

**Central Park Management Plan
Plymouth City Council
2018-2023**



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CENTRAL PARK TODAY

1.1 Vision statement

At over 90 hectares, Central Park is Plymouth's largest park and a key greenspace asset in the city for people and wildlife. It is a special park that combines formal sports and recreation facilities with large natural areas and fine examples of Plymouth's heritage.

Home to the historic Plymouth Argyle Home Ground and the iconic Life Centre which hosts the British Diving Championships, the park already welcomes tens of thousands of visitors annually.

The city aims to make Central Park the premier park for the people of Plymouth and an outstanding venue of regional and national significance for active recreation and formal sport, culture and the natural environment.

Central Park will become an outdoor 'Health and Wellbeing Hub', providing a whole host of activities for all ages in nature, which enhance

mind, body and spirit and promote social cohesion. People will come to the park to spend the day and will have access to a range of facilities and areas, providing something for everybody. It will become an essential stop for visitors and will enhance the city's reputation.

In 2017 Plymouth City Council committed £6m capital funding investment to deliver the first step towards achieving this vision. The programme of works will conclude in early 2020 in time for the internationally recognised Mayflower 400 celebrations, which will be taking place across the city. As part of this, Central Park will be hosting a key event - 'Settlement', where a group of well-respected Native American artists will be in residence in the park for over a month.

The Central Park management plan aims to deliver the next stage of the vision. It creates a road map to ensure that the park investments are sustained and improved upon and demonstrates the importance of partnership with a range of stakeholders including the local community, sports organisations and businesses to achieve this.

As the city's flagship park, it will be an exemplar of greenspace management within the city with the aim to achieve Green Flag Award status as a formal recognition of high quality.



1.2 Introduction to management plan

This is a brand new 5 year management plan for Central Park developed by Plymouth City Council's (PCC) Environmental Planning (EP) team in collaboration with the Street Services and Waste (SSW) department.

Contributions have come from the Friends of Central Park Plymouth (FoCPP), Plymouth Tree Partnership (PTP), Environmental Assessment and Design Ltd (EAD) and Plymouth Environmental Action (PEA)

1.3 Purpose of management plan

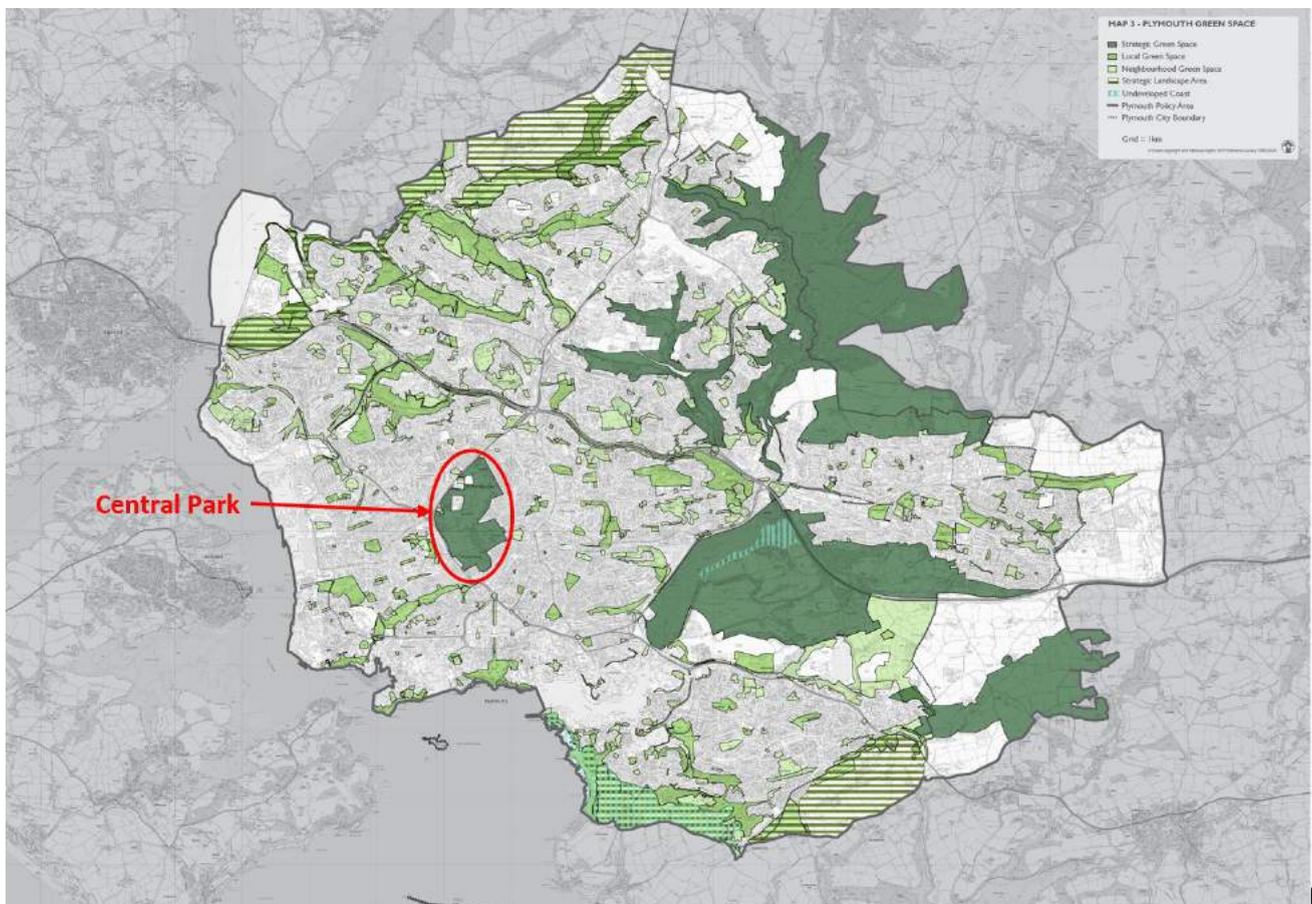
- To demonstrate that the management of Central Park is informed by a co-ordinated and fully resourced plan; ensuring continued management and maintenance of the park for a five year period from August 2018-2023, reviewed and updated on an annual basis
- To identify how the various areas of responsibility within Plymouth City Council are coordinated in support of high quality management and maintenance, and to identify who is ultimately responsible for each aspect of management;
- To identify, discuss and resolve issues relating to conflicts of interest between user groups or between expectations and available resources;
- To provide a central reference document for those managing and maintaining the park and for other people who have an interest in the park;
- To provide the benchmark at which delivery and performance will be measured.

1.4 Geographical location

As the name suggests, Central Park is a key strategic green space in a central location of the city. Its highest points have far reaching views to the south over the city centre and Plymouth Sound and Cornwall.

Boundaried to the West by the A386 main northern corridor, it has good transport, walking and cycling routes. It is around 10 minutes walk from Plymouth's mainline train station and 20 minutes walk from the City Centre. A large amount of free parking is available on the western and northern boundaries.

Home to the Plymouth Life Centre, the city's largest indoor sporting facility and Plymouth Argyle Football Team's Home Stadium, it welcomes tens of thousands of visitors every year. As the largest park in Plymouth it serves the citywide population of over 250,000, but more locally it is surrounded by the 3 urban neighbourhoods of Peverell, Stoke and Drake with a combined population of around 38,000.



Source: Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan 2014-2034

1.5 Site description

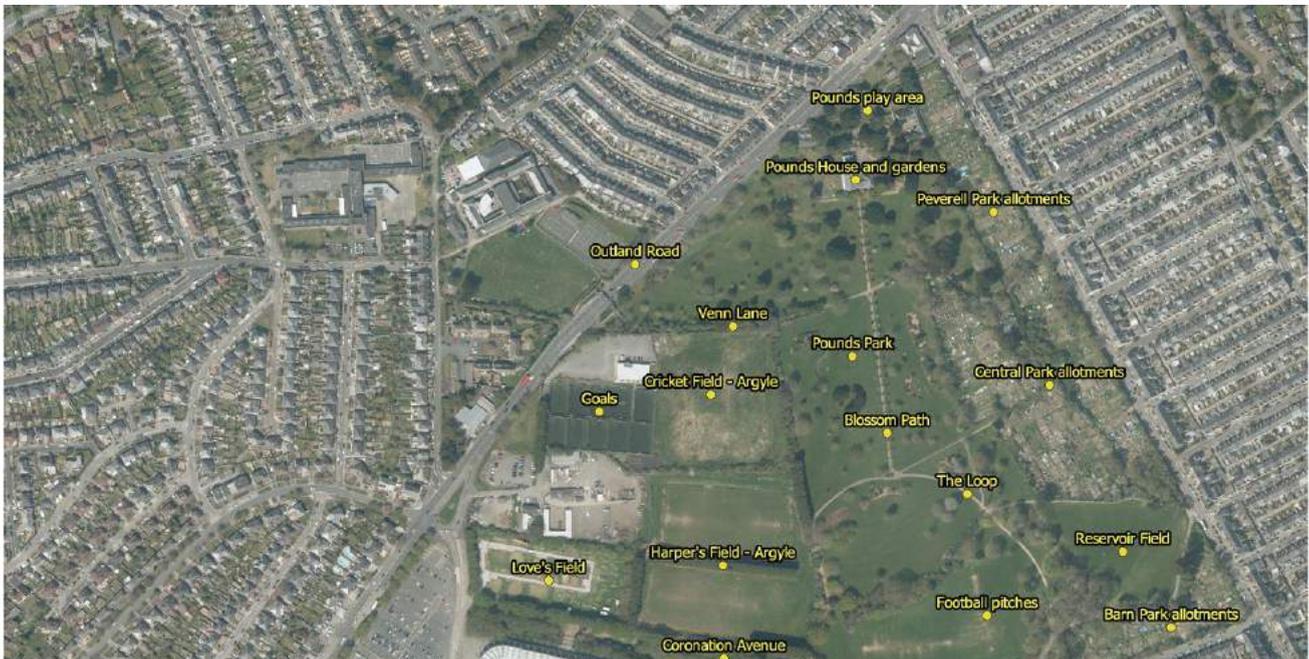
Site Name: Central Park
Grid Reference: SX 47319 56103
Area: 93 Hectares
Ownership: Freehold owned by Plymouth City Council
Legal Status: Public space
Management responsibility: Roughly 72 of the 93 hectares are managed by PCC's Environmental Planning team and Street Services and Waste team. The remaining 18 hectares comprise facilities that are operated and maintained by others, details of which are provided later in this management plan.



Park features on-site map

1.6 Key features

Pounds Park - Heritage and Formal Gardens



Pounds Park map

Pounds Park is a wonderful area where visitors can sit and take in the formal gardens that make up most of this area. There are some fine examples of specimen tree planting like Turner's oak, wingnuts and cherry that line Blossom Path.

Formal rhododendron, heather and camellia beds are being restored by the parks service. PCC have begun a programme to enhance this area with new seating and wooden sculptures that make use of fallen trees from the park.

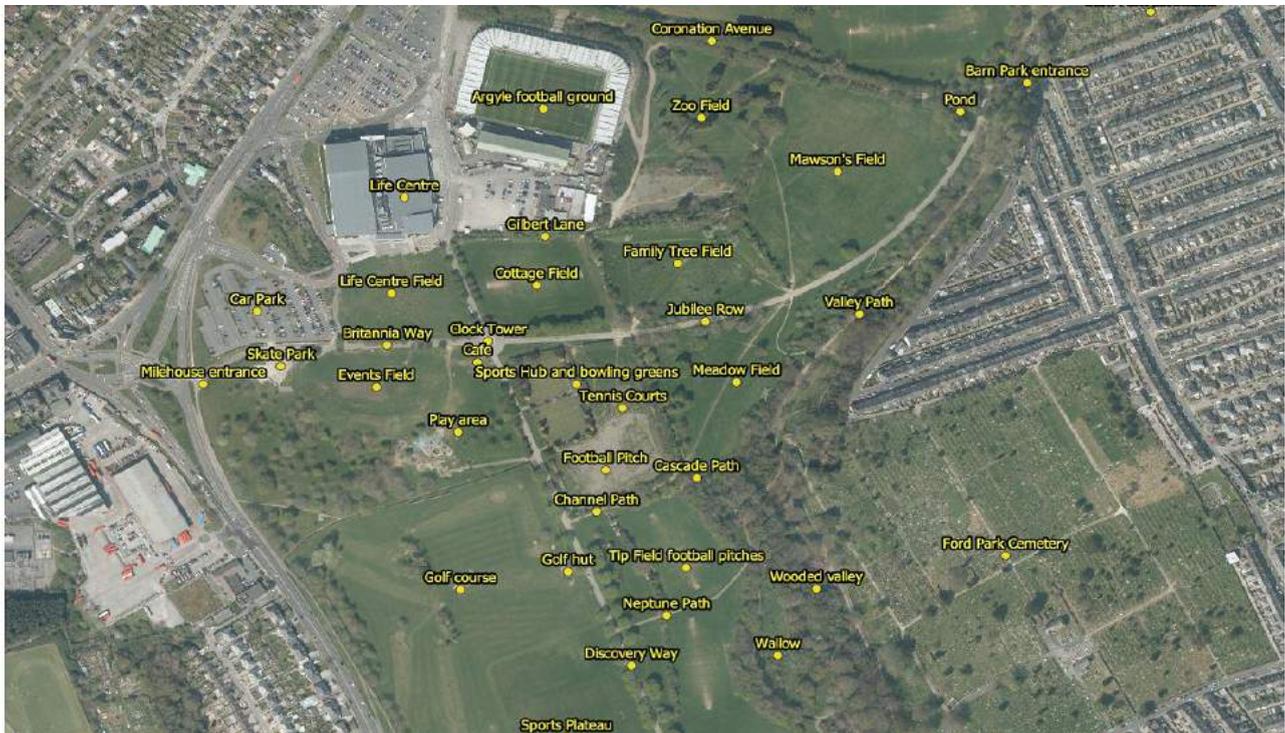
Pounds Park provides some of the finest examples of heritage in Central Park. Venn Lane is a remnant of the old farmland, lined by historic stonewalls and hedgerows that the Council has been renovating with community volunteers.



