

The Friends of Park Hill Park and Recreation Ground

Environment and Sustainability Policy

Statement

The Friends of Park Hill Park and Recreation Ground (FoPHP) is a volunteer led community group which aims to create a safe and welcoming outdoor green space for everyone as set out in our constitution. As an organisation we take seriously the needs of the environment and work toward sustainable, organic and ethical horticulture, construction and the creation of events that follow this ethos. We are committed to the protection and sustainability of the environment and pursue our vision that a diverse range of local residents and visitors participate in the resources of the Friends group to learn, share and enjoy with the aim of bringing about personal growth and greener communities.

We recognise that everyone should have the opportunity to contribute towards making their local park and community garden more environmentally friendly, feel enabled to make a positive ecological impact and support the aims and activities of the Friends group which values the outdoor environment, promotes and protects wildlife and biodiversity, nature conservation, community stewardship and aims to build a more resilient, caring and sustainable community. This policy outlines our principles but we recognise that we are continually striving to improve the policy and practices currently being taken by the local authority regarding the management of the park including the Walled Garden. We aspire to take a lead in the application of best practice, share our core values with others, keep our impacts on the environment to a minimum and promote sustainable gardening and lifestyles.

Principles

The Friends of Park Hill Park and Recreation Ground are committed to improving environmental performance. We aim to:-

- comply with and exceed, where practicable, all applicable legislation, regulations and codes of practice
- integrate sustainability considerations into all our decisions
- ensure that all volunteers, partners, community groups and organisations are fully aware of our policy and are committed to implementing and improving it
- encourage volunteers, partners, community groups and organisations to adopt sound sustainable management practices
- to promote sustainability and educate others through all our activities
- to review and to strive to improve our sustainability performance

Practical steps

In order to put these principles into practice we will promote sustainable horticulture and growing practices, conservation and education. We will

- follow sustainable horticultural practice informed by principles of organic growing such as

not using harmful chemicals in the park or garden, actively promoting the value of composting through the demonstration of composting techniques in the community garden and other organic methods. We grow with organic principles because we believe it's healthier for the planet and for people

- actively promote sustainable gardening practices to volunteers and members of the public via the community gardening activities that we run, through informal and formal learning, discussion and demonstration

Biodiversity

- promote biodiversity in the park and the Walled Garden by developing and promoting wildlife-friendly horticultural practices develop pockets of native planting and maintain or improve those that already exist to increase biodiversity
- improve our monitoring and recording of species diversity data and use our network to gather up to date information about our trees, flora and plants
- we will work with other environmental and wellbeing organisations such as The Conservation Volunteers (TCV). The Sensory Trust, Thrive, Garden Organic and the London Environmental Educators Forum to follow best practice
- we will endeavour to help the public think about their behaviour and how it impacts the environment and we commit to use the park and as an educational resource for formal and informal learning

Recycling

We recognise that waste has an environmental impact and cost, and therefore seek to prevent waste wherever possible. Within our projects we aim to

- use renewable resources and materials and/or recycled products whenever possible to reduce our costs and environmental footprint
- encourage volunteers, park users, visitors, partners, community groups and organisations to reflect and think about their own behaviour regarding the management of waste and educate, through informal learning opportunities, how to take action
- arrange for metal and untreated timber to be collected for recycling
- collect rainwater in our water butts and use for watering in the community garden whenever possible
- continue to lobby the local authority to improve recycling in the park including the installation of recycling facilities
- work with other organisations such as Keep Britain Tidy, Our Parks and others to promote community stewardship in the park and surrounding area.

Purchasing power

We will endeavour to:-

- procure materials and services within a framework that encourages sustainability, using reclaimed and recycled materials where possible.
- minimise our use of paper and other office consumables, for example by printing

double-sided and reusing all paper used, and identifying opportunities to reduce waste.

Purchase office paper produced from sustainable sources

- issue documents electronically wherever possible
- if necessary arrange for the reuse or recycling of office waste, including paper, computer and printer supplies and redundant equipment if applicable
- ensure that any timber products used on site are recycled or are from well managed, sustainable sources and are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified
- purchase Fair Trade and/or organic beverages wherever possible

Other considerations

- we seek to minimise the impact that transport has on the environment through the support of more sustainable modes of travel by recruiting volunteers from the local area and encouraging them to walk, cycle or use public transport to the park
- increase our outreach work with local community groups and those with otherwise limited access to greenspace
- recognise that our operations do have the potential to impact locally therefore we will endeavour to minimise potential nuisances such as noise, dust, litter, odour, light pollution and visual impact

This is an evolving document

We will continue to monitor and review our practices.

This policy will be reviewed every two years or when deemed necessary.

April 2019

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