Tooting Gardens Management Plan

Tooting Gardens is a much-loved historical park providing local residents with a tremendous space for family playtime, community engagement and exercise whilst also offering a tranquil space to enjoy and relax in nature.

This plan is intended to provide Tooting Gardens with its best chance to continue meeting the needs of the local community in addition to achieving the highest horticultural and environmental standards. Wandsworth has one of the highest numbers of council-owned greenspaces in inner London, culminating in over 300 hectares of public greenspace. Each greenspace has its own unique character, and each space provides the opportunity for a range of different activities for people and opportunities for biodiversity. The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and greenspaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the Unities Kingdom and the world. Wandsworth Borough Council wants each of the five big greenspaces to gain and keep their prestigious Green Flag Awards. Whilst Battersea Park, Wandsworth Park, King Georges Park, Wandsworth and Tooting Common have Green Flag status, the aim is, from 2032, each one of the borough's smaller greenspaces will be brought up to Green Flag level. This management plan for Tooting Gardens sets out proposed plans for this park over the next 10 years.











Key Action points

Park management and contractor activities - Replace timber palisade uprights throughout play area, design and deliver large-scale replanting plan with more balanced mix of resilient shade tolerant planting under trees along boundary with St George's Hospital/consider options for repurposing to community engagement space.

Biodiversity activities - Improve existing planting area adjacent to hedgerow on boundary with rear gardens of Fountain Road increasing density, quantity and range of flowering plants to assist pollinators and other invertebrates. Consider interpretation to explain the presence and benefits of tree stump for biodiversity.

Arboriculture activities - Carry tree thinning around the helipad of self-seeded trees to keep helipad free of large branches.

Community engagement activities - Consider resurfacing/repurposing underplanted area adjacent to wall as a community area with mural on wall. Engage with NHS as the site is in close proximity to hospital, scope to set up Friend of Group..

Development and funding activities -Part refurbishment of playground to address low risk defects to the playground area, wellbeing art project with NHS.

Contents

Action Plan

Responsibilities.....23

A Welcoming Place......3
Healthy, Safe and Secure5
Well Maintained and Clean7
Environmental Management......11
Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage 12
Community Involvement......13
Marketing and Communication......14
Management Plan Details......15
Site Details......16
Site Maps and Photos19



Action Plan

Green Flag Category		What we already have / do	What improvements are needed	Current plans to deliver improvements	Timescale / costs / partners
A Welcoming Place	Welcome	Gates at both entrances give good views into the Gardens	The site lines from both entrances are lacking in focal interest points to entice visitors into the Gardens. Wooden fencing around playground is not in keeping with the Gardens.	Review and improve existing planting schemes at entrances into the Gardens to provide more all year round colour and interest. Look at reconfiguring the fencing around the playground to make the space more open and welcoming to other park users, not just those using the playground.	Ongoing Continental, Enable Parks Team, £x
	Greaves Place Entrance	This is a pedestrian gate. An avenue of trees provides a pleasant vista into the Gardens from Greaves Place entrance			Ongoing Continental, Enable Parks Team, £x



Cramner To Entrance	errace	This is a vehicular entrance leading into the gardens.	This entrance is often utilised as a smoking area by the general public.	Create designated area for smokers with cigarette bins so other users are not discouraged to use the site	Ongoing Continental, Enable Parks Team, £x
Good and		Access is easy for visitors via both gates. The egress at both entrances are maintained to ensure site is safe to users	There is an uneven step up on the egress into the gardens from Greaves Place making it less accessible for people with disabilities and a general trip hazard for all	Address uneven path level	Ongoing Continental, Enable Parks Team, £xx
Signage, In and Wayma		There is effective, standard WBC welcome signage into Tooting Gardens at both entrances.	The welcome sign at site entrances are standard WBC signs that do not provide detail of heritage and biodiversity of the Gardens. There is limited waymarking in surrounding area to Tooting Gardens and between Tooting Gardens	Audit of signage to be carried out as a service plan topic followed by discussion with WBC to action improved signage and interpretation across all sites and improve directional signage in the surrounding	Ad hoc weekly inspections Enable Parks Team



			other local greenspaces	neighbourhood to the Gardens. Undertake asset assessment to ensure the signs remain fit for purpose and informative.	
	Equal access for all	Access into and around the Gardens is good for those with good mobility There is a free to use playground for toddlers and juniors with play equipment for all ages		Carry out Accessibility Audit for site to ensure all points of the Park are currently accessible.	Ongoing Continental, Enable Parks Team, £xx
Healthy, Safe and Secure	Appropriate Provision of Quality Facilities and Activities	The children's play area was partially refurbished within the last 5 years	Timber palisade uprights throughout are close to end of life with rot set in. The wet pour rubber surface in toddler play area is in early state of degradation	Replace timber palisade uprights. Replace wet pour rubber surfacing in toddler play area. Install drinking and bottle filling station	Ongoing Enable, Continental £x





