

## The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Management Plan (2019 – 2024)



**Friends of the Meadows  
and Bruntsfield Links**

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) SC045955

◆ EDINBURGH ◆  
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

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## Overview Map of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

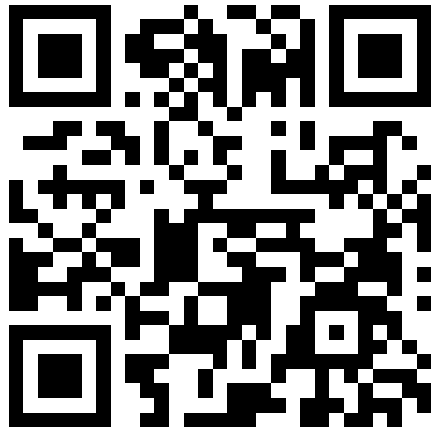


## Summary Information

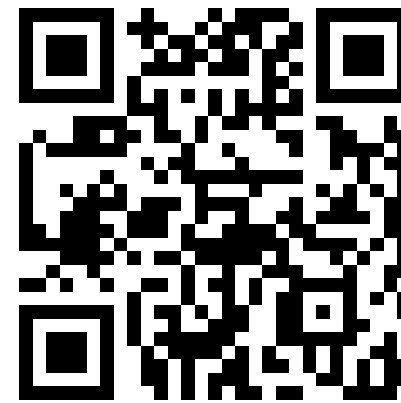
Park Name:	The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links
Address:	Melville Drive, Edinburgh
National Grid reference:	The Meadows NT2572    Bruntsfield Links NT2472
Size of Site:	39.6 hectares (97.85 acres)
Telephone Number:	0131 529 5151
Email:	southeast.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk    Twitter: @Edinburgh_CC
Ownership:	The City of Edinburgh Council – Common Good Account
Area Designation	South East Locality
Classification:	Premier Park
Previous Management Plan:	2009 - 2014
Partners:	Local community groups Community Councils (Tollcross, Southside, Marchmont and Sciennes, Merchiston) Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Schools (Sciennes Primary School, James Gillespie's High School and Primary School, Bruntsfield Primary School, Boroughmuir High School, St. Thomas of Aquin's High School and Tollcross Primary School) Edinburgh Leisure and sports clubs Quatermile Development (commercial) Edinburgh University Local churches, shops, and businesses Royal Company of Archers

## QR Codes

Park users can scan these codes using their smartphone to find out about each park or report a concern at [www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk](http://www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk)

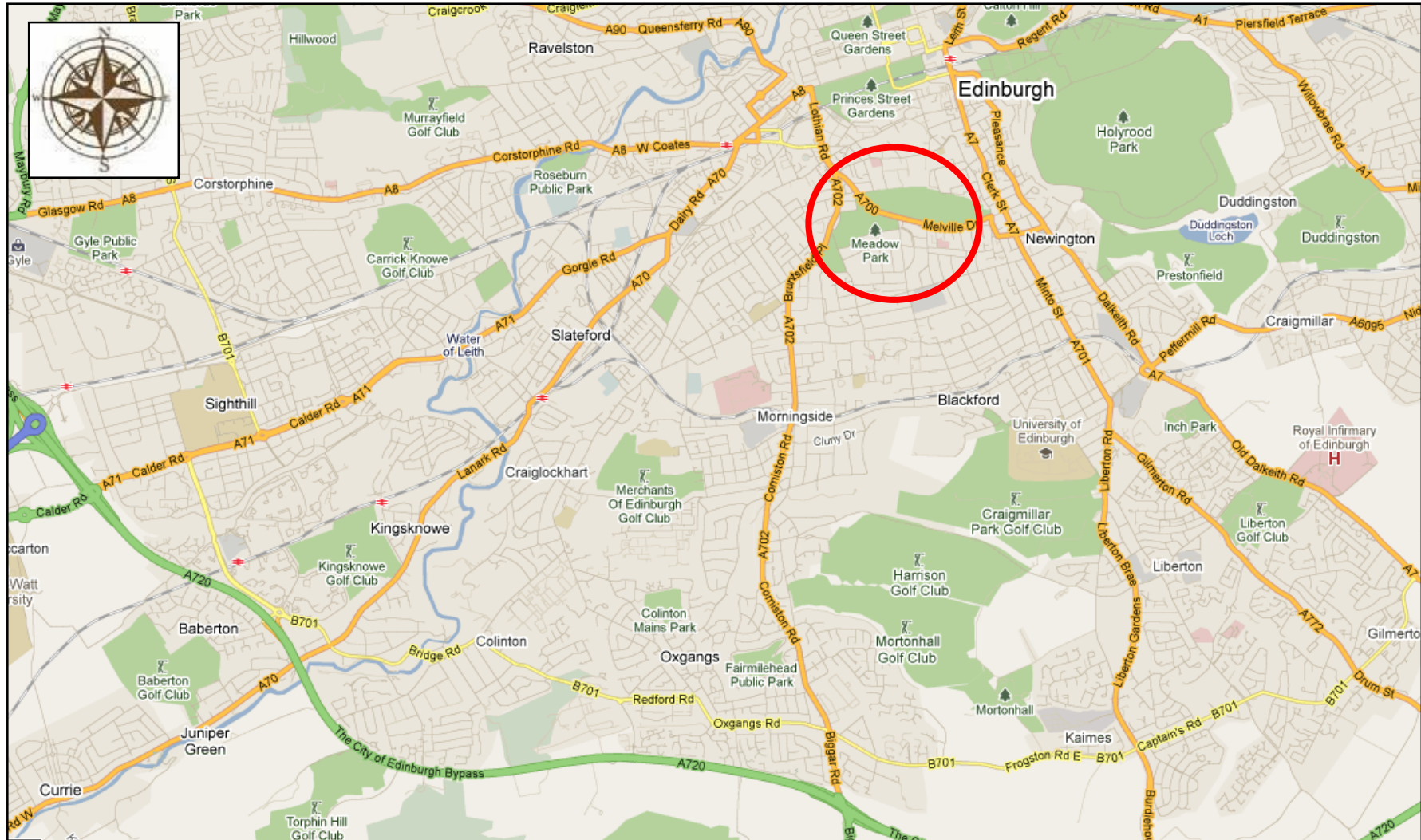


The Meadows



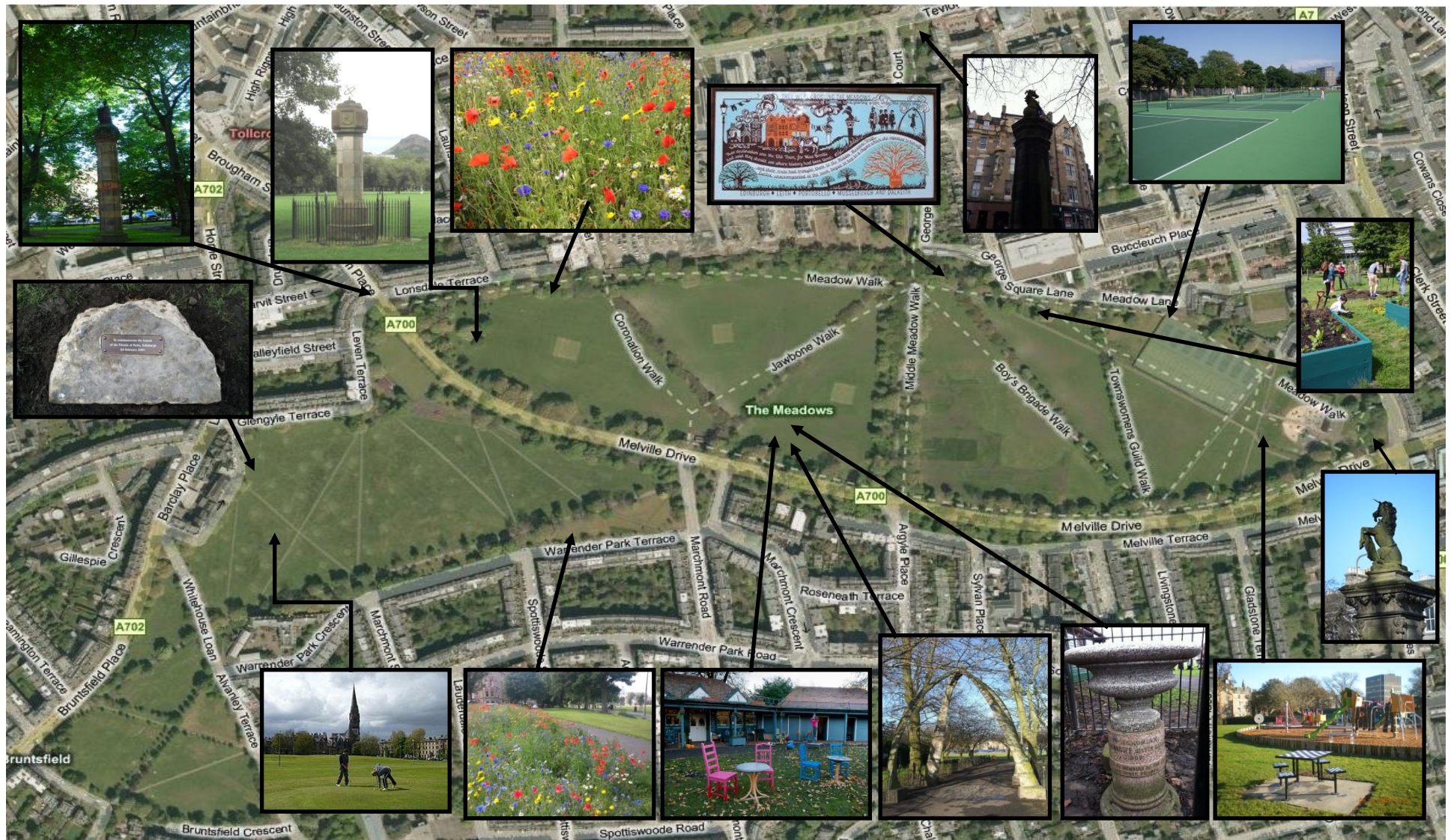
Bruntsfield Links

# The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Management Plan 2019 - 2024



**Location Map of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links**

### Overview Photograph of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links





# 1 Introduction

## 1.0 Location

The Meadows, with an area of 24.5 hectares (60.5 acres), and Bruntsfield Links, 15.1 hectares (37.3 acres), form one large green space with two contrasting parks, which for the purposes of this management plan are treated as one.

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links have a rich and varied history and heritage. The Meadows was once the shallow South or Burgh Loch, providing the city with water for drinking, washing clothes and for brewing beer. From the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century the area was gradually drained and it was later laid out as pleasure grounds with tree-lined walks and a summer house. A detailed list of the park's fascinating historical features is appended (**Appendix 1**). The Meadows became the popular space it is today for sport, celebration, meeting friends or taking a stroll. Now a Millennium Park, the Meadows will belong to the people of Edinburgh for all time. Millennium Park status is further explained in section 3.4.



The Meadows and the Bruntsfield Links have distinct topographies. The Meadows area, as a former shallow loch that was gradually drained over the last two hundred years, is flat with heavy soil. The Links, lightly quarried for sandstone over two hundred years ago, forms a north-sloping and undulating, mostly well-drained area, with thin soil-cover and very small rock outcrops at the south-western extremity on Bruntsfield Place. Roughly 90% of the area is grass, with the other 10% wooded along Melville Drive, Whitehouse Loan, most paths, and around much of the edge. All the paths are straight; they are traced from the original 19<sup>th</sup> Century plans, and by the desire-lines created by people crossing the area.

The park provides an essential greenspace in the heart of the city with a design that lends itself to a great range of sports and leisure activities. The layout of the park provides healthy and safe routes into the city along tree-lined paths for residents of the south side of the city. The design provides large open spaces which can accommodate a range of activities including sport,

play, leisure activities, and other events. There are a number of stakeholders who can be associated with the park and provide a good cross section of public and commercial use.

Members of the public use the park in many ways, but it is generally used for leisure: walks, jogging, cycling, dog walking, commuter walking/cycling routes, and picnicking. The park is a fantastic attraction all year round, but most of all on warm, sunny days. A great number of people flock to its grassy expanses to enjoy the warm sun in the open.

A great many organised sports are enjoyed within the park: these include cricket, short-hole golf, croquet, bowls, tennis, and children's football. The local schools use these good-quality, standard facilities as part of the school curriculum. The park also lends itself to a very high number of informal sporting activities, mainly enjoyed by the local university students; it not unusual to see shinty, volleyball, rugby, and football matches being played, with jackets as goal posts! In addition, it is often used as an area for flying frisbees and kites.

Among the greatest attractions in the park are the children's play areas, in particular the Magnet playground in the East end of the park where the equipment caters for children of ages ranging from 3 to 16 years. The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links offer three play areas: The Magnet, a smaller area to the west of the park near the Croquet pavilion, and a child friendly area just off Middle Meadow Walk, adjoining Archers Walk, which is grass-covered and mainly caters for very young visitors with its smaller pieces of apparatus (**Appendix 9**).

Several organised events are held in the park for community, charity and commercial use. These events can at times eliminate open use of the green space; however, steps have been taken within the Edinburgh's Parks Manifesto to take cognisance of this and as a result events in the park has been reduced to four major events per year.

The cultural, aesthetic and recreational value of the park for the citizens of Edinburgh is immense. Almost every citizen will probably use or visit it at some time in their life. The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links are specially valued by those living in the adjacent Community Councils areas of Southside, Tollcross, Marchmont and Sciennes, and Merchiston. The original entrance to the park was along Middle Meadow Walk, and although it is not enclosed, it has several boundaries, and a number of local roads that bound the park and give it an enclosed feel.

## 1.1 Management Plan Framework

This Management Plan sets out the future management, maintenance and development of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links and has been produced by The City of Edinburgh Council and representatives from Southside, Merchiston, Tollcross, and

Marchmont and Sciennes community councils, together with Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, to provide not only a long-term vision but also details on the developmental and operational duties required to achieve this vision.

The management plan covers 2019 to 2024 and has a detailed plan of works for this period. The plan's target audience consists of elected members, the local community and Council officers, and its style and content should ensure continuity of purpose and consistency in service delivery. It is intended to be a flexible, working document that will be reviewed and updated annually.

Like any management plan its purpose is to:

*“Provide a framework within which all future management is carried out. The plan enables any person involved to understand how and why decisions are taken, and the reasoning behind the policies and proposals for action.”*

## 1.2 Edinburgh Parks and Gardens Framework

Edinburgh values its reputation as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, renowned for its setting, history and built heritage. Parks and green spaces are integral to this. They serve as a stage for our public lives and provide settings where celebrations are held, where social exchanges take place, where friends mix, where cultures run into each other, where nature thrives, and where people seek revival from the stresses of urban living.

The Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries service is committed to providing quality parks for residents and visitors alike. There are five qualities that make a park great, and that drive the work of the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service:

- They must be full of activity and invite affection.
- They must also be visible and accessible as well as being comfortable and safe.
- They also need to be places you can count on, no matter if you visit the park every day or once a year.
- The Edinburgh Green Spaces Forum.

Since 2008, all of Edinburgh's 144 parks are assessed using the Green Flag judging criteria on an annual basis and a Parks Quality Assessment Score is produced for each site. These scores are compared to the Edinburgh Minimum Standard which has been developed to benchmark our parks and record how they are improving.

