

## **Draft**

# **Coronation Park**

# Management Plan and Security Audit 2005-2010



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### 1 Introduction

Wirral Council has produced this document in conjunction with the Greasby Outdoor Activity and Leisure group (GOAL) to provide a comprehensive framework for the future development of Coronation Park.

We encourage suggestions from park users and the wider community to this plan.

If you would like to help in any way please contact Neil Irons (Senior Parks Development Officer) on 0151 666 4712.

Vision: To be agreed with stakeholders

**Parks & Countryside Service**, Wirral Council, Westminster House, Hamilton Street, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 5FN.

#### **Departmental Mission Statement**;

'Promoting a healthy, safer lifestyle and improving the quality of life for all.'

#### Aims:

- To enable sustainable, economic, social, neighbourhood and environmental regeneration.
- To improve the health and well being of Wirral residents.
- To promote opportunities for personal, community and business development.

# 2 The wider policy context

#### Wirral Council has produced 9 corporate objectives:

- PROTECTING AND IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT
- PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING THE ECONOMIC REGENERATION OF WIRRAL
- PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL
- IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF WIRRAL PEOPLE
- MAKING WIRRAL SAFER
- MEETING THE HOUSING NEEDS OF WIRRAL
- SUPPORTING AND PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE
- IMPROVING TRANSPORT
- CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVING SERVICES

The Parks and Countryside Service Plan for 2007/08 sets the targets for the service within the context of the above corporate objectives and the Regeneration Departmental Service Plan.

## 3 Site Information

Name: Coronation Park

Address: Greasby Road, Greasby, Wirral

Primary classification: Local Park

Ward: Greasby, Frankby & Irby

Size: 7.6 Hectares

#### Tenure:

The site is owned and managed by Wirral Council, Department of Regeneration, Parks and Countryside Service, Westminster House, Birkenhead, CH45 5FN.

#### Stakeholders:

- Greasby Outdoor Activity and Leisure Group
- 2 x Bowling clubs
- 5 x Football clubs
- Grounds maintenance staff.

#### **Summary of Features:**

- 2 x Bowling greens and pavilion
- 1 x Hard tennis courts
- 3 x Senior football pitches
- 1 x Grass 5 a side football pitch
- Public toilets
- Football changing pavilion with community room / kitchen area
- 1 x Children's play area with picnic tables and seating

#### Access:

The main entrance to the park is located on Greasby Road opposite the Wood Lane shops. There is a secondary entrance on Caulfield Drive and further pedestrian access points on Brookdale Close and Norwood Road.

#### **History:**

The land that Coronation Park stands on was being used as a public tip until purchased by Wirral Rural District Council in 1931. By 1936 the use of the land as a tip had ceased and the new landlords, Hoylake Urban District Council approved a scheme to layout a recreation ground on the site. By March 1937 monies had been sourced to construct two tennis courts, bowling green and children's play area and on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1937, the day of King George V1 coronation, a tree planting ceremony was carried out by the Chairman of the Council Mr. Selwyn Lloyd. In July 1937 tenders were accepted to construct the attendants office and lavatories. However there was some resistance to the use of the recreation ground on Sundays! On 9<sup>th</sup> April 1938 Councillor Selwyn Lloyd officially opened the grounds indicating that they had been linked to the recent coronation and would therefore be called Greasby Coronation Park. He also stated that the council had succeeded in purchasing further land adjoining the park and would now be able to extend, presumably onto land that is now the site of the three senior football pitches.

#### Resources:

There is currently no dedicated capital budget for improvements to the park.

Grounds maintenance is funded from the annual maintenance revenue budget. The Area Parks Manager has overall responsibility for the management of the park.

Park maintenance is carried out by a site-based member of staff supported by a gardener carrying out grass mowing on a mini tractor, the playing field is mowed using a tractor mounted gang mower.

## 4 Analysis and Assessment

The decline in the quality of grounds maintenance and lack of investment over previous decades has resulted in the deterioration of Coronation Park.

The built environment and hard landscape is in need of improvement and requires more investment, particularly the car park and footpaths across the site. Gate pillars and ironwork at the Greasby Road and Caulfield Drive entrances also need attention.

