



King's Field Management Plan

January 2024 – December 2025

King’s Field Management Plan 2024-25: Foreword

The King’s Field is an important asset for local people and visitors. The London Borough of Richmond upon Thames aspires to manage and maintain the park to the highest standards.

This management plan is based on the use of an audit of the park following central government guidance known as PPG 17. This is explained within this document but the approach is based on common sense. We believe that it is important to get the simple things right. Is the green space clean and tidy? Is the grass cut? Are the trees and shrubs well maintained? Is the graffiti removed effectively and quickly?

Working with local communities to deliver the highest quality of service is a top priority and it is hoped that this document will provide a framework for continuing and improving dialogue. The site will be maintained appropriately and the local community will be consulted on any proposed changes or improvements to the park’s facilities or infrastructure. We actively encourage suggestions about all aspects of the park.

Parks Officers, working closely with colleagues in Continental Landscapes and using a partnership approach, regularly monitor The King’s Field. Members of the local community are also encouraged to let us know their impressions about the level of maintenance as well as their ideas for improving the facilities. It is hoped that the resulting observations and ideas will result in continually improving management and maintenance practises, as well as careful consideration of ideas to improve and maintain the park.

The current financial situation will inevitably have a detrimental effect on the resources available to improve and maintain the borough’s parks and open spaces. The tightening of available budgets seems likely for the foreseeable future. The borough will continue to work closely with its partners, in this case Continental Landscapes, to maintain high quality standards. In addition we will need to look for additional ways of funding to maintain and improve the borough’s parks, one of our most valuable assets.

Section	Contents	Page
1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	National Context	1
3.0	Relationship to Council Aims & Objectives	3
4.0	Site Description	5
5.0	Audit of Facilities	10
6.0	Vision and Objectives for the Gardens	14
7.0	Management of the Gardens	14
8.0	Achievements and Action Plan	20

1 Introduction

1.1 This Management Plan for The King’s Field provides guidance for the management and any relevant development of the park. It utilises the methodology outlined in the Government’s Planning Policy Guidance note 17 (PPG 17) in order to audit the state of provision of features and facilities in the park.

The Plan includes an Action Plan, which should be achievable within the remit of current budgets. The Plan has been drafted for a broad audience interested in the development of the park namely:

- Users of the park and borough residents;
- The Parks and Open Spaces Service;
- Other services and departments within the London Borough of Richmond;
- Elected members, ward councillors and portfolio holders;
- National agencies;
- Local businesses; and
- Partners and contractors.

1.2 The Plan will run from January 2024 to December 2025. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2025.

2 National Context

2.1 Parks are managed areas of the green environment which provide opportunities for a range of formal and informal leisure, passive and active sports, recreation and play.

2.2 The significance of parks, open space and countryside provision is clear:

- There are an estimated 27,000 public parks in Britain, visited an estimated 2.6bn times each year (Common Select Committee, 2016).
- There is an estimated 85,847 hectares of Publicly accessible green space in Great Britain, 73,400 in England. (*Natural capital accounts containing information about green spaces in urban areas*, Office for National Statistics, August 2019)
- 18.13% of Greater London is designated Public Open Space; with 3.5% Local Parks and Open Spaces & 5.2% Metropolitan Parks (GiGL, 2019).

2.3 It is widely recognised that the provision of high quality ‘public realm’ facilities such as parks can assist in making an area as an attractive place to live and work, and can result in a number of benefits in terms of economic development and regeneration. A local park can also play a part in promoting healthy living as a place for people to exercise.

2.4 The benefits of safe and accessible parks and open spaces:

Social

- providing safe outdoor areas that are available to all members of the local population
- providing opportunities for community events, voluntary activities and charitable fund raising
- providing easily accessible recreation as an alternative to other more chargeable leisure pursuits
- providing opportunities to improve health and take part in a range of outdoor sports and activities
- providing an educational resource or outdoor classroom

Economic

- adding value to surrounding property, both commercial and residential, thus increasing local tax revenues for public services
- contributing to attracting visitors, including using parks as venues for events
- encouraging tourism into the area
- helping to create an attractive local image
- helping to reduce social exclusion and its associated costs to society

Environmental

- providing habitats for wildlife as an aid to local biodiversity
- helping to stabilise urban temperatures and humidity
- absorbing pollutants in the air and ground water
- providing opportunities for the recycling of organic materials
- providing opportunities to reduce transport use through the provision of local facilities, and by providing walking and cycling routes through urban areas

