



Cambridge Gardens Management Plan

January 2024 – December 2025

Cambridge Gardens Management Plan 2024-25: Foreword

Cambridge Gardens is a valuable asset for residents of East Twickenham, with an excellent position alongside the Thames Towpath which makes it an attractive stopping point for visitors to the scenic Richmond Riverside.

The management plan is based on an audit of the park following 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 any graffiti removed effectively and quickly?

Working with local communities to deliver the highest quality of service is our top priority and it is hoped that this document will provide a framework for continuing and improving these dialogues. 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 Cambridge Gardens. Members of the local community and the Friends of Cambridge Gardens are 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 practices.

The current financial climate will inevitably have a detrimental effect on the resources available to improve and maintain the borough's parks and open spaces. The borough will continue to work closely with its partners, in this case Continental Landscapes to maintain standards. In addition we will need to look for additional ways of funding to maintain and improve the boroughs parks, one of our most valuable assets.

Cambridge Gardens is being developed as one of 6 [Friendly Parks for All](#) in the borough designed to encourage access for people who face barriers to spending time in parks and open spaces. The development of this Park as a Friendly Park for all will see an outdoor gym installed, a sensory/community garden and boat sculptures at each of the entrances/exits.

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1. Introduction

1.1 This Management Plan provides a framework 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 we aim to achieve within the remit of our current budgets. The Plan has been drafted for a broad audience interested in the development of the park namely:

- Borough residents;
- The Parks and Open Spaces Service;
- Other services and departments within the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames;
- Elected members, ward councilors 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 sport, 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 (Greenspace Information for Greater London CIC, 2023).

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 can be summarised as follows:

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; and
- 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; and
- 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; and
- 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 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](#)

3.1 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, following public consultation, we developed a series of strategic principles by which the parks will be managed:

The strategic principles are as follows:

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 Site Description

4.1 Outline History of Cambridge Gardens

Cambridge Gardens is on the Middlesex bank of the River Thames in East Twickenham, in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. It is a picturesque setting that overlooks Richmond Bridge and the renowned Richmond riverside.

At the foot of the bridge on the Twickenham side, Richard Owen Cambridge removed the wall around his house in the eighteenth century and opened his lawns

to the river, to the delight of tourists who found them ideal for picnics. At the turn of the 20th century, Later owners sold off plots of land just behind the present Cambridge Gardens for use as roller-skating rinks, one of which quickly became a bus garage. In 1914 the other became the nucleus of the famous and massive Belgian-owned Pelabon Munitons Works which covered most of the present riverside green space. After the war the departing Belgians effectively gifted the riverside land to become Cambridge Gardens and adjacent Warren Gardens. In 1928 the Belgian workshop alongside the Warren Gardens workshop became Richmond Ice Rink (soon to be internationally renowned), but the other buildings continued to hold light industry until by the 1990s all had been demolished for development. Information boards in Cambridge and Warren Gardens, compiled by the Friends, shows the history of the combined site.

Richard Owen Cambridge's Cambridge Park in 1803



4.2 General Information

Cambridge Gardens is designated Metropolitan Open Land and Thames Policy Area and lies within the boundary of the Richmond Hill Conservation Area.

It is a small yet highly valued recreation ground, which overlooks the River Thames in East Twickenham. There are 4 hard tennis courts and a practice wall, where coaching and a children’s holiday programme is provided through the Council’s Sports Team. There is a popular playground, lawns and shrubs. The pavilion has a café and a community room which can be booked. The substantial open field has a boundary hedge and several benches, this area provides for dog walkers and several fitness groups. There is a pleasant walkway alongside the river beds, named the “Jubilee Walk” in 2012 and now often used by joggers. This joins the Warren footpath, providing a pleasant walk through the gardens from Richmond Bridge passing Marble Hill Park and Orleans House before reaching Twickenham Town Centre.

4.2.1 Land Tenure

The site is owned by the London Borough of Richmond and is managed by the Parks and Open Spaces Service.

The enabling acts which confer the specified powers to the Council to administer and maintain the land are listed below:

- Open Spaces Act 1906;

- Local Government Act 1972; and
- Local Government, Planning & Land Act 1980.

4.2.2 Location

Cambridge Gardens is based along Clevedon Road next to Richmond Bridge in East Twickenham. The road borders one side of the gardens, and the river Thames footpath the other. The immediate area around the park is occupied by residential housing.