Pounds House is a grade II listed building that was built in the 1800s. Currently empty, use of the building has changed over time. PCC continues to maintain it and is currently developing a plan to secure the future of this asset.

2 large allotment sites, run by PCC sit to the eastern edge of this area of the park.

Central area - diversity at the heart of the park



Central Area map

Coronation Avenue to Barn Park

The Central area of the park boasts several interesting elements. For example, Coronation Avenue in the north of this area, is lined by red flowering horse chestnut trees that provide a visual spectacle and shaded walks on hot days. Planted by school children in 1937 to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI, these trees are wonderful examples of the park's history. Visitors interested in heritage will also note the granite sett drains along the avenue and 1930s gate piers at Barn Park. The Council is currently developing plans to restore the granite setts and expand the pond area to deliver improvements to drainage and to benefit wildlife and visitors.

Community Tree Planting

Around the Family Tree Field and Meadow Field are examples of community tree planting projects. The Family Tree Scheme run by Plymouth Tree Partnership has planted over 100 hundred trees from different continents since 2004. The Meadow Field and Wallow area were planted with native trees in 2008 creating an extension of the woods. Between the two fields runs Jubilee Row, planted with trees in 2012 to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Wooded Valley

Valley Path offers nearly 1km of a fully accessible, flat, tree lined walk or cycle through the Wooded Valley, a mix of broadleaved woodland and coniferous plantation with some fine mature trees present. This area is popular with users as it provides escapism and tranquility; it is easy to forget you are in a city park.



There are a number of playful sculptures to find along the valley, and sculpted benches, part funded by the Tesco Community Grant Scheme with the Friends Group in 2017. For those interested in wildlife, bird boxes have been installed on trees by community volunteers and there is a small pond area where wildlife like bats, butterflies and dragonflies can be found.

Meadows

The meadow area, comprising Zoo Field, Mawson's Field, Family Tree Field and Meadow Field features a network of native hedgerows, Devon banks and wildflower planting. Zoo Field is so called as it was the site of the Central Park Zoo in the 1960s-70s. The mature conifer trees in the field are assumed to be part of the screening used around enclosures. It is intended that a new landscape design for this field will be implemented. The other fields in this area feature areas of wildflower planted within the last 5 years. Wildflowers were planted in 2014 with support of Buglife and local communities with funding from Heritage Lottery Fund's Grow Wild programme. Plant species like knapweed and yellow rattle provide chances to see a range of pollinating insects through spring and summer.



The Clock Tower

Effectively the central point in the park with several key routes through the park crossing here. Sports facilities such as football pitches, bowling greens, the city's largest play area and the newly extended skate park are in this area.



Next to this, the Events Field has recently been reconstructed with a concrete and grass surface that will provide a platform to launch a range of new commercial and community events, in addition to existing events like the circus and fair.

Community Sports Hub and Cafe

A new Community Sports Hub and 4 tennis courts are currently under construction here, due to open in Summer 2019. This building will provide high standard changing facilities for sports users and with a community room and kitchen will become a centre for a range of activities and events.

There are 2 bowling greens adjacent, which host the Central Park Bowling Association.



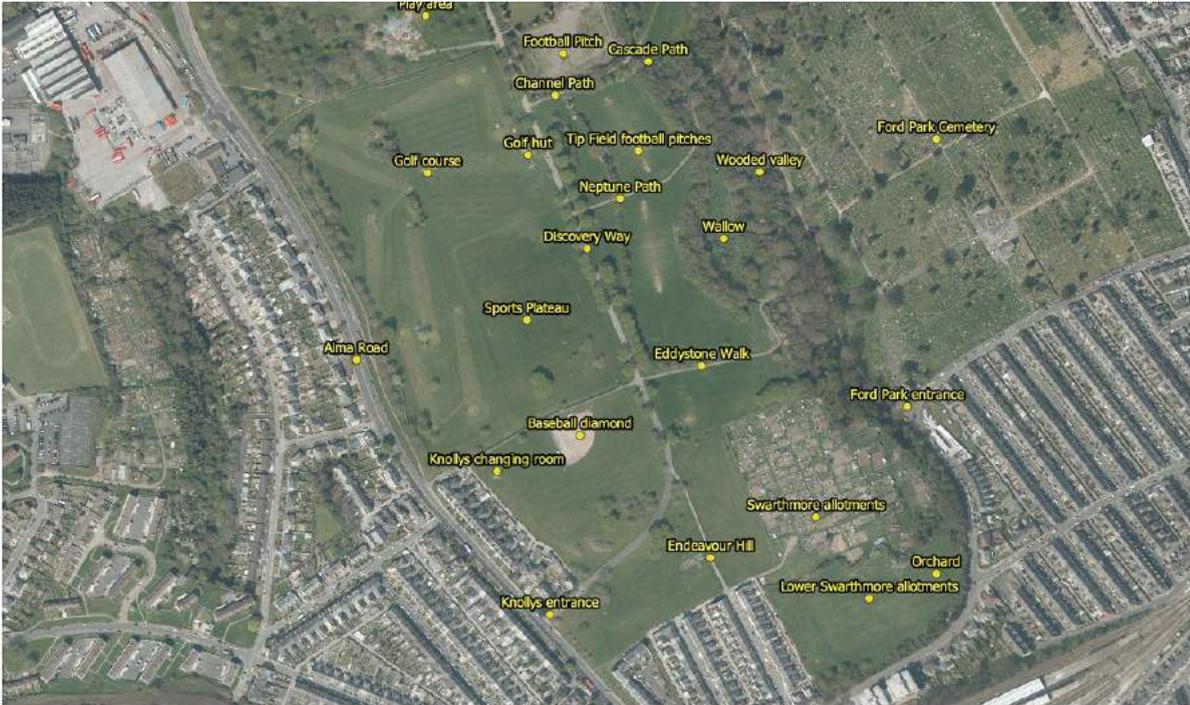
Hub image: Credit LDA

A grass roof cafe is currently being built next to the Clock Tower roundabout and will overlook the new and improved Central Park Play Area. It will have 4 new public toilets for the park. Consultation has highlighted the need and demand for all these facilities.



Cafe image: Credit Erect Architecture

Discovery Way and Southern Slopes - sports focus



Southern area map

Discovery Way

Discovery Way is another key route through the park. The wide avenue affords amazing views over the city towards Plymouth Sound.

Starting at Knollys Terrace, visitors are greeted by Victorian gate piers leading into a path lined with granite sett drains. The trees along this path are mostly a mix of whitebeam and smooth leaved elm. These extraordinary trees have proved resistant to Dutch Elm Disease and we are working with Kew Gardens to propagate seedlings from this stock.

Outdoor Sports

The west of this area is dominated by sports facilities including the golf course and hut that offers refreshments to park visitors, as well as the newly developed high quality Sports Plateau that provides for football, rugby and potential for a cricket wicket. Two further community football pitches, baseball facilities and softball pitch can be found here as well.



Community Orchard

To the south of the park is a small orchard, planted in 2016 and one of the most wildlife rich areas of the park. A new informal path provides a lovely walk affording chances to see insects and birds, before entering a wooded area that connects up to Valley Path at the Ford Park entrance to the park. As with other entrances to the park, a set of historic gate piers greets visitors, along with a rockery area that has been planted and maintained by volunteers and PCC park staff (see photo inset).

Run by PCC, Swarthmore allotments is another tenanted site in this area of the park.



1.7 Community led improvements

Between 2010 and 2013, PCC led a comprehensive consultation and masterplanning exercise for the park to determine a new vision with residents for the park. Four years later, in October 2017, Plymouth City Council demonstrated its commitment to the delivery of this vision through approving capital investment of £6m towards a programme of improvements to the park.

As part of the masterplan refresh, and to enable residents to input into detailed design, a consultation in 2018 engaged over 48,000 people on Facebook with 400 completed questionnaires.



We continue to work closely with the Friends of Central Park, local schools and various user groups to ensure improvements are community led and use various communication channels to keep residents informed and up to date, providing opportunities to input into design wherever possible.

So far we have delivered:

- An extension to the skate park and addition of parkour facilities (Completed July 2018)
- Refurbished and enlarged adventure play area (Completed August 2018)
- Large grasscrete events field with water/electricity (Completed December 2018)
- New sports plateau (football, rugby, cricket) and junior football pitch to nationally approved standards (Due for completion for 2019 play season)
- 4km of improved path surface (ongoing)
- Sculpture trail (ongoing)
- Park wide quality improvements including internal and external boundary works, natural improvements to trees and woodlands, hedges, meadows, new street furniture, lighting and signage (Ongoing)

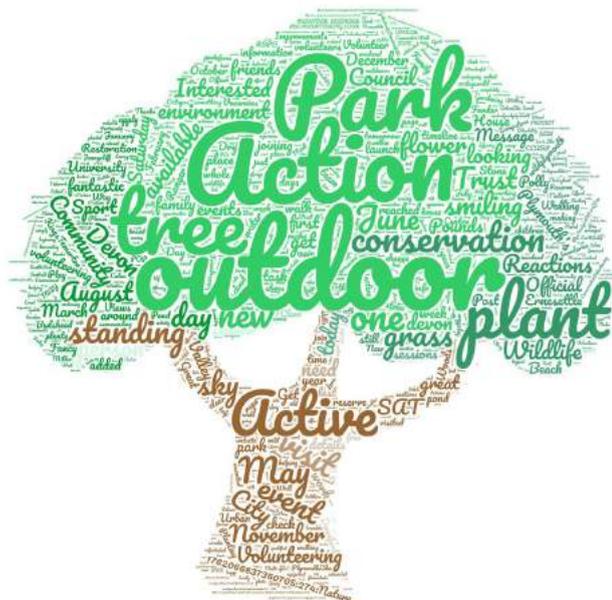
Other ongoing large infrastructure works include:

- New grass roof cafe with public toilets (due for completion July 2019)
- New community sports hub and improved bowling greens (due for completion July 2019)
- Sustainable Urban Drainage system with swales and ponds (due for completion Spring 2020)

Fundraising

Working with stakeholders and community groups PCC have supported consultation and project development as well as provided match funding to:

- Secure £10k for an oral history project from HLF through social enterprise FotoNow and Friends of Central Park
- Secure £12k from the Postcode Lottery for a classroom seating area in the Family Tree Field with Plymouth Tree Partnership (due for completion Summer 2019)
- Secure £300k towards the cost of path improvements for walking and cycling from the Department for Transport (due for completion March 2020)
- Submit an Interreg bid for £350k towards sustainable urban drainage solutions in the park (outcome due September 2019)



1.8 Heritage

Central Park's heritage significance is regional, with historic and landscape value and interest locally. Land was purchased for public access between 1924 and 1929. Prior to this, the area had been used for a variety of purposes, including Residential, Pounds House and Higher Swilly; Agricultural; Recreation (Plymouth Argyle Football Club has been on the site since the 1900s); Public exhibitions and events (to the south near Pennycomequick, on land identified as 'Exhibition Fields' on late nineteenth-century maps; The Stonehouse Reservoir.

From the beginning it was intended that the Park provide opportunities for leisure and active recreation, with the latter uses concentrated on the higher ground, to the west, located convenient to road infrastructure.

Central Park is an example of Interwar, Municipal Park Design: The combination of active, organised and commercial leisure facilities with more passive and traditional recreational space, including the allotments is typical of interwar park design in the United Kingdom.

In 1927 the famous landscape architect Thomas Mawson was commissioned to prepare a plan for the park. The main elements of Mawson's plan – key avenues – were executed, and a number of leisure developments built more or less in positions indicated in the original plan.

Although Mawson's plan was not executed in detail, some of its main elements (avenues, for instance, the retention of the Venn as a natural landscape, the integration of Pounds House and the old 'pleasure grounds' with the general parkland) were carried out. Of local historical note, the landscape of the park contains



many 'relict' areas and features, which speak clearly about the pattern of land uses before the area came to be encapsulated by later suburban development. There are physical remnants of all these different phases of use and development, fragmentary in some cases (such as the gate piers along the western verge of the park, for instance) but more substantial in

others (such as the historic Devon Country Lane of Venn Lane).

As we develop the park for the future, we aim to protect and enhance natural and built areas of the park, celebrating our history. The park's heritage continues to be an important element of the park management plan.



Volunteers restore dry stone wall, 2018

1.9 Biodiversity and ecology

Within the park there is a Tree Preservation Order protecting the horse chestnuts along Coronation Avenue and a Biodiversity Network Site designation exists over the park.

A preliminary ecological appraisal (PEA) of the whole park carried out in 2017 highlighted opportunities to deliver 'biodiversity gain' including making a positive contribution to the Plymouth Biodiversity Network Site. This could be achieved by enhancing its value as a 'stepping stone' for species movement and dispersal; measures could include habitat creation/enhancement including native tree/shrub/hedgerow planting, pond creation, wildflower seeding into retained grassland, provision of bird and bat habitat onto buildings and/or trees, and green roofs or living walls on new buildings. Management activities related to this are discussed later in this plan.

The PEA identified 16 different habitats on site, including 5 UK BAP priority habitats:

1 Broad leaved woodland

Found in the wooded valley area, there is potential to thin out conifers and plant more trees for more structure and diversity. It is an excellent place to see brown-long eared bats, pipistrelles and a range of birds including sparrowhawk and great spotted woodpecker.

2 Hedgerow

Networks of native hedgerows remain from the old farmland.

Further repair of banks and planting native hedge plants will enhance species poor areas. Control of ivy along the banks will help allow other plants to come through.

3 Lowland meadow

The 2 main wildflower meadows are important sites for pollinating insects and hunting grounds for kestrel. Management practices are being revised to ensure the sites flourish.



4 Standing water

The small pond at the end of Coronation Avenue is a pleasant area to see plants like yellow iris and insects such as dragonflies. The wider drainage strategy for the park will take account of enhancing this area for wildlife and improve its amenity function.

