



GREEN FLAG MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 - 26

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# Central Park

Boston Lincolnshire





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# Foreword

Boston Borough Council (BBC) is proud to have Central Park as one of our most valued green spaces, a place where people can relax, enjoy nature, play, and take part in cultural and recreational activities. It is a vital resource for the health and well-being of our residents and a vibrant hub for our community.

We are committed to supporting a strong and sustainable green future, aligned with our corporate priorities and environmental commitments. Our approach reflects the Council's ambition to promote health and wellbeing, regeneration, climate resilience, and biodiversity across all our parks and open spaces.

The Green Flag Award process is central to this vision. It provides a clear framework for quality standards and helps us set priorities for how we manage and improve our green spaces for future generations. Achieving and maintaining this award for Central Park demonstrates our dedication to delivering a safe, welcoming, and environmentally responsible space for everyone.

This Management Plan is not only a statement of the Council's commitment to continuous improvement but also a recognition of the invaluable support from our partners, volunteers, and community groups. Their passion and involvement are essential in helping us respond to our green agenda and ensure Central Park remains a source of pride for Boston.

Together, we will continue to enhance Central Park as a place that celebrates heritage, promotes sustainability, and strengthens community spirit.

## Purpose of the Plan

The Management Plan for Central Park has been prepared by BBC and Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC). The plan is specifically developed for the individual site with a dedicated Green Flag Action Plan.

This plan has been developed following detailed assessment of the Green Flag Award criteria and a comprehensive collaborative review of the existing uses, management and maintenance of Central Park.

As part of the development of the plan, detailed consultation has taken place with the park's maintenance and management team and friends of groups.

The Management plan is a 'working document' that brings together all the information relating to Central Park and will be updated, revised and annually reviewed.

# Structure of the Plan

This plan has been developed based on the “Green Flag Award Guidance Manual” guidelines. As such it is laid into four main sections:

## Where are we now?

- Site Description and Facilities
- Site Information
- Detailed History
- Recent Developments
- Policy and Strategic Context
- SWOT Analysis

## Where do we want to get to?

- Green Flag Analysis
- Consultation and Co-design

## Appendices

Appendix 1 – Action Plan

Appendix 2 – Tree Species Report

Appendix 3 - Tree List

Appendix 4 – Consultation Results

## How do we get there?

- Vision and Objectives
- Action Planning
- Annual Grounds Maintenance work programme
- Meeting the Green Flag Criteria
- Management Structure and Responsibilities

## How do we know when we have arrived?

- Monitoring and Review

Appendix 5 – Annual Maintenance Plan

Appendix 6 – Environmental Management Plan

Appendix 7 – Training Log

# Site Description

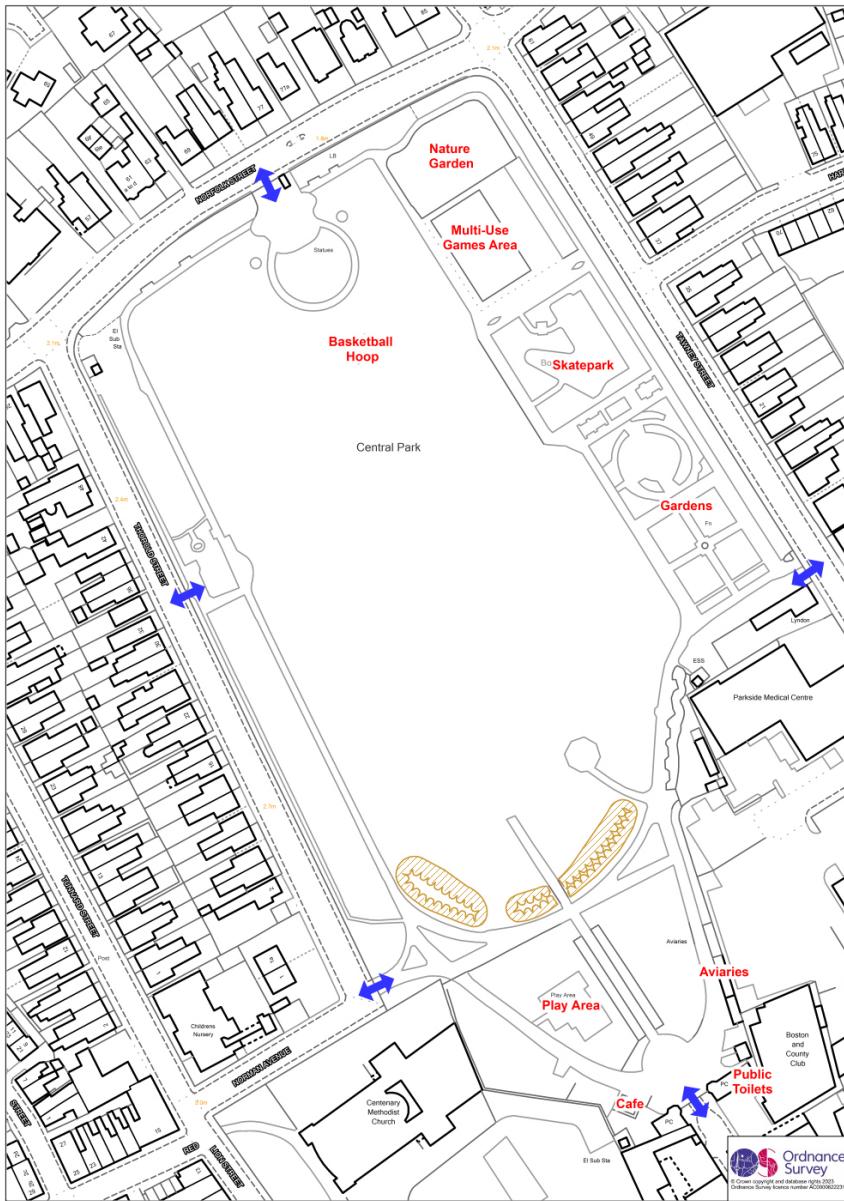
Boston Central Park, situated in Boston, Lincolnshire, England, is a vibrant public park that serves as a cherished green space for both residents and visitors. The park features beautifully maintained gardens, winding walking paths, and expansive open areas ideal for sports and leisure activities. Families will appreciate the dedicated playgrounds designed for children's enjoyment.

