

Appendix 8

Assessment using Green Flag Award criteria

The criteria and checklist of items are taken from the Green Flag Manual.

Criteria	Item	Existing situation	Assessment
1. A Welcoming Place			
Signage	External signage	Sign to park from Vauxhall Station	Limited directional signage to the park. No external signs at the park.
	Entrance signs	3 - located at South Lambeth Road and Fentiman Road entrances	Poor quality, limited information, due for replacement 2006.
Access - Physical	Public transport	Bus stop adjacent on South Lambeth Road, Bus 88 – Clapham, Bus 2 – Brixton and Norwood. Bus, underground and mainline stations - 5 minutes	Good links
	Road crossings	'Green man' pedestrian crossings to the north enabling access to stations. Traffic lights junction of S Lambeth and Fentiman Roads	A 'green man' pedestrian crossing of S Lambeth Road at the traffic lights by the SW entrance would improve access.
	Pavements	South Lambeth Road – flags, good condition Fentiman Road – average condition, street tree roots making some sections uneven Lawn Lane – narrow tarmac path, marked for repair with obstacles narrowing useable width further.	Access reasonable
	Cycle routes & parking	No routes beside or through park London Cycle Route 3, section between Clapham Common and the Oval, uses Meadow Road crossing Fentiman Road east of the park. Lambeth Cycle Route crosses S. Lambeth road south of park near library. No cycle parking.	Cyclists cross the park, tolerated if cycling with care, though cycling prohibited by byelaws.
	Parking	None within park. Parking meters and permit parking on Fentiman Road and Lawn Lane.	Parking adequate for local users

	Vehicle access	Maintenance and ranger vehicles access Fentiman Road and Lawn Lane entrances. Large vehicles for events access from Lawn Lane	Routine access not a problem despite conflict with pedestrians. Large vehicle access awkward.
	Entrance presentation	Entrances on S. Lambeth Road provide sense of place and arrival, opening into a green lung from a busy thoroughfare. Internal barriers unattractive. Fentiman Road – shady, straight enclosed path Lawn Lane –disparate fencing and detailing	Scope for improvement in line with ambience and period of park. Lack of quality Character of a ‘back entrance’
	Sightlines	Good visibility within park, internal hedges kept low.	Generally good from most entrances. Vegetation restricts views into park from Fentiman Road entrance and at junction by fountain
Access - Social	Barriers identified through consultation	Lack of toilets Lack of information	Serious omissions requiring attention
	Facilities for disabled	None specially	Disabled toilet should be provided
	Facilities for children	Play area for younger children, One O’ Clock Club for under 5’s, MUGA	Limited attractions for 12-16 age group
	Seating	Many seats, varied designs and locations	Scope for reviewing location and orientation
	Quiet areas	Rose and lavender gardens	Gardens appreciated as quiet spaces. Some other areas are quieter due to limited attractiveness and use
	Provision for different groups of users	Good within scale of park	No specific area for picnicking office workers. No specific provision for older children
	Events	Easter egg hunt and summer fair organised by FOVP	Limited number of events but those that are held are good for social interaction, involvement and attracting new visitors to the park
	Park staff	All identifiable by uniform. Contractor not trained to deal with public, rangers trained and able to respond	Scope for additional training and improvement?
Aspects of design	Attractive	The park is perceived to be attractive by visitors	Opportunities for improvement
	Facilities integrated in design	Facilities developed from features that were added and are now accepted as part of the park rather than integrated by design.	Opportunities for improved integration in renewal and the re-design of some areas
	Art and craftsmanship	South Lambeth Road entrances	Limited. Loss of original/early features – Doulton statue, bandstand, railings Opportunities for bespoke work?

