

London Borough of Ealing



Green Spaces Strategy

2012 to 2017

Ealing Green Space Strategy

2012 – 2017

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people spaces places

Contents

1. The Purpose of the Green Space Strategy	1
1.1 Definition of Green Space	1
1.2 Benefits of Green Space	1
1.3 Why a Green Space Strategy	2
1.4 Vision & Aims	3
1.5 How the Strategy was Developed	3
2. Strategic Framework	4
2.1 National Policy	4
2.2 Regional Policy	5
2.3 Local Policy	7
3. About Ealing	10
3.1 People	10
3.2 Place	11
4. Green Space in Ealing	12
4.1 Overview	12
4.2 Recent Achievements	13
4.3 Audit Methodology	13
4.4 Quantity	14
4.5 Accessibility	21
4.6 Sport	32
4.6 Local Standards	35
4.7 Quality	36
5. Consultation and Community Needs	44
5.1 Current Use of Green Space	44
5.2 Consultation	45
5.3 Consultation on the Strategy	48
6. Our Priorities	49
6.1 Overarching Outcomes	49
6.2 Vision	50
6.3 Findings & Analysis	50
6.4 Strategic Goals & Objectives	56
7. Delivering the Strategy	58
7.1 A Partnership Approach	58
7.2 Resources	58
7.3 Action Plan	60
7.4 Monitoring & Evaluation	75
7.5 Key Performance Measures	75

Foreword

One of the reasons people love and want to live in Ealing is that it is one of the greenest boroughs in London with over a quarter of its land is open space. This includes ten miles of tranquil canals and river and over 1,000 hectares of space designated as natural conservation areas. These open spaces define the historic character of Ealing and provide amazing and diverse spaces for residents to enjoy for all sorts of activities.



Well presented parks and green spaces provide focal points for the whole community; they are the spaces where communities come together so we want everyone to feel welcome and safe and to enjoy the wealth of parks and green spaces and the biodiversity that Ealing has to offer. From one of the newest and most innovative parks in the popular Northala Fields to the richly bio-diverse Perivale Wood Local Nature Reserve our green spaces are areas that local residents are rightly proud of.

Parks and green spaces are good for the mind as well as the body. Improving such spaces and ensuring appropriate provision is fundamental to making Ealing an attractive place to live, work and visit. In order to achieve this we want to encourage individuals, groups, and local communities to be well placed and have the opportunity to have a voice in the borough's management of its landscape. We hope this strategy will be seen as the catalyst, acting as the advocacy document for climate change and biodiversity and also be the custodian for Ealing to enhance, develop, and promote its natural space environment.

The Ealing Green Spaces Strategy has been developed from a wide variety of formal reviews and studies, assessments, surveys and consultation and is an integrated document that combines the council's corporate vision and strategic framework for the provisions and development of green space in Ealing.

This strategy provides a vision, seeks outcomes, establishes principles and provides an action plan that will integrate the objectives of sound urban planning and the effective provision of quality green spaces. The Council's Vision is for a linked and integrated open space network that not only enhances Ealing's residents' quality of life and provides them with opportunities to experience a diverse range of accessible green spaces, but also protects and enhances natural ecosystems and the cultural heritage features that contribute to Ealing's unique identity as the Queen of the Suburbs.

I am delighted to present this Green Spaces Strategy to you and hope you continue to enjoy the fantastic green spaces in Ealing.

Councillor Bassam Mahfouz
Ealing Cabinet member for Environment & Transport

1. The Purpose of the Green Space Strategy

1.1 Definition of Green Space

National Guidance in Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002) specifies that open space should be taken to mean: 'all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can also act as a visual amenity.'

The Mayor of London in the *London Plan 2011*, defines open space as: 'All land use in London that is predominantly undeveloped other than by buildings or structures that are ancillary to the open space use. The definition covers the broad range of open space types within London, whether in public or private ownership and whether public access is unrestricted, limited or restricted.'

Green Space is a subset of the wider classification of Open Space and excludes areas of public space such as civic squares that are predominantly built development. In addition, green space does not include private residential gardens or incidental areas, such as road verges, or streets (unless these form part of a link in the open space network).

1.2 Benefits of Green Space

High quality parks and public spaces create economic, social and environmental value. They are also highly valued by local people. Research carried out by CABI Space suggests that 85% of surveyed felt that the quality of public space and the built environment has a direct impact on their lives and the way they feel.¹ In terms of economic benefits there is evidence that high quality green spaces have positive a impact upon property prices, are good for business, and being close to public space adds economic value.

Safe, clean spaces encourage people to walk more and therefore offer significant health benefits. Parks and green spaces offer places for sport, recreation and relaxation, benefiting physical health and mental wellbeing. There is evidence that access to good quality local spaces can help people live

¹ CABI (2002) Streets of Shame. Summary of findings from 'Public Attitudes to Architecture and the Built Environment'. London, CABI.

longer and green spaces can provide solutions to redress worsening public health.

Green spaces can also bring significant community benefits as places to play, encouraging neighbourliness and social inclusion and as a venue for events that bring people together.

Networks of linked open spaces and green corridors can encourage cycling and reduce dependency on the car, reducing levels of traffic. Ealing is particularly well served by Green Corridors with the canal network and River Brent Park providing important routes for people and wildlife. The network of Public Rights of Way: bridleways and public footpaths provide important links between green spaces and residential areas and allow access across the wider countryside. The role of Public Rights of Way are recognised by this Green Space Strategy but are not explicitly covered by the analysis.

The economic benefits are well understood, open spaces improve air quality, provide sustainable urban drainage solutions and can help mitigate against climate change, whilst trees cool air and provide shade. Open spaces are also important areas for wildlife and biodiversity and provide opportunities for local people to experience nature first hand.

1.3 Why a Green Space Strategy

Purpose

The purpose of the Ealing Green Space Strategy is to:

- Set out a planning policy framework for protecting and improving Ealing's green space network and to provide an evidence base for the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF);
- Inform future decision making, especially the funding of capital and maintenance expenditure programmes and Ward Forum funded projects;
- Support the council's S106 planning obligations, policy and guidance, by providing the necessary evidence base for where new or improved facilities are needed, and what should be requested from private developments;
- Provide a framework for all those involved in raising standards of green space management in Ealing;
- Establish local quantity and accessibility standards for green space provision based on the principle of no net loss of green space.

Scope

The scope of the Ealing Green Space Strategy :

- The strategy covers a five year period from 2012/13 to 2017/18;
- To include all green space (including public open space and community open space) that exceeds the lower size threshold of 0.1ha;
- Include green spaces up to 1.2 km over the borough boundary that contribute to the provision of space for Ealing residents;
- Private residential gardens or incidental areas, such as road verges, or streets, are outside the scope of the strategy, as per national and regional guidance ;
- To provide justification for developing a revised set of service policy documents including the Council's Tree Strategy, Biodiversity Action Plan and the Cemeteries and Allotments Service Plans.

1.4 Vision & Aims

The Council's vision for Ealing boroughs open spaces is:

"To ensure that every area of the borough of Ealing has green and open spaces of good quality for all current and future generations to use and enjoy".

1.5 How the Strategy was Developed

The first Ealing Green Space Strategy was developed in 2003 and covered the period 2003-2008. This document included an audit of 100 green spaces and based on public consultation set out priorities for future investment. The strategy proved successful in that many of the improvements were delivered through Council capital funding supplemented by planning gain from local development.

Updating of the Green Space Strategy started in 2010 when survey work was undertaken with the aim of establishing a comprehensive and up to date record of the borough's green spaces; their distribution and quality. The draft Green Space Strategy was produced in 2011 and this was subject to public consultation. This final strategy is based upon the comments received through public consultation and on internal review to ensure the Green Space Strategy can be effectively delivered.

2. Strategic Framework

2.1 National Policy

PPG17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)

Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation and its companion Guide “Assessing Needs and Opportunities” was published in 2002 by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. It provides specific guidance on the policies and approaches to be considered by planning authorities in developing local planning policy through the Local Development Framework.

The guidance recognises the multi-functional nature of green space and the importance that sport and recreation play in the quality of life for local people. PPG17 places more emphasis on the quality of open space, rather than the quantity and the development of provision standards specific to the needs of the local area.

The green space audit undertaken in 2010 drew upon the recommendations in PPG17 and this Green Space Strategy has been developed in line with this key national guidance.

National Planning Policy Framework (2011)

In July 2011, the Government issued a new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for consultation. This document is intended to replace all of the existing advice set out in PPGs and PPSs. In the draft NPPF the government sets out its core planning principles, one of which actively promotes the provision of green infrastructure. There is also advice about the natural environment where local authorities are encouraged to set out a strategic approach to planning for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.

Natural Environment White Paper (2011)

The Natural Environment White Paper : The Natural Choice, Securing the Value of Nature was published in 2011 and this document recognises that a healthy functioning natural environment is the foundation for sustained economic growth, prosperous communities and personal wellbeing.

Proposed reforms include ecologically coherent planning, retaining the protection and improvement of the natural environment as core objectives of the planning system; improving public health locally, by making high-quality green space available to everyone; and empowering communities to protect local environments that are important to them through new Green Areas Designation.

Natural England ANGSt Guidance

This guidance for strategic open space planning focusing on natural and semi-natural green space has recently been reviewed and updated by Natural England in the 2010 publication "Nature Nearby". The standards contain quantitative and accessibility (distance) components and are considered as part of the analysis of the supply of green space in Ealing (Section 4 - Green Space in Ealing).

The Green Flag Award Scheme

The Green Flag Award scheme is the national quality award for parks and green spaces. First developed by a multi-agency partnership in 1996 the Award scheme is currently managed by the Green Flag Plus Partnership comprising the Tidy Britain Group, GreenSpace and The Conservation Volunteers.

The Green Flag Award is an annual quality award given to individual green spaces that meet the 8 key criteria – judged through desk and field assessments. There are additional awards for community managed green space and those spaces with strong heritage characteristics. The Green Flag Award criteria have been used in the quality audit process to support the development of this strategy (See section 4.5). The Council will strive for accreditation of key green spaces through the Green Flag Award.

2.2 Regional Policy

The London Plan (2011)

The London Plan is the overall strategic plan for London, and it sets out a fully integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of the capital to 2031. It forms part of the development plan for Greater London and it is desirable for the London boroughs' local plans to be in general conformity with the London Plan.

The London Plan recognises the valuable contribution that green spaces play in providing a good quality environment. In order to fully understand the provision of open space and the demands and needs placed on them Policy 7.18C of the London Plan states that when Councils are assessing open space needs they should include appropriate designations and policies to protect open space and identify areas of open space deficiency. In addition, the CABE Space / Mayor of

London Best Practice Guidance 'Open Space Strategies' should be used as guidance for developing policies on the proactive creation, enhancement and management of open space.

The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy (2002)

Connecting with London's Nature - The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy, published by the Greater London Authority, is the first regional biodiversity strategy with a statutory basis. The document details the Mayor's vision for protecting and conserving London's natural open spaces. It has two main themes, protecting important wildlife habitat and priority species and improving access to nature. These two themes are reflected in the strategy's two main targets: no net loss of important wildlife habitat; and reducing areas of deficiency in access to nature, so that all Londoners are within walking distance of a quality natural space.

All London Green Grid SPG (2012)

The All London Green Grid Supplementary Planning Guidance was published in March 2012 and takes the principles of the East London Green Grid and applies them across London. As Supplementary Planning Guidance the document provides guidance on the implementation of the London Plan in order to:

- Protect, conserve and enhance London's strategic network of green and open natural and cultural spaces;
- Encourage greater use of, and engagement with, London's green infrastructure;
- Secure a network of high quality, well designed and multifunctional green and open spaces as a crucial component of urban infrastructure.

2.3 Local Policy

Ealing Sustainable Community Strategy (2006 – 2016)

The Ealing Community Strategy was developed by the Ealing Local Strategic Partnership - the partnership of key agencies working to develop a vision for Ealing. It provides the overarching framework for all major strategies and plans in the borough and sets out how local organisations will work together to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the borough.

Green spaces contribute to the Sustainable Community Strategy by: contributing to a high quality of life; promoting Ealing as an attractive place to live and work; helping to promote active lifestyles through increasing the use of parks and green spaces; encouraging and supporting volunteering and community participation.

The Ealing Council Corporate Plan (2010 – 2014)

The Corporate Plan describes how the Council will contribute to making the Sustainable Community Strategy vision a reality, by establishing five priorities based on feedback from residents and stakeholders.

Key contributions and links to green space include: 'Making Ealing Cleaner' by improving environmental services; 'Secure Public Spaces' by delivering better opportunities and activities for all our children and young people; 'Making Ealing Safer' by creating neighbourhood enforcement teams (including park rangers) in partnership with the Police who will work together more closely to reduce crime locally, and make Ealing's parks safer.

Planning Policy - Local Development Framework

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 set out the requirements to produce a new development plan for the borough. This is called the Local Development Framework (LDF). The LDF is an emerging collection of documents that sets out how the borough will develop up to 2026. It must be consistent with the London Plan that is produced by the Mayor of London.

The Unitary Development Plan which sets out the council's intentions for land use and development from 2002 to 2017 will be eventually be replaced by the LDF, most likely in mid-2013. The LDF and associated planning policies, some of which will be 'saved' from the UDP will have a significant influence on the future protection and provision of open space across the Borough.

In order to inform the production of the LDF a range of studies and research materials have been produced which form the evidence base and justification

for the adopted planning policies. The 2010 green space audit and this Green Space Strategy contribute to this evidence base.

Ealing Plans	Sustainable Community Strategy								JSNA informs planning
Local Area Agreement									
Cross-cutting partnership plans	CDRP 3 year plan		Health and Wellbeing Strategy		Children and Young People's Plan		Local Development Framework		
Local Partners' Plans	Local Policing Plan	PCT Local Delivery Plan / Public Health Annual report	Fire and Rescue Plan	W. London Mental Health Trust Plan	Ealing Hospital Trust Plans	Corporate Plan			
Cross-cutting Council strategies	Single Equalities Scheme	ICT strategy	Capital Strategy	Medium Term Financial Strategy	Consultation & Community Engagement Policy	People Strategy	Customer Service Strategy	Improvement and Efficiency strategy	
Council Corporate Plan themes	Making Ealing Safer		Secure our Public Services		Secure Jobs and Homes		Make Ealing Cleaner		Deliver Value for Money
Plans to deliver the Priorities	Community Safety Strategy		Quality of Life Strategy		Work and Skills Strategy		Local Implementation Plan (Transport)		Property Strategy
	Youth Justice Plan		Adults Integrated Commissioning Strategy		Housing Strategy		Green Space Strategy		Corporate Enforcement Policy
	Carers Strategy		Personalisation Blueprint		Transport Strategy		Air Quality Management Strategy		Asset Management Strategy
	Safeguarding Adults Policy		Children's Commissioning Strategy		Cultural Strategy		Waste Collection Strategy		Member Development Plan
	Safeguarding Children Strategy		Valuing People Strategy		Town Centre Masterplans & Management Strategies		Recycling and Waste Plans		Sustainable Procurement Strategy
	Alcohol Strategy		Children's Centres Strategy		2026 Development Strategy		Contaminated Land Strategy		Risk Management Strategy
	Preventing Violent Extremism / Prevention and Deterrence Strategy		Extended Schools Strategy		W. London Economic Development Strategy		Infrastructure Delivery Plan		Ealing Pension Fund Policy Statements governance, discretionary
	Substance Misuse Treatment Plan		Supporting People Strategy		Affordable Warmth Strategy		Staff Travel Plan		Statement of Community Involvement
	Young People Substance Misuse Strategy		Sexual Health Strategy		Housing Strategy for Older People		Waste Minimisation Strategy		Corporate Workforce Development Plan
	Statement of Licensing Policy for Gambling		Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives Strategy		Economic Regeneration Strategy		Biodiversity Action Plan		Ealing Participation Strategy
	Gambling Policy Statement		Joint Strategy: older adults MH and younger people with dementia		Local Development Scheme				Children's Workforce Development Strategy
	Youth Offending: Prevention Strategy		Adult Development Strategy		Development Management Policy				
	Anti Social Behaviour Strategy		14-19 Strategy		Development Site Policy				
	Hate Crime Plan		Transforming Community Equipment and Tele-health Plan		Adult Learning Development Plan				
					Homelessness Strategy				
				Housing Revenue Account Business Plan					
				ESOL Strategy					
				Private Sector Housing Strategy					
Business and Service Plans									
Individual Objectives									

Figure 1 The Ealing Policy Bookcase

Health & Well-Being Strategy (2010 – 2014)

The Health and Well-Being Strategy provides the overarching strategic framework for partners to work together to improve health and well-being in Ealing, reduce health inequalities and promote independence, with a particular focus on communities most at risk of poor health in order to reduce the gap.