Horticultural maintenance is variable.

The formation of the Greasby Outdoor Activity and Leisure group has resulted in some improvements to the site, including surface renovation of the tarmac tennis court and a newly fabricated steel entrance sign at the Greasby Road entrance.

The use of the Green Flag Award criteria can provide an excellent framework for a site assessment as it focuses on 8 key management themes as follows;

#### i) A welcoming place

There are 4 access points into the park with 2 being capable of vehicular access and 2 being pedestrian only. The main entrance is on Greasby Road approximately opposite Wood Lane shops and has good disabled access with separate vehicular and pedestrian routes. The

main entrance has the site name and an information board situated a little further into the park, but no information indicating contact names and numbers. Vehicles can currently drive onto the playing fields at this point. There is vehicular and pedestrian access at the Caulfield Drive entrance point at the junction with Escolme Drive, this has no site name board and information.

There is currently no direction signage to the park from the main road.

The pedestrian entrance from Brookdale Close is accessed via a narrow footpath between sheltered housing bungalows. Vegetation each side must be regularly pruned back to maintain unimpeded access.

The pedestrian access from Norwood Road is mostly an uneven tarmac surface it is currently possible to drive a vehicle along this track and gain access onto the playing fields. Neither of these entrances has any signage. All of the entrances into the site are uninspiring and lacking identity.

The car park at the main entrance is constructed of loose stone and in need of additional material and re-grading to avoid potholes and flooding. The timber trip rail fencing is damaged and in need of repair and regular maintenance.





#### ii) Healthy, safe and secure

Wirral Council operates a 24hr Community Patrol force providing a measured response to any act of vandalism or anti-social behaviour.

Wirral Council has a written and up to date Health and Safety Policy.

Signage requesting dog owners to clean up after their pets is not erected or marked at entrances to the site. In relation to this the siting and type of waste bins requires improving as these are also used for dog waste.

The public convenience building in the bowls area is open when the groundsman / bowlers are on site. The toilet facilities contained within the football pavilion are open when the attendant is on duty for football matches and when the youth outreach workers are on site during the evening.

It is proposed to introduce an Annual Site Safety Inspection Checklist. The inspection should identify defects within the park that present a risk to staff and/or users and includes footpaths, walls, fences, buildings, furniture and planted areas.

A **Security Audit** was carried out at the site that assessed the gardens under the following 12 criteria:

**Sight lines** – The Park is largely an open playing field and poses no major visibility problems, however, the Bowling green area does offer some screening to anti-social behaviour.

Anti-social behaviour – Graffiti is evident to buildings located in the bowling green area. Recently erected ball court fencing to the tennis court has been broken and removed by vandals. The adjacent bowling green is trampled and the surface cut by bike tyres and footballers. Seating at this location and along the footpath to Caulfield Drive has been vandalised.





**Motor vehicles** –Vehicles have caused damage to the grass edges of footpaths across the site. Attention should be given to controlling vehicular access at the Norwood Road and Greasby Road (by bowling green) entrances.

The park at night – Officers from the Parks and Open Spaces section attend the Police youth tasking and coordinating group meetings at which Coronation Park is highlighted as having a youth disorder problem at night. Recently the situation has improved with the introduction of youth outreach workers on two nights per week and the Goal group funding football coaching sessions during school holiday times.

**Footpaths** – No security problems are evident but surfacing is in need of reinstatement at various locations, particularly to the edges where the tarmac has broken away and the erupted surfaces due to tree roots in the bowls area. There is no lighting to the footways.





**Boundaries** – The park is gated to the two main entrances. The majority of the site is well overlooked by private properties with a mix of timber and chain link fencing. Approximately 20% of the playing field is bounded by a ditch in front of the allotments. This area is in need of cleansing and opening up of the vegetation by thinning and pruning.

**Buildings** – Anti vandal paint needs to be re-applied to the pavilion and possibly all buildings at gutter height. Security lighting has recently been fitted to the football pavilion to assist use of the building during the darker evenings. The football pavilion and bowls toilet block have steel profile roofs to negate vandalism.

Play areas – The children's play area was constructed approx. 7 years ago and meets EU regulations.