A standout feature of Boston Central Park is its skatepark, which provides a designated area for skateboarding, BMX riding, and other wheeled sports. This facility caters to various skill levels, equipped with ramps, rails, and other structures for skaters and riders to hone their abilities. The skatepark has become a lively hub for local youth, often bustling with activity.

The park also includes a multi-use games area frequented by visitors and community groups alike. Additionally, it features free to use outside exercise equipment, providing an accessible way to incorporate fitness into your daily routine. The playground is perfect for younger children, offering a delightful setting for traditional family fun.

One side of the park is home to a bird aviary, adding a unique attraction for families to explore. Located in the town centre, Central Park is a favoured picnic spot during the summer, offering ample space to relax and unwind. Visitors can also enjoy the on-site café, which serves a variety of hot meals, ice cream, and beverages, along with public toilets conveniently located at the park's entrance.

Boston Central Park and its skatepark are vital community spaces that encourage outdoor recreation and foster social interaction in the heart of Boston.



## Site Information

**Name:** Central Park & Skatepark

**Address:** 8 Thorold St, Boston PE21 6PH

**Contacts:** 01205 314200

**Web:** <https://www.boston.gov.uk/centralpark>

**Email:** [feedback.centralpark@boston.gov.uk](mailto:feedback.centralpark@boston.gov.uk)

**Ownership:** Boston Borough Council

**Size:** 4.5 hectares

**Access:** The park is not locked and is therefore freely accessible

**Local Facilities:** Skatepark, Toilets, Café, MUGA, Aviary, Public Gardens, Green Spaces, Nature Zone, Inclusive Play Facilities, Environmental Trails

**Parking:** Available on surrounding roads

# History of Central Park

Central Park traces its origins to the late eighteenth century, when the core eleven-acre site comprised a private deer park attached to Tunnard House on Wide Bargate. During the mid-nineteenth century, the grounds were known as Hopkins Park, after Mr Hopkins, an early resident of Tunnard House, and subsequently as Oldrid's Park when the Oldrid family occupied the mansion. Ownership passed to the heirs of Samuel Tunnard's daughter, who continued to maintain the landscaped parkland well into the early 1900s, even as the estate let the lawns be used for community events and competitions.

In 1860, Hopkins Park hosted a prominent civic ceremony marking the presentation of a Silver Trumpet to the Artillery Volunteers and a Silver Bugle to the Rifle Corps. An illustration of the event appeared in the Illustrated London News, depicting spectators beside the future children's play area and framing Boston's skyline with St Botolph's tower, the Congregational Church spire at Red Lion Street, and the Centenary Methodist Church behind tree canopies.

By the 1890s, rising demand for middle-class housing prompted the sale and subdivision of the park's peripheral lands. Developers laid out Tunnard Street, Thorold Street, and Tawney Street along the former park boundary, integrating brick-faced terraces into Boston's expanding street grid. Despite these encroachments, the estate's centre remained open, with a pair of wrought-iron gates on Witham Street providing public access, a feature whose stone pillars stood visible into the 1960s amid later housing.

Following the loss of the older People's Park to dock expansion, Boston Borough Council acquired the remaining core of the estate in 1919. Over the next decade, the Council landscaped flower beds, installed tennis courts and changing pavilions, and laid out a large, grassed area for summer cricket. In 1932, the

refreshed grounds officially opened as Central Park, crowned by ornamental wrought-iron gates gifted by Alderman Charles Day at the Parkgate entrance.

Throughout the mid-twentieth century, Central Park's eleven acres supported a balanced mix of recreation facilities, tennis courts, bowling greens, a children's play area, and aviaries, while retaining its marquee summer use for cricket.

Since the turn of the millennium, investment has modernised Central Park to meet contemporary needs while respecting its heritage. A modern children's play area and skate facility sit alongside refreshed planting beds, seating, and a kiosk/café. Flexible lawns and paved areas continue to host seasonal events and community programmes, ensuring that the park's two-century evolution, from private deer park to vibrant public green space and remains an enduring asset for Boston, Lincolnshire.



## Policy and Strategic Context

Actions and aims within this management plan are both guided by, and relate back, to wider strategies.

To utilise our green spaces to drive economic and social renewal, promote health and well-being, and align with the Borough's strategic aims:

**Place:** Ensure the park is safe, clean, and promotes environmental awareness, aligning with the Borough's commitment to creating a sustainable and welcoming environment.

**People:** Create a safe and secure environment that promotes health and well-being, supporting the Borough's objective of fostering a healthy and inclusive community.

**Prosperity:** Position Boston as a natural destination for visitors, enhancing its appeal and contributing to the Borough's goal of economic growth and tourism.

**Public Service:** Develop a collaborative approach between the Borough, partners, statutory agencies, and the vibrant voluntary groups already established in Boston, reflecting the Borough's dedication to effective and inclusive public service.

