



# Hampstead Heath

Registered Charity



# 2018 - 2028 Management Strategy

Interim Review 2024



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# Foreword

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This document forms the interim review of the ten-year Management Strategy adopted in 2018. Managing Hampstead Heath continues to be about finding a balance between the enjoyment of visitors and the conservation of the Heath. We have continued to learn about the impacts of climate change, and the ways in which we can protect and enhance the outstanding biodiversity of the Heath. The COVID-19 pandemic has also enhanced our appreciation of the critical value of parks and open spaces to our health and well-being.

The past few years have seen the 150th anniversary since the Hampstead Heath Act 1871, which provided the foundation for the protection of the Heath as a public open space. It is now over 35 years since the City of London Corporation took over its care, and we are proud to be the custodian of this remarkable open space, and to work with our partners and the wider Heath community to realise the Heath Vision.





This Management Strategy fits within a series of interlocking strategies which guide the work of the Corporation, and which have recently affirmed the central value of our open spaces for London. The Heath is part of the 11,000 acres of open spaces within and around the Capital which we protect and manage. We hope that there will be good opportunities for further collaboration and mutual support between the different open spaces that the City Corporation runs. A recent reorganisation means that our own Heath team work as part of what we now refer to as the 'North London Open Spaces', a group of spaces encompassing the rich variety of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park, and West Ham Park. They are all run as charities, and their core costs are funded by the City Corporation.

I want to express our Committee's thanks to everyone who has been involved in this review of the Heath's Management Strategy. More and more people now regularly enjoy the benefits of the Heath. As my predecessor, Karina Dostolova CC said in the Foreword in 2018, we continue to look to find a balance between the varied, and sometimes contradictory, needs of the different user groups, activities, experiences and impacts. There will be time for our successors to carry out a full review of the Strategy in 2028. In the meantime, the review has confirmed that the priorities that were identified in 2018 still essentially apply. They reflect the views and aspirations of the many organisations, staff and local people who love and care for the Heath.



**William Upton KC**

Common Councillor of the City of London,  
Chair of Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood  
and Queen's Park Committee

# Executive Summary

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This Strategy states our commitment to realising the aspirations of the Heath Vision to protect and conserve Hampstead Heath to ensure it continues to enrich the lives of current and future generations.

The Hampstead Heath Act 1871, and London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989, provide the primary legislation guiding the City of London Corporation's ("City Corporation") management of Hampstead Heath ("the Heath").

The Strategy aligns with the City Corporation's Corporate Plan (2024-29) and contributes, in particular, to achieving the corporate outcomes to contribute to flourishing public spaces, a leading sustainable environment, diverse engaged communities, and providing excellent services.

Since the issue of the Strategy in 2018, the City Corporation has also published a Climate Action Strategy (2020-2027), as well as four Natural Environment Strategies addressing Nature Conservation and Resilience, Access and Recreation, Community Engagement, and Culture Heritage and Learning. This review seeks to align the Strategy with these updated and new plans and strategies, while recognising the primacy of this Strategy in guiding management of the Heath.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of open spaces to local people. This review reflects our increasing understanding of the importance of the Heath to the health and well-being of people. It also recognises the importance of the Heath as part of the emerging London-wide Local Nature Recovery Strategy and adaptation to climate change, often referred to as climate resilience.

This review was also carried out in the context of a corporate review of the challenges facing our Natural Environment charities to be completed in 2025. A key objective of the review is to examine opportunities to enable the charities to become more financially independent and provide a more secure and sustainable funding model for the future.

The Heath Strategy sets out four strategic Outcomes and ten Priorities which will guide its management and ensure we stay on track over its ten-year span. The strategic outcomes are:

- The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape by balancing visitor activities and conservation of its natural, built and cultural heritage.
- Improved quality of life for Heath users, facilitated by improved physical health and improved mental health and well-being.
- Improved social inclusion through provision of spaces, facilities and activities that are accessible to more diverse users.
- Responsible management is achieved through a culture of shared custodianship, responsibility and collaboration.

This Strategy provides our framework for managing the Heath and uses an outcomes-based approach to define the future state we aspire to achieve. Identifying measures for success will enable us to monitor progress and stay on track to realise our long-term goals, as expressed in the Heath Vision.

# Summary of the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028

| THEMES         | <b>We protect and conserve the Heath</b>  | <b>The Heath enriches our lives</b>  | <b>The Heath is inclusive and welcoming</b>  | <b>Together we care for the Heath</b>   |
|----------------|---|--|--|---|
| VISION         | <p>Leading Sustainable Environment</p> <p>Flourishing Public Spaces</p>   | <p>Flourishing Public Spaces</p> <p>Diverse engaged Communities</p>                            | <p>Diverse engaged communities</p>   | <p>Providing Excellent Services</p> <p>Flourishing Public Spaces</p>  |
| CORPORATE PLAN | <p>Nature Conservation and Resilience</p> <p>Culture Heritage and Learning</p>  | <p>Community Engagement</p> <p>Culture Heritage and Learning</p> <p>Access and Recreation</p>  | <p>Access and Recreation</p> <p>Community Engagement</p>   | <p>Nature Conservation and Resilience</p> <p>Community Engagement</p>   |
| OUTCOME        | <p>The Heath is maintained as a flourishing biodiverse, green space and historic landscape</p>  | <p>Improved quality of life for Heath visitors</p>   | <p>The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors</p>                                     | <p>Greater number and diversity of people taking care of the Heath</p>  |
| PRIORITY       | <p><b>PRIORITY 1:</b><br/>A mosaic of natural habitats is maintained and flourishes</p> <p><b>PRIORITY 2:</b><br/>Heritage aspects and landscape character are maintained</p> <p><b>PRIORITY 3:</b><br/>A balance is maintained between visitor activities and the conservation of natural, built and heritage values</p> | <p><b>PRIORITY 4:</b><br/>Improved physical health, mental health and emotional well-being</p> | <p><b>PRIORITY 5:</b><br/>Increasing social inclusion</p> <p><b>PRIORITY 6:</b><br/>Diversity and equality</p> | <p><b>PRIORITY 7:</b><br/>Increased sense of collective ownership and personal responsibility</p> <p><b>PRIORITY 8:</b><br/>Visitor behaviour is pro-environmental</p> <p><b>PRIORITY 9:</b><br/>People treat the Heath and other visitors with respect</p> <p><b>PRIORITY 10:</b><br/>Responsible Management</p> |

# Heath Vision

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The City Corporation welcomes and values its role as custodian of the Heath. We place great importance on its stewardship for current and future generations.

Extensive community engagement as part of the development of the Strategy in 2018 informed the Heath Vision which sets the direction for this Strategy.

**The Heath Vision sets out shared community aspirations for the Heath 50 years into the future, expressed in four broad themes:**

- **We protect and conserve the Heath**
- **The Heath enriches lives**
- **The Heath is inclusive and welcoming**
- **Together we care for the Heath.**

Everything we do contributes towards the realisation of the Heath Vision in the long term. The Outcomes and Priorities in this Strategy set out the focus for our efforts over the next ten years.

Achieving a balance between these four themes is critical to delivery of our vision. Since publication of this Strategy in 2018, our understanding of how the Heath contributes to health and well-being, biodiversity and nature recovery, carbon sequestration, flood risk management, and climate resilience has increased. We also have a clearer direction on how this contribution could be enhanced, providing a firm foundation to the Outcomes and Priorities set out in this Interim Review.

## We protect and conserve the Heath

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Our lives are enriched by this treasured and ancient landscape, a stretch of rolling countryside and wide vistas in this crowded city.

