

### LBBB Parks and Green Spaces Strategy

#### Central Park

- Location: Wood Lane / Rainham Road North, Dagenham
- A large (49.5 hectares) relatively flat park with large number of sport and leisure facilities including:
  - Children's playground
  - 8 x football pitches
  - 2 x rugby pitches
  - 3 x 7-a-side football pitches
  - 1 x bowling green with pavilion
  - Sports pitch changing facilities (2 x pavilions N.B. the football pavilion is currently closed due to structure issues)
  - 1 x 'Adizone' outdoor gym
  - 4 x hard tennis courts
  - 1 x golf course
  - 1 x basketball court
  - 1 x public toilets
  - 1 x youth shelter
  - 2 x public car parks

One of Central Park's main assets is the relatively high number of mature trees, predominantly lime, sycamore, horse chestnut and poplar. The park also has Ambassador Woodland planted to commemorate the London 2012 Olympics Ambassadors (i.e. volunteers). The woodland covers approximately 3.5 hectares of the park.

The Council's 2003 PGSS included the following recommendations for:

#### Central Park – PGSS recommendations

- The park needs radical restructuring to create a coherent structure and enhance its landscape quality. This would include a new path system, relocation of certain facilities and extensive tree and shrub planting.
- Facilities should be clustered together to form an active, vibrant heart in the park. The location could be around the rugby pavilion.
- There is scope to create a stronger link between the park and the Civic Centre. Formal gardens located by the Civic centre could be used for receptions and community events.
- The path system should be extended and redesigned to include wide grand avenues and informal meandering paths through woodland and shrub planting. There should be a path that leads from the main entrance by the Civic Centre to the centre of the park.
- Establish extensive woodland structure planting along the boundaries to back gardens and Barking College.

- Consider reintegrating the pitch and putt course with the park, as this area is only used by relatively few people and is closed to the largest proportion of park users. The area could, as in St Chads Park become a wildlife area.
- Remove chain link fencing running through the park.
- Establish a stronger link between Central Park and Eastbrookend Country Park.
- Remove the formal boundary between Fels Field and Central Park, and expand the woodland along the boundary.
- Remove rose beds by Rainham Road North and Rush green Road, where they cannot be appreciated by park users.
- Remove fencing between the tennis courts and car park by Wood Lane.

Although many of the above recommendations have not been addressed the park has benefited from a number of improvements since the PGSS was adopted:

- 'Adizone' outdoor gym
- Children's play area (i.e. 2 x Play Builder facilities)
- Extensions to the existing footpath network
- Tree planting (i.e. Ambassador Woodland)
- Memorial garden (i.e. Peace Garden)
- Removal of redundant internal fencing
- Boundary railings painted

### **Eastbrookend Country Park**

- Location: The Chase, Dagenham Road, Rush Green, Dagenham
- The park (78 hectares) has been awarded several Green Flags and attracts visitors from a wide area. Facilities include:
  - Millennium Centre – educational facility and focal point for visitors
  - Lakes (no. 5)
  - Extensive footpath network
  - Open spaces providing opportunities for formal and informal recreation

### **Eastbrookend Country Park – PGSS recommendations**

- Continue promoting the Country Park as a key visitor attraction with a wide range of community and educational events
- Ensure sustained investment for continued development and high standard of management
- Improve sustainability rates of planting blocks and improve the overall vegetation structure of the park
- Improve boundary treatment along the roads by ensuring continued maintenance of boundary fences and screen boundaries to the Aventis factory and The Farmhouse Tavern
- Apply for Local Nature Reserve designation
- Creation of a sensory garden

Although many of the above recommendations have not been addressed the park has benefited from a number of improvements since the PGSS was adopted:

- Rangers Service based at Country Park undertaking community, conservation and countryside activities
- Site awarded Green Flag Status in 2006 and 2007
- Overall sustainability, vegetation structure and screen planting of the site has been successful
- Local Nature Reserve designation was granted for the Chase in 2003, Eastbrookend in 2004, and Beam Valley in 2005
- Sensory garden was planned and mapped out in 2009 (N.B. but project not implemented due to staff changes and restriction of core budget spend)
- Other projects have included improved infrastructure to all of the fishing lakes onsite, including swims, paths and drainage
- Works to the Beam River for habitat improvements in partnership with the Environment Agency and Froglife.

### **Parsloes Park**

- Location: Parsloes Ave/Gale Street, Dagenham
- A large (58 hectares) relatively flat park with large number of sport and leisure facilities including:
  - Children's play area is a dog free zone
  - Ornamental lake
  - 2 tennis courts
  - 1 basketball court
  - Wheels area
  - Multi use games area
  - 5 a side hard surfaced area
  - 23 football pitches
  - 4 mini soccer pitches
  - Changing facilities

Parsloes Park plays a prominent role as the largest park in the borough and has great scope to enhance the formal facilities and the landscape quality of areas such as the common.

### **Parsloes Park – PGSS recommendations**

- Aim to gather facilities together to create a dynamic 'heart of the park'. Investigate opportunities to introduce new facilities such as an adventure play area
- Improve the landscape screening of the maintenance depot
- Improve opportunities to enjoy the lake
- Adopt a habitat management programme for the common
- Improve the amenity and landscape quality of the common
- Redesign the rose garden
- Many shrubs are over-mature and shrub beds would benefit from phased replanting

- Fill in large bare areas in shrub beds with groundcover planting and bulbs
- Replant the cherry avenue
- Improve the appearance of all park buildings and upgrade facilities

Although many of the above recommendations have not been addressed the park has benefited from a number of improvements since the PGSS was adopted:

- Children's play area (i.e. 1 x Adventure)
- Lake – improvements to lake margins
- Boundary protection works

The following documents/reports also exists for Parsloes Park:

- **PMP Parsloes Park Master Plan:** A copy of the full report is available and it should form part of any future park development plan.
- **EA Feasibility Study:** a feasibility study report commissioned by the Environment Agency (circa 2010) which proposed the de-culverting of the Gores Brook. The EA may be approached by LBBD to establish the current viability of funding for such a major scheme. See later funding section for further details.