## Leisure, Sport & Physical Activity

We recognise the benefits that our green spaces can make to the health of our residents.

We are committed to developing active environments that enhance leisure, sport, physical activity and play opportunities in priority areas.

The Councils Playing Pitch Strategy in particular, identifies needs for sports facility improvements and sets out priority projects for delivery in partnership with key stakeholders. We work with Council services to ensure that our approach supports the broader Council strategies around health and wellbeing and together with Leisure Services, Transport, Public Health, and the local community aim to deliver these improvements.

- Lincolnshire District Councils' Health and Wellbeing Strategy

### We work in partnership with:

- One You Lincolnshire
- Active Lincolnshire
- Football Foundation

# SWOT Analysis

A SWOT analysis is a management critique to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to help shape future improvements.

## Strengths

**Central Location:** Easily accessible from various parts of Boston, making it a popular spot for residents and visitors.

**Historical Significance:** Originally part of a private deer park, it has heritage value and contributes to the town's character.

**Community Engagement:** Hosts events and activities that foster community spirit.

**Facilities:** Includes gardens, artworks, a skate park, and open spaces for recreation.

**Green Space:** Provides a vital natural area in an urban setting, supporting wellbeing and biodiversity.

## Weaknesses

**Maintenance Costs:** Ongoing upkeep of facilities and landscaping can be resource intensive.

**Limited Commercial Use:** Restrictions on development may limit revenue-generating opportunities.

**Security Concerns:** Like many public parks, it may face issues such as vandalism or anti-social behaviour.

**Weather Dependency:** Usage can be heavily affected by seasonal weather conditions.

## Opportunities

**Event Expansion:** Potential to host more cultural, recreational, and educational events.

**Partnerships:** Collaborations with local schools, businesses, and community groups could enhance programming and funding.

**Sustainability Initiatives:** Opportunities to introduce eco-friendly projects like community gardens or renewable energy installations.

**Tourism Promotion:** Can be marketed as part of Boston's heritage trail or leisure offerings.

## Threats

**Budget Constraints:** Local authority funding pressures could impact future development or maintenance.

**Environmental Risks:** Flooding or climate-related issues could affect usability and infrastructure.

**Competing Attractions:** Other leisure facilities or parks may draw visitors away.

**Public Perception:** Negative incidents or lack of investment could reduce community trust and engagement.

# Where do we want to get to?

## Green Flag analysis

The ambition for Boston Town Area Committee and community groups is to continue to work to improve standards and develop parks and opens spaces strategically according to local needs and corporate priorities.

A clear connection between the criteria identified by the Green Flag Award Scheme and the main points gained from the SWOT analysis and site review completed with the Councils Parks Team and Community Group Stakeholders has helped to establish a comprehensive management plan for this site.

## Consultation & Co-Design

The Council is currently in the process of creating a Friends of Central Park group, this will overtime help the Council to consult with a dedicated group of volunteers to co-design the future of the park together to increase usage and opportunities of residents.

Regular consultation will take place via questionnaires to gauge the views of those using the park and using that information to help shape the aims and objectives when they are reviewed annually.

We will look to organise annual steering groups to fully engage Friends groups and community groups in compiling these management plans and their progress.

Boston Borough Council works closely with Boston in Bloom with monthly project and development meetings where they discuss their progress and future plans.

Key stakeholders meet every two months as part of an internal working group

BTAC Councillors are regularly updated on Parks development projects and strategies.

Liaison with the Councils Enforcement Team on matters around ASB and public safety.

Starting in March 2024 and ending in March 2025 Community Rangers were employed, and the scheme was designed to provide a visual presence within key areas across the borough. The Community Rangers were initially externally funded through the Police and Crime Commissioner Office and Home Office. For more information about the service please refer to the "Site Safety" section below.

# How do we get there?

## Vision for Boston Central Park

*"To provide Boston with clean and welcoming green spaces accessible to everyone. We aim to create havens of peace, equality, and inclusion, while allowing the natural environment to flourish."*

BTAC Green Flag Working Group

## Key Objectives for Central Park - Boston are:

**Promote Physical Voluntary Work:** Encourage more people to recognise the health and well-being benefits of engaging in physical voluntary work.

**Increase Biodiversity:** Enhance the biodiversity of the natural environment within the park.

**Develop Historical Character:** Preserve and develop the historical character of the park while protecting its most popular features.

**Promote Recreation:** Advocate for the use of Central Park and other green spaces for recreational activities.

**Enhance Community Engagement:** Develop a calendar of events to boost community engagement and participation.

## Action Planning

Our Action Plan for Central Park – Boston is provided in Appendix 1. This plan is based on an evaluation of the SWOT analysis together with other projects and plans raised by the public consultation exercise (results viewed Appendix 4). The Action Plan lists actions and categorises based on:

### Timescales

- Short term – less than 1 year
- Medium term – 1-3 years
- Long term – 3+ years
- On-going

## Green Flag Award criteria

- Welcoming place
- Healthy, safe and secure
- Well maintained and clean
- Sustainability
- Biodiversity and Heritage
- Community involvement
- Environmental sustainability
- Marketing
- Management

## Annual Grounds Maintenance Work Program

Please refer to Appendix 5 -Annual Maintenance Plan this document sets out the 2025/26 programme, including daily litter picking and bin emptying, daily visual checks of the Play Park, MUGA and Skate Park, weekly ROSPA inspections, mechanical sweeping and routine path blowing.