The Heath's varied landscape has been shaped by human hands over centuries and is carefully managed to conserve and enhance its unique mix of wild and natural spaces, rich mosaic of habitats, landscape and built heritage, sporting, play and visitor facilities.

Its magical ponds, trees and heathland that support diverse plants and wildlife thrive, flourish and remain resilient to changes over time.

The fringes of the Heath are protected from encroaching urbanisation with expanding green corridors linking to a wider network of open spaces to enhance biodiversity and improve the air we breathe.

The Heath is valued as a relaxing respite from urban life, a peaceful and tranquil refuge for reflection and recharging, where we can connect to nature and feel refreshed.





## The Heath enriches our lives

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The Heath contributes immensely to our mental, emotional and physical health and well-being, providing free access to roam in the outdoors, to pause and observe, to play, to explore, discover and learn about the natural world.

Connection with the Heath is life-enhancing and our lives are healthier and more active with opportunities for walking, informal recreation, active pursuits, swimming and sports. Our learning programme focusses on engagement and creating an emotional connection with the Heath, as well enhancing understanding and knowledge.

Experiencing the Heath's rich natural, built and cultural heritage deepens our understanding of our connection with nature, place and the past.

The Heath represents a constant through time, witnessing generations upon generations growing up and growing old, a place of cherished memories, rites of passage, the source of stories, and the family friend.

## The Heath is inclusive and welcoming

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The Heath is an inclusive, open access space that brings people together and fosters social cohesion. It provides access to a huge range of sports for all ages, genders and communities. It is a safe space with freedom for all to play, socialise, relax and keep active with minimal restrictions. Diverse communities are reflected in our visitors, staff and volunteers. Engagement is ongoing and perspectives, both old and new, are welcomed, shared and respected.

A diversity of activities and interest groups are welcomed. A balance for all is achieved through a culture of mutual respect, compromise and individual responsibility. The COVID-19 pandemic placed pressures on the Heath, in particular the damage to habitats; mainly a consequence of increased visitor numbers and the need for social distancing. This interim review seeks to strike a balance between encouraging access for as many people as possible and conservation of natural and heritage assets.

## Together we care for the Heath

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We are all custodians of the Heath and we strive to 'tread lightly', mindful of the potential impact of our activities. We learn from each other and collaborate to find a balance, ensuring the needs of the Heath community are valued and reflected. We entrust a skilled and committed City Corporation team to lead a collaborative partnership with dedicated and valued volunteers, working with an empowered and representative Heath community. United in our passion and love for Hampstead Heath we work together to realise our shared aspirations.

The Greater London Authority (GLA) is currently preparing a London wide Local Nature Recovery Strategy. We will work with the GLA and other partners to ensure the Heath continues to contribute to nature recovery across London as part of a linked biodiversity network.



# Information about Hampstead Heath

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Hampstead Heath is a 275-hectare open space. The City Corporation became the custodian of Hampstead Heath in 1989, following the abolition of the Greater London Council ("the GLC") in 1986. The Heath is a registered charity (No. 803392) and relies on substantial funding from the City Corporation, along with revenue generated through services, various grants, and donations. The City Corporation is the sole trustee of the charity acting by the Court of Common Council which has delegated responsibility in respect of the administration and management of the Heath to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee and the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee. The objective of the charity is the preservation of Hampstead Heath for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.

An island of beautiful countryside, the magic of Hampstead Heath lies in its rich wildlife and extensive sports, learning, play and recreational opportunities, and in its proximity and accessibility to millions of people.

Hampstead Heath's mosaic of habitats includes woodland, grassland, scrub, remnant heath and open water, providing a valuable resource for wildlife just six kilometres from the centre of London. It is of national as well as regional importance. The City Corporation aims to maintain and extend the Heath's status as a key habitat for London's wildlife. Hampstead Heath is home to a number of priority species identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, including kingfishers, grass snakes and hedgehogs.

## Biodiversity

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Over 30 species of butterfly have been recorded on the Heath, with first records of White admiral in 2021 and Brown hairstreak in 2024. We created a new butterfly meadow in 2023.

We also have records for around 500 moth and 400 species of beetle.

Over 650 species of fungi have been recorded on the Heath.

26 bat boxes were in use in 2023.

20 species of damselfly and dragonflies call the Heath home, with 16 breeding species recorded. These include four new species records of Willow Emerald in 2018, Hairy dragonfly in 2023, and Lesser emperor and Norfolk hawk in 2024.

Over 100 bird species recorded annually, with around 50 breeding species. Breeding buzzards were recorded on the Heath in 2021, the first time in over 100 years, and breeding Kingfishers were recorded for the first time in 2024.

## Natural and built heritage

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There are 16 Registered and Listed Heritage Assets on the Heath, including the Tumulus, a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

40 distinct ponds and waterbodies are managed, and associated wetlands support a host of breeding amphibians, invertebrate and bird species.

There are 450 ancient and veteran trees across the Heath.

Our recent Natural Capital Assessment indicates that for every £1 spent on management across the Heath, there is an estimated £8.40 return in Natural Capital Benefits. This value is attributed to the contribution of the Heath to cultural services, recreation and health, air pollution regulation, amenity value and carbon sequestration.

## Park Users and Activities

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Since 2018, the number of swims at our Lido and three ponds has tripled from 200,000 in 2020/21 to just under 620,000 in 2023/24.

In 2018, 11,618 Volunteer Hours were delivered by Heath Hands alone. This has increased to 15,750 in 2023/24. In a typical year over 4,200 volunteer hours help to facilitate and make possible athletics events.

Visitor survey data demonstrates that there was a dramatic spike in visitor numbers in the summer of 2020 following lockdown, with numbers increasing by almost one third. Current data shows that visitor numbers are now similar to pre-COVID-19 numbers.

In 2018, 7,762 children engaged in learning activities on the Heath. This has increased to 10,706 in 2023/24, with a further 20,345 engaged in play and 270 in Youth activities.

In a typical year there are over 40,000 participations in organised athletics, and the membership of Highgate Harriers has grown by 24% since 2018. Highgate Harriers, a registered charity, has been based at Parliament Hill Athletics Track since the running track was first laid in 1939 and is the anchor tenant.



# About this Strategy

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The purpose of this Strategy is to ensure the aspirations of the **Heath Vision** are embedded in our work at all levels. This Strategy is at the forefront of a Management Framework designed to ensure effective prioritisation, implementation, learning and continuous improvement.

The first part of the Management framework is this 10-year **Strategy**. This has provided an opportunity to step back from the day-to-day running of the Heath and take a strategic and longer-term view. It is a chance to identify opportunities and challenges that might otherwise get lost amidst the pressures of managing one of the country's busiest open spaces.

The annual **Environment Department Business Plans** provide the overarching high-level plan for the Natural Environment Division.

This Departmental Plan informs the annual Natural Environment site specific **Business Plans**, which provide an overview of the key capital and management projects to be delivered annually.

The **Annual Work Programme** and other delivery-level documents, including Compartment Management Plans and the City Surveyor's Department Cyclical Work Programme, set out cyclical tasks that are planned and delivered on an annual or seasonal basis.

The Management Framework for Hampstead Heath sits within the wider City of London Corporation structure. The **Golden Thread** directly links the Outcomes in this Strategy to the City of London Corporation's Corporate Plan, the Natural Environment Strategies, and the annual Business Plans.

