Latchmere Recreation Ground Management Plan

Latchmere Recreation Ground 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 Latchmere Recreation Ground 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 Latchmere Rec sets out proposed plans for this park over the next 10 years.











Key Action points

Park management and contractor activities - Review and improve existing planting schemes at entrances into the Ground to provide more all year- round colour and interest. Carry out a feasibility study into extent and type of refurbishment that gates would be required before submitting for funding into repairs. Enhance natural play area. Consider removing some planting to increase room for additional play equipment etc. Install drinking and bottle filling station Consider areas suitable area to incorporate a decorative planting scheme. Design and deliver new shade tolerant planting schemes and expand and fill gaps in perimeter borders

Biodiversity activities - Define and improve wildflower meadow area and bulb areas to offer increased opportunities for wildlife. Introduce specific biodiversity interpretation, create educational activity resources around surveying and recording wildlife in the park.

Arboriculture activities - Consider planting 2 more weeping willows to replace the existing ones in due course.

Community engagement activities –Identify stakeholder groups and work to support new and ongoing volunteering activities and events. Hold gardening days to raise awareness of volunteering opportunities. Consider repurposing underused hardstanding area as a focused community engagement space

Development and funding activities - Consider relocating playground and funding for this.

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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	Ornamental gates at entrances give good views into the Ground. Other entrances are open with direct views.	The site lines from entrances are lacking in focal interest points to entice visitors into the Ground. The playground blocks flow between West and East sides of the park. It is not possible to go from one side of the rec to the other without leaving the park or going through the playground	Review and improve existing planting schemes at entrances into the Ground to provide more all year- round colour and interest. Consider relocating playground	Ongoing Continental, Enable Parks Team, £x



Reform Street Entrances	This gate opens onto the east side of the Ground Another gate opens onto the south side of the Ground.	The gate is warped and its paint is peeling. Further barriers provide an unwelcome entrance that is difficult to manoeuvre through.	Carry out a feasibility study into extent and type of refurbishment that would be required before submitting for funding into repairs. Reconsider the need for double barriers.	Medium Term Enable Parks Team £x
Burns Road Entrances	One gate opens onto the west side of the Ground. Another gate opens onto the north side of the Ground.	The gate is not in good condition. Traffic barriers on the roadside are twisted. Further barriers provide an unwelcome entrance that is difficult to manoeuvre through.	Carry out a feasibility study into extent and type of refurbishment that would be required before submitting for funding into repairs. Reconsider the need for double barriers.	Medium Term Enable Parks Team £x
Good and safe access	Access is easy for visitors via both gates. The egress at both entrances	There is no cycle parking in Latchmere Rec	Work with WBC and Highways re. street barrier at entrance of greenspaces	Ongoing Continental, Enable Parks Team, £xx





	are maintained to ensure site is safe to users The barriers at the Reform Street and Burn Road entrances serve as a safety barrier between children entering and leaving the Ground and the road.		repair/maintenance across the borough Consider introducing cycle parking	
Signage, Interpretation and Waymarking	There is effective, standard WBC welcome signage into Latchmere Rec at both entrances.	The welcome sign at site entrances are standard WBC signs that do not provide detail of heritage and biodiversity of the Grounds. There is limited waymarking in surrounding area to Latchmere Rec and between Latchmere Rec other local greenspaces	Audit of signage to be carried out as a service plan topic followed by discussion with WBC to action improved signage across all sites. Undertake asset assessment to ensure the signs remain fit for purpose and informative. Improve directional signage in the	Ad hoc weekly inspections Enable Parks Team £xx





				surrounding neighbourhood to the Grounds.	
	Equal access for all	Access into and around the Ground is good for those with good mobility. There is free to use playground for toddlers and juniors	Children with special needs are restricted in opportunities to play with and alongside their peers due to lack of inclusive play equipment.	Ensure opportunities for inclusive / accessible play are designed into any future refurbished play area Carry out Accessibility Audit for site to ensure all points of the Park are currently accessible.	Ongoing Enable £xxx
Healthy, Safe and Secure	Appropriate Provision of Quality Facilities and Activities	The playground had some good climbing apparatus.	Natural play area is not very challenging or interesting. Better toddler provision could be given. Add more accessible play.	Enhance natural play area. Consider removing some planting to increase room for additional play equipment etc. Install drinking and bottle filling station	Ongoing Enable £xx



