act and allow councils to introduce Dog Control Orders. Whilst covering fouling by dogs these orders can also cover dog-related offences such as not exercising dogs within play areas and ornamental gardens, keeping dogs on leads within recognised locations and setting a limit as to the number of dogs any person is permitted to exercise within any given park and open space.

## 5.7 Risk Reduction and Management

Towers Hamlets Parks Team, Green Team staff and users of the Park play a key role in the management and reduction of risk. Prior to the commencement of all maintenance activities the Parks Team carry out site specific risk assessments and undertake visual playground inspections. All maintenance staff are equipped with a smartphone device making real time reporting of hazards faster and more effective. The Ranger Service, Enforcement Teams and officers from both Arts Parks and Events section and Clean and Green section play a key role in monitoring and recording inspection data to ensure risk to both staff and members of the public is reduced. In addition to this the park has been equipped with QR readers which allow residents and visitors to the park to report hazards or any other issues directly to the maintenance teams using a smartphone device.



Tower Hamlets Council has an application Find it Fix it Love it (FiFiLi) which allows residents to report any issue within the borough or promote something they like. A photograph can be taken and sent directly to the correct department which enables faster and more effective response times.



**Find it Fix it Love it**

FiFiLi the Swiss army knife of applications for Tower Hamlets residents and visitors alike.  
See something in the Borough you love and think everyone should know about?  
Come across something that needs fixing and want someone to do something about it?

Download FiFiLi at;



## **6 Well Maintained and Clean**

### **6.1 Objectives**

To be a well maintained and clean public space, the following objectives have been developed for Mile End Park:

- Ensure all infrastructure buildings are maintained to the highest standard.
- To address all litter issues in the most effective, quick and responsive way.
- Ensure grounds maintenance is managed in the most effective way.
- Ensure all recreation and play areas are inspected and cleansed on a daily basis.

### **6.2 Grounds Maintenance**

This had previously been subject to competitive tendering since the 1988 Local Government Act with contracted service providers delivering both horticultural maintenance and cleansing services. Since 2013 horticultural maintenance has been directly undertaken by an in-house 'Green Team' run by the council's public Realm department. Cleansing operations are undertaken by the Councils Cleansing contractor Veolia. This arrangement has been developed to ensure that high quality, efficient and effective services are delivered.

Monitoring of the standards are conducted bi-weekly by the Parks Officers and the Green Team, standards include grass cutting, weeding, pruning and litter picking and any failure is brought to the attention of the relevant service provider to remedy. The monitoring officers also certify due payment to the contracted service provider and issue variation orders for additional work. All cleansing functions are monitored in line with NI 195 standards and horticultural activities on an A-C scale.

### **6.3 Litter clearance**

The Borough's parks are all designated at Grade C under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This means that the contractor must maintain a 24-hour response time to remove particular problems such as fly tipping. In addition Green Team officers undertake regular checks and any failure is brought to the attention of the relevant service provider to remedy. The Borough's parks generally score above the designated grade, indeed within the acceptable limit for Grade B sites. The definition of Grade B is "predominantly free of litter or refuse except for small items". The Borough's parks cleansing contractor, Veolia Environmental Services Ltd. picks litter from the grass and shrub beds and empties the litter-bins on a daily basis and sweep the paths. The collection of leaves in the autumn has been retained as an in-house activity to support the development of on-site composting opportunities.

The Borough's grass sports pitches and green flag sites (grass and paved areas) are cleaned of dog faeces once a week, with dog bins emptied daily.

### **6.4 Repairs and graffiti removal**

Reactive maintenance works are carried out as and when necessary (making use of measured term contracts where feasible) to make good any health and safety problems on the site. Priority 1 repairs (urgent hazards) are carried out within 24 hours, down to Priority 3 repairs which can take up to one month. Offensive graffiti are treated as Priority 1 repairs and are removed directly by the Veolia staff (Graffiti Team) if possible or reported for urgent removal by contractors. Any reactive maintenance is reported to a range of specialist contractors who respond according to agreed response times. These are, depending on critical impact on the safe and effective working of the park and the protection of the staff and public, immediately,

same working day, within 24 hours, within 48 hours or as planned work for longer time periods.

Any building and structural defects found by any member of the public can also be reported through its Customer Call Centre on 020 7364 5000, or by email to [parks@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:parks@towerhamlets.gov.uk).

### **6.5 Park furniture**

Seating will be maintained and kept in good repair and an annual visual check will be carried out each January so that all repairs can be completed by Easter. More seats of the tubular steel design will be added where seating is considered to be sparse. As the particular design costs £1,000.00 per seat it is only possible to add one or two seats a year unless a previously unidentified source of funding becomes available.

Examples of earlier styles of seating that do not conform to the corporate image of the park have now been removed. The two types of seat provided are the stainless steel tubular for paths and the chunky wooden for setting in grass.

The park has also benefitted from the installation of natural seating across the park. This has proven successful in terms of its usage, cost-effectiveness, maintenance and sustainability.

General day to day repairs are dealt with in one of three ways:

- 1) Small repairs e.g. blocked sinks/urinals, loose nuts, screws etc are dealt with by the Rangers
- 2) Routine repairs that fall outside the scope of the rangers are passed on by the rangers directly to local contractors who carry out most of the councils repair e.g. Water leaks or fence repairs.
- 3) Finally major repairs e.g. boiler replacement is passed to the Council's Buildings and Construction team to be managed by their clerk of works.

Play equipment is repaired by the manufacturer/supplier other than routine replacements e.g. swing chains which are carried out by the rangers.

### **6.6 Cleanliness**

The Tower Hamlets Council places significant emphasis on maintaining a high level of cleanliness at the Park including keeping the site free of litter, fly tipping and dog waste. Normally all enquiries and complaints about cleanliness or nuisance at open spaces are made via the details provided in 6.3.

### **6.7 Park lighting and CCTV**

The Borough's Street Environment Dept and the Safer Communities Services manage the lighting and CCTV across a number of parks sites. The lighting and CCTV have helped to reduce crime and fear of crime within the park. The local police have indicated that the level of incidents within the park has diminished and independent research has shown that the community report feeling "a whole lot better about using the park".

The Borough's Street Environment department manages the budgets for all parks lighting since they take care of all public lighting for the authority.

## **6.8 Financial Allocation**

The park has been designed specifically to reduce the amount of maintenance necessary in a bid to be a sustainable park. The various sources of revenue described previously are used to ensure the ongoing sustainability of the various projects within the park. The annual grounds maintenance budget is £180,000, which is mostly expended via services provided by the in house Green Team.

## **7 A Sustainable Park**

### **7.1 Objectives**

To be a sustainable place, the following objectives have been developed for Mile End Park:

- To improve the environmental sustainability within all Parks and Opens spaces
- Increase the use of sustainable materials within the Park.
- To extend the Service's corporate volunteer programme for the site to help maintain horticultural standards.

### **7.2 Quality Audit – Green Flag Awards**

The park is regularly monitored by the Councils Officers from Green Team, Parks Team, and other Council teams such as the Tower Hamlets Enforcement Officers.

Under the latest Service re-structure the parks service was amalgamated with the Arts and Events Service to become the Council's Arts, Parks and Events Service. Under this new restructure officers from the Arts and Events team monitor and inspect the park during events and also while hosting activities.

Overall quality of the park is monitored through the annual Green Flag Awards scheme. The Green Flag Awards scheme is a national standard for parks and green spaces and provides a benchmark against which excellence and provision of high quality landscapes are measured. The annual awards play an important role in ensuring the continuing quality of the parks, provision for community and visitors, developing the environment standards.

The process for Green Flag Judging involves an in depth review of Park Management Plans prior to a site visit. Each visit is written up into a summary and includes an overall score for the park out of a total 100. General comments relating to each assessment criteria are included highlighting any particular issues as well as acknowledging where positive management action, projects or initiatives have occurred.

Parks are assessed against the following criteria:

- A Welcoming Place
- Health, Safety and Security
- Maintenance of Equipment, Buildings and Landscape
- Litter Cleanliness and Vandalism
- Environmental Sustainability
- Conservation Heritage and Nature
- Community Involvement
- Marketing

In 2015-16, a record nine Parks in the Borough successfully reached Green Flag Standard, and in addition a further three contracted parks under service level agreement achieved this status also. The Mile End Park has been awarded this status every year since 2004.

### **7.3 Carbon Management Plan**

Government estimates from 2006 indicated that some 2,348,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> were emitted in Tower Hamlets - just over 11 tonnes per head - the second highest emitting borough in London. Most of this (65%) comes from the commercial and industrial sector, with 18% from housing and 17% from transport. Targets have been set to reduce these CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. To achieve these targets all sectors of the community have a part to play by reducing consumption of gas, electricity, petrol and diesel.

The Council began working with the Carbon Trust in June 2008 in Phase 6 of the Local Authority Carbon Management (LACM) Programme. The primary focus of the work is to

reduce emissions under the control of the local authority such as buildings, vehicle fleets, street lighting and landfill sites but takes into account the work of our third sector partners and contractors such as Veolia. One of the outputs of the Programme was the production of a Carbon Management Plan. This was adopted by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2009. Parks and Open Spaces have actively fed into this plan and have identified savings to be made from improvements to park buildings reductions in contractors mileage and investment in new, more efficient vehicles and plant.

