



Strategic Masterplan Ruskin Park

This is an A4 sized document, note that all drawings contained within are not to scale.

Supporting application drawings are A3 sized with scale bars.

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Principles for the future of Ruskin Park:

- Enhance and Maintain
- Legible, Accessible and Safe
- Engaging and Joyful

1 Introduction - Enhancing the Existing

This strategic masterplan for the park aims to work with the beauty of the existing park to produce a set of guidelines that are:

Clean

Simple

Timeless

Below: Community bandstand event



This document is the culmination of a significant body of work that has taken place over the last couple of years to draw together a clear vision for possible future development of Ruskin Park.

The park has many existing natural assets and the strategic masterplan does not aim to reinvent it. Instead it aims to highlight ways that natural beauty can be enhanced, and the park can be activated, allowing it to be an even greater resource for the local community. The masterplan laid out here is not a set piece, instead it provides a series of guidelines that any future development of the park should try to adhere to. The masterplan also makes recommendations for key areas of improvement.

It is crucial that the existing maturity of the park and its vastly beautiful landscape and its particular character are retained.

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Right: A view of the bandstand and view across Ruskin Park

Below: Ruskin Park Paddling Pool



1.1 The Park

Ruskin Park is on English Heritage's "Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest" (Grade II, GD1826, registered 1987), in recognition of its features of notable heritage value that contribute to its character and identity.

The park is a highly valued local resource as is confirmed through all of the consultation that has been carried out as part of the masterplan development, however it has had little investment over the past few years and is starting to show signs of neglect.



1.2 Variety of tree species

The use of mature planting of all scales is crucial in helping to create an intriguing and vibrant landscape. Ruskin Park has over 870 trees including Oak, Horse Chestnut, Common Ash and Lime, and many less common species. The park is lucky to have a high level of mature trees and shrubs, however they are often poorly maintained.

Below and right: Variety of tree species in Ruskin Park

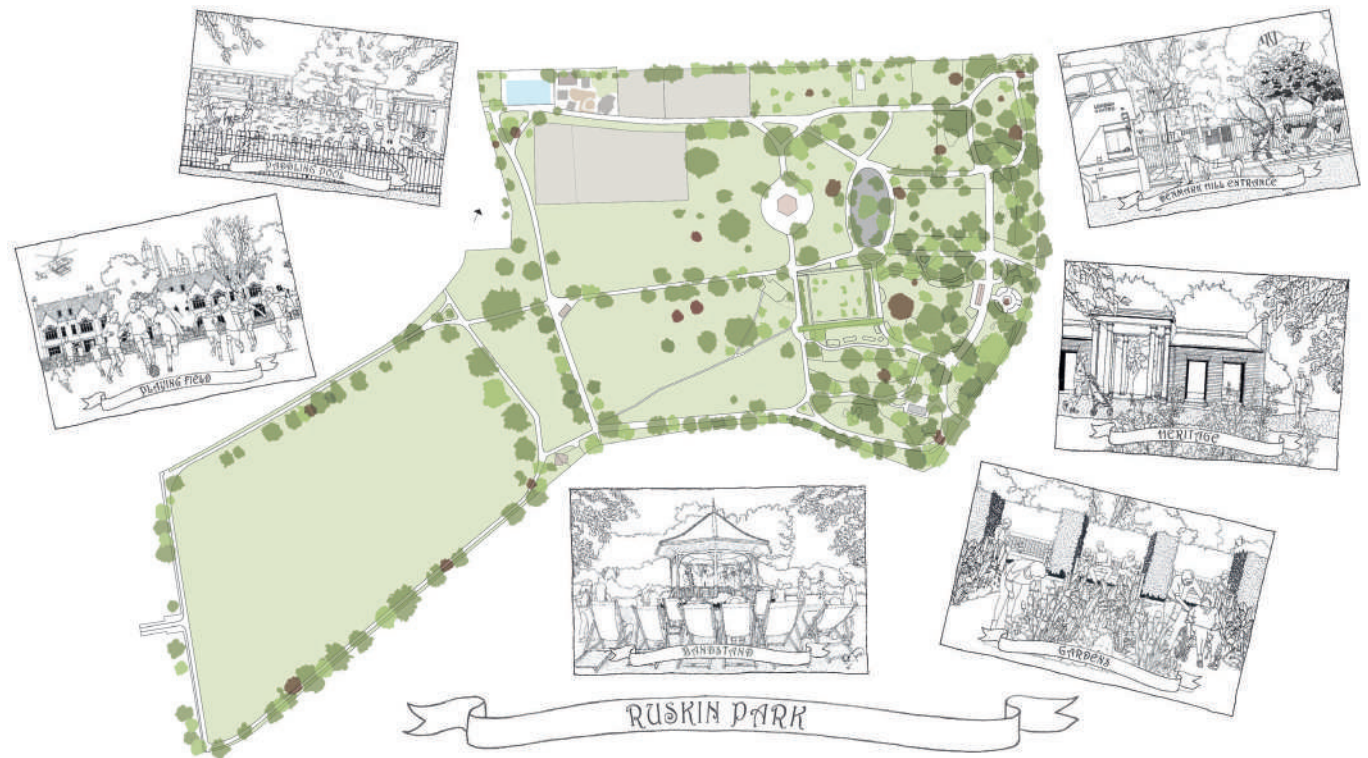




1.3 The Purpose of the Strategic Masterplan for Ruskin Park

The purpose of this strategic masterplan is to set out a framework for the park and its development, now and in the future. It is clear that the park has a great deal of potential and is already a well-loved public space, however there is currently no funding in place for a one-stop improvement scheme. As such, this strategic masterplan will allow for a clear vision for the park over the next 5-10 years, allowing for funding opportunities to be identified, and a considered view to approach such opportunities as they arise.

Left: Bowling Green and Portico
Below: Site view and park character illustrations





2 Current Context

2.1 Changing Influences

The park has a broad history and as outlined in our historical context study and it has changed and adapted over time. As the demands on public space continue to grow, the influences over the park continue to change and it is therefore more crucial than ever to look at how the park can respond to the new influences that may be imposed upon it in the future.

The area around the park is constantly changing. There are proposed redevelopments of nearby Loughborough Junction, and there is currently a strategic outline being put together for public space improvements around Camberwell, as well as potential redevelopment opportunities.

There is also the potential for a greater link with King's College Hospital and the South London and Maudsley Trust.

Equally there is the intention for less of the park to be used for servicing of the local area. There is currently a large compound which is used for servicing and there has been an indication that this may not be necessary moving forward. The landing area for helicopters in the park should also be used less in the future now that the helipad at King's College Hospital is in full operation.

2.2 Public Demand

Throughout this process we have conducted a number of key stakeholder interviews as well as holding a public consultation event at the Ruskin Park Summer Fete. The intention is to ensure that the grand vision for the park ties in with the desires of the community as a whole. Information from this stakeholder consultation can be found in Appendix II.

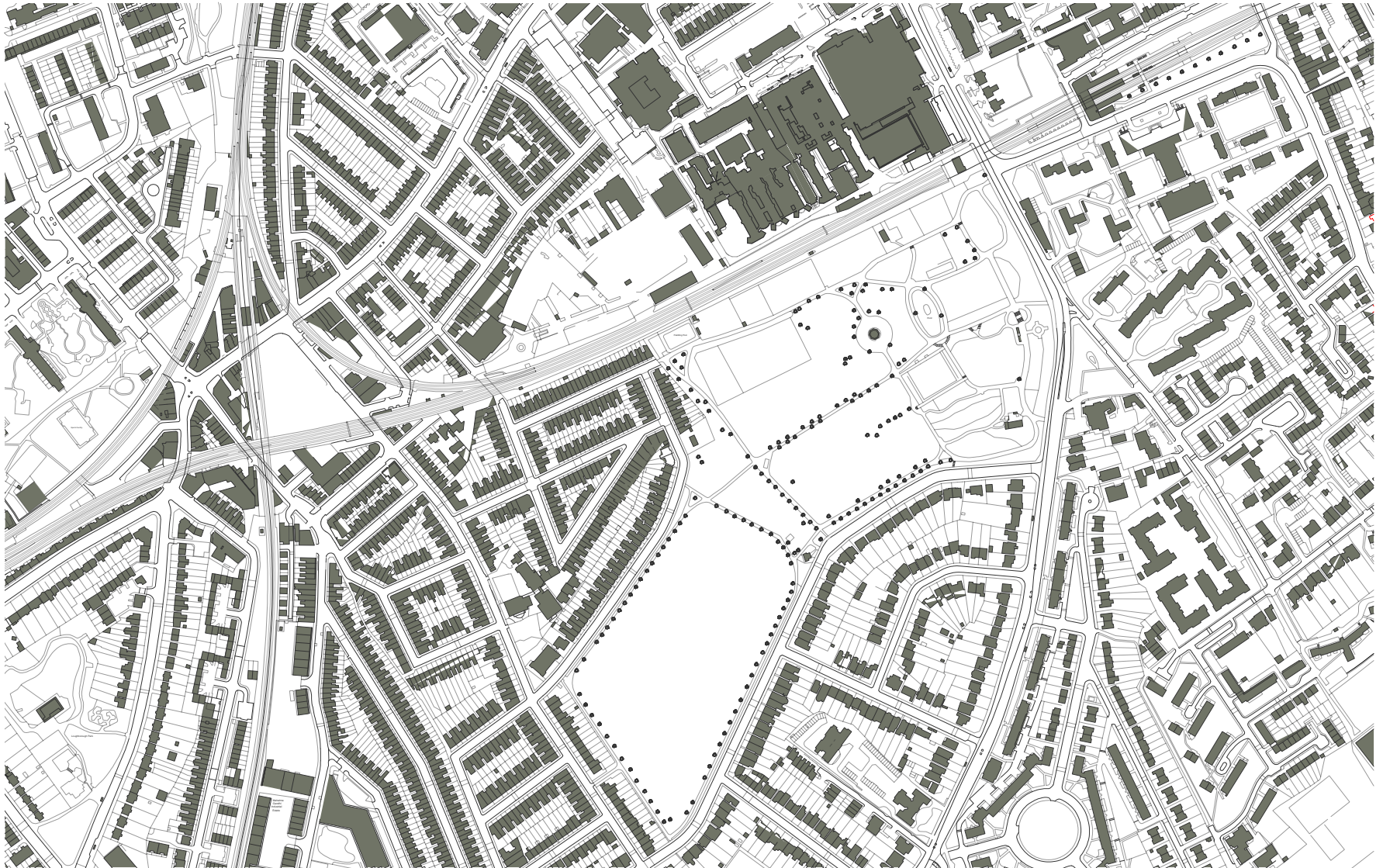
Alongside the changes to the surrounding areas, the demographic that use the park continues to broaden, placing a significant number of demands on the different parts of the park. People use the park for a wide variety of activities, from sport and socialising, to dog walking and hospital respite. Even within each of these categories of use there is an incredible variety which cannot always be facilitated within the existing park.

Left: Helicopter landing area in Ruskin Park; Service area in Ruskin Park; and Public consultation at Ruskin Park Summer Fete, June 2019

Context map of the local area to Ruskin Park



Ordinance Survey map - Built Context surrounding Ruskin Park



3 The Strategic Masterplan - Key Principles

Masterplan Design Strategies:

**Clean
Simple
Timeless**

The plan outlined overleaf indicates the key principles of the masterplan and these are outlined in more depth in the following pages. These strategies can be split into three main areas:

- **Enhance and Maintain**

One of the main issues of the park is that much of it has been neglected over the past decade.

- **Legible Accessible and Safe**

Making the park welcoming and inclusive - ensuring that everyone feels welcome and are able to access all aspects of the park.

This section particularly addresses the specific elements around wayfinding and visibility within the park.

If the northern path crossing the park is kept open 24 hours, it must be lit to ensure those using it in darkness are kept safe.

- **Engaging and Joyful**

Allowing people to get the most from their park.

This section particularly focuses on the elements within the park that encourage active engagement. As such, these highlight the cultural trail, the wide variety of sports, play and general wellbeing activities and the opportunities available in the park.

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3.1 Maintenance

Whatever is implemented within the park the most crucial element is that maintenance in general is improved. We have kept this in mind through all of our proposals to ensure that unnecessary maintenance is not required, this goes through from low maintenance benches, to simple tarmac paths.

The top two images adjacent show some areas that have suffered in Ruskin Park, while the bottom two provide relatively simple inspiration from the Horniman Gardens.

Elements such as simple planting palettes and regular pruning can make a large difference.

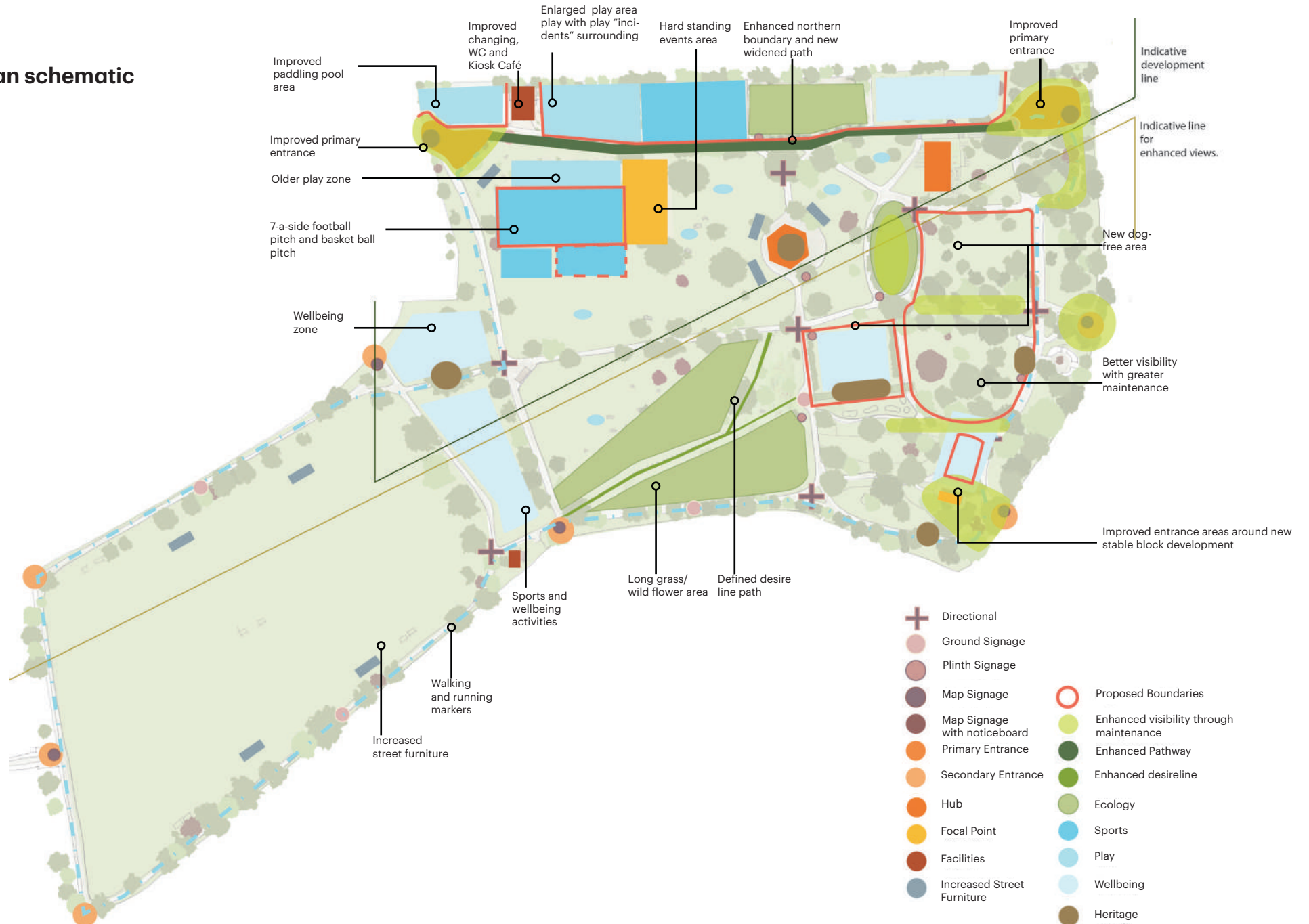


Above : delapidated paving and general poor maintenance; broken benches
Below: images from the Horniman Gardens