The Corporate Plan sets out the Strategic Outcomes to be delivered across the organisation over the period covered by the Plan and is a tool to guide thinking, planning, decision-making and evaluation across the City Corporation. The Environment Department and Natural Environment Division Strategies and Business Plans draw upon the outcomes of the Corporate Plan and provide links to show which outcomes in the Corporate Plan they are helping to achieve.

# How this Strategy will be used

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This Strategy sits at the head of the Management Framework to guide our thinking and decision-making, as well as helping to ensure that everything we do takes us closer to achieving the Heath Vision.

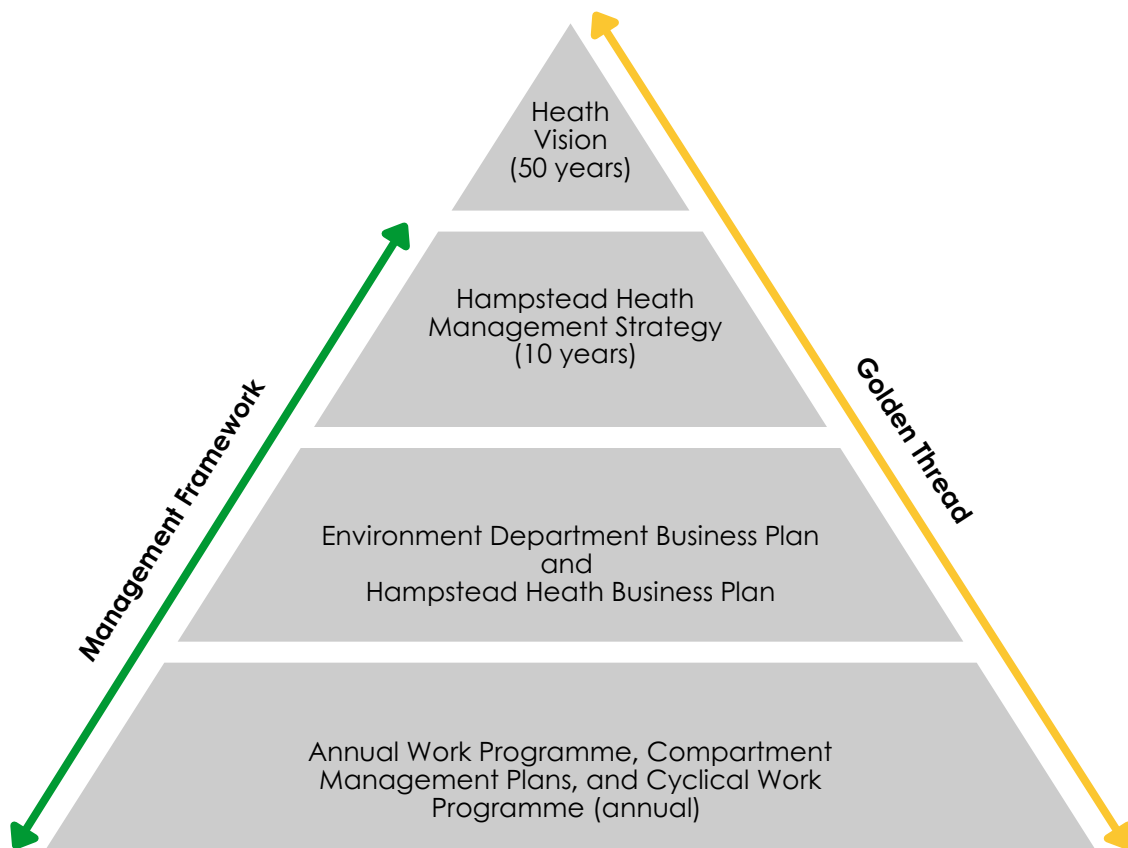
Whilst the overarching strategic direction may not change, embedding this Strategy at the top of the Management Framework will enable implementation to vary in response to change. The detailed information about how each part of this Strategy will be implemented, including priority projects, work streams, resources, policies and guidelines, is contained in the Departmental and Hampstead Heath Business Plans, and associated Annual Work Programmes.

The extent to which the Outcomes and Priorities in this Strategy can be realised has been and will continue to be dependent on the prioritisation of resources and allocation of funding, and will also be responsive to the changing environmental, social and economic climate. This interim review updates these outcomes and priorities to ensure we are well placed to face these challenges over the remaining years of the Strategy.

The Strategy sets out the Priorities which will guide day-to-day decision making. There will be situations where conflicting needs and activities arise, and an assessment will need to be made about what is prioritised. All of the four Outcomes are important and must be carefully considered when deciding how to act to achieve the greatest impact.

## Management Framework for Hampstead Heath

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# Realising the Heath Vision

Drawing on the Heath Vision, the benefits that arise from the Heath can be expressed as four Outcomes, which will shape the management of the Heath over the remaining years of this strategy and beyond. These four Outcomes continue to reflect our aspirations and priorities for the conservation and management of the Heath. Assessing our progress against these Outcomes will help us to understand how well we are progressing towards achieving the Vision.

The aspirations of the Heath Vision are shared by the community and the City Corporation and express a sense of shared stewardship and of caring for the Heath together. This Strategy sets out the City Corporation's priorities for the next ten years and our commitment, as custodian of the Heath, to realising the Vision.

We will plan our work to ensure it contributes to achieving each of the four Vision Themes and corresponding Outcomes, as set out below.

| Heath Vision Theme                   |   | Strategic Outcomes  |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| We protect and conserve the Heath    |   | <b>A:</b> The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape |
| The Heath enriches our lives         |  | <b>B:</b> Improved quality of life for Heath visitors                                 |
| The Heath is inclusive and welcoming |  | <b>C:</b> The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors         |
| Together we care for the Heath       |  | <b>D:</b> Greater number and diversity of people taking care of the Heath             |

Achieving these Outcomes will depend on a range of enabling factors being in place, including the engagement of staff, volunteers and visitors to the Heath, as well as sufficient resources and skills to deliver activities and projects.

# Where are we now?

This section of the Strategy sets out the progress that has been made since publication of the strategy in 2018 and the emerging challenges in the delivery of our vision for the Heath.

## Strategic Policy Context

The Strategic and Policy Context which underpins the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy has changed.

The City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018 was enacted in the same year as the publication of this Strategy.

In 2024, the City Corporation published its Corporate Plan for the period 2024 to 2029. The Corporate Plan is a framework containing six strategic outcomes, which will be embedded at all levels of work and will be the 'golden thread' across the organisation.



The inclusion of a specific outcome relating to Flourishing Public Spaces emphasises the importance attached to these areas to delivery of the wider strategic aims of the City Corporation.

The City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy, published in 2023, sets out climate action commitments within the Square Mile and across all the City Corporation's wider assets, including open spaces. These include:

- Net zero by 2027 in the City Corporation's operations
- Net zero by 2040 across the City Corporation's full value chain
- Net zero by 2040 in the Square Mile
- Climate resilience in our buildings, public spaces and infrastructure

Among the key areas for investment, the Climate Action Strategy highlights areas which are of particular relevance to the management of open spaces:

- Enhancing carbon removal in our open spaces
- Protecting our shared natural resources
- Integrating climate considerations into all our decisions

The City Corporation's parks and open spaces are central to the delivery of net zero by 2027. They are estimated to currently remove 16,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. This is equivalent to 40% of the City Corporation's scope 1 and 2 emissions. Colleagues in the Natural Environment Division are assessing how the Heath can better contribute to carbon sequestration and climate resilience.

