

London Parks and Green Spaces Habitat Action Plan

Introduction

The 2006 Urban Green Spaces Task Force report recognised the importance of parks and open spaces in supporting biodiversity and in providing a point of contact with the natural world for city dwellers. It recognised that knowledge of a park's ecology is part of understanding the character of the place, which in turn is a key to developing appropriate management.

Aims

The Action Plan provides a focus to look at ways to improve the nature conservation value of London's parks and green spaces, alongside their other uses. It provides support to parks and green space managers and promotes the values and benefits of biodiversity for both parks and people.

Scope:

The scope of the Plan is to look at how biodiversity can be promoted on land managed for public access. This can include, but not be limited to, housing estates, churchyards, cemeteries, squares, woodland, heaths and Commons and, of course, parks.

Objectives:

- To share best practice and provide a forum for public space managers interested in furthering biodiversity
- To promote the values and benefits of biodiversity in public spaces

Actions:

- To collate and measure the delivery of biodiversity improvements across parks and open spaces in London and develop shared performance measures.
- To link with other Habitat Action Plans to help deliver habitat improvement targets.
- To deliver one biodiversity based seminar per year as part of the LPGSF programme.
- [To establish an on-line central resource library for relevant biodiversity literature.](#)

- To develop a standard template for local borough Park Habitat Action Plans.
- To develop toolkit training for contractors for managing biodiversity in parks and open spaces.
- To promote the role of biodiversity within Green Flag Awards.
- To develop a standard presentation for Friends Groups for parks managers to use to promote the value of biodiversity.
- To develop a standard biodiversity specification for contracts.
- To provide a forum of regular meetings for parks and green space managers for sharing advice, best practice and problem solving.
- Produce and promote case studies of good practice in biodiversity management in London.
- To share information about relevant funding opportunities.
- To promote and facilitate cross borough partnerships and partnerships with NGO providers to access funding and enable project delivery.