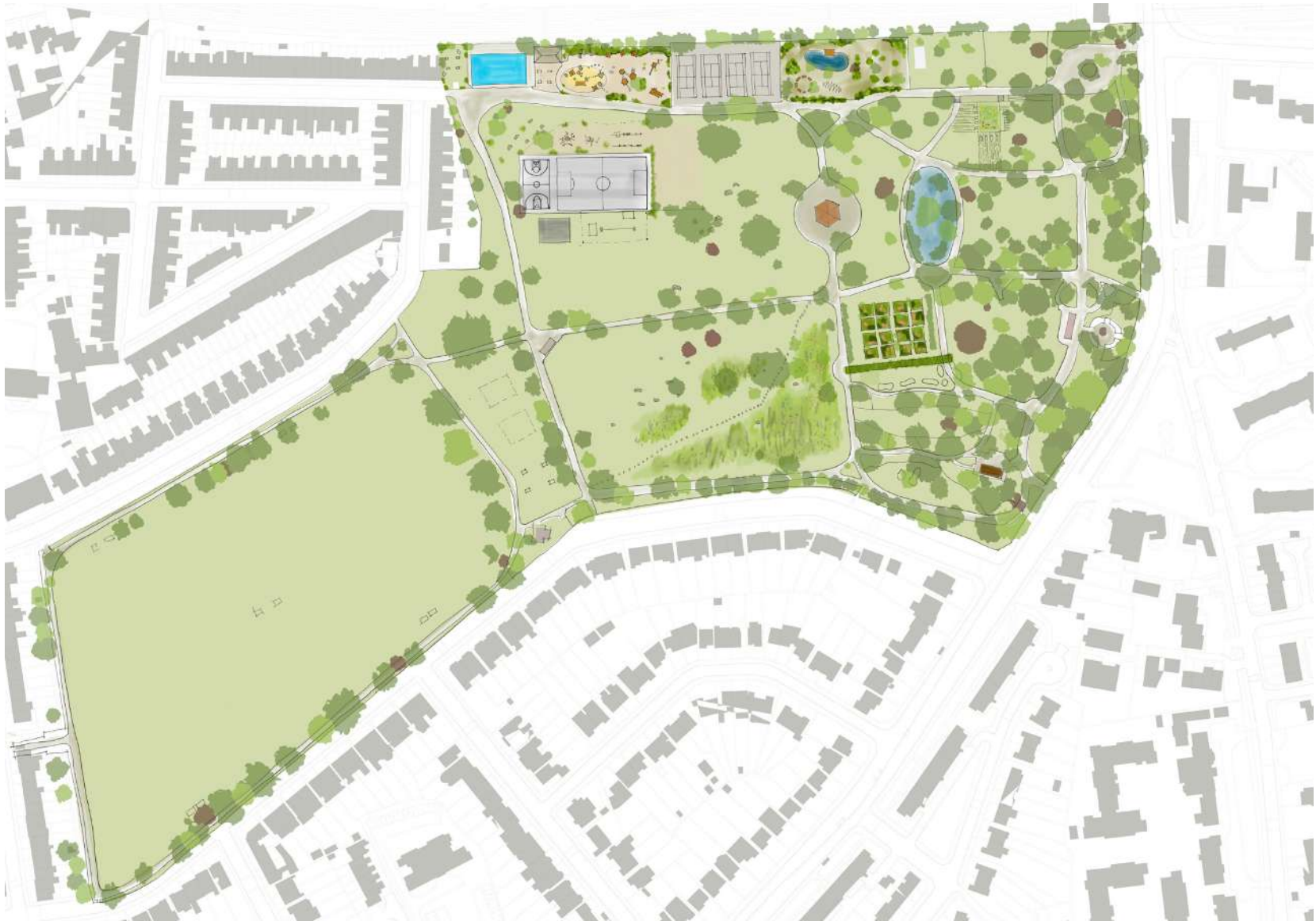


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Masterplan schematic



Sketch Plan



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Materials palette



Black railings



Stepping stones



RAL 6009 Ruskin Park Green



Brick



Tarmac



RAL 9005 Black

3.1 Legible and Accessible

3.1.1 Visible Entrances

As highlighted already, the entrances need to be significantly looked at. In the initial study it was noted that a hierarchy should be defined to make primary, secondary and tertiary entrances to the park. The entrances were raised in the consultation as being overgrown, and increased visibility will be hugely welcomed. Increasing their visibility will also increase engagement with the surrounding area.

We have reviewed the hierarchy and allowed for primary and secondary entrances. The primary entrances are at the either end of the long route (E/W). All other entrances are to be treated in the same way.

These hierarchically ranked entrances help users arriving at the park feel comfortable in the space and enable them to interact with as much of the park as they wish, as such they should fulfill the set of guidelines as set out over the next pages to ensure that they provide the most welcoming environment to the park.



3.1.1.1 Primary Entrances

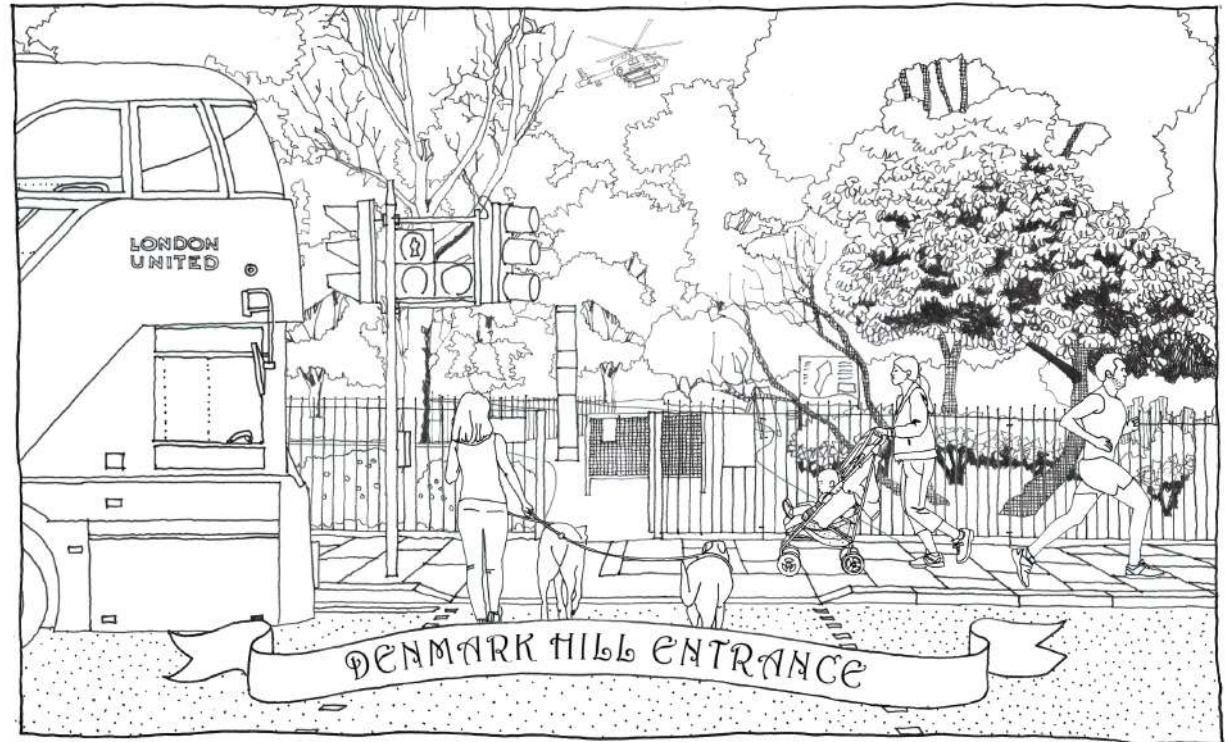
The existing entrances are very cluttered and overgrown. We have set out the requirements that we feel are necessary for the entrances to be improved.

- Create a visual connection to the surrounding area.
- Space and place to pause on arrival to gain bearings.
- Adequate informational and directional signage (explored further under way finding)
- Sufficient views to other areas of the park
- Adequate street furniture - benches, bins, water fountain and lighting.

We have created two indicative designs for these sites as shown in the coming pages.

The key features of any design should provide:

- Solid entrance
- Classic design
- Enlarged space
- High quality materials



Right: Illustration of existing entrance

Adjacent page: Illustration of proposed new primary entrance





3.1.1.3 Secondary Entrances

While the other entrances may not require such a large amount of change as the two main spaces, they could still benefit from a cohesive strategy to enable visual coherence.

The images on the following pages are marked up to illustrate how the below guidance could make an impact on the smaller entrances.

1. Create clear visual access into the park
 - Cut back overgrown vegetation
 - Reduce visual clutter
2. Improve maintenance
 - Ensure railings are painted and well maintained
 - Ensure that paving is level and well maintained
3. Coherent signage inline with signage strategy
4. Provide seating and bins where appropriate



Larger free standing bin

Friends of Ruskin Park
sign cabinet

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Park sign

Maintain pavement

Friends of Ruskin
Park sign cabinet

Cut back overgrown
vegetation



Park sign

Friends of Ruskin
Park sign cabinet

Cut back overgrown
vegetation

3.1.2 Clearly Defined Routes

There are a number of major elements that we have looked at to increase the sightlines, desirelines and pathways through the park.

We also recommend better maintenance of the Edwardian garden, as views and sightlines are significantly impaired by the heavily overgrown trees and the density of the vegetation. This is a particular issue around the entrances, and will become a big issue around the future stable block.

In terms of enhancing the East/West route, we suggest that the current route across the park be made significantly stronger, by widening the path, providing lighting, creating a string boundary line of engaging activities along the railway side (northern edge), and by creating a clearer and safer sightline. If this route is kept open 24 hours, the sightline must be kept clear to ensure those using it in darkness are kept safe.

This will also enable greater access to the elements along this route.



3.1.2.1 Development and desire lines

One major element to try to improve the cluttered sightlines is the idea of the park notionally being divided diagonally to ensure that any future development within the park is kept to specific areas. As the diagram opposite shows, any future development should be kept to the north side of the park. This means that over time long views through the space will not be impeded.



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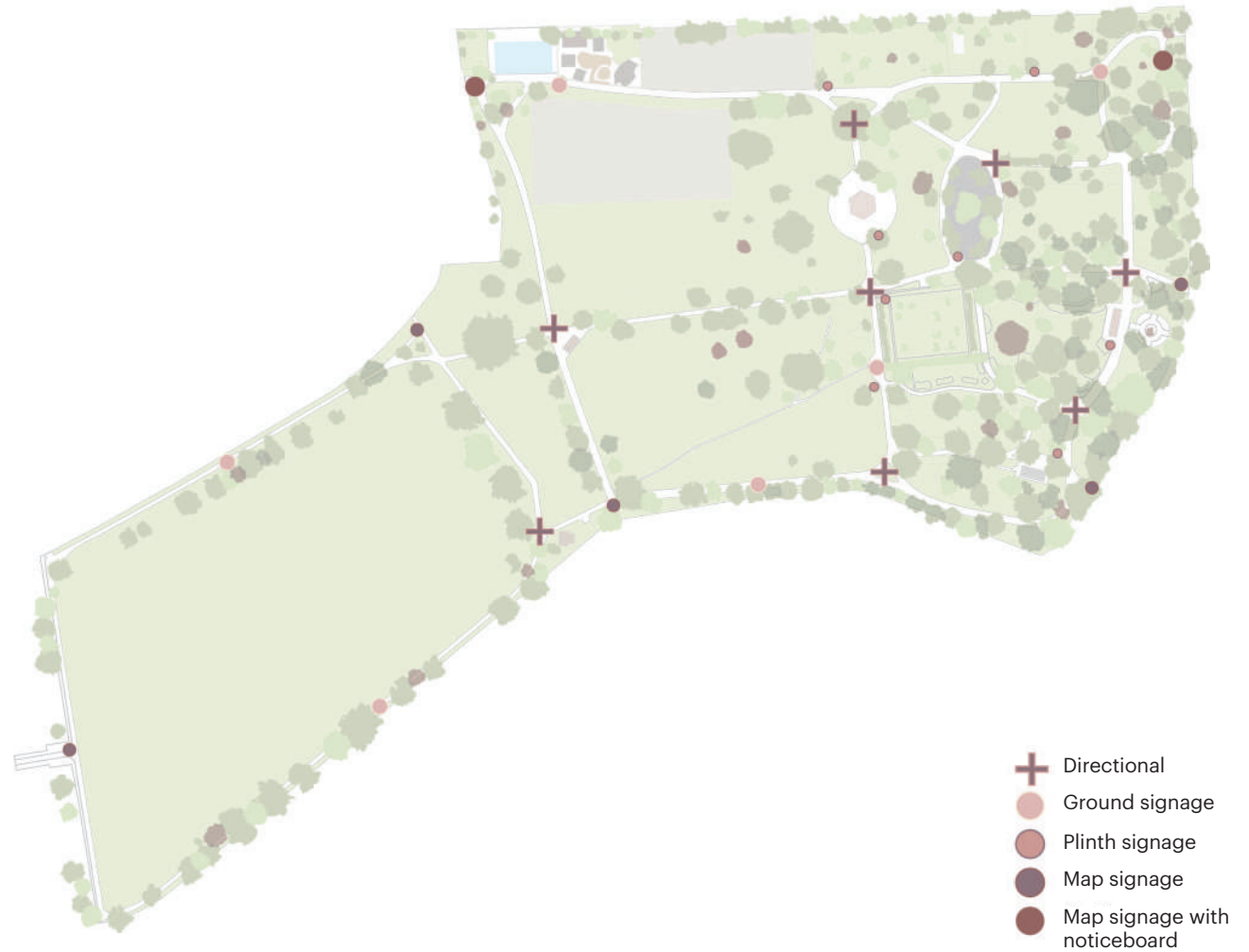