In 2023, the City Corporation commissioned a Baseline Natural Capital Assessment of parks and open spaces. The report demonstrates the enormous contribution the Heath makes to carbon sequestration and storage, air purification, local climate regulation and flood risk management. The report also identifies measures which could be undertaken to improve this contribution.

With specific regard to the Heath, the Assessment concludes:

*The overall net natural capital value of the site is £1.3 billion over 50 years, and for every £1 spent on maintaining the natural capital at the site there is a £8.4 return in benefits. This high value is driven by the cultural services, recreation and health (£34.8 million and £13.5 million annually), air pollution regulation (£2.1 million annually), the amenity value (accessibility to green space and views provided by the site (£420,000 annually)), and the ability of the site to sequester carbon (£280,000 annually)".*

The four Natural Environment Strategies, released in 2024, set out the City Corporation's strategic approach to its managed open spaces, assets and activities. This is described in four strategy documents:

- Nature Conservation & Resilience Strategy
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Culture, Heritage & Learning Strategy
- Access & Recreation Strategy



The Strategies describe our objectives for the natural environment and the measures by which we will assess our performance against those objectives.

This Interim Review has been prepared against the background of a Corporate Review of the Natural Environment Charities, which is anticipated to be reported on at the end of 2025. This Interim review seeks to retain the aspirations and ambition of the original ten year strategy, but recognises that the Charities Review will have implications for the governance and administration of the Heath and other City Corporation parks and open spaces. The Terms of Reference for the Charities Review recognises the substantial contribution of the Heath and other parks and open spaces to delivery of the Corporate Plan and other strategies. A key objective of the review is to look at opportunities to enable the charities to become more financially independent and provide a more secure and sustainable funding model for the future.

## Our Understanding of the Heath

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Nobody could have foreseen the changes to our lives as a consequence of the Covid pandemic. As we emerged from lockdown we flocked to our open spaces. The Heath experienced not only a sharp increase in visitor numbers, but also changes in behaviour caused by the need for social distancing. This placed enormous pressures on the path network around the Heath and the habitats we seek to protect and manage.

We have also seen a substantial increase in activities such as cold water swimming, with numbers using our ponds and the lido almost tripling in the last five years. Since 2018, we have improved access, security and WiFi at all of our bathing ponds. The Heath continues to provide access to an enormous range of organised and informal sports and recreational activities

We have seen participation in organised athletics increase by close to 30%, in addition to the many informal joggers and other exercise activities on the Heath. Informed by the consultation with staff and members of the Heath Working Group and Consultative Committee that accompanied this interim review, this Interim Review seeks to reinforce the importance of the Heath for organised and informal sport. The renovation of the athletics track has been completed and the City Corporation is developing a Leisure Management System to streamline bookings across all its open spaces and facilities, beginning with its popular swimming facilities.



Our volunteer resource, community engagement programmes, and learning and well-being activities have gone from strength to strength in partnership with Heath Hands and the Natural Environment Division's Learning Team.

We now have a better understanding of the biodiversity value of the Heath through recent surveys, monitoring and management. This includes our ponds and wetlands, with the development of a Conservation Plan in 2021, which is now informing the management of these areas. We are also working with partners in the London Boroughs of Camden and Barnet and the Environment Agency to understand how the Heath can contribute further to flood risk mitigation in the surrounding areas.

This review also reflects the greater emphasis on 'bigger, better and joined up' wildlife rich places as part of the UK Nature Recovery Network initiative, launched in 2020, and the emerging GLA Local Natural Recovery Strategy.

We also have more accurate information on visitor numbers across the Heath, increasing our understanding of seasonal change and where visitor numbers are concentrated.

Hampstead Heath includes the English Heritage-managed property at Kenwood House, with other significant sites such as Highgate Wood and Highgate Cemetery less than 1 kilometre away. We have completed an audit of the built and cultural heritage assets across the Heath and are now developing Conservation Management Plans and priority action plans with our colleagues in the City Surveyor's Department.

The 2023 Parliament Hill Consultation attracted 382 responses in relation to six initiatives. The responses did not favour one particular project, but did emphasise the understanding of the need for balance between conserving the special qualities of the Heath, whilst supporting sports, play and recreation.

Our approach to the stewardship of the Heath continues to be endorsed through the Green Flag and Green Heritage Award schemes, and the annual feedback from these visits continues to inform our approach.

Over the next four years, we anticipate projects such as the restoration of the Hill Garden Pergola and the transition of Golders Hill Park Zoo to a collection based on UK native and introduced species come forward. We will also see the completion of our work to improve access, security and WiFi at our three bathing ponds. We will also continue our work with the London Boroughs of Camden and Barnet and the Environment Agency to explore how the Heath can contribute further to flood alleviation in the surrounding residential areas.



# What we aim to achieve in the next four years

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This Interim Review has been prepared in collaboration with stakeholders and partners. It reports on the progress and updates delivery of the ten strategic Priorities and the associated Commitments, which we aim to achieve over the ten years covered by the Strategy.



## **Theme: We protect and conserve the Heath**

At the heart of the Heath Vision is a conviction that the natural qualities of the Heath are its richest asset. The Heath must be conserved to ensure the lives of current and future generations may continue to be enriched by it. The Heath Vision describes the Heath's varied landscape as having been shaped by human hands over centuries. It emphasises careful management to conserve and enhance its unique mix of wild and natural spaces, rich mosaic of habitats, heritage, gardens, sporting, play and visitor facilities.

Maintaining the balance between visitor access and enjoyment and the conservation of the Heath's natural assets and qualities will continue to underpin our approach. In short, to ensure its rich mosaic of habitats continues to thrive and flourish, remaining resilient to changes over time.

**Outcome A:  
The Heath is maintained as a flourishing biodiverse green space and historic landscape**

Striking a balance between enabling access for visitors to experience the many ways that the Heath enriches lives, alongside the conservation of its natural, built and cultural heritage, hinges on an integrated and multi-faceted approach. We continue to monitor change in habitats and species across the Heath. In the first five years of this Strategy, Covid brought new challenges to the well-established and effective conservation focus of the past ten or more years. We are working to restore this balance through proactive management and educating and engaging our visitors, to build the shared sense of responsibility and collective care for the Heath.

## Priority 1:

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### A mosaic of natural habitats is maintained and flourishes

Effective ecological management by staff working with volunteers and partners will ensure habitats are biodiverse, and that their conservation value continues to be sustained and enhanced. Combining traditional and innovative conservation activities to manage natural ecological processes is essential to maintain the mosaic of diverse habitats. This includes active control of woodland succession and the corresponding reduction in heathland and meadow that has occurred over the past century. Monitoring and proactively managing other threatening processes associated with increasing visitor numbers, invasive species, pests and diseases and the impacts of a changing climate will build resilience to future challenges. We will continue to enhance habitat connectivity by looking beyond the Heath to realise its significance as an integral part of the wider Local Nature Recovery and green space network.

#### We will focus on ensuring:

The extent of each broad habitat type is maintained at current levels.

Nature conservation and biodiversity value are enhanced.

Habitats are thriving and resilient to change.

## Commitment

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To achieve this, we will:

- Continue proactive management of natural habitats and proportionate interventions, to maintain the distribution of habitat types informed by surveys, and monitoring in collaboration with partner organisations.
- Conserve and manage habitats to enhance biodiversity, resilience and capacity to support diverse plants and wildlife.
- Explore opportunities to re-establish traditional management techniques such as conservation grazing.
- Develop a long-term plan for the protection and succession of our veteran and ancient trees. This plan is in preparation with anticipated publication in 2025.
- Enhance connectivity of areas of conservation value, both on the Heath and beyond its borders, as part of the emerging GLA Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Proactively monitor and manage threatening processes to mitigate their impact, including invasive species, pests and disease, pollutants and impacts of climate change.
- Continue to work with partners to improve the contribution of the Heath to flood risk management in the surrounding residential areas.