These quality assessment criteria have allowed Edinburgh to achieve improved standards across the city which have enhanced the opportunities for success in the Beautiful Scotland Awards 2012, COSLA Awards for Excellence 2011, and in 2013

Edinburgh was successful in gaining the Britain in Bloom RHS Gold Award. Following this success Edinburgh entered the Entente Florale Europe competition in 2014, gaining a Gold Award at the first time of entering.

In Edinburgh the involvement of local residents through a network of Friends' groups is well established. Depending on their capacity, sites host both major and local events and activities, offering a wide range of attractions to families and individuals from a diverse community.

The Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service ensures that Edinburgh's parks and greenspaces are clean, safe, colourful, and diverse; they provide the setting for activities and celebrations; they are well-known for their features, history and happenings; and are locally valued and used.

### 1.3 Green Flag Award Scheme

The Green Flag Award Scheme is a national standard for quality in greenspace management in England and Wales. Edinburgh has been involved in the pilot scheme using the Green Flag criteria as a measure and methodology for benchmarking the quality of parks and green spaces in Scotland and has been involved in this project since 2007 in conjunction with Keep Scotland Beautiful.



These criteria are used in carrying out our annual Parks Quality Assessments and give Council officers and friends' groups up to date information and a measure of the standards of the park at the time of inspection.

## 2 Vision and Aims

### 2.0 Introduction

This section sets out a vision for the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links and a series of new objectives that are developed into actions later in the plan, and which relate to the city-wide vision.

### 2.1 Vision

The City of Edinburgh Council adopted its Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy in March 2006. The strategy sets out a vision for its parks that states:

“A quality parks system worthy of international comparison, accessible, diverse and environmentally rich; which fulfils the cultural, social and recreational needs of the people” (Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy, 2006, p49)

The Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries, Waste and Cleansing, and Locality Transport and Environment services ensures that Edinburgh’s parks and greenspaces are clean, safe, colourful, and diverse; they will be the setting for activities and celebrations; be well-known for their features, history and “happenings”; and be locally valued and used.

In developing this management plan for the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, our vision is:

*“To look after the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links for the benefit of citizens and visitors alike, both now and for the future. This will ensure that the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links continues to be a distinctive and attractive place, safe for all who frequent these spaces for relaxation and recreation”.*

## 2.2 Aims

The vision is underpinned by a series of aims linked to the [Green Flag Award Scheme](#) criteria. Each aim has been ascribed targets, measures, and timescales in the following table:

Criterion	Aim(s)
A Welcoming Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value.</li> <li>b) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and to enhance the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity.</li> <li>c) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site.</li> </ul>
Healthy, Safe and Secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and enhancing the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity.</li> <li>e) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations.</li> <li>f) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site.</li> </ul>
Well Maintained and Clean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>g) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations.</li> </ul>
Environmental Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>h) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.</li> </ul>
Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) To increase the biodiversity value of the site.</li> <li>j) To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value.</li> </ul>
Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>k) To engage with the local community and user groups encouraging active participation in decision-making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource.</li> </ul>
Marketing & Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>l) To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users.</li> </ul>
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>m) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.</li> <li>n) To ensure the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet visitor expectations.</li> <li>o) To engage with the local community and user groups encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource.</li> </ul>

### 3 Survey and Park Governance

#### 3.0 Introduction

This section examines the legal situation with respect to ownership and designations that apply to the park, as well as confirming its strategic significance in the [Local Plan](#). It pulls together surveys that have been undertaken to update the baseline data about the park and considers the involvement of the community through local volunteers and events.

#### 3.1 Strategic Significance of the Park

Several Edinburgh's corporate strategies and policies apply to the parks and greenspaces in the city, aiming to deliver safety and equality of provision, safeguard and enhance local environments and neighbourhoods, and ultimately improve the quality of life for Edinburgh's communities, enabling residents to participate fully in the city's park life.

These policies set the overall context within which parks are managed and developed, and although it is the green space policies that have primary impact, the other more general policies also have a direct or indirect effect in varying degrees.

A list of these policies is provided in the appendix (**Appendix Two**). Copies are available on request. Many can also be accessed via the Council website ([www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk)).

#### 3.2 Management Rules

The Management Rules were revised in 2013. They aim to provide rules that encourage responsible use and capture the ethos of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

An appendix showing the "Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace" is included (**Appendix Three**).

#### 3.3 Park Classification

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links are classified within the Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy as a "Premier Park" with a Parks Quality Standard (PQS) rating of 76% Grade B in the 2018 report (**Appendix Five**). It is the largest park in the strategy.

Premier Parks are defined in the Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy, 2006 as, *“high quality parks, offering a wide range of facilities aimed at international and national visitors as well as local and city-wide users. These will often be areas with significant resources of cultural or natural heritage and may themselves be of historical importance. Design quality should be optimal and unique to each park. Standards of maintenance should be very high thus dictating the need for designated site based maintenance teams. The overall impression should be able to bear comparison with the best regarded parks anywhere in the world”*.

### **3.4 Millennium Park Status**

In December 2000, the Meadows was designated a Millennium Park (see <http://www.fieldsintrust.org/FieldSite/The-Meadows-Edinburgh->).

The move by The City of Edinburgh Council followed an approach from the National Playing Fields Association (Scottish Branch), now known as Fields in Trust (FIT), which will ensure that the park will be protected in perpetuity as community open space. The Council will maintain them in good condition and report to FIT the level of use by the general public. A commemorative plaque is situated on a presentation stone at the Middle Meadow Walk to mark the new designation for the Meadows.

The designation of areas as large and important as the Meadows means they will be protected in perpetuity. There are too few places left where people can just enjoy open space, fresh air and leisure, and this is what makes the Meadows so vital. The need to protect the 58.4 acres of the Meadows, originally the site of the Borough or South Loch, was recognised more than 170 years ago with the Edinburgh Improvement Act of 1827 and by subsequent acts. The designation of Millennium Park status enhances that protection.

The Meadows has always been a popular recreation area for the people of Edinburgh, and when Melville Drive was opened in 1859 as part of the South Side developments, it brought a fresh wave of interest from visitors.

### **3.5 Community Involvement**

The Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links was founded in 2001 with the participation of Southside, Tollcross, and Marchmont and Sciennes community councils, and it now also involves Merchiston Community Council. Its Board of Trustees includes representatives from all four local community councils. It achieved charitable status in 2015: Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) no. SC043955. Its main purpose is to help to care for the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, in co-operation with the Council, which holds the land in trust for the people, and with the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries in particular, and to promote good stewardship of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.



Current paid-up membership is around 190 individuals (including eight organisations and the 106 student residents in the Wright's Houses); many are deeply interested in this greenspace, regarding it as their front garden.

The main activities of the friends' group are three open meetings a year, generally on local history and current issues relating to the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links. They also undertake voluntary work parties once a month on Saturday mornings, helping with gardening work to assist the Council. The Friends' group provides excellent links to other interest groups and the Council.

The friends' group produces and prints a regular newsletter, which highlights a great number of issues relating to the park. This includes notices of events and interesting stories, and encourages responsible behaviour in the park.

Other activities undertaken include obtaining funding for additional seats, historical information boards, gym equipment, and bird boxes, involving internal funding and grant applications, planning and instigation of new playing equipment, improvements to play areas, planting trees, clearing undergrowth, watering plants, outdoor talks on insect life and biodiversity, close liaison with Council over maintenance of historic structures, support and funding of maintenance of the golf course (including restoration of the green hut), painting of metal railings, restoration of setts at sundial pillar, and restoration of stone work at the Helen Acquroff fountain.

A group of volunteers from Greening Our Street, a separate organisation, maintains a community garden and orchard and a wildflower area.

### **3.6 Surveys and Assessments Undertaken**

#### Asset Management Geographical Information System (GIS) Survey

The Council has introduced an asset management system which has been undertaken following a full survey of each park in the City. This is now linked to GIS so that site location, condition, and photographic information can be studied from the office base. This information will be used to assess replacement or repair of the infrastructure within the park.

It is in its infancy, but we feel that much benefit can be gained from logging this information and that it will enhance the management of the infrastructure needs for the park.

### Tree Survey

The Council's Arboricultural section produced a Tree Survey with a comprehensive tree species list indicating the current condition of the tree stock. Recommendations from this survey will be used to shape the future development of the landscape features of the park and will be reflected in this management plan (**Appendix Eight**).

### Parks and Greenspace User Survey City of Edinburgh Visitor/User Survey

The Council's website gives users and visitors to the park an opportunity to register their comments on any park within the city. The intention is to encourage users to tell us what they think about the park.

### Core Paths

The City of Edinburgh Council's Core Path Plan identifies a system of key routes for non-motorised access throughout the area of its authority. Core Paths are predominately designated on existing paths, cycle tracks, footways and any other routes that provide a network linking communities and places where people want to go.

These include local facilities, tourist attractions, parks and greenspace, and work places. Core paths should accommodate a variety of uses; walking, cycling, horse riding, and disabled access where possible.

Core Paths in parks will be managed by the Locality Transport and Environment and Waste and Cleansing – Street Cleaning services and in some cases the Natural Heritage Service. The aspiration is to work towards a situation where each Core Path is:

- Safer
- Appropriately signposted and publicised
- Accessible, and
- Well maintained

The Core Path Plan supports Edinburgh's Outdoor Access Strategy and Local Transport Strategy and will appear in future Local Plans and on Ordnance Survey Maps to underline the strategic importance of this network of routes. The plan will be reviewed at an unspecified date in the future.

### Biodiversity Survey

Officers of the Council have carried out a survey of the park and made recommendations for consideration in an attempt to increase the biodiversity within the park. We have included a copy of the report in the appendices.

The Council's *Biodiversity Options for Parks and Greenspaces – A Guide for Managers* is used universally to develop biodiversity within all parks within the city. It was with use of this document that some biodiversity features were implemented in the park (Biodiversity Site Assessment is available in: **Appendix Seven**).

## 4 Analysis

### 4.0 Introduction

This section follows the criteria headings within the “Raising the Standard – The Green Flag Award Guidance Manual” (2016). This provides a framework that aligns our aims for the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links with the Green Flag Award Standard.

#### 4.1 A Welcoming Place

- a) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value
- b) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment and to enhance the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity
- c) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links is a welcoming place and a very well used site; social access is excellent and people from all over the city visit it to take part in a variety of formal and informal activities.

With no principal access point, there are many access points to both the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links; they are generally open and level with no barriers. Information and interpretation boards are located at several park entrances, which highlight points of local interest. There are 7 noticeboards around the park.

Several bus routes facilitate access to the park, and there is a main cycleway through the park, which is part of the National Cycle route. There are very few boundary fences, and pedestrian access is generally open from all aspects of the surrounding footways. The park has many internal footways, which are linked to the Core Path Plan.

Most park users come from all over the city; however, it well used by local residents who tend to use the park for walking or cycling for recreation and commuting to work. The park lies within a metered parking area, and visitors can find car parking spaces nearby.

## 4.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

- d) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment to enhance the health and wellbeing of local residents and visitors through active outdoor activity
- e) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations
- f) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links are well used throughout the year for formal and informal sport and other physically active activities.

The park contains three well-equipped and popular children's play areas and is a well-used route by cyclists and walkers. The park is well equipped with park benches and litter bins. There is a designated picnic area at the south end of Bruntsfield Links where picnic tables are located. There are also two designated bins for barbeque waste (one at Bruntsfield Links, the other at the confluence of Middle Meadow Walk and North Meadow Walk).

The number of users and the open outlook of the park support good levels of personal security.

There are a good number of traffic light-controlled pedestrian crossings to allow safe passage for cyclists and pedestrians between the two park areas. There is adequate lighting for walking through the park in the evening.

There are three public conveniences that are located on the perimeter of the park areas, which are at present adequate for the general use of the park (Hope Park Crescent, North Meadow Walk, and Bruntsfield Links).

Park Rangers patrol the park. They will log incidents and report these to the Parks and Greenspace Officer for resolution.

The Community Police Officers walk through the park and liaise with the department on incidents of anti-social behaviour. This is supported at some of the major events within the park with a mobile CCTV unit, additional Family and Household Support Officers and, on occasion, mounted police officers. Environmental Wardens are also available for enforcement of dog-fouling legislation, disposal of litter legislation, and graffiti and fly-posting issues.

All play areas that are managed by The City of Edinburgh Council are designed in-house to meet BS EN 1176 Parts 1 – 11. Prior to 1998 all play areas were designed to meet BS 5696. All play areas are held on Playsafe, a database produced by Public Sector Software Limited. This system holds information on all The City of Edinburgh Council play areas, including type of equipment, installation date, and type of surface, fences and bins.

Informal inspections are carried out by council employees who enter the play areas as part of their daily duties (Park Rangers, Playgrounds Maintenance Officer and Waste and Cleansing staff). They report obvious hazards to the Council's workshop engineers. In-house ROSPA-trained staff inspect the equipment monthly. Any defects identified are either repaired immediately or isolated and made safe, for repair at a later date. Written records of inspections and works undertaken are held with the Workshops at Inverleith Park. Annual inspections and risk assessments, conforming to Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) requirements, are carried out on all the playgrounds by an independent Playground Inspector.

Accidents are reported to the Health and Safety Officer and recorded centrally.

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links are well used throughout the year for informal sport and other physically active activities.

The City of Edinburgh Council uses branding on vehicles and machinery and ensures that all staff wear clothing showing the Council logo, to ensure they are readily identifiable to the public. Wherever possible and safe to do so, the public are encouraged to engage with the grounds maintenance staff to discuss issues relating to the park, its maintenance, or management. Their friendly demeanour allows for a helpful first point of contact for park users.

### 4.3 Clean and Well Maintained

g) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet visitor expectations

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links has a maintenance programme, which establishes standards of cleanliness,, infrastructure, and ground maintenance.

Information gathered from the public and Parks Quality Assessment surveys indicates that the standard of maintenance is considered to be of a good standard, the schedule of maintenance is highlighted within the maintenance plan (**Appendix Four**).

There is good provision of litter receptacles and these are maintained on a regular basis. During the summer months in response to increased use, additional high capacity bins are located within the park to support the bin provision. There are dedicated staff members whose responsibility is to ensure that the park is kept litter free. Dog fouling in the park is generally not a major problem; this is due to responsible dog owners and supported by dog fouling notices. In line with city-wide practice the litter receptacles within the park are for the joint disposal of litter and dog fouling bags.

The grounds maintenance within the park is undertaken by a mobile team and supported by a tractor-cutting unit. The Community Park Officer oversees the grounds maintenance regime to ensure that standards are maintained. The main flowerbeds within the park are planted and maintained by the City's "Colour in the City" team.

The infrastructure is regularly checked and maintained by the City's ROSPA trained engineering team, to ensure that the play area equipment is safe and secure. Both the Park Rangers and the Waste and Cleansing street cleaning teams check the surfaces of the play areas daily to ensure that there are no dangerous objects within in any of the soft-fill material (**Appendix Nine**).

The Locality Park Rangers regularly remove graffiti, but if the graffiti is extensive the city-wide Waste and Cleansing graffiti-removal team removes it.

A reactive maintenance programme is in place for the maintenance of the three pavilions on site in respect of painting and security. These buildings are regularly inspected by the Parks and Greenspace Officer and any repairs are carried out, in general, by our in-house property service team. Edinburgh Leisure manage some pavilions.

Each member of the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries grounds maintenance team has undertaken training in the form of Scottish Vocational Qualifications, resulting in SVQ Level 2 or 3 grades, depending on their current work grade. Part of this involved identifying several park projects to assist with the delivery of the qualification process, leading to the installation of an herbaceous border in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links by the staff group.