Green spaces contribute to the strategic priorities: creating healthy environments; and improving the health and well-being of children and young people.

Cultural Strategy (2007 – 2012)

The Cultural Strategy sets out a shared vision for the Council and its partners to guide the delivery and development of a broad range of cultural activity across the borough. The strategy is closely aligned with the structure of the Corporate Plan and shares five of the six aims.

The Cultural Strategy recognises that parks and green spaces are important accessible venues for festivals, community events and some arts programmes. Open spaces are important facilities in the delivery of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad within the borough. The strategy also commits to providing new

sporting activities specifically in high crime areas and promoting cultural services and facilities to engage young people and provide diversion from crime and anti-social behaviour.

Safer Ealing Partnership Strategy (2008-11)

The Safer Ealing Partnership is Ealing's multi-agency Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership between the Police and the Council that works to reduce crime and disorder. The strategy covers:

- Crime reduction targets
- Quality of life in neighbourhoods, particularly in relation to anti-social behaviour and social exclusion
- Domestic Violence
- Substance misuse
- Young people

The strategy notes that crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) remains one of the top three priorities recorded through local resident's survey 2007/8 and that concern about ASB is increasing.

Climate Change Strategy (2008 – 2011)

The Climate Change Strategy has been developed by the Environment and Climate Change Board; and is a demonstration of the Local Strategic Partnership's commitment to reducing the borough's contribution to climate change over the three-year period 2008 to 2011.

The strategy has five key themes: energy; transport; waste; resource use; and adaptation. Whilst there are relatively few explicit links in this strategy to the role of green spaces there is considerable scope for the delivery of the green space strategy to contribute to aims set out with respect to climate change.

Biodiversity Action Plan (2001)

The Ealing Biodiversity Action Plan sets out a framework for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity value across the Borough and in doing so support regional, national and global efforts to halt the decline in biodiversity. It identifies key habitats and species which are of importance in the borough and establishes action plans for each.

The protection and future management of green spaces within Ealing will have a significant impact upon achieving the actions of the Biodiversity Strategy. The Biodiversity Strategy is being updated in 2012.

3. About Ealing

3.1 People

In terms of population, Ealing is the third largest of London's 32 boroughs (after Croydon and Barnet) and the largest of the six West London boroughs. The first release of data from the 2011 Census states that the population of Ealing is 338,000, accounting for just over 4% of London's total population.

Ealing is the fourth most diverse borough in England, and the third in London, in terms of the number of people from different ethnic backgrounds residing here². In fact the borough has residents from over 173 different countries. Ealing also has one of the highest levels of international migration in London, with 46% of residents being from a black and minority ethnic (BAME) background³. In 2020 it is predicted that the number of people with a BAME background in Ealing will be more than 50% of the total population⁴.

The BAME population is made up of several long established communities and the addition of more recent migrants. Ealing has the largest Gurdwara outside of India and has attracted many Sikh Indians over the years. Ealing has not only the most Indians in London, but also the most Poles, Afghanis and Iraqis. Ealing has the second largest number of Irish, Iranians, Japanese and Somalians.

Whilst sharing in West London's successful economy, Ealing also contains pockets of serious deprivation with acute social and economic disadvantage. There are wide disparities between different areas of the borough in terms of income, employment, education, skills and health. At a national level, Ealing is ranked 61st out of 326 local authorities against the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010, placing it in the top 20% most deprived local authority areas. Compared to other London Boroughs, Ealing ranks 15th out of 32 against this measure (where 1st is the most deprived).

In terms of health and wellbeing, 28% of the population of Ealing feel themselves to be less than healthy, and there are above average rates of circulatory disease and for obesity and Type 2 diabetes⁵.

2 2005: GLA: Diversity indices (based on 2001 Census data).

3 GLA Focus on London 2008. Chapter 2 Diversity; Table 2.13 pp36 – 37 www.london.gov.uk/gla/dmag

5The State of Ealing 2009 Health and Wellbeing CH5 Pg 38

3.2 Place

Ealing is positioned at the heart of six outer London boroughs, collectively known as West London. It borders the Boroughs of Brent and Harrow in the north, the Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham in the east, Hounslow in the south and Hillingdon in the west.

Geographically, Ealing covers 55 square kilometres (over 21 square miles) which is 1.4% of the total land area of London and is the 11th largest London borough in area⁶. The borough has seven distinct town centres that developed from Saxon villages and settlements. Today these are known as: Ealing; Hanwell; Acton; Southall; Greenford; Perivale; and Northolt. The borough is acknowledged to have characteristics of both inner London (e.g. Acton in the east) and outer London (e.g. Northolt in the northwest).

Ealing is comprised of 23 wards with an average of 13,300 residents per ward⁷. The borough is densely populated with an average of around 55 residents per hectare in Ealing: seven people more per hectare than the London average but density varies largely between wards. To some extent population density in Ealing Borough reflects the location of high-rise flats and the lack of open space. The three highest density wards are Southfields, Walpole, and Lady Margaret and the three least dense are Norwood Green, East Acton and Greenford Green.⁸

The London Borough of Ealing has a long history of interest and concern for wildlife. The Council's concern for nature conservation has increased greatly over the last two decades. Policies for nature conservation have been developed and structures have been successfully set up to promote conservation and encourage the participation of local people.

The Council now works closely with a range of partners and organisations including the Ealing Wildlife Network, The London Wildlife Trust, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), English Heritage and FrogLife on a range of programmes across the Borough. Examples include weekly conservation task days and river workdays run by the ranger team as part of Ealing's Nature Conservation Work Programme, environmental stewardship schemes and reptile habitat conservation work, along with various ongoing corporate and community conservation workdays.

6 The State of Ealing 2009 Ch 1

7 2008, Office for National Statistics (ONS): 2007 Mid year estimate (from SoE09)

8 The State of Ealing 2009 CH2 population

4. Green Space in Ealing

4.1 Overview

Traditionally, Ealing has been known as the *Queen of the Suburbs* due to its tree lined streets and presence of many parks and green spaces. There are 19 major open areas in the borough including Horsenden Hill, Brent River Park, Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park, which are designated green belt or Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) areas and a total of 8.4 square kilometres of parks and green spaces, 15% of the total borough area.

Within Ealing there are ten miles of canals and the River Brent flows north to south through the heart of the borough, as well as other smaller rivers and streams. These Blue Ribbon spaces contribute greatly to the borough's urban form and landscape character, as well as, to its biodiversity.

There are over 1000 hectares of land in the Borough with some form of nature conservation designation (Site of Importance for Nature Conservation). The Biodiversity Action Plans sets out policies and action to protect and enhance key habitats and species.

Many green spaces in Ealing are important for their landscape and built heritage. Gunnersbury Park, jointly managed with the London Borough of Hounslow is recognised by English Heritage as one of the most important parks in the country. Walpole Park, is the setting for Pitzhanger Manor and host to a number of associated conservation structures. There are also a number of Scheduled Ancient Monuments of archaeological value within the borough. Although no built structure remains the landforms are important at Horsenden Hill, Northolt Manor, Down Barns Farm.

The Borough also has a significant tree stock including heritage and veteran trees which contribute to the landscape character of Ealing and bring benefits for wildlife and people.

Much of the green space within the borough is publicly accessible. But while the Borough is well served by large (regional, district and local) open spaces, distribution is not even, with some area having limited access to open spaces. This is discussed further in section 4.4 below.

4.2 Recent Achievements

This Green Space Strategy updates and supersedes the previous 2003 – 2008 strategy. This earlier strategy delivered some significant improvements and investment to parks and green spaces. Recent achievements funded through a variety of sources (Ealing's capital programme, GLA funding, S106 funding, Ward Forum funding and the final year of the Governments Playbuilder) have included:

- £2.0 million of high visibility improvements to parks and green spaces to improve their appearance, cleanliness and use;
- A further £490,000 investment in park infrastructure, footpaths upgrading, repairs and replacement of seating and site furniture;
- Continuing high number of people attending the Ealing Summer Festival and London Mela;
- Delivery of 11 new play areas including a national demonstration site for Playscape;
- Investment of £1.2 million in play provision in green spaces in 2011 and 2012;
- Provision of 14 outdoor fitness centres in green spaces;
- Creation of new 'state of the art' concrete skate park including a range of challenging ramps, obstacles and skate bowl at Gurnell Leisure Centre (c. £400,000);
- Opening of the new £550,000 Northala Fields visitor centre building that provides a café, public toilets and a community fishing base and teaching space;
- Completion of a range of works totalling £400,000 along the entire Brent River Park corridor that have been funded through the Mayor of London's 'Priority Parks' programme (chosen through a public vote)
- Mayor of London Safer Parks Award for Brent River Park 2012 (Gold Level);
- London in Bloom 2010 (Silver Gilt);
- Three prestigious BALI Awards for regeneration, land renewal and use of recycled materials for Northala Fields;
- BALI Community Award for King George's Field Playscape;
- More cost effective services through the integrated Environmental Services Contract.

4.3 Audit Methodology

In 2010 the London Borough of Ealing, supported by external consultants carried out a comprehensive audit of all green space in the Borough. This audit considered the quantity, quality and accessibility of green spaces with key tasks including:

- A review of the current site information on parks and green spaces;
- A desktop study to identify all parcels of open land from existing sources of information, cross checked against aerial photos and ground verified;
- Classification of all green spaces (primary purpose, hierarchy and public accessibility);
- Site verification;
- Identification of degree of public accessibility;
- Consideration of size threshold;
- Quality audit of sites with public access which considered open land in Ealing in public ownership.

As part of the green space audit the data was collated and held on a computer based mapping system (Geographical Information System) which recorded the location and boundary of each green space along with descriptive attribute data.

All green spaces in the borough greater than 0.1 hectares were recorded (with the exception of Council owned housing and education land). Each green space was classified according to its primary purpose, that is, the main use or function of the space. This follows the guidance set out in PPG17 Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation and its companion guide. Green spaces have also been classified according to the level of public accessibility and their significance based on total area.

4.4 Quantity

Ealing has a total of 984 hectares of green space which represents approximately 17% of the total area of the Borough. There are some 10 miles of canals in the borough as well as the rivers Brent and Crane and other smaller rivers and tributaries.

Through the green space audit all spaces have been classified according to their primary purpose, which related to their main use or function.

Table 1 shows the Ealing Green Space Typology based on that set out in PPG17 and as advocated by the Mayor's Guidance on preparing Open Space Strategies and the London Plan 2011.

Green Space Type	Description
Parks and Gardens	Including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens. Excludes private residential gardens.
Natural and Semi-Natural Urban Green Spaces	Including woodlands, urban forestry, grasslands (for example, downland, commons and meadows), wetlands, open and running water, wastelands, and derelict open land and rock areas (for example, cliffs, quarries and pits).
Green Corridors	Including river and canal banks, cycleways and rights of way
Outdoor Sports Facilities	With natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned – including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks and school and other institutional playing fields.
Amenity Green Space	Most commonly but not exclusively in housing areas - including informal recreation spaces, green spaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens.
Provision for Children and Teenagers	Including play areas, skateboard parks and outdoor basketball hoops, and other more informal areas (for example, hanging out areas, teenage shelters).
Allotments, community gardens and city (urban) farms	Opportunities for those people who wish to do so to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries and churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Table 1 - Ealing Green Space Typology based on PPG17

Table 2 below shows the classification of green spaces in Ealing according to the green space typology.

Green Space Type	No. of Sites	Total Area (ha)
Parks & gardens	47	155.99
Amenity Green Space	24	18.33
Outdoor Sport Facilities	38	176.81
Natural Green Space	35	259.45
Green Corridors	12	16.13 (89.5 Km)
Allotments, community gardens & city farms	73	52.91
Cemeteries & churchyards	7	20.74
Provision for Children & Teenagers	Playgrounds in parks = 77 MUGAs = 31 Fitness areas = 14	

Table 2 – Green Spaces by Type within Ealing Borough

All green spaces have also been classified by their level of public accessibility. Those with unrestricted public access, for the purposes of planning policy, are termed Public Open Space (POS) and those with some level of restricted access or use, Community Open Space (COS). Table 3 below shows the relationship between green space type and public accessibility.

Public Open Space	Community Open Space	Other Designations
Parks and Gardens	Allotments	Green Corridors
Outdoor Sports Facilities	Sports Grounds & Golf Courses	Metropolitan Open Land
Natural and Semi-natural Green Space	Cemeteries & Churchyards	Green Belt
Amenity Green Space		
Characteristics		
Publicly accessible Council owned	Restricted access Council / other ownership	Typically publicly accessible Designation covering green space

Table 3 Relationship between Green Space Type and Public Accessibility

Based on the total of 987 hectares of green space within the Borough of Ealing, 169 sites covering 634 hectares comprise Public Open Space, whilst 123 spaces covering 353 hectares comprise Community Open Space.

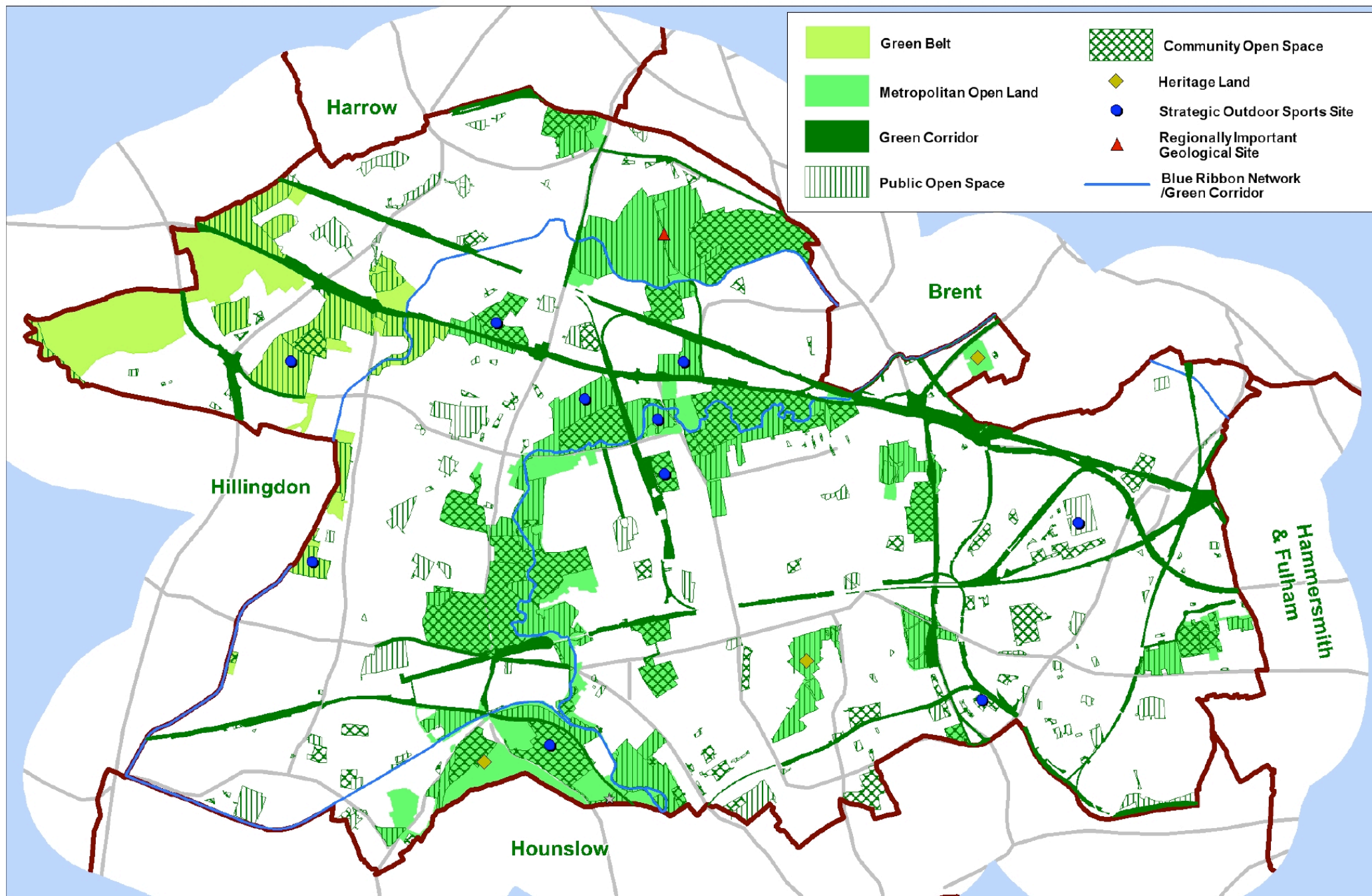
Community Open Space includes: 73 allotments (53 ha), 36 sports grounds & golf courses (267 ha), 7 cemeteries (21 ha), and 7 other sites (13 ha) mostly nature conservation spaces with restricted access.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of all recorded green spaces through the green space audit.