Who was on site - The groundsman, dog walkers, children / parents in the children's play area

**Is the park well cared for** – There are some features that contribute negatively to the feeling of safety in the park. The bowling green area, although fenced, is accessed by youths at night causing damage to bowling green surfaces and buildings / furniture. The children's play area has been damaged on a number of occasions. The recently refurbished tennis court is being used for football and the fencing has been vandalised on 3 occasions in 3 months. The narrow pedestrian access from Brookdale Close needs to be improved with better sight lines and possibly widening.

#### iii) Clean and well maintained

There is one site-based member of staff.

Horticultural maintenance is carried out in accordance with a frequency based work programme allied to a specification. The work programme is issued to staff on a quarterly basis; these are used for identifying all maintenance operations on the site and the required standards. It is understood that currently these documents are not being fully utilised and are under review.

The Senior Development Officer using the following 13 headings has carried out an assessment of the current maintenance condition of the site. The facilities and features are simply ticked as good, fair or poor and can only represent findings during the writing of this plan. The facilities and features without a rating are not available at the site.

## **Grounds maintenance site checklist**

Grass	Good	Fair	Poor
Fine Sport			
Playing Fields			
Ornamental		V	
General			
Rough	N/a	N/a	N/a
Wild Flower Area	N/a	N/a	N/a

Planting	Good	Fair	Poor
Annual	N/a	N/a	N/a
Herbaceous	N/a	N/a	N/a
Roses	N/a	N/a	N/a
Shrubs			
Hedges			
Young staked trees		V	
Mature Trees		V	
Woodland		V	
Hard Surfaces	Good	Fair	Poor
Tarmac Sport			
Hard Porous	N/a	N/a	N/a
Footpaths			
Drives		$\sqrt{}$	
Car Parks			<b>√</b>
Steps	N/a	N/a	N/a
ACW / ATP	N/a	N/a	N/a

Play Areas	Good	Fair	Poor
Maintenance		V	

Litter	Good	Fair	Poor
Collection			
Bins			

Buildings	Good	Fair	Poor
Maintenance			
Graffiti			
Walling	Good	Fair	Poor
Maintenance			
			-

Fencing	Good	Fair	Poor
Maintenance			

Drainage	Good	Fair	Poor
Ditches			

Inspection Chambers / Covers	N/a	N/a	N/a
Gully pots		V	

Furniture / Memorials	Good	Fair	Poor
Maintenance			
Graffiti			V
Signage	Good	Fair	Poor
Maintenance	Good	Fair √	Poor

Lighting	Good	Fair	Poor
Maintenance		V	

Water	Good	Fair	Poor
Maintenance	N/a	N/a	N/a
Safety	N/a	N/a	N/a

Although by no means exhaustive, the following concerns were noted during the assessment;

**Grass** – General grass areas are not being cut to frequency and were excessively long at the time of the assessment. The bowling green surrounds were similarly out of frequency. The greens themselves were undergoing winter surface management of scarification and top dressing but urgently require moss treatment. Playing fields were too wet to mow. The grass 5 a side football pitch is bare and badly worn to the goalmouths and central area.

**Planting -** Shrub beds are pruned as individual specimens and although this aids litter picking, is not good horticultural practice or aesthetically pleasing. Some replanting is advisable. Overgrown boundaries require puning back. The car park hedge requires gapping up. Mature trees require inspection and some need pruning to contain height and spread particularly to the bowling green area. Rope swings were evident on the mature trees to the playing fields and require removal.

**Hard surfacing** - The tarmac footpaths are erupted to the bowling green area. The edges of footpaths across the site are breaking up and require reinstatement. The footpath to and from Brookdale Close is too narrow to allow passing pedestrians at present. The car park requires more stone and regarding to prevent puddling. The tennis court has recently been renovated by cleaning, binding and painting to extend its life, funded by the Goal group.

**Play Areas** – The children's play area is maintained daily during the working week by a dedicated safety inspection team. New ball court fencing has been erected along one side of the tennis court to contain the court and secure it from the bowls arena.

**Litter** – Bin type requires standardising and some repositioning for full effectiveness. Arisings from horticultural operations have been dumped in the car park area and behind the bowls pavilion; better practices should be explored.