Safe equipment and facilities	equipment, and faci Playground facilities by Enable's Playgro	und Officer biweekly	ec are safe. re visually inspected	The last playground inspection found that all equipment and areas were reported as low risk.
Personal security	reviewed and acted Issues that cause fe	ar for different meml sivity, racism, drugs,	Police are regularly bers of the community bullying, vandalism,	Ongoing Enable Parks Team, Parks Police £x
Control of dogs/ dog fouling	Responsible dog ownership is encouraged through Education, provision and maintenance and	This green space is regularly used by dog owners and is regularly found to be fouled.	Extend 'Paw Patrol' pop up events schedule to Latchmere Rec More information ca be found here:	Ongoing Enable Parks Team Parks Police £x



			emptying of dog bins combined with active enforcement by Parks Police		Dogs in Parks and Open Spaces Information	
	Control of "issues	other	Parks Byelaws Wandsworth Council More information ca	il Parks Bye laws	orth Borough Council vandsworth.gov.uk)	Ongoing Enable Parks Team Parks Police £x
Well Maintained and Clean			The litter bins in Latchmere Rec are emptied daily by 10am and are not permitted to remain full for more than 24 hours. Litter picking is also carried out across the Grounds.			Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x
	Horticultural Maintenance		General horticultural maintenance duties are carried out by contracted grounds people with members of Parks Team qualified in recognised horticultural skills.		Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x	
		Decorative Beds		There are no decorative beds	Consider areas suitable area to incorporate a decorative planting scheme.	Winter 2022 Enable Parks Team £x
		Shrubberies and Borders	There are several areas of ornamental planting along the boundaries and within the Ground.	There are gaps in all shrubberies which become more prevalent under the trees.	Design and deliver new shade tolerant planting schemes and expand and fill gaps in perimeter borders.	Spring 2023Enable Parks Team £x



	Arboriculture Maintenance	large mature trees on the site and many smaller trees. The trees in Latchmere Rec are inspected by Enable's Tree Team every 3 years and works carried out	Willows are reaching maturity. Potential for them to last another 50 years.	Inspection into some decay in the limbs may be required. Consider planting 2 more weeping willows to replace the existing ones in due course.	Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x
	Building and Infrastructure Maintenance		Gates and fencing are in not in good condition. Some top spikes have been removed. Paint is peeling. Some railings are loose. Top line of railing is not straight. Gate does not open very well, floor bolt drags.	Carry out a feasibility study into extent and type of refurbishment that would be required before submitting for funding into repairs.	Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x



Environmental	Managing	reporting defects and undertaking any minor repairs needed to facilitate safety and/or return the equipment or area to use or cordoning off area if necessary, as a temporary measure to ensure user safety and to discourage vandalism. These gates are regularly checked to ensure they are kept in good working order. There is seating for 28 in Latchmere Rec which are currently in good condition	Ongoing Enable Parks
Environmental Management	Managing Environmental Impact	A suite of plans, policies and strategies guide our approach to managing our impact on the environment, including the <u>Wandsworth Environment and Sustainability Strategy</u> Enable's sustainable planting plan, <u>Wandsworth Biodiversity</u>	Team





	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.	£x
Waste Minimisation	All green waste generated on site is taken to Battersea Park Depot where Continental, process the green waste into mulch which is re-used on beds within parks and open spaces across the Borough	Ongoing Enable Parks Team £x
Chemical Usage	Unless otherwise specified all weed removal will be performed by manual rather than chemical treatments, e.g., fungicides, herbicides and pesticides must be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturers and Authorised Officer's instructions, and only on specified areas 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.	Ongoing Enable Parks Team Continental £x



	Peat Use	Horticultural waste is composted for use as a replacement for peat-based or commercial products when mulching.	Ongoing Enable Parks,Team Continental £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 Continental £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, Continental £x
	Conservation of Landscape Features		OngoingEnable Parks Team Continental £x
	Conservation of Buildings and Structures		Ongoing Enable Parks Team Continental £x
Community Involvement	Community Involvement in	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	Ongoing Enable Parks Team,



Management and Development	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. 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 then subject to community conversations and consultations.	£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. 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	Ongoing Enable Parks Team Continental £x





