

King George's Fields Trust Mile End Update Report 2021/22



Appendix 3

King George's Fields Trust Mile End Update report for 2021-2022

Explanatory Note:

King George's Fields, Mile End Charity is a registered charity. It is referred to throughout this report as the "Charity".

1. Structure, Governance and Management

The King George's Field charity is registered with the Charity Commission as King George's Field, Mile End Charity, registered number 1077859.

The King George's Field, Mile End charity is governed by a Trust Deed. The King George's Field, Mile End charity is unincorporated, and the charitable trust is established by a Scheme of the Charity Commission dated 28th February 2000.

The Council as Trustee holds the freehold land referred to in this report on behalf of the Charity.

The King George's Field, Mile End Charity Board (which sits as a committee) was established by section 3.3.12 of the Council's Constitution, which gives it the following functions:

- To administer the affairs of the King George's Fields charity and discharge all the duties of the Council as sole trustee of the Charity
- To administer the affairs and discharge the duties of trustee of such other charities controlled by the Council as the Executive might authorise. The Executive function is to discharge all functions not specified as the responsibility of the full Council or of any other Committee, where the Mayor has delegated his powers to the Cabinet as set out in the Executive Scheme of Delegation.

For Mile End Park and Stepney Green Park annual Management Plans are produced, which are geared to the annual Green Flag campaign, and looks at the parks for the period January to December.

The Parks Service within Tower Hamlets Council was restructured into the Arts, Parks and Events Service during 2012/2013. Key responsibility for this service rests with the Head of Arts, Parks and Events. Mile End Park is managed by the Parks Manager and the day to day running of Mile End Park is delegated to the Parks Development Officer (Community); Parks Development Officer (Infrastructure) and Parks Community Involvement Officer (Young People).

The original Trust Deed, and the subsequent variations, which are referred to below, also dealt with the use of other open space and park areas, within what is now the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. These other areas are managed by other Council employees.

2. Objectives and Activities

The Charity's objectives are set out in the Trust Deed, dated 9th November 1965, and a Deed of Variation, date 9th January 1997. They are as follows:

- To preserve in perpetuity the covenanted land and to apply the land to such charitable purposes as are set out in the Recreational Charities Act 1958, including the construction of indoor recreational facilities, subject to the approval of the National Playing Fields Association and the Charity Commission in respect of any additional purposes.

Generally, the Charity maintains the area of Mile End Park, and the other open spaces within King George's Field, Mile End, for the recreation of the general public, including but not limited to the inhabitants of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The other park and open space areas are managed to achieve similar objectives.

The land is managed by Tower Hamlets Parks and Open Spaces whose service priorities are as follows:

- 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.
- Recognises the importance of parks and green spaces as major community assets.
- Fully recognises the importance and benefits of parks and open spaces as places for recreation, leisure and play for all communities within Tower Hamlets.
- 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.
- 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.
- Manages and maintains the Borough's parks and open spaces on behalf of the communities we serve.

The key landscape design aims for all Tower Hamlets parks and open spaces will inform any future developments in Mile End Park:

- 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

London Borough of Tower Hamlets, as Corporate Trustee, is aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit and believes this has been followed as outlined below.

Compliance with Public Benefit Requirements:

The Charity has maintained the lands within Mile End Park and other King George's Field Trust sites to an acceptable standard with ongoing improvements implemented listed in the below investments. The parks continue to be well used supporting as they do a number of key facilities:

- Mile End Leisure Centre
- Stepney Green artificial football pitch
- Playgrounds
- Outdoor activities centre including BMX track
- Various water features
- Areas of biodiversity
- Pavilions with free activity
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Programme of events and workshops
- Variety of spaces for walks and informal sports activity

3. Activities taking place that support the Charity Objectives

3.1 Events and activities in Mile End Park (from 1 April 2021 to 28 February 2022).

Summer Activities	Whitehorse AP	MEP Activities
Total individuals benefiting/taking part	1,472	597
No. events and activities	16	15