	Appropriate to use	Generally.	Old style trellis not sufficiently robust
	Materials in keeping	Generally.	Acceptable
	Stylistic innovation	None	Consider potential in new design work
	Durability, environmental impact	Landscape infrastructure generally durable but buildings durability questionable.	Appearance of two principal buildings degrade park
	Location of working areas	Discrete	Could the space be better used?
	Practicality	?	
	Path layout	Paths do not reflect primary desire lines	Attempt to resolve conflict between original design and current use
	Planting layout and species	Some mature trees from original layout and mix of ornamental late 20 th century tree planting. Scattered beds of shrubs, roses, herbaceous and seasonal bedding, overgrown conifers and new lavender garden to contemporary design.	Disparate. Poor design of ornamental plantings detracts from character of park. Lack of relationship to historic design. No apparent rationale in species selection.
2. Healthy, safe and secure			
	Reorganisation of grounds maintenance for higher staff presence	Site based gardener and assistant (part time)	Existing arrangement contributes to sense of security in park
	Customer care training	No direct training of site based staff or rangers	Gardener experienced in dealing with park users though does not go out of his way to provide customer care or specifically see it as part of his role
	Use of volunteers	None	Consider scope for using volunteers and feasibility of establishing volunteer group
Health and well being	Establishment of set of 'Quality of Life' indicators	-	Not applicable, small park
	Addressing inequalities in health through improved access	Not addressed	Scope and opportunity for improvement
	Fitness trail/jogging route	None	Consider provision
	Green gyms, guided health walks	None	Scope for developing guided health walks with health walks coordinator
	Venue for sports development	No.	Not appropriate, space constraints, other facilities locally

	Organised sporting activities	Tennis coaching.	Greater use could be made of the MUGA
	Improved walking and cycling routes to park	Reasonably good except for traffic No specific cycle route linking with park	Consider link to existing cycle route?
	Seating placed to aid contemplation and reduce stress	Most seats used and many attractively sited	Review – issues not specifically considered in location of seating
	Children and young people encouraged in physically active play	Perception of play tends to relate to the playground and this is where most physical activity takes place	Consider increasing opportunities for physically active play
Equipment and facilities	Toilet facilities commensurate with park	No public facilities	Serious omission
	Drinking water close to sports facilities and children's playgrounds	None.	Provision desirable
	Information re first aid	None	Consider inclusion in new signage/facilities
	Tree planting for shade, especially near children's play areas	Yes – there are plenty of areas of shade in the park.	Good.
	Play facilities – imaginative, dog's excluded	Recently installed play equipment includes a train, very popular with younger children. Dogs are excluded from the play area	Scope for improvement to space, as equipment replaced, and in provision of opportunities for creative play.
	Play equipment – appropriateness, quality and repairs	Appropriate, routine inspections identify need for repairs.	Good
	Hard surfacing	Areas that are uneven, worn, cracked and lifted by tree roots, eroded at the edges and with some potholes.	Variable quality, some risk to users.
Security	Level of supervision	Natural surveillance through high levels of use, site based facilities, ranger and police patrols	Good
	Rangers trained in child protection issues	No	Consider additional training
	Child protection addressed in local strategies	Child protection is provided through Lambeth's Health and Social Care Service	Child protection issues are not specifically addressed through Lambeth Open Space Strategy, or through the strategies that provide