The Carbon Management Plan commits the Council to a 60% reduction in CO2 emissions by 2020 (on 2007 levels). The Carbon Management Plan can be found here [http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/environment\\_and\\_planning/sustainability/carbon\\_reduction.aspx](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/environment_and_planning/sustainability/carbon_reduction.aspx)

#### **7.4 Grass maintenance**

In its original condition the park was mostly comprised of short mown grass that was incredibly species poor, a condition that was also reflected in the number of species of wildlife that could be seen. Areas not covered in short grass were mostly covered in tarmac or fly tipping. In 2004 monitoring of some invertebrates took place in the park to provide a base line against which to measure progress of the ecological policy.

The grass along the main road will be mostly kept shorter whilst large areas of the interior and all slopes will be managed as meadowland. A one-metre strip of short mown grass will flank all the paths in the park and a two-metre strip of unmown grass will surround all areas of copse and scrub to form a buffer zone and to increase specie biodiversity. This course of action will prevent indiscriminate pedestrian trampling but will allow areas for picnicking, sunbathing etc.

The replacement of the strict mowing regime with a meadow management plan has not only given a huge boost in terms of bio diversity, but also slightly reduces the annual cost of mowing.

All wood felled on the site is either left in situ to decompose or is taken to the long grass areas where the benefit to wild life derived from the decomposing wood is greatest. Wood felled at other sites is also welcomed in the park as are bark chippings which are used for footpaths and to create a forest floor habitat amongst groups of trees. The only exception to this policy is if the trees are diseased and the arborist recommends removal and burning.

#### **7.5 Planting**

50,000 bulbs will be planted each year for a period of 10 years (2005 was year 1). Bulbs will be introduced each autumn in large drifts to bring a more horticultural flavour to the park. Volunteers from Canary Wharf and the city have now planted almost 500,000 bulbs and it is estimated that to date we have planted 950,000 bulbs in the park. A continual band of snowdrops along front edge of the park has been extended each year and now heralds the spring to the casual passer-by along the complete length of the park. At the Silver Birch Grove a large drift of Chionodoxa, Scilla, Anemone, and Bluebell was planted by volunteers and these continue to be added to provide a carpet beneath the trees from February to May. Perhaps the most dramatic bulb display is that of a swoosh of crocus which in February will number some 120,000 in mixed colours and attracting a great number of positive comments from the local community.

#### **7.6 Tree Strategy**

The trees are mainly relatively young and there are few that can truly be called mature. Due to the thin topsoil and the planting of larger specimens, establishment has become an issue. However, the park seems to have been over planted so currently trees that do not survive are not automatically replaced.

The larger trees, mostly London Plane are pruned on a four year rotation to prevent encroachment onto the road which is used by double decker buses.

Many of the trees are planted on thin soils or in the case of the Green Bridge, in large containers. For this reason it is important for all the trees to be routinely checked for drought intolerance and to irrigate as necessary. In 2012 a programme was implemented in having very small whips on the bridge with water availability to determine the root growth and so eventual height of the trees and to plant with drought tolerant species including gorse.

An annual inspection of the trees will establish and programme restorative/remedial pruning, and in order to prevent an aging tree stock, some whips will be planted each year at various points throughout the park.

Shrubs are planted throughout the park and will be pruned to retain their natural habit, flowering and fruiting characteristics. Borders will be lightly forked annually and compost added where available. Borders will be kept in a weed free condition. Where overcrowding occurs, shrubs will be removed as part of the winter work programme.

Our trees are surveyed on a regular basis and the information recorded digitally on the Borough's geographic information system, using "Ezytreev" software. 24 559 trees (including small ones and some large shrubs such as holly and yew specimens) are recorded for this site (this is not inclusive of the whips planted on top of the Green Bridge and also the new orchard whips in the playground). The system holds detailed information on individual trees, their condition, and maintenance history. The survey information is regularly updated. Surveyors undertake risk assessments and provide individual recommendations for any works needed and the frequency of re-inspection.

## **7.7 Green Procurement**

Procurement is one of the 5 key areas being examined through the emerging Borough Environmental Strategy. In the interim the purchase and use of materials and supplies from endangered resources, such as peat and peat-based composts, endangered hard wood and tropical species of timber, rocks from Pennine limestone pavements, bulbs and seeds taken from the wild, or products comprising such items are banned. All timbers are to be supplied from sustainable sources and are to accord with the Forest Stewardship Council's guidelines. The Parks and Open Spaces Service will abide by the Council's Environmental Strategy (see Appendix A.12) which was adopted in 2007.

Tower Hamlets was recognised as a Fair Trade borough by the Fairtrade Foundation (see [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)) in 2006 and won a London-wide award\* by achieving the following targets:

- The Council must pass a resolution supporting Fairtrade, and serve Fairtrade coffee and tea at its meetings and in offices and canteens,
- A range of Fairtrade products must be readily available in the area's shops and served in local cafés and catering establishments,
- Fairtrade products must be used by a number of local work places (estate agents, hairdressers etc) and community organisations (churches, schools etc),
- The council must attract popular support for the campaign,
- A local Fairtrade steering group must be convened to ensure continued commitment to Fairtrade Town status.

In January 2013 the Council adopted a set of procurement imperatives designed to support, amongst other things, local purchasing and procurement.

## **7.8 Recycling of green waste, and other waste**

Where possible, fallen or felled timber is left on the ground to increase biodiversity. However when tree works are carried out woodchip/timber are also recycled back into the park with some timber transported to nearby parks to be used as compost or mulch.

The Parks Team and Green Team aim to develop a number of small scale compost facilities within its parks with the intention to recycle 30-40% of our green waste within a few years. Relatively few parks are suitable for such facilities as three quarters of our sites are less than one hectare in size. A leaf composting trial has established in Victoria Park, followed by a recent site in Bartlett Park. Green waste is currently separated and taken to the local waste transfer station where it is recycled for use elsewhere. 100% of all Green waste is recycled. In addition 100% of leaf collected within autumn is shredded and returned to parks throughout Tower Hamlets

The supply of seasonal bedding plants requires that we collect and recycle plant pots and trays after each use. Where possible we ensure that plants are grown in peat-free compost (with the exception of a tiny percentage of feature plants that will not tolerate peat-free composts) and this monitored through site visits to the provider nursery and at the time of delivery.

## **7.9 Pesticides and Fertilisers**

The Parks and Open Spaces Service is moving away from chemicals where possible, replacing their use with cultural and manual methods.

- No blanket application of any Herbicide or Pesticide is used within any Parks and Open Spaces or play grounds, on either hard surfaces or on planted areas, except for persistent weeds such as Japanese Knotweed which is chemically treated with a contact herbicide (Glyphosate) at least twice in a season.
- Brown tail moth infestations are pruned out and the arising's disposed of. It is many years since the Borough permitted the use of organophosphate pesticides.
- Rats and other pests are monitored and outbreaks controlled only as and when necessary.

Tower Hamlets promotes the use of sustainable methods of weed suppression. The primary method of weed suppression is mulching utilizing leaf mulch recycled from the previous season's leaf fall.

## **7.10 Water Conservation**

There are water access point's conveniently located throughout the park, and also water can be accessed directly from the pavilions. However, the use of mulching and compost on trees and shrubs helps minimise water use. New trees also have mulching or matting around bases, and are only watered when necessary. Wherever possible, trees planted in the park are also low water demand, and combined with proper mulching and aftercare reduces the amount of watering they require to establish.

## **7.11 Building Management**

There are three earth sheltered buildings in the park, which are the first such publicly owned buildings in the United Kingdom. From the entrance most of the building is covered with earth and grass and has the appearance of a gentle hillock. A glass front looks out on to the park allowing a lot of natural light whilst the earth mounding provides insulation for the building. The pavilions are currently being used separately as a children's' pavilion, an arts pavilion and an ecology pavilion.

Similar style to the pavilion there are also 8 retail units attached to the Green Bridge which are leased to various retailers. These include Peri Peri Chicken, Costa, Zeera Restaurant, Nandos, Meade's Estate Agent, Starbucks, Cooperative and a donut shop.

The Council also owns some container offices located in the Adventure Park. These container offices were original brought in to house the ranger team, however due to alterative office arrangements these had been let to a neighbouring council service, Urban Adventure Base from the Youth & Community Services.

Just adjacent to the Sport Park, there are a number of railway arch units which the Council sublets from Cross Rail to either private, community and council tenants. These are located near the Skate Park and tenants include, Revolution Karting, Council's Urban Adventure Base, Concordia, Somali Integration Team and the Council's Animal Warden team.

Within the Children's Playground in Locksley Street, there is a small cafeteria unit owned by the Council and is currently under light repairs in preparation for a new tendor.

All health and safety checks and building compliance checks are the responsibility of the tenants, or the council's where management of building is retained (i.e. the 3 pavilions and cafe).