October Half-term	Whitehorse AP	MEP Activities
Total individuals benefiting/taking part	559	224
No. events and activities	3	3

February Half-term	Whitehorse AP	MEP Activities
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Total individuals benefiting/taking part	181	361
No. events and activities	3	2

Term Time Activities	Whitehorse AP	MEP Activities (Stay and Play)
Total individuals benefiting/taking part	2,769	1,318
No. of Sessions completed	97	108

3.2 Mile End Park Arts and Eco Pavilions

The Art and Ecology Pavilion April 2021 – March 22

From April to September both pavilions played a vital role in the council's response to the pandemic. The pavilions were open and occupied every day as a vaccine centre and a test centre respectively. This saw a 1000+ people a day coming through the pavilions in peak periods.

Although it was an important and necessary function of this meant that bookings had to be cancelled or were offered postponements over this period. This is reflected in a loss of income over peak summer season and accommodating those displaced over the summer hire period 2022.

Following the occupation of the NHS in The Art Pavilion, we have had an extensive run of exhibitions programmed in re-opening the pavilions for public use, giving the opportunity for residents to experience high quality art for free. Many exhibitions offer a free to access programme of events and workshops, which bring additional benefits and opportunities to residents and visitors further enriching the understanding of themes or works on display.

Activity at The Art Pavilion 21/22

ART Pavilion 21/22	Number	Days open to the public	Days of occupation
NHS Vaccine Centre	1	162	162
Exhibitions	8	88	107
Private Events	0	0	0
Totals	9	250	269

Activity from September 2021 to March 2022:

September: Look Again: A Solo show by Abhayavajra Newman exhibiting large format Paintings hung beautifully in the space. Included an artist talk evening providing insight into works and process.

October Eco Feminism Festival: Utopia: Group Show exploring women and the environment with an accompanying programme of events including practical art workshops, curator tours, manifesto writing (which was taken to COP26) performance and more.

October; Prism Textiles in Search of Possibilities: Group Show of textile art includes sensory table and artist talks and demos.

November; Essential School of Painting: Art Matters: two end of year fine art shows.

November: / December East London Printmakers Annual Festival of Print: Returning for its sixth year, this local group with an international reputation exhibited high quality and affordable prints.

December; Five:50: Finale of the boroughs Bangladesh 50 celebrations featuring works by five female Artists.

March: Self-Conscious: Group show from The Denis Beckton Society of recently graduated Artists

March: THAT Network: Tower Hamlets Arts Teachers' network show their own work and that of their students from primary and secondary schools across the borough. Includes a weeklong programme of engagement activities with local schools.

Activity at The ECOLOGY Pavilion 21/22

Ecology Pavilion	Number of events	Days open to the public	Days of occupation
Test and Trace Centre	1	160	160
Public Events	13	13	19.5
Other Private Events	12	0	18
wedding ceremony	2	0	5
wedding reception	8	0	15
Meeting Conference	15	2	18.5
WORKS & Cleaning	2	0	18
Totals	40	175	254

Event Highlights:

Meetings and Conferences: Hosted QMUL’s School of Business; welcome week for new and post grad students; ECO Feminist Futures Conference and two internal Team Away days in Hybrid Format. Hosting external organisations away days attracting particular focus on sustainable issues, Kickstart programme celebration.

Public Events: welcomed back the NHSBT Team, hosted an ‘EastEndkids’ meet up, Urban Makers Christmas fair and Small Business’ winter market on Small Business Saturday, AEG Business fair & Tower Hamlets’ Winter Warmer for older residents.

Private events: reinstated wedding receptions and ceremonies, Mehndi’s, memorials, wakes and other family celebrations.