This allowed the SVQ programme to provide value for money and improve the features in various parks across the city.

## 4.4 Sustainability

h) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles

The only use of peat by the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service is in the production of bedding plants at the Council's Inch Nursery. Since 2004, the nursery has reduced its consumption of peat by 50% and aims to meet the national target of 90%. A number of alternatives to peat have been incorporated into the growing mixes for plant production at the nursery, including: compost derived from the Council green waste collections, the nursery's own compost, worm cast, fine bark, vermiculite, and sand. Trials have been run since 2007 to assess the best mix to support seedling and plant growth.

To reduce land filled waste, The City of Edinburgh Council is actively collaborating with other local authorities in progressing the Lothian and Borders Area Waste Plan, and progress towards a central depot at Millerhill in Midlothian is well underway. Litter is taken appropriately to a licensed waste disposal area within the centre of the city and is bulked onto train carriages for disposal. However, to reduce the amounts that go to landfill, measures are in place to collect waste material locally for segregation purposes. Currently, waste from this park and others across the city is delivered to our partner agency and the waste is segregated to remove recyclable items.

The Council continues to manage green waste at Inch Nursery, which is ideally located within the South East Locality area. Tree limbs from various sites are chipped and used as mulch. Larger limbs and trunks are sold. Compost generated from this process is used by the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service as a soil conditioner in seasonal bedding or other projects.

The Council continues to minimise the use of herbicide in its parks and green spaces. Bark mulch is used throughout the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links for the reduction of weed growth around tree bases, and this also encourages moisture and heat retention in the tree-root zone. Only affected areas are treated, using strategies that are sensitive to public and environmental concerns. All operatives are trained to the approved certification level for the application of chemicals. The Council is trialling non-Glyphosate-based treatment of weeds within the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.

Recycling waste contributes to the city target of having 60% of all waste recycled across Edinburgh by 2020.

The Council's Inch Nursery has introduced a rain water recycling system for plant irrigation. This will be used in times of drought to irrigate trees and plants within the park. FOMBL have carried out watering of young trees on Bruntsfield Links.



## 4.5 Conservation and Heritage

- i) To increase the biodiversity value of the site
- j) To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value

The design and layout of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links provides a rich and diverse heritage, though it may be considered that the area provides limited opportunities to promote biodiversity. However, it is hoped that several recommendations of the biodiversity assessment can be taken forward in the future (**Appendix Seven**).

One of the main strengths of the Meadows and Bruntsfield links is its generally unchanged landscape over a great number of years. The Meadows was once the shallow South or Burgh Loch, providing the city with water for drinking, washing clothes and for brewing beer. From the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century the area was gradually drained and laid out later as pleasure grounds with tree-lined walks and a summer house.

Over the last 100 years or more, the Meadows has become the popular space it is today, for sport, celebration, meetings, or a stroll along its many footways. The park benefits from exceptional panoramic views of the city skyline, offering striking views of Arthur's Seat to the east, Edinburgh Castle, St. Giles Cathedral, and early Victorian buildings in Marchmont and Warrender to the South.

With the status of a Millennium Park, the Meadows will belong to the people of Edinburgh for all time.

The historic features (**Appendix One**) within the park are currently maintained by two sections within the Council. The Monuments and Museums section looks after and maintains the monuments in the East Meadows, the pillars at the top of Middle Meadow Walk, the Edinburgh Exhibition Monument, the pillars at either end of the Melville Drive, and the Jawbone Arch. The Locality Parks and Greenspace Service, with assistance from the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Section, is responsible for the Helen Acquorff fountain at the cricket pavilion, the chessboard at Bruntsfield Links, the Short Hole Golf Course and "starters hut", and the Kenneth Ryden tree avenue. Helen Acquorff (12 October 1831 - 18 September 1887) was a musician, pianist, music teacher, singer, and poet who was born and lived in the Newington area of Edinburgh, and was involved in the Temperance Movement. Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links have undertaken conservation work on the Helen Acquorff Fountain and the Sundial, including erecting information boards.

In 2015, tree plantings included interesting varieties such as Tulip Tree, Blue Atlas Cedar, Indian Bean Tree, Turkish Hazel, Japanese Magnolia. Every year, new trees are donated, including three Rowans planted on Bruntsfield Links.

There are three wildflower areas within the park: one is managed by the community garden group alongside Lonsdale Terrace, another is part of the Edinburgh Living Landscape project just between Leamington Walk and Warrender Park Terrace, and the one that adjoins the Muriel Spark Walk.

Further wildflower areas are planned, to encourage and increase the biodiversity value of the park.

Suggestions from the previous biodiversity assessment which have been introduced are as follows:

- Increase in hedges (holly bushes by Leamington Walk, the triangles on either side of Whitehouse Loan, by the tennis courts and by the croquet pavilion).
- When trees are removed leave stumps in place to rot, this provides a habitat for fungi and invertebrates which is absent from many parks.
- There is scope to add bird or bat boxes to some trees if we find the park is valuable to species that could be targeted with specific box designs.

## 4.6 Community Involvement

- k) To engage with the local community and user groups encouraging active participation in decision-making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links is very well used by Edinburgh citizens seeking healthy living activities, such as informal sporting activities, walking, and cycling.

There are organised activities that are linked to educational establishments. The eight local schools use the park on a regular basis for physical education purposes. These schools also use the park for extracurricular activities such as 7-a-side football, tennis, running, volleyball, etc.

One of the principle fitness activities is running or jogging, and many people use the park to maintain their fitness and running levels. There are organised runs within the Meadows, including the annual Meadows Marathon which is organised by Edinburgh University Students and raises funds for charity. There is a track facility that runs around the Meadows and is called the Sri Chimnoy Peace Mile; it is very popular and attracts runners not only from Edinburgh but from far afield.

Edinburgh University students use the park for various informal sporting activities, which often include shinty, Gaelic football, baseball, and frisbee matches.

Several community sports clubs use the park and its facilities. The large hard court tennis area with its 16 courts is the largest facility of its kind in the city. It is a National Tennis Coaching Centre with full-time coaches and has a local tennis club attached to it, based at the pavilion at the East end of the Meadows. This attracts players of all ages and standards. There are new tennis changing rooms and a café at the East end of the Meadows.

The Bruntsfield Short Hole Golf Club was founded in 1895 and is still active, with regular competitions amongst its members. The course is open to the public and is free. It consists of 36 holes in summer and 9 in the winter.

The former West Bowling Green has now been re-configured as a croquet lawn. The pavilion is now used to house the National Croquet Club for Scotland, and some international matches are played here. This facility is run and funded by the local club and its members.

One of the major community events of the year is the annual Meadows Festival, which brings together many community groups for a weekend of activity. This event is run by the Charity Organisation Meadows Festival Association for the community. It is staged over the area of the three cricket boundaries which lie west of the Middle Meadow Walk and it attracts a great number of people, including locals, other residents of the city, and visitors from outside Edinburgh.

As mentioned above, there is an active friends' group, Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, which has excellent links with the Council and other interested parties.

## 4.7 Marketing

l) To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users

It could be argued that the popularity of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links means that it needs little marketing. The assessment process highlights the quality and variety of the existing information provided, and opportunities for developing this further.

Information relating to the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links is available via the Community Council and City of Edinburgh Council website and available via the “Edinburgh Outdoors” Smartphone app. A QR code links you directly to the Edinburgh Outdoors webpage for the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, and the site-specific code is in each of the noticeboards. The Council website also offers a good source of information about the park and its available infrastructure ([www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk)).

Edinburgh Outdoors: <https://www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk/featureDetails.php?id=84> (the Meadows);  
<https://www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk/featureDetails.php?id=14> (Bruntsfield Links)

MyParkScotland: <http://www.mypark.scot/parks/meadows-edinburgh/> (the Meadows); <http://www.mypark.scot/parks/bruntsfield-links-edinburgh/> (Bruntsfield Links)

Facebook (Public Group): “Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links” has over 320 members.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fombledinburgh>.

Public information is regularly posted in the 7 noticeboards at the entrances to the park along with local information involving the volunteer group.

The notice boards also advertise local events such as volunteer group meetings and any other agreed local information. Promotion of such events is vital in attracting and inviting members of the public to them, and ensures the success of the event. It is intended to use the noticeboards to provide regular information on maintenance, events, and works within the park.

There are also two lectern-style information boards located on the Bruntsfield Short Hole Golf Course.

A booklet by Ian Nimmo, *Edinburgh's Green Heritage*, contains information on the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links. The park also inspires people to write poems about the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links and provide a more reflective appreciation of the park's uses and appeal. Noticeboards also contain information about the local flora and fauna.

#### 4.8 Management

- m) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles
- n) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations
- o) To engage with the local community and user groups encouraging active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links is managed by the Council's Place directorate, which is structured to deliver services for the needs and priorities of local communities in each of the 12 Neighbourhood Partnerships within the four locality areas. The park lies within the South East Locality.

Management and development of the park is undertaken locally by the South East Locality team in conjunction with the local community, through the Friends group and the community garden group, and strategic issues are dealt with via the central Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Section.

The Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries section undertakes grounds maintenance, grass maintenance, flowerbeds and shrub areas, and Waste and Cleansing undertakes the servicing of the bins and litter collection.

Additional teams from the central Council services are also deployed to ensure the park is maintained to a high standard. This includes the removal of large items of graffiti, forestry maintenance, playground maintenance, roads and pathway maintenance, lighting maintenance and sports area maintenance.

The community groups assist the Council by undertaking removal of small graffiti items, mainly from bins, seats and lamp standards, litter picking in small areas, and generally highlighting defects for repair. Through the Friends' Group, Community Councils, and other community groups, public participation in voluntary work within the park is developed; this might include painting railings, litter picking, graffiti removal,

watering trees, planting bulbs, path edging, etc. Schools, such as George Heriot's, organise regular work parties to help with autumn leaf clearing and weeding.

It is important that the Council continues to encourage this volunteer strategy by ensuring that the community has the necessary equipment to carry out the work. For instance, a few years back the Council supplied several graffiti boxes, supported by local training; this work stream requires to be widened and is intended to encourage further training and supplies of equipment. It is hoped that the Community Payback team will also be able to contribute to this work.

The Park Rangers patrol all parks and greenspaces within the South East Locality, including the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, to ensure that safety is maintained. The Park Rangers regularly make safe various small faults within the park, such as replacing a broken seat on play equipment, and reporting more serious issues with play equipment so that maintenance teams can undertake repairs more quickly. The Park Rangers also ensure that members of the public use the park in line with the *Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace*.

The management of major events can at times be problematic, and requires on occasion some additional resources to be deployed. However, a review of the management procedures has resulted in fewer problems. Campaigning by the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links has led to an agreed reduction in the number of major events within the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links. This has enhanced the park's ability to recover more quickly following events and ensures that the events are spread evenly across the months of May to September.

Maintenance schedules indicating frequency and type of work carried out within the park can be found in the appendices of the management plan (**Appendix Four**).

Additional teams from the central Council services are also deployed to ensure the park is maintained to a high standard. This includes forestry maintenance, playground maintenance, roads and pathway maintenance.

The Council assesses each park within Edinburgh annually, resulting in the production of Parks Quality Assessments. These assessments offer quality information that is used to improve and develop the park, and extracts from these reports are supplied. (**Appendix Five**). These assessments are used to determine further potential capital improvements and form the basis of the South East Locality park improvement plans annually. The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links has benefited from this system with many improvements resulting from feedback comments in the assessments.

The Council has carried out Landscape Quality Standards (LQS) assessments to measure the standard of all features either within a park or a greenspace. However, this assessment criterion is currently on hold as the Council seeks to introduce new monitoring throughout our Confirm asset management system. These assessments will be carried out monthly throughout the year and will provide evidence on how

well all stock features are maintained. Each feature is given a minimum standard indicator and each visit measures the assessment against this indicator.

This programme will ensure that standards are consistent, not only across the South East Locality area but also across the city.



## 5 Development Action Plan

The objectives described in this section are developed from the results of the assessment and analysis section and are directly linked to the criteria aims described in the previous section.

Note: All costs are approximate.

Key:

LTEM	Locality Transport and Environment Manager	PGO	Parks and Greenspace Officer
PGM	Parks and Greenspace Management	PR	Park Rangers
STTL	Senior Transport Team Leader	WM	Waste Manager
SLM	Street Lighting Manager	EW	Environmental Warden
WCTL	Street Cleaning Team Leader	FM	Forestry Manager
LRO	Locality Roads Officer	FOMBL	Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links
EWTL	Environmental Warden Team Leader	MSCC	Marchmont and Sciennes Community Council

### Aim 1: A Welcoming Place

- a) To enhance the existing levels of landscape value and amenity value.
- b) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment.
- c) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site.

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
1.1 To develop a signage programme, which might include name plates, information, interpretation boards, and way-marking.	All Meadows and Bruntsfield Links areas.	2019-2022	LTEM PGO FOMBL	£3k - £5k
1.2 To continue to monitor and replace barbecue signs and concrete sites when required	Meadows and Bruntsfield Links permitted barbecue sites	2019-2022	PGO PR	£400

**Aim 2: Healthy, Safe, and Secure**

- d) To provide a place to enjoy formal and informal recreation in an attractive safe and secure environment.
- e) To ensure the site management works comply with legal obligations.
- f) To ensure the safety of user groups and staff working on site.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
2.1 To improve and maintain lighting on main paths	An assessment was carried out around 2016 and lighting changed to more eco-friendly lighting, Further assessment may be required in the future.	2019-2023	LTEM PGO SLM	£400/lamp
2.2 To check for cycle rack provision within the park	To install cycle racks at appropriate sites after discussion with the friends group and when funding available.	2019-2023	PGO	£1,500
2.3 To develop a responsible dog owner campaign	Work with environmental wardens and other appropriate Council staff to develop and implement campaign	Ongoing	PGO EWTL	£2k
2.4 To work with Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and access user groups to look at improvements to routes through the Meadows	Consider improvements to routes through the Meadows to improve safety for park users, including the visually-impaired. This has implications for wider area and needs to include Active Travel, Edinburgh's Access Panel, RNIB, etc.	2020	PGO RNIB Active Travel Access Panel	Unknown
2.5 To seek funding for outdoor Multi-Gym	3 units have been installed 2017 with a further 3 due in place 2018, any further units are subject to use and requirement of existing equipment	2019-2023	FOMBL PGO	£20,000 approx

<b>Aim 3: Well Maintained and Clean</b>				
g) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations.				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
3.1 To review the capacity, design, and style of litter receptacles	Discuss with the appropriate officer in Waste, review options and agree programme	2019-2023	LTEM WM	£500/bin
3.2 To improve autumn leaf collection	Review current procedures and agree additional provision or lifting procedures, Friends Group to assist, with the possibility of school children and other volunteer groups assisting. Leaves could be used to mulch trees.	2019-2023	LTEM WCTL	£10k
3.3 Continue to monitor barbecue sites, with aim to reduce burn marks on grass.	Monitor hotspots during summer season Offer information or guidance	2019-2021	PGO PR FOMBL	£3k

<b>Aim 4: Environmental Management</b>				
h) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
4.1 To design and implement a tree management programme	Formalise information from The City of Edinburgh Council city-wide tree survey and prepare tree management plan for the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links and update tree survey.	Ongoing  2020	PGM FM FOMBL	£3k
4.2 To implement a replacement programme for Cherry Tree lined walkways and other potential planting locations.	Phased tree replacement programme Subject to discussion and agreement with Forestry Section (Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries) Subject to available funding	Ongoing	FM PGO PGM	£250/tree

**Aim 5: Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage**

- i) To increase the biodiversity value of the site.
- j) To investigate and action ways of protecting and conserving all features of cultural significance and heritage value.