Blue Ribbon Spaces

The London Plan defines Blue Ribbon spaces as London's system of rivers, canals, water spaces and land alongside them. In London as a whole, water and water spaces are scarce and valuable assets, Ealing however has many such spaces including the Grand Union Canal, Brent River Park and green space associated with the River Crane and other smaller streams and tributaries.

The Blue Ribbon spaces contribute greatly to the urban form and landscape character of the Borough as well as to its biodiversity and recreational resources. These Blue Ribbon spaces are not counted directly towards the green space provision standard however the parks and green spaces that flank them have been recorded as green corridors.



Public Open Space Provision per Head in Ealing

National and regional policy guidance requires local authorities to set their own local standards for the provision of open space and apply this through local planning policy and the LDF. The following sections of the Green Space Strategy explore the findings of the green space audit and demonstrate the factors taken into account in determining the provision standard for the London Borough of Ealing.

Using 2011 population data it has been determined that the current average provision of public open space across the Borough is 1.97 hectares per 1,000 head of population. Over the next 15 years, as a result of projected population growth this is expected to decrease to 1.82 ha / 1000 head population.

NPFA Six Acre Standard

The National Playing Fields Association (NPFA), in their Six Acre Standard (2001) recommends six acres (2.4 hectares) of outdoor playing space per 1,000 population. The NPFA standard covers formal recreational green space only which is a component of the broader category Public Open Space.

The current level of provision in Ealing is just 81% of the NPFA standard. The section below considers how Ealing compares to other London boroughs. More recent guidance suggests that quality and accessibility of green space provision should also be taken into account.

Comparison with other authorities

Ealing's average (mean) of 1.97 hectares per 1000 population compares favourably with other London boroughs.

- Westminster refers to a generally accepted standard of 1.6 ha per 1,000 in city environments. The Westminster standard is 1.82 ha / 1,000 head.
- Tower Hamlets have a standard based on the current average of 1.2 ha per 1,000 head
- Hammersmith and Fulham quote an open space provision of 1.35 ha per 1,000 people falling to 1.22 ha per 1,000 by 2018, although this increases to 1.7 ha per 1,000 people if open space within 400m of the borough boundary is accounted for.

Whilst the average quantity of provision should not automatically be used as the benchmark for future open space provision it does provide an

indicative figure of the 'status quo' whereby spatial patterns can be judged and strategic priorities formed.

Uneven Distribution of Green Space at Ward Level

Whilst the average level of provision is currently 1.97 hectares per 1,000 population the distribution of public open space and the resident population is not uniform. Table 4 shows the amount of Public Open Space per 1,000 population by Ward. The data also shows that the amount of Public Open Space over time will decline based on projected increases in population.

At a ward level Ealing Broadway has just 0.15 hectares per 1,000 population and North Greenford 6.58 ha per 1,000 population, a variation in provision by a factor of over 40 times. Thirteen of the borough's 23 wards have less open space than the borough average.

One of the areas facing pressure over the plan period; Acton, is particularly deficient in public open space, although it is perhaps worth noting that the area is well provided in terms of Community Open Space. This may indicate that it would be appropriate to reclassify some of the space here from community to public open space. It would also indicate the importance of maximising the potential for public open space creation and existing enhancement through development schemes.

Ward	POS (Ha)	Area (Ha)	POS by Ward Area	Population (2011)	POS per 1000 People	Population (2016)	POS per 1000 People	Population (2021)	POS per 1000 People	Population (2026)	POS per 1000 People
Acton Central	12.3	177.1	7.0%	14,343	0.86	14,739	0.84	14,888	0.83	15,323	0.80
Cleveland	47.0	223.1	21.1%	14,815	3.18	15,120	3.11	15,171	3.10	15,101	3.12
Dormer Wells	14.9	224.8	6.6%	13,710	1.09	13,927	1.07	13,885	1.07	14,246	1.05
Ealing Broadway	2.1	185	1.1%	14,154	0.15	15,756	0.13	17,077	0.12	17,836	0.12
Ealing Common	19.3	213.7	9.0%	13,463	1.43	13,545	1.43	13,407	1.44	13,391	1.44
East Acton	15.3	425.7	3.6%	18,668	0.82	19,672	0.78	20,355	0.75	21,244	0.72
Elthorne	33.6	199.6	16.8%	13,678	2.46	14,305	2.35	14,687	2.29	14,653	2.29
Greenford Broadway	54.0	250.6	21.6%	15,474	3.49	15,639	3.45	15,550	3.47	15,994	3.38
Greenford Green	24.5	337.2	7.3%	12,970	1.89	13,082	1.87	12,969	1.89	12,929	1.89
Hanger Hill	23.2	326.3	7.1%	14,658	1.58	14,741	1.57	14,589	1.59	14,514	1.60
Hobbayne	35.3	219.9	16.0%	13,565	2.60	13,675	2.58	13,555	2.60	13,542	2.61
Lady Margaret	22.9	153.7	14.9%	13,188	1.74	13,350	1.71	13,261	1.73	13,246	1.73
North Greenford	89.0	324.5	27.4%	13,529	6.58	13,670	6.51	13,566	6.56	13,522	6.58
Northfield	9.5	153.7	6.2%	13,096	0.72	13,201	0.72	13,081	0.72	13,026	0.73
Northolt Mandeville	58.4	275.1	21.2%	13,437	4.35	13,601	4.30	13,532	4.32	13,476	4.34
Northolt West End	37.9	353.6	10.7%	13,907	2.73	14,007	2.71	13,876	2.73	13,818	2.75
Norwood Green	35.7	378.2	9.4%	13,071	2.73	13,211	2.70	13,116	2.72	13,657	2.61
Perivale	39.9	335.9	11.9%	14,251	2.80	14,364	2.78	14,231	2.80	14,178	2.81
South Acton	5.4	170.9	3.2%	14,516	0.37	15,919	0.34	17,039	0.32	18,021	0.30
Southall Broadway	10.3	162.1	6.4%	13,787	0.75	17,102	0.60	20,042	0.51	24,843	0.41
Southall Green	7.5	157.5	4.8%	13,574	0.56	14,345	0.53	14,829	0.51	15,512	0.49
Southfield	9.7	142.4	6.8%	13,122	0.74	13,254	0.73	13,164	0.74	13,100	0.74
Walpole	26.5	146.2	18.1%	13,407	1.98	13,597	1.95	13,559	1.96	13,727	1.93
Total / Ave	634.2	5536.8	11.5%	322,383	1.97	333,822	1.90	339,429	1.87	348,899	1.82

Table 4 Green Space Supply by Ward and Projected Change over Time

4.5 Accessibility

Public Open Space Hierarchy

The London Plan requires that local authorities when assessing local open space needs should identify areas of open space deficiency in the terms of public accessibility based on proximity. Table 5 shows the GLA Public Open Space Categorisation which classifies open space based on size and indicative characteristics and facilities.

Open Space Categorisation	Size guideline	Distances from homes
Regional Parks Large areas, corridors or networks of open space, the majority of which will be publicly accessible and provide a range of facilities and features offering recreational, ecological, landscape, cultural or green infrastructure benefits. Offer a combination of facilities and features that are unique within London, are readily accessible by public transport and are managed to meet best practice quality standards.	400 ha	3.2 to 8 Km
Metropolitan Parks Large areas of open space that provide a similar range of benefits to Regional Parks and offer a combination of facilities at a sub regional level, are readily accessible by public transport and are managed to meet best practice quality standards.	60 hectares	3.2 Km
District Parks Large areas of open space that provide a landscape setting with a variety of natural features providing a wide range of activities, including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups and informal recreation pursuits.	20 hectares	1.2 Km
Local Parks and Open Spaces Providing for court games, children's play, sitting out areas and nature conservation areas.	2 hectares	400 m
Small Open Spaces Gardens, sitting out areas, children's play spaces or other areas of a specialist nature, including nature conservation areas.	Under 2 hectares	Less than 400 m

Open Space Categorisation	Size guideline	Distances from homes
Pocket Parks Small areas of open space that provide natural surfaces and shaded areas for informal play and passive recreation that sometimes have seating and play equipment.	Under 0.4 ha	Less than 400 m
Linear Open Spaces Open spaces and towpaths alongside the Thames, canals and other waterways; paths, disused railways; nature conservation areas; and other routes that provide opportunities for informal recreation. Often characterised by features or attractive areas which are not fully accessible to the public but contribute to the enjoyment of the space.	Variable	Wherever feasible

Table 5 GLA 2011 Public Open Space Categorisation (London Plan 2011)

All Public Open Space in Ealing has been classified against the GLA hierarchy as described in the table above. In a built up borough such as Ealing large areas of open green space are at a premium. Larger spaces, in particular District Parks over 20 hectares, offer a wider range of opportunities for recreation and for wildlife. Within the borough there are areas of green space which lie adjacent to, or very close to others, and collectively may act as a larger parcel of land. Table 6 shows those areas where consolidating these sites achieves the size threshold to move the area into the next level of the hierarchy. There are two spaces where this creates Metropolitan Parks (>60ha) – Horsenden Hill, and Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park. There are six other sites where site consolidation created District Parks.

Consolidated Site	Contributing sites	Size (ha)
Metropolitan Parks		
Horsenden Hill	Horsenden Hill East	28.55
	Horsenden Hill West	47.03
	Horsenden Farm	2.43
	Horsenden Lower Thrifts Field	2.39
	Paradise Fields	10.58
	Total area	90.98
Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park	Northala Fields incl. Medlar	20.81
	Greenford Lagoons	4.39
	Rectory Park	24.21
	Marnham Fields	10.59

Consolidated Site	Contributing sites	Size (ha)
	Smiths Farm	6.42
	Northolt Manor and Belvue Park	6.88
	Total area	73.3
District Parks		
Perivale	Perivale Park incl. Perivale Conservation	21.73
Elthorne	Elthorne Waterside and Extension	21.98
	Elthorne Park	4.09
	Total area	25.83
Brent River Park	Brent Lodge Park	6.73
	Brent Meadow	3.07
	Brent River Paths (including Hanwell Cricket Club)	3.79
	Churchfield Recreation Ground	8.36
	Total area	21.95
Islip Manor Meadows	Islip Manor Meadows	18.62
	Prior's Field	5.28
	Total area	23.9
Walpole Lammas	Lammas Park incl. Lammas Enclosure	11.64
	Walpole Park	12.28
	Total area	23.92
Pitshanger - Cleveland	Pitshanger Park	18.41
	Cleveland Park	4.84
	Total area	23.25

Table 6 Consolidated Sites and revised Hierarchy

Table 7 shows the number of public open spaces in Ealing within each of the levels of the open space hierarchy.

Type	Distances from home to open space	No. of Sites in Ealing	Total Area (Ha)
Regional	8 Km	0	0.0
Metropolitan Parks	3.2 Km	10	156.9
District Parks	1.2 Km	14	137.9
Local Park	400 m	51	280.5
Small Open Space	400 m	41	37.3
Pocket Park	400 m	46	8.9

Table 7 – Ealing Public Open Space Hierarchy based on the London Plan POS Categorisation (2011)

Deficiency Mapping

Using the defined catchments based on distances defined in the London Plan it is possible to map the areas of the borough that have good access to Public Open Space and conversely those areas that are deficient in access to open space. Using digital mapping software it is possible to accurately calculate walking distances along roads and footpaths (ITN road and path network) to the access points for individual open spaces.

Figure 3 shows the deficiency in access to Local and District Parks with a catchment based on 400 metres walking distance. All sites classified as Local and District Parks or higher (including District and Metropolitan Parks) have had a catchment of 400m plotted based on the assumption that these higher level sites also function at the more local level as Local and District Parks. Indeed, many of these larger District and Metropolitan Parks are made up of a number of smaller components which as well as meeting local demand, function together and serve the wider area. Whilst, smaller Pocket Parks and Small Open Spaces are included on the map these have not been factored into the deficiency modelling.

Figure 3 shows that there is wide deficiency across many areas of the borough. The east of the borough, the most urban area, is widely deficient in access to District Parks. This makes the Local Parks in this area particularly important and quality needs to be high, with a range of facilities as these sites will be functioning in lieu of District Park sized spaces. The main Local Parks that need to perform as priority parks are:

- Acton Park
- Southfield Recreation Ground
- North Acton Playing Fields
- Springfield Gardens
- Hanger Hill Park and nearby woods (consolidated this area is on the cusp of district park size although is dissected by the North Circular A406). The importance of this area is also apparent when looking at the area Deficient in Metropolitan sized sites.