5 Traditional orchard

A small area of traditional orchard planted in 2016 in the south of the park. Varieties include pear, apple and cherry. This area is largely unimproved and a range of wildlife can be seen throughout the year, such as song thrushes and cinnabar moths, with potential habitat for common lizards and slow worms.

Trees

There are a vast number of trees on the park and the park is highly valued for its variety of both specimen trees and native species. A full tree condition survey of Central Park was carried out by Aspect Consultants in 2017 and has helped to inform the improvement programme and management of the park. Additionally, Council officers, Plymouth Tree Partnership and other partners have contributed their knowledge to the management of trees on the park.



Waxwing in park. Credit: Ian Teague

In 2018 PCC created a draft for *Plymouth's Plan For Trees*. This was informed by consultation with city residents, in which 97% of participants said that trees are an important part of the city. Further development of the plan came from collaboration with partners such as the Plymouth Tree Partnership, Woodland Trust and National Trust. As this strategy is developed it will be adopted into the management of Central Park.

1.10 Planning policy

Central Park is a Strategic Green Space Site in the Plymouth and South West Devon Joint Local Plan (SPT11/DEV29): 'a large scale site to be proactively enhanced to provide a focus for people's interaction with nature' and protected from development under Planning Policy

PLY19:

Central Park will be a premier park for the people of Plymouth. It will become an outstanding venue of regional and national significance for active recreation and formal sport, culture, art and the natural environment. As part of the growth of the city significant improvements will be delivered to enhance the recreational and sporting facilities as well as increasing the wildlife and community value of the park. This will ensure the park provides significant health and well-being benefits for communities, a vibrant and diverse hub for formal sport and recreational activities, and a space where people can access nature.

This will be achieved by:

1. Creating a park with high quality, vibrant spaces that encourage a diversity of uses and is accessible to communities across Plymouth and beyond.
2. Enhancing existing and creating new sporting facilities that develop the park's role as a key sporting facility for the city and region whilst being sensitive to the park's natural and historic features.
3. Strengthening the links between the Life Centre and the sporting facilities within the park to

deliver the highest quality sporting and recreational offer, catering for people of all abilities.

4. Protecting and enhancing the park's importance for wildlife and as a key green corridor. Ensuring that trees continue to have a key role in the park landscape by delivering a strategic tree management and replacement programme.
5. Encouraging and expanding food growing opportunities within the park to complement the existing allotment provision.
6. Development of new high quality park facilities including cafés, performance space, children's play spaces, landscape features, public toilets and new entrance features to complement and add value to the attractiveness and use of the park.
7. Developing and implementing a strategic water management solution for the park that resolves historic flooding issues through innovative Sustainable Urban Drainage solutions including new water features that will be designed to add value to the park's landscape and deliver benefits for wildlife.
8. Protecting and enhancing the park's historic features integrating them sensitively into the enhancement plans and where applicable identifying uses for features that are complementary to the park's outcomes and ensure their long term sustainability.
9. Creating a well-connected park for pedestrians and cyclists that links to surrounding neighbourhoods and the City Centre encouraging active travel to and through the park.
10. Ensuring any developments around the periphery of the park are sensitive to the purpose of the park and the natural and built assets it contains

1.11 Topography

A full Topographic survey of the park was carried out in 2017 and can be provided for reference. To summarise, the topography of the park is dynamic across the site; while there are some relatively flat areas around the clock tower and Life Centre, the park landscape is generally undulating, with some significant slopes dropping off from areas like Meadow Field into the woods and the southern slopes, where the gradient of the land changes significantly. This brings benefits in the shape of an interesting and diverse park, along with challenges such as drainage.

1.12 Drainage

The Council has been developing a drainage scheme for the park in partnership with the Friends Group and supported by a contracted engineering firm. The intention is that this scheme will be phased over time to include the wider wooded valley and the areas that drain into it. So far, a number of improvements to paths and drainage have been made along Valley Path.

The next phase will include Coronation Avenue and investment into water bodies at the Barn Park entrance. It will require a full planning application which is scheduled for submission in Summer 2019. Once complete, it will be assessed to determine the impact of changes to better inform the design of following phases. Detail will be added to this management plan once plans are confirmed.

A summary of the intended objectives for the scheme are:

- Develop a scheme using a Sustainable Urban Drainage approach
- Reduce flooding along wooded valley and in areas like the Barn Park entrance and on Discovery Way
- Retain run off in park and increase park storage capacity
- Repair and utilise granite sett drains along Coronation Avenue, leading to reduced erosion around roots of horse chestnut trees along avenue
- Enhance ecology of the park through use of swales, planting and more areas of standing water, also helping to act as carbon stores in the park
- Improve amenity value of areas such as Barn Park entrance, with additional

seating and viewpoints around water bodies

1.13 Access and interpretation

Central Park affords access to a high quality and diverse green space within the city limits. It is on major bus and driving routes with a large amount of free parking available on the western edge.

The park has strategic cycling routes running north/south and east/west.

The majority of paths are hard surfaced and wide with no steps. The steep topography down to the eastern edge can prove challenging for those with more limited mobility.

There are a few fingerposts and maps in the park and it is not easy to navigate if you don't know the area. The main map is in the centre of the park by the Clock Tower. It can be downloaded onto mobile apps through a QR code. There is 1 notice board at the Clock Tower which is kept up to date by the Friends Group. There are interpretation boards at the skate, play and wildflower meadows. The current programme of works aims to improve the information available within the park to aid access and enhance understanding.

Current developments of the cafe and sports hub will help provide covered social areas in the park and encourage more group activities. They will provide free public toilets and ambulant changing rooms for people with disabilities.

The improved skate park can now be used for competitions and the events field will have a new programme of events, making the space accessible to the wider community.

The new play area also offers access to a more inclusive range of equipment than previously.



1.14 Uses and activities

Facilities currently used within the park:

- 7 football pitches - 1 Senior, 6 Junior
- Rugby pitch
- Skate park
- Play area
- 2 outdoor bowling greens and pavilion
- Pitch n putt course
- Frisbee golf
- Foot golf
- Baseball pitch and changing rooms
- Softball area
- Events Field (water and electricity on site)

The park is busy with people doing numerous other leisure and sports activities including dog walking, jogging, cycling and walking through areas like the meadows and avenues. Our Public Health provider runs Walking for Health in the park and PCC run a weekly practical volunteer session.

We have a 'no-charging policy' for charities who wish to run events such as Park Run, Muddy Mudders and Scout Jamboree.



1.15 Commercial facilities, leases, freeholds and concessions

The new cafe, tennis courts and community sports hub due to open in July 2019 will be managed by PCC. Knollys Changing Rooms and the bowling greens are managed by PCC and users pay an annual subscription fee.

PCC has awarded concessions for an annual fair and circus in the park each year which attracts 1000's of visitors. This is overseen by the PCC Events Team.

We have also awarded concessions for an ice cream van and children's inflatable play. Awards are competitively tendered with legal and health and safety requirements managed by PCC's corporate property team.

Within the footprint of the park is the park and ride (operated by PCC), Plymouth Argyle Football Stadium (owned by the football club) and Pounds Lodge, which is a residential property. There are a number of facilities that are commercially leased and maintained by the tenants including the Golf hut, Harper's Field training pitches, Goals complex and old cricket field, Outland Road depot, Life Centre, Park House (west of Life Centre), Jubilee Buildings (shops at northern tip of park) and Stables (Peeverell surgery north of Pounds House).

2

CENTRAL PARK - THE FUTURE

2.1 Site assessment and analysis

Currently, the management of Central Park is informed by PCC's wider strategies for parks in the city. It is recognised that Central Park is a unique site and a bespoke management plan is required to balance wider strategies with the needs of the park.

Where possible, the Council aims to keep management and maintenance in house. In addition to the Street Services and Waste (SSW) teams on the park who deal with maintenance, the Environmental Planning (EP) team also contributes to management of the park. This team provides specialist input to the park in the shape of planning knowledge, natural infrastructure management expertise and projects and partnerships management.

2.1.1 A Welcoming Place

Central Park is a very popular green space in the city and provides a broad range of opportunities for visitors and community groups. People can take part in sport and recreational activities, use facilities like the play area and skate park, relax in quiet areas and explore heritage and ecology. An ongoing challenge for the park is striking a balance between the various users, activities and the park environment.

Access, entrances, boundaries

Entrances, boundaries and seating were audited in 2017-18, which showed that although the park has numerous access points and paths, more regular maintenance was needed to ensure these areas were visible and welcoming for visitors. In 2017 a programme of entrance and boundary improvements was initiated, as well as restoration of character elements that join the park to external areas, such as gate piers and avenues.

Benches and picnic tables vary in style and condition in the park and will be updated with a single design that has been chosen with the help of the local community. This will also address areas where seating is lacking. Further sculpture benches will be added in the woods to reflect the character of this area and join up Pounds Park with the Wooded Valley. This will take place in 2019.

Additionally, there are opportunities to improve the quality of paths in the park and a project to address this began in 2018, with a completion target set for 2020.

Signage and interpretation

In some areas, the park has good signage for wayfinding within the park and to destinations beyond the park. There are interpretation panels on the cultural and natural heritage of areas like the meadow fields, as well as recreational areas like the play area and skate park. A map and

noticeboard providing information on the park can be found at the clock tower. Further information on the park is available through a Central Park website, Facebook and Twitter pages, all of which are operated by the Council. However, it is noted that there are opportunities to update and add more interpretation and signage.

Staff

3 staff from the horticulture team are on the park from Monday-Friday, with specialist teams for different areas on site intermittently throughout the week. All parks staff wear a distinct uniform and the park is regularly patrolled by PCSOs. There are several Council officers from Environmental Planning delivering the wider improvements programme for the park. An events apprentice has been recruited and will be engaged in strengthening ties with the community and working face-to-face with users on the park. The park café will be open all year round once completed.

Enquiries

The Council manages customer enquiries through an online portal on its website and via switchboard. Typically SSW manage most enquiries through the portal or by phone. There is an opportunity to improve the way that enquiries are managed through the new apprentice and Environmental Planning team.

2.1.2 Healthy Safe and Secure

Plymouth City Council is committed to ensuring the park provides a safe environment for the public and staff, in which to take part in activities,

relax and work. This not only means the infrastructure of the park is designed and maintained in such a way that it poses no danger to park users, but also that people feel safe on site for the duration of their visit i.e. through street lighting, CCTV, visibility.

As stated earlier, the SSW team visits the park throughout the week and report all and any health and safety matters to team leaders. Qualified council staff visit the park to undertake specific checks for tree and play area safety.

Additionally, there are contact numbers on interpretation panels in the play area, skate park and at the clock tower.

Security: Vandalism and graffiti

A key challenge for the park is balancing provision of a site that is open and secure with preservation of its natural areas, heritage and facilities. Additionally, the size of the site and topography in some areas provides further challenge. The Council will continue to manage this and look for ways to improve how this is done.

The parks maintenance team visits the park on a daily basis, Monday-Friday, providing reassurance to the public using the park and is a point of contact regarding incidents like anti-social behaviour and breaches of the bylaws or statute law. These staff liaise with PCSOs and regularly share intelligence as a means of driving down anti-social behaviour in the park. The Council's firmstep system can also be used to report issues.

Regular maintenance of paths and areas in the woods keep these areas as open as possible and deter rough sleeping. In some cases, dense areas are left to deter such activities, while also providing benefits to wildlife. Work with community volunteers has been carried out in parts of the woods to improve line of sight through trees. Further works will be undertaken to ensure that park users continue to feel safe to use the space. The Council also works with a probation service, providing added capacity to maintain certain facilities and remove graffiti.

2.1.3 Well Maintained and Clean

The cleanliness of city park spaces is important to the Council and park users. As well as establishing schedules for managing litter, the Council has a strong dog control policy and has created a plan for plastics, actioned in 2018, aimed at reducing single use plastics across the city.

Litter/Fly tipping

Litter clearance is undertaken on a daily basis and the Council has a dedicated team in addition to the SSW team already on the park.

Dog control

Litter bins are provided on the park and are dual use, so can be used to dispose of dog waste.

The Council encourages responsible dog ownership and provides information about dog controls and its policies on dog waste on the Council website at www.plymouth.gov.uk/dogcontrol.

Around Central Park there are numerous signs reminding owners to keep dogs on leads in designated areas and an enforcement team operates in the park to ensure dog owners are following designations and cleaning up after their dogs.

The Council also ran a dog show in 2018 to promote its relationship with dog owners and to establish better relationships with other park users.

Dog control zones are illustrated in the map below, which is included as an inset on the park map located at the clock tower roundabout. See image below. This is also available on the Central Park webpage: www.plymouth.gov.uk/centralparkimprovement



Hard facilities and infrastructure management

Buildings in the park that are operated by PCC are maintained through PCC's Facilities Management team. This includes Knolley's Changing Rooms, the Golf Hut and a small building used by the Friends Group to store volunteer tools free of charge. Responsibility for the maintenance of leased buildings falls with tenants.

The management and maintenance of the new cafe and sports hub will be added to this management plan once it has been confirmed.

Pathways and other infrastructure are inspected by the SSW team on the park on a daily basis and any issues relating to quality and safety are reported and addressed as a priority.

As part of the improvements programme the Council is undertaking to install sub-metering to facilities such as the Events Field, Cafe and CSH to ensure individual users are billed accordingly and to improve recording of usage data.