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
5.1 Standardise street furniture – litter bins, seats, street lights	Review existing provision and produce a standardisation plan that is keeping with the style and historical significance of the Meadows, when resources available paint and keep clean existing bins.  Subject to funding, consider possibility of school children painting art designs on the bins to make them look more attractive.	2019-2021	FOMBL  LTEM FOMBLE	£500/bin £850/seat £400/lamp
5.2 To produce a maintenance programme for the park's monuments.	Take advice from appropriate staff in Council's Culture and Sport section and devise a costed maintenance programme.	2019	LTEM PGO PGM FOMBL	N/A
5.3 Reinstall Jawbone Arch with new lighting, interpretation panel, railings and pathway surfacing	Jawbone Walk: pathway completed and Jawbone Arch restoration / replacement ongoing. Continue to liaise with Historic Environment Scotland / Edinburgh World Heritage on progress.	2019- 2021	PGO FOMBL MSCC STTL	£80,000 approx.
5.4 Bird box installation programme	Identify suitable locations and bird boxes to be ordered in by PGO; bird survey if someone qualified can conduct one.	2019- 2024	PGO PR FOMBL	£600

<b>Aim 6: Community Involvement</b>				
k) To engage with the local community and user groups; to encourage their active participation in decision making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource.				
<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
6.1 To encourage Community led clear-ups and greater involvement in the maintenance where appropriate	To be organised in conjunction with the FOMBL tasks, which include litter picking, bulb planting, path edging, leaf lifting plus many others. Look into providing laminated certificates for any young people or schoolchildren taking part	Ongoing	PGO FOMBL	£1000
6.2 Further encourage school groups in community activities	Litter picking, bulb planting, reseeding, leaf collection, weeding.	Ongoing	PR FOMBL	
6.3 Monthly FOMBL-led conservation activities	Litter picking, leaf removal, grass reseeding, also watering of trees with water bowser; water access has been arranged by PGO, with keys for drain cover provided to volunteers.	Ongoing	FOMBL PR PGO	£500
6.4 FOMBL and university student volunteering	Throughout the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links	Ongoing	FOMBL Edin Uni	
6.5 To continue with bench tidy-up programme	Throughout the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links	Ongoing	FOMBL	
6.6 To continue with path edging programme	Throughout the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links	Ongoing	FOMBL	
6.7 To continue with tree feathering programme	Throughout the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links	Ongoing	FOMBL	
6.8 To support community gardening	The community garden and orchard.	Ongoing	Gardening volunteers	

**Aim 7: Marketing and Communication**

i) To actively promote the appropriate use of the park to all potential users.

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Where and/or How</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Cost</b>
7.1 To continue to promote the Meadows Festival as the major community event of the year	Early invitation, notification, and publicity to all local community organisations from a well-represented and supported committee.	2019-2024	FOMBL	Grant Funding
7.2 To provide regular information on maintenance, events, and works within park	Use all relevant information and modern publicity opportunities.	2019-2024	LTEM FOMBL PGO PGM	£3k
7.3 Keep websites and notice boards updated	FOMBL website Edinburgh Outdoors website My Park Scotland website	Ongoing	FOMBL PR	
7.4 Carry out park user surveys	Throughout the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Person to person, via website	2019-2024	FOMBL MSCC PR	

**Aim 8: Management**

- m) To ensure policies, management practices and operations accord with sustainable principles.
- n) To ensure that the maintenance programme is in place to reinforce the aims of the park and meet the visitor expectations.
- o) To engage with the local community and user groups; to encourage their active participation in decision-making and practical activities within the site and to use the park as a recreational resource.

Objective	Where and/or How	Year	Lead	Cost
8.1 To develop a volunteer programme	Work closely with local friends group to establish a list of volunteers. Establish links with local schools and link into Eco Schools Programme. Establish links with local youth groups, Guides, Scouts, etc, linking into their badge programme.	Ongoing	FOMBL PGO LTEM PR	Possible Grant Funding £5k
8.2 To continue to work with the guidelines set out in the events strategy and manifesto	Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto for managing application and processes for events within city parks including the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.	2019-2024	PGM PGO EM	

## 6 Finance

### Revenue Funding

The provision of revenue funding for the park consists of work undertaken at present by the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries, Grounds Maintenance team. The current maintenance schedule is based in part on the old Grounds Maintenance contract that now serves as a guide to what should be undertaken, although many tasks outside of this guide are undertaken to ensure the quality of the park is maintained. The table provided below indicates the annual costs of the general maintenance items within the park, which gives some indication of the approximate revenue spend on these maintenance items.

Item	Annual Cost (£)
Grass maintenance	27,304
Flowers, shrubs and hedges	4,652
Litter removal	18,068
Play area maintenance	4,823
Maintenance of sports facilities	60,079
Tree maintenance	5,500 approx.
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,425</b>

In addition, the Locality Transport and Environment Manager has a small budget for parks development and small-scale repairs and maintenance improvements to facilities and infrastructure. However, the budget held covers the whole of the South East Locality and any park development or repairs are determined on a priority basis using parks quality assessment information and level of repair and maintenance required.

### Capital Funding

The Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries section administer the capital budget, when available. The budget is generally allocated in advance and the role of the developing management plans is for better planning of financial resources required so that they can be included in future bids.

### Grants

The Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries section has a small grants fund that friends' groups can apply for; this is for small items or to assist in developing their group or the sites they have adopted.



Charitable status

The friends' group achieved charitable status in autumn 2015, which opens new opportunities for grant funding. In addition, subscribers can gain 20% in Gift Aid. The charity number is SC045955.

## 7 Monitoring and Reviewing

The Parks Quality Assessment (PQA) framework is used to provide annual assessment of each park and will provide a report for the Meadows and Bruntsfield links that can be used to support the monitoring process. These assessments will have been carried out by staff and friends members and are in general carried out by individuals who have no direct association with the park.

In September 2017 the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links gained a Grade B score in the category for Community and Premier Parks with a score of 75%. Its current (2018) score is even higher - 76% which is also a Grade B, making it one of the highest scoring parks in the city (**Appendix Five**). Updated scores will be added to the management plan each year following the completion of PQA assessments.

Within the locality parks and green spaces are monitored monthly throughout the year to ensure that the landscape features within our parks and greenspaces are being maintained in an appropriate manner. These results are used to define the on-going maintenance issues and allow the management team to improve any feature that falls below standard. This allows good maintenance not only of the horticultural features but the park furniture as well.

In conjunction, the Parks User Survey results along with comments (**Appendix Six**) assist with the monitoring of the park and are taken into consideration by the Council and volunteering groups when annual reviews of the management plan are undertaken.

### 7.1 Review Process

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Management Plan will be reviewed each year to determine progress made to date and to pull together any updates to the development action plan. The annual review will assist making funding bids, allocate projects, and develop work programmes for the coming year.

The entire management plan will also be reviewed prior to its expiry in preparing the next plan to take forward future development aspirations, proposals, and plans.

## 8 Appendices

### Appendix One – Historic Features of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links

**The Burgh Loch** The flat, wide-open green sward of the Meadows is set in a treescape of more than 1,200 trees of more than 70 varieties today, in stark contrast to the once open, wind-swept Burgh Loch, part of the historic old Burgh Muir, and one of the main water supplies for Edinburgh's Old Town.

**Middle Meadow Walk** The draining of the Burgh Loch was a piecemeal affair, which was carried out sporadically over a period of 200 years (from 1657-1863). Three men were chiefly involved: John Straiton from 1658, William Carfrae (from 1695), and latterly Thomas Hope. The loch was leased to Thomas Hope of Rankeillour in 1722. His task was to complete the drainage, create a 24-foot wide walk, enclosed by a hedge and a row of trees on each side; build a 30-foot wide walkway from north to south, lined by a hedge and lime trees, with a narrow canal of nine feet on each side.

**Edinburgh International Exhibition of Industry, Science and Art** In 1886, the West Meadows was the site of the great Edinburgh International Exhibition building, a purpose-built exhibition hall with a large floor space, including a 120ft high dome in the Grand Hall. The exhibition ran from May until October and the 20,000 exhibits were visited 2,770,000 times. Notable buildings that comprised the "Old Edinburgh" Street included full-size reconstructions of demolished buildings on the Royal Mile. There were also violins from Prague; Turkish Embroidery; Scotch Whisky; a single steam locomotive (from the Caledonian Railway Company); and a Women's Industries display of Fair Isle, Shetland, and Icelandic knitting.

**The Prince Albert Victor Sundial Pillar** Standing in the west Meadows, this sundial was designed by Sir James Gowans and commemorates the opening of the Exhibition on 6 May 1886. It is an octagonal pillar with a bronze armillary sphere atop. Four trees were planted around the sundial. These were commemorative trees, of which two remain, that were planted by members of the Royal family (including H.R.H Prince Albert Victor of Wales, grandson of Queen Victoria) to mark the opening of the exhibition.

**Jawbone Arch** The arch, consisting of whale jaw bones, at the Melville Drive end of Jawbone Walk also celebrates the Exhibition and was presented by Zetland and Fair Isle Knitting stand. It consists of a pair of whale jawbones fitted with four bronze bands, one on each of the arch's legs, inscribed "From Zetland Fair Isle Knitting Stand, International Exhibition, 1886".

**Master Builders and Operative Masons' Pillars** At the West end of Melville Drive, the 26-foot high commemorative octagonal stone pillars from a number of quarries were erected by the Master Builders and Operative Masons of Edinburgh and Leith (as the two burghs were still separate at this time), to mark the Exhibition. They are rendered in different styles of

stone dressing and at the top sit 7ft high unicorns, while 24 shields present the Arms of Scotland, England and Ireland, coats of Arms of 19 Scottish burghs and the crest of the Edinburgh masons.

**Nelson Pillars** Situated at the East end of Melville Drive, these ornamental pillars were gifted to Edinburgh Town Council by Thomas Nelson and Sons in 1881, in gratitude for kindness and help received, after a bad fire had gutted Nelson's Hope Park Works in April 1878.

**Sister Cathedral Fountain** Close to the Jawbone Arch is the little fountain dedicated to Helen Acquroff, the blind Edinburgh musician and singer who graced the city's concert halls and theatres in the second half of the 19th century.

**The Millennium Stone** is situated at the confluence junction of the parks pathway network on the Middle Meadow Walk, North Meadow Walk, Jawbone Walk, Archers Walk, and Boys' Brigade Walk. The presentation stone was laid in 2000 to commemorate the parks' Millennium Park status and further information on this is highlighted in the plan.

**Bruntsfield Links** is the north-western remnant of the old Burgh Muir, where in 1513 King James IV reviewed his troops before they set off to the fatal field of Flodden. The Borough Muir was gifted to the "Magistrates, Council and Community of the City" by David 1 of Scotland and it once extended westwards from what is now the Dalkeith Road area of Merchiston, and southwards to the Pow Burn. Back then, the moor abounded with Oak trees, and outlaws; the Scottish nobility used it for their hunting ground. Great stone quarries were dug in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, but in 1741, on being given permission to "dig for stanes" James Hog was instructed not to interfere in any way or on any part of the Links used for "the citizens" diversion and recreation in the golf". This is one of several key occurrences in the development of golf on the links. As the city expanded, first houses and then streets began to encroach on the green space until halted by the Edinburgh Improvement Act of 1827. Today, these dearly-defended 30 acres with their splendid varieties of trees are one of the prides of the Bruntsfield area.

**The Golf Course** Golf has been played on the links since the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, confirmed since 1508. Two of oldest golf clubs in the world – the Edinburgh Burgess Golfing Society and the Bruntsfield Links Golf Society - played here from the mid-18th Century. The first official match between the clubs took place in 1761 over a five-hole course, which incorporated the links area around Tumbler's Hollow. When the clubs later moved to Musselburgh, the Council created this unique, 36-hole short course where everyone still enjoys a free game. The Bruntsfield Short Hole Golf Club was founded in 1895 and is still flourishes today.

## Appendix Two – Policies

### Corporate Strategies and Policies

#### **The City of Edinburgh Council's Business Plan 2017-2022**

The Council's [business plan](#) is built around 52 commitments that the Council Administration has pledged to deliver over the next five years. The plan sets out what we aim to do and how we intend to do it. This plan will inform our decision making on how we use our resources. The principles and actions set out here will drive the way we reshape and redesign the way we deliver services and the way we work with communities and partners.

#### **South East Locality Plan 2017-2022**

The [SE Locality Plan](#) sets out the priorities for improving the area over the next five years with actions that will be carried out in the short, medium and long term that make use of our commitment to target our shared resources in the most effective way to tackle inequality.

#### **Capitalising on Access: An Access Strategy for Edinburgh**

The [Access Strategy](#) sets out a framework for developing opportunities for walking, cycling and horse riding in Edinburgh, and covers five access themes; sustainable transport, an attractive and enjoyable network, encouraging healthier lifestyles, an inclusive and accessible network and safety and security. For each theme, the Strategy sets out objectives, recommendations for action and identifies the key partners from Council departments and external organisations to take this work forward.

#### **Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework**

The [Resilient Edinburgh Climate Change Adaptation Framework](#) is a framework that sets out Edinburgh's strategic approach to increasing resilience to the impacts of climate change. Climate change adaptation provides a unique opportunity for the Council and its citywide partners to work together to ensure that Edinburgh continues to be a climate-resilient city.

#### **Sustainable Edinburgh 2020**

[Sustainable Edinburgh 2020](#) sets out the Council's vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2020. It details a framework for action which will be embedded into all Council policies, programmes and services; but recognises that, for the city to develop sustainably, a wider range of actions is required, involving all individuals, organisations and sectors of the city working together.

## Park and Environmental Policies

### **Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy 2006**

The [Edinburgh Public Parks and Gardens Strategy](#) sets out realistic aspirations for Edinburgh's park and greenspace system, and shows the way forward to achieving them. The strategy also provides a policy framework for the preparation of more detailed Management Plans for individual parks and gardens.

### **Edinburgh Open Space Strategy 2021**

Edinburgh's [Open Space Strategy 2021](#) establishes principles guiding the continued protection, management and expansion of our green network over the next five years. Key challenges ahead include the delivery of new parks and active travel connections as the city expands, creating inspiring places for new communities to socialise, grow food, play, keep active and experience nature, and which are resource-efficient and climate-change ready. In addition to sustaining the quality of existing green spaces, there are opportunities for people to come together to create community gardens and allotments, to re-naturalise our "living landscape" and to enhance the city's historic cemeteries and burial grounds.

### **Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan 2016-18**

The [Edinburgh Biodiversity Action Plan](#) outlines a partnership approach to biodiversity conservation across the city. In 2000, Edinburgh was among the first places in the UK to produce an action plan for biodiversity. This fourth edition continues the trend toward an action plan that is streamlined, focussed and deliverable. Partnership working and community involvement are still key elements. More than 30 members of the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership contribute to delivery, including Council departments, government agencies, national and local environmental charities, volunteer conservation bodies and community groups.

### **Play Area Action Plan 2011-16**

The purpose of this [Play Area Action Plan](#) is to guide the improvement of existing play area facilities and to identify new opportunities for future facilities across the City. The plan was prepared by the Council and was revised after public consultation. This document sits under The City of Edinburgh Council Play Strategy, which was approved by Council in 2009. The Play Strategy sets out a vision and aims for the development of play for children and young people and sets the context for this document.