4.2.3 Access

As a free and open facility Cambridge Gardens has the potential to provide fully inclusive access to local residents and visitors to the area. Pedestrians and those arriving by train and bus and car can currently access the site.

Cambridge Gardens is being develop as one of 6 Friendly Parks for All in the borough. The project aims to improve the impact, reach and quality of access to parks and open spaces in the borough to residents who experience barriers to access.

https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/explore_richmonds_parks_and_open_spaces/friendly_parks_for_all

4.2.4 Local Transport

Train: Cambridge Gardens is located between the Richmond and St Margaret’s train stations – each being just under a mile away.

Bus: Clevedon Road, where the garden is based, leads on to the A305 Richmond Road. The H37, H22, 490, R70, 33, and R68 buses stop at the Richmond Road station a minute’s walk from Cambridge Gardens.

4.2.5 Landscape & Topography

The site is generally flat with hedges, wildflowers meadow and recreational facilities.

4.2.6 Listed Historic Buildings

There are no listed buildings on the site.

4.2.7 Ecology

Although at first glance it may seem that there is not much ‘wildlife’ present, it is in fact an important site for bats, which use the river to feed. The trees that sit on the perimeter of the site provide valuable resting and refuge opportunities for the bats whilst they are feeding. The thick prickly hedges are good habitats for birds and mammals to move around, forage and rest. The site is also being enhanced for ecology with proposed installation of the sensory garden/community growing garden.

4.2.8 Facilities

Cambridge Gardens contains the following facilities within the park:

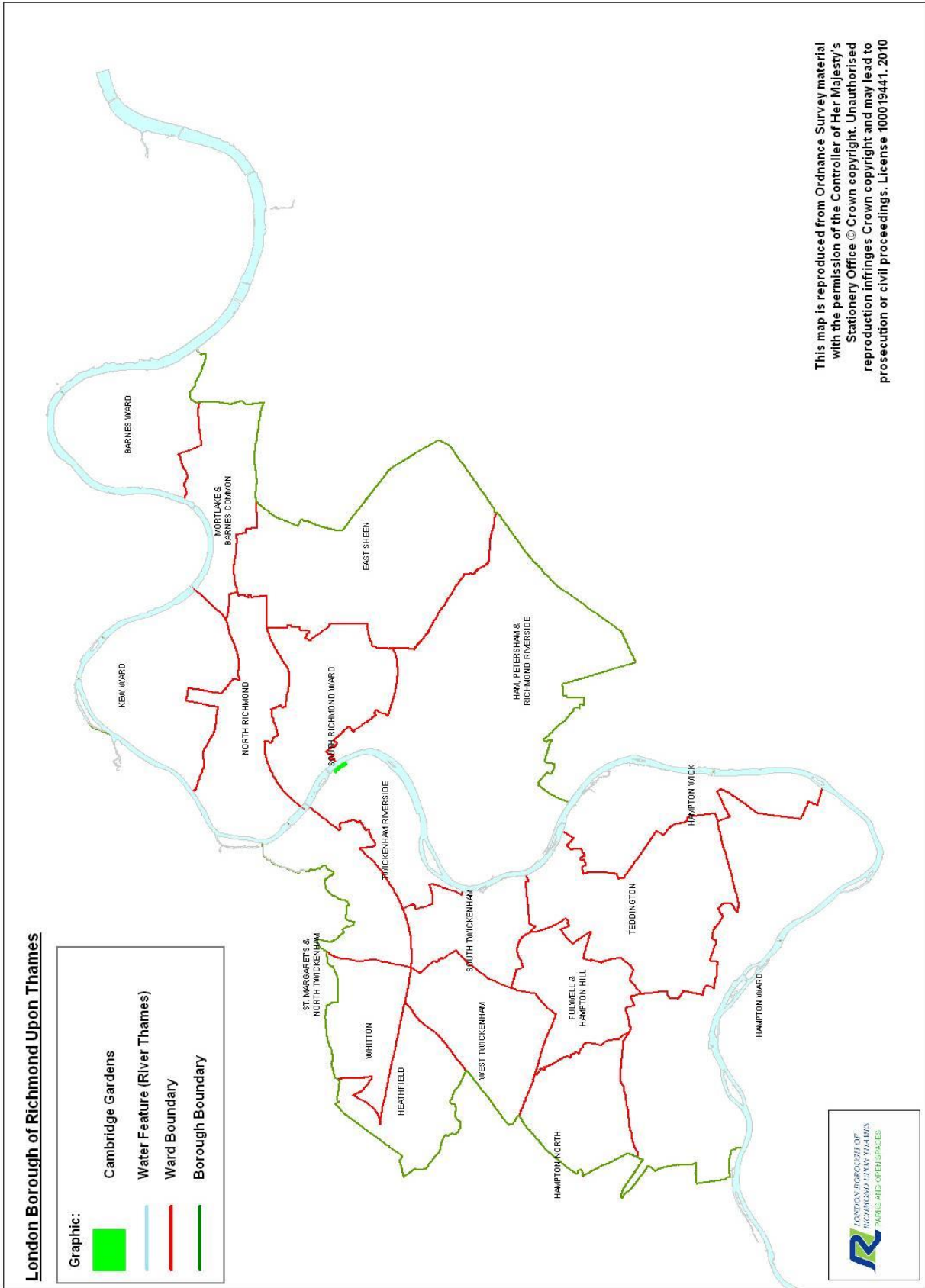
- Tennis courts (hard surface)
- A café
- A playground
- Benches