3 Relationship to Council’s Aims and Objectives

The London Borough of Richmond recognises that its parks and open spaces contribute to the:

- overall vision and priorities of the Council
- quality of life of local people
- physical, social and economic regeneration of the borough
- greening, attractiveness and increasing biodiversity and quality of green space in the area

- tackling the climate emergency; improving air quality and minimising green house gas emissions
- minimising flood risk and sustainable drainage

Accordingly, this Management Plan and the Parks and Open Spaces Service are guided by and are in agreement with the aims, objectives and principles of the Councils’ plans and strategies. These can be found on the webpages below:

[Council policies and plans - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

[Draft Local Plan: Submission - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

[Parks and open spaces policies and plans - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

[Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Assessment 2023 & Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy 2023](#)

3.2 Parks and Open Spaces Strategy

Our borough has the largest area of public open space per head of population of any London borough. We have a local and national reputation for quality and leadership in the delivery of excellent parks. To ensure the quality of our parks and open spaces remains at a high level we developed a series of strategic principles by which the parks will be managed. The principles were devised following a public consultation:

1. Parks and Open Spaces will be a sustainable legacy for future generations.
2. Parks and Open Spaces will continue to define our borough.
3. Parks and Opens Spaces will enrich the life, health and wellbeing of residents and visitors.
4. The Council will lead in the delivery of excellent Parks and Open Spaces services.
5. Parks and Open Spaces will offer positive experiences to all visitors.
6. Through innovation, the future development of Parks and Open Spaces services will be ensured.
7. Increased community participation in Parks and Open Spaces will be encouraged and supported.
8. Parks and Open Spaces will be celebrated as centres of excellence.

The current strategic principles are being reviewed and will be consulted on and updated in spring 2024.

3.3 Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Richmond

The main aims of the plan are:

- To conserve and where possible enhance Richmond’s variety of habitats and species, in particular those which are of international or national importance, are in decline locally, are characteristic to Richmond or have particular public appeal, which can raise the profile of biodiversity;
- To ensure that Richmond residents become aware of, and are given the opportunity to become involved in conserving and enhancing the biodiversity around them;
- To raise awareness and increase stakeholder involvement in maintaining and where possible, enhancing species and habitats of importance.
- The Local Biodiversity Action Plan can be found online here: [Richmond upon Thames \(habitatsandheritage.org.uk\)](http://Richmond upon Thames (habitatsandheritage.org.uk))

3.4 Parks Improvements

The Council have a commitment to continued improvement in our Parks and Open Spaces by improving existing infrastructure and developing and installing new facilities. The Council continues to have a cyclical investment programme to ensure that parks and playgrounds are up to standards, this includes £300k a year for park improvements and £150k for play. One aim of the management plan is to maintain the gains that we have achieved in previous years.

The Council list all major improvement projects on our webpage, which can be found here:

[Latest parks updates - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#)

4.0 Site Description

4.1 Outline History of The King’s Field

There is very little specific information available about the history of The King’s Field. It has been a green space for several hundred years and was originally part of the royal hunting grounds along with Bushy and Home Parks. All three parks were originally linked to Hampton Court Palace. Following the Physical Training and Recreation Act 1937, the land was passed to the local authority to manage as a public facility.

4.2 General Information

4.2.1 Land Tenure

The site is owned by the Royal Parks. It is managed by the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

4.2.2 Location

The King’s Field is situated in Hampton Wick near Kingston Bridge. It borders Bushy Park from which it is separated by brick walls on two sides.

4.2.3 Access

As a free and open facility The Kings Field provides fully inclusive access to local residents and visitors to the area. Pedestrians and those arriving by train, bus and car can currently access the site which is open between dawn and dusk.

4.2.4 Local Transport

Train: The King’s Field is approximately 10 minutes’ walk from both Kingston and Hampton Wick stations, both on the overground line from Waterloo.

Bus: Kingston and the surrounding area is well served by buses, including the 281, 285 & 465.

Car: There is limited pay and display parking outside the site.

Cycle: Cycle racks are available on site.

4.2.5 Landscape & Topography

The King’s Field is rectangular. The ground is generally flat. There are brick walls along each boundary of the park. Mature trees are planted inside the boundary wall. The majority of the trees are limes.

4.2.6 Listed Historic Buildings

Rose Cottage is a residential property within The King’s Field. It is a building with a local listing because of its Townscape Merit.