### Local Drivers - **South Central Neighbourhood Partnership** and **SE Locality Committee**

## **Appendix Three – Caring for Parks Guidelines**

### **Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace (introduced 2013)**

Undesirable behaviour in parks is managed through education, persuasion and regulation. Education at the proactive, preventative end of the spectrum is provided for parks by several agencies.

The Park Ranger Service runs environmental education programmes for schools and a range of park issues such as litter, dog fouling, camping, fires, and cycling, are often discussed. Park Rangers are also charged with the promotion of “responsible behaviour” as defined in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, the guidance on the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Talks to community groups, games and activities at events, and special events such as “Super Dog” and “Dr Bike” are geared to communicating responsible behaviour in parks and green spaces.

The Park Ranger’s role in providing an education service is developing through their work with local schools and providing walks for community groups. Park rangers can be effective in dealing with undesirable behaviours by targeting education on local issues at local people. This involves raising awareness of an issue through the neighbourhood media, contact with the community, signage and providing events and activities designed to draw in the target groups, persuade them to stop and prevent the undesirable behaviours.

#### **Persuasion**

The Park Ranger Service principally deal with undesirable behaviour in parks. They have no powers to apprehend, fine, or prosecute offenders, and often work alone. They must therefore rely on gentle, friendly persuasion. This, for most behaviour, can be very effective but requires a good deal of skill. Training for Park Rangers on how to deal effectively and safely with the public is therefore on-going. It is intended that this training will be extended to other front-line services.

Signs, such as the “Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace”, are designed to persuade people by explaining the effect of certain behaviours. These signs are permanent in all parks. Temporary signage can deal with local issues and again they are prepared in an informative and persuasive style as is shown on the next page.

# Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace

The City of Edinburgh Council in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 hereby make the following Management Rules for the Council's Parks, Gardens and open spaces:

## Interpretation

In these management Rules the following words have the meanings given to them:

"Council" means The City of Edinburgh Council;

"Park" means any land provided, owned, leased, occupied or managed by the Council within the City of Edinburgh and used as a recreation ground, public playground, public open space, public walk, walkway, woodland, ornamental or pleasure ground or gardens and all buildings and works connected therewith;

"Council Official" means an employee of the Council or of Edinburgh Leisure, or any person authorised by the Council to enforce these rules;

"Code" means the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, the guidance on the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.

## Summary

Any person who appears to be breaking, has broken or is about to break any of the following rules may be asked by a Council Official to leave the Park. Any person refusing to leave will be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level one on the standard scale.

1. No person shall in any park wilfully obstruct, interrupt, verbally insult or annoy employees or agents of the Council in carrying out their duties.

2. Any written permission required by these rules must be shown on request to a Council Official.
3. The Council may decide to waive any particular Rule at any time.

## General

### The following acts are prohibited:

- 4.1 Behaviour which causes (or in the opinion of a Council Official is likely to cause) annoyance, offence, alarm or distress to any other park user.
- 4.2 Any wilful or careless act which damages or removes any artefact, plant, tree, shrub, building, structure, equipment, furniture or fitting.
- 4.3 Depositing litter except in litter bins provided for the purpose.
- 4.4 Pursuing any activity which endangers (or in the opinion of a Council Official is likely to endanger) any person or property.
- 4.5 Ball games in Princes Street Gardens and Saughton Walled Gardens.
- 4.6 Fishing in any water course without permit.
- 4.7 Depositing or leaving any substance or article which is likely (in the opinion of a Council Official) to cause injury or damage to any person or property.

- 4.8 Metal detecting in any park without the written permission of the Scottish Detector Club, subject to an agreement between the Council and the Scottish Detector Club being valid.

The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

- 4.9 Entering into or wilfully remaining in a Park when it is closed to the public.
- 4.10 Selling, hiring or offering for sale or hire any items or goods or services.
- 4.11 Displaying or handing out advertisements, conducting surveys or giving any displays or performances.
- 4.12 Begging or busking.
- 4.13 Engaging in any commercial activity whatsoever (including, without limitation, dog walking services, photography, filming and fitness training services).

## Dogs and Horses

The following acts are prohibited:

- 5.1 Allowing a dog to enter in or on a children's play area or area of the Park that is designated as a 'dog free area.'
- 5.2 Allowing dogs to foul in a public Park unless the person in charge of the dog immediately removes the fouling (within the provisions of the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003).
- 5.3 Failing to keep a dog under close control in any Park.



- 5.4 Failing to keep a dog under close control, at heel or on a short lead when near young farm animals and at nesting time (April – July) in woodlands, grasslands, moorland and at the seashore.

- 5.5 Allowing a dog to run onto sports pitches when these are in use.

- 5.6 Leading, riding, training or exercising a horse in a manner which falls short of the responsibilities in the Code.

## BBQs, Fire and Camping

The following acts are prohibited:

- 6.1 Lighting barbecues outwith designated barbecue sites, where these are provided, or in areas or in a manner likely to burn or scorch the ground or cause danger or nuisance to other Park users or neighbouring residents.
- 6.2 Failing to remove litter associated with BBQs and picnics.

The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

- 6.3 Lighting an open fire in any Park.
- 6.4 Camping within one mile of a public road.

## Cycling

The following acts are prohibited:

- 7.1 Cycling in a manner which falls short of the responsibilities in the Code.
- 7.2 Cycling off the paths in woodland and other areas sensitive to environmental damage.



## Motor Vehicles

The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

- 8.1 Driving or using or leaving any car, motorbike, quad bike, mini moto, or other vehicle, or parking a caravan, except on roads and in car parks provided by the Council for cars and vehicles, unless the Council's permission has been obtained first. This rule does not apply to prams and wheelchairs used for carrying children or people with a disability.

The following acts are prohibited:

- 8.2 Operating any motorised or mechanically propelled toy or model vehicle, aircraft or boat so as to disturb wildlife, endanger or give annoyance to other people or if asked by a Council Official not to do so.

## Events and Other Activities

The following acts are prohibited unless the Council's written permission has been obtained first:

- 9.1 Holding an event, performance, ceremony in any Park, or a demonstration or public meeting in any Park except East Meadows, Calton Hill or Loth Links.
- 9.2 Carrying, or discharging any firework or firearm.
- 9.3 Playing any organised game or sport on pitches provided by the Council.

## Short Hole Golf Courses

The following acts are prohibited for those not engaged in the game of golf:

- 10 Going onto playing surfaces when these are in use and onto greens at all times.



## Expulsion and Exclusion from Parks

- 11.1 Where a Council Official has reasonable grounds for believing that a person has contravened, is contravening or is about to contravene any of these Management Rules, they may expel that person from the Park.
- 11.2 Where a Council Official has reasonable grounds for believing that a person is about to contravene any of these Management Rules, they may exclude that person from the Park.
- 11.3 Where a person has persistently contravened or attempted to contravene these Management Rules and in the Council's opinion is likely to contravene them again, the Council may decide to make that person subject to an exclusion order for a specified period of up to one year.
- 11.4 An exclusion order made under Rule 11.3 shall take effect on such date as the Council may decide, being not less than 14 days after the decision to make that person subject to an exclusion order. A person who has been made subject to an exclusion order:
  - i) shall be entitled to written notice of the decision to make the exclusion order, containing a statement of the reasons for that decision, and
  - ii) shall be entitled to make written or oral representations to the Council at any time up to the time that the order would have taken effect but for the representation being made.



These rules, due to come into force in February 2013, are now presented for public inspection. Any objections to the rules should be made in writing before 3 December 2012 to: Duncan Monteith, Parks and Greenspace, The City of Edinburgh Council, CS Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG. [duncan.monteith@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:duncan.monteith@edinburgh.gov.uk) Please include your contact details so we can acknowledge and process your objection.





## **Regulation**

When gentle persuasion fails, Council officers, Park Rangers, Environmental Wardens, and the Police can resort to regulation, using Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspaces and legislation where applicable.

The Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace, made under section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, allow Council officers and rangers to expel and exclude people from parks for minor offences. If the offending person does not leave they are committing a criminal offence. The threat of the offence is often enough to persuade people to stop. If they persist then it is a matter for the police.

The Management Rules for Public Parks and Greenspace will bring the rules in-line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The rules will also address current issues in parks and attempt to provide a clearer interpretation to the public of the behaviours which are not allowed.

For people who will not be persuaded and for more serious behaviours in parks then Park officers and ranger and the public are encouraged to call the police. The police will respond in a time that resources and priorities allow.

When campaigns are being run in parks to address certain issues then Environmental Wardens are often asked to assist. Wardens can help stop and persuade people and for issues of dog fouling and litter can issue fixed penalties.

The key tools for dealing with undesirable behaviour in parks are education, the promotion of responsible behaviour, persuasion, and as a last resort, regulation.

### Appendix Four – Maintenance Plan

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Maintenance Plan																	
Description	Action/Works	M	M <sup>2</sup>	No.	Occasions												General Frequency
					Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
<b>Grass Maintenance</b>																	
Cricket Squares	Cutting		2770	3			2	4	4	4	4	4	4	2			Weekly (Summer)
	Dressing		2770			1											Annual
	Fertiliser		2770				1			1							Bi-Annual
	Wicket Prep.							6	12	15	15	12	12				Daily
	Rolling		2770				1	1	1	1	1	1	1				Monthly
Cricket Outfield	Cutting		31210	3			1	4	4	4	4	4	4	2			Weekly (Summer)
	Fertiliser		31210				1			1							Bi-Annual
Short Hole Golf Greens (Summer)	Cutting		3960	36			2	4	4	4	4	4	3				Weekly (Summer)
	Dressing		3960			1								1			Bi-Annual
	Fertiliser		3960				1			1							Bi-Annual
	Hole Changes			36				2	2	2	2	2	2				Fortnightly (Summer)
Short Hole Golf Greens (Winter)	Cutting		990	9	1	1	1							1	1	1	Monthly (Winter)
	Fertiliser		990			1											Annual
	Hole Changes			9	1	1	1							1	1	1	Monthly (Winter)
Short Hole Golf Fairways	Cutting		65157	36			2	4	4	4	4	4	4	2			Weekly (Summer)
Short Hole Golf Fairways (Winter)	Cutting		16290	9			1							1	1		Bi-monthly (Winter)
Bulb Planted Areas	Cutting										2	2	2	2	2		Fortnightly (Summer)
General Areas	Cutting		200162				2	2	3	2	3	2	3	2			Fortnightly (Summer)
Tree Lined areas	Cutting		85300				2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			Fortnightly (Summer)
	Herbicide App.							1									
High Amenity Grass areas	Cutting		13155				2	4	4	4	4	4	4	2			Weekly (Summer)
Edge Trees and Post	Cutting	5435		270		1								1			Bi-Annual
Edge Hard Surface	Cutting	16767				1											Annual
Channel Maintenance			2349			1							1				Bi-Annual

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Management Plan 2019 - 2024

<b>The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Maintenance Plan</b>																	
					Occasions												
Description	Action/Works	M	M <sup>2</sup>	No.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	General Frequency
<b>Flower Bed Maintenance</b>																	
Spring and Summer Bedding	Planting			7					1					1			Bi-Annual
	Watering								1	1	1	1	1	1			Monthly (Summer)
	Weeding								1	1	1	1	1	1			Monthly (Summer)
<b>Hedge and Tree Maintenance</b>																	
Hedge	Cutting		1398						1			1		1			Quarterly
Tree	Pruning			1284	1												
<b>Roads and Pathway Maintenance</b>																	
Roads/paths and cycleway	Engineer Inspection		32572	1			1										Annual
	Ranger Inspection		32572	52	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	Weekly
<b>Play Area Maintenance</b>																	
West Meadows -	Engineer Inspection			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Monthly
Equipment Maintenance	Manager Inspection			1			1						1				Bi-Annual
	Ranger Inspection			1	29	28	31	27	29	30	31	31	29	31	30	29	Daily
Surfaces - Rubber	Sweeping			1	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	Weekly
Toddlers Area (East) -	Engineer Inspection			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Monthly
Equipment Maintenance	Managers Inspection			1			1						1				Bi-Annual
	Ranger Inspection			1	29	28	31	27	29	30	31	31	29	31	30	29	Daily
Surfaces - Grass	Ranger Inspection			1	4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	Weekly

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Management Plan 2019 - 2024

<b>The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Maintenance Plan</b>																	
					Occasions												
Description	Action/Works	M	M <sup>2</sup>	No.	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	General Frequency
<b>Leaf Collection</b>																	
Meadows and Bruntsfield Links																	
	Collection		336085		4									4	4	4	Weekly (Winter)
<b>Street Cleansing Maintenance</b>																	
Bin	Emptying			45	31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	Daily
Litter	Collection		339235		31	28	31	30	31	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	Daily
Mechanical Sweeping	Collection		32572		4	4	5	4	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	4	Weekly
Graffiti removal	Offensive																Within 24 hrs
	Non-Offensive																Within 72 hrs

The maintenance of horticultural features may be affected by weather conditions. The timing of operations may be adjusted to minimise damage that otherwise would be caused by using machinery during periods of heavy rain, for example.

Appendix Five – Park Quality Assessment 2018



**THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL**  
**PARKS & GREENSPACE**



**Park Quality Assessment Result 2018**

Assessment Date: 22 June 2018  
Lead Assessor: Stephen MacGregor

***The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links***

**Classification: Premier Park**

<b>PQS: 76%</b>	<b>Grade B</b>	<b>Edin Std Met Yes</b>
2017	75% - Grade B - Yes	

Criteria Score Key 0 = N/A; 1 = Very Poor; 2-4 = Poor; 5-6 = Fair; 7 = Good; 8 = Very Good; 9 = Excellent; 10 = Exceptional





**A Welcoming Place**

	Name	2018	Strengths	Weaknesses / Recommendations
Welcoming	7	7	Good info and a lot of entrances, mostly clean	Tree branches lying about at some entrances. Graffiti on noticeboard at Lauriston entrance
Good Safe Access	8	8	Bus links and good access across site, including cycle lanes	Cyclists go at some speeds at times, some cycle lane shut due to works
Signage	7	7	Good signage across site, directional signage	Would have like to have seen a no smoking sign at the play area near the community garden
Equal Access	9	9	Good path network across whole of site, numerous seats	






**Healthy, Safe & Secure**

Safe Equipment & Facilities	9	8	Play areas in safe condition, Tennis courts etc looked fine	Would like to have seen a no smoking sign at entrance of play area near the community garden
Personal Security in Park	8	7	Open aspect, very well used by the public	Cyclists at speed not using cycle lanes at times
Dog Fouling	9	9	Dog owners picking up, no dog fouling encountered	Some empty poo bags lying about
Appropriate Provision of Facilities	9	9	Lots of activities here for various age groups	
Quality of Facilities	9	9	Facilities on the whole of good quality	Some tired seating at play areas



**Clean & Well Maintained**

<b>Litter &amp; Waste Management</b>	5	 Bins serviced, very little litter across site	Some instances of litter
<b>Grounds Maintenance</b>	6	 Well maintained grass areas, shrub beds looked ok	Weedy fencelines at tennis area
<b>Building &amp; Infrastructure Maint</b>	7	 Generally fine	
<b>Equipment Maintenance</b>	7	 On the whole equipment was fine	Some tired seats, graffiti on bins and gym equipment