It also details seasonal mowing/strimming of high and low amenity grass, shrub and hedgerow maintenance, leaf-fall clearance, meadow cut-collect-overseed, periodic deep cleans of play equipment, aviary feeding checks, fencing inspections, and annual tree health inspections with winter tree-limbing, with the nature zone managed chemical-free, providing a clear timetable to keep the park safe, clean, and welcoming year-round.

Boston Borough Council, in partnership with stakeholders, is planning to introduce a structured approach to monitoring the annual grounds maintenance programme. This will include regular meetings between stakeholders to review operational standards and discuss the requirements of the maintenance schedule. These meetings aim to ensure that the programme aligns with agreed quality benchmarks and community expectations.

The programme will be dynamically managed, allowing adjustments to be made based on immediate needs, seasonal priorities, and emerging requirements. This flexible approach will help maintain high standards across all public spaces.

Responsibility for monitoring will not rest with a single individual. Instead, it will be a shared process, achieved through ongoing consultation and by incorporating public feedback. This collaborative model is intended to promote transparency and responsiveness.

Additionally, the Grounds Management Team will conduct weekly inspections to assess performance, identify issues, and confirm that maintenance activities meet the required standards. These inspections will provide an essential layer of quality assurance and inform any necessary adjustments to the programme.

## A Welcoming Place

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Central Park continues to be a welcoming area.

**Graffiti removal:** As a part of our aim to make the borough safe, green and clean we are committed to reducing and removing graffiti. The site will be regularly inspected for graffiti. Where the graffiti is racist or offensive it will be removed within 2 hours of notification.

**Signage:** Signs are inspected regularly to ensure they remain clean and legible, and any damage or wear is repaired promptly. This routine maintenance helps keep the park welcoming and accessible for all visitors.

**Pathways:** All paths and hard surfaces will be inspected annually.

Any necessary repairs will be reviewed, and funding opportunities explored with the aim of rectification as soon possible.

**Visibility:** Vegetation within Central Park is managed to maintain clear sightlines wherever possible, improving safety and creating an open, welcoming environment. Shrubs and low-level planting are pruned regularly, and any overgrown areas that obstruct views across paths or open spaces are reduced. This work is carried out as part of routine grounds maintenance and prioritises areas near entrances, play zones, and seating to ensure visitors feel secure and can easily navigate the park. While the park contains mature trees and established planting that contribute to its character, these are managed carefully so that they do not compromise visibility. The approach is practical and ongoing, responding to seasonal growth and public feedback.

**Heritage and History:** Central Park was established as a public space in 1932 after Boston Borough Council purchased the land in 1919. Before this, the area formed part of a private deer park linked to Tunnard House. The park retains historic character through its original layout, mature tree avenues, and the Art Deco Garden. A notable heritage feature is the Boston Land Buoy, which reflects the town's maritime history and serves as a distinctive landmark within the park.

**Connecting People with Horticulture:** Central Park currently offers several practical opportunities for visitors to engage with horticulture. Volunteer groups, including Boston in Bloom, maintain key areas such as the Art Deco Garden, perennial borders, and pollinator-friendly planting schemes. These activities provide a chance for community members to participate in gardening and learn basic horticultural skills. The park also hosts occasional events and workshops, such as wildflower planting, bug hotel building, and botanical art sessions, which encourage families and individuals to interact with plants and wildlife. In addition, features like the Pollinator Garden and wildflower meadow allow visitors to experience diverse planting and understand the importance of biodiversity. These initiatives are well-established and contribute to making the park an attractive, educational, and inclusive space for the local community.

## Park features and infrastructure

### Play Equipment

Over the past few years, Central Park's play area has seen the installation of new, more challenging, and inclusive play equipment, thanks to funding from BTAC (£65,000), Boston Big Local (£25,000 every two years over a decade), and Local Hope (£4,000).

Following community consultations, several exciting additions were made, including a high slide, nest swing, and wheelchair swing in 2018; an inclusive roundabout in 2017; as well as a fairy tale unit, springers, see-saw, play panels, zip wire, spider web climbing unit, picnic benches, and new surfacing, including chicane entrances in 2022.

These enhancements have provided all children and young people with greater opportunities to engage in physical activity, promoting their health and wellbeing.



## Skatepark & Sports Area

In 2018, discussions were initiated with young people through schools and youth groups to explore the long-desired idea of establishing a skate park in Central Park. This early engagement was crucial in shaping a project that truly reflected community aspirations. Over several months, professional installers worked closely with residents to design a facility that would cater to scooters, rollerblades, BMX riders, and skateboarders, ensuring an exceptional riding experience for all.

The addition of the multi-use games area (MUGA) and skatepark stands as clear evidence of how we actively engage with the community to deliver facilities that meet their needs. With support from the Community Migration Fund, a collaborative project was launched to create the skate park alongside a MUGA, table tennis tables, and a community garden. Completed in 2022, the initiative

represented a total investment of £306,000 (£37,000 from BTAC and £269,000 from Government Controlling Migration Funding).

Since opening, the skate park has become a vibrant hub for all ages, from 4-year-olds to adults, eager to learn and improve their skills. This is highlighted during the annual skate jam, which provides a platform for talent and attracts professional riders who have praised the park, with some even calling it one of the best in the country.

The sports area was developed as part of the same vision. The MUGA and table tennis tables offer older children and adults opportunities to stay active as they outgrow the playground. Combined with the existing basketball hoop area, these facilities have broadened the range of sporting activities available, encouraging physical activity and proving particularly popular with our international community.