4.2.7 Ecology

The King’s Field is a large open space that is mainly used for amenity purposes. However, it is surrounded by avenues of trees on three sides which provide important wildlife corridors for bats and other species, to enable movement from Bushy Park to the River Thames. There are several patches of bramble around the North and West sides of the field, which combined with the mature trees provide valuable habitat for invertebrates, birds and small mammals.

4.2.8 Facilities

The following facilities are available in The King’s Field:

- A skateboard and BMX park;
- Tennis courts including a new junior court recently refurbished.
- Cycle stands;
- Two playgrounds;
- Pistachios in the Park Café;
- Football pitches; Managed by Royal Parks
- Cricket square and equipment store;
- Public Toilets in the Café; and another public toilet
- Recycling bins.
- Outdoor gym
- Table Tennis table

4.2.9 **Maps and Plans**

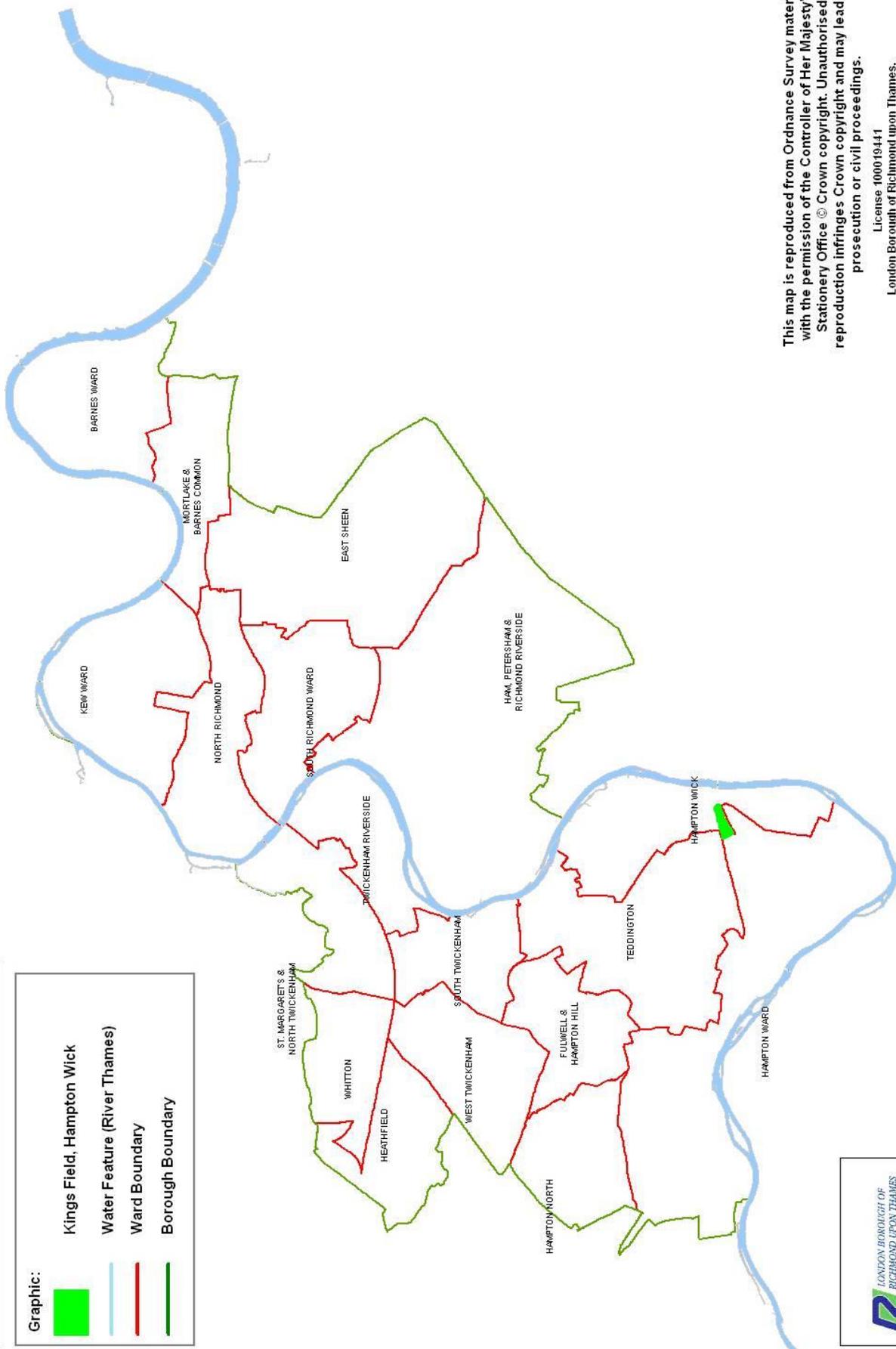
On the following pages, please find:

- Location map of King's Field within the borough
- Plan map of King's Field
- Aerial photo of King's Field

London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames

Graphic:

-  Kings Field, Hampton Wick
-  Water Feature (River Thames)
-  Ward Boundary
-  Borough Boundary



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5.0 Audit of facilities

5.1 The main reasons for undertaking a local assessment are:

- to plan positively, creatively and effectively in identifying priority areas for improvement and to ensure, as much as possible, that there are appropriate types of parks and open spaces provided;
- to work towards ensuring an adequate provision of high quality, accessible green space to meet the needs of the community and to recognise a duty to equality and diversity to provide equally for diverse groups of users;
- to identify the gap between current and desired levels of need and demand, quality and quantity of provision;
- to assist in achieving standards such as the Green Flag Award.

5.2 Desirable Outcomes of the Local Assessment

A local assessment of green space will enable planning to be effective and achieve key outcomes required by the National Planning Policy Framework.

These are:

- provision of accessible, high quality park space for sport and recreation that meet the needs of residents and visitors;
- provision of a park that is ‘fit for purpose’ – the right type in the right place;
- to provide an appropriate balance between new provision and enhancement of existing provision;
- setting locally derived provision standards.

5.2.1 It is intended that this management plan helps to achieve these outcomes in terms of providing an analysis of existing provision and a plan to effectively maintain and, where appropriate, develop the facilities and infrastructure of the park.

5.2.2 In addition, it produces a series of actions which will help to achieve the standards laid down for Green Flag Award parks:

- A welcoming place;
- Healthy, safe and secure;
- Clean and well-maintained;
- Environmental Management;
- Landscape and heritage;
- Community involvement;
- Marketing and communication
- Overall Management.

5.3 Methodology

The methodology used is prescribed in the Government’s Planning Policy Guideline note 17 (PPG17) for the provision of public open space. This consisted of a review of the following key areas of provision:

- Main entrance;
- Boundaries;
- Roads, paths, cycleways and access;
- Parking;
- Information available;
- Planted areas;
- Grass areas;
- Cleanliness;
- Provision of litter bins/recycling;
- Seating;
- Children’s play space;
- Buildings including toilets;
- Health and safety;
- Nature conservation value; and
- Access for people with disabilities.

5.3.1 Main Entrance

There is one main entrance into The King’s Field. This is situated on Church Grove through a gateway in the wall that surrounds the site. The tarmac area immediately inside the gate and the area of paving outside are in good condition.

5.3.2 Boundaries

A significant and historic wall maintained by The Royal Parks marks the boundary around the whole site. This is well maintained and free of graffiti. It is noted that no signage is allowed on the walls.

5.3.3 Roads, Paths, Cycleways and Access

There is one surfaced footpath linking the main entrance to the BMX and skateboarding area. There are no other official paths across the site and no public rights of way.

5.3.4 Parking

The King’s Field does not have a public car park although there is a small area immediately inside the entrance that is used for deliveries to the pavilion. The pavilion known as the Pistachios in the Park Café. It would not be practicable or desirable to create a public car park in a green space of this nature.

Available car parking in the immediate area is limited to on street pay and display car parking.

5.3.5 Gate Locking

The park is locked during the hours of darkness and details are displayed on site via posters. There is further information on our [website](#).

5.3.6 Information

Information relating to The King’s Field is available on the Council’s website under Parks and Open Spaces: www.richmond.gov.uk

The parks signage is attractive and durable giving appropriate contact details. It uses easily understandable symbols to deter users from inappropriate and anti-social behaviour.

5.3.6 Cleanliness

The parks contractors supply a member of staff to check Access Passes into the skateboard park and to oversee the use of the facility. Part of the operative’s duties is to pick up litter and to ensure that the site is kept clean. All general litter bins have been removed and replaced with dual recycling bins. These are near the entrance and in the Skate Park.

5.3.7 Planted Areas

There are limited shrub and flower beds in The King’s Field mainly around the Café. As indicated above, trees mark the boundary of the field. The majority of these trees are mature and are healthy and well maintained. Three new trees were planted in 2011/12. There are planters adjacent to the café.

5.3.8 Scenic Quality

The park is an attractive open space offering a fine view into neighbouring Bushy Park. The most significant facility in the park is the skate facility which is not unattractive and is obviously an important asset for young people both inside and outside the borough.