**Buildings / Walls –** The community room in the football pavilion has been improved with money from the Goal group. Graffiti is evident to the bowling green buildings, groundsmans mess room and entrance gate pillars. Maintenance of the buildings within the gardens is carried out via the day to day repair system administered by Technical Services Department.

**Fencing** – The car park trip rail is damaged and should ideally be repaired as soon as damage occurs.

**Drainage** – The 3No football pitches would benefit from a full drainage system under each as they become waterlogged after heavy rain. The open ditch between the playing fields and allotments is choked with litter and vegetation. This would need considerable capital investment.

**Furniture / Memorials** – Additional and replacement seating is required throughout the site (excluding the children's play area). Existing seating is of a mixed style and some are poorly fixed and vandalised.

Lighting - Security lighting has been erected to the football pavilion.

#### Water features - Not applicable

Overall Coronation Park receives a 'good/fair' standard of maintenance and it is hoped to bring the standard up to 'good' for all maintenance activities within the period of the plan.

It is apparent that operational factors beyond the influence of this management plan require consideration in order to improve grounds maintenance. The main issues for consideration could include staff management (i.e. motivation, supervision, training) coupled with the issue of resourcing (i.e. revenue funding, machinery and materials).

#### Principal Officer Parks Management/LF to analyse findings and report

#### iv) Sustainability

Wirral Council has an Environmental Policy that the Parks and Countryside section supports and works towards.

Currently brash and green waste is being dumped on mass behind the bowls pavilion and in the car park.

The equipment storeroom integral to the mess room is used to store chemicals in a proprietary steel chemical bin. Only enough chemical for immediate use is stored on site.

The Park is well served by public transport infrastructure but may benefit from the installation of cycle racks to car park area to aid cyclists to securely park their bicycles.

#### v) Conservation and Heritage.

#### Bio-diversity report to follow

The brick and cast iron gated and railed entrances to Greasby Road and Caulfield Drive should be retained and renovated as required. Copings to the brick pillars are missing and rust has affected all metalwork.

#### vi) Community involvement.

Coronation Park has an active Friends group (Goal) who organise events to raise funds for improvements to the site.

The Friends organise football coaching sessions for different age groups throughout school holidays. More recently they have instigated the refurbishment of the community room within the football pavilion and purchased recreational equipment for a weekly youth club at the site. This has been achieved in close partnership with Wirral Council youth leaders.

During September 2005 the Goal group held an event to celebrate the end of World War II involving local primary schools, residents and the larger community, funded externally. This was well attended and a great success.

This group hold regular meetings attended by officers from the council. Their main aim is to fund a multi-use games area (MUGA) for the park. In addition the installation of lighting to the footpaths across the park and to the football pavilion for youth club nights is seen by the group, as a priority although there are no resources for this or for the considerable ongoing maintenance.

#### vii) Marketing.

Wirral Council has a web site that has links to the Parks and Countryside information. This is at present hard to find and has no information on Coronation Park.

The information board at the main entrance to the park requires current information on local events and the work of the Goal group and contact numbers.

The Goal group have discussed production of a newsletter and this would be supported by the Department.

#### viii) Management.

Following reorganisation of The Parks & Countryside Service in 2004 the following management structure was put in place.



The production of this management plan should provide staff and public with the expectations Wirral Council has for the future development and maintenance of the park.

# 5 Aims and Objectives

**Aim**: To encourage people into the gardens and to make them more welcoming.

#### Objectives:

- 1. Provide direction signage from the main roads.
- 2. Provide good quality information to the notice board in the park indicating site name, managing organisation and contact numbers.
- 3. Improve entrances with improved planting / pruning and signage.
- 4. Supply and erect a drop bollard to control vehicular access at Greasby Road and Norwood Road respectively.