2.1.3.1 Summary of hard facilities and infrastructure maintenance/inspections

Work activity	Specification	Area	When?	Party responsible	Year				
					1	2	3	4	5
Electrical asset inspections	Check operation of floodlights/water play	Skate park, play areas	Annual, Year round	Play team/ Ustigate	x	x	x	x	x
	Check operation of street lights	Discovery Way, Jubilee Row, Britannia Way, Coronation Avenue		Electrical services					
	Check electric and water supply points	Play area, Events Field		Facilities management					
Infrastructure / heritage inspections	Stone walls, entrance piers, cemetery wall, rockery, clock tower, fences, railings, bollards, paths	Whole park	Annual, Year round	Horticulture Team	x	x	x	x	x
	Pounds House exterior	Pounds House	Annual, Year round	Land and property team					

New toilets	Cleaning and maintenance	Cafe, CSH	Daily, year round	Cafe operator	x	x	x	x	x
CCTV system maintenance	Check operation, manage system	Cafe, CSH	Daily, year round	PCC CCTV engineers	x	x	x	x	x
WiFi system maintenance	Check operation, manage system	Cafe, CSH	Daily, year round	DELT	x	x	x	x	x
Building Management System maintenance	Check operation, manage system	CSH	Weekly, year round	Facilities management/ Cafe operator	x	x	x	x	x
Utilities-meter checks	Utilities- meter checks	Whole park	Annual, Year round	Facilities management	x	x	x	x	x
Events Field inspection	Events Field inspection	Events Field	Before and After events	Events team	x	x	x	x	x

Horticultural and natural infrastructure management

Care of these elements of the park and planting are carried out by the SSW team. Since 2017 the team have been engaged in activities to create areas of habitat and wildlife interest within the park such as wildflower meadows and community orchard.

In the more structured area of Pounds Park, the team have restored the shrub and flower beds to a high standard. This has contributed to improving access and sight lines in the park.



Further to this, the team have been improving heritage areas of the park, such as dry stone walls and have undertaken training to be better equipped to carry out these tasks.

Through initiating a new volunteer programme on the park in 2018, the Council have also created opportunities for community volunteers to work alongside SSW to carry out some of these tasks.

These activities have fed into the management plan and have helped to inform the work schedule found later in the document. It is considered that this approach will continue to develop throughout the duration of management plan as the Council seeks a process of continuous improvement.

2.1.4 Environmental Management

PCC as a whole is identifying new management techniques which are sensitive to the environment and ecology of the park. This includes looking at green solutions to management practices, such as using electric instead of fuel powered equipment and alternatives to pesticides. Additionally, consideration is given to how resources such as wood, soil and stone from the park are reused within the park. The Environmental Planning and SSW teams will review the Central Park management plan in order to keep up-to-date with most recent developments in sustainable practices.

Sustainability actions so far:

- Developing this management plan to account for ecology of the park
- Initiated SuDS project to improve quality of existing pond and introduce new standing water and other drainage features
- Building green roof cafe and ensuring this building and new CSH have minimal carbon footprint
- Reusing wood from the park to make sculptures, habitat and woodchip on shrub and flower beds
- Reusing resources like soil, granite and stone from projects to repair dry stone walls

Development of site management:

- Review this plan with wider Environmental Planning team and partners to ensure Central Park uses sustainable land management practices
- Work with SSW staff to implement sustainable practices
- Employ city wide strategies on park such as *Plan for Trees* and *Plan for Plastics*

2.1.5 Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

The heritage and ecology of the park has been outlined earlier in the management plan and as stated above, the Council is undertaking to review its management practices to ensure best practice for the heritage and ecology of the park.

In addition to the 2017 ecological appraisal, a report on the heritage of the park was produced in 2002. The improvements programme for the park and this management plan have accounted for recommendations and information from both documents. This has already been delivered through activities such as hedge bank renovation and repairing the gate

piers at Ford Park and a plan to take forward management of priority habitats is set out later in this plan.

The Council has engaged a volunteer provider to deliver a range of practical conservation, citizen science and family events. This has provided opportunities for partnership work with volunteers and community groups, as well as bringing in corporate partners to the site. Further to this, survey programmes have been set up for the park, enabling more community involvement and learning opportunities, leading to better understanding of the park amongst stakeholders and better management.



2.1.6 Community Involvement

Community involvement and empowerment in the management of the park is key to providing a facility that people will use, respect and enjoy, now and for the future.

PCC works together with a number of community groups with an interest in the park such as the Friends of Central Park Plymouth, Plymouth Tree Partnership, skate users, sports groups, dog walkers and allotment tenants. We have also reached out to schools, involving pupils in the design of new facilities and to non-park users to understand and break down the barriers to using the park.

Council officers regularly attend Friends Group meetings, which enables local residents to raise issues around management and maintenance and share ideas for improvement. As previously mentioned, PCC has already worked with the Friends of Central Park and Plymouth Tree Partnership to successfully fundraise for the park.

The PCC volunteer programme has introduced new people to the park and provides a broad programme of opportunities for people to get involved in the park, learn new skills and build community connections.

PCC are very supportive of community events to animate the park and in 2018, PCC worked with local groups and park tenants to run a dog show, a play event, an oral history project, family nature walks and 2 consultation events.

Going forward PCC will continue to build these relationships as well as the volunteer programme. A new events apprentice post started in 2019 will work alongside other Council staff to support this aim.

The Council has identified potential areas of conflict between the following groups of users:

- Vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists; we will review how these users interact at key crossing points (e.g. in front of the cafe and skate park to ensure that the safety of users and especially of children, is preserved at all times).
- Dog walkers and other users; the park is very popular with a variety of user groups. This can create conflicts when such a variety of activities are concentrated in the same areas of the park e.g. around the play area and sports pitches.
- Any guidelines issued by staff rely upon the goodwill of park users to interpret and follow them, thereby preventing real abuse and misuse of the park. This will be reinforced by signage around the park to inform the public.

2.1.7 Marketing and Communication

We are developing a new strategy for marketing and promotion, and for the provision of appropriate interpretation and information. This will include the launch of a new website and facebook page for the park in 2019.

The Environmental Planning team and Events Team will be working closely to ensure information about events is readily available for visitors and residents and that events are promoted through a variety of media. Events are promoted using the Council website, social media, the friends group, the local press (where appropriate) and internally within the Council.

In addition to the notice board and proposal for new interpretation and signage, the new cafe and CSH will host information on the park and events.

The Central Park improvements website, www.plymouth.gov.uk/centralparkimprovements contains information on the improvements programme, maps, dog control links and upcoming events, while the www.plymouth.gov.uk/parksnatureandgreenspaces web page provides general information and links to parks within the city, including Central Park.

PCC also posts events and information on www.facebook.com/natureplymouth which has over 1000 likes to date.

2.1.8 Management

This management plan is a new document that has been developed from the improvements programme for the park and draws from knowledge and experience of staff, community partners and other specialists. The plan seeks to put in place specific measures that pay attention to the unique character and diversity of Central Park.

This management plan has been structured around the Cabe Space guidance taken from the Green Flag website. The aims and objectives found later in this document are based on the eight Green Flag Award criteria.

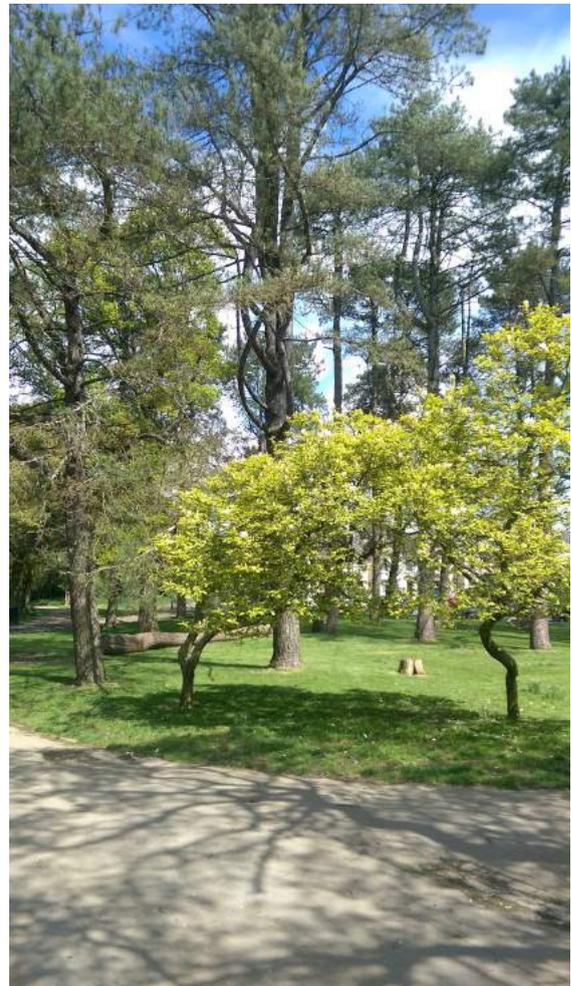
The plan will be annually reviewed to assess whether timescales have been achieved and will be used to structure monthly progress meetings to aid future planning.

3

AIMS OF THE PLAN

Based on the analysis of the site against the 8 Green Flag assessment criteria, the following aims for this management plan are:

1. To deliver a high quality, welcoming green space that is a valued community asset, providing opportunities for a variety of recreational activities and access to the natural environment.
2. To provide a safe and secure environment for visitors and staff.
3. To provide a clean and well maintained park with high quality buildings, sports, recreation and public facilities.
4. To develop sustainable work practices and minimise the environmental impact of management activities.
5. To conserve and enhance the heritage, biodiversity and landscape value of the park.
6. To provide opportunities for community use and involvement and build partnerships with community stakeholders.
7. To promote and market the health, wellbeing, cultural and educational benefits of the park to the local and wider community.
8. To ensure all those involved in the management and maintenance of the park use the management plan as a working document.



Detail on how each aim will be realised and related objectives are laid out in action plans below. For each objective the target timescale is set and the person/team responsible for implementation identified.

3.1 Aim 1

To deliver a high quality, welcoming green space that is a valued community asset, providing opportunities for a variety of recreational activities and access to the natural environment.

Management objectives

Objective	Action required	Timescale	Party responsible	Achievement to date
Ensure the park is easy to get around and welcoming	Complete resurfacing project	April 2020	Central Park project manager	4km of paths resurfaced through improvements programme
	Complete bench installation	April 2020	Central Park project manager	New benches installed in play area
	Complete drainage project	April 2020	Central Park project manager	New sculpture archway installed in Pounds Park
	Establish events apprentice on park	2019	Central Park project manager	
Clear interpretation panels and signage	Finalise signage strategy for park	2020	Central Park project manager	Installed new park map Named paths with FoCPP
Extend usage for park to local people and those from further afield, promoting the idea that people can spend day in park	Better marketing of the park on the Council's website – more site specific information & details	Aim for Mayflower Celebrations in 2020, ongoing	Events Apprentice	Recruited Events Apprentice Regular park updates via social media, PCC communications channels, mailing lists, on site information
	Strengthen community connections	Aim for Mayflower Celebrations in 2020, ongoing	Events Apprentice	

3.2 Aim 2

To provide a safe and secure environment for visitors and staff.

Management objectives

Objective	Action required	Timescale	Party responsible	Achievements to date
Undertake safety inspections of trees, pathways and all parks facilities	Investigate use of apps and technology for reporting systems	On-going	Central Park project manager	Established play inspection regime
	Set up annual tree inspections	On-going	SSW	Trained more SSW staff to carry out tree and play inspections
	Set up annual infrastructure inspections	On-going	SSW	
Apply and update Risk Assessments for all uses/ areas of the park	Ensure risk assessments up to date, relevant & effective	On-going	SSW	Started role out of operational packs to staff
Deal with incidents of vandalism or temporary hazards as soon as possible, making safe and rectifying	Investigate methods to improve reporting services	Ongoing	Environmental Planning	Improved visibility in areas like woods and along paths in collaboration with community volunteers Work with probation service to carry out repairs
Follow set procedure for reporting incidents and accidents. Where appropriate, put measures in place to reduce health and safety incidents	Investigate methods to improve reporting services	Ongoing	Environmental Planning	Incident reporting through SSW staff and firmstep system. Corporate accident reporting system in place.
To manage the park to deter and reduce the incidents of crime, ensuring the park is a safe and secure place for visitors.	Investigate methods to improve reporting services	Ongoing	Environmental Planning	PCSO presence in park
	Further street lighting on parks	2019	Central Park project manager	Incident reporting through SSW staff and firmstep system
	CCTV around new facilities	2019, part of Cafe/CSH projects		

Improve the relationship with police and community	PCC staff engage with various stakeholders, more effort to link up different groups on park	Ongoing	Events Apprentice	SSW/project managers engaging with groups through improvements programme
	More diverse range of community events	Ongoing	Events Apprentice	

3.3 Aim 3

To provide a clean and well maintained park with high quality buildings, sports, recreation and public facilities.

Management objectives

Objective	Action required	Timescale	Party responsible	Achievements to date
To ensure the park provides a high quality facility that is clean and safe for all to enjoy	Continue to develop working practice and management strategy with SSW team	2020	EP	SSW team on site for duration of improvements programme
	Develop long term plan for park management with wider EP team and SSW	Ongoing	EP	Initiated volunteer programme and continuing to build links with Friends Group and Plymouth Tree Partnership
	Develop volunteering and community involvement	Ongoing	EP	
Refine facilities management procedures and review/develop user agreements	Create new management agreement with CSH users	2019	Central Park project manager	
	Establish Service Level Agreement with Cafe operator	2019	Central Park project manager	
Communicate effectively with dog owners to encourage responsible use of the park	Continue with dog show events	Ongoing	Events Team	Some signage and maps in place in dog control areas
	Add further signage and	2020	Central Park project manager	

	maps in dog control areas			Information available on Council website Initiated engagement event Enforcement officers operating on park
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3.4 Aim 4

To develop sustainable work practices and minimise the environmental impact of management activities.

Management objectives

Objective	Action required	Timescale	Party responsible	Achievements to date
To ensure best practice for park ecology and sustainability	Annual review of management plan	Ongoing	EP	Management plan being developed with ecology of park in mind
	Consultation with wider EP team and partners	Ongoing	EP	
Manage park in sustainable way	Deliver SuDS project	2020	Central Park project manager	Reusing resources
	Investigate further recycling options for park resources	Ongoing	EP	Building green roof cafe and implementing energy efficiency measures in cafe/CSH
	Install water fountains	2019- at least 1 on cafe	Central Park project manager	Initiated SuDS project
	Investigate use of technology to monitor and manage park	Ongoing	Central Park project manager	Initiated technology and mapping project
	Investigate sustainable solutions for park	Ongoing	EP	

3.5 Aim 5

To conserve and enhance the heritage, biodiversity and landscape value of the park.