There is also a high District Park deficiency across much of Southall in the south west of the borough. This could be assisted by the development opportunity site at Southall Gas Works and by providing better links across the canal to spaces on the west. Again, key Local Parks in this area include:

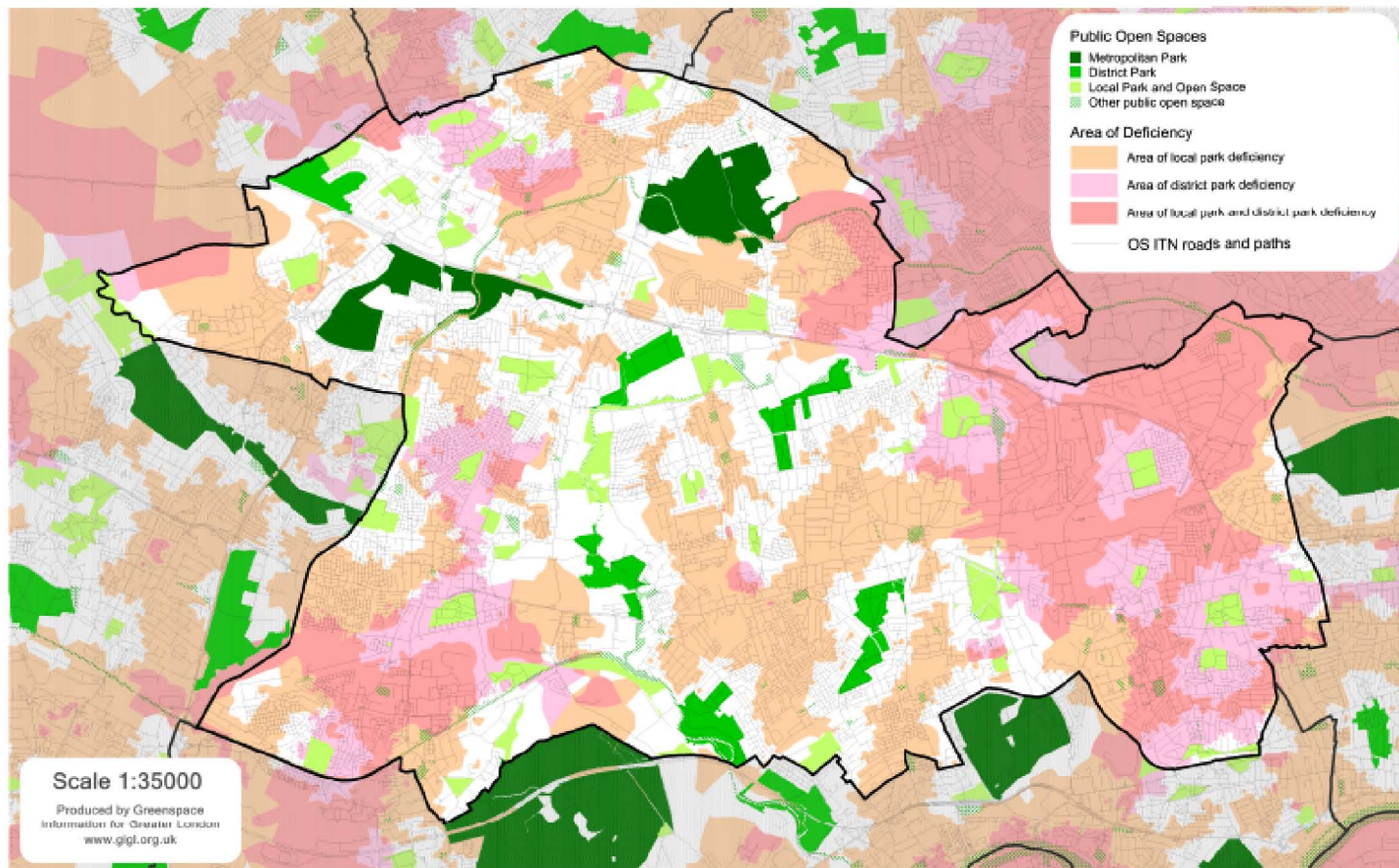
- Spikesbridge Park
- Southall Recreation Ground
- Southall Park
- Manor House Grounds (below Local Park size but an important space)

in an area otherwise deficient in Local and District sites)

There is a Local Park deficiency through the centre of Ealing. This is a densely built area so small sites are crucial. These include; Haven Green, Dean Gardens and Ealing Common to the east.

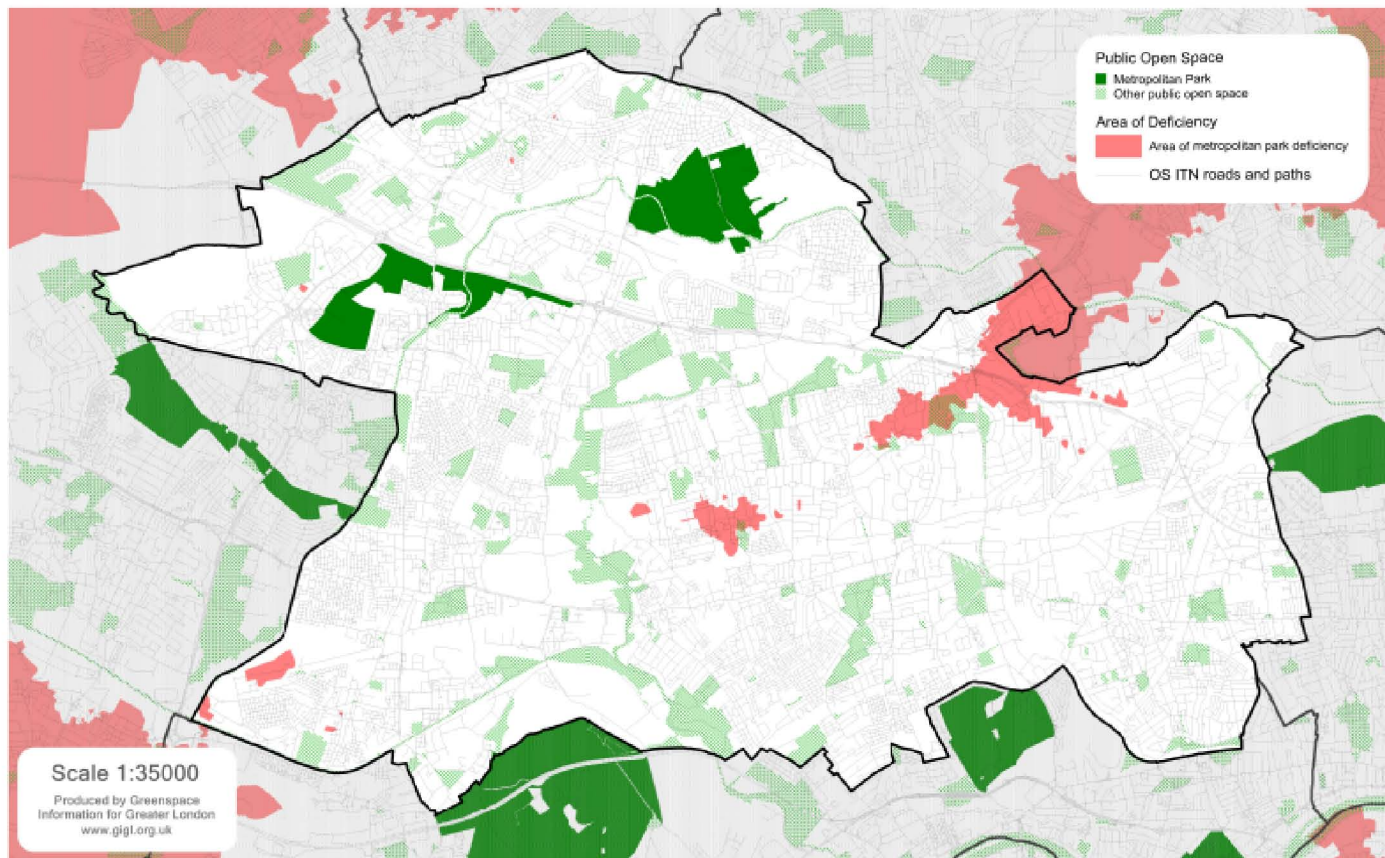
Areas of Deficiency in Access to Local and District Parks

GiGL



Areas of Deficiency in Access to Metropolitan Parks

GiGL



KEY

- PLAY CENTRE PLAYGROUND
- LEISURE AND PARKS PLAYGROUND
- EALING HOMES PLAYGROUND
- LEISURE AND PARKS - 'NATURAL PLAY' SITES
- MULTI USE GAMES AREA IN PARK
- HALF SIZE BALL COURT OR GOAL END IN PARK
- BMX TRACK
- ▲ OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT
- SKATEBOARDING FACILITIES

NB LOCATION OF BALL COURTS IN EALING HOMES SITES NOT KNOWN

PLAYGROUND AND BALL COURT LOCATIONS IN EALING BOROUGH, JULY 2011.

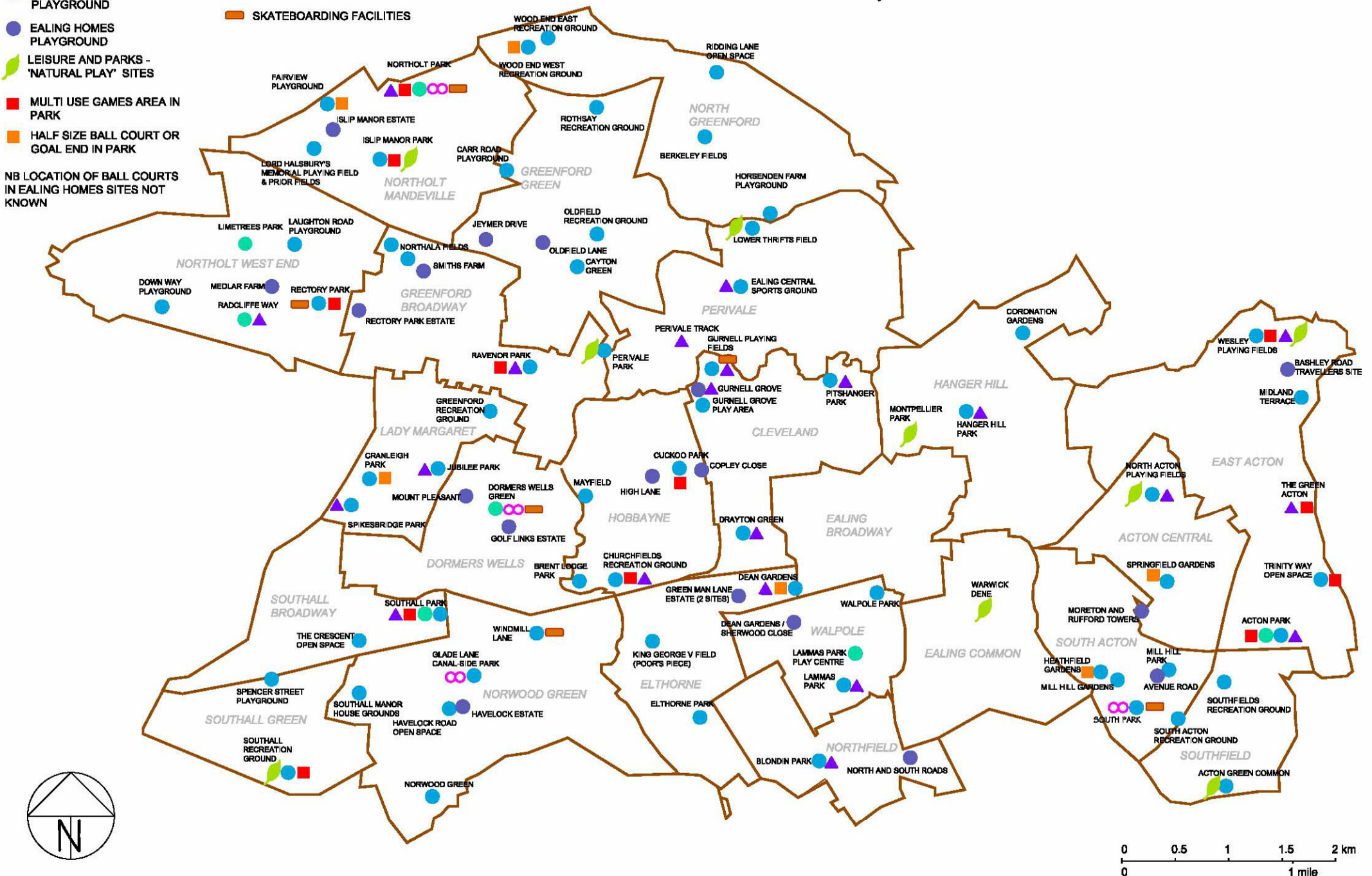


Figure 4 shows the deficiency in access to Metropolitan Parks based on a catchment of 1.2 kilometres. Whilst the smaller parks further down the hierarchy are also mapped in this instance these do not factor in the actual deficiency modelling itself.

The deficiency in access to Metropolitan Parks is much less than the deficiency in access to Local and District level parks. The main areas of deficiency are located in north east Ealing (extending into the adjacent London Borough of Brent where deficiencies in access to Metropolitan Parks is much greater); a smaller area in Hanwell; and two small areas of deficiency in south-western Southall.

Play Provision

There are currently 77 play areas in parks, 31 multi-use games areas and 14 fitness areas. These are shown on Figure 5 along with other playground and ball court provision.

Overall there is a high level of provision distributed across the borough on different types of land holdings. There is a lower density of play opportunities through the central and eastern parts of the borough, in particular in the wards of Ealing Common, Ealing Broadway and Hanger Hill and the western side of East Acton. This corresponds with the lack of other public open spaces in these areas. There is a notable gap in the provision of multi-use games areas (MUGA's) and play opportunities for older children in the Hanger Hill area.

In terms of quality, play provision in parks is of a high standard. Play facilities in parks were identified in the previous strategy as being one of the most important elements and yet they were not in good condition. Consequently 10 years of investment has been targeted at play facilities bolstered by the Playbuilder scheme in 2009/2010. Future work will now seek to sustain this investment with maintenance and incidental refurbishment such as painting, refurbishment of ground surfaces, replacement of incidental pieces of equipment as and when finance allows.

Accessible Natural Green Space

Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) provides a set of benchmarks for ensuring access to places near to where people live. These standards recommend that people living in towns and cities should have:

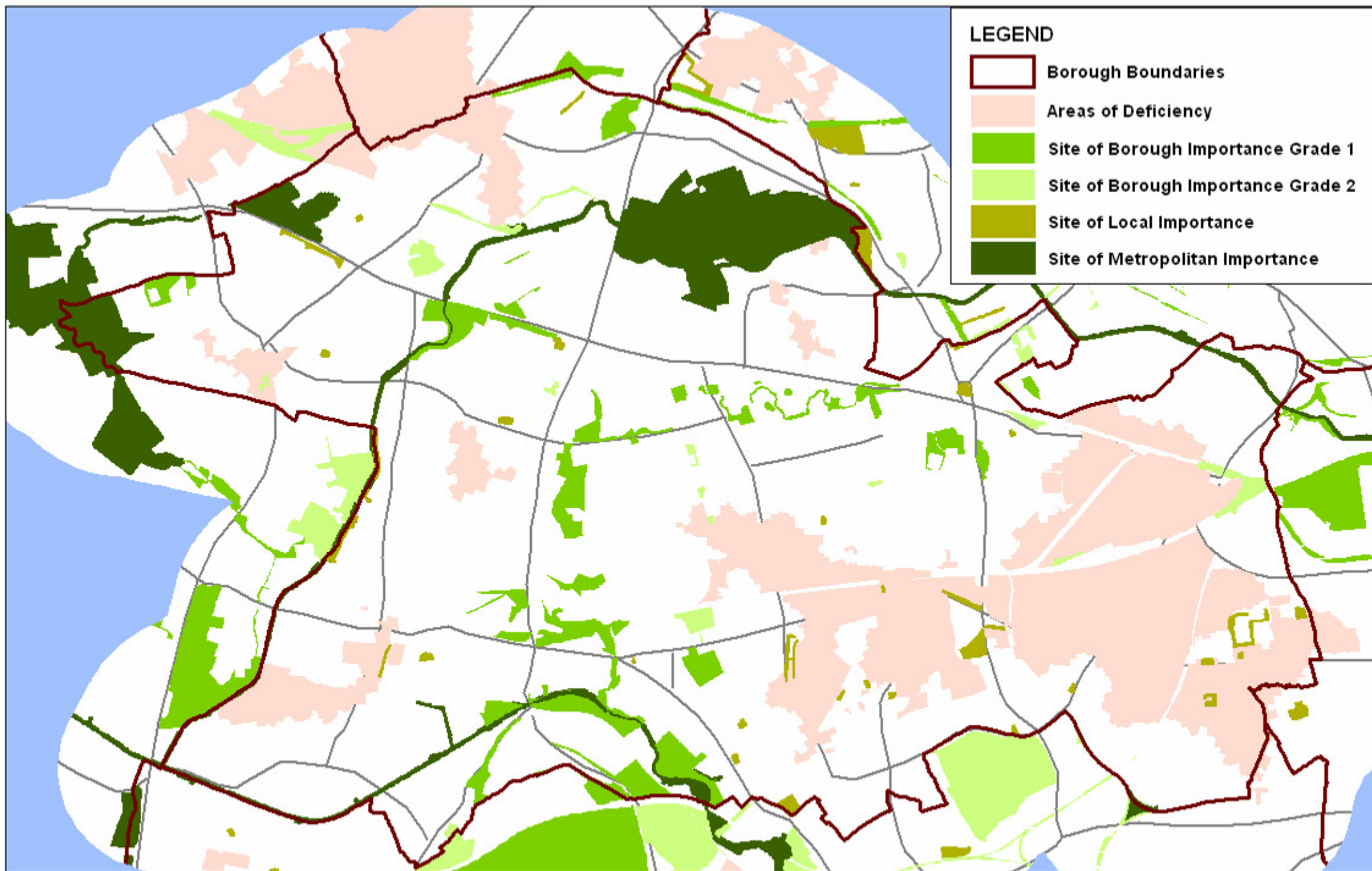
- An accessible natural green space of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home
- At least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home
- One accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home
- One accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home

- One hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

Natural England acknowledges that in some areas, this will be hard to achieve in the short term, but recommends that these standards should form long-term aims for all local authorities and be included within their Green Space Strategies.