		There is no drinking fountain. There are no public conveniences at Tooting Gardens		
Safe equipment and facilities	Regular routine inspections specifically address whether equipment, and facilities in Tooting Gardens are safe. Playground facilities are visually inspected by Enable's Playground Officer biweekly for damage or vandalism. The playground is also independently inspected 3 times a year.	There are various low risk defects to the playground area .	Take effective action to ensure the gate closes between 4 and 8 seconds Remove or repair all rough edges. Replace all affected timbers or remove the remaining posts and reinstate Reinstate surrounding surfaces to level and improve. Repair perimeter of surfacing to remove trip points	The last playground inspection was carried out on 24 th January 2022 the equipment and areas was reported as low risk.
Personal security	Reported issues fro reviewed and acted	Ongoing Enable Parks Team Parks Police		



		for example, inclusi	lssues that cause fear for different members of the community – for example, inclusivity, racism, drugs, bullying, vandalism, and vagrancy are regularly reviewed.				
	Control of dogs/ dog fouling	Responsible dog ownership is encouraged through Education, provision and maintenance and emptying of dog bins combined with active enforcement by Parks Police	This green space is regularly used by dog owners and is regularly found to be fouled.	Extend 'Paw Patrol' pop up events schedule to Tooting Gardens More information ca be found here: Dogs in Parks and Open Spaces Information	Ongoing Enable Parks Team Parks Police £x		
	Control of other "issues	Byelaws Wandsworth Council More information car		_	Ongoing Enable Parks Team Parks Police £x		
Well Maintained and Clean	Litter and Waste Management	and are not permit	ooting Gardens are emp eed to remain full for m o carried out across the	ore than 24 hours.	Ongoing Enable Parks Team Continental £x		



Horticultural Maintenance			General horticultural maintenance duties are carried out by contracted grounds people with members of Parks Team qualified in recognised horticultural skills.		
	Decorative Beds		There are no decorative beds on first approach into the gardens from either entrance.	Consider new areas to create decorative beds.	2023 Enable Parks Team £x
	Shrubberies and Borders	The shrubbery to the northwest of the approach into the gardens from Cramner Terrace is includes a generous backdrop of plants providing good visual amenity and are also beneficial for biodiversity. The border to the west alongside the brick walled boundary is on full view to all users of the Gardens on approaching from both entrance	Plants have struggled to survive under the trees in the border alongside the brick walled boundary. Any current shrub plantings are sparce along this perimeter. The ground is laid bare and weeded. Soil structure improvements are made in Winter with the addition of mulch. This leads to ambiguity over intentions for this space. Planting in the shrubbery area to centre of the	Design large scale replanting plan for central beds with sturdy child friendly shrubs/plant choice. Consider improving hedgerow planting for biodiversity.	2023 Enable Parks Team £x



	gates. There are several semi mature trees growing in this border. There is an additional shrubbery area to the centre of the gardens that forms part of the children's play area.	gardens has historically failed due to heavy footfall in and outside of playground. Planting in this area is also lacking is form and vigour. There bare ground adjacent to hedgerow on NW boundary		
Arboriculture Maintenance	The trees in Tooting Gardens are inspected by Enable's Tree Team every 3 years and works carried out according to instruction. Tree cover is good There are several fruiting saplings planted as part of an orchard project in the grassy area	There are self- seeded trees in grassy area.	Thin and manage trees in this area	Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x



	close to the school			
Building and Infrastructure Maintenance	Parks Maintenance basis reporting defended to facilitate to use or cordoning measure to ensure Gates are regularly working order Woo condition There is scurrently in good or discourage vandalist Paths are tarmac arin last 5 years. Metal fencing and grepainted in last 5 years are regularly working order Wooden fencing are good working order wooden fencing are wooden.	nd in good condition hat gates are in good condi years. gularly checked to ensu	repairs actioned. e site on a regular ny minor repairs ne equipment or area as a temporary ourage vandalism. y are kept in good ayground is in good ag Gardens, with are er safety and to aving been resurfaced ition having been re they are kept in good condition	Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x