5.3.9 Grass Areas

The amenity grass is in good condition for the sports it hosts. More than half of the park’s grass is cut by contractors paid by the Hampton Wick Cricket Club under a leasing arrangement with the Council. This seems to work well but there should always be effective liaison with the club.

5.3.10 Provision of Litter Bins

Recycling bins are now permanently sited after a successful trial project. The contractor operative prepares the recycling for collection on a weekly basis.

5.3.11 Seating

There are a satisfactory number of seats in the area of the skate park, the playground and Café. Seating seems to be most commonly used by young people watching skating, or those taking a break from the activity. There are benches around the play area, and these are supplemented by outdoor tables and chairs which are available when the Café is open.

5.3.12 Children’s Play Space

There is a small toddlers’ playground in The King’s Field. This is designed for younger children. It is well maintained and in a good condition.

There is a play area for older children based on a fitness trail concept with a zip wire.



Toddlers play area – equipment for older children is in the main area of the park

5.3.13 Buildings, including toilets

There are three buildings in the park. The Café was for many years a boarded-up and decaying parks pavilion with changing rooms. This building was transformed into a café during 2008.

There is a small cricket pavilion that is maintained by the council and used by the Hampton Wick Cricket Club.

Rose Cottage, situated within the boundary of The King’s Field, is owned by the Crown and managed as a private residence by the Royal Household.

5.3.14 Health and Safety

There are risks associated with Skateboarding and BMX riding. The facility is only open when the site is staffed and the attendant is responsible for making operating decisions – taking into account weather, site condition and usage – as well as implementing the rules.

The Council have introduced an ‘Access Pass’ scheme which requires parental consent for under 16s and personal consent for over 16s. Users are issued with a photo card detailing the terms and conditions of use. This pass is checked by the site attendant before the skate park can be used. It can also be revoked if a user does not adhere to the terms and conditions.

5.3.15 Nature Conservation Value

The King’s Field’s is positioned next to Bushy Park. The surrounding avenues of trees mean that it already has an important value as a corridor for wildlife. The site’s proximity to the river is also significant. With its small patches of bramble and the mature trees on site, food and shelter is provided for insects, birds and mammals. The site could be improved through planting a small hedge or fruiting trees, relaxing the mowing schedule and creation of dead wood habitats. Although it would have to

be on a relatively small scale to accommodate the sports facilities, it would still be of benefit to the biodiversity on site.

5.3.16 Access for people with disabilities

This factor has been included not only to ensure maximum accessibility for those in wheelchairs and for the elderly and the less able-bodied, but also to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act. Access to The Kings Field and Café is good.

6.0 Vision and Objectives for The King’s Field

6.1 The overall vision for The King’s Field is to:

“Maintain and improve the park so as to continue to provide a park where there are opportunities for outdoor contemplation, recreation and education in keeping with its urban location”.

It is envisaged that working closely with local people and The Royal Park, Bushy Park, the Council will provide the basis for an open space that will continue to provide recreational opportunities for, in particular, young people.

6.2 The key objectives for The King’s Field are:

- To continue to work closely with users of the facilities so as to adequately maintain and improve the facilities;
- To ensure that The King’s Field is a place that is secure, safe to use and is clean and well maintained;
- To ensure that the management of the landscape maintains the character of the park;
- To ensure that the park is promoted and managed in order to provide a high-quality service for the people using it;
- To continue to encourage and promote community involvement in the management of the park.
- To ensure that the management of the park protects and enhances the biodiversity of the site;
- To ensure that the park is managed sustainably;
- To maintain partnership approach to management of the site with The Royal Parks - Bushy Park.

7.0 Management of The King’s Field

7.1 Introduction

The Parks Service is overseen by the Head of Culture, assisted by the Parks Service Manager. It is made up of two teams, the Parks Service also use consultants when needed.

- The Operations team is responsible for liaising with contractors and monitoring the parks. The team includes a Parks Operations Manager, two Parks

Officers, an Ecology Policy and Planning Manager, an Ecology Policy and Planning Officer, Allotment Officer and a Parks Support Officer.

- The Arboricultural team is responsible for all street trees and arboricultural work in council-managed parks and open spaces, as well as assisting with planning issues. The team consists of a manager, seven tree officers and a technical support officer.

We value diversity and are committed to delivering a service that puts equality of opportunity as a priority.