## **8 Conservation and Heritage**

### **8.1 Objectives**

To be a conservation and heritage flagship, the following objectives will apply at Mile End Park:

- The heritage of the Park will be promoted and maintained to ensure that it is fully appreciated.
- To support and develop initiatives in line with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

### **8.2 Background of the parks heritage**

As a relatively newly constructed park, little of the physical heritage remains to be conserved. However, there are some smaller elements that give a flavour of former times and these should be conserved and interpreted for the park visitor.

A plaque just outside the park on the Railway Bridge on Grove Road commemorates the place that the first V2 bomb landed in London. This has been incorporated into an information panel in the park to highlight the very real sacrifice made by the people living in this area during the Second World War.



**Located on the railway Arches in Burdett Road, just off Mile End Park Haverfield Green (Ecology Park)**

Two plaques proclaiming the park as the King George the V Playing Fields are embedded in the gate piers adjacent to Copperfield Road. These will need to be cleaned of graffiti and if necessary re carved. Interpretation panels refer to the life of King George V and the setting up of the fund in the context of the development of the park.

The tall brick chimney dominates the area currently known as Kirk's place and probably dates back to Victorian times. It is in fact a listed vented sewer chimney vent and as well as protection and some restoration it should be interpreted either in its own right or as a longstanding feature of the local skyscape. It is managed by Thames Water and River and Canal Trust.



**Brick Chimney in Kirk's Place**

The Regents Canal, although strictly speaking not a part of the park, does have a symbiotic relationship with the park that should be recognized and celebrated. Park furniture could be placed near the canal and the old mile marker stones restored, whilst the canal, its history and its links to Mile End Park are explored in more detail in a series of interpretation panels.

An art exhibition evoking the memories of people who had moved to the Mile End area resulted in English Heritage designing two more panels to be sited in the park describing local history through the memories of the wider community in relation to the locale.

### **8.3 LBTH Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2019**

Tower Hamlets is a densely built-up inner London borough. It nevertheless supports a surprising diversity of wild plants and animals in a range of habitats. These include protected species such as bats and the Black Redstart, and a number of rare invertebrates associated with Brownfield land, such as the Brown-banded Carder Bee and Streaked Bombardier Beetle.

A Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) has been produced by the Tower Hamlets biodiversity partnership, known as Tower Habitats. This includes Tower Hamlets Council, Tower Hamlets Homes, social housing providers, local and Londonwide voluntary and community groups, businesses and local residents. All of these groups and individuals will be involved in implementation of the LBAP.

The plan identifies priority habitats and species in Tower Hamlets, and sets objectives and, where appropriate, targets for what needs to be done to ensure their conservation. This will

inform the implementation of projects and actions by partner organisations. It also provides guidance to developers on the kinds of biodiversity enhancements expected in new developments. The LBAP does not include detailed actions. These will be developed throughout the five-year duration of the LBAP, and will be entered and reported on in the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS)<sup>1</sup>, a national database set up by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to monitor biodiversity action across the UK.

<http://www.towerhabitats.org/5/Tower%20Hamlets%20Local%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%202014-19.pdf>

## **9 Community Involvement**

### **9.1 Objectives**

The following objectives have been identified to ensure the Park meets the needs of its users and the local community

- The Parks Team support local community groups by accommodating regular groups within the Pavilions to deliver a selection of children's and community programme.
- Community based activities and events are delivered by the Council and local community groups.
- To work in partnership with the local organisations to ensure the park is maximised, in relation to its usage and also input and development.

### **9.2 Community Involvement**

The parks team is committed to continuing its community engagement and the relationship it has built between the park and local people.

Community engagement occurs on different levels from user group meetings to the individual volunteering, to providing cookery activities for the children. Events successfully engaging the community include the annual Halloween bash where volunteers from the community give up their Saturday evening to dress up and put on a show. They have written their own scripts, designed their own costumes and entertained the local residents who attend.

#### **9.2.1 The Friends Group**

The key outcome of the community involvement process when the park was being constructed was the "Friends of Mile End Park" (FOMEPE). In 2010 the Friends took over what had previously been a jointly run event with parks staff and ran it entirely independently of the park including the raising of the funding to support the event. The event, "Park Life" was deemed a great success and an example of how the Friends work with and on behalf of the park. The Friends group continue to deliver the Dog Show and Fair annually in the Haverfield Green which attracts locals and remains a popular element of the annual events programme.

The FOMEPE is an independent local organisation comprising of a group of volunteers who are users of the park, members from local community groups and local residents who work closely with the Council and play a key role in enhancing and protecting the Mile End Park. The group volunteer their time to get involved in a range of projects such as clean-ups, delivering events, fund raising and contributing to the development of the park. They act as the parks eyes and ears, informing the Parks Team of any issues, together with providing critical feedback.

To ensure good engagement and communication, parks officers jointly walk through the park every quarter with the newly elected FOMEPE chair John White and members. This gives an opportunity to discuss any issues, developments, updates or projects within the park.

The parks team will continue to support the annual Park Life together with the programmed clean-ups and additional events hosted by the friends group.

For more information on the FOMEPE or for those wishing to get involved visit link:

<http://www.fomepe.org.uk/>



### 9.3 Volunteering

There are three distinct types of volunteer who work in the park, and these are best described as:

- a) The corporate volunteer mostly drawn from the institutions in Canary Wharf and the City. These tend to offer one day with a team of volunteers tackling a single project.
- b) The organised volunteer, often school groups who will attach themselves to a particular ongoing project under the guidance of another outreach programme.
- c) Individual volunteering assisting in the playground and growing zone, helping with various children's activities and workshops.

There is a range of work and projects that can be found all year round. However, it is important to ensure that specific projects do not exceed the capacity of the volunteer resource and that they see clear results from their efforts. Work should also be of an interesting and diverse nature.



In 2015 the park benefited from the work of around 1500 corporate and community volunteers. Their accomplishments include the distribution of 80-100 tonnes of woodchips, the creation of woodland walks, development of a children growing zones and array of horticultural management. Through our local partner East London Business Alliance this very important asset to the park has been made possible, which has proven to strengthen year on year. In addition to the labour work contributed by the corporate volunteers the park also benefits from donations from this scheme which all goes towards the upkeep and maintenance of the park. In the period 2015-16 the park received an estimate of £20,000

which was invested in planting, installation of natural seats, raised beds and also towards supporting children's events.



**Volunteers from a corporate bank helping with maintenance in the Ecology Lake, summer 2015**

#### **9.4 Events**

The policy of the Arts and Events Department is to foster community festivals to celebrate diversity and to encourage more small festivals and events and consider larger events as they come forward. The Council prides itself on being the "Festivals Borough", with more festivals than any other part of London; many of these take place in our parks.

The Arts and Events team help support those wishing to organise events and have various resources which can be downloaded from the Council's website

<http://www.towerhamletsarts.org.uk/?lang=e&s=38>

#### **9.5 Summer Programme**

The Parks Services have delivered small scale events together with various Ranger Time activities. The summer community based events were delivered as a part of the Service's Green Flag site (or potential Green Flag sites) community events calendar and were jointly delivered in partnership with the Council's Sport Development Team.





**Sports and Play festival summer 2015**

## **10 Marketing and Publicity**

### **10.1 Objectives**

To promote, publicise and market to the right audience, the following objectives have been devised for the Mile End Park:

- Ensure that relevant information and interpretative materials appropriate to the site and its character are produced and distributed.
- Activities and volunteer programme to be promoted to ensure all users and stakeholders have the opportunity to be involved in the park.

### **10.2 Press coverage**

The public can access information about the park and its users from the website and via social networks such as Facebook. There has been a stall with the Facebook page; however we hope to continue the page once administrative issues have been resolved.

The Borough's website includes several PR pieces. These can be found at <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/>, and more details about the park can be found on the following at:

### **10.3 Interpretation**

Interpretative panels have been interspersed throughout the park to allow the casual visitor to explore the full potential of the site. The panels inform and explain what is to be seen in the park and how the park contributes to the local history of both the area and its communities. The panels, whilst based in the park also describe the local heritage of a wider geographic area. Heritage signs have also been introduced on a limited basis to give a flavour of the heritage of the site. These include information on the original Pleasure Garden, the King George V Playing Fields and the local history of the area.

The natural heritage as witnessed in the park forms an integral aspect of the interpretation strategy. The panels cover basic information about bio diversity and local information about flora and fauna to look out for in the park. Also included on the panels are more educational facts that link an aspect of the park to the wider issue and so enhancing a park visit, for example, the connection of global warming to the earlier hatching of butterflies and the use of early spring bulbs as a pollen source.

More transient yet more immediate signs are erected to inform of more imminent works. The scale of the works dictates how long before an activity commenced that the sign are erected. Similar signs inform visitors of activities in the park, for example, holiday play schemes and up-and-coming events. In all cases these signs have a limited life and are removed promptly.

The Internet is a popular source of information and therefore it is imperative that information available in the park is also available to a web audience and the parks website offers up to date information as well as this management plan.

Other panels offer information on healthy walks to be undertaken in the park. These are headed Walk a Mile in Mile End Park and originally accompanied by swipe points intended to electronically measure distanced walked. It is believed that this was the first electronic measured mile in a public park anywhere in the world. Due to sustainability, funding and also the lack of take up of the scheme, the Parks Team have decided to cease operation. However the panels have been left as they offer a map for the casual park user to orientate themselves.