Environmental	Managing Environmental	A suite of plans, policies and strategies guide our approach to	Ongoing Enable
Management	Impact	managing our impact on the environment, including the	Parks Team
		Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Strategy Enable's	£x
		sustainable planting plan, Wandsworth Biodiversity	
		Strategy. and Wandsworth Tree Strategy More information can	
		be found Together on nature - Wandsworth Borough Council	
		Additionally, all appointed contractors have agreements in place	
		to ensure that their processes are in accordance with these	
		documents. We constantly review our delivery to ensure it	
		meets these expectations.	
		An organisation wide action plan has also been developed to	
		ensure Enable's operations are in line with Paris Climate	
		Commitments to Net Zero. Using One Planet Living principles	
		developed by WWF and Bioregional, we have set targets,	
		actions and indicators to reduce waste and energy use, improve	
		water and resource efficiency, and work with local communities	
		to reduce the impacts of travel to our sites.	
	Waste Minimisation	All green waste generated on site is taken to Battersea Park	Ongoing Enable
	Waste i iiiiiiisatioii	Depot where Continental, process the green waste into mulch	Parks Team
		which is re-used on beds within parks and open spaces across	
		the Borough	£x
	Chamical Hears	Unlose otherwise execition all wood removal will be marked and	Ongoing Frahla
	Chemical Usage	Unless otherwise specified all weed removal will be performed by manual rather than chemical treatments, e.g., fungicides,	Ongoing Enable Parks Team
		herbicides and pesticides must be used strictly in accordance	I ains I caill
		with the manufacturers and Authorised Officer's instructions,	£x
		and only on specified areas	
		and any an appearing a date	
		As part of their commitment to safeguarding the environment,	
		the Parks Team is seeking to reduce the number of chemical	



		treatments used in horticultural operations and contractors will be expected to be sensitive to this aim. In general, no chemical treatments will be allowed in ecological areas.	
	Peat Use	Horticultural waste is composted for use as a replacement for peat-based or commercial products when mulching.	Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x
	Climate Change Adaption Strategies	Implementing planting schemes that support the objectives of the 2021 Wandsworth Biodiversity Strategy allow greenspaces to support an increased mix of habitats and species for the longer term and help contribute to the significant environmental challenges we currently face.	Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x
Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage	Management of Natural Features, Wild Fauna and Flora	All new or replacement planting is designed to provide attractive and appropriate visual character, support biodiversity and be resilient to climate change in line with best practice and in accordance with Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Strategy Enable's sustainable planting plan, Wandsworth Biodiversity Strategy. and Wandsworth Tree Strategy More information can be found Together on nature - Wandsworth Borough Council.	Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x
	Conservation of Landscape Features		Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x
	Conservation of Buildings and Structures		Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x



Community Involvement	Community Involvement in Management and Development	We collaborate with the community in a wide range of ways to ensure we are responsive to local needs. This includes regular work in partnership with identified stakeholder groups; providing opportunities for volunteering; training and supporting local wildlife recorders; engagement activities to encourage stewardship, and environmental education programmes. Identify stakeholder groups; provide opportunities for volunteering; training and supporting local wildlife recorders; engagement activities to encourage stewardship, and environmental education programmes	Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x
	Appropriate Provision for Community	Demographic data is analysed to ensure our provision is targeting the appropriate age ranges. Each total playground refurbishment is informed by site specific consultation process which allow us to understand the types of play experiences the community enjoy and wish to see provided the community to choose between different playground designs so that provision can meet local demand and expectation.	Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x
		We always seek to embed provision for children with disabilities (physical and mental) so that they can play with and alongside their peers. We are mindful that parents and carers have a wide range of ages and abilities and our seating within playgrounds seeks to address this too.	
		Suggestions received from the community for things they would like to see added into their local greenspace are fed into our plans for future exploration if we feel there is the opportunity to incorporate further items without them coming at the expense of existing well used / popular features or landscapes.	