Right: Illustrative view of route through park

3.1.3 Simple Effective Signage

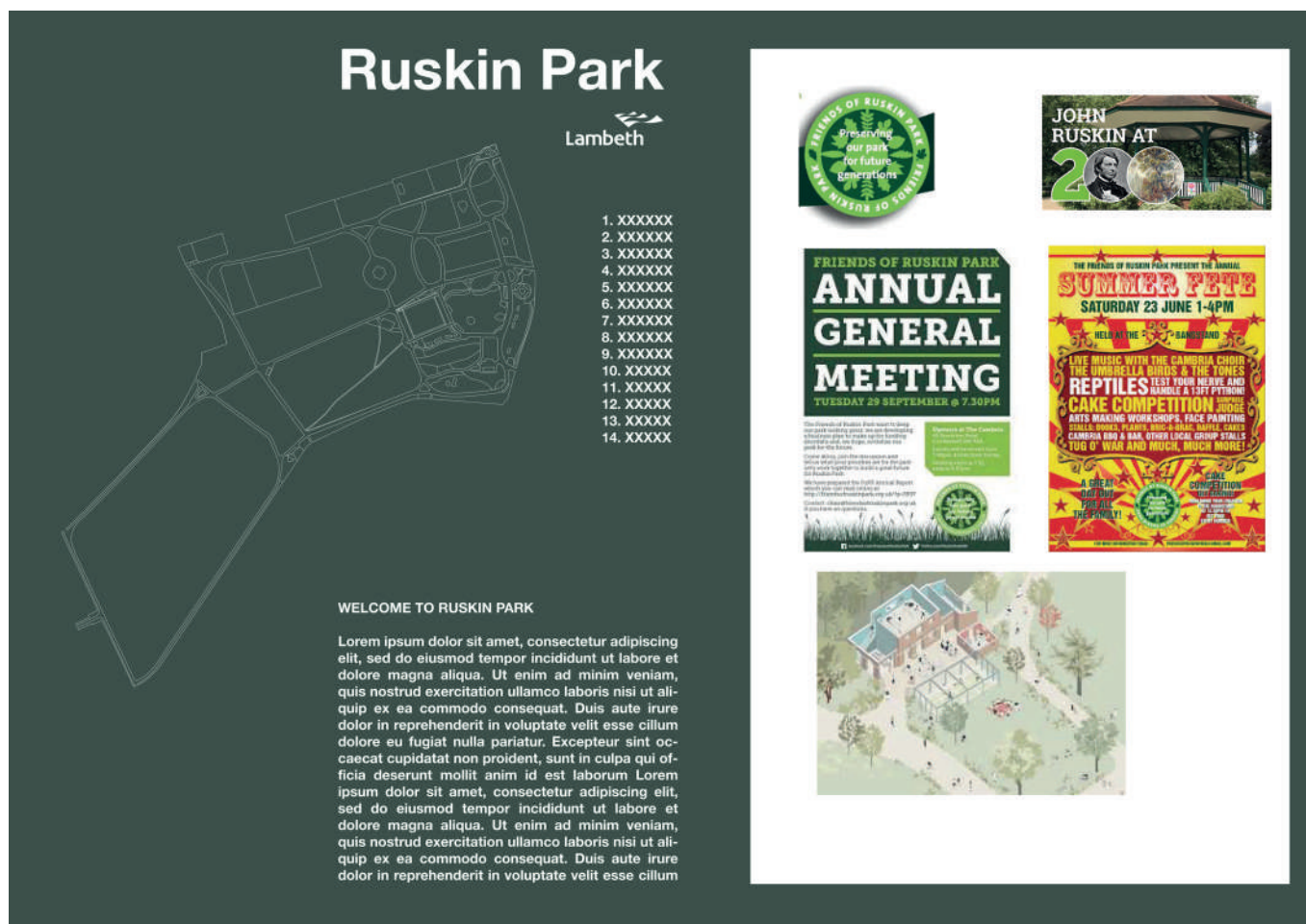
The signage around the park should take on a clear hierarchy. It is also important that Lambeth and Friends of Ruskin Park have a combined strategy.

We have provided a rough draft here of a signage strategy that uses the Ruskin Park green, Lambeth Logo and Font and keeps the design clear clean and simple.



3.1.3.1 Maps and notice boards at primary entrances

This allows people to orientate themselves upon arrival. Most new visitors will arrive at the primary entrances and as such these are the most crucial. It is here that there should be notice boards for events and ways to get involved in volunteering etc. The signs could include indicative opening times 'Open 7am until dusk'.



3.1.3.2 Secondary Entrance Signage



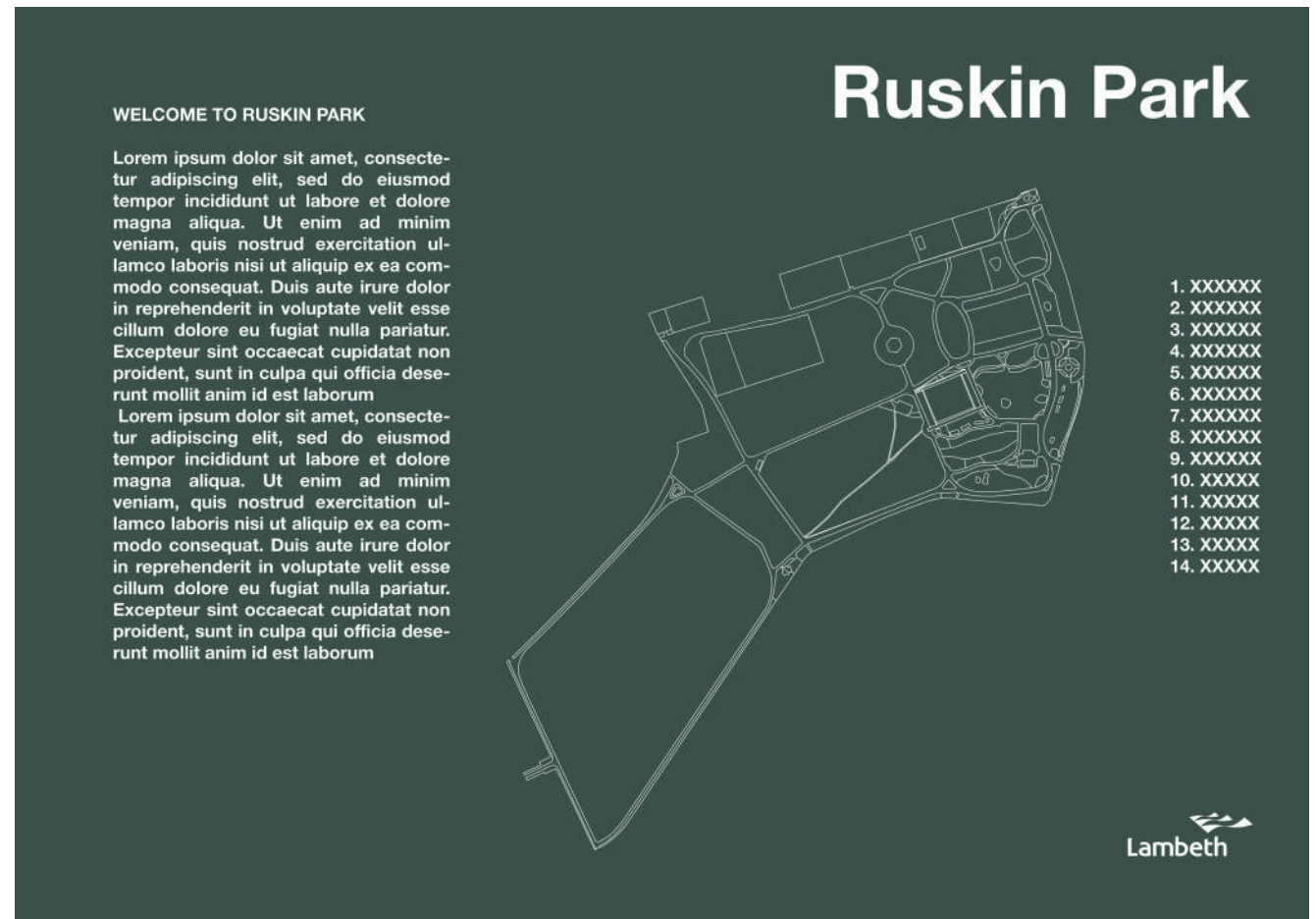
Fence sign - positioned to the left of the gate



Indicative entrance view



A1 notice board - positioned to the right of the gate



Map to be overlaid on existing map signs and installed where space permits

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Simple finger signs



Indicative ground and route signage

3.1.3.3 Directional Signage

Directional signage around the park:

Directional signage allows people to find the elements that have been pointed out to them on arrival as they work their way around the park.

Ground signage:

Semi-temporary ground signage is a good way to remind people to clean up after themselves and can also be used for other "polite notices".

Route signage:

Route signage is particularly helpful for trails such as the running trail, a potential cultural trail such as the John Ruskin trail or a mindfulness trail.

They can also have discs added to them for new routes etc so that they can provide layered information.

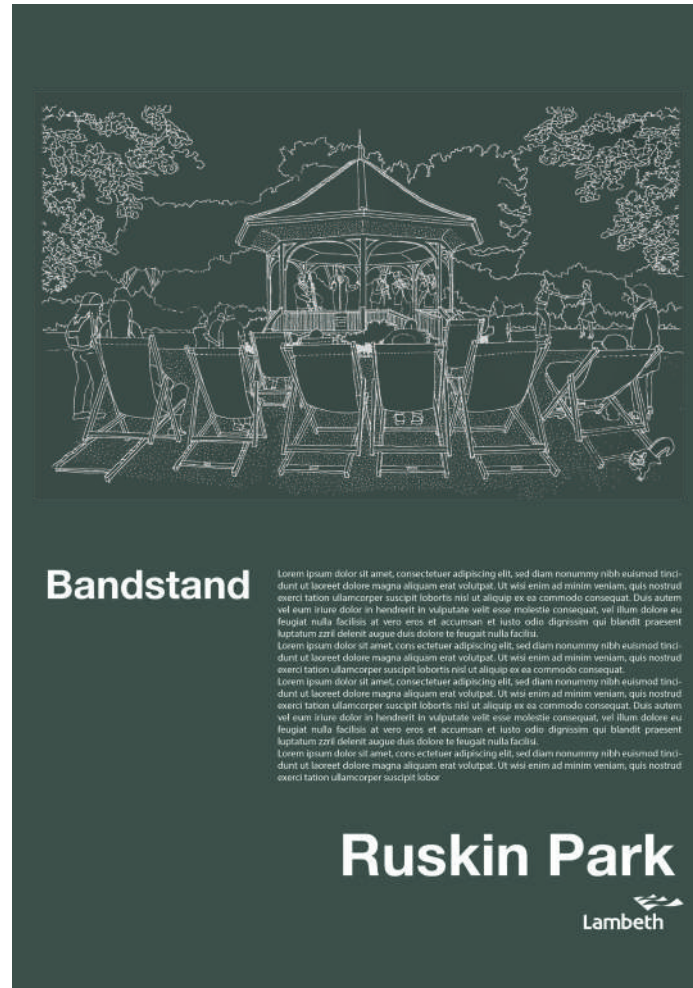
3.1.3.4 Informational Signage

Informational signage (on plinths) at key points:

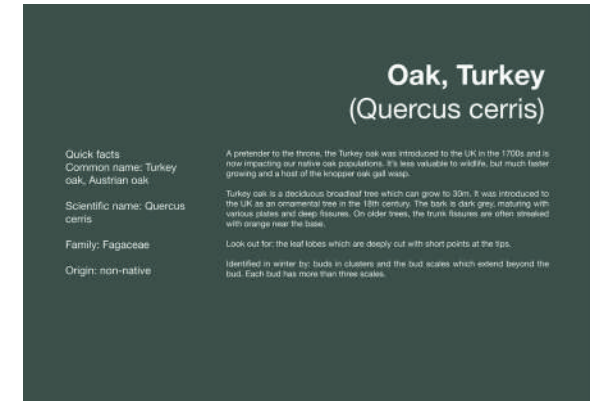
In areas of particular interest, plinth signage can be employed to give more detail about the park's history, or planting etc.

Specific signage:

Small scale signage that highlights particularly interesting plant and tree species.



A4 or A3 plinth signs



Species information board



Species small sign

3.1.4 Boundaries and Edges

We have thoroughly explored the boundaries around the park, including removing them altogether in certain areas.

We propose the removal of the fencing around the dogs on leads area. This fence seems to cause issues with accessibility around the park and cuts the bandstand area off from the more open areas of the park. The removal of this largest boundary will also help open up the running route and other potential trails as well as create a more open flow for events.

3.1.4.1 Dog Free Areas

To replace the dogs on leads area, we propose the installation of a small number of dog free areas instead. These would not prohibit people from walking dogs around the park, but would give specific areas that dogs could be kept away from other people. This will not prevent free and easy dog walking, but will keep specific areas more policeable. Dog free areas are also more likely to be adhered to in this format.



3.1.4.2 Boundary and Edge Materials

All fences should be uniform in character, but where this is not possible they should be painted black to allow for a visual uniformity. This also means that the railings are more likely to be able to be purchased off the shelf.

All courts should be fenced in the same mesh fencing, and should be standardised with Lambeth's to avoid discontinuity.

The Trapeze School would like to have temporary fencing that is installed when they are in situ. Permanent poles could be installed for the temporary fencing to attach to.



3.1.5 Practical and Plentiful Street Furniture

Overleaf is the proposed street furniture palette for the park. These are relatively cost effective, accessible and easy to maintain. Ideally these will replace the existing furniture over time, to provide a coherent strategy throughout the park.

Additional street furniture should be provided in the following positions:

- Sports pitches - to provide break out spaces for players and supporters
- Picnic benches near the play area
- Additional benches at the entrances
- Additional benches near key features
- In spaces with particular views, either long or within the park

The playing fields were highlighted for having insufficient furniture and a number of people highlighted that picnic tables between pitches would be a real benefit to the park. Street furniture in the focal points and hubs is also crucial to encourage engagement, particularly for events.

3.1.6 Lighting

If parts of the park are to be open for access in the hours of darkness, lighting in these areas will be crucial. High-level lighting along the main route and flood lighting for the tennis courts and 7-a-side football pitch would also be ideal. It will also be necessary to provide lighting to the area accessing the stable block for at least the hours that they will be open. It could be argued that lighting should be turned off after those hours, to discourage people from going into the more sheltered parts of the park at night.



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Street furniture palette



Standard bench



Standard picnic bench



Accessible bench with additional arm rests



Picnic benches with wheelchair space



3.2m Victorian street light



Litter bin

Benches should be RAL 6009 (Ruskin Park Green)

Lamp posts and bins should be RAL 9005 (Black)

3.2 Engaging and Joyful

3.2.1 Hubs and facilities

A crucial part of the masterplan is the reinforcement of the existing hubs as well as new ones, in order to increase activity and engagement

The long-term vision is to enhance the bandstand area and facilitate larger events. The end location for a cafe is proposed to be on the current services yard which would connect well with the bandstand. Part of the existing redgra will also be made into a hard standing for temporary events. This can also be the location for the trapeze school and farmers markets etc.