Management objectives

Objective	Action required	Timescale	Party responsible	Achievements to date
To protect the fabric and historical integrity of the park whilst enhancing biodiversity and amenity value	Annual review of management plan to ensure best practice	Ongoing	EP	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Tree survey completed in 2017
	Seek continuous improve of management practices and implement changes e.g. wildflower meadows	Ongoing	EP	Numerous improvements through volunteer programme
	Enhance interpretation related to natural environment and heritage	April 2020	Central Park project manager	Interpretation in place around meadows and in Pounds Park
Implement Plymouth Plan for Trees strategy on park	Tree planting and replacement	2020 for majority to be done	EP	Planting carried out by volunteers and community partners
Deliver ecological enhancements to the park	Implement plan for priority habitats	Ongoing	EP	Numerous improvements through volunteer programme

3.6 Aim 6

To provide opportunities for community use and involvement and build partnerships with community stakeholders.

Management objectives

Objective	Action required	Timescale	Party responsible	Achievements to date
To enhance educational opportunities in the park	Continue with delivery of engagement activities involving families	April 2020	EP	Citizen science and family events like bulb planting in woods, bird box making and BeeWalk

	<p>and schools e.g. arboretum project</p> <p>Investigate potential to run forest school on park</p> <p>Establish ecological survey programmes involving university students</p>	<p>April 2020</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>EP</p> <p>Central Park Project Manager</p>	
To continue to support Friends group and other community groups	<p>Develop community connections with park e.g. running volunteer socials, create volunteer base</p> <p>Work with friends group to strengthen ties with other groups on park e.g. allotment tenants, skate users</p> <p>Continue to support community applications for funding bids</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>EP/SSW</p> <p>EP</p> <p>EP</p>	<p>Council officers attend friends group meetings on regular basis</p> <p>Supported Friends groups and Tree Partnership in successful funding bids</p> <p>Carried out community consultation on numerous projects e.g. skate park, play area, CSH</p>
To provide good range of facilities and programme of activities and events	<p>Expand the Events Field programme</p> <p>Deliver a homegrown event on the Events Field, possibly related to sustainability and conservation</p> <p>Deliver programme of events linked to Mayflower 400 celebration</p> <p>Create annual programme for Love Parks week</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>2020</p> <p>2020</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>EP/Events team</p> <p>EP/Events team</p> <p>EP</p> <p>EP</p>	<p>Volunteer and family event programme</p> <p>Existing programme for events field including circus and fair</p> <p>Since start of improvements programme delivered several community events including skate jam, play opening, dog show and summer of free sports and nature based activities</p>

3.7 Aim 7

To promote and market the health, wellbeing, cultural and educational benefits of the park to the local and wider community.

Management objectives

Objective	Action required	Timescale	Party responsible	Achievements to date
To promote the parks heritage and natural environment to visitors	More signage and interpretation in Pounds Park and at key entrances to park	April 2020	Central Park project manager	Interpretation in place around meadows and in Pounds Park
	Interpretation in cafe and CSH	April 2020	Central Park project manager	
To keep people informed about what is happening park	Update Council website	Ongoing	EP	Use of NaturePlymouth social media channels Notice board and new map at Clock tower Initiated a project to develop digital solutions for sharing information about the park
	Review how information is communicated through Council channels	Ongoing	EP	
	Information in cafe and CSH	Ongoing	Central Park project manager	
	Develop marketing strategy with Friends group, SSW and Events Team	Ongoing	EP	
To engage new audiences from wider community such as hard to reach groups	Develop solutions using technology such as mapping software	Ongoing	EP	Engaged with skate users through skate park project Volunteer programme introducing broad range of people to park
	Develop strategy in partnership with wider EP team, Public Health, Sports Development teams. Also engaging with Friends group and Plymouth Open Spaces Network	Ongoing	EP	

3.8 Aim 8

To ensure all those involved in the management and maintenance of the park use the management plan as a working document.

Management objectives

Objective	Action required	Timescale	Party responsible	Achievements to date
To monitor and review the management plan	Annual review of plan and updates as necessary	Ongoing	EP	Preparing 2018-2023 plan
	5 year review and full update of plan	2023	EP	
	Reviews of management plan alongside development of green space strategy for city	Ongoing	EP	
To ensure working practices follow the management plan guidelines	Monthly meetings with SSW	Ongoing	EP	Council Officers have been reviewing management practices through course of improvements programme
To ensure management plan is referred to when considering future projects or developments on the park	Management Plan is accessible on Council shared drive system	Ongoing	EP	

4

DELIVERING THE MANAGEMENT AIMS

4.1 Aims 1, 6 & 7 - delivery plans

This section covers plans for communications & marketing and engagement with the community.

4.1.1 Communications and visitor engagement

Communication and marketing plan

Channel	Description	Used for	Usage frequency	Operated by
Digital Communications				
Websites	www.plymouth.gov.uk/centralparkimprovements www.plymouth.gov.uk/parksnatureandgreenspaces A new website for the park will be created with more dynamic content	General information, unique information, engagement General information	updated monthly	Environmental Planning Team (EP)
Social Networking	NaturePlymouth Facebook and Twitter. PCC Youtube channel used too.	unique information, engagement. Spread information and good news stories and keep people in touch with park	Regular tweets or posts	EP, PCC Communications team runs PCC channels and Youtube
Mailing Lists	Central Park mailing list and Central Park volunteer mailing list.	unique information, engagement. Spread information and good news stories and keep people in touch with park	Monthly/Quarterly	EP
Partner mailing lists/Social Media channels	PCC- Poole Farm Public- Friends of Central Park Plymouth	unique information, engagement. Spread information and good news stories and	Monthly/Quarterly	EP

		keep people in touch with park		
Digital mapping	PCC are working with The Data Place to develop a mapping project for use by the general public. This will hopefully lead to innovative and useful ways for visitors to interact with the park.	General information, unique information, engagement	Map layers will need reviewing probably annually. They will be amended ad hoc	EP, public
Staffroom webpage	Good news stories highlighted through PCC internal staffroom	unique information, engagement	Goes through PCC Twitter feed	Communications team
Written Communication				
Posters/ Temporary Signage	Used in specific park locations to highlight changes, events or promote interaction with the community. Can also be made available in Café, Sports Hub, golf hut or Notice Board	unique information, engagement	Ad hoc	EP
Leaflets / newsletters	Can be made available in Café, Sports Hub, golf hut or Notice board to highlight changes, events or promote interaction with the community	General information, unique information, engagement	Monthly/Quarterly	EP
Interpretation- maps/info panels	Used in specific park locations. Either targeted information for that location or to give overview of park.	General information	Annual checks to see if they need updating	EP
Notice Board	Hub point at clock tower. Useful for general information and updating visitors and displaying media	General information, unique information, engagement	Weekly reviews of information displayed	EP
Face to Face Communication				
Officer interaction on site	Interaction between public and Council officers on park	Engagement	Typically Central Park Events Apprentice, Project Managers or SSW staff	EP, SSW, Events Team
Specific user groups	Meetings with community groups to	General information, unique	Ad hoc- Some groups	EP

	<p>pass on information or discuss concerns, etc.</p> <p>Public- Friends of Central Park, Bowling Clubs, Golf operator, Tree Partnership, Plymouth Open Spaces Network, Skate and Play users, dog walkers, Allotment tenants</p> <p>Commercial partners/tenants (see Appendices for list)</p>	<p>information, engagement. Facilitates changes to the park and future projects</p>	<p>have regular meetings e.g. Friends Group meet monthly</p>	
Events- Workshops, family events	<p>Onsite consultation events</p>	<p>General information, unique information, engagement. Facilitates changes to the park and future projects</p>	<p>Ad-hoc</p>	<p>EP</p>
Member Engagement	<p>Meetings with Councillors representing Peverell Ward and strategic portfolios</p>	<p>General information, unique information, engagement. Facilitates changes to the park and future projects</p>	<p>Ad-hoc</p>	<p>EP</p>
Public Relations				
Media statements, press releases and interviews	<p>Useful for addressing issues or changes in the park</p>	<p>unique information, engagement</p>	<p>Ad-hoc</p>	<p>Comms team</p>
Film and photography	<p>Useful for addressing issues or changes in the park</p>	<p>General information, unique information, engagement</p>	<p>Ad-hoc</p>	<p>EP, Comms team</p>

Events programme 2018/19

Events	Description	Area	When	Party responsible
Volunteer Events	Mix of practical conservation, Citizen Science and nature based activities (see volunteer engagement plan for programme)	Whole Park	Ongoing. 3 times a month, weekdays and weekends,	EP
Skate Park opening jam	Competitions and activities	Skate park	2018. July	EP
Sports activities	Mix of free activities	Life Centre Field	2018. Daily through summer	EP
Play area opening	Free activities	Play area	2018. October	EP
Dog show	Competitions and activities	Golf course, Events Field	2018. Autumn	EP
Drop-in session	Community consultation about park improvements and future of park	Play area	2019. April	EP
Schools programme	Engagement with Pounds Park Arboretum	Pounds Park	2019. Monthly through summer	EP
Plymouth Pretty Muddy 5k	Race for life charity event	Whole Park	Annual. September	SSW
Fair		Events Field	Annual. April	Events Team
Love Parks week	PCC events tying in with Love Parks Week	Family Tree Field, whole park	Annual. June	EP
Circus		Events Field	Annual. October	Events Team

4.1.2 Volunteer engagement

Existing Programme

In summer 2017 PCC appointed external providers to run a programme of volunteer events, primarily to involve the local community in practical conservation and care of the park alongside the improvements programme. Since 2018 this programme has included Citizen Science and nature based activities to increase engagement with the natural environment and broad range of wildlife on the park.



Engagement data

- 2017 – Total of 644 volunteer hours. Average attendance of 2 people.
- 2018 – Total of 900 volunteer hours. Average attendance of 6 people.

Future of the programme

The aspiration for volunteering on the park is that a network of volunteers will be established and continue to run after completion of the improvements programme. This community of volunteers will continue to develop through the duration of this management plan via:

- Volunteer programme funded by Central Park Improvements and led by Plymouth Environmental Action that will continue to run until conclusion of improvements programme in 2020
- Continued PCC engagement with Plymouth Tree Partnership, Central Park Friends Group, Allotment tenants and POSN to grow volunteer engagement
- Identifying areas of the park that can be managed by community groups in long term e.g. rockery, flower beds in Pounds Park
- Exploration of ways to develop a “nature volunteering” programme that includes Central Park, Poole Farm, LNRs and other green/marine space in collaboration with wider Environmental Planning Team.

March-June 2019 volunteer programme

Date	Day	Activity	Time
6th March	Wednesday	Orchard path renovation project	10am-3pm
13th March	Wednesday	Wallow - tree care	10am-3pm
20th March	Wednesday	Pond renovation project	10am-3pm
3rd April	Wednesday	Pond renovation project	10am-3pm
10th April	Wednesday	Pond renovation project	10am-3pm
20th April	Saturday	Spring tree event - Pounds Park	10am-1pm
27th April	Saturday	BatWalk	8-10.30pm
8th May	Wednesday	Orchard- cutting path through trees and tree care	10am-3pm
15th May	Wednesday	Family tree field care	10am-3pm
25th May	Saturday	BeeWalk	10am-1pm
5th June	Wednesday	Dry stone walling	10am-3pm
12th June	Wednesday	Dry stone walling	10am-3pm
22nd June	Saturday	Hedgerow/plant survey around meadows	10am-1pm

4.2 Aims 2 & 3 - delivery plans

4.2.1 Sports pitches maintenance and inspections

Maintenance/inspection schedule

Area	Work activity	Specification	When?	Party responsible	Year				
					1	2	3	4	5
Bowling greens	Grass cutting	To very short height	Monthly, Apr-Sept	Greens keepers	x	x	x	x	x
Bowling greens	Weeding	Paths and edges of greens	Monthly, Apr-Sept	Greens keepers	x	x	x	x	X
Bowling greens	Watering	Automated sprinkler system set to water greens in dry periods (early morning or late evening)	Monthly, Apr-Sept	Greens keepers	X	X	X	X	X
Bowling greens	Remove leaf fall from greens		Monthly, Oct-Mar	Greens keepers	x	x	x	X	x
Bowling greens	Moss treatment	Any patches on greens	Annual, Oct-Mar	Greens keepers	x	x	x	x	x
Bowling greens	Scarifying	Any bare patches on greens	Annual, Oct-Mar	Greens keepers	x	x	x	x	x
Bowling greens	Top dressing and seeding	Any bare patches on greens	Annual, Oct-Mar	Greens keepers	x	x	x	x	x
Bowling greens	Sprinkler system service	Confirm sprinkler system timer is correctly set and run test of sprinkler heads Note- there are contact details for an external engineer who can carry out repairs	Annual, March	Greens keepers	x	x	x	x	x
Bowling greens	Edge inspection	Level of green edges need to be checked Specialist equipment can be hired to cut and raise the edges Ensure play is rotated during season	Annual, Oct	Greens keepers	x	x	x	x	x
Golf course	Grass cutting		Monthly, Mar-Oct	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Senior football pitch	Line painting		Monthly, Aug-May	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Senior football pitch	Piercing/spiking		Monthly, Aug-May	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x

Senior football pitch	Fertiliser	Inspect to check if this is required	Monthly, Aug-May	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Senior football pitch	Weed control	Inspect to check if this is required	Monthly, Aug-May	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Senior football pitch	Grass cutting	Cut to 25-25mm	Monthly, Aug-May	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Junior football pitch	Grass cutting	Cut to 25-25mm	Monthly, Aug-May	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Rugby pitch	Line painting		Monthly, Aug-May	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Rugby pitch	Piercing/spiking		Monthly, Aug-May	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Rugby pitch	Fertiliser	Inspect to check if this is required	Annual, Apr-May	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Rugby pitch	Weed control	Inspect to check if this is required	Annual, Apr-Jun	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Rugby pitch	Grass cutting	Cut to 50-65mm	Monthly, Aug-May	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Tennis courts	Sweep surface	Remove arisings and litter	Weekly, year round	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Tennis courts	Mark out lines		Annual, Apr-May	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Tennis courts	Weed control	Inspect to check if this is required	Annual, Apr-Jun	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Tennis courts	Site inspection	Confirm surface is in good condition and safe to play	Annual, Year round	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x

4.2.2 Play areas maintenance and inspections

The play areas in the park are maintained by a dedicated play team. Maintenance and inspection are part of a city wide management programme.