		These ideas are the consultations.	n subject to community	y conversations and	
Marketing and Communication	Marketing and Promotion	we also work with Win the quarterly Boroand weekly Borough	ivities in our greenspa ms Wandsworth Council to ough wide newsletter n E-Bulletin, <u>Weekly Br</u> evant information is als	publish information Quarterly Brightside ightside as well as	Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x
	Appropriate Information Channels	"enableparks" This allows us to en groups online and to broader range of groups General information Wandsworth Boroug Council Parks and C	We use (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook) with the handle "enableparks" This allows us to engage with the public, and community groups online and to share information that will engage a broader range of green space users. General information about the spaces is also available on Wandsworth Borough Council's website: Wandsworth Borough Council Parks and Open Spaces A range of articles and press releases providing more detailed information about any exciting projects in our green spaces can		
	Appropriate Educational and Interpretation Information				Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x



Implementation	4 x full team review sessions are delivered each year and fed	Ongoing Enable
of Management	into an impact report at the end of each session.	Parks Team
Plan	A community suggestion file is also kept on record and will be fed into the plan when appropriate.	£x
	Annual Impact reports will be made available each year on our website with the first report due to be published December 2023.	

Management Plan Details

Site Name:	Tooting Gardens
Plan author and approver:	Alice Henry and Valerie Selby
Previous Plans:	Tooting Gardens Management and Maintenance Plan 2007-2012 (Wandsworth Borough Council)
Plan Dates:	Duration of plan – Autumn 2022 – Autumn 2032
Consultation:	Where Wandsworth Borough Council capital has been invested, WBC processes will be followed. Where other capital is invested WBC processes will also be followed however it is likely amendments may be a requirement to meet individual funder needs.
Aims of the plan:	To guide and inform on reaching criteria on Green Flag and London in Bloom awards, To encourage clear communication with stakeholders, To guide maintenance priorities, To guide funding investment and site improvements
Plan review and Monitoring:	Greenspace management is a continuous process that takes account of issues that arise. This Management and Maintenance Plan is a "live document" which will be updated



dynamically throughout the year. As the plan is actively implemented, updates will be systematically reported by the Enable's Parks Team. By constantly reviewing and monitoring, the Parks Team will ensure green spaces remain relevant to users' needs and are cared for and respected by all. An Annual Actions Summary will be produced each year of the plan outlining key achievements in each year of the Plan.

Site Details

Titles, Deeds, Legislations and Destinations:

This site is owned By Wandsworth Borough Council

This site is owned By Wandsworth Borough Council It is in the Tooting Broadway ward. Elected members for this area until May 2026 are: Councillor Kate Alexandra Forbes, Councillor Kemi Akinola and Councillor Andy Gibbons

Tooting Gardens is bounded to the north-east by Tooting Leisure Centre; to the south-east by a narrow walkway between the park and St George's Hospital; to the southwest by residential properties on Cranmer Terrace and to the north-west by residential properties along Fountain Road. The grid reference of the bottom southwest corner of the site is TQ 269 714

Designations: Park & Open Space The council has adopted planning policies which aim to protect and enhance public and private open space and green infrastructure in the borough. These policies are the basis for promoting and controlling development in the borough. The adopted Local Development Plan comprises the Core Strategy (2016), the Development Management Policies Document (2016), the Site-Specific Allocations Document (2016), the Employment and Industry Document (2018), the Policies Map (2016) and the Policies Map Changes Document: Employment and Industry Review (2017).

Tooting Gardens has no official current designation as a place of importance for wildlife however the Borough of Wandsworth is popular with several protected and priority