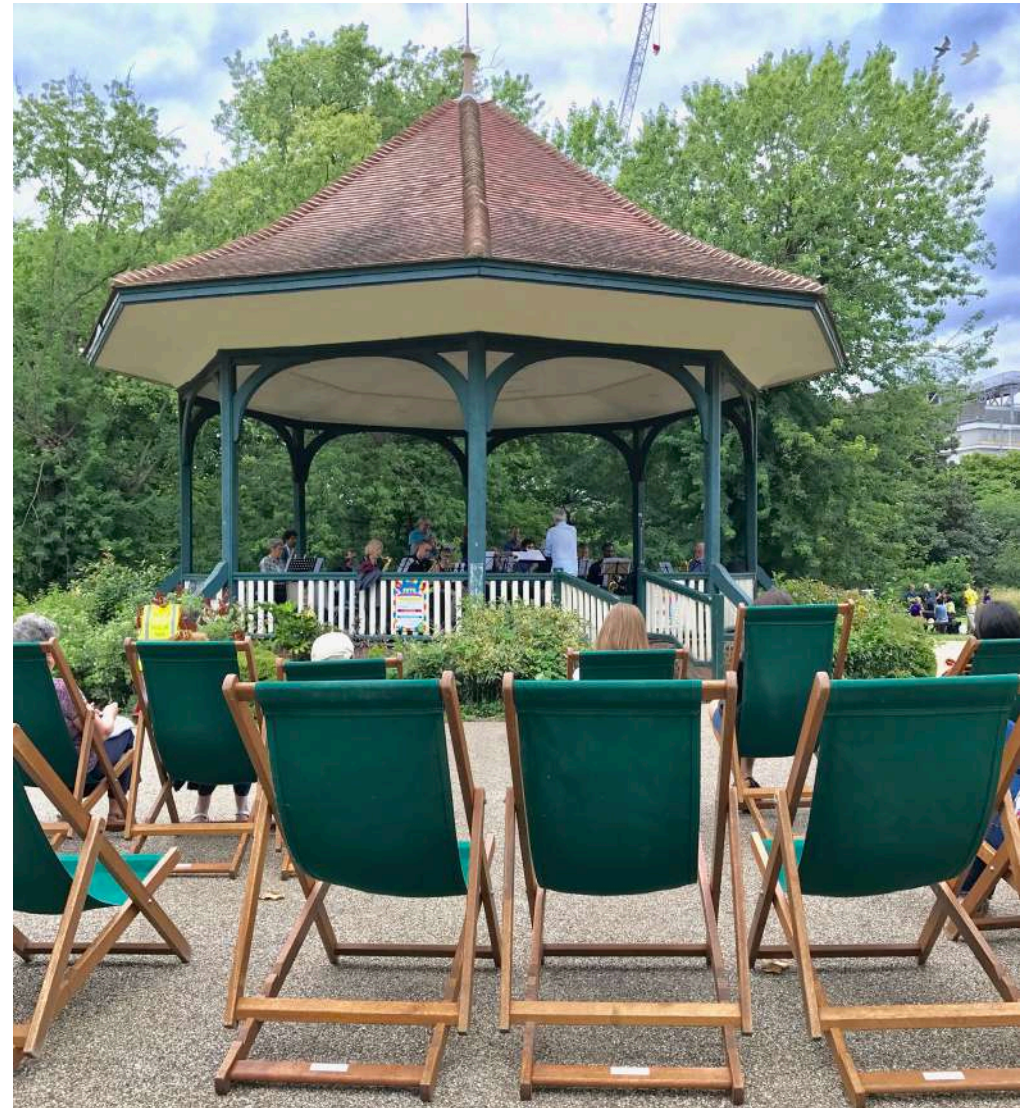
There are also other elements that can be considered as focal points, but these also fall into other categories.



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3.2.1.1 Bandstand and Stable Block

Independently of the masterplan issues there are two key hubs. One is the existing bandstand which is vibrantly programmed by Friends of Ruskin Park. The second is the stable block which is a planned redevelopment of the run down building which will provide a base for a flexible space for learning and wellbeing in partnership with SLaM.



3.2.1.2 Large Café

The position of the proposed café has been carefully considered as an activating hub for the park.

An existing kiosk is located near the play area and we propose this would remain, however we feel it is beneficial to locate a main café more centrally in the park.

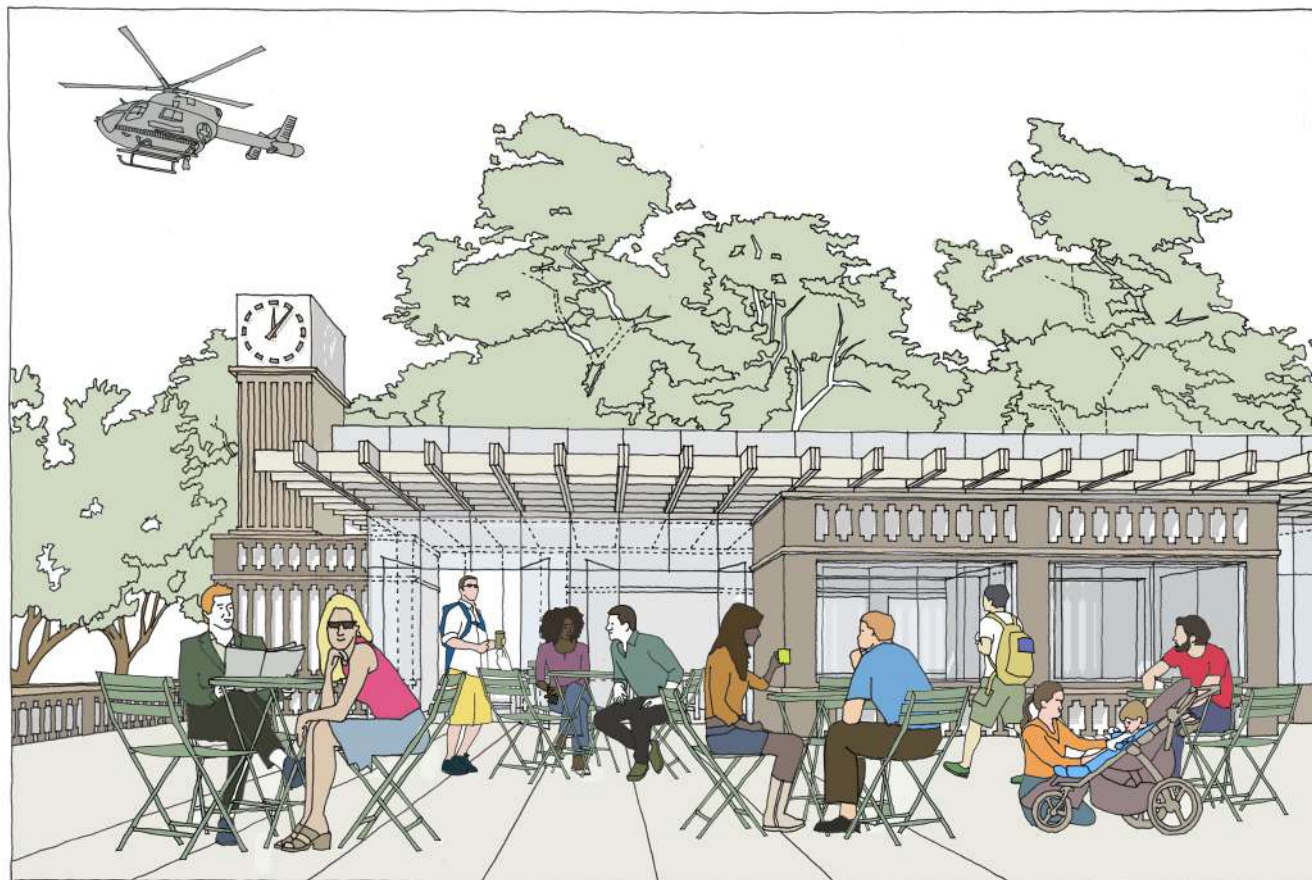
We propose that the service area and depot, which is now redundant, can be utilised as a site for the main café. This will open up and activate the main route through the park considerably and it will also provide an easy place for people from the hospital and train station to access the park.

The café would also provide support for events at the bandstand and proposed new events space.

The positioning of the café has been carefully considered. Both in terms of a business case and activation of the park, a location close to the Denmark Hill entrance was deemed most suitable. The depot site also allows for development without the loss of any green space, and the removal of the depot means there will be additional green space around the café.

The depot is also adjacent to the main route making it easily accessible.

Finally it allows the existing paddling pool café to remain.



Above: Illustrative view of the proposed café

3.2.1.3 Events Space

Part of the Redgra is proposed to become a hardstanding for an events space. This area can be used to activate the park and break out from other areas.

It is located next to the sports facilities and the play area and could also be used as a play area, including potentially Petanque.

At the end of the existing Redgra there will be a new events area. This will link to the bandstand which will allow Friends of Ruskin Park events to expand, but also for Lambeth to utilise the space for other events such as markets.



Right: Illustrative view of the proposed event space

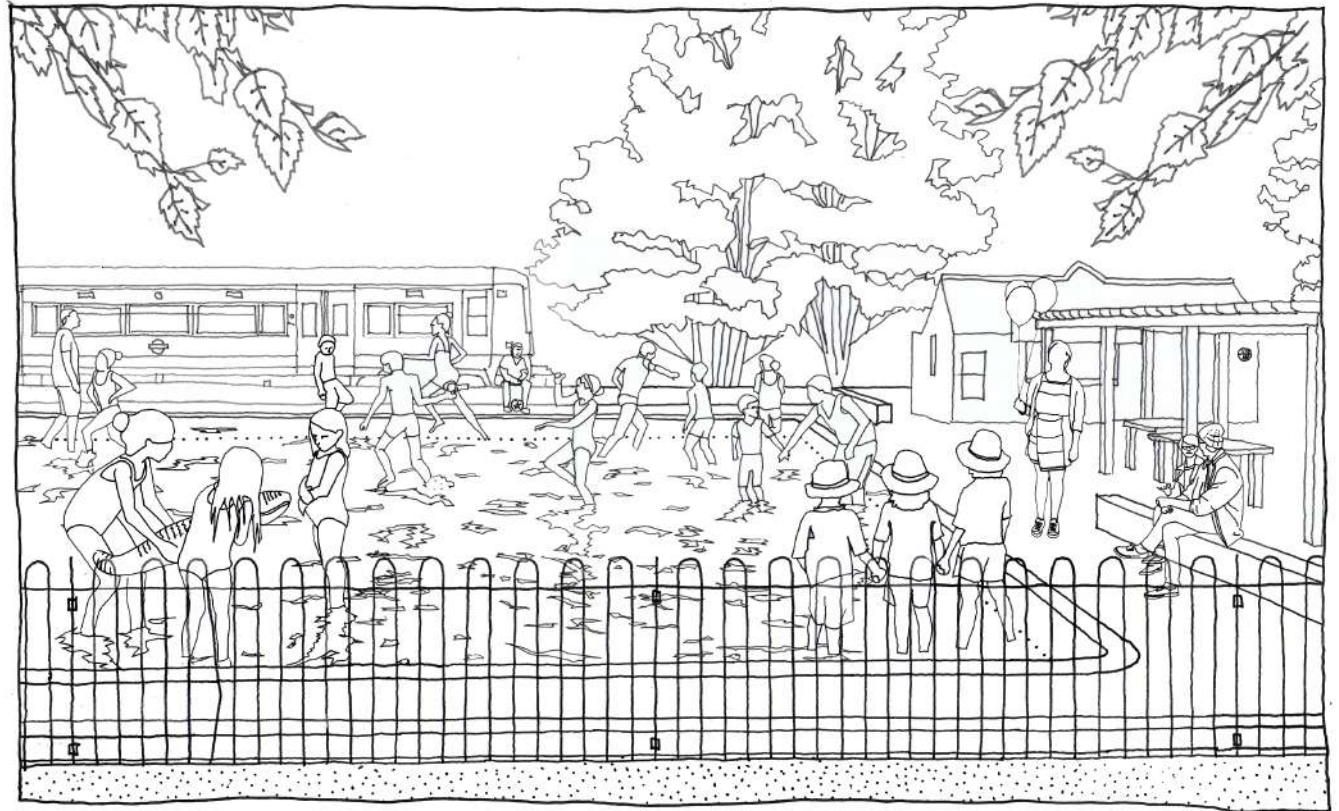
3.2.1.4 Paddling Pool

We also suggest that the park would benefit from enhancing the existing paddling pool and the cafe space, which would create for a smaller hub that feeds the play area and the other entrance space.

This could also provide enhanced facilities, with improved WCs and changing room.



Above: Paddling pool example



Right: Illustrative view of the paddling pool

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3.2.2 Enhance Health and Wellbeing

The London Borough of Lambeth has commissioned a Health Parks Report which has been an important resource while developing the masterplan. The key points raised in the report are completely in line with the objectives of the masterplan. As such the masterplan is designed with the view to facilitate the Health Park Pilot within Ruskin Park and increase health and wellbeing.

Campbell Cadey have a specialism in mental health and the public realm and these skills sit comfortably alongside the Health Parks Report.



Above: Activities for general wellbeing



3.2.2.1 Facilitate Better Mental Health and Wellbeing

There are various ways that mental health and health and wellbeing are already being addressed by the various stakeholders we interviewed.

The SLAM recovery centre partnership at the Stable Block is a very solid point of work for mental health in the area. There is also potential for other health connections across different areas of Kings College Hospital.

However, there are other elements of the park that would also facilitate better mental health and wellbeing.

For instance, the proposed enlarged community garden would be a good place for engagement. The bowling green could be further enhanced to become a sensory garden - people already use this area as a quiet reflective space and better maintenance and planting would help increase this. In addition, the Turkey Oak area could be used for contemplative activities, such as yoga and Tai Chi.

Considerate positioning of benches and other street furniture will also create places for reflection as well as encourage engagement.