Maintenance/inspection schedule

Work activity	Specification	Area	When	Party responsible	Year				
					1	2	3	4	5
Full safety inspection	Check for damage to equipment Check operation of equipment	Central Park Play area, Pounds Park play area	Bi-monthly , Year round	Play team	x	x	x	x	x
Visual inspection	Check for litter & ASB Check for damage to equipment Check for damage to infrastructure e.g. fence, benches, bins Check for damage to landscape Rake over sand pit	Central Park Play area, Pounds Park play area	Monthly, Apr-Sept	Play team	x	x	x	x	x
Insurance inspection		Central Park Play area, Pounds Park play area	6 months, Apr-Sept	Zurich	x	x	x	x	x

Play safety inspection sheet

1 WEEK COMMERCIAL EVENTS		INSPECTOR (Print name)		STREET SCENE SERVICES - INSPECTIONS OF PLAYGROUNDS		SIGNATURE	
2	Safety	Climbing Frames	Is the equipment free from sharp points?	Issue Category			
3	Is the climbing matrix secure and free from obstructions?		Is the equipment stable and secure?	2-3 hrs			
4	Is the play area in good condition?		Is the equipment free from sharp points?	3-5			
5	Do any plants or shrubs pose a risk to children?		Is the equipment stable and secure?	<10 hr			
6	Is there any other issues?	Other structures	Is the equipment free of sharp points?	month			
7	Is the climbing matrix secure and free from obstructions?		Is the equipment stable and secure?	year			
8	Is the play area in good condition?		Is the equipment free from sharp points?				
9	Do any plants or shrubs pose a risk to children?		Is the equipment stable and secure?				
10	Is there any other issues?		Is the equipment free of sharp points?				
11	Is the climbing matrix secure and free from obstructions?		Is the equipment stable and secure?				
12	Is the play area in good condition?		Is the equipment free from sharp points?				
13	Do any plants or shrubs pose a risk to children?		Is the equipment stable and secure?				
14	Is there any other issues?		Is the equipment free of sharp points?				
15	Is the climbing matrix secure and free from obstructions?		Is the equipment stable and secure?				
16	Is the play area in good condition?		Is the equipment free from sharp points?				
17	Do any plants or shrubs pose a risk to children?		Is the equipment stable and secure?				
18	Is there any other issues?		Is the equipment free of sharp points?				
19	Is the climbing matrix secure and free from obstructions?		Is the equipment stable and secure?				
20	Is the play area in good condition?		Is the equipment free from sharp points?				
21	Do any plants or shrubs pose a risk to children?		Is the equipment stable and secure?				
22	Is there any other issues?		Is the equipment free of sharp points?				
23	Is the climbing matrix secure and free from obstructions?		Is the equipment stable and secure?				
24	Is the play area in good condition?		Is the equipment free from sharp points?				
25	Do any plants or shrubs pose a risk to children?		Is the equipment stable and secure?				
26	Is there any other issues?		Is the equipment free of sharp points?				
27	Is the climbing matrix secure and free from obstructions?		Is the equipment stable and secure?				
28	Is the play area in good condition?		Is the equipment free from sharp points?				
29	Do any plants or shrubs pose a risk to children?		Is the equipment stable and secure?				
30	Is there any other issues?		Is the equipment free of sharp points?				
21	Tenth Park LEI						
22	Rafford Avenue LEI						Monitor frame 3 under swing - frame is sloping with fence but secure. Watcher report away from road - Watcher is a trip hazard - Swings still down
23	Aster PF LEI						Monitor frame - Flat swing need replacing
24	Aster PF Youth Shelter LEI						
25	Taste Hill LEI						Four Swings are loose and need changing, slight rust on yellow slide - Making repair soon
26	Taste Hill Ball Court LEI						
27	How Street PLA						
28	How George Street						

4.2.3 Tree maintenance and inspections

Tree maintenance/inspection schedule

Work activity	Specification	Area	When	Party responsible	Year				
					1	2	3	4	5
Safety inspection-visual	Routine checks for hanging branches (especially over paths), damage, disease, rot, dying trees	Whole park	Year round	Horticulture Team	x	x	x	x	x
Full site inspection	Full report on condition of trees in park	Whole park	Annual	Trained member of Horticulture Team or Tree Officer	x	x	x	x	x
Empty strimmer guards	Routinely clean out rubbish and leaf litter from guards	Pounds Park, Valley path, Orchard, around clock tower area, play area	Sept-Dec	Horticulture Team	x	x	x	x	x
Clean out cages	Routine checks and removal of rubbish from cages around young trees Cage can be removed after 2 growing seasons, useful to prevent strimmer damage	Pounds Park, Valley path, orchard, Around clock tower area, play area	Year round	Horticulture Team	x	x	x	x	x
Check straps/posts	Ensure they are supporting tree properly Can be removed after 2 growing seasons	Pounds Park, Valley path, orchard, Around clock tower area, play area	Annual in Nov-Mar	Horticulture Team	x	x	x	x	x
Grass cutting - strimming	Where strimmer guards or cages are not used strimming must be done with a guard on the strimmer and with care not to damage the trunk of the tree	Whole park	Mar-Oct	Horticulture Team	x	x	x	x	x
Mulching	Within first 2 years of planting Around base of tree, 3-10 foot area, 2-4	Whole park	Annual, Mar-Oct	Horticulture Team	x	x	x	x	x

	inches deep. Keep mulch from touching trunk									
Watering	Within first 2 years of planting. Amount of watering depends on weather condition	Whole park	Annual, Mar-Oct	Horticulture Team	x	x	x	x	x	x
Pruning	<p>Not routine work, should be done on case by case basis, considering how it will benefit health of tree and desired outcome.</p> <p>General guidance:</p> <p>Most deciduous trees (except birch, maple, walnut, cherry due to sap bleed) - Winter</p> <p>Conifers, walnut, cherry, birch, maple can be pruned in late summer</p> <p>Significant reduction is best undertaken in late summer</p> <p>Further guidance can be found on the Woodland Trust website</p>	Whole park	See specification	Horticulture team or tree officers if climbing is involved	x	x	x	x	x	x
Trees-works to address H&S issues, fallen trees	<p>Case by case basis, works to be carried out in interests of health and safety</p> <p>Carried out outside of nesting bird season where possible</p> <p>Where possible retain dead wood or leave standing dead wood for habitat</p> <p>Consider reuse of wood material in park</p>	Whole Park	Oct-Feb ideally	Horticulture team or tree officers if climbing is involved	x	x	x	x	x	x

Tree safety inspection sheet

PARK SERVICES - TREE SURVEY FORM										
DATE :	LOCATION:					WEATHER:		INSPECTOR:		
TREE No.	SPECIES	POSITION	DB H	HEIGHT	SPREAD	AGE	CONDITION	PREVIOUS WORK	RECOMMENDED WORK	NEAR BY OBSTRUCTIONS

KEY:	CONDITION	RECOMMENDED WORK	OBSTRUCTIONS	TP - Telephone cables	AGE
	VG - Very Good	CO - Clean Out	FL - Fell	ENT - Entrances	S - Saplings
	G - Good	CT - Crown Thin	SI - Sever Ivy	CC - Carriage Crossing	Y - Young
	F - Fair	CL - Crown Lift	M - Monitor	TL - Traffic Lights	SM - Semi-Mature
	P - Poor	RO% - Reduction Percentage	SL - Street Light	FH - Fire Hydrant	M - Mature
	B - Bad	CB - Cut Back	RS - Road Signs	OC - Overhead cables	FM - Fully Mature
	D - Dead	DW - Remove Dead Wood	UGS - Under/Services	PL - Path light	OM - Over Mature
INSPECTORS SIGNATURE:			SEE OVER FOR ADDITIONAL NOTES		

4.2.4 General maintenance tasks

Maintenance schedule

Work activity	Specification	Area	When?	Party responsible	Year				
					1	2	3	4	5
Access- Formal pathways and hedges, all entrances	Cutting back overgrowth, clearing fallen leaves and branches Requires tractor and sidearm, brushcutter, hedge cutter, strimmer	Whole park	Annual, Jan-Mar	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Access- Informal/native hedges and Devon banks	See Hedgerow section in Ecology for more information Removing deadwood if it is dangerous, removing overgrowth	Whole Park	Bi-Annual where possible, Oct-Mar	Horticulture team or tree officers if tree climbing is involved		x		x	

	Minimal use of hedge cutter & chainsaw where possible									
Access- Path edge and granite sett drains	Removing overgrowth encroaching on paths and granite sett drains, reforming edge	Whole Park	Annual, Nov-Feb	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x	x
Access- Path sweeping	Use road sweeper where possible Narrow paths down to woodland will need to be done with hand tools May be required in spring/summer	Whole park	Monthly, Oct-Mar Ad hoc spring/summer	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x	x
Access- Weed spraying along footpaths/walls	Case-by-case basis, should be flagged up from path inspections Investigate alternatives to pesticide use where possible	Whole Park	Annual, Mar-Oct	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x	x
ASB- Fly tipping	Removal and disposal of waste	Whole park	Ad hoc, Year round	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x	x
ASB- Graffiti	Removal and repainting as necessary, using anti-graffiti paint where possible	Whole park	Ad hoc, Year round	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x	x
ASB- Vandalism	Removal of damaged items/repair or replacement	Whole park	Ad hoc, Year round	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x	x
Beds (flower/shrubs)- Mulch/wood chip	Check in winter if required and put down first layer, top up in summer	Pounds Park, Ford Park rockery, field by Life Centre, Life Centre car park	Winter/summer	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x	x

Beds (flower/shrubs)- Pruning		Pounds Park, Ford Park rockery, field by Life Centre, Life Centre car park	Oct-Mar	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Beds (flower/shrubs)- Weeding	Inspect beds and weed as necessary	Pounds Park, Ford Park rockery, field by Life Centre, Life Centre car park	Monthly, Year round	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Drainage- Clearing drains		Whole park	Every 6 months, Year round	Horticulture Team, can be subcontracted out to SWH	x	x	x	x	x
Excreta	Removal and disposal	Paths, sports pitches, play areas	Year round	Horticulture team/bowling green team/play team/waste and cleansing					
Grass cutting - Formal and amenity areas (large tractor, small tractor, ride on mower, strimming, boxing)	Cutting to roughly 50-75mm Areas of bulb planting should be left until they die back (play area, clock tower, around magnolia tree by Barn Park entrance, Family Tree Field, through wooded valley)	Whole park (except sports pitches or fields in meadow area. Refer to sections 4.2.1 and 4.3.1)	Monthly, Mar-Oct	Horticulture team/bowling green team/play team/grass cutting team	x	x	x	x	x
Interpretation and signage	Cleaning	Whole Park	Annual, year round	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Ponds	Routine checks and removal of litter Reduce overgrowth encroaching on paths or outside fenced areas	Barn Park pond, pond in woods	Year round Annual, Oct-Mar	Horticulture team	x	x	x	x	x
Waste- Cleaning bins	Washing down bins when they start to smell	Whole park	Year round	Waste and cleansing	x	x	x	x	x

Waste-Emptying bins		Whole park	Weekly, Year round	Waste and cleansing	x	x	x	x	x
Waste- Litter picks	Regular checks and removal of litter build up	Whole park	Year round	Horticulture team, Waste and cleansing	x	x	x	x	x

4.3 Aims 4 & 5 - delivery plans

4.3.1 Ecology

This section identifies the ecological projects and work programmes that will be delivered during the lifespan of this management plan.

Site habitat maps

The following 2 maps show the phase 1 habitats identified in the preliminary ecological appraisal of the park (full report available as a separate document). These maps are used for reference in this section of the management plan.

Priority habitats management programme

1 Broad leaved woodland

Found primarily in the east of the site [TN 27, 42 and 44] this area comprises mature trees of oak, beech, birch and ash, with some planted species. Some areas are devoid of understorey and have minimal ground flora. Some areas [TN 44] have a more diverse understorey of blackthorn, hawthorn, holly, field maple and wayfaring tree. Ground flora including species indicative of long established/ancient woodland including bluebell, ramsons and pignut. Also present are chive, wood avens, soft shield-fern, hart's-tongue fern and honeysuckle.

To the south of the site [TN 53] is a fairly open canopy of ash, oak and sycamore. The dense, scrubby understorey contains elder, field maple, holly and hawthorn. The ground-flora includes bluebell and primrose; the presence of bluebell suggests the woodland is long-established.

The small plantation of broadleaved woodland in the east of the site [TN 46] (known as the Wallow) was planted around 2008 and includes oak, field maple, ash, silver birch and willow sp. The ground flora is rank grassland, dominated by cock's foot with occasional tall ruderals and bramble. A similar area was planted in the south of meadow field [TN36].

Achievements to date

- Number of new trees planted through woods. 2008 onwards
- New feature sculptures installed in 2017
- Families, volunteers, Friends Group and partners planted bluebells and blue zinger grass, in the area to north and west of TN 34. 2017
- Path and drainage works to improve access. 2018
- Families built new wooden bird boxes. Volunteers repaired old and put up new bird boxes through wooded valley, as well as relocating bat boxes. 2018
- Delivered nature based events to community including bat walk, butterfly count, tree walk. 2018

Work plan

Work activity	Outputs	Party responsible	Others involved	Year				
				1	2	3	4	5
Remove competing non-native conifers	Less competition for native trees	EP	SSW	x	x			

Tree planting	More structure in areas dominated by mature trees (TN 27 and 42)	EP	SSW, good opportunity to run engagement with community volunteers	x				
Drainage scheme	See section 1.12 Reduce erosion around trees in TN 8 and 39 Water channeled through valley, reduced flooding	EP EP			x	x		
Tree pruning and felling in area TN 53	Thinner canopy Control of ash dieback Better visibility through area	EP	SSW, community volunteers	x	x			

2 Hedgerow

Several old species-poor hedgerows are present throughout the site. Many of these contain mature standards of pedunculate oak and ash. Typical woody species recorded include ash, oak, blackthorn and hawthorn. Typical ground flora included lords and ladies, hart's-tongue fern, wood sage and red campion. Three other species-poor hedgerows can be found in the centre of the site. These comprise trimmed planted beech and hawthorn with no associated ditch or bank.