## Outdoor Gym Equipment

In 2017, six pieces of gym equipment were installed in Central Park, funded by the NHS. They quickly gained popularity among people of all ages, providing an opportunity for everyone to exercise outdoors, free of charge, and at their convenience, accommodating busy schedules with children and work commitments, as well as times when indoor gym facilities were unavailable. This is another way in which we are prioritising Central Park as an area to improve physical health and well-being.

In 2022, additional equipment was added at a cost of £22,000, funded by Boston Big Local and BTAC. This new equipment introduced more challenging exercise options for the community, further enhancing physical health and well-being.



## Community Garden

The community gardens offers a serene space for everyone to sit, unwind, and reflect.

The By Land buoy, located in Central Park, was created by Carrie Reichardt. It honours Boston's farming traditions and its motto "By Sea and By Land." The buoy is decorated with mosaics, including pieces made by local residents, and features imagery inspired by seed packets and vintage agricultural adverts. It sits within a spiral garden designed by Jeni Cairns, creating a peaceful space for

visitors. Central Park was chosen for its role as Boston's main green space and its historical connection to the community.

The Boston Buoys project is a public art trail that repurposed six historic navigational buoys to celebrate Boston's maritime and agricultural heritage. Led by Transported Arts and supported by Arts Council England and local partners, the project features work by three artists.



## Nature Garden

Nestled at the base of Central Park, the nature garden offers the community a unique opportunity to engage with the environment through a variety of free events, such as building bug hotels, weaving willow arches, and planting wildflowers and bulbs. These sessions, have been led by the Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service Team, are open to everyone and designed to be fun and inclusive. The Green Flag working group has secured funding to further develop this area, including the creation of accessible pathways to ensure wheelchair users can enjoy our environmental spaces. The garden will also be adorned with educational features, enhancing its role as a learning hub. Adding to its vibrant atmosphere, charming mosaic artworks of animals are scattered throughout the space, creating a visually engaging and welcoming environment for all.



## Bird Aviary

The bird aviary in Central Park has been a beloved fixture for many years, receiving renovations in 1988 in honour of Paul Warsap, who played a significant role in its creation. Paul served as a Park Keeper from 1979 to 1994. The aviary continues to bring joy to the community, with some residents even contributing birds over the years.



## Toilets

There are gentlemen's and ladies' toilets located just outside the main gates of Central Park, along with a disabled toilet. Inside Central Park, there is an additional disabled toilet and a new Changing Places facility that was constructed in 2024 as part of the Changing Places initiative.

These Changing Places facilities provide a safe and accessible environment for individuals who cannot use standard accessible toilets. They are equipped with hoists, privacy screens, adult-sized changing benches, peninsula toilets, sinks, and ample space for caregivers. Access is granted using a code and key.

## Kiosk / Café area

There is a small kiosk in the park currently operated by P.C Caterers and is a delightful spot for locals and visitors alike to get a drink and sweet treats. The café is on a 10-year lease, set to conclude in 2032. Its operating hours vary with the seasons: This seasonal schedule ensures that the kiosk/café caters to the needs of its patrons throughout the year.

## Park Wardens welfare

The park warden/ grounds team have a small staff room alongside a toilet and storeroom

## Healthy, Safe and Secure

The following management regimes all play a part in ensuring that Central Park continues to be a healthy, safe and secure place.

### Site Safety

All staff and contractors play an important role in terms of a visible staff presence. All are uniformed and where necessary will wear highly visible clothing. All works will have been risk assessed to ensure the highest level of public safety.

### Dog fouling & Dog Control

The Parks Staff, Environmental Enforcement Officers and Community Safety Officers make efforts to educate dog owners to be responsible.

Currently the council has a Public Spaces Protection Order in place in the borough to enable the council to effectively deal with, Dog Fouling, the exclusion of dogs from fenced off children's play areas, comply with a direction to put a nuisance dog or dangerous dog on a lead and provide evidence of the means of a suitable receptacle to pick up dog faeces.

Potential to design and install suitable signage continue to be reviewed.

## Community Safety

The Community Safety Officers and Environmental Enforcement Officers employed by the council play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and integrity of the borough's parks and open spaces. They conduct patrols through Central Park at least six times daily, maintaining a strong presence during peak hours to promptly address incidents of anti-social behaviour.

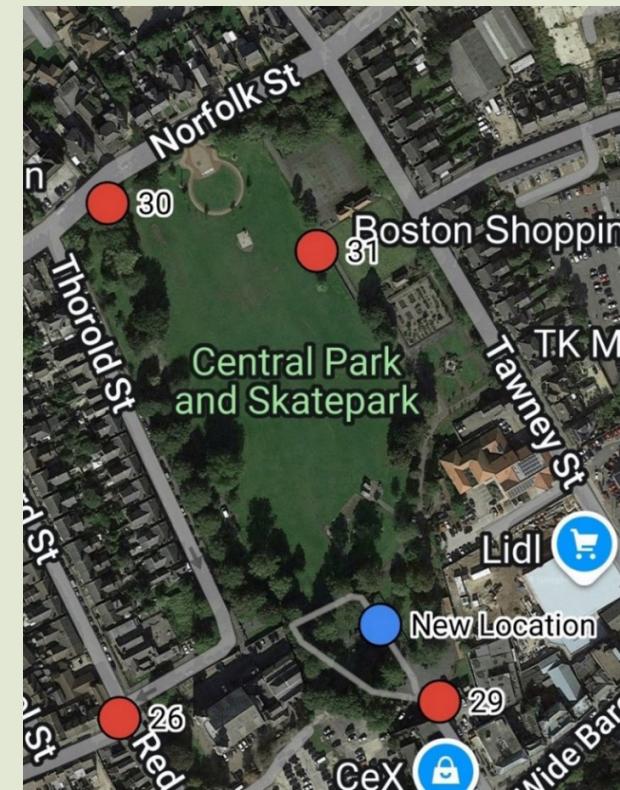
The Community Safety Officers, who commenced their duties in August 2025 through one-year funding from Boston Town Board, have taken on many responsibilities previously handled by the Rangers. Their functions are part of the stakeholder group, where any issues, whether arising or anticipated, are discussed collaboratively. These officers specifically handle alcohol-related incidents under the Alcohol Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) applicable to Central Park, along with general anti-social behaviour and nuisance issues.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Enforcement Officers focus on violations such as Dog Public Space Protection Orders, littering, public urination, and fly-tipping offences. To enhance community safety, these officers work closely with the CCTV control room to take legal action against offenders, ensuring accountability for those who breach community regulations. This collaborative effort not only reinforces the enforcement of existing laws but also contributes to a safer environment for all park users.