## Priority 2:

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### Heritage aspects and landscape character are maintained

The varied and open character of the Heath landscape is a function of its underlying geology and topography, overlaid with centuries of human intervention, resulting in distinctive views and vistas, both from and towards the Heath. There is a strong social and cultural heritage associated with many parts of the Heath, such as the history of open water swimming in our ponds. The interplay between the landscape character, archaeological remnants and historical features, and the wider London context, is unique. A proactive approach to identifying and recording the Heath's heritage and archaeology will ensure the distinctive history of the Heath continues to be conserved. Co-operation among the local community and partner organisations to protect fringes from encroaching urbanisation will ensure this signature landscape character is valued and conserved. Connecting to the Heath landscape is an important aspect of mental health and well-being and enriching lives (as set out in Priority 4).

#### We will focus on ensuring:

Historic assets are conserved, and sensitive areas are protected from impacts.

Landscape character is maintained.

Encroachment and detrimental development are resisted.

## Commitment

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To achieve this, we will:

- Protect areas of high conservation value and develop conservation objectives for historic features, in order to inform their management and interpretation.
- Develop a plan to restore the Hill Garden Pergola.
- Ensure priority views and vistas of historic and cultural value are managed.
- Engage with local planning processes to monitor potential impacts of development proposals on the Heath's natural assets and qualities and where appropriate consider management approaches and appropriate mitigation.
- Proactively participate in local planning processes to resist development that would be detrimental to the landscape character, ecology and hydrology of Hampstead Heath and its environs.
- Safeguard the Heath boundary by managing wayleaves, licences and covenants and work with partners to secure strategic land acquisitions.

### Priority 3:

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#### A balance is maintained between visitor activities and the conservation of natural, built and heritage values

Our strategy is underpinned by an integrated approach working with partners and proactively engaging with visitors and user groups to manage the potential impacts of their activities, and protecting sensitive sites and values from adverse impacts. The Covid pandemic and subsequent increase in footfall placed unprecedented pressures on the Heath. It is anticipated that planned residential and urban renewal projects in the surrounding Boroughs will also increase visitor numbers. There is also increased demand for events and activities, which while providing benefits to visitors and potential income generation may have consequent adverse effects on the natural and built heritage features which attract so many visitors to the Heath. The legislative and statutory powers, including those under the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018, will be used to guide and regulate organised and commercial activities. We will also continue to work with visitors to ensure there is greater understanding of the pressures on the Heath to promote a collective responsibility for its care, and to aid our ability to maintain a flourishing natural space despite the increasing pressures from a growing population. Our plans to progressively move our Zoo collection towards native UK and introduced species and their relationship with the Heath will provide opportunities to illustrate these processes.

#### We will focus on ensuring:

Levels of organised activity are supported but also managed and controlled.

Visitor and other impacts are mitigated, and sensitive areas and values are protected.

A collaborative approach to monitoring activity levels, impacts and the effectiveness of mitigation.

#### Commitment

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To achieve this, we will:

- Establish a system of management zones across the Heath that sets out conservation objectives and defines areas or sites containing values that may be vulnerable to impacts, by developing the current system of Compartment Management Plans.
- Develop and implement policies set out in this management Strategy to guide the effective management of organised activities.
- Proactively engage with visitors and interest groups to develop a culture of collective care for the Heath.
- Embed monitoring, insight and continuous improvement into the design and delivery of visitor services.
- Improve our information, interpretation and signage about conservation and management through discreet interventions across the Heath and through visitor engagement activities.

- Continue to monitor events and activities in line with the agreed events policy and their impact on the Heath to maintain a balance between conservation and activities and to control the impact of events on the natural and built heritage value of the Heath.
- Enforce the Commercial Dog Licensing Requirements and Dog Walking Code of Conduct, and the Heath By Laws.
- Move towards a more sustainable Zoo collection which reflects wildlife in Britain and current and historic relationships with the Heath.





### **Theme: The Heath enriches lives**

The Heath contributes immensely to our mental, emotional and physical health and well-being, providing free access to roam in the outdoors, to pause and observe, play, explore, discover and learn about the natural world. It is also a major destination for outdoor sports and recreation, supporting active, healthy lifestyles. Experiencing its rich natural, built and cultural heritage is life-enhancing, contributing to improved mental, emotional and physical health and well-being.

### **Outcome B: Improved quality of life for Heath visitors**

Quality of life for visitors to the Heath is enhanced through improvements to physical health, mental well-being and reduced social isolation, outcomes that are mutually supportive. Many aspects of well-being are achieved by maintaining a variety of experiences and activities, which appeal to a range of people; both formal and organised sporting pursuits and informal or passive recreation. We have seen substantial increases in those engaged in swimming, athletics and other organised and informal sports. The sense of space, wildness and heritage of the Heath encourages adventure, relaxation and connection with other visitors. Reducing social isolation, increasing diversity and promoting social inclusion are key elements of improving mental health and emotional well-being, and are addressed in the following section (Outcome C).

The benefits of maintaining a variety of opportunities for sports, physical and other activities to enhance health and well-being need to be balanced with impacts on the ecology, heritage and tranquillity of the Heath. Consequently, monitoring the level, type and impact of these activities is important, as set out in Priority 3.



## Priority 4:

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### Improved physical health, mental health and emotional well-being

#### We will focus on ensuring:

The range and quality of experiences and opportunities on Hampstead Heath encourages increased participation in outdoor recreational activities and sports on the Heath.

An increased connection to nature and seasonality, heritage and place.

The Heath provides access to an extraordinary range of sports, both organised and informal. For many, it is the combination of the activity, be it walking, jogging, cycling, team sports or swimming, with the outdoor environment which contributes to the attraction of the Heath for sport and recreation and the associated benefits to physical, mental health and emotional well being.

#### Commitment

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To achieve this, we will:

- Ensure sports and recreational facilities undergo regular review and are refurbished and maintained in partnership with the City Surveyor's Department.
- Work with local partners, including users groups and the London Boroughs of Camden and Barnet and national bodies such as Sport England, to sustain a range of experiences, activities and sports that offer broad appeal to a wide range of people and maintain the quality of our sports facilities and the range of sports offered.
- Support the many clubs, organisations and user groups, most of which rely heavily on volunteers, to ensure increased participation and remove barriers to engagement in sports and recreation.
- Embed our goal to increase active outdoor participation into everything we do, (for example, in the design of facilities, services and activities, including the events programme, learning programme, nature conservation, volunteering, operational services, information and communication).
- Improve access and opportunities to engage in sport through introduction of a central Leisure Management System for bookings and information for sports and other activities.
- Continue to develop and expand our Learning, Heritage and Volunteer programmes, emphasising the importance of an emotional connection with the Heath and the benefits to health and well-being which come from spending time with nature, as well as enhancing knowledge and understanding.
- Sustain and enhance access for a diverse range of users to enjoy peaceful and tranquil experiences on the Heath, and to connect with nature, heritage and place, ensuring barriers to participation are identified and minimised





### **Theme: The Heath is inclusive and welcoming**

The Heath Vision describes an inclusive and safe space that brings people together, where a diversity of people, activities and perspectives are welcomed and respected.