Management of the park needs to deliver high standards of maintenance of all aspects of the soft and hard landscaping of the park within existing revenue budgets. Developments have been funded by major borough-wide capital investment Parks Improvement Programmes between 2005 and 2010 and 2012 and 2017. In 2022 Public Realm funding allow improvements in all wards covering – Sports pitches, Outdoor gyms, Playgrounds and pathway access.

7.1.2 **Delivery partners**

Council Services Carried Out by Contractors

The Council works and consults with the local residents. This assists the Council to work in harmony with users’ and residents’ views, the facilities offered, and any impact that is made on their lives. Continued working with the Youth Partnership has a very high priority in relation to the continued management of the park. The Council also works with a number of external companies who offer fitness classes, for more information, please visit:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/fitness_activities_in_parks/fitness_training_in_parks

For parks maintenance, a new approach was introduced from April 2013, with services split into eleven separate lots and being delivered through a framework contract. In broad terms maintenance will be carried out by the contractors’ operatives who have the necessary skills to achieve high and consistent standards. As a framework, the contracts will also be available for other authorities and organisations in London and the south-east of England.

Parks Framework contract: February 2018 – February 2021 (renewed March 2021 – 2025)

Following an open and thorough procurement process that began in spring 2017, contractors were appointed to seven service areas to start 36 month contracts in February 2018 (now renewed to 2025). Evaluation was on an 80% cost and 20% quality basis.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Amenity Landscape Management | 5 Parks Patrol |
| 2 Arboriculture Management | 6 Events Management |
| 3 Oak Processionary Moth management | 7 External Planting |
| 4 Play Inspection & Maintenance | |

Procurement was written in an output style with built-in quality measures and performance indicators and asking qualifying contractors to design excellent services using their knowledge and experience.

Relevance to The King’s Field

Continental Landscapes are the main grounds contractor, undertaking amenity management (grass cutting, shrubs, hedges, sports bookings and pitch maintenance), small works (hard landscaping, infrastructure and furniture installation, etc.) gate locking operations, plus undertaking play inspection and maintenance. They also undertake parks cleansing alongside existing street cleansing and graffiti removal to create a joined-up operation.

KPS are the arboricultural contractor, working closely with the Council’s tree team who undertake inspections and specify works, with Bartlett Tree Experts undertaking Oak Processionary Moth management.

Events in parks are managed by The Event Umbrella, a company who specialise in managing outdoor events in the public sector.

Park patrols are undertaken by Parkguard, a company specialising in education, support services and enforcement in parks and open spaces.

7.2 A Welcoming Place

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that The King’s Field continues to be a welcoming area.

7.2.1 Graffiti removal

As a part of the Council’s aim to make the Borough safe, green and clean we are committed to reducing and removing graffiti. The park will be inspected daily for graffiti. The full details of the borough’s commitment to the prompt removal of graffiti can be viewed at: www.richmond.gov.uk

There is an agreement with the Council’s street cleansing contractor, Continental Landscapes Ltd, to manage the removal of all graffiti within five working days. Where the graffiti is offensive it will be removed within one working day of notification.

7.2.2 Signage

Park signage will be kept clean and will be regularly inspected. Any necessary repairs will be carried out promptly.

7.2.3 Pathways

All paths and hard surfaces will be inspected annually, with regular monitoring throughout the year. Any necessary repairs will be carried out as promptly as possible. ‘Desire lines’ will be assessed for permanent construction.

7.3 Healthy, Safe and Secure

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that The King’s Field continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

7.3.1 Community Safety

All contractors working on the Green undertake an important role in terms of a visible staff presence on the Green and structure their maintenance work accordingly. All contractors are uniformed and wear highly visible clothing. A contractor operative oversees activities on the skate park. In addition, the local Police Safer Neighbourhood for Hampton Wick regularly patrols the area on foot.

7.3.2 Dog fouling

The Council and their contractors make efforts to educate dog owners to be responsible for their dog’s waste as the dangers of humans coming into contact with dog faeces are well known.

Signage clearly indicates that dog mess should be picked up and disposed of by those walking their pets.

All general waste bins can be used to dispose of dog waste.

The Council has adopted Public Space Protection Orders relating to Dog Control. These have been renewed in 2023 for a further 3 years. They can be found online here: [Dog Control PSPO \(richmond.gov.uk\)](https://www.richmond.gov.uk/dog-control-pspo)

7.4 Clean and Well Maintained

The following regimes are designed to ensure that The Kings Field is clean and well maintained.

7.4.1 Grass Maintenance

Grass surfaces within the park are mainly classed as amenity grass. Amenity turf is areas used for general recreation and formal and informal sports and can include wide-open spaces or those areas planted with trees and shrubs. The height of this grass is kept between 20 and 50mm throughout the year.