4.2.9 Maps and Plans

On the following pages, please find:

- Location map of Cambridge Gardens within the borough
- Plan map of Cambridge Gardens
- Aerial photo of Cambridge Gardens

Location map of Cambridge Gardens within the borough





Aerial Photograph of Cambridge Gardens



5. 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;
 - 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 National Planning Policy Framework

These are:

- provision of accessible, high quality park space for sport and recreation that meet the identified 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 was 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;
- Seating;
- Children's play space;
- Sports and recreation;
- Buildings including toilets;
- Health and safety;
- Nature conservation value; and
- Access for people with disabilities.

5.3.1 Main Entrance

There are several entrances to the Gardens, with access at both ends and the middle of Clevedon Road as well as via the Thames footway at both ends. The majority of users seem to enter via the Clevedon Road entrance closest to the café. Welcoming signage includes a notice board used by both the Council and Friends.



Figure 1 Entrance on Clevedon Road closest the Cafe

5.3.2 Boundaries

The site is bounded by the riverside boundary and Clevedon Road.

5.3.3 Roads, Paths, Cycleways and Access

Paths in the gardens are in good condition. There are no cycleways.

5.3.4 Parking

There is no parking within Cambridge Gardens, although there is limited parking along the residential roads nearby. The nearest car parks are at Richmond Riverside just across the bridge (weekends only) (5 minute’s walk) and at Friars Lane Richmond (10 minutes walk). There is a space for disabled visitors.

Cycle stands are available outside the playground, in close proximity to the café.

5.3.5 Information

Further information relating to the park is available on the Council’s website:
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 Gardens are kept clear of litter and graffiti by the Council’s grounds maintenance and street cleansing contractor. Bins are emptied daily, and the site is litter picked at the same time.

The site is popular for dog walkers. Most dog walkers are local residents and do clean up afterwards. Residents and users can report dog fouling to the Council for it to be removed.

5.3.7 Planted Areas

The riverside beds will be replanted in 2024, a border was added to stop debris falling onto the pathways.

The site is also home to some ornamental specimen Magnolia trees which abound with blossom in spring.

5.3.8 Scenic Quality

Views of the River Thames and the famous Richmond Riverside are one of the strongest features of Cambridge Gardens. The Thames Footpath, which runs along the edge of the gardens, offers its own views, and the opportunity to walk down to the gardens of Marble Hill House and the Orleans House Gardens.

5.3.9 Grass Areas

The amenity turf throughout the Gardens is appropriately cut and maintained.

5.3.10 Provision of Litter Bins

There are litter bins throughout the Gardens and these are generally in a good condition.

5.3.11 Seating

There is no shortage of seating in the Gardens. Benches are in a good condition and are spaced throughout the area offering peaceful spots for people to sit. There is also a wheelchair accessible picnic table.

5.3.12 Children’s Play Space

There is a playground in good condition in the Gardens. This was installed in 2006 following public consultation. As with all playgrounds now installed in the borough, the play equipment includes fully accessible pieces.

5.3.13 Buildings, including toilets

The building housing the café is leased out to a private operator, who takes care of the internal maintenance. It is subject to regular inspection. Toilets are provided within the café.