#### 10.4 Signage

In the park the cruciform monoliths (X signs) appear at most entrances. The signs are unique and are an immediate signifier that this is an entrance/exit point at Mile End Park. Their unusual design indicates that this is not a traditional park and each sign has cut out lettering preventing defacing, and indicates the direction of main features. The cruciform monoliths have been specially treated in the paint mix to allow for the easy removal of graffiti without recourse to special chemicals or a sacrificial layer treatment. These have all also been repaired in 2015. A slogan on the sign welcomes new visitors whilst asking them to be kind to the park and other park visitors. Directional signs offer directions within the park.

During summer 2015 ten orientation signs were installed across the stretch of the park. Although there was a need for signage identified from local users, this had been further reiterated by the Green Flag judges numerous years ago and therefore has been on the parks wish list as priority. By identifying funds from section 106 it was finally possible to develop and install these signs.



The 'X' were installed across the park during the parks first phase of redevelopment in 2000. The signs were funded by the Millennium commission and act as orientation signs, as well as welcome sign.



An example of the orientation sign installed throughout the park. All signs have a description of the section of park in which the signs have been installed. The above sign in particular has been taken outside the Children's Playground.

### **10.5 Publicity in Literature**

Newspaper articles in the local, national and trade press maintain interest in the evolving park project. They cover the various aspects of the park, encouraging the reader to see the park offering a variety of opportunities to the casual park visitor. The consistent message to the reader is that the park can offer something for everyone and will reward a longer visit.

### **10.6 Publicity with local organisations**

Within the park itself and around the perimeter there are various community organisations which have a strong relationship with the Mile End Park. The Parks Services has a close working relationship with local bodies such as the East London Tabernacle Baptist Church, the Mile End Climbing Wall, Revolution Karting, Concordia Community Organisation, Tower Project, and the Somali Integration Team. There are also various Council services based within the park such as the Sports and Physical Activities Services, the Urban Adventure Base and the Animal Wardens whom all work in partnership to support each other's services such as sharing of resources or jointly delivering events and activities.

## **11 The Way Forward & Implementing of Management Plan**

### **11.1 Objectives**

To ensure it is well managed, the following objectives exist for Mile End Park:

- Manage and maintain the Green Flag Award standard

The management of Park utilises the key criteria set out by Green Flag award to ensure effective management within its Parks and Open Spaces. This plan looks at each criterion and sets out what is done and the key aspirations of the park. The management plan must be compatible with priorities set out by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, as well the Service Plan for LBTH Parks and Open Spaces, the LBTH Community Plan, and the LBTH Safer Community Strategy.

The Management Plan is an evolving document reviewed annually; the current document generates a Live Action Plan (11.5). This lists targets and milestones.

### **11.2 Monitoring and reviewing the plan**

Monitoring frequency varies according to activity - it can be daily, weekly, or less often, depending on the issue or the activity. General progress on the Plan will be monitored quarterly.

A formal review of the progress of the Plan needs to be undertaken annually flowing from the monitoring processes. The Parks team will review this plan with the park users groups to ensure independent oversight and build support for the management plan.

### **11.3 Performance Management**

Managing and monitoring the performance of the park is crucial to the parks every day running, development and success. One of the most important drivers is the relationship the parks team has with the Green Team and its service providers. Ensuring visibility and parks presence from the rangers is also paramount to monitoring and performance.

Below is a list of how performance is monitored:

- Monthly walks with Green Team, to monitor standards of grounds maintenance
- Monthly walks with Veolia to monitor standards of cleaning
- Daily routine checks of play equipment's and ancillary items
- Daily patrols by the Community Park Rangers
- Monthly operational play inspections by senior officers
- Quarterly meetings and walks with the Friends Group
- Weekly walk by senior officers
- Regular programmed walk by the Council's Arboriculture and Tree Officer, and Biodiversity Officer

From October 2016 onwards the service also aims to implement a new system of conducting play and operational checks via a new play inspection application using hand held tablet devices. This will provide a more effective, efficient and accurate way of recording information and addressing issues relating to play and general ancillaries within the park.

### **11.4 Service Standards**

In terms of service priorities, LBTH Parks and Open Spaces:

- a) Strives to make all parks and open spaces within Tower Hamlets places where people feel safe, secure, and that visiting such green spaces is an enjoyable experience.

- b) Recognises the importance of parks and green spaces as major community assets.
- c) Fully recognises the importance and benefits of parks and open spaces as places for recreation, leisure and play for all communities within Tower Hamlets.
- d) Recognises the importance of the borough's parks and open spaces and ensures that all of our wide ranging communities and partners have equal opportunities to use them.
- e) Encourages the historical heritage of many of Tower Hamlets parks and open spaces and works closely with colleagues and partners alike to protect such cultural assets.
- f) Manages and maintains the borough's parks and open spaces on behalf of the communities we serve.

### **11.5 Design principles for the park**

The key **landscape design aims** are:

- Retain the open, green aspect of the park
- Retain and enhance the main desire lines but avoid criss-crossing the park with paths
- Enhance the public's feelings of security
- Enhance nature conservation and biodiversity.
- Enhance and manage boundary and other planting
- Provide public art features that increase the visual interest and identity of the site and involve the community
- Enhance the attractiveness of the park
- Establish a positive site identity that is clear from within and outside the park
- Focus formal design and ensure that this sight line remains open for all time

All **design** for the park will be practical and appropriate for its purpose. It should reflect contemporary and reasonably foreseeable needs. It will be sympathetic to the local environment of Victorian and post war housing, and will, over time, seek to lift the quality of the environment locally with appropriate innovations. Layout and detailed design will address issues of security and fear of crime and seek not to create areas in which crime might take place or in which particular groups could develop dominance of particular facilities. The largest feasible areas of grass should be retained and design should avoid breaking them up into small areas divided by paths.

**Planting design**, including choice of species, will take maintenance into account and seek not to increase the burden of costs overall. It shall comprise mostly native species and those that appeal to wildlife (including those providing winter nectar, berries and shelter). Some planting will be provided with more obvious ornamental and / or cultural appeal. The intention shall be to create as interesting and attractive an environment as feasible and to provide habitats for wildlife.

**Materials** will be in keeping with the feel of the park, that is to say, simple, robust, durable and vandal-resistant. All materials shall have a low lifetime environmental impact and shall be specified in accordance with the sustainable purchasing policies within this document. Site furniture and railings shall be of classic, contemporary design (i.e. not Victorian or Edwardian) and be made of galvanised mild steel painted black.

**Art** will be used to help establish a clear site identity and will be developed by community involvement (especially of school children). It shall be mindful of security and the need to minimise maintenance.

**Pavings** and so on will not be allowed to dominate the landscape, which shall remain substantially green in contrast to the surrounding environment. Paths shall be aligned to reflect the routes people want to use and to provide as stimulating an experience for park users as possible.

Any future maintenance and “**backroom**” **facilities** will be screened from the park users and designed for security.

**Signage** shall incorporate the Borough’s current Visual Identity Guidelines, identify who manages the site, give a contact telephone number, and provide guidance on facilities to found in the park and on behaviour to be expected. Signs must welcome visitors to the Park and avoid lists of dos and don’ts. Signs will be clear for those with sight and language problems, replacing as many words as possible with graphic symbols.

## 11.6 Action Plan for 2016-17

The Objectives in the 2016-17 Action Plan collate objectives for the park in general and from each specific strands (Arts, Ecology and Play), the latter are repeated in the individual strategy as the strategies are working documents for each group. All the objectives are the responsibility of the Parks Team.

### 11.6a Actions for Arts

No	Objective	Date of completion	Progress/ Notes
1	Design and installation of information notice boards at entrance of Arts Pavilion car park.	By December 2016	
2	Invest in more water plants for the Arts Pavilion lakes.	By December 2016	
3	Hold 10 free community events, delivered in partnership with local community organisation.	On going	Following have been achieved to date: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tower Hamlets in Bloom</li> <li>- Awards Evening.</li> <li>- OAP Christmas Tea dance</li> <li>- WW1 Exhibition</li> <li>- SEN Arts Exhibition</li> <li>- Lunchbox Charity Run</li> <li>- St. George's Tea Dance</li> </ul>



### 11.6b Actions for Ecology

No	Objective	Date of completion	Progress/ Notes
1	Renewal of booster pumps and filters to Ecology Park lake. This will resolve the lower water level to help enhance the wildlife and also ensure a good fruition of water flow amongst all 3 lakes.	In progress	Pumps have been installed awaiting new filters inspections to water levels are being carried out regularly.
2	Installation of water control system for borehole for improved water network for Ecology Lake.	April 2016	
3	Bulb planting of 100 meters naturalised bulbs in Wennington Green or King Georges Field.	By December 2016	As a part of the 10 year commitment to plant 50'000 each year for 10 years (2015 was the last year). We hope to continue this for 2016-17 if resources allow.
4	Creation of Orchard in the Children's Park, Growing Zone. 16-20 trees of various fruit species to be planted.	2016	This may be complete in January / February 2016 – if funding is secured.
5	Distribution of 100 tonnes of wood chips throughout the various woodland walk areas with corporate groups.	Through 201-17 period	With corporate volunteer group.
6	Deliver ecology based workshops to 10 schools by December 2016	Aim for 10 by December 2016.	Rangers to lead.
7	Installation of ecological and horticultural interpretation signs in the woodland walk areas.	April 2016	This is identified within the Section 106 funds.