Currently, there are 10 Local Nature Reserves either entirely within Ealing or bordering the Borough which amount to 56.5 hectares. This equates to 0.18 hectares per 1000 population which is considerably below the quantitative component of ANGSt. A further 266 hectares of green space would need to be designated as Local Nature Reserve to achieve the recommended standard.

Figure 6 shows the areas of deficiency in terms of access to nature. The main areas of deficiency lie not surprisingly in the more developed east of the borough particularly Acton, Ealing and parts of Hanwell. There are further deficiencies in Southall and southern Greenford.



4.6 Sport

The draft Ealing Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy has undertaken a detailed study into the current and future demand for sports and active recreation in the borough. The assessment was undertaken with reference to PPG17, the National Playing Fields Association guidance and the Sport England Playing Pitch methodology. The main implications for outdoor sports to arise from population growth figures are as follows:

- The total population is anticipated to increase by 8.1%, but the active population (defined as 6 to 55 years) by only 3.8%, reflecting an ageing population. The non-active population over 55 increases by 23%, those under 6 by 12%.
- The active population as a proportion of the total in 2006 is 73%, but down to 70% in 2021.
- There are absolute increases in the population mainly affecting junior sports, ranging from 4-6% for junior boys to 18% for junior girls and 15-16% for mini sports.
- There are absolute declines in numbers of both men and women from 16-45, (affecting adult football, rugby, etc).
- It is not simply a matter therefore of increasing demand for sports pitches in accordance with the overall increase in population, it is understanding which sections of the population will expand and which will reduce in the future.
- The draft strategy identified that the biggest growth in demand for outdoor sports would be for junior pitches, both football and cricket.
- Local demand for outdoor sports and recreational use of parks and open spaces is already high. General conclusions that can be made by the council service providers are:
- The council meets demand for sports pitches at present in terms of quantity but not always in terms of quality. This is usually in relation to ancillary facilities, i.e. pavilions and changing space, car parking, floodlighting.
- Some grass pitches are widely affected by over-use and a surplus of pitches would allow a higher quality to be obtained through rotational use.
- School use of parks pitches is not always formalised or funded. The casual use of parks and open spaces by schools is not formally monitored but it is likely to be significant. Teachers bring children into parks for games such as rounders, impromptu athletics training and the like. Further research is required to determine demand and needs for these users.
- Informal fitness activities such as running, walking, yoga, martial arts and many others are not measured and further research would be beneficial. Recent installations of outdoor gym equipment has

proved very popular and shows that parks can make a significant contribution to public fitness through non organised activity.

Football

- The number of teams playing football is predicted to increase from 254 to 314 by 2021.
- 105 pitches are currently provided and a further 25 pitches will need to be provided to meet predicted demand.
- This demand can be met by bringing currently unused pitches back into use.
- Pitches are likely to need to be reconfigured to meet the increase in demand for junior football.
- Existing resources should be targeted at improving the changing rooms and ancillary facilities at multi sport multi pitch sites to comply with league standards, particularly Warren Farm Sports Ground and Perivale Park.

Cricket

- There are currently 36 pitches provided which is sufficient to meet future demand in 2021. (Predicted surplus of 2 pitches).
- To improve the quality of the playing surfaces and the ancillary facilities at Council owned sites, resources should be focused on multi pitch sites such as Rectory Park, Perivale Park and Warren Farm

Rugby

- As the result of extensive junior development rugby participation has grown significantly since 2007 with the number of teams trebling.
- If this growth continues by 2017 there would be a shortage of pitches.

Tennis

- 39 sites across the borough provides 209 tennis courts.
- Council owned free access tennis courts are of varying quality, however a recent refurbishment programme has resulted in improved playing surfaces and fencing around the majority of courts.
- There is no comprehensive data about tennis court use but they are popular during the summer months and schools holidays.
- Free access tennis courts will remain in public parks, with the Council working with other providers to generate more use, especially outside these busy periods.

Golf

- Ealing has 30% more standard golf holes than the London average so there is currently sufficient supply to meet the demand and is potentially oversupplied in some areas of the borough.
- It is unlikely that additional golf courses are required or are feasible in Ealing up to 2021, even in the light of population and participation increases.

Bowls

- Participation in bowls is decreasing with clubs folding with bowls greens being decommissioned.
- Higher quality facilities, often operated privately seem to be maintaining membership levels.
- The estimated increase in the over 55 population of 23% by 2021, the traditional audience for bowls and the aspiration to maintain activity levels is a strong reason to maintain the current level of bowls green provision.

Artificial Grass Pitches

- There is a need for more Artificial Grass Pitches in Ealing, particularly those with a surface suitable for playing football (3 or 4G)
- Compared to other London Boroughs, Ealing is ranked just 23rd out of 32 based on the supply of pitches per 1000 population.

Ancillary Facilities

- Floodlighting - is useful to support some community use of sports pitches and allows the period of use to be extended. However, floodlighting impacts upon the natural environment and applications for the provision and use of floodlighting will be through the planning system.
- On-site car parking – can be essential for sport facilities and can reduce the impact upon neighbouring residential areas. However, car parking is subject to the planning process. There is an assumption of no net loss of green space.
- Pavilions – are an essential facility to support sporting use and the authority has invested in upgraded and new facilities at multi-pitch sites. The scale and location of new pavilions is subject to the planning process.

4.6 Local Standards

Public Open Space

The current quantity of Public Open Space Provision and its accessibility varies significantly across the borough. Some areas particularly the more urban eastern parts have lower levels of provision and experience poor levels of accessibility to Local and District Level Parks. Given these finding it is recommended that Local Standards for Public Open Space bare based on:

The policy of no net loss of open space thus defines Ealing Public Open space provision standard at its existing level of 1.97 ha per 1,000 head population but decreasing to 1.82 ha per 1,000 head of population between 2012 and 2026.

This strategy supports and promotes any creation of new Public Open Space especially where strategic level development opportunities arise. Consideration will be given to providing better access to Community Open Space where feasible to address deficiencies in existing provision.

The local provision standard applied to developments is to be guided by emerging standards in the Development Management Development Plan Document (DPD) and the forthcoming CIL/S106 Supplementary Planning Document.

Local policy 7D of the emerging Development Management DPD will consolidate a range of provision standards required or triggered by new development. It is expected to include:

- i. Confirmation of the green space / Public Open Space provision requirement, to be applied in the case of large strategic applications (i.e. for sites capable of accommodating 500 dwellings plus)
- ii. Amenity/garden space provision for all new residential schemes including conversions,
- iii. Child play space,
- iv. Active recreation/sports provision, to be applied in the case of large strategic applications,
- v. Burial space, again to be applied in the case of large strategic applications,
- vi. Allotment space provision, triggered by strategic applications.
- vii. This policy will also provide guidance on how standards should be adjusted in order to reflect deficiency, and in which cases it will be acceptable to accept off-site provision or contributions to improve the quality of existing (including investing in adjoining open space), should it not be possible to achieve standards on site, or to make quantitative

provision off-site.

Local Provision Standards for Outdoor Sport

Table 8 details the provision standards for outdoor sports facilities (both pitch and non-pitch) across Ealing. Detailed calculations can be found in the relevant study databases. Ealing has been divided into analysis areas. These have been adopted to create a more localised assessment of provision and for examination of open space/facility surplus and deficiencies at a local level. The use of analysis areas allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account.

			Analysis areas						
Typology	Standard	BOROUGH	Acton	Ealing	Greenford	Hanwell	Northolt	Perivale	Southall
Outdoor sports facilities	Quantity	0.85	0.63	0.50	1.09	0.41	1.01	1.57	1.12
	Access	Teams to have access to appropriate site at relevant time							

Table 8 Local provision standards (ha per 1,000 population)

The standards set are locally derived standards and are therefore reflective of local circumstance including current provision and demand. Although some standards may seem particularly high, this is because the starting point (i.e. the current provision) is higher than other areas. It is also recognised that analysis of area boundaries do not inhibit residents usage of open spaces. Analysis of areas that appear to have particularly low standards are such because large sites probably fall just outside the analysis area boundary but still service people from within that area. Therefore, it is not always useful to compare one area with another area, but accept and work towards the standards as locally derived standards.

4.7 Quality

Approach

The 2010 green space audit was undertaken by independent consultants commissioned by the London Borough of Ealing. The aims of the audit were specified as:

- To assess the function, condition and appropriateness of each POS;
- To identify priorities for capital investment;
- To assess performance against Green Flag criteria.

A quality audit was carried out as part of this green space audit. A higher level, more detailed audit of all Metropolitan and District parks and key 'strategic' parks (termed Priority Parks) was undertaken along with a simplified condition audit of most remaining local, small open spaces (standard sites).

The audit of the priority sites was based on the scoring system for the Green Flag Award scheme. For a park to qualify for a Green Flag Award, it must score over 65% (roughly analogous to a score of 6.5 in the Ealing audit). While any space might be considered for a Green Flag, in reality, only the best, larger parks will be likely to have sufficient quality and variety of provision to be successful.

Findings

A total of 26 priority parks and 108 standard sites were audited using pro-forma audit forms and the main findings are summarised below:

- The 26 priority sites scored between 45.6 and 73.5;
- The priority sites average a score of 59.7;
- The highest scoring sites were Acton Park, Horsenden Hill East, Northala Fields, Medlar Park and Horsenden Hill East;
- The lowest scoring sites were Southall Recreation Ground, Cuckoo Park and Spikesbridge Park.

Table 9 shows the overall scores for all 26 Priority parks.

SITE NAME	WARD	TOTAL SCORE (out of 100)
Acton Park	East Acton	73.5
Horsenden Hill East	North Greenford	73.3
Northala Fields	Greenford Broadway and Northolt West End	71.2
Medlar Park	Northolt West End	68.7
Horsenden Hill West	North Greenford	67.6
Brent Lodge Park	Hobbayne	66.3
Ravenor Park	Greenford Broadway	66.1
Elthorne Park	Elthorne	63.9
North Acton Playing Fields	Acton Central	61.1
Rectory Park	Northolt West End	60.0
Average		59.7
Pitshanger Park	Cleveland	59.5
Churchfield Recreation Ground	Hobbayne	59.0
Southall Park	Southall Broadway	58.0
Blondin Park	Northfields	57.2
Lime Tree Park	Northolt West End	57.2
Elthorne Waterside and Extension	Elthorne	56.7
Islip Manor Park	Northolt Mandeville	56.5
Walpole Park	Walpole	56.5

SITE NAME	WARD	TOTAL SCORE (out of 100)
Hanger Hill Park incl. Golf Course	Hanger Hill	55.8
Lammas Park incl. Lammas Enclosure	Walpole	55.8
Southfields Recreation Ground	Southfield	55.3
Ealing Central Sports Ground	Perivale	54.7
Perivale Park incl. Perivale Conservation	Perivale	53.2
Southall Recreation Ground	Southall Green	52.8
Cuckoo Park	Hobayne	45.9
Spikes Bridge Park	Lady Margaret	45.6

Table 9 Priority Sites Condition Score

- Other sites (108) scored between 30.8 and 77.3
- Other sites averaged a score of 57.8
- The highest scoring sites were Haven Green (77.3), Glade Lane Canalside Park (73.6) Springfield Gardens (72.0), Hanger Hill Wood (71.8) and Bridge Farm Open Space / Marnham Fields / Smith's Farm Open Space (71.4)
- The lowest scoring other sites were Rothesay Recreation Ground (41.5), Pryor's Field (41.4), Woodend Wireless Station OS (39.2), Rosewood Open Space (34.0) and Islip Manor Meadows (30.8)

Average Condition Score by Ward

Table 10 shows the average condition score by Ward. Overall, there is considerable variation in the average quality of Public Open Space across the borough, ranging from 52.4 to 77.3 with a mean average of 58.2 for all spaces. It should be noted that some wards contain small numbers of spaces so caution should be used when carrying out direct comparisons between one or more wards.

Ward	No. of sites	Average Condition Score
Ealing Broadway	1	77.3
Greenford Broadway	3	66.9
Dormers Wells	4	61.8
Walpole	4	61.8
Southfield	2	61.4
East Acton	7	61.0
Hobayne	8	60.4
North Greenford	7	60.3
Northolt West End	7	59.8

Ward	No. of sites	Average Condition Score
Elthorne	5	59.6
Acton Central	6	59.5
Hanger Hill	7	59.2
Norwood Green	12	58.7
Northfields	5	58.6
Total / Average	134	58.2
Greenford Green	9	58.0
Southall Broadway	1	58.0
Ealing Common	5	57.0
Cleveland	7	56.4
Southall Green	3	56.2
Perivale	6	55.7
South Acton	8	53.6
Lady Margaret	6	52.6
Northolt Mandeville	11	52.4

Table 10 Average Condition Score by Ward

Scores for both types of sites were combined to make an assessment of overall quality and to highlight trends spatially. Overall the big sites were in better condition than the small sites in Acton and Northolt, Greenford and Perivale and the exact opposite was true in Ealing and Hanwell and Southall areas

- The area that generally received the lowest combined scores was Southall
- The area that generally received the highest combined scores was Acton

Average Condition Score By Criteria

Analysis by criteria can be carried out to provide comparative data on site facilities and various aspects of management and maintenance. The findings are shown in Table 11 below.

Priority Parks		Standard Sites		Average across park types
	Condition / Quality		Condition / Quality	
Entrances	62.3	Entrances	56.4	59.4
Boundaries	64.2	Boundaries	63.6	63.9
Direction Signage	29.2	Signage	47.9	38.5
Interpretation Signage	51.5			51.5
Paths and Hard Surfacing	61.2	Paths and Hard Surfacing	59.9	60.5
Good and Safe Access	68.5	Good and Safe Access	63.1	65.8

Priority Parks		Standard Sites		
Equal Access for All	62.3	Equal Access for All	55.9	59.1
Personal Security	63.1	Personal Security	61.2	62.1
Dog Fouling	69.6	Dog Fouling	65.9	67.7
Other Facilities	55.3	Other Equipment and Facilities	45.0	50.2
Litter and Waste	66.9	Litter and Waste	60.6	63.7
Grounds Maintenance	57.7	Grounds Maintenance	56.7	57.2
Furniture	63.5	Furniture	50.0	56.7
Play Areas	75.4	Play Areas	66.5	71.0
Buildings and Structures	48.3			48.3
Sports Facilities	67.3	Sports Facilities	53.8	60.6
Site Practices	53.8			53.8
Horticultural Interest	48.6	Horticultural Interest	50.8	49.7
Biodiversity Interest	58.1	Conservation - Natural	56.7	57.4
Heritage Landscape	70.0	Conservation - Heritage	66.9	68.4
Heritage Buildings and Structures	61.7			61.7

Table 11 Site quality audit criteria results for priority parks and standard sites and then combined

In summary:

- Play Areas (average 71% and 75.4% in priority parks)
- Good and safe access
- Dog Fouling control
- Litter collection was noted in priority parks scored above 65% and the standard sites were not very much lower.
- Heritage landscape.