Several old species-rich hedgerows are recorded on site. Many contain mature oak and ash standards. Typical woody species include oak, ash, elm, blackthorn, hawthorn, holly and hazel. Typical ground flora includes hart's-tongue fern, lords and ladies, wood sage, wood falsebrome, soft shield-fern, hedge bedstraw and red campion.

Management best practice

It is noted that native hedgerows require a different management approach to the formal, non-native hedgerows which include species like laurel and griselinia. Flailing and extreme cutting back of native hedgerows can be detrimental to wildlife i.e. loss of habitat, destroying insect eggs.

Recommendations for maintenance of native hedgerows that the Council will be aiming to adopt are:

- Cut on a 2 year cycle
- Where hedgerows impact on paths and more regular cutting may be desired, try to do the minimum cutting, i.e. only cut back overgrowth.

Achievements to date

- Repaired numerous areas of dry stone wall with volunteers. 2017 onwards
- Planted new native hedge plants and engaged volunteers in planting event. 2017 onwards
- Carried out tree works to open up canopies. 2017 onwards
- Removed overgrowth, improve access and created space for more diverse range of plant species. 2017 onwards

Work plan

Work activity	Outputs	Party responsible	Parties involved	Year				
				1	2	3	4	5
Hedge planting	<p>More structure and diversity in species poor hedgerows identified in ecology report</p> <p>Create habitat for Brown Hairstreak butterfly by planting more blackthorn</p> <p>People deterred from climbing over banks</p>	EP	SSW, good opportunity to run a community project	x	x	x		
Dry stone wall repairs	<p>Restore heritage of hedgerows and banks</p> <p>Areas more robust, reduced occurrences of people climbing over banks</p>	EP	SSW, community volunteers	x	x	x	x	x
New hedge cutting regime	<p>Native hedgerows cut on 2 year cycle where possible</p> <p>Reduced flailing of native hedgerows</p> <p>More biodiversity in hedgerows</p>	EP	SSW	x		x		x

3 Lowland meadow

Two fields on the site are classified as semi-improved neutral grassland [TN 22 & 30]. These areas are more herb-rich and have been seeded within the last five years with a wildflower meadow mix. Grasses recorded here include perennial rye-grass, cock's-foot, Yorkshire fog, common bent and meadow foxtail. Herb species include common knapweed, pignut, chive, oxeye daisy, yellow rattle, red clover, common sorrel and common cat's-ear.

The Family Tree Field [TN 28] comprises slightly rank species-poor semi-improved grassland with recently planted native and non-native trees. This area has been planted in the past with bluebell, crocus and primrose.

Zoo Field [TN23] is of a similar character to the areas mentioned above, although it is dominated by amenity grassland. It should be

considered as a site for new tree planting and wildflower and for these reasons, the management plan adopts a similar approach to the other meadow fields.

Additionally, a small area of rank semi-improved neutral grassland can be found to the south of the site [TN 52]. This area has been largely un-managed for several years and is dominated by cock's-foot, with meadow foxtail, perennial rye-grass, hogweed, broadleaved dock, cut-leaved cranesbill, chive and common knapweed.

Achievements to date

- Delivered meadow care event with volunteers. 2018
- Ran BeeWalk, butterfly count and bird count events with families and volunteers. 2018 onwards
- Put up bat boxes around meadows and ran bat walk. 2018

Work plan

Work activity	Outputs	Party responsible	Parties involved	Year				
				1	2	3	4	5
Adopt new meadow management scheme	Stop meadows becoming grass and scrub	EP	SSW, community volunteers		x	x	x	x
Landscape design for Zoo Field [TN 23 & 26]	Celebrate field and heritage Enhanced biodiversity of field	EP	SSW, community volunteers, Friends group		x	x		
Engagement events	One off grassland survey event Establish ongoing survey programme of meadows	EP	Community volunteers, university groups	x	x	x	x	x

Meadow management scheme

It is recognised that in order to keep a balance between wildflower and grass and ensure the meadows are of high quality that management practices need revising. This is being addressed at a city wide level and it is anticipated that updated practices will be implemented during the lifespan of this management plan. In the interim, management will be based on the following best practice:

Spring:

- If meadows are becoming too grassy, cut in early March to a short height (10cm) and remove cuttings immediately
- Do not fertilise/feed
- Can overseed in spring. Rake, remove debris, scuff soil then sow
- Desire line footpaths through meadows cut bi-monthly, as necessary

Autumn:

- Cut (to 10cm) and remove/bail cuttings immediately (typically August-September)
 - Can oversow with wildflower seed in autumn. Also, can plant additional yellow rattle which helps to suppress grasses
 - Can harrow in late autumn if meadow is becoming too tussocky/grassy
-

4 Standing water

A small pond (approx. 15m diameter) can be found in the east of the site [TN 20]. This is semi-shaded by trees, including mature oak, and shrubs. Some marginal vegetation is present including yellow iris. Around TN 39 there is an informal pond area. Although this rarely holds water, a range of plants and wildlife can be found here and it is a hunting ground for bats.

Achievements to date

- Path and drainage works to improve access. 2018
- Initiated SuDS project. 2018
- Volunteers started pond renovation project. 2018

Work plan

As previously mentioned, details of the drainage scheme and associated management processes will be added to this management plan once the information is available. Refer to section 1.12.

5 Traditional orchard

The newly-planted orchard [TN 50] (circa 2016) is found in the south of the site. Species comprised apple, pear and cherry varieties.

Achievements to date

- Delivered several volunteer events to manage trees in orchard
- Delivered orchard renovation project with volunteers, improving grassland in surrounding areas, clearing drainage by path, thinning ivy and tree canopy along orchard path. 2018

Work plan

Work activity	Outputs	Party responsible	Others involved	Year				
				1	2	3	4	5
Grass cutting around orchard	Routes for people to walk around trees Control of grass and weeds around trees	EP	SSW, community volunteers	x	x	x	x	x
Mulch around trees	Young trees become established	EP	SSW, community volunteers	x	x			
Remove tree guards	Young trees become established	EP	SSW, community volunteers		x			
Review management of this area	Better management and understanding of the area, which is important for wildlife and visitors	EP	SSW		x			

Ecological survey programme

Work plan

Work activity	Outputs	Party responsible	Others involved	Year				
				1	2	3	4	5

Continue to deliver Citizen Science as part of volunteer programme	Provide learning opportunities for the community Opportunities for community to take part in collecting data for national monitoring programmes	EP	Community volunteers	x	x	x		
Formalize a survey programme for the park	Build on baseline data and keep up-to-date records for park Data used to monitor species trends, particularly threats from non-natives and disease e.g. ash dieback Data collected to feed into national monitoring schemes Provide training opportunities e.g. University students Strengthen the park's position as a an important site for wildlife	EP	Community volunteers and partners e.g. Plymouth Bat Group	x	x	x	x	x
Strengthen ties with parties carrying out survey work	Better understanding of park ecology and natural history e.g. Support Plymouth Tree Partnership warden to monitor and study trees in Pounds Park Develop new relationships with partners and involve them in wider survey work e.g. Devon Birds	EP	Community volunteers and partners	x	x	x	x	x
Nest box cleaning and maintenance	Birds/bats using boxes for nesting/roosting Ongoing nest box monitoring programme	EP	Community volunteers and partners	x	x	x	x	x

Example ecological survey programme

Activity	Area	Period	Frequenc y	Party responsible	Notes
Butterfly count	Transect through park	Mar-Oct	Monthly	Plymouth University Environmental Society	Data submitted to iRecord

BeeWalk	Transect through park	Mar-Oct	Monthly	Plymouth University Environmental Society	Data submitted to Bumblebee Conservation National scheme
Bird count	Transect through park	Year round	Monthly	Citizen Science, Devon Birds recorder	
Bird nest box monitoring	Wooded valley, play area	Mar-Sept	Monthly	Citizen Science, specialist	Boxes are mapped
Bat box monitoring	Wooded valley, meadows	Mar-Nov	Monthly	Plymouth bat group	Boxes are mapped – suggest these could be moved if no activity after 2 years
Bat walk	Transect through park	Apr-Sept	Monthly	Citizen Science	
Grassland survey	Meadows	Mar-Oct	May or June	Citizen Science, help from ecologist	

Environmental monitoring and management programme

Threat	Threat level (Low, Moderate, High)	Area	Management activities	Period/Frequency	Party responsible
Ash dieback	Moderate	Whole park- Found in willow area	Monitor willow area and meadow field with annual checks Fell and burn affected trees on site and treat stumps to prevent regrowth	Winter/ Annual	EP/SSW
Fly-tipping, litter	Low	Whole Park	Regular litter picks Staff on park to monitor and remove fly-tipping Install additional bollard to restrict unauthorised vehicle access to Reservoir Field	Year round/Daily One-off	SSW EP
Invasive species- refer to ecological data in appendix B	Moderate	Whole Park	Resurvey to check the invasive species list in this document is still correct and update accordingly Review and update management plan,	Spring or summer/ One-off survey initially	SSW

			implement mitigation actions for high and moderate threats		
Air pollution	Low	Whole Park	Tree and hedge planting, implement <i>Plan for Trees</i> Investigate setting up monitoring programme/data collection techniques	Tree planting in winter TBC	EP
Landfill	Low	See ground investigation report	Although there is no threat to the public, there is historic landfill on site. Ground investigation reports are available for the site and should be reviewed before undertaking further construction projects.	N/A	N/A
Fireblight	Moderate	Pounds Park- Cherry trees along Blossom Path	Monitoring Removal of infected limbs/trees and destroy	Summer/ annual	EP
Dutch Elm Disease	Moderate	Whole park- Wych elm in Wallow area appears to have DED	Fell and destroy infected trees Planting elm species that are resistant or zelkova serrata where possible	ASAP Winter	SSW EP

4.3.2 Trees

This section identifies tree related projects and work programmes that will be delivered during the lifespan of this management plan.

Pounds Park arboretum project

A range of specimen trees have been planted here. Although history on planting is limited, it is likely that many were planted by the owner of the house. There are some fine examples of a number of species within this area, as well as a few rarer trees. Venn Lane, a remnant of the historic farm land, adds an interesting dynamic with more native planting, as does the cherry tree lined avenue, which runs from through Pounds Park up to Pounds House.

Plymouth Tree Partnership has a volunteer warden based in the area who works in partnership with the Council to monitor the trees. The warden has also been researching and mapping the trees in this area and is collaborating with the Council to develop planting options for an arboretum.

Achievements to date

- Installed sculpted archway over south east entrance to Pounds Park. 2018
- Worked with volunteers to repair walls and plant beech hedging along Venn Lane. 2018
- Worked with volunteers to improve the rhododendron beds and small garden by Pounds House. 2017-18
- Set up arboretum working group. 2018 onwards

Work plan

Work activity	Outputs	Party responsible	Others involved	Year					
				1	2	3	4	5	
Education events	Local school engaged in activities in Pounds Park Children contributing ideas for interpretation in new tree trail Trial tree trail	EP	Activity leaders, Arboretum working group		x	x			
Seasonal events	Opportunity for people to see how different trees change through the seasons and diversity of trees Build community connection with Pounds Park Trial tree trail	EP	Activity leaders, Arboretum working group			x			

New tree trail	Celebrate trees in area Enhance area with planting that ties into Mayflower 400 theme; trees from Massachusetts Education and engagement opportunities Activity trail to draw people into this area of park	Arboretum working group	SSW	x	x	x		
New seating	More seating options and opportunities to picnic in the area	EP			x			
Sculptures	Celebration of smooth leaved elm trees from park using wood from the fallen trees Another interesting element in this area leading to more people drawn to this part of the park Forms part of a sculpture trail that runs from the wooded valley into Pounds Park	EP	SSW, sculptor	x	x			
Hedge planting (See Hedgerow work plan in Ecology 4.3.1)					x	x		

Family Tree Field improvement project

This field has been developed through the Family Tree Scheme, which has offered people the chance to make a donation to plant a tree. The scheme is run by PTP and both trees and wildflowers have been planted here. The field has trees from each continent as many explorers and plant collectors left from Plymouth on their voyages of discovery and this reflects the City's history.

PTP have two volunteer wardens based in the area who work in partnership with the Council to monitor the trees and carry out care of trees. The wider PTP group will

also attend events to carry out these activities. The Council have supported PTP to deliver a number of volunteer activities and works on the site, such as remaking entrances into the field.

PTP have previously secured funding to deliver improvements to the field such as installing sculpture benches and interpretation. PTP secured funding in 2018/19 from the Postcode Lottery and the Co-op community fund to further enhance the field, which will be supported by contributions from PCC.

Work plan

Work activity	Outputs	Party responsible	Others involved	Year				
				1	2	3	4	5
Create new walled entrances from Gilbert Lane	Formalised entrances More inviting to public Better visibility into area	PTP	EP	x	x			
New central area	Formalised area with more seating Opportunities for events to be based in the space	PTP	EP		x			
Tree labelling	Posts and labels installed by all trees	PTP	EP	x	x			
Replace interpretation board	New interpretation board	PTP	EP					
Hedge bank repairs	Repair area damaged by fallen tree Planting along bank	EP	PTP		x			
Celebration opening event events	Hold an opening event to mark completion of improvements to the field, delivery in Love Parks week Celebrate the space and chance for people to see how field can be used e.g. holding education sessions in central area Build community connection with field	PTP	EP		x			

Central Park plan for trees

In addition to activities and projects already detailed in this plan, the Council recognises there are other opportunities to plant more trees in the park. It is also important to consider tree replacement and the management of tree care across the park.