**Sustainability**

<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	7	 All current Council policies regarding environmental sustainability are being adhered to in the park.	
<b>Pesticides</b>	8	 Have cut back almost all chemical use within the Meadows and now have the friends group as well as other volunteer groups edge the pathways and also use bark mulch where possible to now suppress weeds , working with the friends group to try and achieve zero	
<b>Peat Use</b>	7	 Peat use within the park continues to be monitored with the intention of reducing its use in new planting and seasonal bedding.	
<b>Waste Minimisation</b>	7	 We now recycle 35% of all our litter from the parks bins, the park also has two large silo bins which 100% of litter is recycled. Green waste is recycled on site. There are compost bins on site.	
<b>Woodland Management</b>	7	 Trees of various ages in generally good condition	Lots of tree branches fallen due to recent stormy weather, these were being managed though

**Conservation & Heritage**

<b>Conservation Fauna &amp; Flora</b>	5	 Naturalised grass, meadow areas , trees, shrub beds	
<b>Conservation Landscape</b>	7		



# THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL PARKS & GREENSPACE



## Park Quality Assessment Result 2018

Assessment Date: 22 June 2018

Lead Assessor: Stephen MacGregor

### *The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links*

**Classification: Premier Park**

<b>PQS: 76%</b>	<b>Grade B</b>	<b>Edin Std Met Yes</b>
2017	75% - Grade B - Yes	

Criteria Score Key 0 = N/A; 1 = Very Poor; 2-4 = Poor; 5-6 = Fair; 7 = Good; 8 = Very Good; 9 = Excellent; 10 = Exceptional

<b>Conservation Buildings</b>	7	7	Buildings were in generally good condition	
<b>Community Involvement</b>				
<b>Community Involvement</b>	9	9	Meadows Friends Group have a web site, twitter and Facebook and quarterly news letter. A number of projects are undertaken as well as regular work by community groups and school children. Business owners and volunteers also look after areas including a	
<b>Community Provision</b>	8	8	Examples are free short hole golf course , tennis courts , Magnet play area, Croquet Club , two cafe's 3 public toilets small shops outlet on Middle Meadow walk including Sainsbury etc.	
<b>Marketing &amp; Promotion</b>				
<b>Marketing &amp; Promotion</b>	9	9	The friends group have an very active web site page also Facebook and twitter ,They also have a quarterly news letter which goes to all the local community , council wise we have QR code links in all the parks notice boards which smart phones can link to	
<b>Information Provision</b>	7	7	Very good info around site. Lots of Friends info	
<b>Educ. &amp; Interpretative Provision</b>	8	8	Leaflets re community garden, Campaign info. Interpretation including Peace mile	

**Management**

Management Plan Implementation 0

0		
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**Overall Comments**

A very well used park that has lots of facilities for those of all age groups. Was slightly let down by the speeding cyclists not observing cycle lanes at times

**Recommendations**

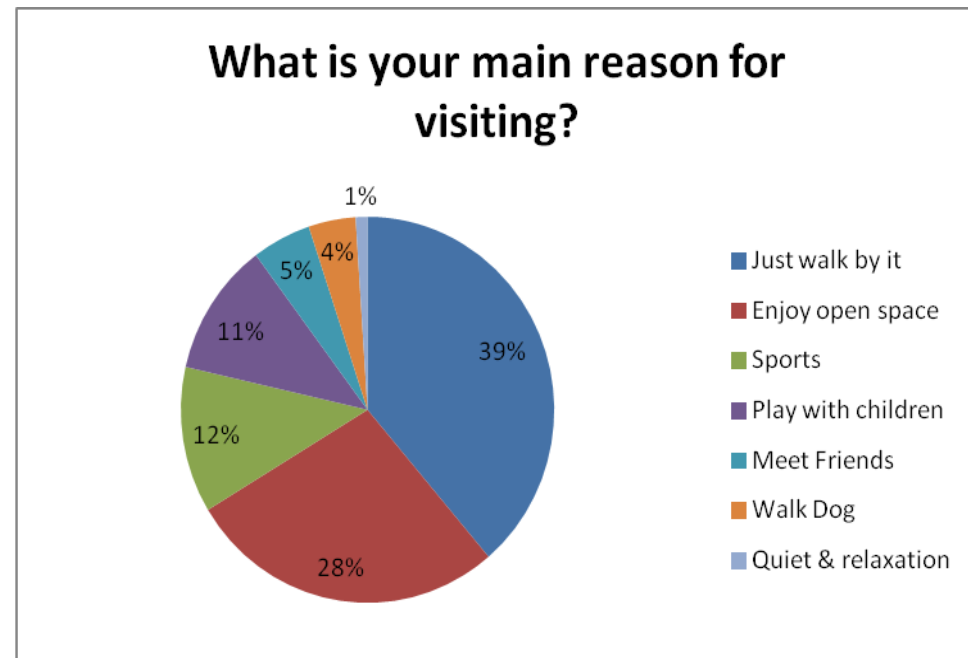
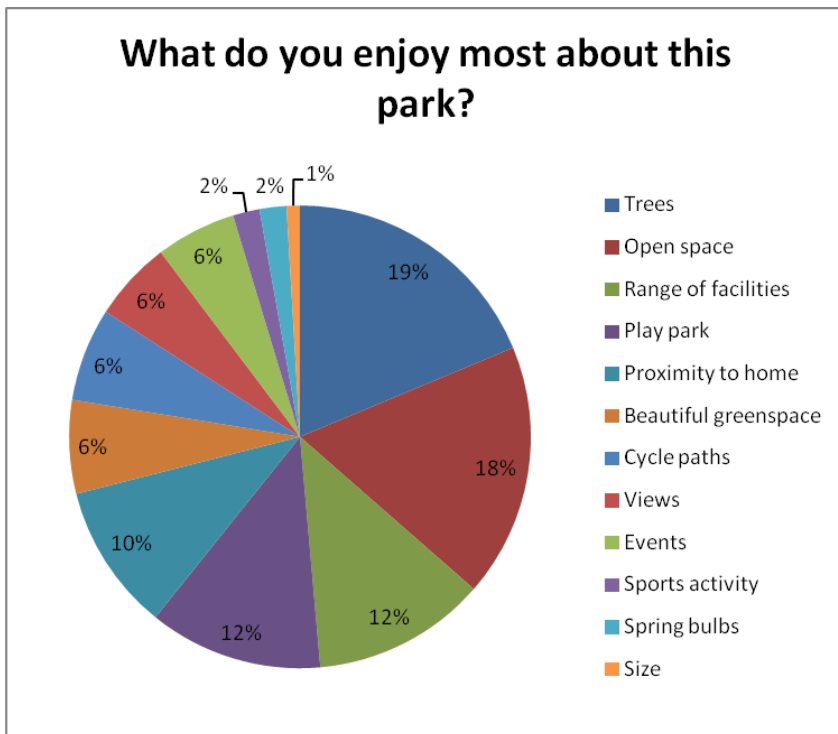
- Erect no smoking sign at play area next to community garden
- Remove graffiti from noticeboard at Lauriston entrance
- Remove graffiti from gym equipment



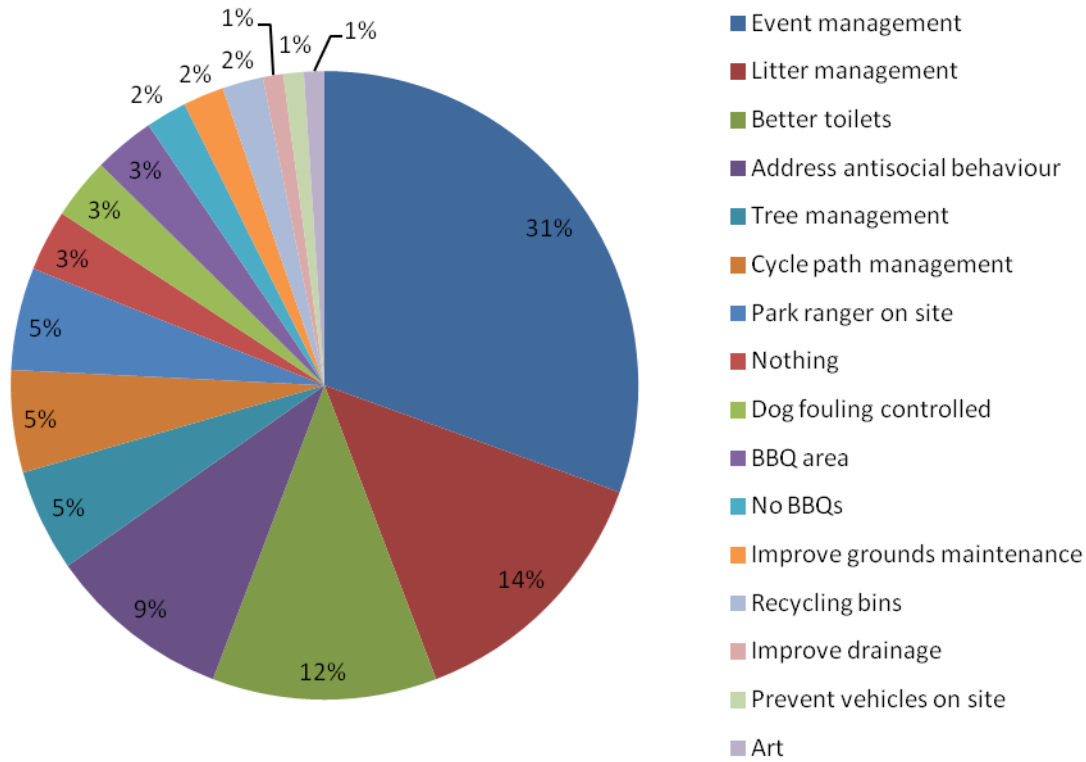
## Appendix Six – User Survey Results – 2015

### The Meadows

Number of responses	Satisfied with Park	Upkeep / appearance is good	Average length of visit (minutes)
80	80%	65%	48



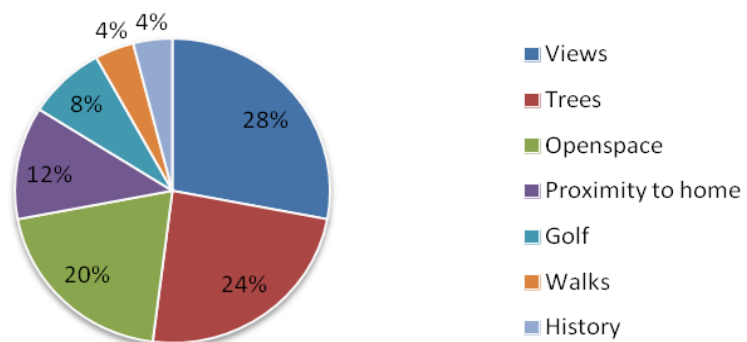
### What changes or improvements would you like to see?



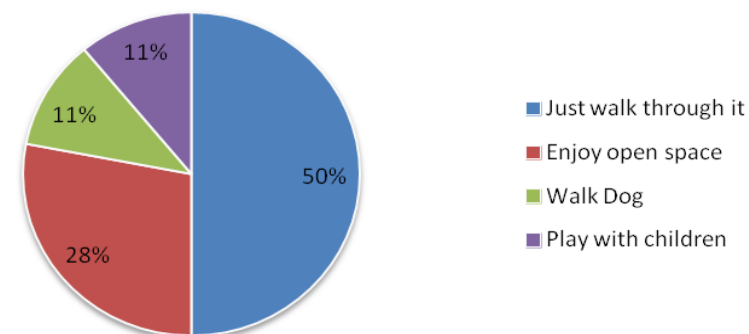
### Bruntsfield Links

Number of responses	Satisfied with Park	Upkeep / appearance is good	Average length of visit (minutes)
17	53%	35%	44

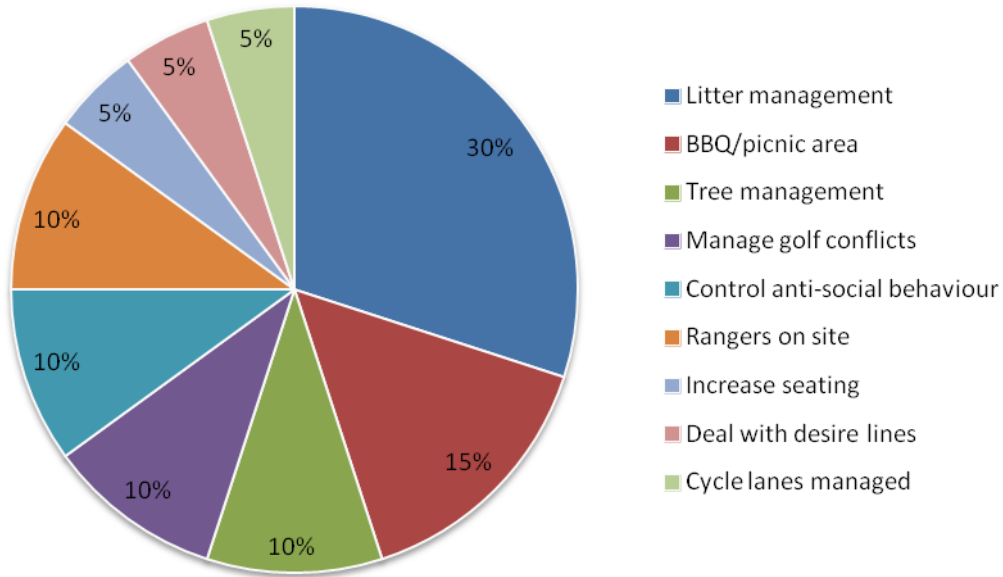
**What do you enjoy most about this park?**



**What is your main reason for visiting the park?**



### What changes or improvements would you like to see made to this park?



## What you thought about the Meadows

Number of responses	Satisfied with Park	Upkeep is good
80	80%	65%
<b>Top 5 things you enjoy about this park</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• trees</li> <li>• openness</li> <li>• range of facilities</li> <li>• play park</li> <li>• proximity to home</li> </ul>		<b>Top 5 things you like doing here</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• walking</li> <li>• enjoy the open space</li> <li>• sports</li> <li>• play with children</li> <li>• meet friends</li> </ul>

## What you thought about Bruntsfield Links

Number of responses	Satisfied with Park	Upkeep is good
17	53%	35%

<p><b>Top 5 things you enjoy about this park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• event management</li> <li>• litter management</li> <li>• toilet facilities</li> <li>• anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• proximity to home</li> <li>• pitch and putt</li> </ul>	<p><b>Top 4 things you like and dislike here</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Events Manifesto has been written to give strategic approach to the planning and managing of events.</li> <li>• Large litter bins have been located at various locations throughout the park and recycling facilities are being investigated.</li> <li>• The play area with toilet shelter - see map for details.</li> <li>• A Park Ranger, based at the Magnet play area, patrols the park</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Your main concerns were about</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• litter management</li> </ul>	<p><b>What we are doing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All trees in the park have been surveyed and recorded, and a programme of works is planned</li> <li>• Park Rangers patrol the park daily.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BBQ / picnic area</li> <li>• tree management</li> <li>• pitch and putt conflict</li> <li>• anti-social behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 picnic tables have been installed and one more is on the way.</li> <li>• All trees in the park have been surveyed and recorded, and a programme of works is planned.</li> </ul>	

## Appendix Seven – Biodiversity Assessment

Site: The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links  
Site visit date: January 2015



### Existing habitats

The Meadows and Bruntsfield Links are characterised by large expanses of closely mown amenity grasslands punctuated by tree-lined avenues. There are a small number of hedges, annual bedding areas and small buildings scattered throughout the park. The park is located in central Edinburgh and is surrounded on all sides by high buildings including a large number of tenements.

