

ENVIRONMENTAL & CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIONS IN BROOMFIELD PARK



Friends of Broomfield Park
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Environmental and Climate Change Actions in Broomfield Park

Parks as Green Space and Environment.

The importance and value of our parks to the local and wider environment, for the health and well-being of our communities and in helping ameliorate the adverse effects of climate change is increasingly recognised. Many bodies have addressed and produced documented responses to this issue in recent years including national and regional government and bodies such as Fields in Trust providing evidence of economic, wellbeing and health benefit.

The Friends of Broomfield Park (FoBP) has promoted the environmental benefits the park over some years by partnering with Enfield Council and bodies such as Thames 21 and other volunteer groups. There has been a focus on the importance of diverse habitats and biodiversity, and engagement with the local park community and young people. This, along with the other aims and actions defined by our constitution and Action plan. We have recently been invited to take part in the Enfield Climate Action Forum (EnCaf) and it seems a good time to review our actions and perhaps explore ways to reframe these in the context of climate change action.



Our Areas of Activity in Broomfield Park.

1. Education and Engagement

The FoBP have sought to engage the local park community, young people and school children in a variety of ways and are keen that these contacts should, as well as enhancing wellbeing and enjoyment, be experiential and educational in a broad sense in relation to environment and climate change effects.

We use the resources and habitats available to us in the park in a programme of local primary school year visits. In the last year we have worked in the park on a termly basis with the REACH group, a scheme led by Enfield Council to help groups of excluded yr.9 pupils back into mainstream education.

In the summer we have weekly visits in the Orchard with a group of young adults with severe learning and physical disability from the Enfield Mencap Centre. We are developing links with the West Lea School (special needs provision) and supporting the Greenery 'Build Up' project, a scheme to engage young people in a managed and financed development project within the park.

Next steps:

- Develop school visit programme and resources
- Continue to develop REACH project, Mencap and West Lea contacts
- Greenery 'Build-Up' project

2. Health Benefits and Wellbeing

The park provides a space for walking for physical health and fitness with potential benefits for wellbeing and Mental health.

Tai Chi/Yoga/Nordic-Walking/Outdoor Gym /Playground/ Sports ground/Netball and Tennis Courts are among other activities available in the park.

Next Steps:

- Summer yoga sessions in the orchard
- Other well being activities throughout the year
- Promote volunteering as a wellbeing activity

3. Clean Air and Reducing CO2

Urban tree canopy in parks and along city streets remove significant amounts of air pollution and sequester carbon (CO2 equivalent). Urban trees also filter particulate matter from automobiles and other vehicles, further cleaning the air.

We have planted natural hedgerow around the park perimeter, the project is nearing completion, more than 2,000 hedgerow whips planted (supplied by the Woodland Trust)

Next steps:

- Start a project and seek funding to replace fallen trees and develop a scheme to plant new trees
- To develop a ‘Tree nursery’ – to nurture a ‘library’ of local trees from seedlings
- A nursery of Oak and Ash saplings from Broomfield Park trees has been started in the Orchard. The Enfield society has a nursery with Oak, Horse Chestnut and Black Walnut.
- Complete hedgerow

4. Water Quality and Reducing Flood Risk

Green infrastructure can help prevent water pollution by retaining sediments, taking up pollutants and intercepting rainfall. Reed-beds help address the problem of nutrient pollution in water.

The FoBP have supported and assisted the Council and Thames 21 in the creation of the new Wetlands and new reed-beds in the top and middle lakes. We will continue a role in further development, management and maintenance. This should reduce pollutants flowing into Pymmes Brook (then River Lea) and allow absorption and slowing of storm water runoff giving flood protection in conjunction with other schemes in the region.

Next steps:

- Restoring fresh water supply from the artesian well to the Boating Pond
- Clearing the drain from Boating Pond to first lake

- Cleaning the sedimentary debris from the Boating Pond base
- Expansion of the reed beds in the middle lake.

5. Biodiversity and Habitat

Broomfield Park contains a rich diversity of habitat for wildlife and the FoBP have been very active in both the development of new areas and the support, restoration or maintenance of those existing. Long term projects such as the Conservatory and Community Orchard are well established and provide an extraordinary level of excellence and ongoing development.

Our list of projects:

- Wildlife Pond and Growing Space
- Conservatory
- Community Orchard
- Memorial Gardens
- Wetlands
- Wildflower Gardens
- Apiary
- Long Herbaceous and Rose Borders/Sensory Garden
- Hedgerow
- Bug Hotels and brushwood piles
- Unmown areas of grassland
- New bird and bat boxes.

Next Steps:

- Sustain current habitats and expand community use of Growing Space
- Develop management plan with Enfield Council for Wetlands
- Agree a reduced/modified mowing programme with Enfield Council

6. Waste Management

We aim to buy Green, Reuse, and Recycle. To purchase environmentally friendly products and increase waste use and recycling. The Greenery Café have led the way in this with their action to compost food waste, use take-out cups and napkins (which are all biodegradable).

We compost on site (Growing Space and Community Orchard) and recycle wood and bricks in building projects. We aim to maximise our own products such as apples and honey.

Next Steps:

- Establish recycling waste collection service for the park.

7. A Reduced Risk of Harm from Environmental Hazards

FoBP have supported and worked with Enfield Council and Thames 21 to develop the new Wetlands and rainwater drainage through reed beds within the park to reduce flood risk and water pollution. We avoid the use of chemical herbicides and insecticides when working in outdoor habitats in the park.

Next steps:

- Sustain current activities and look for further actions in this area.

8. Enhance Biosecurity

Good urban forestry practice involves managing tree populations to increase species and genetic diversity by focusing on the establishment and maintenance of trees with qualities suited to the site and the prevailing climatic conditions. Additionally, good species composition, age structure, stock quality and condition will help reduce the future loss of trees due to the introduction, hybridisation or spread of tree pests and diseases.

Next Steps:

- Establish a 'Tree Nursery' within Broomfield Park to raise trees with an established Park heritage.
- Improve habitat with native planting and allow the development of native wildlife species – such as newts, dragon flies and damsel flies.
- New tree and native hedgerow planting.

Summary

In this document we look at ways in which a local park and activities within it can have positive impacts on the local and wider environment and on some of the adverse effects of climate change. The aims of FoBP align closely to those identified in published Government and Mayoral strategies but with the significant difference that we have been able to put many of these ideas into effect, often with the support of Enfield Council and other groups. The outcomes of many of these actions are illustrated by many photographs submitted by members and give examples of the roles taken by some of our many volunteers.

We hope to be able to sustain and build on these areas and in particular develop our ability to address some of the problems created by climate change. To achieve this we will need to draw in more volunteers of all ages and backgrounds and show that they can have impacts both individually and in working within groups and enjoy themselves in the process.

We hope that engagement with EnCaf might allow greater interaction with other groups working in parks and green spaces with common aim, and greater exposure to volunteers who may wish to join us. It would be good to share ideas and support activities to our mutual benefit in climate change action.

The FoBP will use this document in the development of our 'Action Plan for 2020/21' with Enfield Council and to support applications for grants and funding in pursuance of these aims.