5.3.14 Health and Safety

The paths and the playground are in good condition and present no obvious dangers to members of the public. The play equipment is up to date and the park as a whole is flat and the riverbank does not lead directly onto the park.

5.3.15 Nature Conservation Value

The nature conservation value of the site is very high as the site forms part of a bat highway along the River Thames. This is enabled by the mature trees offering places of refuge and feeding. There are a number of habitats on site for birds and mammals including the hedges providing shelter and food and the wildflower meadow providing long grass, pollen and nectar for invertebrates.

5.3.16 Access for people with disabilities

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

Access to the park from Cambridge Road is via flat and accessible entrances. Access to the Thames Towpath is even with steps and ramp facilities. However the towpath does flood which leaves debris and a potentially uneven surface.

The park is being developed as one of the Councils' Friendly Parks for All, it includes a raised bench for people with limited mobility and a wheelchair accessible picnic table. The Parks Team also arranged for a parking space to be designated for disabled visitors at the main Clevedon Road entrance/exit.

The Parks Team are working with Mencap's Working Together Group, to understand what those with mental and physical disabilities need to improve their access of the Park. We are working with them to create an outdoor gym, sensory/community garden and install boat sculptures and the entrances and exits. These will be installed in 2024 providing there is funding.

6. Vision and Objectives for the park

6.1 The overall vision for Cambridge Gardens:

Following consultation with the local community and as a result of the development of this Management Plan, the future vision for the Park is to keep its valuable habitats and amenity value for both the public and wildlife as high as possible. Safety and security are of high importance as well as good quality facilities.

6.2 Aims and Objectives for the Management of the Park

This section sets out the aims and objectives for the management of Cambridge Gardens as follows:

- To identify and cherish the special character of the Gardens.
- To ensure that the management of the Garden, protects and enhances the biodiversity of the site.
- To ensure that the management of the landscape maintains the character of the Gardens.
- To ensure that the Park is promoted and managed in order to provide a high-quality service
- To meet the demands and expectations of the local community primarily as a recreational, diverse and enjoyable place
- To encourage and promote community involvement in the implementation of the proposals and in the on-going management and development of the Gardens.

7. Management of the Park

7.1 Introduction

This section sets out guidelines and general principles to be followed in delivering the vision and objectives outlined above.

7.1.1 Parks Service

7.1.1 The Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Service

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

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, without lots of technical detail, using the new strategic principles as guidance and asking qualifying contractors to design excellent services using their knowledge and experience.

Relevance to Cambridge Gardens

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 arboriculture 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.

Our contractors take appropriate actions to ensure their health and safety of their staff and a safe working environment through proper training, risk assessments and inspections. These may vary depending on the contractor, further details of these can be made available upon request.

7.2 A Welcoming Place

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Cambridge Gardens 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**

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

7.2.3 **Pathways**

All paths will be inspected annually with regular monitoring throughout the year. Any necessary repairs will be carried out promptly.

7.3 **Healthy, Safe and Secure**

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Cambridge Gardens continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

7.3.1 **Community Safety**

All contractors working on the park undertake an important role in terms of a visible staff presence on the park and structure their maintenance work accordingly. All contractors are uniformed and wear highly visible clothing.

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 \(richmond.gov.uk\)](http://Dog Control PSPO (richmond.gov.uk))

7.4 **Clean and Well Maintained**

The following regimes are designed to ensure that the park is clean and well maintained.

7.4.1 **Grass Maintenance**

The majority of the grassed areas within Cambridge Gardens are classed as amenity use.

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.

7.4.2 Trees

Trees within parks are subject to inspection by suitably qualified and experienced Arboriculturists, 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.

Cambridge Gardens is host to trees of varying size and age, native and non-native. Mature specimens align the towpath contributing to the character of the setting and providing a valuable habitat for riverside wildlife. Ornamental flowering magnolias are a spectacular feature during the spring. Several heritage London plane trees are visible from within the Gardens; specimens belonging to the former Cambridge House Estate are visible to the south and east of the site.

7.4.3 Cleansing

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the cared for appearance of the Gardens and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. Litter is collected on a daily basis 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 park 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 will be 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 routinely inspected weekly by the grounds maintenance contractor and any hazards identified are dealt with accordingly. In addition, playgrounds are operationally inspected quarterly and 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 grounds' 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 gully's will be inspected regularly by our Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Continental Landscapes.