### **Trees**

**(Specimen Trees)** - Designed to be standalone parkland trees and are primarily features within the park. They will have some biodiversity value for birds and invertebrates.

**Bulb areas** - Large areas of the park perimeter are planted with a mix of crocus and daffodil, these areas are left uncut until June/July when they are cut back to amenity grassland.

**Wildflower bed** - An area of wildflowers has been established adjacent to Warrender Park Terrace/Leamington Walk, this is in addition to a wildflower bed in Lonsdale Terrace. The former is part of Edinburgh's Living Landscape Project; this aim of this project is to:

*“Create, restore and connect green areas of the city to make attractive and biodiverse landscapes, enjoyed by residents and visitors. Landscapes will be healthy, nature rich and resilient to climate change”.*

(For further information, visit: [http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20064/parks\\_and\\_green\\_spaces/1160/edinburgh\\_living\\_landscape](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20064/parks_and_green_spaces/1160/edinburgh_living_landscape))

The latter is a community project, organised by the residents of Lonsdale Terrace. Both show real benefit for biodiversity with many bees, butterflies and other insects visiting the flowers. Teasels and autumn seed heads provide longer-lasting food sources for seed-eating birds such as Linnets, Redpolls and Goldfinches.

**Herbaceous perennial bed** – There are 4 perennial beds, which benefit pollinators and other invertebrates.

***Amenity grasslands*** – This park contains extensive areas of closely mown grass which are of very limited value to biodiversity. These areas support grassland invertebrates in low numbers (in comparison to long grass) and provide a limited foraging resource for birds which feed on these invertebrates.

In springtime, the grassy areas around and between trees are left un-mown to allow spring bulbs (e.g. crocus, daffodils) to grow. This is of limited, seasonal benefit to grassland invertebrates and birds.

### ***Tree-lined avenues***

Mature trees are maintained along many avenues, adding structural diversity to the park and providing habitats for invertebrates and birds. Young trees have been planted where gaps in the avenues have arisen.

### ***Hedgerows***

Evergreen privet hedges are in place around the croquet club, the tennis courts and areas of annual bedding (Bruntsfield Links). These are of very limited value to biodiversity as privet rarely flowers or sets berries this far north, but it does provide shelter and a food resource for generalist invertebrates.

A newly planted holly hedge is in place along the north-facing wall of the old school building at the west end of Warrender Park Crescent.

### ***Annual beds and planters***

The park has a number of small areas of seasonal bedding which have limited biodiversity value but do provide a nectar source for invertebrates.

### **Recommendations for new habitats and features**

***Pond creation*** - This park does not presently have a pond or wetland feature of any description. Ponds are a UKBAP priority habitat and the LBAP contains several actions relating to the creation and enhancement of ponds. A well-designed pond with fringing wetland would be of significant benefit to biodiversity in the park and surrounding area. Existing ponds such as those in Inverleith and Figgate parks show that these features are valued by park users as well as wildlife.

***Features for Swifts*** - Swifts are a priority species in the Edinburgh LBAP and are particularly dependent on tenement buildings. The Meadows area was identified in the Edinburgh Swift Survey 2005-06 as a core breeding area with many nest sites found in the surrounding tenements. The swifts which nest in this area will forage above the park and so there is an ideal opportunity to benefit this species.



### **Developing the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links biodiversity value**

A number of actions to improve the park for wildlife and biodiversity have already been undertaken such as wildflower planting, bird boxes and relaxed cutting. Building upon these with actions such as; increasing plant diversity using natives, increasing the amount of deadwood in the park, expanding and increasing the areas of wildflowers and avoiding herbicide and pesticide use can all contribute significantly to biodiversity.

***Develop Wildflower Areas*** –Increasing the number and area of these wildflower beds would be very beneficial.

***Annual beds and planters***- Avoid using highly modified cultivars, particularly those with double headed flowers. Convert annual beds to perennial beds, using shrubs to provide more flowers and hence foraging resources. Convert annual bedding plants to a species-rich wildflower or amenity flower mix (e.g. “pictorial meadow”).

***Herbaceous perennial bed*** - Leaving dead stems over winter and cutting back in spring is good for insects overwintering in plant bases. If possible, increase the plant diversity with natives that are attractive and structural e.g. teasel, broom, mullein. These could be gradually introduced if there are other plants that fail. Native grasses could also be substituted.

***Amenity grasslands***- Identify areas where grass is allowed to grow long. A site visit identified part of Tumblers” Hollow as an ideal long grass area. This was once the site of a play area and is surrounded by a low fence which serves to visually contain the area and can be used to affix public notices. There may be a case for removing the existing benches and bins and breaking up the hard standing to reduce disturbance in the long grass area.

Each long grass area should be managed in sections and there should always be at least one section of long grass. Each section should be allowed to grow for at least 40 days before being cut. Leave grass to grow long around tree bases all year round (at least 50 cm. radius), with a single cut in late autumn. This will provide benefits as described above and also helps protect trees from mowing incidents. These areas could be enhanced by sowing with wildflowers or summer bulbs to complement the spring bulbs.

### ***Trees***

***(Specimen Trees)*** - Designed to be standalone parkland trees and are primarily features within the park. They will have some biodiversity value for birds and invertebrates. It may be possible to leave grass uncut underneath single trees or plant some bulbs or wildflowers. Leave deadwood in place unless it poses a safety risk.

***(Trees-lined avenues)*** - Replace all trees that are lost with appropriate native species which support native invertebrate and bird species. These should be in keeping with size and stature of trees already present in park.

Increase the number of trees in the park by adding a second row to those avenues which are currently lined with single rows. For example Jawbone Walk and Coronation Walk are lined with single rows of trees, whereas Middle Meadow Walk and Melville Drive are lined with double rows.

When trees are removed leave stumps in place to rot, this provides a habitat for fungi and invertebrates which is absent from many parks.

Consider leaving all dead wood in situ ensuring that it does not pose a risk to the public. Trees and limbs could be felled and laid along the ground. Again this provides a habitat rarely found in parks.

**Hedgerows** - Plant new native species-rich hedges (i.e. berry hedges) along the walls of the North Meadow Walk (e.g. in the vicinity of Coronation Walk). These will provide foraging resources for bees which are an Edinburgh LBAP priority species group, and will provide important winter food resources for birds.

Consider planting native species-rich hedgerows along minor paths through the park which are not tree lined, for example the paths across the most westerly sections of Bruntsfield Links.

Species-rich hedges should have a buffer strip of 1m of long grass between the hedge and normal amenity grassland. This buffer strip should be allowed to grow for at least 40 days before being cut and should be cut in sections, ensuring that there is always one section of long grass present.

Increase the value of new and existing hedges by planting climbers into the hedges, this provides food for wildlife and adds colour and visual appeal.

Plant wild flowers and bulbs at base of new and existing hedges.

**Bird/Bat boxes** – There may be scope to add bird or bat boxes to some trees if we find that the park is valuable to particular species which could be targeted with specific box designs, see below for recommendations regarding nest boxes. Carry out a programme of bat surveys to discover if the park is used by bats and to ascertain which species. If the park is found to be important then further recommendations can be made regarding habitats and features of importance to bats, and the potential for installing bat boxes.

### **Recommendations for new habitats and features**

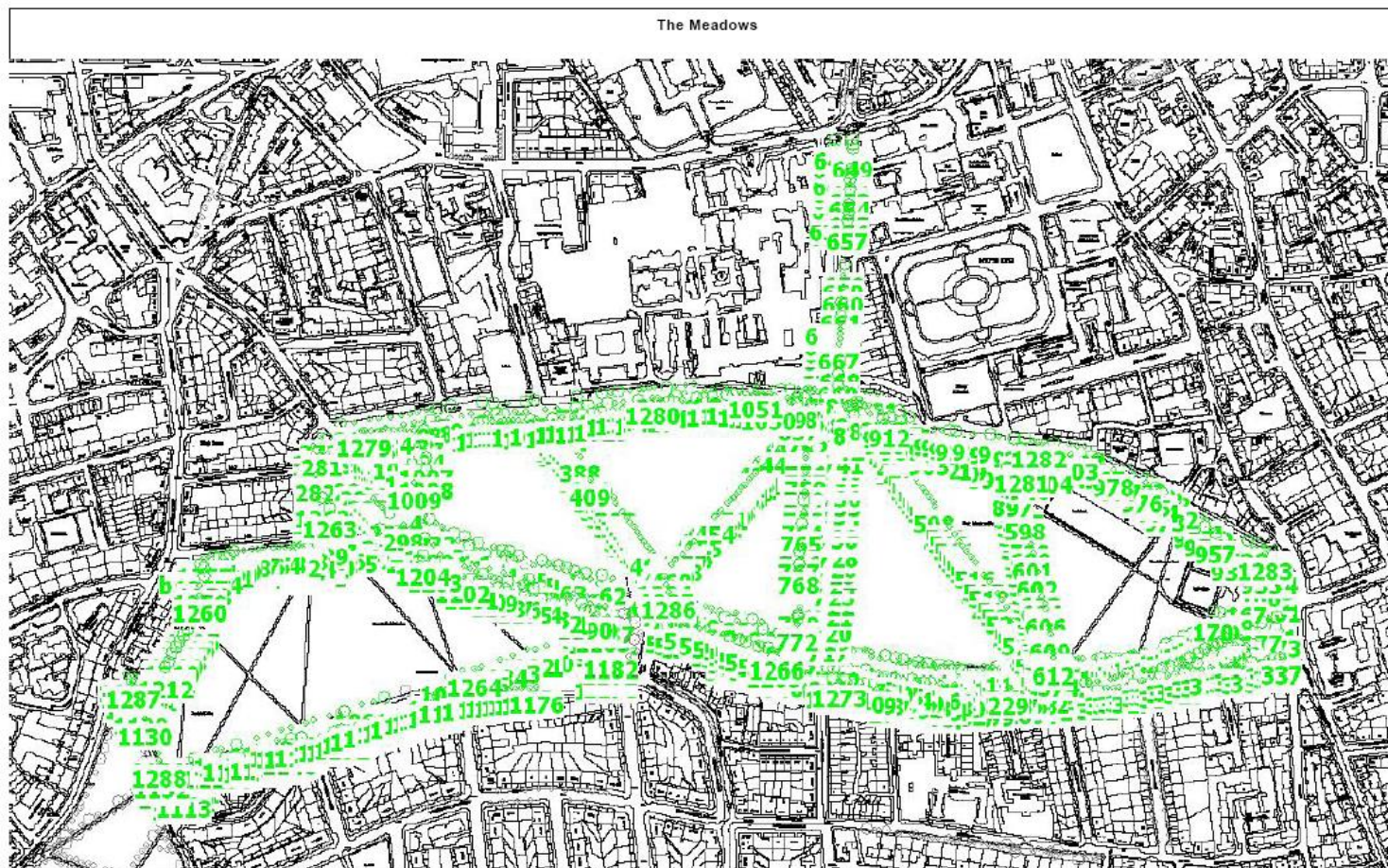
**Features for Swifts** - Habitat enhancements in other parts of this report which improve the value of the park for invertebrates will in turn support swifts. Allowing areas of grassland to grow long and planting more trees (i.e. double-rows) will provide the most significant benefits.

Erect a Swift tower. Swift towers are artificial nest sites situated on the top of lamp posts or telegraph poles. They provide a large number of nest sites for this sociable species. For further information please see: [http://www.swift-conservation.org/swift\\_towers\\_poles.htm](http://www.swift-conservation.org/swift_towers_poles.htm)

**Pond creation**- Create a new pond with fringing wetland. A site visit identified a number of areas within the park with natural hollows or dips which could be ideal locations for a pond, e.g. the area to the north of Tumblers” Hollow.

## Appendix Eight – Tree Survey

A tree survey was carried out by the Parks, Greenspaces and Cemeteries” Forestry section.



Trees included within the tree survey

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## **Appendix Nine – Play Area Information**

### **East Meadows – Magnet:**

Opened in 2007 at a cost of £385,000.

### **East Meadows – Toddler Play Area:**

Opened 1991 at a cost of £40k

Small toddler area set on grass with rubber safer surface tiles.

Multi play Tot Lot Unit on rubber safety tiles

Roundabout tulip on rubber safety tiles

See Saw unit on rubber safety tiles

Slide Junior Rainbow on rubber safety tiles

Swing unit 2 bay 4 cradle seat swing unit on rubber safety tiles

### **West Meadows – Toddler/Junior Play Area:**

Opened 1990 at a cost of £60k

Toddler / junior play space for 2 to 11-year olds tarmacadam and rubber with a grass space for informal play and picnics.

Roundabout Honeycomb Whirl on rubber safer surface

Multiplay Unit Sigma on rubber safer surface

Springer Crazy Daisy on rubber safer surface

Slide Junior Rainbow on rubber safer surface

Swing 2 bay 4 seat unit on rubber safer surface

Additional play items have been installed and were funded through FOMBL.

### **Inspection regime:**

- Cleanliness, as required by task force can be daily.
- Park Rangers inspections visual
- In-house workshop team 4 to 6 weeks recorded engineering inspection
- Annual Independent Inspection and Risk Assessment.

## Appendix Ten – Magnet Play – East Meadows

### **THE VISION**

*“Play in Partnership, A Play Strategy for the City of Edinburgh” has as one of its objectives the development of large scale “Magnet” playgrounds offering adventure and challenging play opportunities for all.*

Above all it should be *“A fun place to play”*

Two dilapidated bowling greens at the East end of the historic Meadows were selected to be transformed into a “Magnet for Play”. Providing a range of innovative play not presently featured in Edinburgh’s play areas.

To meet this essential goal of the Council, the play area had to address three main needs:

- **Inclusion**  
The incorporation of specialist equipment and facilities to create a play area that can be accessed by children of differing ages and abilities, enabling participation in mainstream play provision.
- **Relaxation**  
A design that includes play, art, textures and landscaping. Seating for children and adults with picnic facilities being integral to the design.
- **Visually exciting**  
The play equipment selected with sculptural lines, of a scale to have impact on the large space, whilst still offering value and stimulation. A blend of exciting play equipment and large-scale sculpture set in a green landscape of trees, grass, coloured tarmacadam, and safer surfaces to be visually stunning.

## **THE DESIGN**

The brief captures and establishes new routes into and through the former Bowling Green site and old play area. The move to retain the Bowling Green Pavilion and build a new “Magnet” play area around it was deliberate on the part of the designer, in an attempt to connect local landmarks, buildings and history with local residents young and old.

The design brings together and establishes 4,877m square of pure fun! A new central pathway has been added which gives access through the play area and connects the Sports Pavilion to the rest of the Meadows. The play area has been designed to flow off this main path on either side in wide arcs of differing play, leading onto wide lawn areas for informal play.

Central to the design is the picnic site laid with key blok brindle paving blocks, with picnic tables, seating, and a specially commissioned Art Work “ knife, fork and spoon” to provide an alternative picnic area for children. The picnic site is located next to the sand and water play and its central location allows for easy adult supervision with clear sight lines to all the play facilities, whilst providing a relaxing place for careers and children alike.

There are three ways to enter Magnet Play, entrance points at either end of the central footpath and a crawl through tunnel located in the hedge as a secrete child access.

The play spaces have been designed for easy access with paths and ramps leading into all parts of the site. The Inclusive area, Toddler area and Water Play area are laid out with red tarmacadam and safer surface providing smooth easy access.