	species and all its greenspaces including Tooting Gardens offer the opportunity for increasing special habitats either for species to commute through or make their home.
Site Description:	Tooting Gardens is a landscaped open greenspace with undulating ground and defined features such as a children's play area and an area of flat open grass. Trees provide Page 18 of 28 dappled summer shade and spring blossom. A circular path meanders around the gardens providing opportunity for a relaxing walk away from the bustling streets of Tooting. The full extent of the gardens are largely hidden from street view and the space serves as a welcome wellbeing break for visitors and people working at St George's Hospital by providing nearby access to a calming greenspace and nature.
	The southeast of the site can be accessed via an entrance gate on Cramner Terrace. Another gate, with interesting architectural features, provides access from northeast of the site and leads out onto a footpath onto Greaves Place and Gambole Road and directly into the grounds of the hospital. Both gates are directly connected by a footpath along the side of the gardens which also acts as an alternative route into the hospital and from one side of the gardens to the other.
	The site is fenced on three sides including one side with a privet hedge between the rear gardens of the residences of Fountain Road. A brick wall provides the boundary with the walkway by St Georges Hospital.
	There is a free to use playground for toddlers and juniors with play equipment designed for all ages.
	There is a substantial stretch of mown grass that runs adjacent to Tooting Leisure centre. This area of grass is occasionally used for emergency air ambulance helicopter landings.
	Tooting Gardens was laid out in 1912 and lies adjacent to St George's Hospital and Tooting Leisure Centre. The hospital was rebuilt in 1893 and situated at that time on the edge of the still distinct 'village' of Tooting. The site of the gardens had previously been let to the Vacant Land Cultivation Society for allotments and also at times part used as a stores depot, Council depot for refuse trucks, and a glass works.

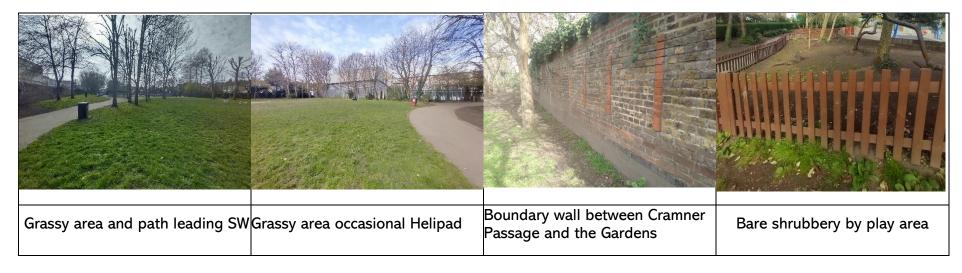


	How to find Tooting Gardens
	By bus – The closest bus stop is directly next to the Cramner Terrace gate, Cranmer Terrace Stop ID: 91517 There are also nearby bus stop on Fountain Road / Garratt Lane Page 19 of 28 (Stop HP) and one at St George's / University Of London (Stop HB) which are less than 5 minutes' walk to Tooting Gardens.
	By tube- the closest tube station is Tooting Broadway Underground Station. It takes 9 minutes to walk to from the station Tooting Gardens.
	By train – the closest train station Haydons Road Station, it takes 27 minutes to walk from the station to Tooting Gardens.
	By bicycle –The closest National Cycle Route is The Wandle Trail, Route 20. It takes 5 minutes to cycle to Tooting Gardens from the trail. The closest TFL bike docking station is on Neville Gill Close, it takes 13 mins to cycle to Tooting Gardens. By car – Tooting Gardens has no dedicated car parking on site, although there is limited pay and display parking available nearby.
	Opening Times – Tooting Gardens is open all hours throughout the year.
	If you have any issues gaining access or exiting, please call Parks Police on 07500969442
Current main uses and users:	Tooting Gardens is an extremely popular park with young children and families on account of the fun play area. It is also popular with visitors and people who work at the hospital providing a valuable place to reflect in the relative tranquillity of an open green space.
Playground:	There is a free to use playground for toddlers and juniors.
Grassy Area:	The grassy area is well used by dog walkers and local residents for light exercise and picnics.





Site Photos and Maps

















Responsibilities

Who is involved with looking after this place?

The Enable Parks team is a passionate group of people, who work together to maintain and improve Wandsworth Council's parks, commons, playgrounds, allotments and other greenspaces.

Broadly split into three specialist teams: the trees team, the operations team and the parks development team, we work to deliver sustainable planting and urban greening, following both the borough's Biodiversity Strategy and Tree Policy. We are keen to recognise, value, manage and enhance the biodiversity and plant heritage of our landscapes - through these measures, we are contributing to a healthy planet and the wellbeing of our communities.

Enable: look after all Wandsworth's public green spaces including Tooting Gardens by ensuring the horticultural fabric, heritage, biodiversity and infrastructure of each site are maintained and improved.