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Marketing and Communication	Marketing and Promotion	Events, news, or activities in our greenspaces are publicised on social media platforms We also work with Wandsworth Council to publish information in the quarterly Borough wide newsletter Quarterly Brightside and weekly Borough E-Bulletin, Weekly Brightside as well as ensuring that all relevant information is also advertised on their social platform	Ongoing Enable Parks Team Continental £x
	Appropriate Information Channels	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	Ongoing Enable Parks Team Continental £x



		A range of articles and press releases providing more detailed information about any exciting projects in our green spaces can be found Enable News			
	Appropriate Educational and Interpretation Information				Ongoing Enable Parks Team Continental £x
Implementation of Management Plan		4 x full team review sessions are delivered each year and fed into an impact report at the end of each session. A community suggestion file is also kept on record and will be fed into the plan when appropriate. Annual Impact reports will be made available each year on our website with the first report due to be published December 2023		Ongoing Enable Parks Team Continental £x	

Management Plan Details

Site Name:	Latchmere Recreation Ground
Plan author and approver:	Alice Henry and Valerie Selby





Previous Plans:	Latchmere Recreation Ground Management Plan 2008 –2013 (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	This site is owned By Wandsworth Borough Council
Destinations:	It is in the Battersea Park Ward. Elected members for this area until May 2026 are: Councillor Juliana Annan, Councillor Tony Belton and Councillor Maurice Mcleod
	Latchmere Recreation Ground is bounded to the north and east by Reform Street; to the south by Burns Road and to the west by Southside Quarter, a housing development on the site of a former school. The grid reference of the bottom southwest corner of the site is TQ27777637 and the area of the site totals 7469 square metres (0.75 ha /1.8 acres).
	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).
	Latchmere Rec 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 Latchmere Rec offers the opportunity for increasing special habitats either for species to commute through or make their home. The footpath that divides the site north to south is designated as a public highway.
Site Description:	Latchmere Recreation Ground is a small, enclosed area with slightly mounded grass areas,
one becompain	large mature trees that provide a dappled shade in the summer. There is a generous play
	area and an outdoor gym. The large, mature London plane trees at the boundaries, and two fine mature weeping willow trees near the junior playground, are a major feature.





Original railings enclose the site on 3 sides with a brick wall forming the boundary between the old school and the site.

The western section is extensively surfaced with tarmac. A wooden pergola in the eastern section forms a sitting area. This is paved with concrete block pavers

The site can be accessed from Burns Road and Reform Street via original wrought iron double gates. There are further entrances from Burns Road across the Grounds onto Reform Street to the East. Both these barriered entrances lead onto a central gravel footpath that divides the ground north to south into two very distinct spaces.

Latchmere Recreation Ground was laid out in 1906 as a recreation ground for families on the new Latchmere Estate, which had been built three years earlier on land that had previously been a large allotments site. The Latchmere Estate is one of the earliest examples of a public social housing development to be executed by a local council. The Grounds gained notoriety as the location of a statue to commemorate a brown dog involved in vivisection in 1907. The statue was sited on a plinth in the central circular area of the park until 1910, amidst the related controversy, it was removed and presumably destroyed. A new statue was commissioned by anti-vivisection groups in 1985 and erected on a pathway between the Pump House Gallery and the Old English Garden in Battersea Park.

Two double gates are original and add to the character and heritage of the park.

There are areas of mown grass on the east and west side of the Ground. A majority of the site, including the play area is shaded on account of the extensive tree canopy. This allows for a pleasant break from the increasing hot summer conditions. There is also a humped grassy bank on the west side opposite a brick paved area where there was once a wooden pergola.

There is a free to use playground for toddlers and juniors

There is a free to use outdoor gym located in the east side of the Ground.