### 11.6c Action for Play

No	Objective	Date of completion	Progress/ Notes
1	Redecoration of the play pavilion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Painting of all internal walls and ceilings</li> <li>- Investment of new child friendly educational play products</li> <li>- Invest in wall radiators to improve heating.</li> <li>- Educational interpretational panels to be designed and installed within the windows.</li> </ul>	August 2016	Completed
2	Re-landscaping of the mound area within the play park with a new design and incorporating a slide.	November 2016	
3	Replacing the front of the Locksley street facade of the café to retain the meadow roof.	November 2016	
4	Replacement of five old play equipment's with new inclusive play equipment's – this includes: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Roundabout</li> <li>- Mini Titan</li> <li>- Rope swing</li> <li>- Dragon fly see-saw</li> <li>- Basket swing encompassing 2 base swings</li> </ul>	August 2016	Completed
5	Upgrade security system: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Installation of CCTV within the play pavilion</li> <li>- New door camera entry system at front gate</li> <li>- New automated vehicle entrance system</li> </ul>	April 2016	Completed
6	Installation of air conditioning in soft play room	April 2016	Completed

### 11.6d Action - general

No	Objective	Date of competition	Progress/ Notes
1	Installation of pathway lighting over green bridge, and south of Mile End Park	April 2016	Completed

2	Replace pumps at cascade fountain	November 2016	In-progress
3	Investment of new DIY gardening tools for the use of corporate and community volunteers.	April 2016	Complete

### 11.6e MEP 5 Year Aspiration Plan (2015 – 2020)

The 5 year aspirational plan below is drawn up for 2015 to 2020. Some of the objectives are continuous from previous years and due to its benefits and successes we hope to continue with these objectives, developing and increasing capacity where possible. This will continue to be reviewed annually, and additional objectives may be introduced whilst others may be amended or deleted each year as deemed appropriate when the plan is reviewed.

- Plant 1000 metres of hedge along railings
- 100 metres have been planted with mixed hedgerows alongside Wennington Green.
- Deliver 30 community events within the park delivery by the service
- Since 2015, 5 large scaled events have been delivered in various parts of the park.
- Planting of additional 100,000 spring bulbs
- Each year thousands of naturalised bulbs are planted and during the period of 2015, more than 3000 were planted by volunteers.
- Improve security within the park by installing CCTV's cameras in all the 3 pavilions.
- This has now been accomplished.
- Installation of street lights in identified areas within the park in particular south of park.
- This is progressive and is dependent upon funding. There are already been LED lighting installed over the Green Bridge, South Park and Haverfield Green.
- Pay and display management within Lawton Road Car Park and also towards the end of Haverfield Road.
- There are two areas of the parks where parking enforcement has been implemented. There is one more area remaining and we hope to do this in 2017-18.
- Installation of information and interpretation on signs, displaying additional horticultural, wildlife and historical information.
- We aim to create 10 ecology signs in 2016-2017 as a start.
- Develop the service by increasing opportunities for apprentices within the services. Have one apprentice/trainees each year, and explore avenues for service related training and qualifications for the placements.
- Since 2015 we have taken on one apprentice and an addition apprentice from the start of January 2016.
- Increase revenue by letting the empty unit in the Green Bridge to retailer.
- A new retail unit has been let to a small coffee shops and is proving successful so far.
- Attract an average of 7500 corporate volunteers into the park.
- With the aim of attracting 1500-2000 each year, this can be achievable. In 2015-16 we achieved just over 1500.
- We will try to effectively manage this site as an ecology compost bin area for the moment however revue the current use of the site and explore options to transfer this into more convenient space.
- Increase family friendly areas within the park, i.e. development of picnic areas with minimum one in each section of the park.
- A new woodland walk area has been created in Copperfield Road, located south of the park and has proven very successful to date.
- The park uses average 50-100 tonnes of woodchips for pathways and play areas, with the help of corporate volunteers. We intend to create a barrier to section off where woodchips are dropped off to avoid spillage and also effective management and distribution of the woodchips. Over the course of five year we aim to distribute 300-500 tonnes of woodchips across woodland areas and natural pathways.
- In 2015-16 we have distributed roughly 100 tonnes of woodchips, and dozens of habitat piles across the woodland areas.

## **12 Appendices**

### **Appendix A**

#### **1. Corporate Policies and Strategies**

Mile End Park and L.B. Tower Hamlets Strategic Priorities/Corporate Objectives 2013

The Strategic Priorities for 2013 have been defined as follows.

- One Tower Hamlets
- A Great Place to Live
- A Prosperous Community
- A Safe and Supportive Community
- A Healthy Community

The details behind these themes are expanded upon below.

#### **2. Tower Hamlets Vision and Community Plan**

Tower Hamlets Council launched its first Community Plan in May 2001 following extensive consultation, involving residents, the Council and its public service partners, the voluntary and community sector, and businesses. The Council led the process, but involved a working group of key partners from other public services, large and small businesses and the voluntary and community sector. A number of key priorities were identified through the consultation process and the determination to tackle these underpinned the vision for the Borough's Community Plan to 2011, a vision in which services work in partnership to bring about early benefits to residents.

To fulfil this vision, key partners have agreed to focus service activities on the priorities identified through the five cross cutting themes set out in Tower Hamlet's Community Plan, which seeks to make Tower Hamlets:

##### **One Tower Hamlets**

1. To reduce inequalities, foster strong community cohesion and provide strong leadership inclusive services
2. Working effectively and efficiently as One Council

##### **A Great Place to Live**

3. Provide affordable housing and strong neighbourhoods
4. Strengthen and Connect Communities
5. Support vibrant town centres and a cleaner safer public realm
6. Improve the environment and tackle climate change

##### **A Prosperous Community**

7. Support lifelong learning opportunities for all
8. Reduce worklessness
9. Foster enterprise

##### **A Safe and Supportive Community**

10. Empower vulnerable people and support families
11. Tackle and Prevent Crime
12. Focus on Early Intervention

##### **A Healthy Community**

13. Improve health and reducing difference in people's health by promoting healthy lifestyles
14. Support mental health services to improve mental health
15. Improve access to, and experience of, health services

These themes are developed in the Council's Corporate Strategic Plan and the Directorate three-year action plans. These set out action grids with objectives, key activities, milestones and success criteria detailed and time tabled. Key officers are also identified.

Mile End Park works to achieve these corporate objectives.

### 3. Public Consultation

The borough follows a policy of active consultation and involvement with the community. Its aims and objectives reflect this and details are therefore subject to change. The borough has set up 8 Local Area Partnerships to increase the participation of the local community in local issues and developments. From the Best Value consultation exercises, it is clear that local people are most concerned about basic issues such as dog waste, security, park keeping and cleanliness; a large majority of people think that well-maintained parks promote social responsibility, increased use and reduced vandalism. Consultation for Local Agenda 21 found that additional issues are trees, children's play, a sense of wellbeing, wildlife and need for balance in a densely built up area.

### 4. Planning policies

The current Unitary Development Plan defines the site as a Metropolitan Open Space.

The land use is public open space and it is therefore protected from development. The land is also held in trust by the King George V Playing Fields Trust that operates, from the Fields in Trust offering further protection from development.

### 5. Local Agenda 21

This policy states that the Council will aim to protect and enhance all open space in the Borough protect and enhance all wildlife and their habitats reduce all types of environmental pollution reduce the inappropriate use and disposal of hazardous materials encourage waste minimization encourage the involvement of individuals in the care of the environment encourage the use of local resources work in partnership with the local community to care for the environment work towards achieving equal access to a safe and pleasant environment for all sections of the community The reviewed UDP will be subject to a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment and the new Environment Chapter of the UDP is much more demanding of developers including developments in parks.

### 6. LBTH Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2019

Tower Hamlets is a densely built-up inner London borough. It nevertheless supports a surprising diversity of wild plants and animals in a range of habitats. These include protected species such as bats and the Black Redstart, and a number of rare invertebrates associated with brownfield land, such as the Brown-banded Carder Bee and Streaked Bombardier Beetle.

A Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) has been produced by the Tower Hamlets biodiversity partnership, known as Tower Habitats. This includes Tower Hamlets Council, Tower Hamlets Homes, social housing providers, local and London wide voluntary and community groups, businesses and local residents. All of these groups and individuals will be involved in implementation of the LBAP.

The plan identifies priority habitats and species in Tower Hamlets, and sets objectives and, where appropriate, targets for what needs to be done to ensure their conservation. This will inform the implementation of projects and actions by partner organisations. It also provides guidance to developers on the kinds of biodiversity enhancements expected in new developments. The LBAP does not include detailed actions. These will be developed throughout the five-year duration of the LBAP, and will be entered and reported on in the Biodiversity Action Reporting System (BARS)<sup>1</sup>, a national database set up by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to monitor biodiversity action across the UK.