			the context for it.
	Safe, signed play areas	Yes	Signage could be improved and clarified re use of picnic area and adult access
	Co-ordination of policy and provision	Ranger team established to contribute to co-ordination	Scope for further development and increased public awareness of ranger role
Towards a safer park	Security review – real or imagined, issues to do with space or activity	Security issues real. Vandalism to buildings, notably One O' Clock Club building. Periodic drug taking in 2 areas of shrubbery	General situation has improved but some issues still need to be addressed
	Design factors affecting perceptions	One O' Clock Club Lawn Lane entrance Specific areas of vegetation	Scope for considerable improvement
	Community ownership	Generally good	Scope for greater inclusivity
	Vulnerable groups – what is or could be done to make them feel more secure	Feelings of insecurity expressed by 1 o'clock staff (due to building, limited staffing or clientele?)	Specific issue cannot be resolved without new facility. Consultation revealed no evidence of feelings of insecurity among vulnerable groups. A user survey may provide more specific data
	Identifiable, trained staff	Identifiable Police and rangers trained	Good
	Police patrols	Yes	Good
	Rangers	Patrol and close gates in the evenings but are not site based	Opportunities for increased use and presence of rangers in park
	H&S reviews, encourage public reporting of problems	Routine	Response needed to reporting Greater encouragement could be given to public to report problems through contact with rangers
	Minimise taking and handling of cash on site	Cash limited to modest contributions to refreshments at One O' Clock Club	Consideration in potential café development
	Hazards marked and steps taken to inform public	Yes	Good
H&S policies	Local policy	Contractual obligation for contractor to have Health and Safety policy	Staff aware of health and safety issues
Control of dogs	Dogs Act 1996	Not enforced	Scope for greater enforcement
	Ensuring people clear up	Yes	Scope for improvement
	Zoning	Yes	Dog area not well used
	Provision of waste bins	Yes	Good
	Dog training programmes,	No	Could be considered

	good dog code		
	Dog shows etc to promote responsible dog ownership	No	Not applicable due to size of park
3. Well maintained and clean			
Litter and waste management	Condition and style of litterbins	Generally good condition Various styles used in different areas of the park	Disparate styles and some bins poorly located
	Litter free	Generally good but some complaints of overflowing bins during peak periods	Scope for improvement and flexibility to respond to need and maintain specified standards
	Separate bins for recycling	No	Not economic due to size of park
	Site storage of waste	Until collection time	Consider provision and location in development
	Composting and brushwood chippings as mulch	Undertaken off site, chippings available from contractor and used for mulching	Limited space on site for composting.
Grounds maintenance	Evidence of high standards – pruning, weeding, condition of grass areas	Good in rose garden beds Less attention paid to beds elsewhere Condition of grass variable	Consider redirecting resources within scope of contract and ensure specified standards are met
	Specification emphasises quality of end product	Yes, within narrow maintenance terms	Scope for improvement in enforcement
	Public involvement	None	Consider feasibility of involvement
Building Maintenance and Management	Existing buildings look used and cared for	No – the overwhelming impression is of lack of care, except for the Montessori Nursery School	Difficult without major investment
	Regularly maintained – cyclical maintenance regimes in evidence	No	Poor
	Building faults addressed asap	No - even urgent repairs are delayed	Unacceptable
	Urgent consideration of demolition of unused or derelict buildings	No – the toilet block has been closed for many years	Urgent consideration of demolition or investment for new use required
	New buildings of appropriate ambience and environmental standards	None	Appropriate ambience and environmental standards required if One O' Clock Club is to be replaced
Infrastructure and other facilities	Condition – hard landscape	Variable.	Evidence of fencing and railing renewal but many of the paths have areas in poor condition

			with hazardous areas
	Graffiti removal	Graffiti removal procedures within contract but graffiti has not been removed from boundary wall	Scope for improvement in service
	Fly posting	None in evidence	Clarification of responsibility and policy required for right to post notices on notice boards
	Maintenance of sports facilities	Satisfactory - poor	Tennis court fencing in need of renewal. Tennis court surface poorly maintained, restricts play in autumn/winter.
	Paths regularly swept	Paths are swept but not on a regular basis	Delays in removing leaf litter
Equipment maintenance - staff	Staff appropriately trained in use of equipment	Included in contractor's method statement	Uncertain whether this is monitored. No evidence of training for continuous improvement as specified by contract.
	Risk assessments in evidence	Yes – hazards are marked and notification procedures followed	Good, but follow up to address issues seems poor
	Cutting machinery operated by trained operatives	Not known	Evidence of poor standards of maintenance of amenity and ornamental grass areas
	Provision and wearing of safety equipment	Yes	Good
	Maintenance of machinery	Most machinery kept off site, specified in contract	Maintenance regime not known
	Safe storage of hazardous materials	Specified in contract	Compliance with contract not known
	Surface and foul drains appropriately marked	Not known	
Equipment maintenance - public	Daily inspection	Yes – visual inspection of site carried out upon opening	Good – a general awareness and knowledge of what is going on is displayed
	Weekly technical inspection	2 times per week minimum as per recommendation of BSEN1176 – 1777 for compatibility with European Safety Standards for fixed play equipment – contractor. Visual inspection by rangers during visits	Good
	Annual inspection by independent specialists	Yes, undertaken by ROSPA	Good
Cleanliness	State of cleanliness	Satisfactory	Scope for improvement?
	Strategies to address it	Strategy to deal with graffiti and vandalism with the contractor's PIT team available to deal with modest	Urgent issues appear to be tackled within the time frame stipulated by the contract. Non