5. Improve car park surfacing to prevent flooding and repair trip rail.

**Aim**: To improve the health, safety and security of the public when visiting the gardens.

#### Objectives;

- 1. Re-erect / paint dog 'clean it up' signage to entrances.
- 2. Re-position and standardise type of waste bins to entrances.
- 3. Arrange removal of graffiti on walls when it occurs.
- 4. Apply anti vandal paint to building roof-lines.
- 5. Remove dog faeces on site and regularly brush and litter pick pathways.
- 6. Repair damaged fencing and walling as it occurs.
- 7. Investigate ways to improve bowling- green arena security.
- 8. Repair vandalised seating as it occurs.
- 9. Maintain / improve youth activities in the park.
- 10. Renovate boundary to allotments.
- 11. Investigate ways to improve entrance from Brookdale Close.
- 12. Investigate ways to improve difficult exit onto Greasby Road.
- 13. Begin Annual Site Safety Inspection

**Aim:** To improve and develop the built environment with hard and soft landscaping, creating a feeling of quality throughout the park.

#### Objectives;

- 1. Improve the quality and frequency of grass maintenance throughout the park.
- 2. Improve quality and maintenance of shrub beds, hedges and mature specimen trees.
- 3. Begin a rolling programme of footpath re-surfacing / edging.
- 1. Produce winter work programmes to reflect this document / action plan.
- 4. Replace edging boards to No 2 bowling green.
- 5. Continue rolling programme of seat replacement.
- 6. Install Multi Use Games Area if funding can be sourced.
- 7. Improve drainage of football pitches to increase standard and usage.
- 8. Install lighting to footpaths if funding can be sourced.

**Aim**: To improve sustainable work practices relevant to the gardens.

#### Objectives;

- 1. Implement improved waste management / recycling procedure for site.
- 2. Mulch shrub beds.
- 3. Install cycle racks to site to encourage sustainable transport.

**Aim**: To conserve and improve the best features of the site and retain those of historic importance.

#### Objectives;

1. Renovate brick and ironwork to both main entrances.

**Aim**: To support and increase community involvement in the site.

#### Objectives;

- 1. Continue to capacity build with the Friends group.
- 2. To work in partnership with the Friends to apply for and achieve Green Flag status.
- 3. Support the Friends with their events programme for fund raising.
- 4. Assist the Youth Service in their request for the use of the community room in the pavilion.

**Aim:** To raise the public profile of the park and promote the site as a community resource.

#### Objectives;

- 1. Improve the Wirral Council website.
- 2. Assist the Goal group in the production of their newsletter.
- 3. Improve site interpretation and signage.

**Aim:** To manage the implementation and review of this plan.

#### Objectives;

- 1. To gain funding to make as many quality improvements to the park as possible.
- 2. To create mechanisms to actively review both maintenance and improvements.

# **6 Action Plan**

Actions	Lead Officer	Target date	Funding source
Decide locations for	Area Parks		Requires additional
and provide road	Manager/Parks		funding RAF £5K
signage	Development		
	Officer (PDO)		<u> </u>
Provide information	Area Parks	2007 and	From existing
to main entrance	Manager	Ongoing	resources / Goal
notice board	A D I		DAE OFK
Provide signage	Area Parks		RAF £5K
and info to	Manager/PDO		
remaining entrances			
Improve aesthetics	Area Parks		RAF £15K
of all entrances	Manager/PDO		KAI LISK
Repair car park	Area Parks		RAF £25K
surface / rails	Manager		1011 22010
Janace / Tallo	Managor		
Supply / erect drop	Area Parks		RAF £5K
bollards to control	Manager/PDO		
vehicular access	_		
Standardise and re-	Area Parks		RAF £5K
position waste bins	Manager		
Begin Annual Site	Area Parks	2007 Ongoing	From existing
Safety Inspection	Manager	2007.0	resources
Re-erect / repaint	Area Parks	2007 Ongoing	From existing
dog signage to	Manager		resources
entrances  Remove all graffiti	Area Parks	2007 Ongoing	From existing
Remove all graffiti as it occurs		2007 Ongoing	From existing resources
Apply anti vandal	Manager Area Parks	2007 Ongoing	From existing
paint to building	Manager	2007 Origoning	resources
roof-lines	Manager		resources
Remove dog fouling	Area Parks	2007 Ongoing	From existing
and litter from	Manager	200. 0gog	resources
pathways and brush			1000 a 000
more frequently			
. ,			
Instigate repairs to	Area Parks	2007 Ongoing	From existing
damaged fencing	Manager		resources
and walling as it			
occurs	A D . !		DAE 0451/
Improve bowling	Area Parks		RAF £15K
green area security	Manager	Ongoin = / 2040	From ovieting
Repair vandalised	Area Parks	Ongoing / 2010	From existing
seating as it occurs	Manager		resources