The elements of the parks quality audit that scored below 50%:

- Parks signage / directional signage.
- Buildings were one of the lowest scoring elements at 48.3%. This was only scored for priority sites because this is where they generally occur with some minor exceptions which were picked up under 'other facilities and equipment' in the standard sites.
- Horticultural interest is poor

Future Investment

The Green Space Strategy recommends that future capital investment should be focused on green spaces that meet the following criteria:

- Green Spaces that are located in areas of deficiency Local and District Parks or Metropolitan Parks since these sites will typically face

greater visitor pressure or play a more significant role where there is less other open space in the area;

- Green Spaces that lie in wards with relatively low levels of Public Open Space provision (measured as hectares per 1,000 population);
- Green spaces that lie in wards with low average quality (as measured through the green space audit);
- Green spaces that are currently of lower quality should be a high priority than those of a high quality standard
- Sites below 1 hectare in size should typically be excluded unless local circumstances over ride this factor.

Based on this analysis the focus for future investment, in order to raise green space quality and mitigate against green space deficiency, is set out in Table 12 below.

NB : Against these criteria Southall Recreation Ground is shown as a key site in need of investment. The recreation ground has received significant investment since the quality assessment was undertaken as part of a wider regeneration programme for Southall town centre. Consequently the focus for the future will be to maintain and sustain this investment rather than further capital expenditure on the site.

NAME	Area of Deficiency	Quantity (Priority Ward)	Quality (Priority Ward)	Priority for Investment	Condition Score 2010	Rank
Bollo Brook Open Space	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	41.5	1
South Park and Bollo Bridge Road Green Spaces	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	48	2
Southall Recreation Ground	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	52.8	3
Twyford Crescent Gardens	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	56.2	4
Heathfield Gardens	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	58	5
Southall Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	58	6
South Acton Recreation Ground	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	59.3	7
The Woodlands Recreation Ground	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	61.4	8
Oldfield Recreation Ground	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	63.3	9
Lilac Gardens Green/Village Park Recreation Ground	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	51.1	10
Southfields Recreation Ground	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	55.3	11
Hanger Hill Park	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	55.8	12
Mount Pleasant Leisure Gardens	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	60	13
North Acton Playing Fields	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	61.1	14
Fox Wood Local Nature Reserve	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	61.5	15
Trinity Way Open Space	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	64	16
Spikes Bridge Park	No	Yes	Yes	Lower	45.6	17
Greenford Birch Wood (Northolt & Greenford Countryside Park)	No	Yes	Yes	Lower	45.8	18
Greenford Recreation Ground	No	Yes	Yes	Lower	48	19
Cayton Green Park	No	Yes	Yes	Lower	59.2	20
Greenford Lagoons (Northolt and Greenford Country Park)	No	Yes	Yes	Lower	60	21
King George's Playing Field	No	Yes	Yes	Lower	60.6	22

NAME	Area of Deficiency	Quantity (Priority Ward)	Quality (Priority Ward)	Priority for Investment	Condition Score 2010	Rank
Paradise Fields (Horsenden Hill)	No	Yes	Yes	Lower	63.3	23
The Crescent Open Space	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	-	
Chatsworth Wood	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	-	
Hanger Hill Crest Open Space	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	-	
Popefield Playing Fields	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	-	
East Action Village Green	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	-	
Haven Green	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	77.3	
Acton Park	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	73.5	
Springfield Gardens	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	72	
Carr Road Playground & Ken Acock Centre	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	69.2	
Wesley Playing fields	Yes	Yes	No	Medium	68.7	
Jubilee Park (Ealing)	Yes	Yes	Yes	High	66	

Table 12 Future Investment

Green Flag Award

The council will also continue to invest in the most significant spaces in the Borough that are of the highest quality, that can achieve the Green Flag Award. The authority has an ambition to achieve 10 Green Flag Award winning spaces. A review of the highest performing spaces across the Borough, taking into account distribution to allow a good geographical spread, would suggest the following sites are potential choices.

- Acton Cemetery
- Acton Green Common
- Acton Park
- Bittern's & May Fields (Brent Lodge Park)
- Brent Meadow (Brent Lodge Park)
- Chatsworth Wood
- Churchfields Recreation Ground (Brent Lodge Park)
- Dormer's Wells Moated Manor
- Glade Lane and Canalside Park
- Haven Green
- Horsenden Hill
- Jubilee Park (Ealing)
- Marnham Fields (Northolt and Greenford Country Park)
- Medlar Park
- Montpelier Park
- Northala Fields (Northolt and Greenford Country Park)
- Northolt Manor & Belvue Park
- Pitshanger Park
- Ravenor Park
- Springfield Gardens

- Southall Park

These sites should be considered as part of a wider strategic review which considers their suitability and potential performance against all the Award criteria which include environmental management, community involvement and marketing and promotion.

5. Consultation and Community Needs

5.1 Current Use of Green Space

Visitor numbers

The Green Spaces in Ealing are valued and well used by residents and visitors. From consultation we understand the most visited parks to be Walpole Park, Ealing Common, Lammas Park, Southall Park and Acton Park partly due to their proximity to town centres. Other data suggests that green space use is strongly influenced by where residents live.

Based on responses to the Residents Panel and other market research we estimate that there are 18 million person visits per year to Ealing's parks and green spaces. Many visitors typically use parks and green space on a weekly basis or more frequently. In 2010, 6% of park users visit daily and a further 41% use a park at least once a week.

Reasons for Use

Table 13 below shows the most frequent reasons for visiting parks and green spaces based on survey data over three years from 2008.

Reason	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)
For fresh air	46	54	57
For exercise	34	37	43
To take the children out	30	28	32
To enjoy the surroundings	17	19	19
To take the children to the playground	17	13	16
To walk the dog	7	8	10
Pass through them on the way to somewhere else	8	10	7
To socialise with friends e.g. picnic	7	8	6
To play sport (e.g. football, cricket etc) informally	10	8	6
To visit Ealing festivals in the park	3	5	3
To visit other community events (except Ealing festival) eg funfairs/markets	2	2	2
To use sports facilities (e.g. a tennis court or football pitch) ⁹	-	-	2
To visit the parks permanent attractions (animal centres)	1	1	1

⁹

New code added 2010

Reason	2008 (%)	2009 (%)	2010 (%)
To see wildlife	1	1	*
Other	3	2	2

Table 13 Most Common Reasons for Use of Ealing's Green Space

Satisfaction levels

Overall levels of satisfaction with parks and green spaces in the Borough is high when compared against national data. The Resident Panel showed 74%, of all respondents were satisfied overall with the parks in Ealing and this has been consistent for three years. (For park users this increased to 77% in 2009.)

GreenSTAT 86% fair or better. (71% good or very good) benchmarked against a national average of 77% good or very good

Independent market research based on a sample of 12,000 residents between 2003 and 2005 found that 71% of residents considered that the park or open space that they visited most frequently provided them with what they wanted.

Barriers

Around 80% of visits to the parks and open spaces are made on foot. Significant obstacles such as main roads and railways can make a significant difference to the ability of neighbourhoods to access space that is local to their dwellings.

Survey data indicates that a significant minority, some 18% of the borough's residents do not currently use parks or open spaces, whilst others restrict their use in some way. Just 8% of people feel that the parks and open spaces are unsafe or very unsafe.

It is a service and strategic aim to improve physical access and to remove or address the barriers to usage.

5.2 Consultation

There is considerable consultation and market research data to draw upon when considering residents views about green space in Ealing. This data has been gathered over many years and has been used to inform investment decisions and service planning. The consultation findings have also been used to inform the development of this strategy. Key findings from recent consultations are discussed below:

Resident Panel

The Resident Panel comprises 3000 residents across the Borough and the panel represents the broad demographic profile of the Borough. An even geographical distribution has been sought with a minimum of 130 panel members from each

of the Borough's 23 wards to allow analysis at a more localised level.

The Residents Panel provides feedback on a range of Council services and issues and there have been a number of questions about green spaces that have been asked for the past three years. Interviews are carried out face-to-face and in the context of green spaces provides the opportunity to gain the views of park users and non users.

The headline findings from the 2009 Residents Survey include:

- 58% of respondents stated that they had visited one of the main parks in Ealing in the last 12 months and 34% had not;
- The parks most commonly used parks by Ealing residents are Walpole Park (18%) and Lammas Park (12%);
- The parks used are strongly influenced by where residents live;
- Among all current park users the most common reasons given for using Ealing parks are for fresh air (54%), for exercise (37%) and to take the children out (28%);
- Fresh air was the most common reason given by all age groups.

Whilst the Residents Panel survey only gained the views of adults, 24% of those surveyed (in 2010) used playgrounds in Ealing and 64% of those questioned stated that they had children. The 77 play areas in parks appear to be much-visited attractions and for many their availability is a key reason for using parks.

GreenSTAT

GreenSTAT is a standardised survey method developed and run by the national environmental charity GreenSpace. It allows participating organisations to use two survey methods to gain data on authority wide service delivery as well as site specific data. Surveys are completed either online or face-to-face with the data being collated via a national database. Each participating authority can produce reports which shows the data benchmarked against the national dataset. Participation in GreenSTAT has included all 32 London Boroughs and many other local authorities nationally.

The London Borough of Ealing has been using GreenSTAT since 2009. Responses in this initial year were low and in 2010 the authority embarked upon an extensive marketing campaign and used the GreenSTAT surveys to carry out face-to-face interviews in parks and green spaces. A total of 581 responses were gained in 2010 which provides a large sample of views of residents. It should be noted that the level of response from across the borough was not uniform. Nearly half of all responses came from residents in Ealing (46%), a quarter from Acton (25%) and much lower responses from Northolt, Greenford and Perivale (15%) and Southall (9%).

Key findings:

Overall satisfaction rating was 86% fair or better (exceeding the national satisfaction rating of 77%).

92% of those consulted considered that they felt safe in parks.

Factors that would make people feel safer in parks and open spaces were:

- More people using the park
- Identified Park-keepers / visible maintenance staff
- More openness (sight lines)
- Vandalism and graffiti was considered to be a fairly big / big problem by 9% of respondents.

Independent Market Research

ISPAL also endorses a national methodology for market research on parks that has been developed by the KMC Consultancy. This also provides a standardised approach for local authorities, to obtain a range of customer views in relation to the provision of parks and open spaces. Ealing Council used this system between 2003 and 2005. Approximately 12,000 residents were consulted over three consecutive years by random mailing to identify what customers thought of their parks and open spaces with a view to improving the facilities.

- 78% used an Ealing borough park
- 33% of users are from an ethnic minority background
- There was an improvement in satisfaction levels for three years running
- The most popular sites were Walpole Park, Pitshanger Park, Lammas Park and Acton Park
- 58% of users are female and only 4% stated that they felt very unsafe.
- The total number of visits made by residents amounts to about 20 million per year
- Most people expressed a preference for visiting parks and open spaces after 1pm,
- The key reasons for using the parks and open spaces was for relaxation, to exercise or taking children to play

Young People

The London Borough of Ealing created a £1 million Youth Fund in 2008/09 to significantly improve youth facilities across the borough, many of which are located in parks.

To inform the programme, widespread consultation was undertaken with young people. A total of 18,000 questionnaires were sent to young people (aged 11-16) across the borough to identify their views. There was a very high return rate for the survey at 35% from 6,433 young people. This process was also supplemented with 12 focus groups with young people through schools and youth groups. The views and priorities of young people with disabilities and special needs were also actively sought. The gender and ethnicity of respondents was broadly representative of the demographic make-up of the borough.

Key findings:

- Just over half of young people in Ealing borough would like to see improvements in the facilities available to them within their local area (52%). Throughout Ealing, the parks were the most favoured places for improvement
- 6 out of 12 of the most desired youth facilities related to green spaces included football (47%), outdoor sports areas (47%) , multi-use games areas (35%), basketball (31%), cycling (28%) and skate parks (26%).
- 48% of young people wanted to see new facilities in their local area.
- young males expressed a preference for competitive sports such as football tournaments and contact sports whereas young females showed a preference for dance and music.
- Provision of a skate park was popular, particularly with focus groups in Northolt, Hanwell and Ealing. In addition there has been a strong local campaign, led by young people to develop a quality skate park facility within the borough.

5.3 Consultation on the Strategy

The draft 2012-2022 Green Space Strategy was subject to public consultation during 2011 when it was made available on the Council's website and a range of community, voluntary, statutory and stakeholder organisations and residents were invited to comment. The strategy has been subsequently revised and updated based on the comments received through this process. The strategy will continue to be monitored and future delivery will take into account further feedback.

6. Our Priorities

This section sets out the strategic vision and policy recommendation for open space provision arising from the needs assessment and open space audits. These provide a clear framework for open space provision and improvement

The Council and its partners have a commitment to improving the quality of life indicators for borough residents, as outlined through the Sustainable Community Strategy. The aim of the Green Space Strategy is to deliver benefits to local people and based on the findings of the strategy the following key principals have been identified:

6.1 Overarching Outcomes

The Green Space Strategy has the following overarching outcomes:

- To improve the overall quality of current provision of open spaces within the borough by having no poor quality sites as defined in the quality assessment overall scoring;
- To create wherever possible new publicly accessible open space in areas identified as deficient in open space through effective use of planning powers and obligations;
- To improve accessibility to existing and new open spaces through effective use of transport links, creation of green chains, new entrance points and opening up of suitable restricted access open spaces;
- To prioritise public safety in parks through designing out crime introducing CCTV where feasible and working collaboratively with partners, contractors and residents;
- To maximise external funding opportunities arising from planning obligations benefits, lottery applications, partnership funding and any other opportunistic funding that supports the strategic aims and action plan.

6.2 Vision

The Council's vision for Ealing boroughs green spaces is:

"To ensure that every area of the borough of Ealing has green and open spaces of good quality for all current and future generations to use and enjoy".

6.3 Findings & Analysis

Resident Satisfaction

Main satisfaction results:

- 71% of residents considered that the park or open space that they visited most frequently provided them with what they wanted. They identified the things they were most satisfied with as:
- Ease of getting around (88% good or better)
- Design or appearance of the open space (71% good or better)
- Play facilities (66% good or better)
- Standards of maintenance (67% good or better)

In contrast the major reasons for dissatisfaction were:

- Too few facilities (17% poor or worse)
- Sports facilities (21% poor or worse)

The following additional facilities that residents stated they would like to see in parks were:

- Toilets and baby changing facilities
- Drinking fountains
- Skateboarding / biking areas
- Formal gardens

Residents' top three preferred improvements to their existing parks were:

- Control dogs
- Improve seating
- Improve the range of facilities

Buildings and Facilities

The quality audit found that buildings in parks are generally in poor condition and the cost of maintenance is extremely high. The Council has been dealing with this in a variety of ways including: demolishing buildings beyond practical use and renovation; and standardising leases and new letting wherever possible to private service suppliers or community uses with full repairing conditions. The buildings still under direct council control are variable in condition and there needs to be a planning approach to their future management including the feasibility of generating income and reducing running costs.

Work should continue to engage income streams from these assets. Work is needed to better understand utilities costs and seek ways of reducing this risk.

Grounds Maintenance Quality

Litter has a dramatic influence on visitor's enjoyment of green spaces, consequently it was decided to score litter separately from the overall function of grounds maintenance through the green space audit. It should be noted that the collection of litter and waste in priority parks scored above 65% and the standard sites were not very much lower. This is a good indication that in a snapshot taken over several months that litter generally was well managed.

The grounds maintenance of parks in Ealing has scored reasonably well. No particular issues arose and no further analysis was necessary due to a change of contract beginning in 2012.

