

Tree Management Strategy

Scope and outline

Introduction

A need for guidance in tree management has been highlighted through the management plan process. Past arboricultural work has been pragmatic and new trees have been planted without record of how these are intended to contribute to the park. There is a tree survey but this requires updating and the tree numbers correlating with those used on the accompanying plan.

Aim

To provide a framework and guidance for future decisions regarding tree management that supports and furthers the vision and objectives of the Vauxhall Park management plan.

The tree management strategy should:

- Use the history of the park's development to understand the current situation
- Analyse design intentions, change, quality and character
- Identify the tree structure or tree groups within the park
- Determine what each group contributes to the character of the park
- Identify issues
- Define objectives

Use the history of the park's development to understand the current situation

Information contained in the Vauxhall Park Management Plan together with an updated tree survey and site observation should form the basis of this work.

Analyse design intentions, change, quality and character

Consider the designer's intentions and the changes that have taken place to the tree stock since the park's opening. How has the character of the park changed as trees have matured and others been added?

Identify the tree structure or tree groups within the park

In outline this appears to be:

- Large forest scale trees known to flourish in London and favoured by the designer
- 1930's-1950's planting of small ornamental trees and conifers
- Following the clean air act – the planting of a range of ornamental specimen trees

Determine what each group contributes to the character of the park

Positive and negative impacts need to be considered for each group and their contribution to the character and use of the park. Issues may include:

- Large forest scale trees, the Plane trees, provide an overarching framework and contribute largely to the sense of being away from it all. They have a long life expectancy and cast considerable shade
- Small ornamental trees – many now in decline, shaded, short lived or have out grown original intentions
- Ornamental specimen trees – mostly in garden areas, some badly pruned. They contribute to the diversity and interest of the park

Identify issues

Will include:

- Increased shade – good for people in a situation of climate change but presents challenges for the establishment of new trees
- Climate change – influencing choice of species
- Compaction – need for more intensive and new forms of management
- Establishment maintenance – skills and resources
- Proximity of trees to building and paths
- Sightlines
- Increasing biodiversity
- Conservation Area consent required for work to all trees

Define objectives

These may include:

- Sustaining the canopy of Plane trees
- Maintaining the layering, diversity and interest of the tree collection
- Determining appropriate tree species for different areas
- Undertaking new planting to restore and enhance the character of the historic park
- Improving opportunities to enhance biodiversity
- Providing interpretation of the tree collection