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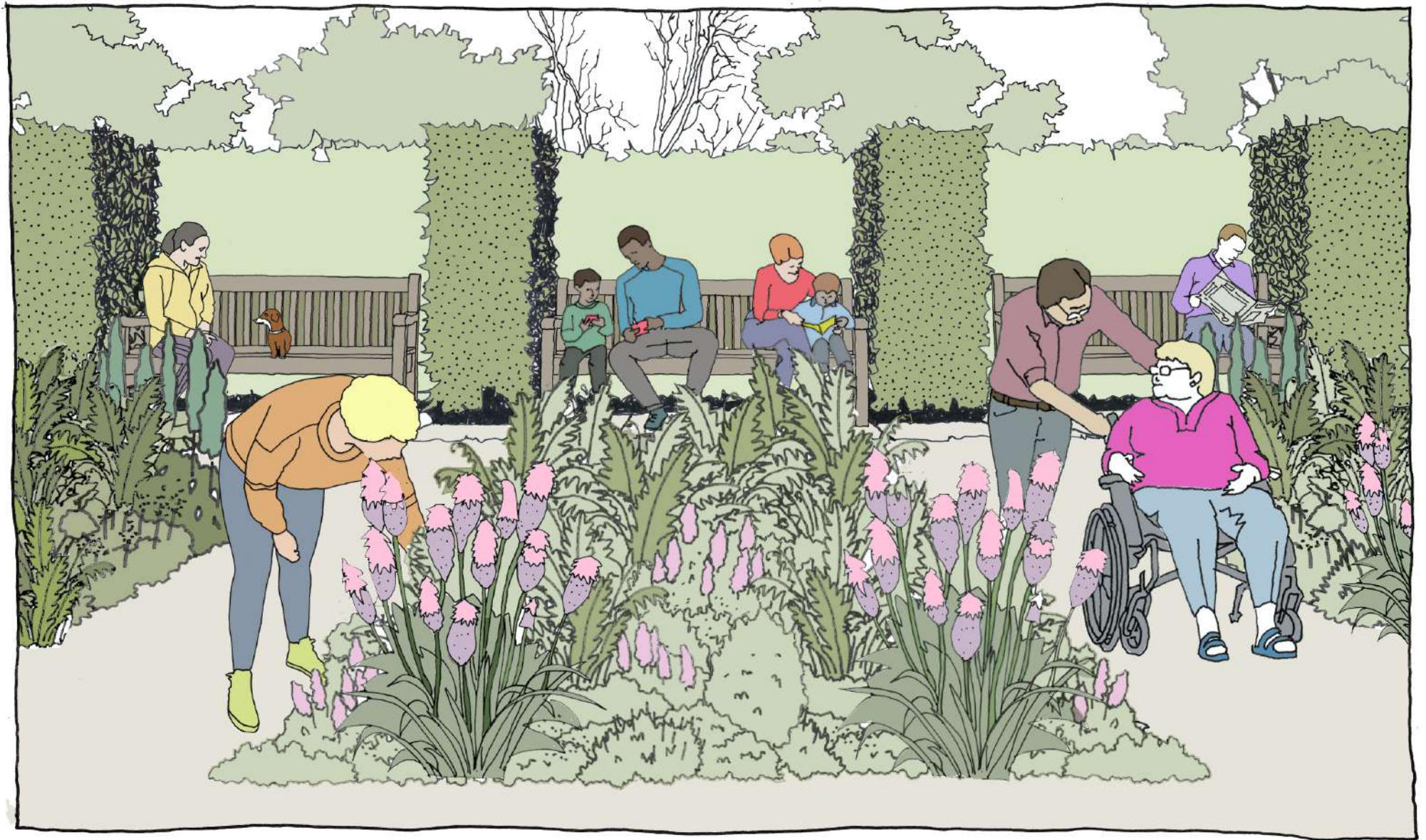


Above: Health and wellbeing activities

Right: Illustrative map view of wellbeing areas

Adjacent page: Illustrative view of the Labyrinth garden







Above: Illustrative view of reflective wellbeing activities



Above: Illustrative view of proposed slackline

3.2.2.2 Better, Well Managed Sports Facilities

The masterplan aims to build on the existing sports provision in the park that is already reasonably strong.

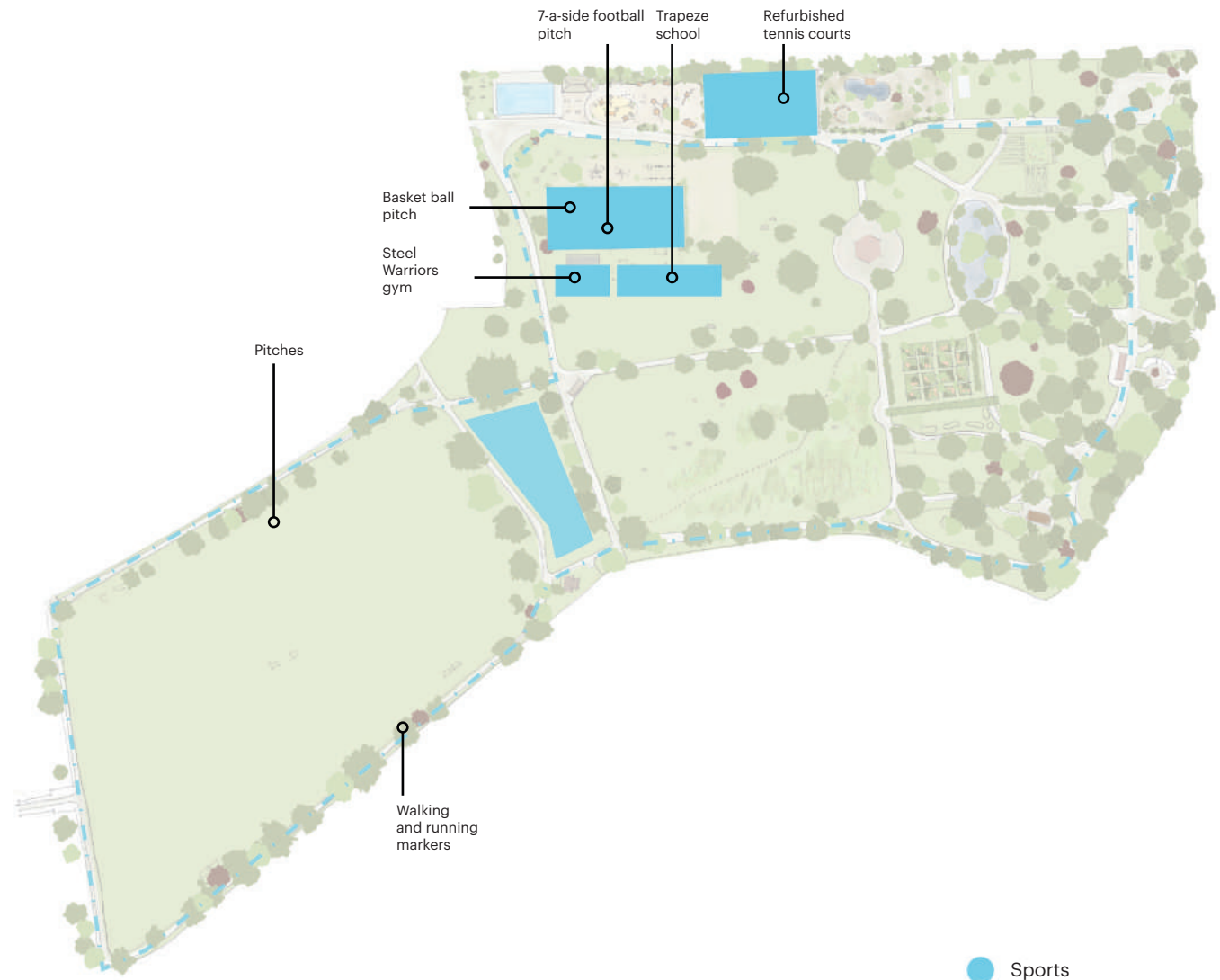
Members of Friends of Ruskin Park have already set out a sports strategy that outlines a number of elements that are being developed. Our role within the masterplan is to help position these elements within the park in a strategic and cohesive way.

As such we have set out two main sports areas:

The railway edge - this is the proposed location of a basketball pitch and a 7-a-side football pitch. The intent is to move the play facilities and the dangerous skate ramp and rebuild this area as a sports zone, alongside the newly refurbished tennis courts.

Historical road - a more tranquil health and wellbeing strip is proposed in the location of the historical road which will house further table tennis tables, wellbeing activities and slackline gym.

Around the park - a walking and running trail is proposed that will show different distances up to 5k, as well as bouldering which will double up as play activities.



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Precedent images of sports facilities





Right: Illustrative view of basket ball pitch.



Above: Illustrative view of playing fields.

3.2.3 Encourage Play

Play is an integral part of this masterplan strategy and was highlighted as a key area that could be developed as part of the consultation.

In order to provide vibrant play areas for multiple ages we propose extending the younger children's play area eastwards, whilst facilitating some older children's play to the other side of the East-West main path in part of the current Redgra area.

The aim is to encourage wider play so that there is a link between the paddling pool and the other play equipment further into the park.

This play area would then be supported by incidental and natural play elements around the park. Boulders and laying logs etc. will be used to provide different areas for activity that also tie in with the fitness trail.



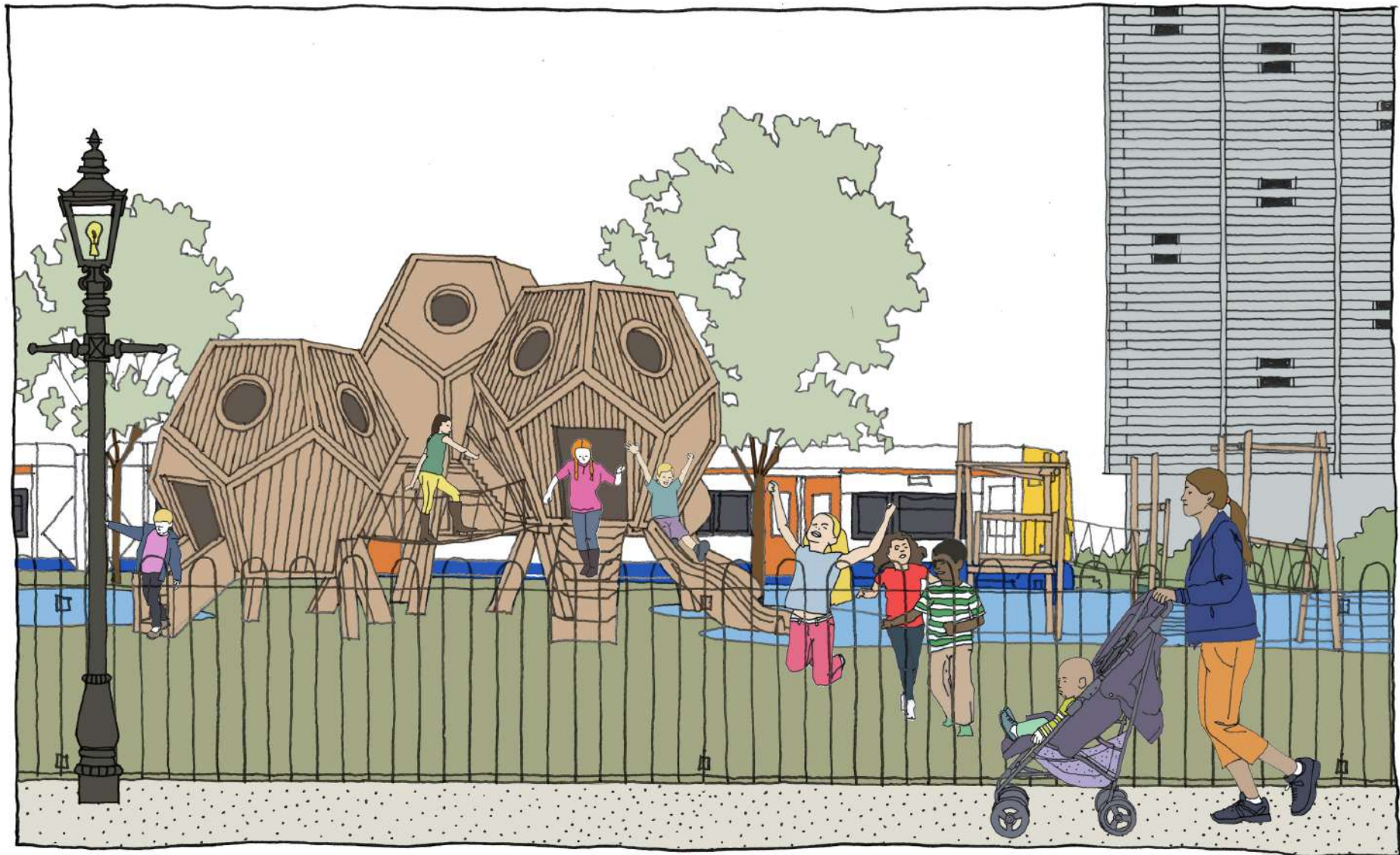
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Precedent images of play facilities



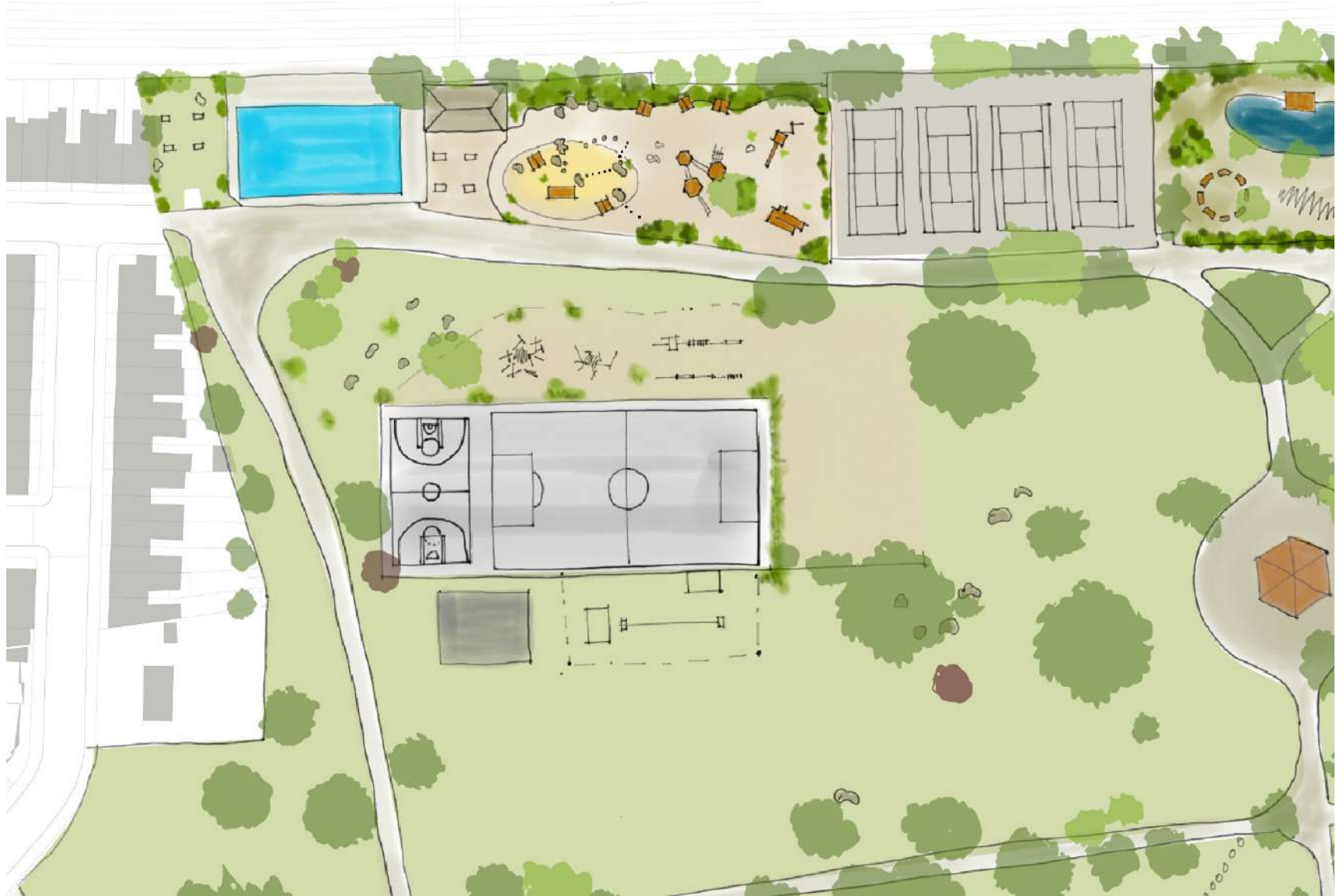


Above: Illustrative view of proposed sports facilities



Above: Illustrative view of proposed play area

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Right: Illustrative map view of proposed sports and play facilities

3.2.4 Celebrate Culture and Heritage

With the high level of heritage elements and cultural history within the park, the hope is that a culture and heritage trail could be incorporated alongside the running trail. This would enable visitors to learn about the history of the park, the connection with John Ruskin and other elements of the local areas (see Historical Context in Annex). This could then be supported by online resources and/or audio links.