Refurbishment of shrub beds has been increasingly less funded through maintenance and occurs more through capital works. Consequently, many shrub areas in parks have lost variety and stocking. With revenue funding coming under increasing pressure, luxury items such as bedding displays have been reduced in some sites over time. The need to improve horticultural displays needs to be planned in a sustainable manner.

Standardised Site Furniture

Standardisation assists with maintenance and improves the design element of public space. It encourages a look of organisation and reduces the look of clutter. The standards that Ealing chose arose from the Park Strategy in 2003. The design was chosen for its high visual amenity and robust nature and ease of refurbishment although each item does have a relatively high up-front cost.

Over 10 years a large proportion of the borough's park furniture has been replaced to this standard. The priority parks have been highlighted for this programme and ward forum funding has been instrumental in delivery. The overall impact of this standardisation is beginning to reach critical mass and the benefits are starting to be realised. This process will be continued to be rolled

out as and when resources are available.

The Green Space Strategy recommends that design guidance is developed to further support the standardisation that has occurred and to allow the future implementation of this. Design guidance should cover site furniture and signage as discussed further below along with other parks infrastructure to provide a comprehensive suite of standards.

Signage

Signage in parks was the lowest scoring criteria. In priority parks, signage was the lowest scoring element and includes all informational signage such as opening and closing signs, playground rules etc. In the priority audit, signage was scored at two levels with the higher level interpretive signs not scoring well at 51.5%. There was a general element scored on standard sites and this was also below 50%. Overall this reflects the aging stock of signs in parks and the drifting away from standards that were more tightly managed in the early part of the decade.

There are three levels of signage: basic information signage, waymarking signage and interpretive signage. All signage should be standardised. The existing standard "Welcome signs" in all Ealing POS is dated and gradually being removed. A new design and standard is required. A set of standards across all information signs such as opening and closing, dog information etc, should be developed. Waymarking signage should be linked with the emerging Urban Realm Strategy that recommends that Ealing adopt a standardised London system.

Major nature conservation spaces and heritage landscapes should be interpreted as and when resources allow and as part of large scale capital schemes. Standard formats should be used.

Paths and surfacing

Footpaths are a relatively expensive facility to provide in public parks but are also essential to create good access in and around the green space. Tarmac paths or other solid surfaces have the longest life span and are the most traversable surfaces but have the highest impact environmentally, being non-permeable. Where suitable the council uses a self bonding gravel material (hoggin) instead of tarmac. This is particularly appropriate for nature conservation and rural sites. The current capital programme provides approximately £100K per year to renovate and replace tarmac surfaces. On average this amount has allowed for about three parks in the borough per year to get a good percentage of the footpath renewed. Over 166 sites (although not all of them host tarmac), £100K would provide for a turnaround of the programme of 30-50 years. The average lifespan of a new tarmac path is about 25 years. That said the current value of

investment over the last seven years has started to make a good impact on the stock of tarmac paths in parks in the borough although there are still many sites where new footpath works are desperately needed.

Heritage

Heritage value of green space can be considered in several ways. Firstly, some spaces provide the setting and contribute to the built heritage, others are remnants of the medieval landscape of the area or are important designed landscapes. Some sites contain historic features such as monuments. Green spaces in Ealing generally have a historic story to tell but there are only a few spaces with tangible historical values. Those are:

- Walpole Park, the setting for Pitzhanger Manor and host to a number of associated conservation structures;
- Gunnersbury Park, English Heritage recognises Gunnersbury Park as one of the most important parks in the country. Gunnersbury is jointly run by Ealing and Hounslow councils, who formed the Gunnersbury Park Regeneration Board to consider the best way to protect the park for future generations. Heritage Lottery Fund announced a Round 1 pass for £4.6 million of lottery funding in June 2012 to support the restoration of Gunnersbury Park;
- Manor House Grounds, the setting for Southall Manor House;
- Brent Lodge Park, a few remnants of the old Brent Lodge and it's listed stable block now known as Brent Lodge Environment Centre;
- Conolly Dell water garden;
- Northolt Village Greens hosting Willow Tree Cottages (held in trust);
- Scheduled ancient monuments of archaeological value. Although no built structure remains the landforms are important at Horsenden Hill, Northolt Manor, Down Barns Farm;
- Heritage features in Acton Park and The Woodlands;
- Ealing Common and Ealing Green;
- Haven Green;
- Various war memorials and characteristic buildings throughout the borough.

Safety and Street lighting

There is a presumption against lighting in any park or open space. This is for two reasons. The first being that the parks and open spaces of the borough are a habitat for the wildlife that live in the borough and artificial light pollution has

a proven negative effect on many species. The second reason is because lighting in parks encourages use of the spaces at night which can lead to night time antisocial behaviour and crime in parks,. Some sites have lit public rights of way across them and the council has recently upgraded these streetlights, however the current Council policy is not to introduce any further street lighting in parks.

Park Watchers

Personal and community safety have been highlighted through public consultation as key factors that affect the use of green spaces in Ealing. Street Watchers has provide effective in encouraging residents to contribute to making their neighbourhoods safer and the Tree Watchers initiative has proved successful in encouraging participation about the environment. The Council wishes to create more opportunities for participation in green spaces and proposes developing a Park Watchers scheme to facilitate this.

Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Action Plan has provide effective in planning and coordinating the delivery of Ealing Council and its partners in improving Biodiversity in the borough. However, the current plan is now at the end of it lifespan and requires updating.

Tree Strategy

The Ealing Tree Strategy is at the time of writing currently under production and will provide a strategic approach to the protection and management of Ealing's tree stock both street tress and those in green spaces. The Green Space Strategy recommends that this draft strategy is finalised and adopted following an appropriate consultation period.

Allotments

Cabinet have authorise the Director of Environment and Leisure, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Environment and Director of Legal and Democratic Services, to explore the options available for the future management of the Councils allotments and to carry out consultation with users / interest groups in order to determine whether there is local interest in developing proposals and entering in to legal agreements for the devolved management of the Councils allotment stock.

Following the consultation exercise a further report will be brought to Cabinet that will summarise the options available with a recommendation[s] for the future management of Council allotments.

The Sustainable Allotments Strategy of 1999 sought to increase the use of allotments by broadening their appeal and publicising availability, and to ensure

their sustainability into the future. To this end, in 2003 the council employed a full time allotments manager with the remit of renovating abandoned sites and making plots available to prospective gardeners across the borough, establishing a system of management, and engaging with the allotment community.

Since 2003 the Council allotment land available to garden has greatly increased, as has the number of people gardening. There is now a diverse community gardening across the borough and there are some 1700 tenants occupying roughly 12,000 poles of cultivatable land (80 acres). The service is continuing to expand, both by reclaiming lost land on existing sites and developing new allotments.

Financially, the service is aiming for a balanced budget by 2013-14 through increased occupation, higher rents, and prudent management of resources. Very roughly, the costs of the service are 20% for water, 40% for development and maintenance, and 40% for management and administration.

Inevitably the amount of work involved in managing and administering allotments increases with the number of people involved. One full-time member of staff cannot deal with all aspects of the service satisfactorily. Increasing the number of Council staff would add a considerable financial burden and consequent increase in rents, which might easily prove counter-productive.

The Sustainable Allotments Strategy anticipates managing growth by proposing self-management of sites by committees of plotholder representatives, with management responsibility established in stages. One site, Pitshanger, has already established local self-management by a committee of ploholders, and this has operated very successfully for around 10 years.

The council will consult with the allotment community on a range of management options and their respective financial implications. These are:

- Individually leased sites where a local plotholder committee adopts full or partial responsibility for the physical infrastructure and full or partial responsibility for the management and operation of the site.
- Several sites grouped together and leased to a plotholder committee on which each constituent site is represented, sharing management resources and accepting responsibility as above.
- A borough-wide lease incorporating all the Council-owned allotment sites where a self-management committee accepts overall responsibility for the management and maintenance as above, and devolves some of this responsibility to individual sites.
- A combination of the above models suiting the varying needs and

abilities of different allotment sites, governed as they are by the number of tenants and the nature of the skills available.

Larger sites have proportionately lower overheads and it may be appropriate to introduce a levy to provide smaller sites with financial support.

There is a substantial financial saving (around 40% of the current budget) to the allotment community if all allotment sites become managed and maintained wholly independently of the council.

There are anomalies which may not fit well into any of these models: Great Western Allotments, the Council's largest site in Acton, is currently leased by Rail Properties Ltd to the Council annually at a peppercorn rent; there are several currently unoccupied (or nearly wholly unoccupied) sites that are awaiting renovation before broader communities can be established; there are several very small occupied sites on which it is unlikely to be possible to establish a committee by virtue of the very small number of gardeners.

Golf Provision

The Council will review the current provision of golf of golf courses within the borough to determine the required level of provision to meet future demand and whether the current surplus of provision may provide the opportunity to address deficiencies in other forms of Public Open Space.

Overshadowing of Open Space

Consultation on the draft Green Space Strategy highlighted the concern of residents and community based organisations share about the impact of high rise high density development adjacent to green spaces. Many residents and green space users value open space for the way in which it contributes to the urban form and punctuates built development. There was concern over new development increasing overshadowing green spaces and affecting green space quality and viability. The Council understands these concerns and will seek to protect green space from such development where feasible through the planning policy process.

6.4 Strategic Goals & Objectives

The analysis and findings discussed above have been distilled into the following strategic goals and objectives.

Strategic Goal: Protect open land and its visual and physical access	
1.	To embrace the emerging LDF policies by maintaining a policy of no net loss of public open space in the Borough and seeking to address area deficiencies in quantity and specific types of open space provision.
2.	Protect, enhance and promote the strategic green space features of the Borough particularly the riverside and characteristic park landscapes.
Strategic Goal: Improve and enhance park maintenance and facilities	
3.	To work in partnership with all external service providers to create a seamless parks maintenance service with an emphasis on continuous improvement.
4.	To research opportunities and actively bid for additional funding to implement a programme of parks improvements, provide a range of additional facilities and attractions in parks to increase use and recognise their value as recreational resources.
5.	To provide safe and exciting play facilities for young people from ages 3-17 by maintaining the high quality of provision resulting from intensive investment and delivery of the previous strategy period.
6.	To enhance the condition of buildings in parks by bidding for internal and external funding and work in partnership with commercial and community organisations to actively lease building stock in order to secure private sector investment and community involvement.
Strategic Goal: Engage the community in open space management through consultation, participation in activities and active volunteering	
7.	To carry out consultation with local communities through on-site methods, local residents, Ward Councillor and Forums and other interested parties on all improvement initiatives and projects in parks to increase awareness, understanding and participation, recognising that when people are fully engaged in a project they have ownership for it and value the outcomes.
8.	To actively involve a wide range of people in the management and development of their local parks and open spaces, through developing sustainable 'Friends of Parks' groups and links with community forums.
9.	To promote a variety of opportunities for volunteers to get involved in the management and maintenance of open spaces in order to encourage community ownership, interaction and understanding of park issues.
10.	To facilitate appropriate commercial and community events in parks and open spaces and provide an educational resource.
Strategic Goal: Provide parks which are welcoming and safe for people to enjoy	
11.	To provide a service which inspects parks regularly and deals with issues and anti-social behaviour effectively through developing partnerships with other internal services and external agencies.
12.	Provide a responsive service to enforce the Council's Bye Laws and any other legislation relevant to public open space such as the Dog Fouling of Land Act and the Environmental Protection Act.
Strategic Goal: Improve accessibility of the Borough's parks and open spaces	
13.	To make parks and open spaces welcoming to all by providing good signage, well maintained entrances and footpath surfaces.
14.	Promote and maintain safe 'through routes' through parks and open spaces, particularly between residential areas and town centres and schools and to improve and maintain public rights of way in line with government legislation.
Strategic Goal: Enhance the positive environmental impact of the borough's open space	
15.	Improve and manage nature conservation areas and implement the short, medium and long term targets of the Ealing Biodiversity Action Plan by developing site management plans and emphasising community involvement.

7. Delivering the Strategy

7.1 A Partnership Approach

Ward Forums are a key mechanism for neighbourhood level management in Ealing and allow localised responses to be developed to identify local needs, determine solutions and aid the implementation of the Council Policies, Strategies and corporate objectives and as such will be a key mechanism for the implementation of the Green Space Strategy both by shaping the delivery and also through potentially providing and endorsing funding and resource allocation.

The success of this Green Space Strategy is dependent on Ealing Council working with a range of partners organisations, external agencies and the third sector. The strategy sets out the ambition to develop stronger links with partners and generate greater community participation in green spaces. The action plan shows the lead organisations and a range of partners that will be involved in delivery.

7.2 Resources

Table 14 below shows the parks and open spaces capital investment programme from 2007/08 through to 2015/16.

2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget
£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
2,820	2,224	2,815	2,448	2,843	2,421	2,060	2,377	3,472

Table 14 Ealing Green Spaces Capital Investment Programme 2007/08 to 2016/16

Table 15 below shows the parks and open spaces revenue expenditure from 2007/08 through to 2015/16 and includes Parks, Grounds Maintenance, Cemeteries and Parks Management

	Actual Outturn				Budget			
	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
Income	(1,535,371)	(1,681,417)	(1,729,503)	(1,727,643)	(1,270,100)	(1,270,100)	(1,270,100)	(1,270,100)
Expenditure	7,453,843	7,726,198	7,719,858	8,529,011	7,117,525	7,117,525	7,117,525	7,117,525
Net	5,918,472	6,044,780	5,990,355	6,801,368	5,847,425	5,847,425	5,847,425	5,847,425

Table 15 Parks and Open Spaces Revenue Expenditure 2007/08 to 2014/15

A detailed Action Plan for the delivery of the strategy is set out in the next section.

7.3 Action Plan

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 1 : To embrace the emerging LDF policies by maintaining a policy of no net loss of public open space in the Borough and seeking to address area deficiencies in quantity and specific types of open space provision.					
1.1	Provide robust policies in the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) to recognise the value to the whole Borough of open spaces.	Planning Policy	Service Departments	2012 / 13	LDF: Preferred Options Agreed
1.2	Ensure that the Local Development Framework addresses the need for open space by incorporating, where relevant, the standards and policies set out in this strategy. Include policies that encourage developers to use space in innovative ways to provide new public open spaces.	Planning Policy	Service Departments	2012/13	Policies adopted and implemented
1.3	To address open space deficiencies in quantity and quality through the planning process and seek to maintain and if possible exceed the standard of 1.95 ha per 1000 population into the future.	Planning Policy	Service Departments	2013/14	Standard adopted for new planning applications. Work with the planning system to secure new open space as part of the redevelopment of South Acton Estate and development of the Southall Gas Works site.
1.4	Determine the quality and quantity of land and determine if it can be used to supplement public open space deficiencies.	Parks Housing		2013/14	Audit and assess housing and education land
1.5	Consider the opportunities to address deficiencies in allotment provision through changes in the use of other open space	Planning Policy	Parks	2013/14 – 2014/15	Audit and assessment as part of the Allotments Strategy

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
1.6	See to protect green space from built development and overshadowing through the planning policy process.	Planning Policy	Parks	2013/14 onwards	Develop planning policy.
1.7	Carry out a strategic review of the future provision of golf in the Borough and consider opportunities for change in use to address open space deficiencies	Parks		2013/14	Undertake review. Produce action plan.