		repairs.	urgent issues appear to be reported but not acted on swiftly or at all – broken bench, graffiti
4. Sustainability			
Environmental management	Adoption of an environmental policy	Lambeth Council has an Environmental Charter 'to ensure the environmental impacts of its actions are minimised and opportunities for delivering environmental improvements are maximised' and a Sustainable Construction Policy and Policy statement on sustainable timber purchasing.	Uncertain what impact, if any, this has on park management
	Nominating persons with overall responsibility	Head of Parks and Green Spaces or Area Park Manager	Clarification required
	Contactors aware	Yes – the above policies are appended to the contract and the contract includes a section on environmental management	No specific evidence that the environmental management section of the contract is applied and monitored
	Objectives and targets for environmental improvement	Environmental Charter identifies a number of key targets	Contract does not set specific targets
	Operational procedures for achieving objectives and targets	Some targets set through contract specification, e.g. graffiti removal	These do not appear to be adhered to
	Measuring, recording and evaluating performance	Lambeth working towards accreditation of services under new environmental management standard BS:EN:ISO14001	Environmental management needs to be given a higher profile and monitored if progress is to be made
	Review	Policy reviewed periodically to ensure up to date and consistent with national regulations	Needs to be carried through to site work
Pesticides	Present practice	Residual herbicide used for paths although not specified in contract	-
	Strategy for reduced chemical use	Not known	-
	Appropriate use and storage	Specified in contract	Not known if monitored
	Organic methods/alternatives used	Cultivation, mulching and sweeping paths	Satisfactory
Materials	Use of peat/ peat free alternatives	Implicit in environmental charter and section on environmental management	Not directly specified in contract

	Use of own compost	Not known	-
	Avoidance of use of tropical hardwoods	Covered by Sustainable Timber purchasing policy	Policy complied with
	Avoidance of packaging	Not known	-
	Seek guidance on construction materials	Not applicable to date	Consideration in building conversion/replacement
	Adoption of Fair trade policies	Not known	-
Resource conservation and waste	Use of timber	Limited use in compliance with policy	Good
	Storage of materials to minimise loss	Not known	-
	Design and use of appropriate materials	Yes	Satisfactory
	Appropriate storage of waste prior to disposal	Yes	FOVP would like bin location to be reviewed
	Reuse and recycling of materials	Not known	-
	Inform, educate and provide example to public	Not specifically	Consideration in park improvement
Horticultural and arboricultural management	Establishment maintenance of trees	Citysuburban responsible for arboriculture throughout borough. Few new trees, limited evidence of establishment maintenance by contractor, evidence of vandalism	FOVP aspiration for some tree management. Any tree management needs to be undertaken within overall tree management strategy for park
	Sources of plant stock	Bedding sourced within London area	Source not specified
	Use of perennials/annuals	Both, considerable resources employed in bedding maintenance	Flowers appreciated but policy, benefits, alternatives and appropriateness have not been reviewed
	Use of trees	Trees make a significant contribution to the character of the park	Lack of clear policy towards tree management
	Disposal of green waste	Taken to another park	Space constraints for on site composting
	Use of more sustainable practices	Traditional practices	Limited opportunities should be considered
Pollution reduction	Fuel stores bunded	Not known	-