- Forum for parties to collaborate on plan for tree planting and management
- Ensure tree planting and management decisions have been jointly approved
- Align strategy for park with Plymouth Plan for Trees

One possible step is to form a tree management group, with the following anticipated outputs:

- Working group that will include Environmental Planning, PTP, SSW and FoCPP
- Strengthen partnership working between Council departments and community groups

At the time of writing it is not clear what appetite there is for forming this group, but it can be explored further over the course of the management plan.

For the time being, the work plan below details planting projects identified so far. Information on management practice can be found in section 4.2.3.

Work plan

Work activity	Outputs	Party responsible	Others involved	Year				
				1	2	3	4	5
Tree planting - wooded valley (See section 4.3.1)								
Hedge planting - (See section 4.3.1)								
Tree replacements - Discovery Way	Replace damaged horse chestnut	EP	SSW		x			
Tree replacements - Coronation Avenue	Replace horse chestnuts that have been felled/are damaged	EP	SSW		x			

4.4 Aim 8 - delivery plans

4.4.1 Resources

Operational Staff

A range of operational staff are involved in the delivery of the day to day maintenance of the park. These include:

- Horticulture Team - 3 x FTE dedicated to Central Park
- Bowling Greens Maintenance Team (citywide with approximately 20% of time spent at Central Park)
- Playground/Skate Park Maintenance Team (citywide with approximately 5% of time spent at Central Park)
- Grasscutting Team (citywide)
- Events Apprentice - FTE dedicated to Central Park
- Hard Facilities Team (citywide)

Project Delivery Staff

The £6m investment from Plymouth City Council and additional funding secured for the park is managed by the Projects and Partnerships Team in PCC. They are a citywide team with 1.5 FTE staff dedicated to delivery of improvements to the park

between 2017-2021. Their role is to deliver the investment packages below in partnership with the Operational Teams, Friends Group and local communities.

Investment Plan 2017-2021

Project	Timescale	Complete
Skate Park and Playground	17/18	Complete
Events Field	17/18	Complete
Sports Plateau	18/19	Ongoing
Cafe and Community Sports Hub	18/19	Ongoing
Path and drainage improvements	19/20	Ongoing
Tennis Courts	19/20	Ongoing
Boundary and Natural Improvements	20/21	Ongoing
Interpretation and Furniture	20/21	Ongoing
Arboretum/Tree works	20/21	Ongoing

5

HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE HAVE ARRIVED?

5.1 Monitoring and reviewing the management plan

This plan runs for a period of 5 years with a formal annual review. As there is no existing management plan for the park this is considered to be a working document that will undergo additional revision and updates between reviews.

Progress towards key objectives will be formally monitored by the Green Estate Team, through monthly meetings with Street Services, Waste and Events teams.

Revision to the plan will be informed by feedback from:

- Operational Staff
- Friends of Central Park
- Annual user surveys
- Footfall Data collection
- Consultation related to specific capital projects

Actions will be recorded and followed up on. Achievements will be celebrated and publicised where appropriate.

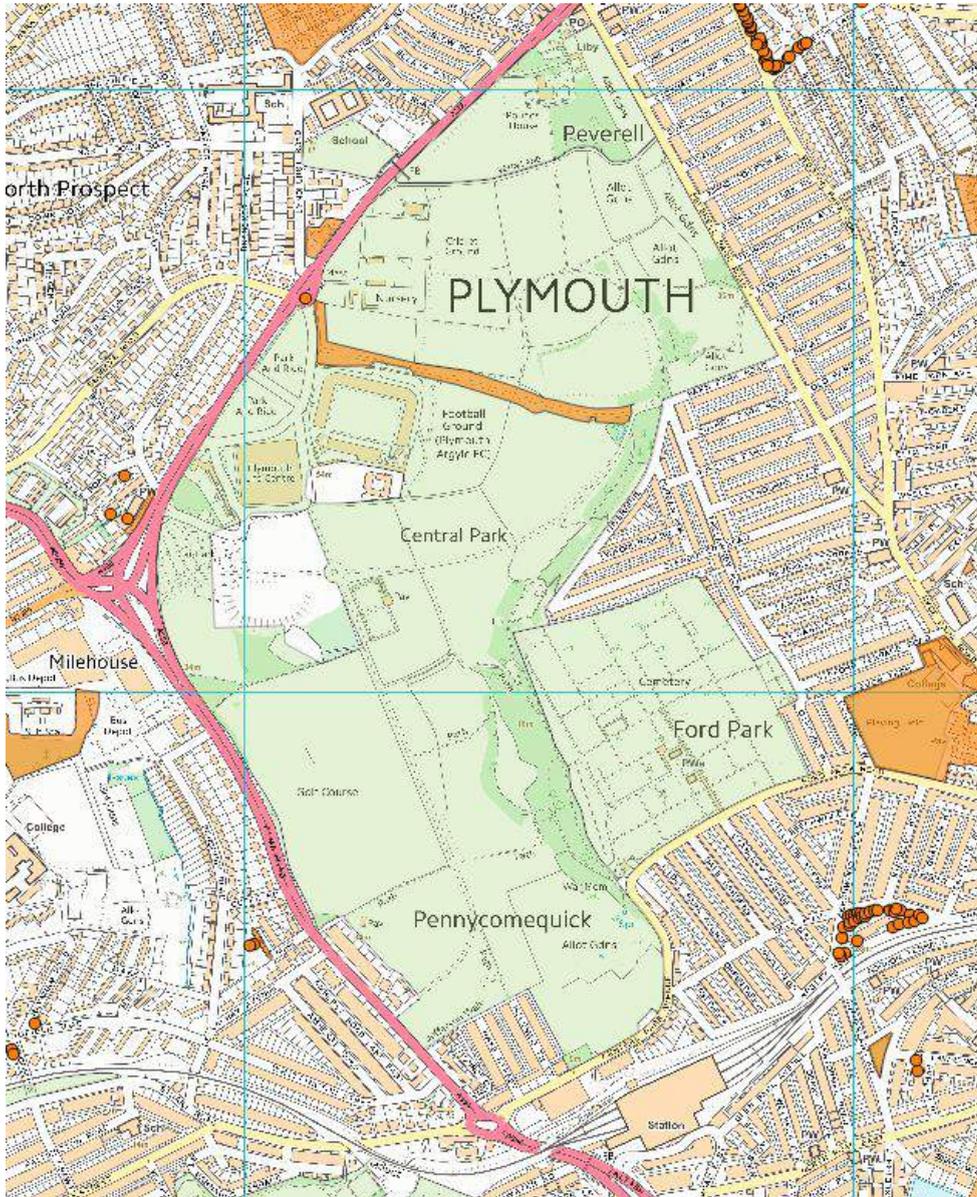
Annual application to the Green Flag Award will also be a way of measuring and assessing the management plan.

Appendices

Appendix A: Legal requirements, regulations, etc.

Tree Preservation Orders

Areas in orange show TPOs:



Appendix B: Ecological baseline

Threatened or important species and habitats

The tables below give a brief overview of the species and habitats of importance recorded on Central Park.

Birds

Species/Habitat	Last recorded	Where recorded	Status	Devon BAP
Black headed Gull	2018	Events Field	Amber	N
Common Bullfinch	2006	Previously seen at Peverell allotments	UK BAP (P); Amber	N
Firecrest	2016	Barn Park allotments	Legally Protected	N
Herring Gull	2018	Events Field	UK BAP (P); Red	N
House Sparrow	1998	Peverell allotments	UK BAP (P); Red	N
Kestrel	2001	Golf course	Amber	N
Mediterranean Gull	2006	Park and ride, previously at golf course	Amber	N
Song thrush	1995	Gilbert's Lane	UK BAP (P); Red	N
Swift	2018	Wildflower meadow	Amber	N
Tawny Owl	2006	Coronation Avenue	Amber	N
Turtle Dove	2016	Near Ford Park Cemetery	Red	N
Waxwing	2019	Opposite Pitch and Putt	Green (winter visitor, unusual for the park)	N
Woodcock	2016	Near Ford Park Cemetery	Red	N

Habitats

Species/Habitat	Last recorded	Where recorded	Status
Broadleaved woodland	2017	Areas through the wooded valley	UK BAP (Priority)
Hedgerow	2017	Around the park	UK BAP (Priority)
Lowland meadow	2017	2 fields, 1 east of Family Tree Field and 1 to the south	UK BAP (Priority)
Standing water	2017	Pond by Barn Park	UK BAP (Priority)

Traditional orchard	2017	Lower Swarthmore	UK BAP (Priority)
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Invertebrates

Species/Habitat	Last recorded	Where recorded	Status	Devon BAP
Brown-Banded carder bee (Possible misidentify)	2018	Lower meadow field	UK BAP (Priority)	N
Cinnabar moth	2018	Orchard by Lower Swarthmore, previously at Central allotments	UK BAP (Priority, research only)	N
Jersey Tiger Moth	2018	Baseball changing room	Nationally scarce	N
White-letter hairstreak butterfly	2018		UK BAP (Priority)	N

Mammals

Species/Habitat	Last recorded	Where recorded	Status	Devon BAP
Badger	2018	Upper Wallow	Legally protected	N
Brown long eared bat	2018	Wooded valley, near Ford Park entrance	UK BAP (Priority), legally protected	N
Common Pipistrelle bat	2012	Near baseball changing rooms, around golf course, wildflower meadow south of FTF	Legally protected	N
Soprano Pipistrelle bat	2018	Wooded Valley over dried out pond. Previous records from main avenue path and meadow field east of FTF	Legally protected	N

Plants

Species/Habitat	Last recorded	Where recorded	Status	Devon BAP
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Bluebell	2017	Coronation Avenue, Wooded Valley, planted in FTF	Protected against sale	N
Chives	2017		Nationally scarce	N
Common evening primrose	1998	Barn park allotments	Devon notable 1	N
Mossy stonecrop	1998	Barn park allotments	Nationally Scarce	N
Primrose	2017	Wooded valley, planted in FTF	Red data book	Y
Red goosefoot	1998	Barn park allotments	Devon notable 1, Devon rarity	N
Round-leaved Crane's bill	1997	Argyle training pitch, sports plateau	Devon notable 3	N
Slender bird's-foot trefoil	1994	Outland road depot	Devon notable 1, Nationally scarce	N
Small-flowered buttercup	1998	Peverell allotments	Devon notable 3	N
Water Dock	2007		Devon notable 2	N
Whirled water milfoil	1996	Park by Barn Park	Nationally Scarce	N

Reptiles/amphibians

Species/Habitat	Last recorded	Where recorded	Status	Devon BAP
Common Frog	1998	Central allotments	Protected against killing, injury and sale	N
Common Lizard	2018	Field behind bowling pavilion	UK BAP (Priority), legally protected	N
Palmate newt	1998	Barn park allotments, previously Peverell allotments	Protected against killing, injury and sale	N
Slow worm	2017	Previously seen at Peverell allotments	UK BAP (Priority)	N

Invasive/non-native species

Species/Habitat	Last recorded	Where recorded	Listed on wildlife and countryside act?
Cotoneaster	2017	Wooded valley by cemetery	Schedule 9
Japanese Knotweed	2007		Schedule 9
Ringneck parakeet	2018	Pounds Park, Wooded valley by cemetery – flock up to 45 (2018)	
Rhododendron	2007	(Note 2018- do not confuse with dwarf variety that has been intentionally planted in bed at Pounds Park)	Schedule 9
Skunk cabbage	2018	Pond by Barn Park	
Spanish bluebell	2018	Coronation Avenue	Schedule 9
Water fern	1998	Central allotments, previously in pond by Barn Park	Schedule 9

Common species

Central Park supports a range of wildlife. Summary of non-threatened/low priority species recorded from 2013-2018:

Bees: Honey bee, White-tailed bumblebee, Buff-tailed bumblebee, red-tailed bumblebee, early bumblebee, tree bumblebee, carder bee, ashy mining bee, cuckoo mining bee

Butterflies: Comma, small skipper, ringlet, small tortoiseshell, red admiral, gatekeeper, meadow brown, large/small white, common blue, marbled white, orange tip, painted lady, small copper

Dragonflies: Common darter, Southern Hawker

Spiders, Beetles and other insects: Grassbug, Earwig, Froghopper, Soldier Beetle, Harvestman, Field Grasshopper, Speckled Bush Cricket, Comb-Footed Spider, Rove Beetle, 7-Spot Ladybird

Birds: Carrion crow, coal tit, magpie, greenfinch, goldfinch, robin, wren, blackbird, buzzard, swallow, peregrine falcon, siskin, goldcrest, blackcap, pied wagtail, great spotted woodpecker, sparrowhawk

Appendix C: Supporting documents

These documents are all available to view upon request.

Document	Category	Latest Version	Notes
Consultation data	Survey	N/a	
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal of park	Survey	May 2017	
Tree Survey of park	Survey	August 2017	
Topographic Survey of park	Survey	October 2017	Play area and Sports hub re-surveyed in Nov 2017
Topographic Survey - Play area field and Sports hub	Survey	November 2017	
Drainage Report	Survey	October 2017	Has informed drainage design developed in 2018
Utilities Survey - Play area field and Sports hub	Survey	November 2017	Improvement works will change this survey. Plans are available showing these modifications
Ground investigation reports	Survey	November 2017	
Seating audit	Audit	December 2017	Superseded by improvement works 2018/19
New Seating proposal	Audit	April 2018	
Bin audit	Audit	March 2018	
Entrance infrastructure audit	Audit	March 2018	
Entrance and boundary condition audit	Audit	April 2017	
Paths and street furniture condition audit	Audit	April 2017	
Vegetation and tree condition audit	Audit	April 2017	

Appendix D: Tenants and commercial stakeholders

Commercial stakeholders and tenants

- Plymouth Argyle Football Club
- Everyone Active
- Goals
- Elm Veterinary Group
- Condy Mathias Financial Group
- McColl's
- Post Office
- Ellesse
- Well Pharmacy
- Golf hut

Residential stakeholders

- Pounds Lodge