The level of maintenance will depend on the level of use, with increased repairs, fertilising, and scarifying of those areas subject to heavy wear. Most repair works to turf will be carried out in the autumn or spring, with areas either re-turfed or seeded.

Grass edges, whether they are against paths, fences or walls will be cut at the same time as the rest of the grass using strimmers in most areas.

There is an agreement with the Cricket Club, based in Bushy Park, to cut an agreed area of grass. The arrangement works well.

7.4.2 Trees

Trees within parks are subject to inspection by suitably qualified and experienced Arboriculturalists, this is in order to identify and remedy any unacceptable risks to people using the sites, an example of this is the prophylactic treatment of oak processionary moth or the removal of trees that are extensively decayed compromising their structural integrity.

Tree pruning is only carried out where necessary for risk management purposes or where formative pruning is necessary; this approach allows Richmond’s parks to retain a natural landscape with well-formed specimens. Where there is a particular characteristic by way of species composition, size or natural distribution the Council seeks to maintain this through selecting appropriate replacement and new trees. All tree works are in accordance with our Tree Management Policy.

Richmond Council encourages the Friends of King’s Field to consider the tree population within parks and to communicate with the parks and open spaces team in order to make improvements and ensure that there is continuity in the way that the trees are managed.

The King’s Field hosts a mixture of native and non-native trees, the layout and use of the site has led to perimeter planting. A bank of trees to the north are situated within the adjacent allotments, this combined with the perimeter planting and highway specimens provide a pleasant green back drop for people using the site.

In 2022 a line of cherry trees was planted along the main pathway towards the skate park entry point.

7.4.3 Cleansing

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of the field and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. Litter is collected on a daily basis before 10.30am each day by the park cleansing contractors.

The park cleansing contractors carry out litter picking, emptying of litterbins and the sweeping/blowing of paths. This applies to all surfaces, paths, lawns and beds.

When the field has high numbers of visitors and large amounts of litter is expected, the parks cleansing contractors will carry out additional visits to empty the bins. The full litter bags will be collected and removed from the site on the same day. In addition, the bins are cleaned and disinfected quarterly to avoid an unsightly accumulation of dirt.

7.4.4 Park Furniture and Fittings

The grounds maintenance contractors ensure that all furniture is clean and will check benches, notice boards and bins on a regular basis. Items will be cleaned on a monthly basis or more frequently when heavily used. Repairs are requested by contractors on a Defect Report and carried out promptly. Any single replacement or repair will match the existing furniture so that the style of the seat remains consistent.

Playgrounds are inspected twice a week by the grounds maintenance contractor and any hazards identified are dealt with accordingly. In addition, there is an annual inspection to ensure that the playground meets ROSPA standards.

7.4.5 Hard Surfaces

Hard surfaces will be kept clean with litter swept from surfaces regularly by the ground’s maintenance contractor.

Hard surfaces will be maintained in a weed free state with spot treatment weed spraying between March and November. Paths will be kept in a good state of repair and all paths being inspected annually and any repairs ordered to be carried out between March and November.

Drains and gulleys are inspected regularly.

7.4.6 Sports Facility Maintenance

The cricket pitch and football pitches are all maintained by contractors at the expense of the cricket club. It is recognised that there needs to be closer working with the cricket club in relation to the maintenance and management of the sports facilities.

The skate park is inspected on a daily basis by the contractor operative and also monthly by contractors. There are regular thorough checks of the facility and an annual inspection against ROSPA standards.

7.5 Environmental Sustainability

The following regimes are designed to ensure that The King’s Field is managed in a sustainable way.

7.5.1 Recycling

We have recycling bins available in the Gardens for visitors to use.

7.5.2 Recycling green waste

The Council’s ground maintenance contractor takes all green waste to Townsmead recycling centre and KPS the Council’s tree management contractor recycles woodchip where appropriate.

7.5.3 Pesticides

The use of pesticides on the Common will be minimised as much as possible in the interests of nature conservation and ecology. An exception to this is the annual spraying of the oak processionary moth.

The Council have an integrated Pest Management Policy which can be found online at:

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/media/25346/integrated_pest_management_policy.pdf

7.6 Community Involvement

This is crucial to the management of The Kings Field. The Council works closely with a consultative group of skateboard park users and local residents. This will continue to be of the utmost importance.