Income Generated 21/22

Pavilion	Committed income	Forecast – 31 March 2022
Ecology	£ 96,438.60	£ 96,438.60
Art	£ 51,424.00	£ 51,424.00
TOTAL	£ 147,862.60	£ 147,862.60

Event Highlights 22/23

Exhibitions & Public events: End of Year shows for Fine Art degree and MA shows from Essential school of painting, and Middlesex University, Prism Textiles Members Annual Showcase ‘UNTOLD’, TRELIS festival celebrating Art and Medicine, London urban sketchers group show part of The Big Draw and their book launch, Art Catcher Create a borough half term interactive expo, East London Printmakers Annual Show, (TBC A Stiches in Time Exhibition), The Glasgow Girls retrospective, The East End Canal Festival, Urban Makers Markets, The Sustainable Wedding Show, St Georges Day Tea Dance.

Mile End Park Friends Group:

Rangers continue to work with and support the Friends of Mile End Park who organise events and act as a critical friend regarding development of plans and priorities.

Other community engagement schemes:

Across the park and pavilions a range of community engagement schemes are supported including:

- Volunteer schemes

- Community Garden schemes
- Tower Hamlets in Bloom - annual garden competition
- Community arts exhibitions

4. Investments Made/Scheduled

In addition to the usual repairs and maintenance regime, monies were invested in the Art and Ecology Pavilions:

- Both pavilions were closed for a short period of time after the hand back from Test and Trace and The NHS vaccine centre respectively where small urgent repairs and deep cleaning were undertaken.
- Works to refurbish the floors to both the Arts and Ecology pavilion scheduled for early spring dates that are still to be confirmed.

Other investments/upgrades made since April 2021 include:

- Additional litter bins and benches installed.
- Installed a new play equipment at Locksley St Playground (Castle).
- Full digital upgrade to the Park CCTV cameras.
- Installation of new play area at The Ecology Pavilion with the aim to lowering CO2 emissions (using only eco-friendly material – 100% recycled post-consumer material from food packing waste).
- Refurbished the existing Outdoor GYM in Mile End Park (with zoned areas such as cardio, calisthenics/cross training, street workout & ball game area). There is a warmup area available in each zone and 50% of the new equipment is accessible.
- Refurbished two Multi Use Games Areas at Urban Adventure Base with new Basketball backboards, two tone colour scheme, and new porous asphalt.
- Lighting upgrade to the Arts and Ecology Pavilions has been completed.

The following investment is forecast to be required to meet hirer requirements and generate more income to the Trust:

- Additional equipment required for Hybrid activity.
- Upgrades to furniture, which is eight years old. Banquet chairs and tables are generally in a good condition, but we will need to replace some due to wear and tear. Trestle tables need to be replaced as they are damaged and very worn.

5. Finance

The current in year financial position for 2021/22 is attached to this report (Appendix 2). The charity generates income to fund the maintenance of the park and its programme of activities. This income is generated through:

- Rentals of shop/restaurant units plus climbing wall centre. These properties are managed by Council's Asset Management team. They have outsourced the management of the shop units under the green bridge. The external company collect rents and service charges, reviews leases and find tenants for any vacant lots.

- Operation of car parking spaces. These being in Haverfield Road and Lawton Road (by green bridge), These are managed by the councils parking services.
- Corporate volunteer schemes. Managed by the parks team these provide a useful volunteer work force for maintenance of the park and also income from a fee per participant.
- Hire of artificial football pitch at Stepney Green. Managed by the Parks team. The site does generate a small surplus and the majority of the teams using the facility are local to Tower Hamlets and the fees are amongst the cheapest in London.
- Hire of pavilions for weddings, private parties and exhibitions. Bookings are managed and staffed by parks personnel, including a pool of casual events staff. Facilities Management manage the utility bills, cleaning and maintenance.
- Commercial activity such as fairgrounds. These are managed by the Council's Festivals and Events team with the income coming to the Trust.

All income generated within the KGFT lands go to the charities accounts to support the public access to good quality sports and leisure facilities.