It would also be good to use plinth signage to give information about specific parts of the park. The hope would be that the culture and heritage of the park could be made more accessible and further celebrated.

One immediate project could be the repositioning of the Mendelssohn Sundial to the bowling green to make it more prominent in the park.



Right: Illustrative map view of heritage sites

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Right: Illustrative view of heritage site

3.2.5 Sustainability and Ecology

A greater depth of ecology and increased sustainability is encouraged within the masterplan.

Better maintenance of the existing planting will encourage greater diversity.

It is proposed that any new buildings would be designed with due care and attention to sustainability and ecology in their proposed locations.

We are also proposing significant areas of long grass and wild flower meadows. These will be positioned in the field to the south of the park, where the wheat cultivation occurs.



Above: Wild flower meadow

Right: Illustrative map of ecology areas



4.0 Delivery Action Plan

4.1 Phasing

The masterplan is set out as a strategic outline which can be implemented in phases, as and when funding streams become available.

There are many elements that can be executed independently of each other, however the main changes around the play and sports pitches would need to occur at the same time.

The other key phasing element is for the café.

4.2 Funding

Friends of Ruskin Park and Lambeth will continue to look for funding opportunities for the park. The football grant could go towards the new 7-a-side pitch and associated work.

It would also be beneficial to instigate a significant memorial/sponsorship funding strategy, where plants, benches, boulders, play equipment etc can be paid for by individuals.



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APPENDIX I

Historic context

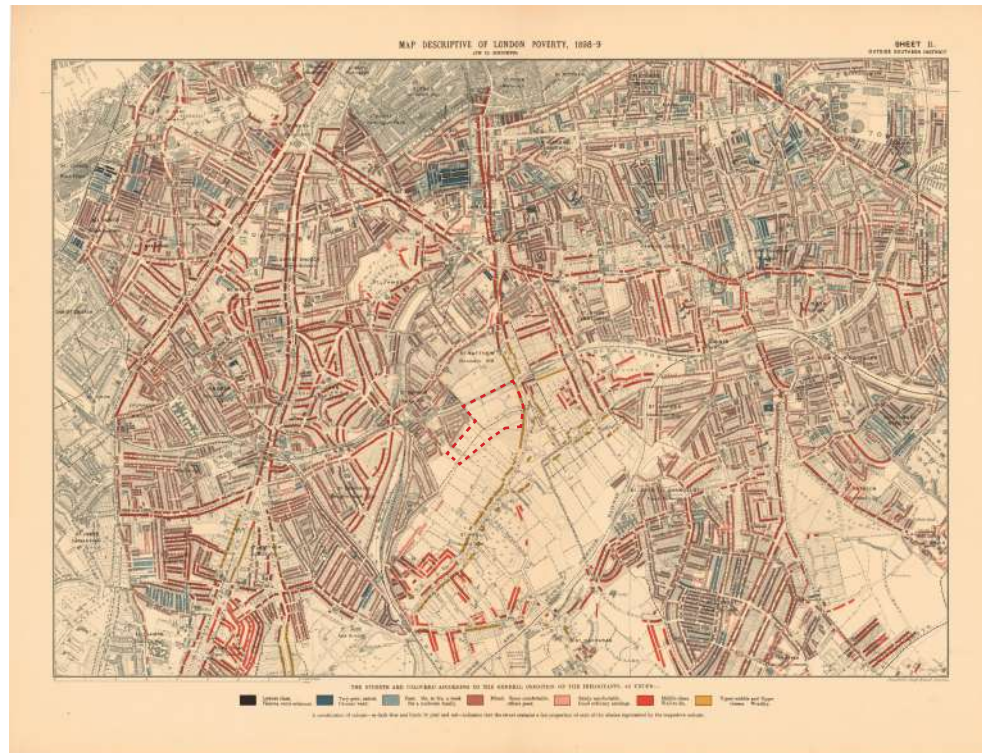
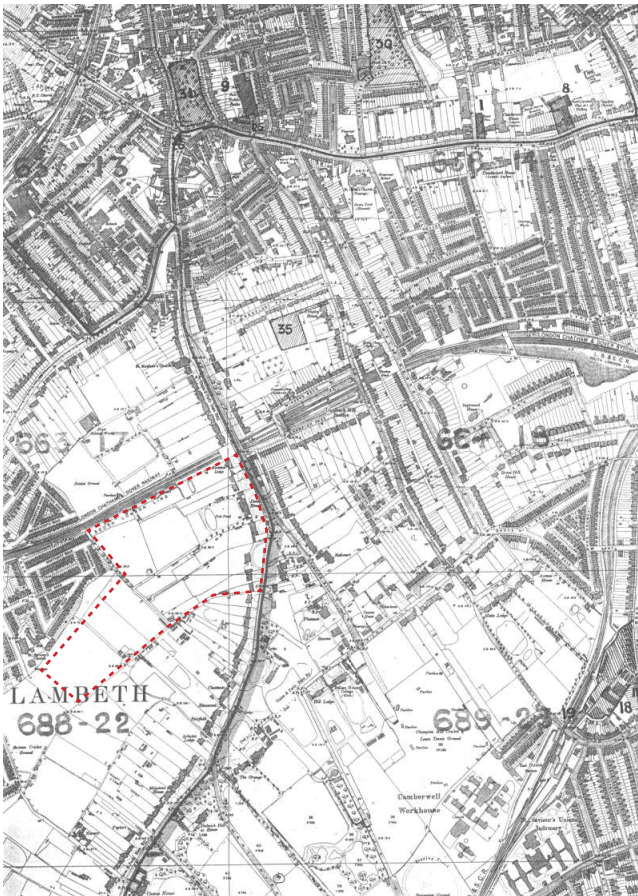
2 Historic context

When dealing with an historic park, it is critical to understand the historic context of the park as well as the current considerations so that any development can be done in a sympathetic manner.

This section looks at the context of the park, the historical elements, local precedents - both current and historic - that help us to understand how the park can be developed.

Below: Historic map 1894

Right: Charles Booth poverty survey map 1898



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2.1 Historic context and references

The transition from the Victorian idea of parks, as improving spaces for 'rational recreation', towards the Edwardian idea, that parks offer spaces for diverse activities, centered around active citizenship and social responsibility, represented a re-framing of many Victorian ideas about leisure. It also resulted in a redefinition of the role of municipal parks in the Edwardian city from a place for 'rational recreation' to one in which the individual citizen takes on a more active role.

J.J. Sexby was the London County Council's (LCC) first Superintendent of Parks and had a significant influence over a number of local park designs, including Ruskin, Kennington, Peckham, Brockwell and Dulwich parks.

2.1.1 Ruskin Park

At the start of the 20th Century local residents campaigned for a new park on 10 hectares of land in Denmark Hill. The first section of Ruskin Park was laid out by Lt-Colonel J.J. Sexby and was opened to the public in 1907.

Ruskin Park was officially opened to the public on 2 February 1907, but was enlarged in 1910 by adding a further 12 acres of land to the south-west, which was previously meadow land.

Ruskin Park contained ornamental and wildlife ponds and formal bedding, along with heritage features like the Portico, a wooden bandstand and a splendid collection of ornamental and native trees. The paths were of a serpentine nature that meandered through the park. Many of these original features remain in the park today.



Left and above : Historic images of Ruskin Park

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2.2 Local park character - historic references

Due to the historic notability of Ruskin Park, we feel that it is important to outline the historic context of the park and also the other parks that sit within the same original context.

2.2.1 Peckham Rye Park

Peckham Rye Park was laid out in a grid-like pattern of compartments and paths following existing field boundaries and woodland belts. A major part of the site was set aside for sports. Features within the compartments included an American Garden, an Arboretum, and an Old English Garden. The park was officially opened to the public on Whit Monday, 14 May 1894.

Sexby's layout catered for everyone. There were two acres for tennis courts, twelve acres for cricket, and ten and a half acres for a children's playground around the park. Inside the park itself there was a bowling green, a lake, ornamental flower beds, a rockery with a small grotto, an American garden, a Japanese garden and shelter and an old English garden.

2.2.2 Brockwell Park

Blades died in 1829, passing the estate to his wife, and on her death in 1860, to his grandson, Joshua Blackburn Jr. He planned to turn the estate into a park, but died in a mental asylum before he could see this happen. His son wanted to sell the estate for development, but the Norwood MP, Thomas Bristowe, took up the cause and raised the money (about £12,000), with support from the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association (MPGA), to enable the LCC to buy the park. Brockwell Park opened on 6 June 1892, with Bristowe tragically collapsing from a heart attack during the ceremony. When more land was purchased from the remaining Blackburn estate, between 1895 and 1901, LCC's Head of Parks, Lt Col J.J. Sexby was able to lay out the walled garden as an Old English Garden, with rose beds and topiary around a central pool. This is essentially the design of the garden today, restored and reopened in 2012.

Left: Historic images of local parks

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2.2.3 Kennington Park

Kennington Park Flower Garden lies within the Grade II registered Kennington Park in South London which was originally opened in 1854 and is included in the EH Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest as a Grade II listed park.

The Flower Garden was laid out in 1931 as the parks horticultural highlight, based on the concept of an Old English Flower Garden concept developed by Lieut. Col. J.J. Sexby of the London County Council in the 1890s.

2.2.4 Dulwich Park

Dulwich Park opened in 1890 with land set aside by Dulwich College, who offered 72 acres to the Metropolitan Board of Works as a desire to dedicate part of their estate as an open space for use by the public forever.

J.J. Sexby was in overall charge of the design and landscaping of the Dulwich Park and based his design on plans initially drawn up by Metropolitan Board of Works surveyor, Charles Barry, that included the wide curving carriageway built around the perimeter with a mixture of ornamental trees – ash, lime, plane, chestnut, beech, birch, oak, sycamore and elm –planted 14 yards apart which complemented the already well established oak trees.

A lake with water cascade, shelters and two lodges were built, and large areas set aside for playing cricket and tennis. An aviary was installed, which was still there until at least the 1980s, and a large refreshment house was built. An American Garden was laid out of rhododendrons and azaleas.



Left: Historic images of Dulwich Park

APPENDIX II

Consultation Process

3.3 Public Consultation

As part of our consultation we tried to capture some of the richness of the activities within the park and the current user groups that populate the park.

3.3.1 Stakeholder interviews

We had a significant number of conversations with Lucy Hadfield (Chair) and Chris Norris (Vice Chair), as well as feedback from the board of trustees. This process intended to broaden the consultation and identified a number of key people to interview.

The list of people interviewed include:

Kirsty Giles	SLAM Recovery Centre
Susanne Currid	Trustee and volunteer for community gardening
Tobias Hardy	Trustee organising fitness and wellbeing
Jess Owen	Local resident, park user and volunteer
Sue Gallagher	Park user and dog walker
Julie Simpson	Summer Fair Organiser
Suzanne Vincent	Paddling Pool Co-coordinator, volunteer and park user
Kevin Crook	Lambeth Parks Department

We tried to interview staff at the existing café, as well as other contacts within Lambeth, but received no response from them. The interviews had an open structure to allow participants to raise issues that they felt were important without us guiding them. Participants were prompted during interviews to ensure all areas of the park were discussed.

It was insightful to speak to people who have active and vested interests in the park - they were incredibly detailed in their analysis of the park. Participants were open about the issues they face, particularly when organising community events but also as leisure users. Generally, the themes of park maintenance and the need for better café provision were raised, as well other interesting themes that gave us a different perspective on specific areas of the park.

The adjacent plans on page 18 and 19 highlight particular points that were raised through the interviews.

3.3.2 Consultation day

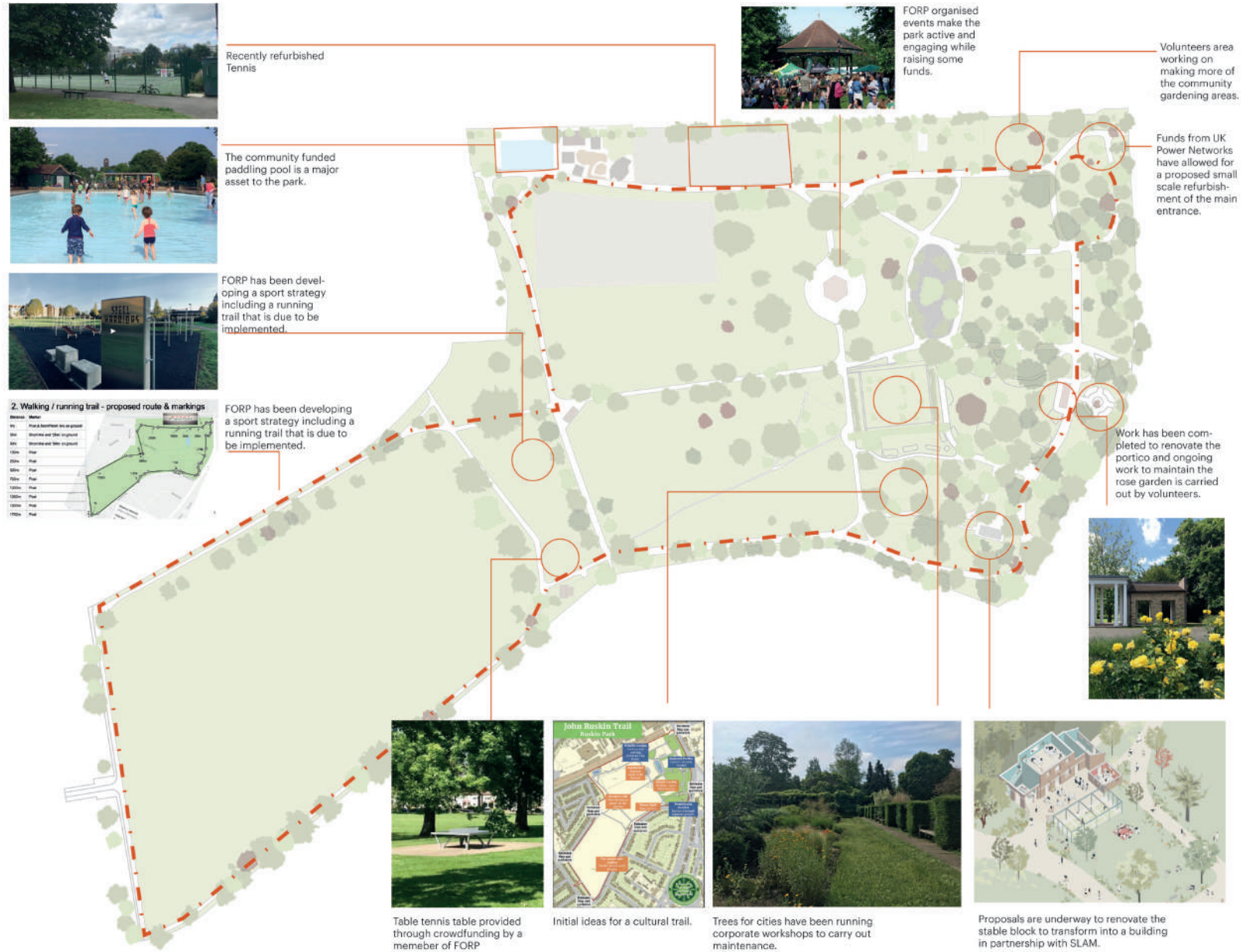
To broaden the net of input further, a consultation day was put together to tie in with the Ruskin Park Fair on 22nd June 2019. The Fair is a natural draw to the park so there was a level of guaranteed attendance and we designed a number of ways that people were able to engage with us on the day, including:

