

**King George's Fields Trust Mile End  
Annual Report 2018-19**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The King George's Fields charity is registered with the Charity Commission as King George's Field, Mile End Charity, registered number 1077859.
- 1.2. The Council is the trustee of the charity and the council is the freehold owner of the land which is subject to this report.

## **2. Core function**

- 2.1. The King George's Fields Charity Board (the Board) is established by section of the Council's Constitution, which gives the Board the following functions:
  - 2.1.1. To administer the affairs of the King George's Fields Charity and discharge all the duties of the Council a sole trustee of the Charity
  - 2.1.2. To administer the affairs and discharge the duties of trustee of such other charities controlled by the Council as the Cabinet might authorise by resolution.

## **3. Charitable objects**

- 3.1. The land within the areas shown edged red on the plan KGF2 attached hereto which has been acquired by the Council or the London County Council shall be preserved in perpetuity as a memorial to his late Majesty King George V under the provision of the Foundation.

## **4. Activities - how the charity spends its money**

- 4.1. The maintenance of Mile End Park, and the other open spaces within King George's Field, Mile End, for the use and enjoyment of the public.

## **5. Service Standards**

- 5.1. The land is managed by Tower Hamlets Parks and Open Spaces whose service priorities are as follows:
  - 5.1.1. 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.
  - 5.1.2. Recognises the importance of parks and green spaces as major community assets.
  - 5.1.3. Fully recognises the importance and benefits of parks and open spaces as places for recreation, leisure and play for all communities within Tower Hamlets.

- 5.1.4. 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.
- 5.1.5. 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.
- 5.1.6. Manages and maintains the Borough’s parks and open spaces on behalf of the communities we serve.

**6. Design principles for Tower Hamlets Parks and Open Spaces**

- 6.1. 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

**7. Activities taking place that support the Charity Objectives**

7.1. Corporate volunteering:

- 1,456 volunteers from April 2018. 12,000 naturalised bulbs planted this year with corporate volunteers.

7.2 Events and activities in Mile End Park this year.

	Stay and Play	MEP workshop activity	MEP Events
<b>Total individuals benefiting/taking part</b>	<b>3,523</b>	<b>2,468</b>	<b>2,866</b>
<b>No. events and activities</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>

### 7.3 Mile End Park Arts and Eco Pavilions

Summary of bookings

	<b>Arts Pavilion (no. of days)</b>	<b>Eco Pavilion (no. of days)</b>
<b>Private</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Exhibition (inc set up)</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Exams (QMU)</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Community</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Public access</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>25</b>

### 7.4 Pavilion highlights

a) **Summer of Art Exhibition**

3 days of free to access exhibition and workshops including Chinese brush painting, paper marbling

b) **Windrush: Portrait of a Generation**

Free to Access photography exhibition celebrating the Caribbean community in London and their contribution to our society. Part of Black History Month offer and Photomonth

c) **Essential School Of painting**

Bethnal Green Fine Art School end of year showcase featuring Bob and Roberta.

d) **Urban Makers east - Makers' fayres**

Very successful Summer and Winter craft Fayres in the Ecology pavilion showcasing local craft makers and their products.

e) **East London Printmakers**

Annual Showcase of the ELP members works.

f) **Arts Sector networking event**

annual event well attended by Tower Hamlets arts and cultural sector.

g) **Tower Hamlets in Bloom**

Annual Awards ceremony for resident gardeners

h) **St George's and Xmas tea dances**

Highly popular tea dances for the Over 50's

7.4.1 There is also 4 Blood Donor Sessions, t2 weeks of the Junior Citizens Programme open to all TH Schools, Highways disability access day, TH draft waste strategy consultancy day, FOMEF AGM, School Sports engagement days, a number of community events hosted by local organisations or internally.

i) **Ecology Pavilion**

16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> July Urban Makers' Fayre  
June 14<sup>th</sup> Tower Project Jobs Fayre  
July 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Urban Makers' Market  
July 21<sup>st</sup> Eid Market

**8. Investments made**

In addition to the usual repairs and maintenance regime monies were invested in the following:

- Installation of picnic benches to rear of arts pavilion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of planting up gaps in central reservation
- Installation of bamboo fencing in growing area
- Increased storage at Arts Pavilion for exhibition boards
- Distribution of 100 tonnes of wood chip for woodland walks
- Purchase gardening tools for use by volunteers
- Improved security at Pavilions with three new CCTV cameras
- Installation of information boards throughout Mile End Park.

**9. Compliance with public benefit requirement**

9.1. The Trust has maintained the lands within Mile End Park and other KGFT sites to an acceptable standard with ongoing improvements implemented listed in the above investments.

9.2 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 bio-diversity
- Pavilions with free activity

- Outdoor gym equipment
- Programme of events and workshops
- Variety of spaces for walks and informal sports activity

### 9.3. Engagement with the community

- Support the Friends of Mile End Park who organise events and act as a critical friend regarding development of plans and priorities
- Volunteer schemes
- Community Garden schemes
- Tower Hamlets in Bloom- annual Garden competition
- Community arts exhibitions

## 10. Finance

10.1. The full year's accounts are attached to this annual report. The Trust 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
- Operation of car parking spaces
- Corporate volunteer schemes
- Hire of artificial football pitch at Stepney Green
- Hire of Pavilions for weddings, private parties and exhibitions
- Commercial activity such as fairgrounds and film locations