Through their consistent patrolling, Community Safety Officers create a visible presence that deters potential offenders. Their active engagement with the community fosters relationships with park visitors, encouraging residents and users to report any incidents they witness. This proactive strategy is bolstered by their collaboration with the Parks Team, which provides valuable insights and intelligence regarding ongoing anti-social behaviour issues.

In summary, Community Safety Officers and Environmental Enforcement Officers are essential in promoting a safe, clean, and welcoming atmosphere in Central Park and other public spaces. Their dedication to addressing anti-social behaviour not only protects the community but also enhances the enjoyment of these public spaces for everyone.

Currently, there are three CCTV locations within Central Park, making it one of the most CCTV-monitored areas in the town (as indicated on the map below as 29, 30, and 31). Positions 29, 30 and 31 feature a cluster of cameras, including a movable 'PTZ' camera and several 'static' cameras that provide continuous coverage of key areas. Additionally, a new CCTV installation (marked in blue) has been completed to enhance coverage of the children's play area. Further enhancements regarding network performance at position 30 are also being planned to future-proof the Central Park CCTV locations.



# Well Maintained and Clean

## Grass Maintenance

The large field features amenity grass, while the right-hand corner, near the Tawny Street/Norfolk Street junction, includes a wild area. Additionally, there are pockets of wildflower beds located near the skate park.

Grass cutting is usually performed during the growing season, which spans from March to October or November, depending on weather conditions. This period coincides with peak grass growth, making regular mowing essential for maintaining healthy and attractive grassy areas. Typically, the grass is mowed every two weeks throughout the cutting season. However, the frequency may fluctuate based on specific conditions, sometimes requiring additional cuts or, conversely, less frequent mowing.

In addition to grass maintenance, caring for shrub beds is crucial for fostering healthy plant growth and improving the overall look of landscaped areas. This maintenance is generally performed during the winter months, from September to February, to avoid disturbing nesting birds. Winter is an ideal time for activities such as pruning, mulching, and weeding, as many plants are dormant, allowing for meticulous attention to detail without the interference of active growth.

## Trees

Central Park will champion the newly introduced 'Grown Locally – Homed Locally' ethos, which will guide future planting and landscaping decisions. This approach prioritises sourcing and nurturing trees within Lincolnshire, reinforcing

sustainability, supporting the local economy, and fostering community pride. The park currently hosts 170 trees across 24 species, creating a diverse and ecologically valuable landscape. Key species include *Tilia* (Lime), providing shade and pollinator-friendly flowers; *Prunus* (Cherry), offering seasonal blossom for early pollinators; *Acer* (Maple), contributing vibrant autumn colour and insect habitat; and *Sorbus* (Rowan), supplying berries for birds and mammals. *Betula* (Birch) adds visual contrast and supports biodiversity, while *Carpinus* (Hornbeam) and *Crataegus* (Hawthorn) enhance nesting and pollinator habitats. *Ilex* (Holly) ensures year-round greenery and winter food sources, and *Fagus* (Beech) forms a dense canopy for carbon storage and air quality improvement. Evergreen species such as *Cedrus* (Cedar) and *Chamaecyparis* (Cypress) provide structure and shelter, while rare specimens like *Ginkgo*, *Metasequoia*, *Laburnum*, *Robinia*, and *Salix* enrich genetic diversity and educational value. Maintenance is scheduled outside the nesting bird season (March–August), with emergency works only for safety, ensuring compliance with biodiversity regulations. For full details of species composition and individual tree data, please refer to Appendix 2 – Tree Species Report and Appendix 3 – Tree List.

## Cleansing

The collection of litter is extremely important in maintaining the appearance of Boston's parks and open spaces and has a direct effect upon how people treat and respect the site. Litter picking takes place daily, seven days per week.

## Park Furniture & Fittings

Boston Borough Council ensure that all furniture is clean and will check benches, notice boards and bins on a regular basis. Items will be cleaned when necessary. Any necessary repairs will be reviewed, and funding opportunities explored with the aim of rectification as soon possible.

## Playgrounds

At Central Park, we prioritise a heightened level of safety for all visitors by implementing a comprehensive inspection regime. Daily visual inspections are carried out by the on-site park attendant to identify and address any immediate hazards. In addition, our in-house trained operatives, qualified to RPII Playground Inspector Level, conduct thorough weekly and quarterly inspections to ensure that all equipment remains in excellent condition and meets safety standards. The playground is also inspected regularly by our insurance company, providing an additional layer of oversight.

Furthermore, an independent inspector undertakes an annual inspection to confirm compliance with ROSPA standards. Any hazards identified during these inspections are dealt with promptly and effectively, ensuring a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone.