Provide for youth	Area Parks	Ongoing /2010	RAF/
activities in park	Manager	Origoning /2010	1047
Renovate boundary	Area Parks		RAF £10K
to allotments	Manager		10 11 21011
Improve narrow	Area Parks		RAF £5K
access from	Manager		70.11 2010
Brookdale Close	Managor		
Improve difficult exit	Area Parks		RAF £10K
on to Greasby Road	Manager / Tech.		10.00
	Services		
Improve grass	Area Parks	2007 Ongoing	From existing
maintenance	Manager		resources
standards			
throughout the park			
Improve shrub	Area Parks	2007 Ongoing	From existing
pruning and	Manager		resources
maintenance of			
planted areas			
Produce annual	Area Parks		RAF £2K pa
winter work	Manager		
programmes for site			
to include replanting			
Begin rolling	Area Parks		RAF £30K in first 5
programme of	Manager		years
footpath resurfacing			
Provide ball court	Development		RAF £25K
fencing to 5 a side	Officer		
Re-edge No 2	Area Parks	2007 Ongoing	From existing
bowling green	Manager		resources
Declaration	A D. I.	0	E - Par (all and a land
Replace and	Area Parks	Ongoing / 2010	Funding to be sourced
standardise seating	Manager	2007 On main m	/ donations
Renovate 5 a side	Area Parks	2007 Ongoing	From existing
pitch annually	Manager	2010	resources
Install MUGA	Development Officer / Goal	2010	RAF £65K
Improve playing	group Area Parks	2010	RAF £75K
field drainage	Manager	2010	INDI AI SIX
Install footpath	Development	2010	RAF £36K & £5K pa
lighting	Officer / Goal	2010	TO II LOUIS & LOIS PA
Consider provision	Area Parks		
of site composting	Manager		
facility			
Begin mulching of	Area Parks	2007 Onwards	From existing
shrub beds	Manager		resources
Install bicycle racks	Development	2007	Funding to be sourced
	Officer		/ Friends £1K
Renovate entrance	Area Parks	2007	RAF £5K
	l .	· C	l .

brick / ironwork	Manager		
Support and work in	Development	Ongoing	From existing
partnership with the	Officer / Area		resources
Friends	Parks Manager		
Apply for Green	Development	2010	RAF £5K pa
Flag Award	Officer		
Support Goal group	Goal group /	Ongoing	From existing
with their events	Development		resources
programme	Officer / Area		
	Park Manager		
Support Youth	Area Parks	Ongoing	From existing
Service with their	Manager/PDO		resources
programmes			
Improve Parks	Parks Officer	2008	From existing
website		_	resources
Assist Goal group	Goal group /	Ongoing	Goal group
with their newsletter	Development		
	Officer		
Improve site	Area Parks	Ongoing / 2010	From existing
interpretation and	Manager		resources / Goal
signage			<u> </u>
To work with		Ongoing / 2010	Funding to be sourced
Friends to gain			
external funding			
Create system to	Area Parks	2007 Ongoing	From existing
monitor grounds	Manager		resources
maintenance quality			
Create system to	Area Parks	2007 Ongoing	From existing
review	Manager		resources
improvements			

# 7 Monitoring and Review

There needs to be a precise frequency and a clear process for monitoring both maintenance and development.

The Principal Officer for Parks Management will incorporate progress on management plan actions into monthly management team meetings.

Chargehands will report back on progress or shortfalls to the Area Parks Manager after each visit.

The Area Parks Manager will carryout random inspections of the site between programmed visits.

The Area Parks Manager should carry out a monthly inspection of the site with the relevant operatives to assess maintenance standards and check against the issued work programme and specification.

The Development Officer should carry out a bi-annual site visit with the Area Parks Manager and Friends to oversee the delivery of the development plan. The target date in the five- year action plan will enable people to see how the partnership is making progress and when that action has been achieved.

# 8 Appendices

1. Site Plans

#### CORONATION PARK

