



# Westminster Open Space Strategy

**From the priorities listed, are there any specific sites you feel need to be included in the research?**

*e.g. those suffering from noise problems, would benefit from city guardians etc.*

**Site**.....

**Issue**.....

**Site**.....

**Issue**.....

**The Action Plan will be updated on a yearly basis. Is there any future work missing from the list overleaf that you feel should be investigated for consideration in future action plans?**

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.....

**This is for our monitoring purposes only and is confidential**

**Please circle which age range you are in**

16 – 19    20- 29    30-45    46- 59    60 – 74    75+

**Do you consider yourself to have a disability?**    YES                  NO

**To which one of these groups do you consider you belong? (Please circle one from below):**

**White:**

- British
- Irish
- Any other white background; please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Mixed:**

- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Any other Mixed background; please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Asian or Asian British:**

- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Any other Asian Background; please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Black or Black British:**

- Caribbean
- African
- Any other Black background; please specify \_\_\_\_\_

**Chinese or other ethnic group:**

- Chinese
- Any other; please specify \_\_\_\_\_

## The Vision

- ♦ **To *protect* all Westminster’s Open Spaces and landscapes.**
- ♦ **To improve *access* to open space.**
- ♦ **To enhance the *quality & attractiveness* of our open space.**
- ♦ **To ensure *new developments* contribute to the open space network.**
- ♦ **To work with the community to create safe, secure places for *children’s play*.**
- ♦ **To provide more sporting, cultural and educational opportunities for *young people*.**
- ♦ **To maintain & increase the amount of *wildlife & biodiversity*.**
- ♦ **To work together with our *partners* to achieve the strategy’s aims.**

The statement above shows Westminster’s vision for the development of the open spaces within the borough. This has been developed through community consultation, site surveys and an audit of all open spaces.

A series of priority improvements have been identified to be carried out over the next two years as part of the Action Plan. As well as this, a number of issues were identified as needing further investigation before specific projects could be undertaken. These are detailed within the future work section of this booklet.

### ***Findings of strategy relating to access issues.***

- ♦ The majority of spaces in Westminster are predominantly physically accessible or have improvements planned to enable them to comply with DDA requirements.
- ♦ There are 2 sites (Paddington Rec & Broadley St Gardens) where equipment is designed specifically for use of children with disabilities.
- ♦ Play Spaces in Drury Lane, Violet Hill Gardens, Causton St Play-ground and Edbrooke Road Gardens maximise access for disabled people using inclusive play equipment.
- ♦ Open Space Signage needs to be improved.
- ♦ Better maintenance of open spaces is needed to prevent access issues developing.

## Action Plan

The Action plan is a working document and will be updated annually. It identifies projects to be carried out over the next 2 years to fulfil the aims of the open space strategy. Below are some of these projects which apply to your area or group. The full action plan for 2006-2008 is displayed at this focus group for you to see in more detail.

- ◆ **Enhance & improve facilities in existing open spaces & improve access to them implementing DDA works where necessary.**
  - ⇒ **Open Spaces Masterplan for Westbourne Green.**
  - ⇒ **Undertake playground refurbishment in Paddington Street Gardens.**
  - ⇒ **Work with residents to identify improvements to Lisson Street Community Garden.**
  - ⇒ **Refurbish St Stephens Gardens Play ground.**
- ◆ **Improve access to and experience of the Canal & River Thames.**
- ◆ **Actively pursue partnerships with other forums with an emphasis on open space including its management & use.**
- ◆ **Review dog access in spaces where users cite it as a problem.**
- ◆ **Review the grounds maintenance contract and review training of grounds maintenance staff.**
- ◆ **Increase the biodiversity of open spaces.**

*Do you have any comments on any of these projects?*

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.....  
.....

Some issues identified through the strategy need further work and research to discover the best way to take them forward. The list overleaf shows these areas of further work which will be investigated with the potential to be included in future action plans. Please tell us which you think are most important to be researched and any views you have on future work which is missing from the list.

Please rank the main issues (in blue) from 1-7 in order of importance to you, e.g. 1 = most important, 7 = least important. This can be taken into account to influence the council's priorities for future work regarding parks and open spaces.

Each issue is broken down into actions that can be taken to address it. Please tick any that you feel are important to be progressed.

## Future Work

### **Housing Land**

- ◆ Conduct a study of open spaces on housing land to assess quantity & quality.
- ◆ Investigate the possibility of opening housing land for public use.
- ◆ Produce design guidance to protect open space on housing land from development.

### **Play**

- ◆ Look into the provision of more play equipment for older children & teenagers.
- ◆ Use play area audits to establish priorities for improvement.
- ◆ Investigate opportunities for 'informal' play areas.

### **Access & Route Links**

- ◆ Produce a green map of all open spaces to distribute to all residents.
- ◆ Investigate public access to private spaces.
- ◆ Assess impact of barriers to green space e.g. roads etc.
- ◆ Investigate new walking routes and green links between spaces.

### **Wildlife and Nature Conservation**

- ◆ Review inclusion of interpretational signage.
- ◆ Look at potential to create new sites of biodiversity.
- ◆ Determine need for resources to help developers protect Biodiversity and nature.

### **Noise**

- ◆ Draft a policy to limit noise affecting open space.
- ◆ Commission noise surveys to inform policy to protect quiet areas & identify areas where noise is a problem.

### **Maintenance & Management**

- ◆ Investigate provision of toilets & refreshments in selected open spaces.
- ◆ Review Management & Maintenance of Open Spaces

### **Community Involvement & Education**

- ◆ Publicise small grant scheme for groups to hold their own events.
- ◆ Consider extending city guardian scheme to selected open spaces.
- ◆ Explore holding more community events in parks.