- A questionnaire
- Map post-its
- Ruskin Park Stories



Above and left: Undertaking stakeholder interviews

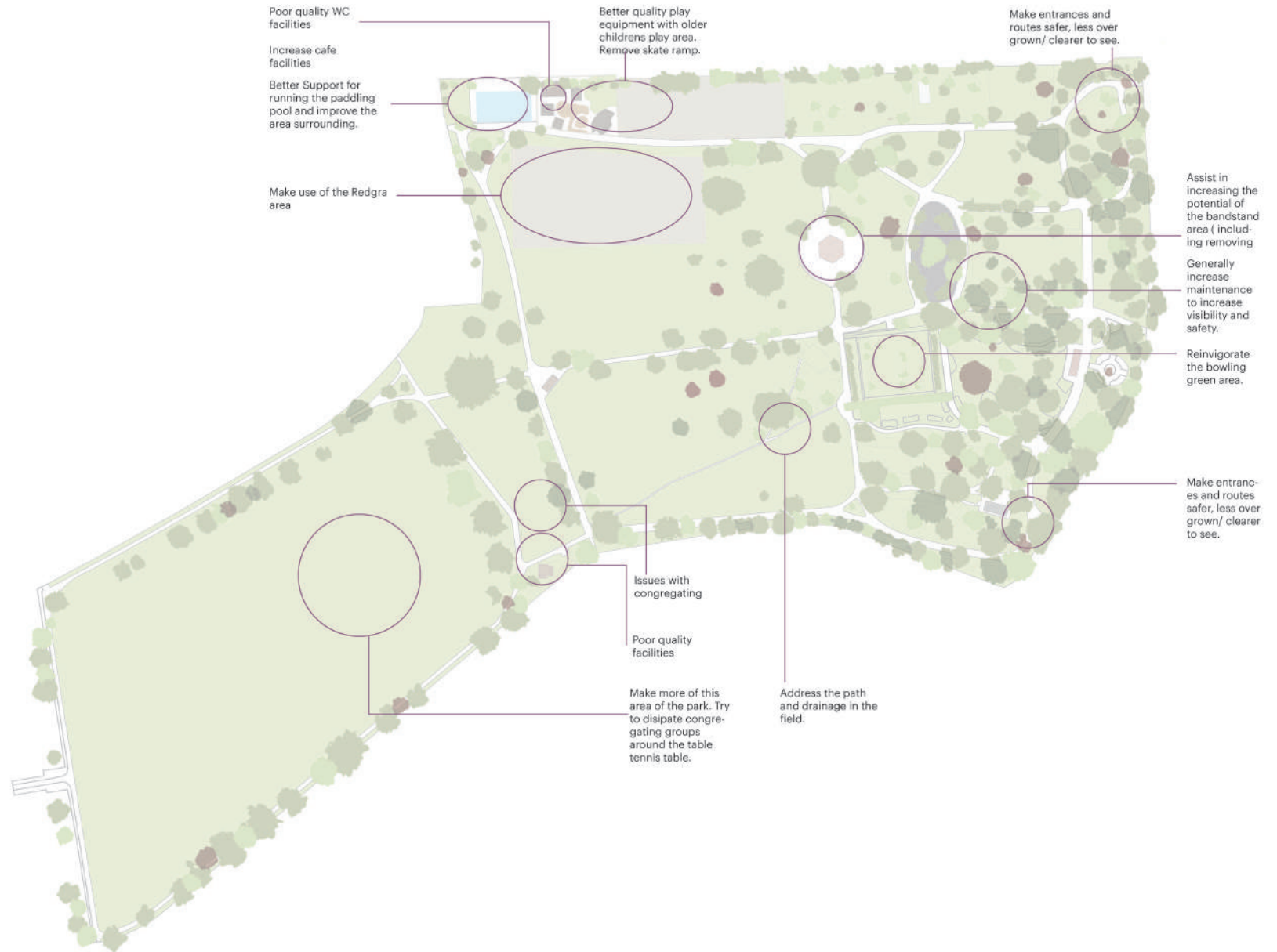
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This page:

Map showing the significant work carried out by FoRP and other stakeholders.

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This page: Map showing key points raised in the stakeholder interviews.

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We were overwhelmed by the number of people who wanted to tell us about their experience of the park, their hopes for it and how they would like to see it evolve.

Children played the story game to tell us who they were and what their favourite things about the park were, while 140 adults filled in our questionnaire.

The crucial element of all of this is that the park works well for all of its users. The master plan aims to put in place guidance for the various elements to ensure that the space does not become dominated by the view or actions of one particular user group, leading to the potential to create a more inclusive and cohesive park.

The following work revisits some of the elements that we looked at in the previous analysis and have explored these further, setting out precedent examples alongside work that has happened since that initial study.

Below:

Consultation day activities at the Ruskin Park Fair, 22nd June 2019

4.1 Legibility

4.1.1 Arrival



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Below:

Visual results of consultation day activities



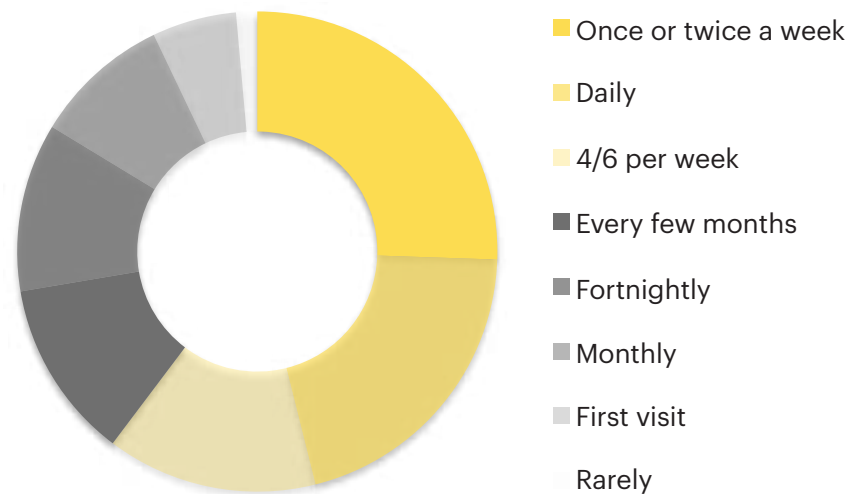
3.3.3 Overview of findings

We analysed the responses to the questionnaire to produce the following summary. Respondents were from a broad demographic - with ages ranging from under 18 to over 65.

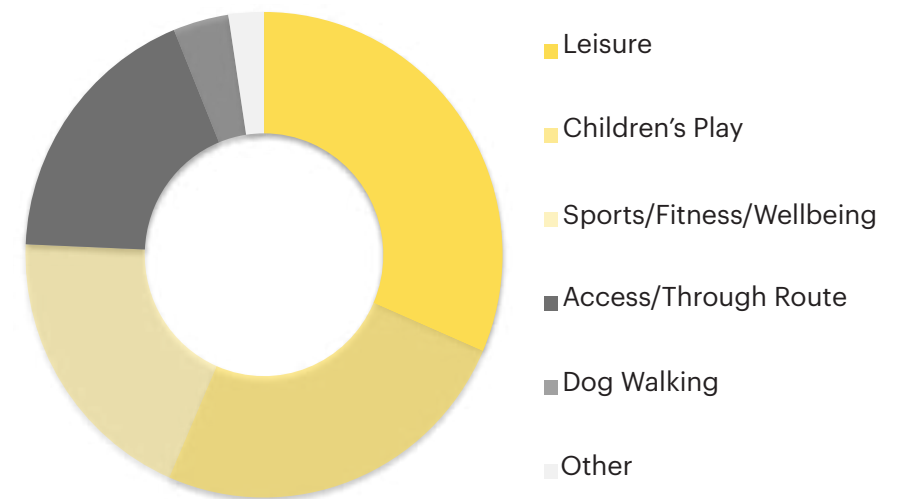
Highlights:

- 25% of respondents use the park once or twice a week
- The top three uses of the park are leisure (30%), children's play (25%) and sports/fitness (19.2%)
- Over 25% of respondents rated Peace & Quiet and Socialising at Ruskin Park 'Excellent'

Q.1 How often do you use the park?



Q.2 How do you use the park?



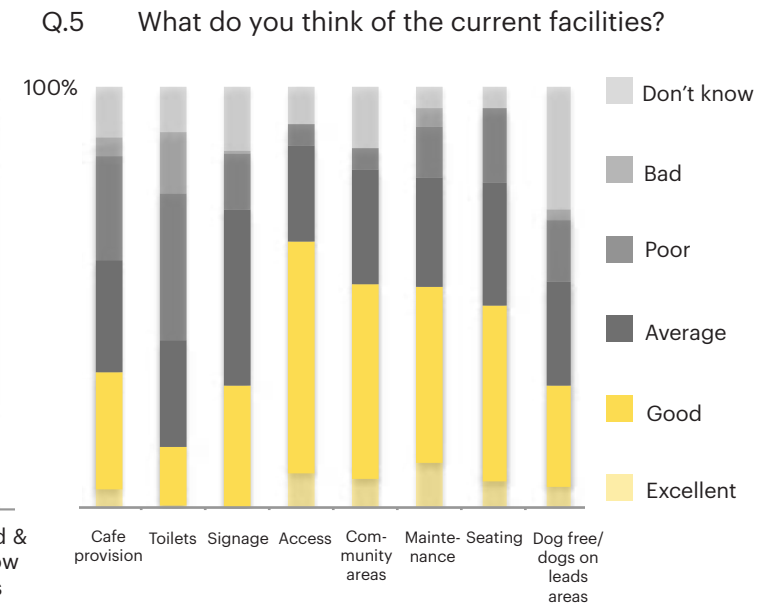
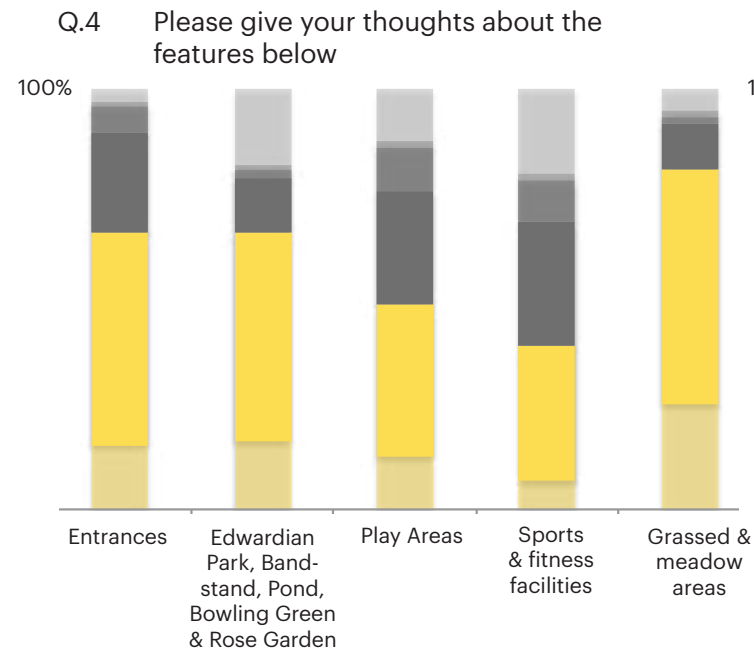
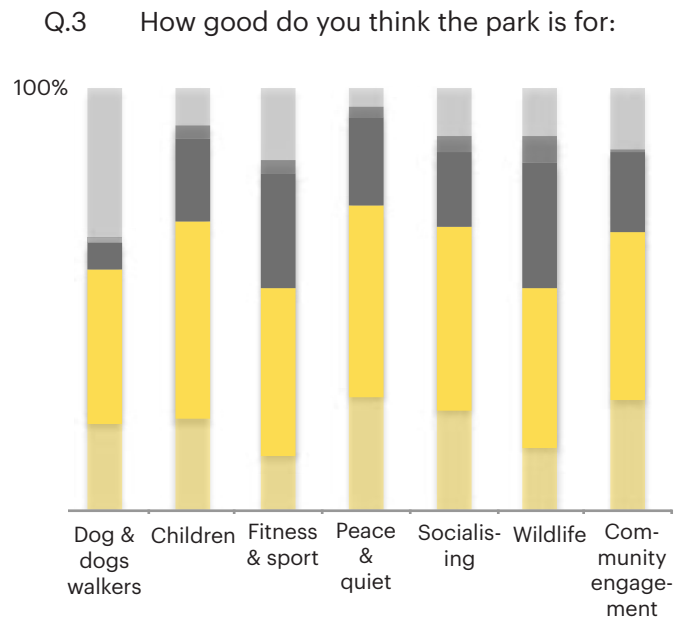
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"I'd like the children area to get a bit more love, it is not maintained properly. Also more bins!"

Anonymous, 2019

Highlights continued:

- 10% of respondents rated the Play Areas at Ruskin Park 'Bad'
- The top three features/facilities that respondents would like to see in Ruskin Park relate to the Cafe, Sports and Play
- 24% of respondents would improve Health and Safety in the park

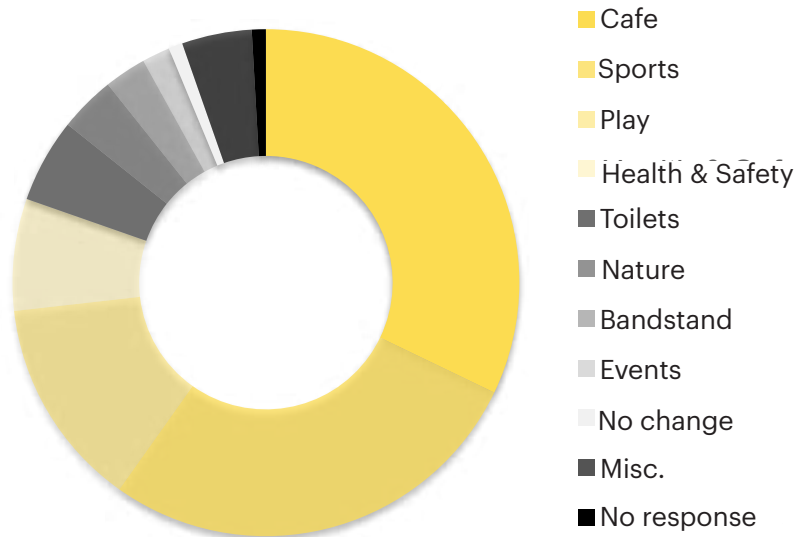


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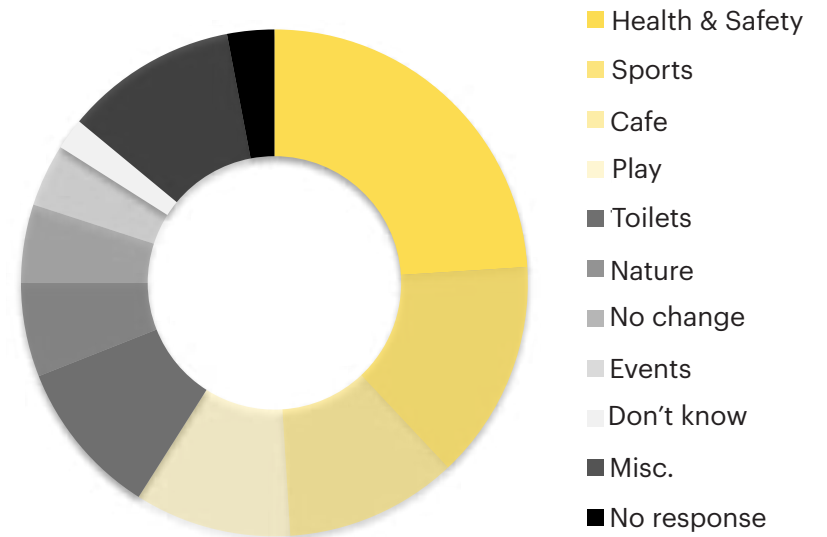
"Improve maintenance of Edwardian park, remove internal park fences and gates, more cohesive furniture and lighting strategy. Improve east west access/ lighting after dusk. Improve facilities - sport/ children's play/cafe"

Anonymous 2019

Q.6 What features or facilities would you like to see in the park that do not already exist?