To reflect the diverse range of activities in the Meadows past and present a range of art features were incorporated into the design. Five sculptures were commissioned building on a 10-year collaboration between the borders based sculptor Jeremy Cunningham and the Council’s Play Technical Team, Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries, Place. Which led to the inclusion of sculptures of well-known traditional toys like the Gird and Cleek, Diabolo and Whip and Top around the margins of the site. In the centre of the play area is a two ton hand carved revolving stone apple.

The swing barriers depict animals which used to graze the park land, music notes, instruments, and jester’s hat to represent the arts and festival events which take place throughout the year in the Meadows. History of play entrance panels featuring a skipping rope, Gird and Cleek and skittles to complement the stone and metal sculpture items.

The same edge detail, K S Blocks in brindle has been used around all paths, play areas and as a grass mowing strip around the timber edge detailing to the woodchip pits.

The design incorporates a number of different play surfaces:

sandpit, 170m sq., woodchip pits 727m sq, red tarmacadam and buff coating 439m sq., 113m sq. picnic site in block paving and 3428m sq grass free from dogs for informal play and picnics.

The sand was chosen as it is a safety surface and a play surface. Woodchip was selected as it has a longer life than traditional bark and not so prone to breaking down and composting. The red tarmacadam was selected as traditional black tarmacadam is bleak and uninviting, and the buff central path provides excellent grip and a well-defined through route for the visually impaired.

At the west end the path meets the existing park path network in a wide semi-circular quiet seating area. The route has been provided with street lighting, which provides background lighting to the play spaces.

### **Landscape**

19 new large root-balled trees have been planted, six *Tilia* sp. trees to provide an avenue to the new central footpath, Three *Liquidambar styraciflua* to provide gentle shade and autumn colour to the picnic site, four *Fraxinus* sp to run along the new park boundary, Five *Acer palmatum* and a *Cedar* planted into the lawn areas to add to the parkland landscape.

A 10m long whale mound has been formed within the lawn area for informal play picking up on the Whale Jawbone Arch feature which was installed in the Meadows in 1886 for the Edinburgh International Industrial Exhibition.

### **Outcome**

A high quality, high profile, stimulating and exciting play experience has been created, encouraging more families and children to use and enjoy the play facilities. The new play area plays a major part in delivering quality greenspace that meets the needs of the community, as part of the Councils city wide commitment to improve Edinburgh's parks and greenspaces.

A sense of ownership of this valuable local resource has been strengthened through the involvement of the community in its development and increased local identity through the creation of specialist art works.

The blend of exciting play equipment and sculpture set in a park landscape of trees, grass, and safer surfaces is visually stunning and attracts over 300 children and adults each day, the feedback we have received is very positive.



## **CONSULTATION**

Extensive consultation with the Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links and Meadows and Bruntsfield Links Short Life Working Group produced a set of four designs which through the consultation process firmed up into the final design you see today. The final location of the site was off set at the request of the residents on the north side, North Meadow Walk and Hope Park Crescent who were concerned about noise.

Consultation with children was carried out on a city-wide basis at the Play Day 2005 and Play Day 2006. Views were obtained on equipment types to get as wide a view as possible. Furthermore, local views were obtained by the City Council's Play Action Team who visited after-school clubs around the Meadows area to obtain the views of a further 100 children.

The Play Equipment choice!

The new play area, built to meet BS EN 1176, provides a wide range of activities for toddlers to early teens with a heavy emphasis on inclusion, excitement and innovative play opportunities:

- 40 individual items of play, featuring a huge inclusive play zone unit with slides, drag ramp, inclusive scramble net and steps and climbing for all abilities.
- Younger children can enjoy Edinburgh's first Pedal Roundabout where the children propel the roundabout around by pedal power!
- Water Play Unit, (the first of this type in Edinburgh and Scotland), featuring a pump, water screw, basins, two troughs and a water wheel where the children control the flow of water along the unit by working together and opening closing gates.
- Nexus and velocity units, provide futuristic play blending form and function to create a "cool" place to hang out.
- The Sand play area is packed full of sand play units, with buckets and scoops and sand pulleys, ideal play for younger children.
- Basket buddy swing designed specially to take several children at once and those with special needs.
- The dish roundabout provides for all abilities with both a rocking and rotation motion. The dish shape gives good body support for those who need it and who wish gentle motion, but can also be used as a fast, dynamic play activity for several children at once.

- There are three traditional swing units, one fitted with specialist swing seats for children needing extra support, there is also an exhilarating tyre swing which can be used by up to five children sitting or standing, also big enough for adults!
- A Giant Climbing Cliff and smaller boulder will provide ample challenge for all budding climbers. The Cableway aerial ride lets you leap off into the unknown and experience the sensation of speed as you fly along this 25m ride.
- Kanope multi-play unit with fisherman's hut, spider's web, rock net, treetop hut, wavy slide, climbing palisade and owl's huts takes you soaring into the canopies of the Meadows.
- Games include chimes, music panels, mirror, Simon says, Knots and Crosses, Spinning Discs and talking tubes, which all add to the fun.

## **PROBLEMS FACED AND SOLVED**

- **LEVELS**

As the former use of the site was bowling greens, large areas of the site were below the surrounding ground levels. This was exacerbated by the decision to retain the bowling sports pavilion which fixed the upper site levels. The site levels could all have dropped to match the bowling greens but this would have resulted in steps into the Pavilion. The focus of the design was for easy access to all parts of the play site.

The solution was a combination of up-fill with type one and a gentle fall from east to west and from north to south in order to take up the lower ground and marry it into the surrounding levels

- **STONE APPLE**

The two tonne hand carved stone apple was required to be rotated by a child to give the children the experience of moving large mass easily. The rotating bearing was required to take this weight without breaking down or requiring expensive maintenance. Jeremy Cunningham working with his consultant engineers David Narro Associates found a German bearing used in the articulated lorry Industry capable of taking the apple load and this has been used to great success on site

- **WATER PLAY**

It was anticipated that a lot of water would spill from the play unit and pump which could lead to a collapse of the sub base stone layer. During the construction phase a drain was installed into the stone base of the water play unit with a soak-away in the sandpit. In operation a lot of water is spilled by wind and children but so far no problems.

### **MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS / ARRANGEMENTS**

The play equipment was chosen on the basis of previous experience of maintaining similar items, which proved to be robust and easy to maintain. Woodchip was specified as the safer surface for the large pits due to its proven durability and resistance to composting. However it was recognised that with 2 -300 children and adults playing at peak times that maintenance would be an issue. A Park Ranger has been based on site and a robust procedure for maintenance put in place.

At practical completion the site was handed back into the care of the City of Edinburgh Council for amenity grass cutting, edging, all litter removal and maintenance of trees and infra structure. In compliance with BS EN standards the play equipment will be subject to visual inspection, monthly recorded engineering inspection, six monthly-recorded inspection and annual independent recorded risk assessment and engineering inspection.

### **TENDER PROCUREMENT**

The works proceeded to the tender stage using The City of Edinburgh Councils Tender Unit and Quantity Surveyor Services. James Galloway, Senior Technical Officer, Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries, Place, produced the design and tender specification and was the supervising officer on the project. The City of Edinburgh Council's Quantity Surveyor David Orr (Building Design Service) was commissioned along with a Planning Supervisor, Gordon Macaulay. The works were put to tender in August 2006.

### **CONTRACT**

The contractor started the works on 9 October 2006 with Practical Completion obtained 16 March 2007

### **DESIGNER**

James Galloway, Senior Technical Officer, Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries, Place

### **TECHNICAL TEAM**

The City of Edinburgh Council, Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries, Place, Play Technical Section.  
Senior Technical Officer, Alan Grevers, Technical Officer Design,  
Based at Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG  
Tel:0131 529 7955

## **MAIN CONTRACTOR**

Robert Darling and Sons Ltd, Mayshade Park, Eskbank, Midlothian  
Tel: 0131 663 1093

## **SUB CONTRACTORS**

Playtop Safer Surfacing  
Newbridge Industrial Estate  
Newbridge, Midlothian EH28 8PJ  
Tel: 0131 335 6818

J Sives Surfacing  
Resin Bonded Surface and Tarmacadam coloured surfaces  
91b West Savile Terrace, Edinburgh. EH9 3DP  
Tel: 0131 668 3070

## **MATERIALS**

### **HARD LANDSCAPE**

#### Kerbs

Marshall's key kerb KS brindle bull-nosed kerbs were used around the perimeter of the Play Area paths and timber edge detail to the Woodchip pits and Sand Play area. The reasons for this choice was the desire to have beautiful flowing lines of kerbs with really tight curves, the size of the key kerb allowed this. The colour was also perfect as it reflects the history of the area and is a beautiful contrast to the modern play equipment and rubber safer surface and blends well with the footpath colour treatment.

#### Red Tarmacadam

Tarmacadam surface 20mm thick layer of 6mm size medium graded red tarmacadam wearing course on 40mm thick layer of 20mm size open graded black tarmacadam base. This grade of tarmacadam is free draining but provides a smooth easy surface to run around on with good grip, it is also the choice for tarmacadam tennis areas.

#### Resin bonded surfacing in buff

Supplied and laid onto finished tarmacadam wearing course by J Sives Surfacing Ltd.

Used to give extra grip and help prevent slips and to provide a contrast colour for visually impaired users of the park. The bright buff colour also blends well with the red tarmacadam and generally lifts the appeal of the area.

## **STREET FURNITURE**

### **Benches 9**

Blue Powder Coated metal bench seats ref RE200

Supplied by David Ogilvie Engineering

Robust beautifully designed street furniture, which has become a firm favourite in Edinburgh Play Areas.

### **Seats 6**

Black Powder Coated metal seats with backs located at the west end of the site in the semi-circular quieter seating area designed for adults.

Supplied by David Ogilvie Engineering

### **Bins 5**

Blue Powder coated metal bins, Ranger 107lt bin by Earth anchor.

Supplied by The Play Practice Scotland Ltd

A very robust vandal-resistant bin with front opening door in compliance to The City of Edinburgh Council requirements for emptying.

### **Ranger Tri-Tables 3**

Blue Powder Coated metal tables

Supplied by The Play Practice Scotland Ltd

Robust design suitable for wheelchair use

## **FENCING**

### **Chevron swing barriers**

The City of Edinburgh Council design made as raw steel work by James Cowie and Co Ltd, with art details by Jeremy Cunningham and fabrication of art details by Jim Whitson The Blazing Blacksmith. Powder coated in blue these galvanised chevron barriers were designed by the technical team to meet the playground standard for “air” gaps, 89mm and the chevron design chosen to discourage climbing and playing. 16mm bars on a 40 x 20 mm frame.

Supplied by James Cowie and Co Ltd.

## **PLAY EQUIPMENT**

<b>Play equipment item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Supplier</b>
Huck Mini Climbing Pyramid Roundabout 20 01 070	A brightly coloured rope roundabout offering an alternative take on the traditional roundabout, ideal for physical development and exciting play.	The Play Practice Scotland Ltd
Sutcliffe Dish Roundabout SWD100.	An inclusive all steel dish roundabout with both rotation and rocking movements. Ideal for gentle movement for children with mobility problems but an equally exciting play experience for children wishing to go faster.	The Play Practice Scotland Ltd
Sutcliffe Special Playzone Unit ref 5101041	The unit has soft rubber transfer decks and drag ramps, with ropes and grips. The ramp allows children with mobility problems the possibility of climbing unaided and using the double width slide to return to ground level. Large gathering deck with a quiet seating area for toddlers on the underside, with games and musical panels	The Play Practice Scotland Ltd
Sutcliffe Special Water Play Unit ref 5101122	Electronic water delivery system with a spiral water screw and water troughs leading to a water wheel, teaching children to share and play together.	The Play Practice Scotland Ltd
Kaiser Kuhne Merry-go-round 43460	An inclusive roundabout which can be rotated by the seated child by turning a fixed central wheel.	The Play Practice Scotland Ltd

Kaiser Kuhne Mirror 0-37211-500	Fun steel mirror for all ages and ability	The Play Practice Scotland Ltd
Kaiser Kuhne Chimes 0-37204-500	Musical item	The Play Practice Scotland Ltd
Kaiser Kuhne Effect Discs 0-37190-000 and 0-37186-000	Fun visual effect discs.	The Play Practice Scotland Ltd
Kaiser Kuhne Single Point Swing 40712	High energy group activity swing for older children or those with special needs with help	The Play Practice Scotland Ltd
Kaiser Kuhne Teen Seats 2 No	Providing a cool way for teens to kick back and relax	The Play Practice Scotland Ltd
Ludus Free Standing Game Simon Says Ludus Free Standing Game OXO	Game	The Play Practice Scotland Ltd
Sutcliffe Set of Talk Tubes ref PZW100	Ideal for younger children and located for wheel chair use.	The Play Practice Scotland Ltd
Kompan Spring Crazy Daisy and Spring Horse	Providing spring play for toddlers	Kompan Ltd
Kompan Adventure House M 66200-3413S Steel Slide	Extended legs, sand play unit with timber ramp for wheel chair access.	Kompan Ltd
Kompan Sandworks Unit M 58110-3701S	Extended leg sand play unit. With pull up buckets and chains pipes and funnels.	Kompan Ltd
Kompan sand rotating tables M57102-3217	Sand Play for Toddlers	Kompan Ltd
Kompan sand star fish tables	Sand Play for Toddlers	Kompan Ltd

Kompan Albatross Spring See Saw		Kompan Ltd
Kompan Spica GXY 801421-3717 3 No	Allows users to experience centrifugal forces as they hold and spin.	Kompan Ltd
SMP Delta swing 1.8m high complete with cradles and chains	A toddler swing unit with two cradle seats fitted with anti-wrap bearings to reduce the nuisance of swing wrap around and resulting noise.	SMP
SMP Delta swing 2.4m high with 4 swing seats and anti wrap bearings		SMP 4 flat seats
SMP Delta swing 2.4m high one bay 2 Mirage seats and harness	Swing seats specially design for those needing additional support.	SMP
SMP Nexus The Core SMP Nexus Velocity 2	High energy Play Unit Climbing and spinning unit	SMP SMP
Jupiter Play Cableway with platform J511	Aerial ride	Jupiter Play
Jupiter Kanope Multi Play Unit ref J2730	Unit with tree huts and spider climbing nets and slides	Jupiter Play
Hags Buddy Swing ref 120060	Net Basket Swing for those who need support in swinging. Can also be used as high energy kit for 8 plus kids	Hags Play Ltd
Hags Pedal Roundabout ref 151135	Roundabout where the children move the roundabout with pedals	Hags Play Ltd
Record Crawl through tunnel special on metal legs		Supplied by: Record Playground Equipment Ltd



Huna Climbing Cliff Boulder	Fibre concrete Stone Cliff with overhang for climbing	Supplied By: Play World Systems
Huna Hill Boulder	Smaller climbing unit	Supplied By: Play World Systems
Playdale City Streets Music Panel Playdale City Streets Funky mirror	Free standing games	Supplied by: Playdale Playgrounds Ltd

### **SAFER SURFACING**

#### Wet pour rubber

In compliance to BS EN 1177 a full impact absorbing safer surface in colour EPDM mix was laid. Surface graphics were used as part of the history in play theme and to add to the play experience. Green was chosen as the predominant background colour to control and blend the floor design into the surrounding park landscape

Supplier Playtop Safer Surfacing

#### Sand

Silica play sand FS3B by Fife Silica Sand laid 400mm deep

#### Woodchip

Play Grade wood chip safer surface by Keilder Forrest Products Ltd. Laid 300mm deep.