**Outcome C:  
The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors**

## Priority 5:

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### Increasing social inclusion

Social inclusion depends on increasing the diversity of Heath visitors, and also on people interacting with each other. This is likely to flow from people feeling informed and confident about visiting and participating in activities on the Heath. Combined with a sense that the Heath is welcoming, this will lead to people feeling safe on the Heath and foster a sense of belonging. Communication, education and outreach, working with a range of partners, schools and local organisations, will mean more people have the knowledge and confidence to visit the Heath.

#### **To increase the contribution the Heath makes to social inclusion, we will focus on ensuring:**

People feel welcome and safe.

People know about the Heath, what is on offer and how to take part.

A greater range of people feel confident about visiting the Heath.

## Commitment

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To achieve this, we will:

- Develop information, communication and engagement activities to optimise accessibility for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.
- Collaborate with partners to ensure visitor information addresses perceived barriers to visiting the Heath
- Improve access to information on the Heath and online about opportunities to engage in volunteering or other activities.
- Encourage staff, volunteers and partners to be 'ambassadors' who are visible, ready to assist, and share their knowledge and love of the Heath.
- Ensure facilities and activities are welcoming, accessible to all, affordable and promote inclusion.

## Priority 6:

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### Diversity and equality

As well as ensuring activities appeal to a broad range of people, the Heath needs to be physically and financially accessible to a wide range of visitors. To achieve this, we need to build our knowledge of the 'Heath community' – to understand who does and does not visit the Heath, and why. This insight will enable us to identify barriers, both real and perceived, and then develop ways to address these, optimising opportunities for the Heath to enrich the lives of a diverse and changing community.

#### We will focus on ensuring:

Creating accessible environments for a more diverse range of visitors by removing barriers that may exist for different groups who experience more exclusion or disadvantage than others.

### Commitment

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To achieve this, we will:

- Proactively seek insights into the needs of Heath visitors, including the barriers affecting different groups.
- Ensure visitor facilities and the range of Heath experiences are accessible and relevant to a diverse range of users.
- Monitor visitor needs to ensure Heath services and activities are financially inclusive.
- Use visitor survey information and other data, such as volunteer surveys and data on the use of facilities and activities, to inform our management and to explore opportunities to remove barriers and encourage visitors from underrepresented groups and areas.
- Ensure our learning and volunteering programmes continue to promote outreach across communities with opportunities for engagement for all.
- Continue to work with user groups to ensure facilities and our offer is affordable and attracts users across the social demographic.



### **Theme: Together we care for the Heath**

The Heath Vision describes a place where everyone is a custodian of the Heath and strives to 'tread lightly', mindful of the potential impact of their activities. A site where the City Corporation leads a collaborative partnership with dedicated and valued volunteers, working with an empowered and representative Heath community. A place where people learn from each other and collaborate to find a balance, ensuring the needs of the Heath community are valued and reflected. United by our passion and love for Hampstead Heath, we must work together to realise our shared aspirations.

**Outcome C:  
The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors**

### Priority 7:

#### Increased sense of collective ownership and personal responsibility

Hampstead Heath is founded on community activism and has a colourful history of public challenge and robust debate, from which strong partnerships were forged along with a sense of 'ownership'. Ensuring this 'community voice' is inclusive and remains representative of diverse stakeholders is critical to achieving the aspirations of the Heath Vision. Effective communication and improving access to information about management activities and ways to get involved is key to building a culture of shared custodianship. Volunteering is a wonderful example of how a culture of shared custodianship makes a huge impact to managing the Heath.

#### **We will focus on ensuring:**

Inclusive decision-making and collaborative working with partners to promote a collective ownership and responsibility through forums, provision of information, activities, events and diverse volunteering opportunities.

### Commitment

To achieve this, we will:

- Embed transparency and effective engagement into the Management Framework and consultative processes, to ensure a continued dialogue with stakeholders.
- Enable participation by a diverse range of stakeholders.
- Work with partners, in particular Heath Hands, to develop diverse opportunities for volunteering, learning and community activities.
- Improve information provision and transparency to ensure the reasons behind decision making and the complexity of finding a balance are understood
- Collaborate with partners to ensure users understand the environmental sensitivity associated with activities on the Heath, and develop solutions to inform and promote behavioural change.

## Priority 8:

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### Visitor behaviours is pro-environmental

Encouraging visitors to adopt pro-environmental attitudes towards the Heath requires outreach, together with educational activities and resources that inform people about the Heath environment and the actions that will protect it. This links closely to Priority 3, maintaining a balance between visitor activities and the conservation of natural, built and heritage assets. Success is largely dependent on visitors adopting responsible and considerate behaviours.

#### We will focus on ensuring:

Improved visitor understanding of management activities and decisions.

Improved visitor knowledge of the Heath's environment and how to conserve it effectively.

### Commitment

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To achieve this, we will:

- Deliver effective communication and engagement that ensures information is readily accessible and responsive, encouraging learning and understanding.
- Improve information available on the Heath and elsewhere through suitable and discreet interventions which do not detract from the tranquillity, character and value of the Heath.
- Build awareness and promote education about caring for the Heath into all communications and activities.
- Foster a 'tread-lightly' ethos, and partner with user and volunteer groups and local organisations to develop a culture of shared custodianship.

## Priority 9:

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### People treat the Heath and other visitors with respect

Our staff, supported by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary, provide the public face of the Heath. In recent years (post-Covid), there has been an increase in antisocial behaviour and a lack of respect shown by a limited number of visitors towards staff and others engaged in the care of the Heath. The City Corporation has a duty to protect the welfare of staff. We will continue to work with partners to support our staff in the face of this and to engender a greater sense of responsibility amongst all those who visit the Heath.

#### We will focus on ensuring:

Ensuring a greater range of people feel a sense of 'everyone's Heath' – covering individuals and groups.

### Commitment

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To achieve this, we will:

- Model and share the aspirations of the Heath Vision for a 'Heath community' that is respectful and tolerant towards visitors, interest groups and partners.
- Engage effectively through the Hampstead Heath Constabulary, staff, volunteers and partners.
- Provide opportunities for a lasting connection with the Heath through volunteering, sponsorships, legacies and endowments.
- If necessary, work with the Metropolitan Police to ensure our staff and visitors feel safe and secure on the Heath.



## Priority 10:

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### Responsible Management

To achieve our Outcomes, we must understand what we do well, while being open to trying new things and learning as we go. Working together as custodians of the Heath in order to pass it on to the next generation in as good, or better, condition. Continued collaboration with key partners, such as Heath Hands, and developing new partnerships is key to the success of this Strategy.

The way we work to implement this Strategy will be guided by the City Corporation's Corporate Plan and the wider policy and strategic framework, as it develops and adapts throughout the ten-year period. These ways of working can be grouped into three strands.

#### We will focus on ensuring:

- Effective partnerships & collaboration.
- Environmental, financial & social responsibility.
- Being future ready.

### Commitment

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To achieve this, we will:

- Continue to build and grow positive relationships with stakeholders.
- Sustain existing partnerships and establish new connections to enable collaboration and optimise our impact.
- Strong governance, working within the legislative and policy framework, meeting our statutory obligations and upholding the Hampstead Heath byelaws.
- Ensure the health, safety and well-being of staff, volunteers and contractors, and the safeguarding of visitors.
- Create positive social and environmental value through responsible business practices.
- Provide environmental stewardship in the use of resources and associated emissions to provide a clean environment and drive down the negative effects of our own activities.
- Build resilience to natural and human threats by strengthening, protecting and adapting our infrastructure, directly and by influencing others.
- Continue to work with partner organisations to explore options for effective conservation management, such as working with the Heath & Hampstead Society on the experimental re-introduction of conservation grazing to Heath Extension, and the recent meadow enhancement in association with Heath Hands and Butterfly Conservation.