Q.7 How would you improve the park?



APPENDIX III

Initial Analysis

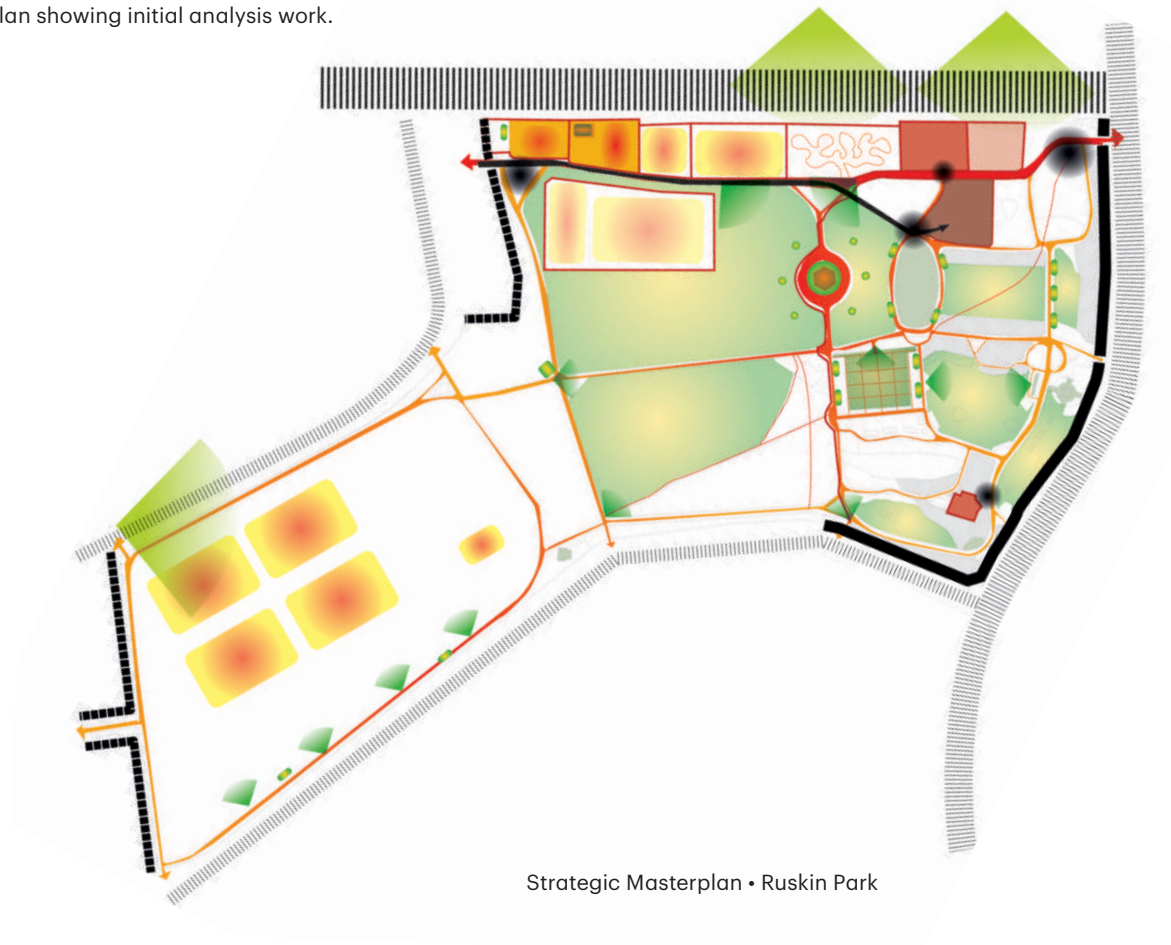
4 Making the Park Work

The arrival points were picked up in the previous report as being a really key area that needs addressing. There are current proposals that will be improving the main entrance but this is still only a relatively temporary update. There needs to be a better visual connection with the station and hospital to the main entrance. The current entrance is cluttered and cramped.

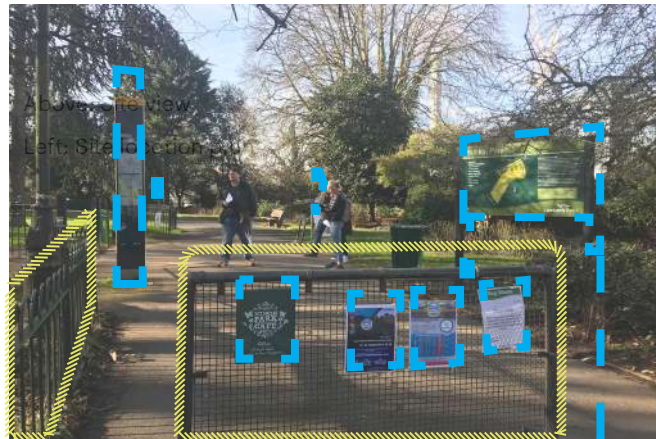
The smaller entrances are really not flagged externally at all.

Significant precedents exist that show effective park entrances as set out in the images below.

Right:
Plan showing initial analysis work.



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Mismatched and conflicting signage
Unwelcoming barrier

4.1.2 View and visibility

A sense of place is clearly connected to the views into and within the park. Our ability to engage with a space relies on a balance of legibility and mystery that makes a place. As such this enables a place to feel engaging and safe to use.

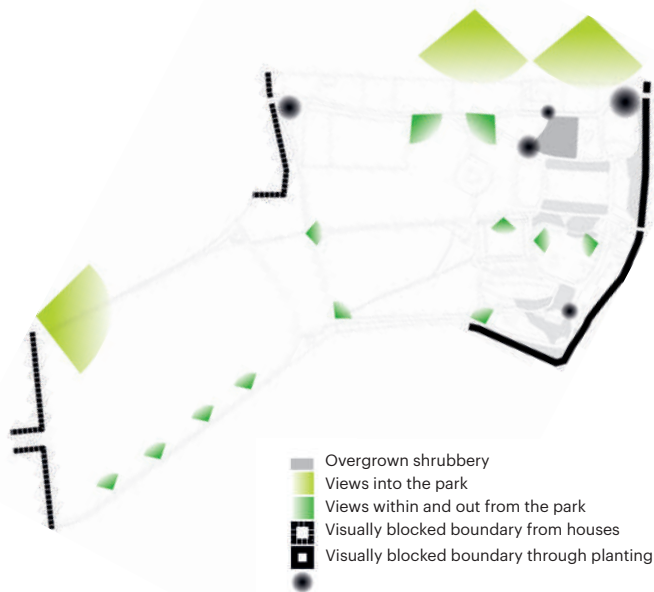
The park is blessed with panoramic views from the southern edge out over London and smaller views within the park. There are also views over the park as you enter from the west (Carnegie Library side) and outwards from King's College Hospital itself.

However, lack of maintenance as well as some design issues mean that some key views through the park are blocked making wayfinding tricky and general maintenance an issue. The park is very overgrown to the east giving few views into it and the Edwardian garden is illegible due to severe over-growth. This was mentioned a number of times in the consultation. The south eastern corner of the park near to the stable block is very overgrown with poor visibility leading out onto a very busy road. Dog walkers and parents of small children really seem to see this as an issue that needs to be addressed.

- Above left: Ruskin Park entrance analysis
- Below left: Ruskin park entrance from Denmark Hill.
- Below middle: Dulwich Park Court Lane entrance
- Below right: Burgess Park Entrance.



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4.1.3 Horizontal and vertical greenery

The use of mature planting of all scales is crucial in helping create an intriguing and vibrant landscape. Ruskin Park is lucky to have a high level of mature trees and shrubs, however they are often poorly maintained. Other local parks successfully intertwine the different layers of greenery to break down the characters of the space.

Dulwich and Peckham Rye parks both have clearly defined areas that provide more or less shelter and varying degrees of interest.

The American Garden in Dulwich Park uses the mature planting to create enclaves and clearly defined routes around all areas of the park, whilst still maintaining views through and clear sightlines.

Peckham Rye Park uses the mature planting around the pond, to create a more secluded area, while the Japanese and ornamental gardens allow for different characterised spaces within. While the Horniman Gardens by comparison is more manicured and uses fencing to contain some of their larger shrubbed areas.

Planting within Ruskin Park is often overgrown, but is very rich and varied with some truly magnificent

Above left: Legibility analysis of Ruskin Park
Below: Views across and around Ruskin Park



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species. One prime example is the Turkey Oak which acts as a big landmark within the park. The Friends of Ruskin Park have developed a tree map which details every tree on the site and has noted the species names on a variety of trees within the park.

4.1.4 Boundaries



Above: Overgrown greenery in Ruskin Park.

Below: Examples of similar features with better maintenance, using greenery to curate the spaces in Peckham Rye, Dulwich Park and the Horniman Gardens



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Above : Existing stable block

Below: Boundary conditions to the stable block

Below middle : Gated boundary from the bandstand towards the east west footpath

Below right: Existing Edwardian wall defining the original Edwardian element to Ruskin Park



As with many public spaces, Ruskin Park has a number of positions where boundaries have been put in place to govern usage. There is no visual consistency to these boundaries and they are often confusing and unwelcoming.

- The dogs on leads areas are bounded around the Edwardian part of the park, with gates in a number of places, but this boundary significantly divides the park. A number of people raised this as an issue during the consultation, for instance dog walkers can get trapped on the other side of the fence to their dog, and events organisers state that the boundaries separate the main area around the bandstand.
- Sports facilities and the redgra area are gated with high level, poorly maintained mesh fencing, that lines the main route through the park. The playground and lido also have poor quality boundaries.
- There are also fences around the community and wildlife gardens and the Trees for Cities area which are all mismatched and give little indication about access.
- The original Edwardian wall provides a boundary which is visually interesting and does not obscure the view or disrupt movement within the park.

4.1.5 Way-finding & signage



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Wayfinding throughout the park is patchy and a clearer hierarchy of signage would be highly beneficial. There have already been some ideas put together by Friends of Ruskin Park for ways that this can be dealt with.

A particularly good local precedent example for signage is the Horniman Gardens where spaces are clearly marked and designed.

4.1.6 Paving and paths

This page: Examples of existing signage in Ruskin Park

Opposite page: Examples of signage at the Horniman museum, Dulwich Park and the Horniman Gardens



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The paving throughout the park is not in good repair and is often patchy. There is no obvious hierarchy of paving routes in terms of materiality and some of the paths require full relaying.

There are a number of desire lines across the park which are often left very muddled. This is a common issue in parks and in some instances desire lines have been formalised. One desire line across Peckham Rye was made a full path while another is still informal but kept completely clear.

4.1.7 Lighting

There is currently no active lighting in the park as the park is not left open beyond dusk however there are a series of redundant Victorian lighting columns. However, plans are in place to increase opening hours and as such better lighting should be introduced.

Peckham Rye has an area that is open 24 hours and is well lit to feel safe to use while avoiding light pollution.

4.2 Hub, Focal Points and Points of Interest

Left: An example of existing lighting in Ruskin Park

Below: Examples of night-time lighting at Peckham Rye Park



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There is a natural main hub to the park in the form of the bandstand around which many key activities within the park are focused. This is currently bounded by the fence that separates the Edwardian park with the dogs on leads area from the open spaces adjacent. More could be made of this area in terms of activating the park.

As well as the main hub, there are a number of other focal points, including the Lido, the playground and some of the cultural elements of the park. However these appear to be quite disparate.

The stable block redevelopment, which is likely to happen in conjunction with SLAM, will transform the South-eastern corner of the park, providing another hub or large focal point depending upon the activities likely to take place within.

4.3 Street furniture

Above & left: Ruskin Park Lido and cafe kiosk
 Below left: Edwardian bandstand
 Below middle: The recently restored portico
 Below right: Concept proposals for the stable block



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The street furniture within the park is currently in fairly poor condition and is mismatched. There is now a specific bench and colour for all future benches which will start to create a uniformed identity.

The public consultation has picked up on the need for improvements in street furniture and there are various ways that this can be approached.

4.4 Play, Sport and Wellbeing



Left: The new standard bench to be installed at Ruskin Park
Below: Examples of existing street furniture around Ruskin Park



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Above: Proposals for new facilities at Ruskin Park.

Below: Examples of other sports and recreational facilities in local parks.



4.4.1 Sports facilities

Sports facilities in Ruskin Park were flagged by the consultation as requiring improvement. There are already a number of things that have been worked on since the original study. These include:

- Resurfacing of the existing tennis courts
- A grant has been applied for to provide a football pitch
- A running trail is being implemented
- An outdoor gym is due to be installed towards the end of the summer

It is crucial however that these are implemented in a clear and strategic way rather than disrupting the overall park strategy.

Other local parks have successfully implemented a varied level of sport and leisure activity. Burgess Park uses its scale to incorporate a variety of sports facilities, while Eythorne Park (a newly constructed park towards Myatts Fields) uses boulders and logs for alternative physical activity. Dulwich Park has different styles of outdoor gym equipment on the running circuit, whilst Cleaver Square in Kennington has a well used petanque area.

4.4.2 Play



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Above: Existing children's play facilities in Ruskin Park

Below:
Examples of the local play facilities from left to right,
Myatts Fields, Burgess Park & Peckham Rye Park



The play facilities have also been flagged as requiring improvement. The play equipment which was upgraded some years ago is in need of updating and there is little to no equipment for older children. The skate ramp which was donated from another park has become a place that older children play, but it is dangerous, poorly maintained and its location is not maximising the opportunities for this area.

There are some extraordinary play precedents in the local area and it would be good to see Ruskin Park have the same level of investment.

Local parks with interesting play include Burgess Park, Brockwell Park and Peckham Rye Park.

4.5 Culture and Heritage

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The Park is entrenched with cultural and historical references and pieces. There have been a series of events this year, based around the life of John Ruskin which had hoped to incorporate a trail.

The Edwardian park has a number of significant features, including the recently renovated Portico and the Sundial, and the fact that the garden itself is designed by J.J. Sexby has some particular historic value.

- Above left : Mendelson sundial.
- Below left: The refurbished Portico
- Below: Draft cultural trail for Ruskin Park,
- Below right: Stainless steel nature trail signage at Kennington Park.