	Chemical storage	Specified under Contract	Not known if compliance monitored
	Noise generation by machinery	Specified under Contract	Not known if compliance monitored
	Records of pollution incidents/complaints	Not known	-
Water efficiency	Leaking water features or taps	Leaks in toilet of One O' Clock Club	Poor
	Locking outside taps	Secure water points	Satisfactory
	Fixtures and fittings water efficient	Not known	-
	Monitoring bills to check inefficiencies	Not known	-
	Recycling rainwater	No provision for rainwater collection and use	Potential in building redevelopment
	Minimum watering of bedding, use of drought tolerant plants	Watering undertaken to meet needs of bedding	No evidence that drought tolerance or economy of watering considered in choice of plant material or maintenance
Energy efficiency	Reducing energy use in buildings	Not considered	Low priority given build quality and condition of building
	Ensuring power turned off when not needed	Buildings in use for limited time each day	Not known whether power used effectively
	Fuel efficient, cleaner fuelled vehicles	Not known, not specified for contractor's vehicles	-
Alternative fuels		Standard issue contractor and ranger vehicles	No specific council or departmental policy
5. Conservation and Heritage			
Water management	Management of water features	Fountain managed by specialist contractor	Evaluation of method of management?
Woodland and trees	Native trees, habitat enhancement, local provenance	Limited recent tree planting, mostly non native and provenance unknown	Scope for enhancement in future tree management
Grasslands	Grassland enhancement	None	Limited scope due to size of park but could be introduced in conjunction with naturalised bulbs
Fauna	Provision of plant food sources and shelter	Not considered specifically in design and management	Scope for improvement in new plantings
	Nest boxes for birds and	None	Review potential

	bats		
	Bird feeding stations	None	Review potential
Conservation of the Built environment	Identification of important components	Southern boundary plinths/walls have been repaired and replaced	Items of importance to be identified through management plan
	Conservation status	Part of Vauxhall Conservation Area	Defines importance of park to locality
	Maintenance schedule for important components	None specifically other than routine specification	Consider any specific requirements as part of management plan
	Timescale for replacement	None	Consider as part of overall programme of management, both routine and cyclical maintenance.
	Recognition of importance	Recognition through Conservation Area status	Not widely recognised or understood by general public
Maintaining Historical Character	Do important views and vistas still exist?	No, there were no great views or vistas in the original design	The composition of views in the park could be enhanced
	Do style and standard of horticultural displays harmonise with site's historic character?	Not particularly	Scope for improvement and enhancement of character and period
	Are efforts made to provide for continuity in historic collections of trees and shrubs?	No	Scope for reintroducing appropriate species and styles of planting
	Are efforts made to retain or replace historic details?	Yes – the original entrances have been retained and sympathetically designed railings installed as replacement for some of the concrete post and chain link boundary fencing	Good – consider replacing some other details as the park is improved
	Do new/replacement features conserve or enhance the site's historic character?	Recent new/replacement features have enhanced the site's historic character but past additions and changes have not always respected the park's heritage	Potential for rationalisation and enhancement with improvement work
	Information available to understand and enjoy site's heritage	Limited to FOVP website Nothing available in the park	Omission needs addressing
6. Community Involvement			