# Learning and Improving

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## **Implementation**

The Management Framework has enabled a seamless transition from the 2007 Plan to the adoption of this Strategy, with priority projects identified in the Departmental and Divisional Business Plans and routine and cyclical management activities implemented via the Annual Work Programme.

The implementation of this Strategy continues to be overseen by the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee. The Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee comprises representatives from local organisations and amenity groups for the purposes of making representations to the overseeing Committee about any matter which, in the opinion of the Consultative Committee, affects or is likely to affect the Heath Lands.

Preparation of this review has been informed by a Working Group comprised of members of both committees, and in consultation with the Hampstead Heath Sports & Well-being Forum and City Corporation staff based on the Heath.

Annual updates of the Departmental and Hampstead Heath Business Plans will be undertaken. Resources will be allocated to priority projects informed by the Outcomes and Priorities in this Strategy and aligned with the City Corporation's business planning cycle.

The impact of the Covid pandemic demonstrates the need for us to be adaptable and learn what works, what our best contribution can be, who we can partner and collaborate with, and how we should adapt.

Whilst the Heath Vision and Priorities remain relevant, this mid-term review incorporates a number of modifications and new initiatives to be taken forward to the full review of the Strategy in 2028.

## **Monitoring**

Monitoring and tracking progress towards achieving the Outcomes will help us to understand the impact of our work, and to share and celebrate its success. We continue to monitor and report on progress towards the Outcomes and Priorities described in this Framework to the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee and the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queens Park Committee.

## **Learning and improving**

Monitoring the changes or benefits that result from our activities provides insight and understanding of the effectiveness of our actions and where we can develop our work to make the biggest difference. Evaluating effectiveness has enabled us to check our course and to make corrections in a timely manner, capturing learning and building in improvements as we go.

## **Communicating our impact**

We prepare an annual Business Plan and Annual Work Programmes for the Heath, which set out the priorities to be focussed on each year and how these deliver against the Themes and Outcomes described in the City Corporation Strategies and in this Management Strategy.

# List of Appendices

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1. Map of the Heath
2. Legislative Framework
3. Developing this Strategy - a timeline
4. Transitioning from the 2007 Plan to this Strategy

# Links

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- Natural Environment Strategies (2024-2029)
- Corporate Plan (2024-2029)
- Climate Action Strategy (2020-2027)

# References

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- Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028
- A Public Consultation on Improvements to the Parliament Hill Fields Area in July 2023
- 2021 Conservation Plan for Ponds and Wetlands
- 2007 Hampstead Heath Management Plan
- Community Consultation for the Heath Vision Report
- Outcomes framework and measurement table Report



Appendix 1:

Map of the Heath



# Hampstead Heath

Registered Charity

## Appendix 2:

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### Legislative Framework

The City of London Corporation has powers and duties under various Acts of Parliament to manage and protect Hampstead Heath as an open space, primarily transferred to them by the London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989.

The foundation legislation is the Hampstead Heath Act 1871. Under this Act the City of London Corporation:

- Subject to the provisions of the Act, must forever keep the Heath open, unenclosed, and unbuilt on (subject to certain exceptions), protect the Heath and preserve it as an open space and prevent, resist and abate encroachments (section 12).
- Must not sell, lease, grant, or in manner dispose of any part of the Heath (section 13).
- Must not cut turf or dig gravel etc. or fell or cut gorse, heather, timber or other trees, shrubs etc. on the Heath for profit (section 14).
- May drain, level and improve the Heath, as far only as in the City's judgment from time to time is required, with a view to its use for purposes of health and unrestricted exercise and recreation (section 15).
- May plant trees and shrubs on the Heath for purposes of shelter or ornament and make temporary enclosures for the protection thereof (section 15).
- Must at all times preserve, as far as may be, the natural aspect and state of the Heath, and to that end must protect the turf, gorse, heather, timber and other trees, shrubs and brushwood (section 16).
- Must maintain and keep the original ornamental grounds in good order and condition (s.17).
- May erect and maintain ornamental buildings (subject to height restraints) as they think requisite for the accommodation of keepers, constables or other officers or for other public or useful purposes (section 18).

Sections 1,3,12-18,24,36,41-42 as amended by SI 1965/540 remain in force, the other sections having been repealed.

The Local Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989 transferred to the City of London Corporation the statutory functions formerly exercised by the GLC in relation to the Heath under a variety of legislation and set out some additional functions. The City of London Corporation's functions include:

- Provision of facilities for public recreation (Article 7 of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967).
- Grant of licences to provide facilities and letting of land and buildings for public recreation (Article 8 of above 1967 Act).
- To close parts of the Heath for the purpose of or in connection with the cultivation or preservation of vegetation in the interests of public amenity or in the interests of public safety. (Article 9 of above 1967 Act).
- Charging in respect of user of open space (Article 10 of above 1967 Act).
- Organising or conducting competitions in connection with any recreational activities for which it has power to provide facilities (Article 13 of the 1967 Act).
- Making byelaws (s.15 Open Spaces Act 1906).
- Provision of entertainments (s.145 Local Government Act 1972).
- Provision of recreational facilities and making such facilities available to persons at a charge or otherwise (s.19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976).
- Appointment of Management and Consultative Committees with statutorily defined constitutions (Articles 8 and 9 of The London Government Reorganisation (Hampstead Heath) Order 1989).
- Maintenance of a trust fund for defraying expenditure on the management and maintenance of the Heath (Articles 6 and 7 of the 1989 Order).

## Appendix 2 continued

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The City of London Corporation has acquired additional statutory powers set out in the City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Act 2018. The 2018 legislation was promoted because much of the legislative framework relating to the open spaces managed by the City of London Corporation,

including Hampstead Heath, dates from the 19th Century. While the 19th Century legislation serves its purpose of preserving the open spaces for public recreation and enjoyment there are some respects where it is unclear or out of date which left the Corporation to exercise management powers in reliance on implied or common law powers or its position as landowner rather than on express statutory powers. The 2018 Act clarifies and supplements the City of London Corporation's management powers, giving a clear statutory basis for existing activities. It also grants new up to date management powers, including in relation to enforcement.

Section 4(1)(a) applies to the 2018 Act the key objectives and protections for Hampstead Heath in the 1871 Act, namely sections 12, 14 and 16 (which provide for the preservation of Hampstead Heath as an unenclosed public open space, the prohibition of the sale of turf, gravel or other material, and the preservation of its natural aspect).

The powers in the 2018 Act relevant to Hampstead Heath are:

- Land management powers permitting the cutting, felling, lopping etc. of any trees, pollards, gorse or other material, the scraping of soil and the grazing of cattle and other animals if it appears necessary or expedient for the proper management or husbandry of the open space and its flora and fauna (section 5).
- Letting of buildings for a period not exceeding 15 years or, where there are exceptional circumstances, 21 years (section 6).
- Holding of events and provision of facilities for events having regard to an events policy prepared in consultation with the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee (section 7).
- Grant of rights for utilities (section 8).
- Entering into agreements with highway and traffic authorities (section 9).
- Making a licensing scheme to control commercial activity and granting of licences for such activities (section 10).
- Issue of fixed penalty notices for certain offences, including offences under the byelaws (section 11).
- Power to require name and address of person where an authorised officer has reason to believe the person has committed an offence in the open space (section 12).
- Removal and disposal of unauthorised articles left in the open space (section 13).
- Power for authorised officers to represent the Corporation in legal proceedings in the Magistrates' Court (section 15).