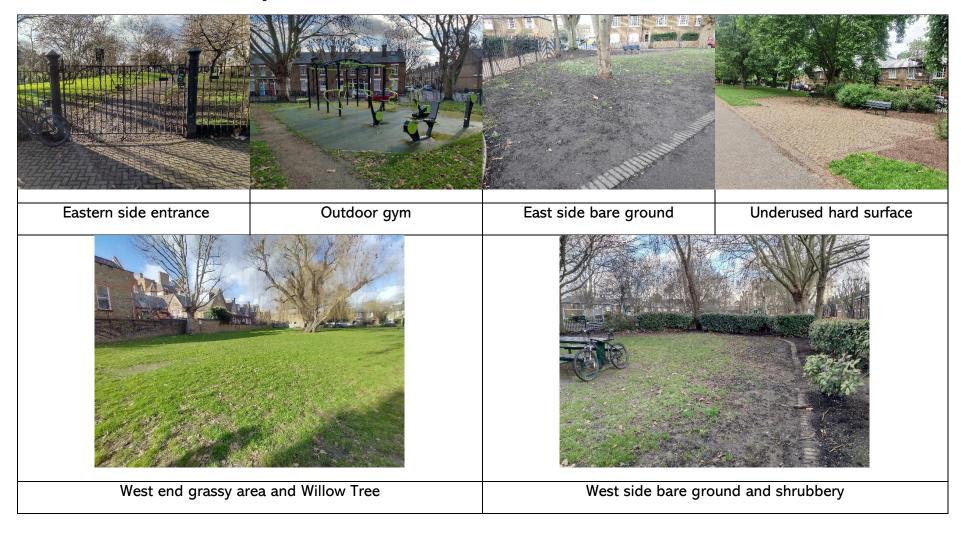




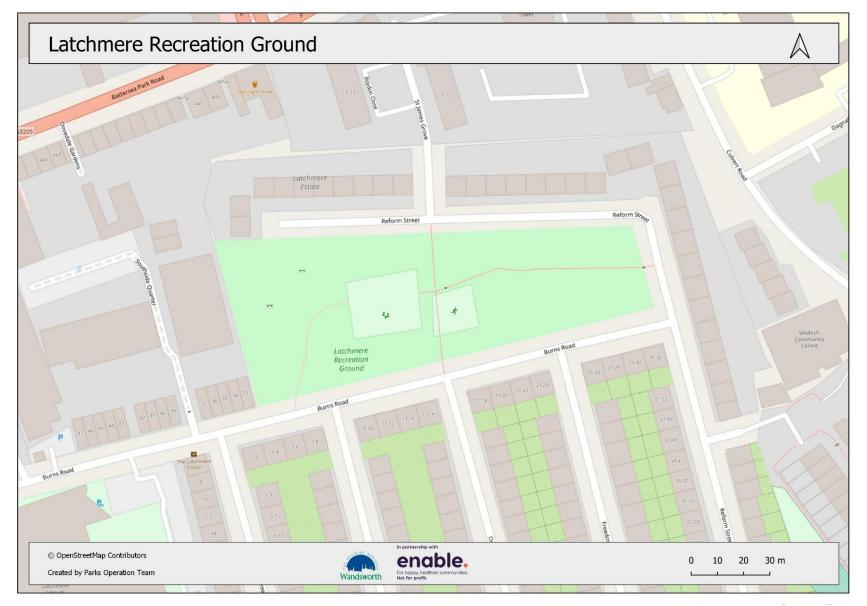
	How to find Latchmere Rec
	By bus – The closest bus stop is on Battersea Park Road, it takes 5 minutes to walk from the bus stop to Latchmere Rec.
	By tube- the closest tube station is Clapham Junction Underground Station, it takes 20 minutes to walk from the station to Latchmere Rec.
	By train – the closest train station is Queenstown Road Station, it takes 17 minutes to walk from the station to Latchmere Rec.
	By bicycle – The closest TFL bike docking station is on Sheepcote Lane, it takes 5 mins to walk to Latchmere Rec.
	By car -Latchmere Rec has no dedicated car parking on site, although there is limited pay and display parking available nearby.
	Opening Times – Latchmere Rec is not locked at any time.
	If you have any issues gaining access or exiting, please call Parks Police on 07500969442
Current main uses and users:	Latchmere Rec is a popular green space for local residents and dog owners.
Playground:	
Quiet Area:	
Grassy Area:	



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 Latchmere Rec 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 Latchmere Road Rec 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 Christchurch Ground by emailing parks@enablelc.org or by calling The Enable Parks Office 0203 959 0060

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

The Enable Tree team look after more than 60,000 trees in its parks, commons and public green spaces. Each Greenspace including, Latchmere Rec, 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 Latchmere Rec 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 Latchmere Rec 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 Latchmere Rec.

Enable: look after all Wandsworth's public green spaces including Latchmere Rec by ensuring they remain safe and welcoming places for 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. The Parks Team respond to enquiries to do with any aspect regarding over 50 public greenspaces in Wandsworth and can be reached by emailing parks@enablelc.org or calling the Enable Parks Office on 0203 959 0060. The Parks office is open 9am –5pm weekdays.

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 Latchmere Rec 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