Patterns of use	Numbers of people using the park	High usage but numbers not known	Consider undertaking a survey
	Patterns of use	Patterns observed but not recorded As a through route and destination Commuters crossing the park morning and evening (in daylight) and people crossing to shop at Sainsburys Users of the One O' Clock Club and nursery at specific times Children and carers to play area after lunch and after school Dog walkers morning and evening Tennis players – anytime Drinkers - mornings	Consider recording use through survey
	Main attractions	Play area Rose garden One O' Clock Club Tennis courts MUGA	Good, scope for enhancement
Community Involvement in Green Space Management and Development	Contracting/delegating specialist organisations to run facilities	Nursery and 1 o'clock club run by other agencies. Sports contractor technically responsible for booking sports facilities though no income generated for park	Some scope for involving other partners in future management
	Posts to facilitate community development	None specifically though role undertaken to certain extent by One O' Clock Club staff and rangers	Consider potential for including community development role through existing posts
	Volunteers	None	Consider establishment of volunteer group
	Friends groups	Yes	Good
Facilities	Range of facilities on offer	Good for size of park	Scope for enhancement
	Quality and standard	Good though accommodation poor	Scope for considerable improvement
	Facilities desired	Yes – a cafe	Provision by private enterprise uncertain
	How events happen	Through the FOVP	FOVP currently have limited capacity to run more events
	Policies for limiting excessive commercial exploitation	None	Present arrangements adequate for scale of park
	Agreements with residents	Managers and FOVP mindful of residents needs and	Good

	over control, frequency and type of events	desires	
Children's Play	Does the park meet needs of children and young people of different ages, interests and abilities?	Reasonably given scale of park Limited attractions for 12-16 age group	Consider provision for 12-16's Consider increasing interest and opportunity using and developing existing facilities
	How do children use the site, not just the play area	Informal and creative play in rose and lavender gardens, cycling, picnics	Potential to extend opportunities for informal and creative could be explored
	Are children involved in designing the space or consulted on new investment	Some children have been consulted during the process of developing the management plan	Consider opportunities for extending and continuing consultation with children
	Policy on play	In progress, led by education	Future consideration
Education facilities	Programme of events	2-3 events per year organised by FOVP	Consider other opportunities
	Use for environmental education	Appears to have been very limited	Consider potential use
	Classroom facilities	None	Scale of park probably doesn't warrant dedicated facility
	Teaching materials	None	Consider opportunities for links with national curriculum
	Holiday schemes	None	Potential could be explored
	Special interest events	None	Potential could be explored
Open4 all		Gentle level changes mean park should be easily accessible to all	Uneven paving and lack of specific provision for disabled may discourage use
7. Marketing			
Information provision and Interpretation	Availability and format	None	Considerable scope
Events	Appropriate programme	Established events good and popular	Scope for increasing variety of events
Promotion	Informative signage and site notice boards	No	Main signboards due for replacement Improvements to other park signage need to be considered
	Well informed staff	Rangers have a limited role focused on security and keeping byelaws rather than the provision of information.	Opportunities for providing staff with more information

	Small scale events on different aspects	None	Scope and potential
	Promotion of children's facilities and activities	None	Scope and potential
	Promotion to partner organisations	None	Scope and potential
	Promotion for funding	Has been some by FOVP	Scope and potential
Using Green Flag Award in Marketing		No award	Future possibility
8. Management			
Public service	Plan as means of communicating objectives	No coherent vision or means of communicating objectives	Management plan seeks to address this
Personnel	Duplication by different agencies	Potentially some duplication of roles by community policing and ranger services	Consider improved communication and releasing rangers to more work with community
	Staff with clear sense of direction and where-with-all to respond	Rangers have this within their fairly limited remit Gardener has his own established patterns and priorities	Need to convey clear sense of direction to site staff
	Clear links with other council policies	Lack of clear or obvious linkage	May be difficult to establish with managers and site staff occupied with day to day detail
Quality systems and management plans	Methods of self assessment and procedures to measure improvements	Not evident	Scope for introducing a simple system to ensure improvement
	Action plans	Not evident	Purpose of management plan
Financial management	Existing budgets	Maintenance budget defined Other budget heads drawn upon for additional work	Appears to be little review of whether the client is getting what is paid for
	Future investment	Uncertain	Potential – e.g. Cross River Partnership, Big Lottery, HLF, Western Riverside Environment Fund, local charities
Implementation	Management plan	Commissioned	Work in progress