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 2 : Protect, enhance and promote the strategic green space features of the Borough particularly the riverside and characteristic park landscapes and promote the value of parks and open spaces in the regeneration of the borough's town centres and as visitor attractions.					
2.1	Deliver the HLF match funded Walpole Park masterplan to restore and reveal the hidden heritage of the park and Ptizhanger Manor	Major Projects HLF	Walpole Friends Walpole Advisory Board Parks Service	September 2012 2012-14	Detailed plans agreed & specialist services procured. Deliver restoration works (excluding lawn & forecourt)
2.2	To regenerate Gunnersbury Park in partnership with Hounslow Council including applications to the HLF and other appropriate sources of funding.	Major Projects HLF Hounslow Council	Gunnersbury Friends Gunnersbury Advisory Panel Hounslow and Ealing Parks Services	February 2012 2013-2015	Submit Round 1 HLF Parks for People Application Deliver restoration works (if successful)

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
2.3	Recognise Brent River Park (BRP) as one landscape and manage the open space along the River Brent strategically	Parks Parks Parks Parks	Planning Policy GLA GLA	2012/13 2013/14 2012/13 2013/14 onwards	Ensure the BRP is recognised through the LDF for it's environmental sensitivity Review the BRP management plan Final implementation of the Help a London Park (Mayor of London) projects Continue the maintenance and improvement of the river environment
2.4	Recognise areas of adjacent or nearly adjacent sites that collectively act as larger areas of open space that offer a wider range of opportunities for recreation and for wildlife	Planning Policy		2012/13	Designate Horsenden Hill and environs and Northolt and Greenford Countryside Park as Metropolitan Parks
2.5	Carry out a programme of improvements at Brent Lodge Park Animal Centre to deliver the highest possible standards of animal care focussing on enrichment and education in line with the standards required to retain its zoo license	Parks		2012/13	Implement the recommendations and conditions of the zoo licence as issued.
2.6	Develop an area plan for each of the four governance areas to best target ward forums and other incidental funding against locally devised and agreed schemes	Parks Major Projects		2013/14	Area plan with priorities.

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
2.7	Address the quality issues arising from the external parks audit and seek improvements for the poorest quality sites and areas	Parks Parks Parks Parks	Major Projects	2012/13 – 2013/14 2013/14 onwards 2014/15 2015/16	Develop costed site actions plans for whole park improvements at Spikesbridge Park, Southall Recreation Ground & Manor House Grounds. Implement actions plans. Develop costed site action plans small scale improvements for Islip Manor Meadows Implement small scale actions plans.
2.8	Produce and consult on a Tree Strategy for Ealing	Parks	Service Departments	2013/14 to 2014/15	Development of Tree Strategy & Action Plan.

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 3 :To work in partnership with all external service providers to create a seamless parks maintenance service with an emphasis on continuous improvement					
3.1	Set measurable performance standards for all contracts and work in partnership with contractors to annually improve standards	Environment and Leisure Services	Contractor	January 2012	Performance standards

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 4 :To research opportunities and actively bid for additional funding to implement a programme of parks improvements to enhance the range of facilities and attractions in parks and to improve existing facilities to increase use and recognise their value as recreational resources					
4.1	To secure additional internal and external funding to carry out improvements to the infrastructure of parks and open spaces.	Major Projects Parks		2013/14 onwards	Develop list of sites suitable for funding by HLF. Develop other projects for funding through suitable external sources. Submit funding applications
4.2	Create a short list of sites for potential Green Flag Award submission.	Parks		2012/13	Undertake detailed desk and field assessments for each site. Develop a Green Flag action plan for each site. Deliver improvements. Submit Green Flag applications
4.3	Continue annual programme of improvements to footpaths, fencing and furniture to improve the appearance of all parks	Parks		2012/13 2018/19	Undertake projects in areas of quality need based on audit findings Repeat Borough wide external parks audit
4.4	To provide outdoor sports centres of excellence by bidding for and investing resources in key sites, and continue a programme of for community and private sector leasing.	Major Projects		2012/13 onwards	Lease established at Pitshanger Park tennis facility Others

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
4.5	Seek private sector or community based partnership agreements to find sustainable uses, management and maintenance of pavilions and sports facilities	Major Projects Sports development		2012/13 onwards	Partnerships established at Lord Halsbury's Playing Fields, Pitshanger Park Football, Spikesbridge Park providing new facilities Assess sites for potential bids to Football Foundation and sports England for improvements to pavilions and pitches

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 5 :To provide safe and exciting play facilities for young people from ages 3-17 by maintaining the high quality of provision resulting from intensive investment and delivery of the previous strategy period.					
5.1	Maintain good quality play at it's current standard, remove graffiti on a regular and on going basis and paint equipment every two years	Parks Major Projects	Ward Forums HLF	Annually 2012/13	Inspection report. Install new playground funded by the HLF programme in Walpole Park
5.2	Provide more youth play provision including multi use games areas and "hang out" areas.	Major Projects		2012/13	Identification of appropriate site in the Hanger Hill area funded by ward forum

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 6 : To enhance the condition of buildings in parks by bidding for internal and external funding and work in partnership with commercial and community organisations to actively lease building stock in order to secure private sector investment and community involvement.					
6.1	Work with the council's property agents to actively lease building stock in order to secure private sector investment and community involvement	Parks Major Projects		2012/13 onwards	Production of buildings action plan. Standardise leases. Identify new opportunities for generating rental income.
6.2	Ensure new build projects are sustainable in long term management	Major Projects	Parks	2012/13 2013/14 onward	New builds are planned at Pitshanger Park, Spikesbridge Park Potential Sports England Inspired Facilities bid for Perivale Park changing rooms or ECSG or Southfields
6.3	Seek to renovate the Brent Lodge Environment Centre	Parks	English Heritage	2012/13 2014/15	Complete stabilisation works and seek to have building removed from EH at risk register. Determine options for occupancy

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 7 : To carry out on consultation with local communities through on-site methods, local residents, Ward Councillor and Forums and other interested parties on all improvement initiatives and projects in parks to increase awareness, understanding and participation, recognising that when people are fully engaged in a project they have ownership for it and value the outcomes.					
7.1	Consult with residents on an annual basis to determine perceived satisfaction levels of the condition and maintenance of parks	Parks Research and Consultation	GreenSTAT	2012/13 & ongoing	Promote the GreenSTAT website on an annual basis (in summer), target low take up areas and publish findings
7.2	Rangers to have named wards and to attend at least one ward forum meeting per year for each ward	Rangers		2012/13	Attendance at 1 meeting per year.
7.3	Work to ensure that the population of Ealing are kept informed of changes, activities and events in the Borough's parks and open spaces	Parks	Web team	2012/13 onwards	Provide internet updates and temporary on site signage about planned development work including contact details

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 8 : To actively involve a wide range of people in the management and development of their local parks and open spaces, through developing sustainable 'Friends of Parks' groups and links with community forums.					
8.1	Set up, support and develop Friends Groups for parks in the Borough to represent the views of the local population during development projects.	Parks Rangers		2012/13 onwards	Initial review & action plan. Engage and support and encourage sustainable self management
8.2	Develop a Parks Watchers scheme to encourage resident participation in green spaces	Parks Rangers		2013/14	No. of Parks Watchers
8.3	Pilot the self management of allotment sites	Parks		2013/14	Establish one or more pilot projects.

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 9 : To promote a variety of opportunities for volunteers to get involved in the management and maintenance of open spaces in order to encourage community ownership, interaction and understanding of park issues.					
9.1	Promote opportunities for volunteers to get involved in management of conservation areas to encourage ownership and understanding of conservation management.	Parks	EVC	2013/14	<p>Development and promotion of opportunities for volunteering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work experience • Park watchers • Corporate team building days • Ranger led nature conservation taskdays <p>Review feasibility of borough wide parks Friends Forum</p>
9.2	Develop partnerships with Ealing Volunteer Centre and BTCV to deliver some volunteer elements	Parks	EVC BTCV	2013/14	<p>Develop Volunteer Policy setting out roles, responsibilities & support offered.</p> <p>Development of formal volunteering roles.</p>
9.3	At Walpole Park: Provide volunteering, training, leaning and engagement opportunities for a wide range of Ealing residents through the 5 year activity plan	Parks Walpole outreach programme	HLF	2012/13 onwards	<p>Deliver Activity Plan</p> <p>Increase the range of audiences to reflect borough demographic.</p> <p>Adapt the programme to be useable by Park Rangers and Animal Centre to supplement their existing volunteer engagement activities</p>

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 10 : To facilitate appropriate commercial and community events in parks and open spaces and provide an educational resource.					
10.1	Support the use of parks as venues for commercial events and encourage community initiated and managed events in the Borough's parks and open spaces;	Events team	Rangers	2012/13	<p>Monitor the impact of events on park condition.</p> <p>Ensure that over-use does not detract from the quality of the natural environment</p>
10.2	Work with schools as resources allow to develop key sites for an environmental education programme	<p>Rangers</p> <p>Parks</p> <p>Walpole outreach programme</p>	HLF	2012/13 onwards	<p>Continue engagement with schools at Brent Lodge Animal Centre aiming for 20 sessions per year.</p> <p>Deliver 120 school workshops per year at Walpole Park education programme beginning April 2012.</p> <p>Deliver the comprehensive educational programme at Walpole Park and roll out where appropriate to other sites.</p>
10.3	Seek to provide appropriate on site interpretation and signage, and produce information leaflets to encourage informal learning	Parks	GLA (HaLP) BRCS	2013/14 onwards	Interpretation signage delivered throughout the BRP.

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 11 : To provide a service which inspects parks regularly and deals with issues and anti-social behaviour effectively through developing partnerships with other internal services and external agencies.					
11.1	Remove graffiti promptly, and ensure that litter and vandalism are reported and dealt with promptly	Rangers		2012/13 onwards	Continual inspection and action
11.2	To actively engage in the multi-agency approach to managing 'street' drinkers and other anti-social behaviour in parks	Community Safety		2013/14 onwards	Rangers to continue to record all incidents under standardised classes and to link with police reporting systems

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 12 : Provide safe parks and a responsive service to enforce the Council's Bye Laws and other legislation relevant to public open space					
12.1	Seek to increase safety of sites through better design including removing areas where people can loiter unseen and improving site lines	Major Projects Parks		2013/14 onwards	Complete the programme of demolition of derelict buildings (Southfields toilets, Southall Park Pavilion, Hanger Hill toilets, Lammas Park toilets) New projects to incorporate principals of secured by design
12.2	Continue to work closely with the Police's crime prevention unit and seek to further improve communication between the Police and parks staff and resist all requests for lighting in parks based on benchmarking and best practice	Rangers		2012/13 onwards	Rangers to attend ward police meetings and area cluster meetings where tasking of resources is needed
12.3	Pursue a no tolerance approach towards unlawful encampment and travellers	Rangers		2013/14 onwards	Proactively secure parks and open spaces to prevent unlawful traveller encampments and undertake evictions as soon as the current legal process will allow
12.4	Assess feasibility of increasing CCTV coverage in Parks and open spaces	Parks CCTV		2013/14	Assess feasibility

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
12.5	Actively enforce the Dog Fouling of Land Act and the Environmental Protection Act	Rangers		2012/13 onwards	Identify poorly performing parks and target them for enforcement Ensure all bins are stickered with dog fouling information signs

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 13 : To make parks and open spaces welcoming to all by providing good signage, well maintained entrances and footpath surfaces					
13.1	Improve access to key green spaces and connectivity between open spaces	Parks, Transport planning		2013/14	Feasibility of NGCP bridge over Kensington Road Improve access routes north-south through Brent River Park Signage programmes from town centres to town centre parks
13.2	Encourage usage of parks throughout the year by creating a network of suitable footpaths to include sealed surface paths for primary thoroughfares and, where appropriate, hoggin for secondary paths.	Parks		2013/14	Continue to release section of the capital programme to tarmac path repairs. In 2011/12 this resource to Lammas Parks, Elthorne Park and Islip Manor Park Allocate mainstream capital to footpath improvements based on area of greatest need
13.3	Work to ensure that as far as reasonably possible (as made clear in the legislation) the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act are met on all the Borough's parks and open spaces.	Repairs and Adaptations		2012/13 onwards	TBC

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
13.4	Agree standards for “furniture” e.g. bins, seats, signage , and wider infrastructure in parks	Parks	Major Projects	2013/14	Produce a design guide subject to consultation with stakeholders Redesign and seek funding a new generation of “Welcome Signs” for formal park entrances

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 14 : Promote and maintain safe ‘through routes’ through parks and open spaces, particularly between residential areas and town centres and schools and to improve and maintain public rights of way in line with government legislation					
14.1	Work closely with relevant agencies to create, maintain and promote cycle routes through the Borough’s parks and open spaces working carefully to avoid conflict with other park users	Parks Transport planning,		2013/14 onwards	Implement LIP Programme providing: cycle parking provision at park destinations and creating green chain walks linking open spaces
14.2	Work to install directional signs to parks and open spaces from surrounding roads, town centres and public transport interchanges as funding becomes available	Parks Transport planning, Regeneration		2013/14 onwards	Implement recommendations of the Urban Realm Strategy 2011

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
Objective 15 : Improve and manage nature conservation areas and implement the short, medium and long term targets of the Ealing Biodiversity Action Plan by developing site management plans and emphasising community involvement					
15.1	Create management prescriptions or management plans for all nature conservation areas of borough or metropolitan importance detailing conservation value, maintenance and proposed developments	Rangers	Natural England	2013/14	Devise or review management plans for Islip Manor Meadows, Horsenden Hill, Yeading Brook Meadows Devise or review Management statements for NGCP, Tentalow Wood, Grove Farm, Fox and Hanger Hill woods (and sites within BRP as under Obj 2),
15.2	Undertake legal and health and safety duty of eradication of invasive weeds, such as giant hogweed and Japanese knotweed, by spot herbicide treatment in accordance with Environment Agency and manufacturers guidelines.	Rangers	Environment Agency	2012/13 onwards	All occurrences on Ealing Council owned land treated Continue treatment and assess impact
15.3	Secure funding for wildlife projects through the Environment Stewardship Scheme and other funding sources	Rangers	Natural England Grounds Maintenance contract	2013/14 onwards	Complete FEP and submit application if feasible Comply with contract terms and submit invoice Widen the use of grazing agreements where possible.
15.4	Increase nature conservation value of formal parks through consultation, appropriate design, maintenance, and on site interpretation	Parks		2013/14 onwards	Use perennial plants in floral display areas to retain colour, and new bulbs to improved the sustainability of floral displays traditionally performed by extensive bedding

Ref	Action	Lead	Delivery Partners	Timescale	Performance Measure
15.5	Focus on habitat improvements to be made on SINC sites of local importance in areas of deficiency in natural open space as identified by the LDF and the GLA review	Parks		2013/14 onwards	Enhance the nature conservation value of sites noted by the GLA as potential sites to address areas of deficient in natural open spaces: Acton Park, Trinity Way, Walpole / Lammas, Ealing Common, Southfields
15.6	Recognise the important role that the natural environment plays in reducing the impact of climate change and improve sustainability of park management	Parks	Deliver the ranger lead Nature Conservation Work Programme	2013/14 onwards	Annual programme devised and delivered within resources (measure by NI197) Revise the Ealing Biodiversity Action Plan
15.7	Continue maintenance and improvement of the river and canal environs.	Parks	Environment Agency Thames Rivers Restoration Trust	2012/13 onwards	Work towards meeting the Water Framework Directive Work with other agencies to formalise the Brent River Partnership Encourage community engagement in conservation of this areas
15.8	Review and update the Biodiversity Action Plan for Ealing in line with regional guidance and initiatives	Parks Rangers		2013/14	Updated BAP produced and adopted.

7.4 Monitoring & Evaluation

The strategy will be used in the Environment and Leisure Business Planning process which occurs annually.

The action plan will be monitored on a quarterly basis in order to track progress and implementation of the strategy.

The strategy will be formally reviewed in 2017/18.

7.5 Key Performance Measures

The following performance measures link to the Environment & Leisure Business Plan:

- Increase in the number of residents agreeing their area is better to live in
- Improved resident satisfaction
- Residents who feel that the council involves residents in decision making
- Residents satisfied with parks and open spaces
- Residents satisfied with sports and leisure facilities
- GM Environmental Services Contract - % completion of scheduled activity
- Active People Survey KPI1 – Adult Participation in Sport