The byelaws applicable to Hampstead Heath were originally made by the London County Council and approved by the Secretary of State in 1932. They now have effect as if made by the City of London Corporation under the provisions of the 1989 Order and Open Spaces Act 1906. The provisions of the byelaws are subservient to any relevant provisions in primary legislation in respect of the Heath.

The byelaws are enforced by the Hampstead Heath Constabulary and regulate matters such as:

- Causing damage or injury to property or vegetation.
- Trespass (e.g. camping without a permit).
- Erecting buildings or obstructions without or otherwise than in accordance with a permit.
- Traffic.
- Horses, dogs and other animals.
- Nuisances.
- Sale of articles, exhibition of advertisements, etc.
- Plying for hire.
- Public meetings.
- Music and singing.
- Soliciting or gathering money.
- Games, drilling etc.
- Obstructing officers of the council, constables etc.
- Offenders, penalties etc.

## Appendix 3:

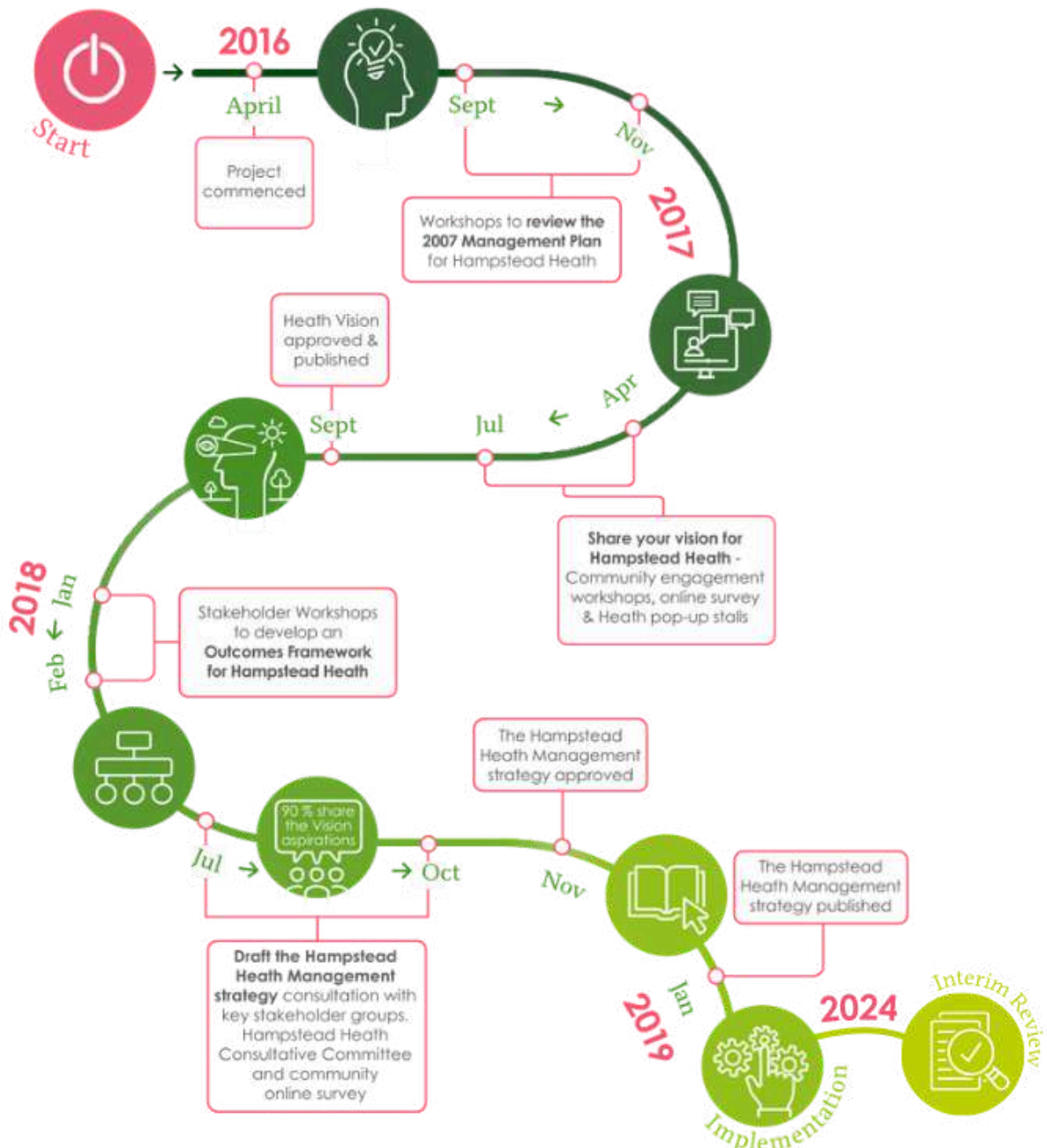
### Developing the strategy - a timeline

The timeline below summarises the key steps undertaken to develop this Strategy commencing in April 2016 with a consultative review of the Hampstead Heath Management Plan Part 1- Towards a Plan for the Heath 2007 – 2017.

Key learning and recommendations from the review emphasised the importance of a management framework to enable successful implementation and to measure progress and impact.

Extensive community engagement throughout 2017 saw the creation of the Heath Vision which set the direction for developing this Strategy.

This Interim Review has been informed by consultation with the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy Working Group on behalf of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park Committee, City Corporation, and North London Open Spaces' Operations & Parks and Conservations Teams.



## Appendix 4:

### Transition from the 2007 Plan to this Strategy

| Hampstead Heath Management Plan 2007-2017 |     |   | Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028                                  |
|---|-----|---|--|
| Section                                   | Ref | Overriding objectives   | Outcomes   |
| History                                   | H1  | Protect and conserve the historic aspects of the Heath and take due account of the distinctive histories of its component parts.  | A. The Heath is maintained as a flourishing green space and historic landscape |
| Natural landscape                         | NL1 | Retain and enhance the Heath's habitats and natural resources to enable continued quiet enjoyment and appreciation of the natural world by its visitors.  |  |
| Hydrology                                 | HY1 | Manage the Heath's ponds and watercourses to enhance their nature conservation value, reduce flood risk and address water quality problems.   |  |
| Designed landscape                        | D1  | Conserve and enhance the historic and planned elements of the Heath's designed landscapes, while improving their appearance and public facilities.  |  |
| Built environment                         | B1  | Provide buildings that are fit for purpose and aesthetically pleasing, enhancing examples of good architecture and seeking to reduce the impact of those that are functional, but detract from the natural qualities of the Heath.                                | B. Improved quality of life for Heath visitors                                 |
| Informal Public Use                       | PI  | Recognise that the Heath's main users are those who come for informal activity and manage informal recreational activities to ensure that as far as is reasonably practical they do not adversely affect others' enjoyment of or the natural aspect of the Heath. |  |
| Sports                                    | S1  | Work collaboratively in maintaining and developing the existing sports facilities and activities in response to changing demands ensuring appropriate provision for all sections of the community.  |  |
| Access                                    | A1  | Recognise the need to be as inclusive as possible, increasing the Heath's availability to a diversity of users.   | C. The Heath is inclusive and welcoming to a diverse range of visitors         |
| Education                                 | E1  | Develop the Heath's potential for education and interpretation.   | D. Greater number and diversity of people taking care of the Heath             |



# Hampstead Heath

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