

## The Royal Parks Sustainability Policy

The Royal Parks charity manages over 5,000 acres of historic parkland and open spaces across London. This includes eight Royal parks: Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park, The Green Park, The Regent's Park & Primrose Hill, Richmond Park, Greenwich Park and Bushy Park. The charity also manages other important green spaces in London, including Victoria Tower Gardens and Brompton Cemetery. The eight Royal Parks have been awarded Green Flag status, which recognises them as some of the UK's best-kept green spaces and heritage landscapes. The ecological quality of the Royal Parks is recognised through a number of international, national and local nature conservation designations.

We believe that all aspects of our operation should be carried out in a way that seeks opportunities to enhance quality, minimises adverse impacts on the environment, whilst maintaining the economic viability of the parks. Therefore, we have developed a [Sustainability Strategy](#) that focuses on four key pillars:

- Conserve and enhance the unique landscapes, built heritage & biodiversity
- Improve our parks for people, learning, fairness and wellbeing
- Mitigate our impacts and adapt to climate change impacts
- Achieve sustainable growth - providing environmentally excellent and financially viable green spaces to the public

Within these sustainability pillars, our key commitments include:

- Effective conservation and enhancement of landscape, wildlife and buildings.
- Calculating our carbon footprint year on year to decide where to focus our carbon reduction efforts, whilst implementing projects already identified to reduce emissions. Consider what carbon reduction targets TRP should set for the next 2 years.
- Promoting sustainability and climate emergency messages through learning and engagement programmes for audiences of all ages and backgrounds in line with the recently agreed Learning and Engagement Programmes Strategy.
- Enhancing biodiversity through appropriate management of The Royal Parks and participation in Partnerships.
- Working with event partners to deliver sustainable events, ensuring everything practicable is done to: prevent negative impacts on biodiversity; prioritise waste avoidance and minimise both greenhouse gas emissions from temporary power sources and the use of mains water (except where mains water replaces bottled water).
- Working with Catering concessions to design more sustainable cafes and restaurants, reduce reliance on single-use items, source ethically and minimise carbon emissions.
- Exploring ways of reducing the use of natural resources and utilities as much as practicable, relying on borehole water where possible, and continue purchasing 100% renewable electricity.
- Investigating all realistic possibilities for reduction and recycling of waste generated by The Royal Parks, our Partners and Concessions, and transitioning to circular economy models.
- Prioritising active and sustainable transport, promoting these modes as a first choice for staff, concessions and contractors, where appropriate.
- Continuing to trial and implement the projects identified in the Movement Strategy.

- Ensuring that our strategic procurement decisions consider relevant sustainability and Modern Slavery criteria and requirements.
- Ensuring that all Royal Parks staff and volunteers are kept informed of our Sustainability projects and initiatives and understand their individual responsibilities within them and, where applicable, in the delivery of the Sustainability Action Plan.
- Consulting relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process.
- Working with others to share knowledge and good practice.
- Aspire to incorporate sustainable design solutions with our built environment, where possible, by achieving standards such as BREEAM or similar.

The Royal Parks is strongly committed to the protection of the environment and will continually assess all areas of our operations for potential impacts, incorporating the necessary procedures and controls to prevent environmental damage and pollution. We will comply with all relevant legislation, and with the standards and obligations to which we subscribe. We will work to achieve our goals and objectives and implement suitable measures to ensure continual improvement in our sustainability performance.

Ultimately, we are aiming to improve the health, wellbeing and happiness of millions of people visiting, living and working in London, now and in the future, by sustainably managing its parks in ways that encourage visitors to be physically, mentally and socially active, whilst protecting and enhancing what makes them special for future generations.

Andrew Scattergood

Chief Executive

31<sup>st</sup> July 2023