In 2023 the Parks Team held their first independent Youth Event this was held at the site and was held while the Parks Team were consulting the young people of Richmond to see what they want and need from their local parks. They were able to participate in drumming, have free bike servicing, street art and learn about local nature.



Youth Event September 2023

7.6.1 **Parks Events**

The Council encourages the hire of parts of the area to appropriate organisations. In reality this is likely to centre around the skateboarding facility. Local ward Councillors are consulted before permission is granted for any new major event. An evaluation process is held after each event.

Events are held in accordance with the Parks and Open Spaces Events Policy found at: www.richmond.gov.uk

7.7 **Marketing**

Promotion and marketing of The King's Field is carried out using a range of measures, including the Council's website and publicity literature, to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility.

7.7.1 **Entrance Signage**

A corporate style of signage for Richmond's parks and open spaces was launched in 2007.

7.7.2 **Internet**

The King's Field features on the council's website and can be accessed from from the Parks and Open Spaces link: www.richmond.gov.uk

Information on the Friends of the King's Field can be found at: <http://e-voice.org.uk/fgkf/>

7.7.3 **General Promotion**

In order to create community awareness for all of its facilities the Parks Service regularly produces articles and press releases about activities and facility development.

8 **Achievements and Action Plan**

8.1 **Achievements**

Changes and improvements made to the Kings Field in 2022-23 were:

- Trialed after school under 10 sessions during term time. This has worked and been implemented full time now.
- Upgraded the play provision by installing a skate swing, large space net climbing frame and a new cableway.
- Held the Youth event at site which was a great success.
- Skate Park drainage improved.
- Digitised the skate park process to take away the old paper application process.

8.2 Action Plan

The following action plan is divided into three sections:

Item of work and location	Year		Timing	Resources
	2024	2025		
Seek funding to improve the exiting gym area	Y		Ongoing	Parks Team
Sand pit to be added near to the café and extend cafes patio area	Y		Ongoing	Parks Team
Explore the possibility of increasing the amount of biodiversity within the site	Y	Y	Ongoing	Parks Team & Continental Landscapes
Review the provision of seating within the park	Y	Y	Ongoing	

8.2.1 Development and renewal

The Council is open to the changing needs of the local community with regards to facilities within any of the borough’s parks. The King’s Field has benefited from major capital investment over recent years in the form of a disused pavilion being rebuilt into a Café. It is not envisaged that there is likely to be any major addition to the park’s facilities apart from the upgrading of the skate park. The major challenge is to maintain high standards of maintenance and to plan for effective repair and renewal of the major elements of the park’s hard landscaping or infrastructure e.g. path system, sports facilities, playground.

8.2.2 Community Engagement

The parks section intends to continue to work with the Friends of Kings Field, The Royal Parks – Bushy Park, and update The Hampton Wick Association, Hampton Wick Safer Neighbourhood Team and local residents. In addition, a group of younger people who use the park are regularly consulted.

We are committed to being receptive to concerns and suggestions voiced individually or through the Friends Group or other local community groups.

8.3 Operational Commitments

This is presented in tabular form and includes the most important elements of the day to day maintenance of a park, grass cutting, trees and shrubs, litter collection and maintenance of parks furniture. Monitoring and inspection duties are included. Biodiversity management and initiatives are also included in this section.

Element	Action	Frequency
Grass Maintenance	Kept to a height of between 20mm & 50mm	Cut approximately every 10 days during the growing season
Tree maintenance	Inspection Replacing and expanding variety and stock	Annual As required
Shrub Maintenance	Kept weed free Mulching Pruning	As required Annual As required, dependent on species
Litter collection Recycling	Litter picking Emptying of bins	Daily Daily
Graffiti	Removal of obscene/offensive Removal of other	Within 24 hours Within 5 working days
Parks furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	Annual As required
Playground & skateboard park inspection	Visual inspection Detailed inspection ROSPA standard	Twice per week Monthly Annual

Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Weekly
Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual
Biodiversity opportunities and actions	Planting hedges Planting fruit trees Creation of dead hedges Installation of bird/bat boxes Relaxing mowing regime	Programme over 5 years We will work to the guidelines as set out in our Nature Conservation Policy Statement.
Tree planting	Identify planting opportunities	Programme over 5 years

8.4 Conclusion

This Management Plan is not 'set in stone'. It provides a framework and guidelines that enable the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames to manage the site to a high standard in a sustainable way. The Council is open to the changing needs of local communities and will continue to work closely with the Skate Park users and local residents. The Plan will run from January 2024 to December 2025. An interim progress update will be undertaken in January 2025.