7.4.6 Sports Facility Maintenance

Tennis Courts

- The courts are jet washed annually to remove moss and debris from the playing surface.
- Nets are replaced when required.

7.5 Sustainability

The following regimes are designed to ensure that the park is managed in a sustainable way.

7.5.1 Recycling

At present we do not have recycling facilities available in this park. However, residents can recycle at some of our other parks and open spaces as well as the cafes situated within them.

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 **Biodiversity**

The Gardens are an important site for wildlife especially with the close proximity of the river which acts as a bird and bat highway.

Current Management

The hedges are managed outside of the bird nesting season by the grounds maintenance contractor.

Future Management/Proposals:

The shrub beds will be revamped in 2024 with the aim of making them more attractive to wildlife. We will continue to incorporate dead wood and also other habitats.

We will work to the guidelines as set out in our Nature Conservation Policy Statement

7.7 **Community Involvement**

This is crucial to the management of the park. Any developments are put out to public consultation, whilst there is not a Friends Group for this site there is a very local group, Warren Gardens Wildlife Haven, who have an interest in the site. We share any consultations with them for their consideration. The Parks Team are also working with Mencap’s local Working Together Group to focus on the Friendly Parks for All project and how the site is being developed to aid those with access barriers.

7.8 **Marketing**

Promotion and marketing of the Gardens is carried out using a range of measures, including the Council’s website, publicity literature and the Association noticeboard, to ensure that local people and visitors to the borough are aware of the facility.

Entrance Signage

A corporate style of signage for Richmond’s parks and open spaces was launched in 2007. Cambridge Gardens had these attractive and informative signs installed at the end of 2007.

Internet

Cambridge Gardens features on the council’s website and can be accessed from from the Parks and Open Spaces link: www.richmond.gov.uk

General Promotion

In order to create community awareness for all of its facilities, the Parks and Open Spaces 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 Cambridge Gardens during 2024-25 were:

- Developing the gardens as a Friendly Park for All
- Install a new outdoor gym and sensory/community gardens
- Plant new trees in between the brick planters along the Riverside and plant a new Magnolia in the Gardens

8.2 Action Plan

The following action plan is divided into three sections:

Item of work and location	Year		Timing	Resources
	2024	2025		
Work with Mencap to develop the Gardens as a Friendly Park for All	Y	Y	Ongoing	LBRuT & LGOAL
Install an accessible outdoor gym	Y		Summer 2024	LBRUT
Install sensory/community garden that Mencap are able to maintain	Y	Y	Ongoing	LBRUT, LGOAL & Continental Landscapes
Install sleepers to the base of the beds and replant the raised borders	Y		Spring 2024	LBRUT & Continental Landscapes
Additional tree planting	Y		Spring 2024	LBRUT & KPS Contractors

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. Cambridge Gardens will undergo development in 2024 with a new outdoor gym being installed along the riverside walk and the installation of a sensory/community garden.

8.2.2 Community Engagement

The Parks team intends to continue to work with Mencap regarding the development on the site as a Friendly Park for All. The Council has and will continue to consult with the neighbouring Friends group (Warren Gardens Wildlife Haven Group) and local ward councillors in relation to any new initiatives. We are committed to being receptive to concerns and suggestions voiced individually or through community groups.

8.3 Operational Commitments

The maintenance schedule includes the main features that make up the fabric of the park and the maintenance operations for each. Monitoring and inspection duties are also included. Biodiversity management and initiatives are included in this schedule.

Feature	Maintenance Operation	Frequency
Amenity grass	Kept to a height of between 20mm to 50mm	Cut approximately every 10 days during the growing season
Tree	Inspection Replacing and expanding variety and stock	Annual As required
Shrub	Kept weed free Mulching Pruning	As required When necessary As required, dependent on species
Litter	Litter picking Emptying of bins	Daily Daily
Graffiti	Removal of obscene/offensive words Removal of other	Within 24 hours Within 5 working days
Parks furniture	Clean and paint Repair/replace	When necessary When necessary
Playground inspection	Visual inspection Detailed inspection ROSPA standard	Weekly Quarterly Annual
Monitoring of contract	Monitoring	Every 3 months
Infrastructure inspection	Inspection	Annual
Biodiversity opportunities and actions	Inspection, enhancement when necessary	Monitor Bird nesting season and Bat activity accordingly

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