## Hard Surfaces

Hard surfaces will be kept clean with litter and leaves removed. Hard surfaces will be maintained in a weed free state with spot treatment weed spraying. Paths will be kept in a good state of repair and all paths being inspected annually and any necessary repairs will be reviewed, and funding opportunities explored with the aim of rectification as soon possible.

## Environmental Sustainability

The following regimes are designed to ensure that Boston Central Park is managed in a sustainable way.

### Litter Recycling

As a District Council, all refuse collected from our litter bins is taken directly to Lincolnshire County Council's Waste Sorting Centre. At present, approximately 39% of all waste processed there is recycled. It's important to note that this percentage reflects the recycling rate for all collected waste streams combined, not specifically the contents of our park litter bins.

In reality, the types of materials typically deposited in park bins are likely to contain a significantly higher proportion of recyclable items. Establishing accurate, reportable figures for park-specific waste will form part of our ongoing development work for Central Park. This will sit alongside plans to introduce dedicated recycling bins and receptacles to help improve both recycling opportunities and data accuracy moving forward.

### Green Waste Recycling

Currently, we chip tree branches from our tree work and use the resulting wood chips in country parks, spreading them around paths and trees to enhance the natural environment. All shrub pruning's from our winter work are collected and taken to the green waste recycling facility. Once the work is done, we collect the green waste and transport it directly to the composting facility at the Lincolnshire County Council Waste Transfer Station in Boston. From there, Lincolnshire County Council manages the disposal process, transporting the green waste to the Energy Waste Plant in North Hykeham, where it is converted into energy. This process not only helps

in managing waste sustainably but also contributes to energy production. We measure the collected and processed waste, receiving weight tickets from the weighbridge at the composting site

## Pesticides

Boston Borough Council is committed to minimizing the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides in the management of its parks and green spaces. In recent years, we have significantly reduced herbicide usage as part of our broader sustainability objectives, ensuring that our approach supports biodiversity and environmental health.

To further support this commitment, we are actively trialling non-glyphosate herbicides such as Finalsan. These alternatives are intended to reduce reliance on traditional chemical treatments that can have a greater environmental impact, while still providing effective weed control where necessary.

Moving forward, the use of herbicides will be carefully restricted and only considered in situations where non-chemical alternatives are not practical. For example, targeted herbicide application may be required to manage invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, which pose a serious threat to local ecosystems.

While reducing herbicide use is a positive step, it introduces operational challenges. Herbicides have traditionally been a cost-effective solution, offering quicker results with less labour. To address this, our parks and grounds team is reviewing operational schedules to ensure adequate resources and strategies are in place for weed control without relying on chemical options.

To further bolster our efforts, we are engaged in ongoing discussions with a local volunteer group. This collaboration aims to leverage their support in weed

removal as part of community service activities. By working together, we can foster community involvement while effectively managing weed growth in our parks and public spaces.

Boston Borough Council remains committed to balancing effective weed management with environmental stewardship, ensuring that our green spaces are maintained in a sustainable and ecologically responsible manner.

## Peat Use

Boston Borough Council is strongly committed to eliminating the use of peat-based products as part of its sustainability and environmental responsibility goals. Over the past few years, the Council has successfully reduced peat usage by an impressive 90%, demonstrating significant progress toward this objective.

Moving forward, the team is prioritising the adoption of natural soils and peat-free compost wherever possible. This approach not only supports biodiversity and soil health but also aligns with national efforts to protect peatlands, which are vital carbon stores and essential for combating climate change. By embracing sustainable alternatives, Boston Borough Council is helping to preserve these critical ecosystems for future generations.

## Fuel, Fleet & Power Tools

All handheld machinery currently operates on petrol, while ride-on mowers use diesel. To support our sustainability goals and reduce carbon emissions, we are actively exploring funding opportunities to replace machinery at the end of its service life with electric alternatives. This phased approach ensures cost efficiency while aligning with environmental commitments, see Appendix 6 – Environmental Management Plan.

## Biodiversity

At Central Park in Boston, Lincolnshire, we are dedicated to maintaining and enhancing our parks and open spaces to ensure a diverse range of age, species, and structure within the canopy, understory, and herb layers. Our approach includes:

**Managing Site-Specific Habitats:** We focus on preserving unique habitats such as acid grasslands and mature veteran trees, which are integral to the park's ecological balance.

**Enhancing Terrestrial Habitats:** By supporting a diverse range of flora and fauna, we aim to enrich the park's terrestrial habitats. This includes planting native species and creating environments where wildlife can thrive.

**Creating New Habitats:** We explore opportunities to introduce new habitats, such as wildflower meadows and native hedge planting. These initiatives not only beautify the park but also provide essential resources for pollinators and other wildlife.

**Sympathetic Mowing Regimes:** Where suitable, we implement mowing regimes that leave areas of rough grassland around trees. This practice helps maintain biodiversity and provides shelter for small animals and insects.

**Addressing Climate Change:** We recognise the impacts of climate change, including droughts, wildfires, floods, disease, and biosecurity threats. Our management strategies prioritise resilience and adaptability to these challenges.

**Sustainable Planting:** To ensure long-term sustainability, we focus on planting drought-tolerant trees and plants. These species are better equipped to withstand changing climate conditions and contribute to the park's overall health.

**Managing Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS):** We actively manage invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, Pennywort, and Himalayan Balsam. Controlling these species is crucial to protecting native biodiversity and maintaining the park's ecological integrity.