<http://www.towerhabitats.org/5/Tower%20Hamlets%20Local%20Biodiversity%20Action%20Plan%202014-19.pdf>

## 7 Health and Safety

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets Corporate as well as the Communities, Localities and Culture Directorate's Health and Safety Policies apply in all parks. The policies are too long to be incorporated here but are available to download on the Tower Hamlets Web Site.

The borough is committed to promoting the Health, Safety and Welfare of all employees and of the public who come into contact with its premises and services. It is the policy of the Directorate to develop a positive Health and Safety culture throughout the organisation because we believe that good safety is good business. This Health and Safety Policy intends to set the ground rules through which continuous improvement of the standards of Health, Safety and Welfare of all employees and clients can be achieved. The safety policies are in accordance with section 2(3) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and are revised on a regular basis. Their implementation is checked regularly by the Directorate's H&S officer. Risk assessments have been carried out for parks' workers. Risk control measures are in place and are reviewed in the light of changing practice.

The Mile End Park Rangers have been trained in first aid and dealing with aggression in difficult circumstances. The two part time play workers, who run the Stay and Play, have received similar training albeit not quite so intensive. All staff are given an induction and basic H&S training. Risk assessments are done for all tasks and staff must meet the resulting codes of practice. All cleansing staff is given manual handling training.

## 8. Complaints procedure – Customer Promise

Tower Hamlets has a three-stage complaint procedure. Stage 1 tries to resolve problems informally face to face and stage 2 is formal (with complaints received in writing or by phone in one of 8 languages or by minicom). Complaints are acknowledged investigated and responded to in 10 working days. The complainant then has the right of appeal to the chief executive (20 days). If the matter is still not resolved, the individual can thereafter take the matter up with the Local Government Ombudsman to ensure the Council has acted fairly and in accordance with its agreed procedures.

The Customer Promise guarantees a response within 10 working days to written enquiries and comments. The strategy has improved accessibility for members of the public, by telephone, letter and face to face and is strictly monitored to ensure that targets are being met.

## 9. Equalities

Equality issues are high on the agenda in an area with a high proportion of minority ethnic group residents and the department has a number of initiatives to foster good race relations. All sports clubs that make bookings for use of the pitches are required to sign and adhere to the borough's Anti-Racism in Sport Charter. The department encourages events that celebrate ethnic diversity and racial harmony. An Equality monitoring officer offers support and advice to ensure that the equality impact assessments have taken place for all new initiatives and that all consultation exercises are accessible to all sections of the community. An equalities unit monitors all projects to ensure that all conform to an inclusive agenda including Ethnicity, Disability, Gender Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered issues together with the issues of Older People are fully considered in all activities. In December 2008 Mile End Park undertook an Equalities Impact Assessment; the recommendations of this will continue to feed into both this Plan and the Annual Service Plan. The Director of Mile End Park sits on the departmental Equalities Action Team which looks at policies issued from the corporate centre and also equalities initiatives within the department. During 2010 the park worked closely with the Tower Project offering placements to their clients with special needs. In the late summer a theatre group comprised of actors with disabilities gave two performances to local children.



#### 10. Policy on peat and pesticide

The park has its own ecology strategy (contained in the Management Plan) and is dedicated to sustainability and creating a wide variety of species rich habitats. For this reason the park will not have pesticides used in the park nor will it condone the use of or purchase stock from suppliers using peat based compost. Peat will never be used as a soil conditioner. However where chemicals are the only solution to a particular issue an exception will be made. However all such exceptions will be based on independent advice received from Natural England. An example would be the spraying of a hectare of land with a contact herbicide to allow the establishment of a wild flower meadow on Kirks Place.

## Appendix B Operation Play Inspection Form

Operation Inspection Form  Name: Mile End Park  Date: 01 12 15		Inspectors Name: K Woodard					
		P A S S	F A I L	Description of work required	Priority		
					L O W	M E D	H I G H
Brickfield Gardens	1) 2 Bay swings		x	2 seats required	x		
	2) Tri-seesaw		x	Monitor handles	x		
	3) Rope Net frame	x					
Locksley Street main playground	1) 2 Flat-seat swings		x	2 seats required	x		
	2) 2 Cradle swings		x	Monitor cracks	x		
	3) Water Feature	x					
	4) Space Net	x					
	5) Spinning Dish	x					
	6) Flower Swing		x	Waiting Repair	x		
	7) Static Seat/Shelter	x					
	8) Small Rope Net	x					
	9) Playhouse	x					
	10) Tyre Swing	x					
	11) Wavy Slide	x		Monitor puddling			
	12) Castle Feature		x	Redundant posts need removing	x		
	13) Cable Runway		x	Safety Surface needs repairing	x		
	14) Hedgehog Bridge	x					
	15) Rainbow Bridge		x	Waiting replacement rubbers	x		
	16) Stepping Stones	x					
	17) Cradle swing (w)	x					
	18) Cradle swing (E)	x					
	19) Orchestral circle	x					
	20) Ghost swing set		x	Monitor crack	x		
	21) U-balance rope	x					
	22) W.chair see-saw	x					
	23) Scramble slope	x					
	24) Sand pit	x					
	25) Totems x3	x					
	26) Yellow shelter	x					
	27) Wooded area	x					
	28) Rope log trail	x					
Adventure Park	1) Alien	x					
	2) Aerospeed	x					
	3) 2 No. Altima	x					
	4) Spyrogiral		x	New seats required	x		
	5) Basketball Posts	x					
	6) Large shelter	x					
	7) Wooper	x					
	8) Aeroskate		x	Footplate not moving	x		
	9) Twinsail	x					
	10) Space Net	x					
	11) MUGA	x					
	12) BMX track	x					
	13) Small shelter	x					
Ecology Park	1) Slide	x					
	2) Steel Herons		x	Play Bark required at base	x		
	3) Stepping logs	x					
Wennington Green	1) Cradle-swing set		x	2 x seats required			
	2) Spring Bike	x					
	3) Spring Horse		x	Spring Base needs tightening	x		
	4) Space Net		x	Monitor exposed cables	x		
	5) Flat seat swing		x	Monitor loose frame			

set							
6) Junior Multi Unit	x						

Area	Checked	Time	Initials	Comments
Wen. Grn				
Adizone				
T.F.underpass				
Eco Park				
Ecology Pav.				
Haverfield				
Woodland 2				
ToolContainer				
Art park.				
Art Pavilion				
Meath Bridge				
Chris's wood				
Art Hill				
Green Bridge				
Lawton Road				
Fire Exit (N )				
Fire Exit (S)				
Terraced Gdn				
Cascade				
Events Field				
Dog Gym				
Woodland 1				
Adv. Park				
Stone Gates				
Graf arch (area)				
Kirks. Pl				
Skatepark				
Main Playpark				
Play Pavilion				
Agnes Grn				
Brickfield				

**Park lakes litter checks**

Please complete during usual main daily patrol, if lakes require litter removal this can be done after the patrol or by a late shift

Lake	Time Checked	Number of items of litter visible	If litter pick needed, please record who did it and at what time in column below.
Cascade			
Art			
Top Eco			
Middle Eco			
Bottom Eco			

keeper. As a general rule, if there are more than 3 bits of litter visible in a lake, it is time for a litter pick.

Adizone daily checks table							
Item/zone	Priority			DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM/WORK REQUIRED	L	M	H
	P	F					
Bouldering wall							
Floor work area							
BB pitch							
Pull-up barsx2							
Exercise bike							
Leg pressx2							
Ski-trainer							
Spinplatesx2							
Treadmill							
Dipsx2							
Cross-trainerx2							
Chest-pressx2							
Lat pull-downx2							
Sit-upsx2							

## **Appendix C**

### **Events in Mile End Park 2016-17**

- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 12noon – 5pm, Park Life: Community Fair and Dog Show,
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1pm-3pm, Window Box Workshop
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 1-3pm Water Festival
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August, 1pm-4pm, Pizza Making Workshop
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August, 1:30pm-3:30pm
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August, 10am-12:30pm, Arts and Crafts Session
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 11am-4pm, A Day by the Seaside
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 1pm-3pm, Baking Sessions
- Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August, 12noon-3pm, Cardboard City
- Park in the Dark Halloween event in November – details to be confirmed
- Teeny Weeny Halloweenie event I November – details to be confirmed
- Santa's Grotto in December – details to be confirmed
- The above planning diary is subject to change.

## Appendix D

### *School term dates 2016/17*

#### **Autumn term:**

Term one	Thursday, September 1 - Friday, October 21, 2016	37 days
Half term	Monday, October 24 - Friday October 28, 2016	
Term two	Monday, October 31 - Tuesday 20 December, 2016	37 days

#### **Spring term:**

Term three	Tuesday, January 3 - Friday, February 10, 2017	29 days
Half term	Monday, February 13 - Friday, February 17, 2017	
Term four	Monday, February 20 - Friday, April 7 2017	35 days

#### **Summer term:**

Term five	Monday, April 24 - Friday, May 26, 2017	24 days
Half term	Tuesday, May 30 - Friday, June 2, 2017	
Term six	Monday, June 5 - Friday, July 21, 2017	35 days

#### **Eid (approximate) 2016/2017:**

	<b>2016</b>
<b>Start of Ramadan</b>	June 7, 2016
<b>Eid Al-Fitr</b>	July 7, 2016
<b>Eid Al-Ada</b>	

## Appendix E

### Mile End Park Events Manual

#### Introduction

Welcome to the Events manual for Mile End Park. It is designed to be a concise guide to planning and marketing a Mile End Park event. It is a living document, which is designed to be updated by the whole team as new events, contacts or marketing methods are found.