The Parks Operations Team look after over 32 public green spaces in Wandsworth. Each greenspace, including Tooting Gardens is managed according to the action plan within this document and in addition is checked regularly by Enable's Park Officers who report and act upon anything urgent in a timely manner. Please help them by reporting any concerns or suggestions regarding the upkeep of these places including Tooting Gardens by emailing the Enable Parks Administrator parks@enablelc.org or by calling The Enable Park Office O2O3 959 OO6O

The Parks Team process all enquires relating to Wandsworth's greenspaces monitoring the grounds maintenance, sport pitches and arboriculture contracts providing advice to Wandsworth Council on its responsibilities with respect to legislation relating to biodiversity and on best practice in the ecological maintenance.





The Parks team work also collaboratively with Enable's other areas including Health and Wellbeing, Sports and Leisure, Bereavement, Events, Filming, Putney School of Art and Public Halls.

The Parks Enable Parks Team have partnered with:

Continental Landscapes who are contracted and instructed by Enable to undertake horticultural maintenance, a sports pitch booking service, maintenance of buildings furniture, fixtures and fittings, indoor building cleaning duties, litter picking, outside sweeping and clearance duties, ecological maintenance tasks, grounds maintenance and provision of sports facilities, hard surfaces, weed control, care of paths and surfaces, event preparation and staging. They oversee installation of temporary fencing where it may be required for health and safety reasons or when required to protect/recover certain areas from excessive footfall. They also install new planting and restoration schemes managed by the Parks Team.

Please only contact Continental Landscapes for information enquiries regarding sports pitch and sports facilities. 0208 767 830 <u>Wandsworthsports@continental-landscapes.co.uk</u>

All general parks and greenspaces enquiries and feedback is best directed to the Enable Parks.

Enable: looks after all and are responsible for the care and wellbeing of all trees in Wandsworth's public greenspaces including Tooting Gardens.

The Enable Tree team look after more than 60,000 trees in its parks, commons and public green spaces. Each Greenspace including, Tooting Gardens, has a dedicated and experienced arboriculture officer who looks after the trees here and makes inspections on a three-year cycle which ensures that all trees are inspected regularly. The officer can assess a tree and identify whether works are of an urgent or non-urgent type. General tree health is considered as well as the condition and colour of the leaves, branches, upper crown and the trunk. Once all this information has been gathered a schedule of work is produced and any remedial works are actioned. Enable's Tree Team also runs an out of





hours service for dealing with all dangerous or hazardous trees in addition to monitoring and managing any outbreaks of tree pests and diseases. Please help them by reporting problems, such as vandalism or damage to trees in Tooting Gardens by emailing trees@enablelc.org or by calling the 0203 959 0070.

The Enable Tree Team have partnered with:

KPS who carry out all tree maintenance works in Tooting Gardens as instructed by Enable's Tree Team.

Enable: look after Wandsworth's public greenspaces by supporting and working closely with local stakeholders, volunteers and 'Friends of' groups who share the same aims of providing and making improvements to high quality, well managed and inclusive greenspaces including Tooting Gardens .

The Enable Parks Team have partnered with:

Enable: look after all Wandsworth's public green spaces including Tooting Gardens by ensuring they remain safe and welcoming places or everyone to visit.

Enable's Parks Operation Teams and Grounds Maintenance teams make regular visits to this place checking acting on any site infrastructure issues and anti – social behaviour, responds to enquiries to do with any aspect regarding over 50 public greenspaces in Wandsworth. The Parks office is open 9am –5pm weekdays and Wandsworth's public greenspaces. Please

Enable's Parks Team have partnered with:

The Parks Police whose team routinely patrol these green spaces, enforcing byelaws and overseeing dog control, public spaces protection orders and policing events. The Parks Police provide a service 365 days a year and officers are trained in legal and enforcement processes, conflict resolution, personal safety training and first aid. In total The Parks Police look after over 50 public green spaces in Wandsworth. Please help them by reporting any anti- social behaviour including dog related incidents in Tooting Gardens by





emailing <u>parkspolice@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk</u> or by calling 020 8871 7532, their mobile patrol unit can also be reached by calling 07500 959442.

Call 999 if:

A serious offence is in progress or has just been committed

Someone is in immediate danger or harm

Property is in danger of being damaged

A serious disruption to the public is likely

Other Partnerships All work that does not fall under these contracts or within the remit of any official Friend's of group is managed by Enable in partnership with Wandsworth Council and carried out under additional works programmes, by order, with the main contractor outside contractors depending on the scope of the work entailed.