By implementing these strategies, we strive to create a vibrant, resilient, and sustainable environment in Central Park, Boston, Lincolnshire, for the enjoyment of all visitors and the benefit of local wildlife.

## Community Involvement

There are currently two dedicated groups that are regularly involved in the maintenance and enhancement of Central Park, Boston in Bloom and the Green Volunteers.

Boston in Bloom focuses on a specific area of the park, where they engage in activities aimed at beautifying and maintaining the landscape to promote community pride and environmental stewardship. Their commitment not only improves the aesthetics of the park but also fosters a sense of ownership among residents.

The Green Volunteers collaborate with the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to create a wildlife garden in Central Park. This initiative aims to promote biodiversity and provide a habitat for various species, while also educating the community about the importance of wildlife conservation. Their efforts are crucial in making the park a more vibrant and ecologically friendly space.

Initiatives such as establishing raised beds for planting and creating designated wildlife areas can serve as excellent educational tools for students. Organising Park tidy-ups not only enhances the environment but also instils a sense of responsibility in young people. The Green Volunteers work closely with schools

and involve groups of students in meaningful projects.

Community involvement and engagement are further fostered through a variety of events held in Central Park. In the summer Boston Borough Council (through external & BTAC funding) installs a temporary beach area in Central Park and this becomes a vibrant hub of activity, hosting a variety of family-friendly events that catered to diverse interests and age groups. In 2024 families enjoyed two days of beach-themed fun, culminating in the Boston Big Local Legacy event, which brought the community together for an unforgettable experience.

For those over 55, the Golden Oldies Sing-a-long provided a delightful musical gathering, allowing attendees to reminisce and enjoy classic tunes. Additionally, the Fun in the Sun initiative ensured that individuals with additional support needs could partake in enjoyable activities around the beach, promoting inclusivity and community spirit.

Meanwhile, younger children delighted in the Teddy Bears Picnic, a fun event designed specifically for preschoolers, which added charm and joy to the summer festivities.

In addition to these events, the Skate Jam competition at the skate park attracted over 150 riders, ranging from toddlers to adults. This annual Saturday event, which runs from 12 noon to 4 PM, is expertly managed by Team Rubicon and showcased the skate park's popularity, particularly during weekends and school holidays when foot traffic significantly increased.

Other notable attractions included the Dinosaur and Mermaid trails, which captivated the imagination of many visitors. The community in recent years has also enjoyed external events like the Holi Indian Festival and the Ska and Reggae Festival and Boston's first ever Pride Festival which added cultural richness to the summer lineup.

Weekly Junior Park Runs every Sunday for children aged 4 to 14 further enhanced the active spirit of the community.

These events not only bring the community together but also create opportunities for volunteers to participate in organising and facilitating various activities.

To further enhance community engagement, BBC have recently formed a group of volunteers dedicated to Central Park. This initiative is part BBC's broader Volunteer Scheme and is aimed at fostering a sense of community ownership and involvement. Roles for these volunteers have been identified and agreed upon.

We have recently held the first Central Park Community Clean Up event to highlight volunteering opportunities and engage residents in helping to maintain and take ownership of the park. Attended by a small but enthusiastic group of volunteers and supported by Councillors and staff, activities included cleaning waste bins, play equipment and benches, litter picking and leaf clearing. The aim is to hold regular clean-up events in the park and grow volunteer numbers. Furthermore, we are in the process of working with HMP North Sea Camp to provide suitable volunteering opportunities for inmates within the park.



Boston Borough Council promotes Central Park through its corporate communications channels, using a range of straightforward methods to share information with the local community. These include promoting park-based activities and events such as Park Run, the Santa Fun Run, and skate-related events, helping to raise awareness and encourage participation from residents and visitors.

Information about the park is also shared via the Council's social media platforms, where posts, images, and short videos are used to highlight activities, volunteering opportunities, and seasonal updates, with the aim being to reach a broad and diverse audience of local residents and visitors.

Within Central Park itself, a digital display screen is used to share public information messages. The screen operates year-round and can display content in multiple languages. It provides a visible point for communicating council-led messages directly to park visitors, including occasional public safety messaging, such as information designed to raise awareness of the consequences of carrying knives and to promote appropriate behaviour in shared public spaces. The screen also displays general information relating to the town centre.

The Council also promotes volunteering opportunities within the park, recognising the important role volunteers play in supporting its ongoing management and encouraging wider community involvement across the borough.



Visual content, such as photographs and occasional aerial imagery, is used to document improvements and changes within the park over time. This helps to demonstrate ongoing maintenance, enhancement works, and community-led initiatives, while also supporting efforts to present the park as a welcoming and well-managed public space.

Looking ahead, Central Park will benefit from the launch of a dedicated website in 2026, designed to serve as a central hub for all park-related information and services. The website will provide an event calendar, volunteering opportunities, and interactive maps to help visitors navigate the park and discover its features with ease. It will also include educational content showcasing the park's biodiversity, raising awareness of conservation efforts and encouraging visitors to appreciate and protect the natural environment. A dedicated section will explore the history of Central Park, celebrating its cultural and social significance within the community and strengthening the sense of place. To ensure ongoing dialogue and continuous improvement, the platform will offer an accessible channel for residents and visitors to share feedback and suggestions. By creating this digital space, we aim to make it easier for people to connect with the park, stay informed, and participate in its development, ensuring it remains a welcoming and sustainable green space for future generations.

Overall, the Council uses a combination of online, on-site, and community-focused communication methods to raise awareness of Central Park and to support its continued development as a well-used, inclusive, and valued green space.

GREEN FLAG MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 - 26

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# Central Park

Boston Lincolnshire