Note to users: If you find that any of the contacts or marketing methods do not work please insert a note giving reasons why. If in the course of marketing an event you find a new method or contact please insert details in the relevant section. All changes should be made on the master copy, which is held by Parks Development Officers.

#### Marketing Strategy

Each different type of event will require a separate style of marketing but the following should be implemented each year and/or are relevant for all types of events:

#### IT Marketing:

##### Websites:

- LBTH: A rolling programme of events should be posted on the Mile End Park webpage and information sent to the arts and events team to be listed on the Events database: <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/templates/events/>

There other websites to consider are:

- MyVillage.com for Tower Hamlets: To list fill in form found at [http://www.mytowerhamlets.co.uk/towerhamlets/fe-community\\_contact-us.htm](http://www.mytowerhamlets.co.uk/towerhamlets/fe-community_contact-us.htm) and email to [myvillage@globaldatapoint.com](mailto:myvillage@globaldatapoint.com) allow at least one month for your event to show on the site.
- Visit London.com Send press releases and information about events in London to us at [editorial@visitlondon.com](mailto:editorial@visitlondon.com) or email [specialevents@globaldatapoint.com](mailto:specialevents@globaldatapoint.com)
- WhereCanWeGo.com: register and you can advertise events for free <http://www.wherewecanwego.com/events/signin.aspx?sid=&tab=3>
- Your Local London: call Sara Newman on 07810 503 366 or go to the your local London website. [www.yourlocallondon.com](http://www.yourlocallondon.com)

#### Newspapers

##### London Papers

- The Metro: London Office:  
News Editor: Sarah Getty; Editorial Assistant: Hayley Coyle  
Tel: 020 7651 5242  
Fax: 020 7651 5342  
E-mail: [news.london@ukmetro.co.uk](mailto:news.london@ukmetro.co.uk)



- Metro Life Editor: Siobhan Murphy  
Metro Life Assistant: Zena Alkayat zena.a@ukmetro.co.uk  
(Entertainment/ theatre/ arts/ music/ books, CDs, etc)  
Tel: 020 7651 5415  
Fax: 020 7651 5298  
E-mail: life.london@ukmetro.co.uk
- The Evening Standard: Londoner's diary  
Diary Editor: Sebastian Shakespeare  
P: 020 7938 7607  
E: diary@standard.co.uk  
  
Editor: Veronica Wadley  
P: 020 7938 7007  
E: editor@standard.co.uk

Submit a story at:

- <http://www.newhamrecorder.co.uk>

East London Advertiser: submit a story at:

- <http://www.eastlondonadvertiser.co.uk>
- The Wharf: The Wharf, Trinity Mirror, Work One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP email: newsdesk@wharf.co.uk

Radio

For an idea of listener type for each radio station visit:

<http://www.londonradiostations.co.uk>

- BBC London Radio (this is the same address for TV): email stories to yourlondon@bbc.co.uk
- Capital Radio: 020 7484 8958 or write to Capital Radion, 30 Leicester Square, London WC2H 7LA
- Heart FM: Fill in form at <http://www.heart1062.co.uk/invite-us-to-your-event-184>
- Magic FM: Magic 105.4, Mappin House, 4 Winsley Street, London W1W 8HF  
Tel: 0207 182 8160
- Xfm: 0207 054 8000 Address: Xfm, 30 Leicester Square, London WC2H 7LA
- LBC: 020 7314 7300 or fill in form at <http://www.lbc.co.uk/article.asp?id=226024>

Websites:

Post event details on

- Whatson4Kids.com at <http://www.whatson4kids.com/event-announce.php>

London.gov.uk <http://www.london.gov.uk/young-london/kids/events/index.jsp>

- Partnership marketing: In the contacts section are listed possible partners for events. All Children events can be advertised through the schools. Information can be distributed through the head teachers bulletin by contacting Helen Jenner 020 7364 3114 email: [helen.jenner@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:helen.jenner@towerhamlets.gov.uk)
- Play Organisations can be contacted through PATH  
[eleanor@playtowerhamlets.org.uk](mailto:eleanor@playtowerhamlets.org.uk)
- Parents and children can be reached through [info@toyhouselibraries.org.uk](mailto:info@toyhouselibraries.org.uk)
- Early years providers can be contacted through Early Years Network Tower Hamlets, Kelsey St, London E2 6HD Tel: 020 77295074
- Children's Information Service: The Tower Hamlets Children's Information Service provides information to parents, carers and professionals on childcare and play in the borough for 0-14 years olds (up to 16 for children with special needs). This includes childminders, day nurseries, playgroups, holiday schemes, breakfast and after school clubs. Details such as vacancies, costs and opening times are available. 189, Roman Road, London, UK, E2 0QY. 020 7364 6495  
[cis@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:cis@towerhamlets.gov.uk)
  - Youth Action UK, The Old Spice Store, Dod Street, London  
Tel: 0207 536 2930
  - Poplar HARCA, 167A East India Dock Road, London E14 0EA  
Tel: 0207 510 0500
  - Media Advertising: Time out do a free kids supplement see above for contact details.

## Appendix F

### Enabling Maps


Enabling Maps provide a pictorial step free map to amenities within the park.

**A step-free route from Mile End Underground station to the Childrens Play Park.**
**1**




This map takes you from Mile End Underground station to the Childrens Play Park. See back page for information about accessible facilities and bus routes.

Map number **A1**



The journey is around 440 metres long.  
It should take around 10 minutes to finish.  
If you have difficulty getting about, it could take 20 minutes.

Under each picture is a time-bar to show how much of the journey there is to go.

= the length of travel for each part of the journey

= the length of travel already completed

**1**



Turn left outside Mile End Station, the Green Bridge is in front of you. Cross over Eric Street.

**2**





At the corner turn left and use the pedestrian crossing to cross Burdett Road.

**3**



Turn left and walk down Burdett Road.

**A step-free route from Mile End Underground station to the Art Pavilion.**
**1**

This map takes you from Mile End Underground station to the Art Pavilion. See back page for information about accessible facilities and bus routes.

Map number **B1**




The journey is around 210 metres long.  
It should take around 5 minutes to finish.  
If you have difficulty getting about, it could take 10 minutes.

Under each picture is a time-bar to show how much of the journey there is to go.

= the length of travel for each part of the journey

= the length of travel already completed

**1**



Turn left outside Mile End Station, the Green Bridge is in front of you. Cross over Eric Street.

**2**



At the pedestrian crossing on the corner cross over Mile End Road to the 2nd island. Then turn right and cross Grove Road.

**3**



Turn right and go along Grove Road. Go past the bus stop and coin (20p) operated accessible toilet.

Enabling Maps provide a pictorial step free map to amenities within the park.

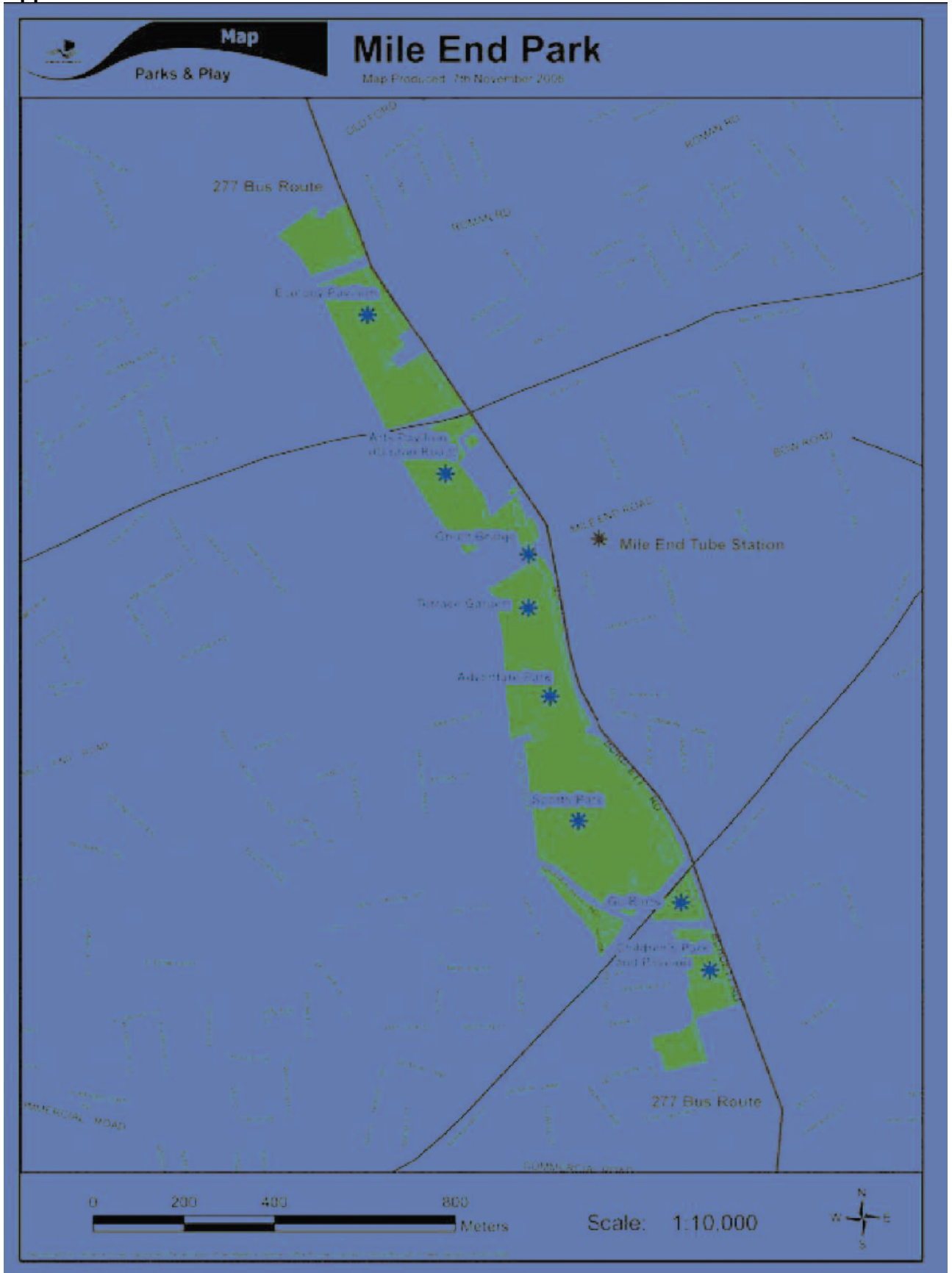
Appendix G

**Map showing segmentation in Mile End Park**



Map showing key sites within the park and those transport links within close proximity.

Appendix H



Map showing the dimensions of the park



**Appendix I  
(Sample)**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS  
TENDER DOCUMENTS**

**FOR**

**THE PROVISION OF LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE SERVICES:  
PARKS AND OTHER SPACES**

**SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS**

**SPECIFICATION FOR LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS**

<b><u>DOCUMENT LAYOUT:</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
<b>PREAMBLE TO THE SPECIFICATIONS</b>	6
<b>GENERAL INFORMATION SECTIONS</b>	
Chemical Application General Section 1	15
Highway Regulations General Section 2	20
Supply Of Plant And Other Materials General Section 3	21
<b>SPECIFICATIONS</b>	
User Guide To The Specifications	25

<b>Spec. No.</b>	<b>Spec. Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.	AT	Athletics Areas	27
2.	AQ	Aquatic Areas	29
3.	BG	Bowling Greens	33
4.	CB	Carpet Bedding	44
5.	CL	Climbing Plants	50
6.	CP	Cricket Practice and Playing Facilities	52
7.	CR	Changing Room & Building Maintenance	56
8.	DB	Dog Hygiene Specification	61
9.	EL	Environmental Litter Collection	63
10.	FB	Seasonal Flower Bed Displays	67
11.	GC	Grass Cutting and Maintenance	78
12.	GR	Grass Establishment and Reinstatement	88
13.	HB	Hanging Baskets	96
14.	HE	Hedge Maintenance	101
15.	HP	Rugby Pitches	105
16.	LB	Emptying of Litter Bins	111
17.	MI	Miscellaneous Operations	113
18.	MP	Multipitch Maintenance	116
19.	NB	Naturalised Bulb Planting	118

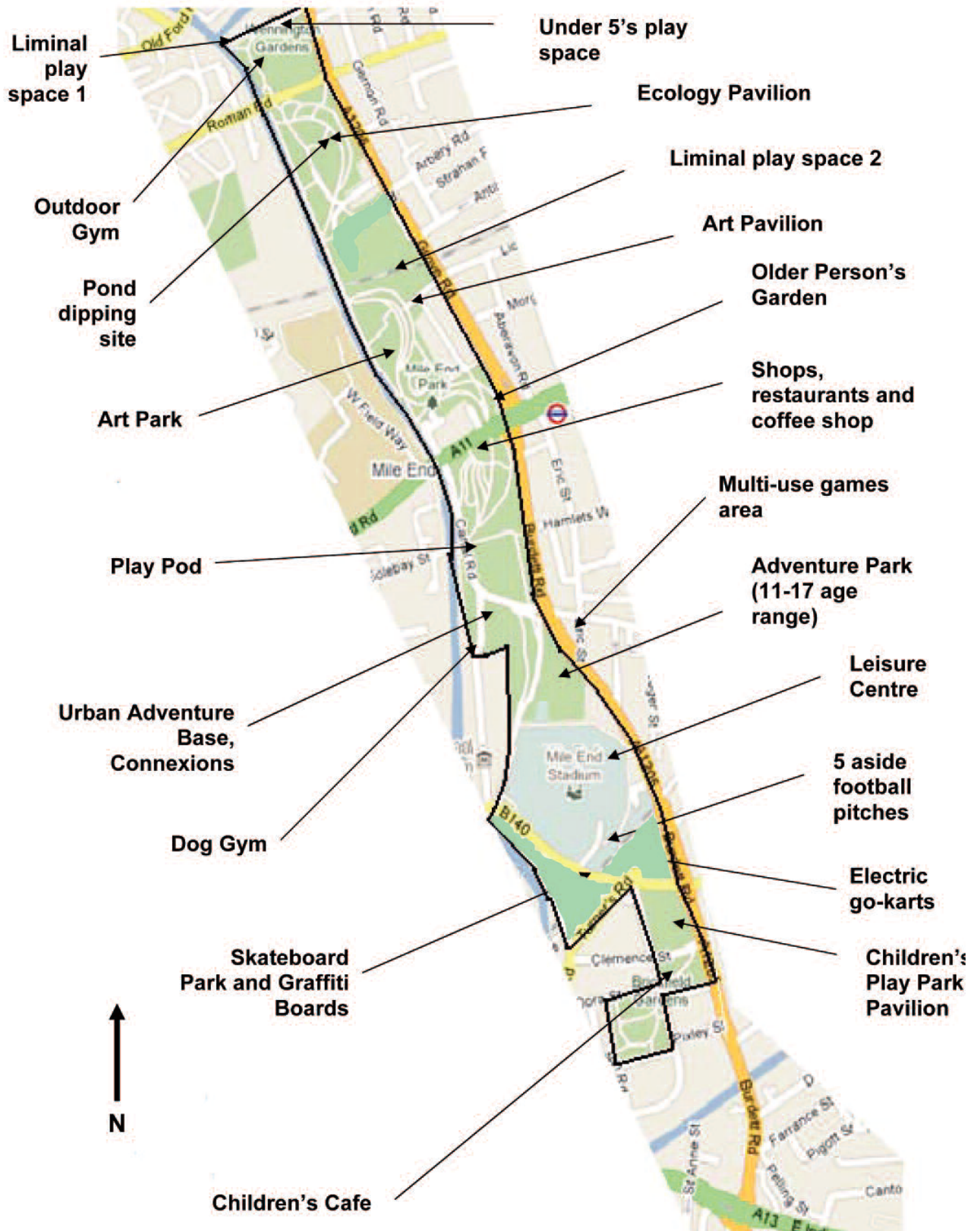
20.	PA	Play Area Inspection & Maintenance	120
21.	PB	Perennial Borders	122
22.	PE	Hard Area & Pernicious Weed Control	126
23.	PG	Putting Greens	129
24.	PPL	Permanent Planters	137
25.	RB	Rose Beds	139
26.	RG	Rock Gardens	146
27.	SC	Football Pitches	150
28.	SH	Shrub Beds	160
29.	SP	Sweeping - Hard Surfaces	179

<b>Spec. No.</b>	<b>Spec. Type</b>	<b><i>Description</i></b>	<b>Page</b>
30.	SPW	Winter Maintenance - Hard Surfaces	181
31.	TC	Hard Surface Tennis Courts	182
32.	TP	Tree Base Maintenance	185
33.	WL	Woodland Maintenance	187



Appendix J

**Map showing amenities in Mile End Park**



Appendix K

Photo library



Teeny Weeny Halloweeny in November 2014



Cardboard City 2014





Day by the Seaside in Children's Playground, Summer 2014



Easter Egg Hunt, April 2014





Park After Dark, October 2014



Summer Festival in Childrens Playground, Summer 2014





Bird eye view of the Cascade Garden



The Ecology Lake, Ecology Park





The Ecology Lake, Ecology Park



Fishy Places, off Regents Canal





The Adizone, Wennington Green



Arts exhibition in Arts Pavilion, Arts Park





Concordia, Arches in Sports Park



Arts Mound, Arts Hill

## **Contact details**

For any queries relating to the management plan please contact the author:

Mohammed Raja  
Parks Development Officer (Community)

Arts, Parks & Events Services  
Parks & Open Spaces  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor Mulberry Town Hall  
5 Clove Crescent  
London E14 2BG

Tel: 020 7364 6108  
[mohammed.raja@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:mohammed.raja@towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
[www.towerhamlets.gov.uk](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk)