

Lake Grounds

MANAGEMENT PLAN

2022 - 2027



Contents

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Vision
- 1.2 Aims
- 1.3 Purpose of plan

2.0 Policy Context

3.0 Site Description

- 3.1 Location and access
- 3.2 Relationship to other Green Infrastructure
- 3.3 Ownership
- 3.4 History
- 3.5 Overview of the park today
- 3.6 Mapping the park
- 3.7 Description of key features and management
- 3.8 Detailed site statistics
- 3.9 Existing management arrangements

4.0 Analysis of Issues

- 4.1 Site Analysis
- 4.2 Qualitative Assessment

5.0 Vision, Aims, Objectives & Action Plan

- 5.1 1 and 5 year priorities
- 5.2 5-year action plan

6.0 Finance

- 6.1 Existing expenditure

7.0 Monitoring & Review

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Grounds Maintenance Contract
- Appendix 2: Tree Works
- Appendix 3: Extract from Rangers inspections
- Appendix 4: Volunteer Work Programme
- Appendix 5: Management Committee
- Appendix 6: Management of Algae Bloom
- Appendix 7: Risk assessment forms
- Appendix 8: Monthly inspection record

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Vision

To sustain a regionally renowned Park which is attractive, fun, safe and biodiverse that visitors of all ages can enjoy and be proud of.

1.2 Aims

North Somerset Council and Portishead Town Council have been working in partnership to identify areas of improvement for Portishead Lake Grounds whilst retaining the parks' historical identity. The Park is an important asset for residents and visitors alike and whilst the general parks maintenance is of a good standard there are areas of infrastructure that require substantial investment.

In 2021 North Somerset Council provided capital investment through the Portishead Great Lake project funding which is to be delivered in 2022. This investment will bring significant improvements to the park that will start to address objectives identified in this managements plan.

Examples of these improvements include creating a picnic and wildlife area that is accessible to all, access improvement for the promenade that will include relining parking bays and repairs to the road surface. Improving access for disabled users of the park with improvements to the existing parking areas with additional dropped kerbs and disable accessible benches. More biodiverse areas are to be introduced to create a more interesting landscape which reflects a wider interest in the natural environment.

Other improvements to the park are to be explored in more detail such as improving the café and boat house provision and maintenance of the lake. Issues that were also raised in the consultation will be addressed as identified in the action plan.

Portishead Town Council will be taking over the responsibility of the play area with the intention of bringing significant improvement to the play facilities that are more appealing to wider age group. This will be a combination of creating new facilities and improving the existing allocation of play equipment

All of which is a big step forward towards improving Portishead Lake Grounds and providing better facilities.

This is how we plan to achieve the Vision, by focusing on a number of important key areas. The table below shows the key objectivesfor the site.

<p>A welcoming place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that Portishead Lake Grounds is welcoming and accessible to the local community • All signage is up-to-date and directing visitors around the site • Advertising up and coming events that will appeal to the local community and visitors • Provide a clean and well-maintained environment 	<p>Financial sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the park more financially sustainable by exploring new/improved commercial opportunities that can be reinvested back into the Lake Grounds • Explore the opportunity of grant/external funding for future improvements 	<p>Improve residents and visitors experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the variety of attractions/reasons for visiting • Explore the opportunity of increasing this site as a venue for more events • Explore the opportunity of additional concessions that appeal to the users of the park
<p>Healthy, safe, secure, and improved accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards keeping risk as low as reasonably possible for all users of the park by maintaining safe working procedure • Improve accessibility for the disabled 	<p>A park that addresses climate change, biodiversity, landscape, and heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce rewilding areas that will benefit biodiversity, create a more interesting landscape and interest in the natural environment • Protect the natural features of park • Maintain and/or enhance the site's historical areas • Retain the history, whilst making it a modern park • Adopt practices to reduce the impact of management operations on the environment. • Introduce areas that contribute positively towards the climate change emergency through carbon offset 	<p>A park that encourages community involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recognise and encourage further community involvement in the park through consultation, events, and activities • Involve as many of the local community as possible in ensuring the park vision is met • Encourage community involvement in the management of the park
<p>Clean and well maintained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maintain good standards of cleanliness and site maintenance 	<p>Provide quality recreational facilities and improved infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and modernise existing facilities • Explore options for more diversity in the facilities currently being offered • Provide facilities that appeal to all ages 	<p>Achieve Green Flag recognition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-enter into the Green Flag competition and achieve Green Flag status

1.3 Purpose of the plan

This plan has been prepared to identify specific objectives and priorities in relation to the current and future management of the Lake Grounds for the next five years and sets out aspirations that may be delivered in the future. The plan considers the needs of the local community and the opportunities and restrictions of the site. For the action plan see paragraph 5.2.

The need for site management plans has been identified as a key issue in the Green Infrastructure Strategy for the District¹ and it covers the period 2022 – 2027. This plan does not cover East Wood, which is covered by its own Management Plan.

The structure of the plan has been developed using existing good practice including CABI Space's 'Guide to producing Green Space Management Plans'. The Council's emerging Green Infrastructure Strategy^[1] also identifies the need for good management across our parks and open space to combat the Climate and Environment Emergency being declared across North Somerset and England in general.

This final plan has been developed following a public consultation process. The plan will enable residents and visitors to be engaged with the on-going management of the site. A management plan is designed to be 'working document' and will be added to and altered as the time designated progresses.

2.0 Policy Context

One of North Somerset Council's key objectives is to be a greener organisation and it has demonstrated this through introducing rewilding and announcing a climate and nature emergency.

The Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy has been produced to ensure that the natural environment, parks and open spaces and woodlands are protected, enhanced, and restored as necessary. Management plans for our parks and open spaces are important for delivering the strategy's objectives which describes Green infrastructure as:

¹ North Somerset Council's Green Infrastructure Strategy can be found at <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-01/30249%20NS%20GI%20Strategy%20ACC%20FINAL.pdf>

² CABI Space promotes well-designed parks, streets and squares as a crucial part of our towns and cities. Its publications can be found at <https://www.cabi.org/>

“...a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of benefits (typically called ecosystem services) such as water purification, air quality, biodiversity, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaption’.”

The following relates to the key headline areas described in the Sustainable Community Strategy^[1] and the North Somerset Council Corporate Plan^[2].

Management of green spaces meets North Somerset Council’s vision and priorities of:

- Leading our communities to protect and enhance our environment, tackle the climate emergency, and drive sustainable development
- By 2030 our green infrastructure will be: contributing to a carbon neutral community; biodiversity will have measurably increased; health and wellbeing will be improved

In 2006, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act was introduced for all public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity ^[3] under this duty. To meet this obligation, the local authority needs to ensure that appropriate management for biodiversity is undertaken on its landholdings. Green infrastructure management plans provide a practical mechanism for meeting this obligation as they include aspirations and actions for biodiversity.

Management of open spaces that contain locally important habitats and species can also contribute directly to aims of the North Somerset Council Core Strategy^[4] and SPD Biodiversity and Trees^[5] so that priority habitats and species are taken into account in the management of green spaces. This is highlighted further by the Council’s Green Infrastructure Strategy.

^[1] <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-03/SD%2016%20North%20Somerset%20sustainable%20community%20strategy.pdf>

^[2] <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-08/North%20Somerset%20Council%20Corporate%20Plan%202020-2024.pdf>

^[3] Biodiversity, or biological diversity, refers to the number of species of plants and animals in a given habitat.

^[4] <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/core%20strategy.pdf>

^[5] <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/core%20strategy.pdf>

3.0 Site Description

3.1 Location and Access (Map 1)

Portishead Lake Grounds open space is situated in the north of Portishead, North Somerset, adjoining the mouth of the Severn Estuary and commands fine views across the bay to Wales. The 15-hectare site consists of a large area of amenity grassland, a large lake at its centre, a long grassland compartment and is edged to the east by a woodland (East Wood). The site is encircled by an access road, this road is not part of the adopted highway network. It is edged by residential houses to the east and by the Severn Estuary mouth to the west. The central grid reference for the site is ST 46469 77163.

Pedestrian access is possible across the whole site with the main access roads being Rodmoor Road, Beach Road West and Battery Lane leading to Esplanade Road. A Public Right of Way leads from Battery Lane to the edge of the site at Lake Road but does not cross the site itself. A designated footpath runs from the car park at the café around the lake, and also a footway along the Esplanade which allows pedestrian access along the length of the coast. A separate designated footpath runs across the grassland at Battery Point and down two sets of steps.

Parking is available along most of the residential roads bordering the site, a parking area near the café on Lake Road, and spaces along the Esplanade. The cricket club car park is also open during the day, with seasonal opening times. Car access to the site is possible from the roads listed above.

Disabled access

There are designated disabled parking bays along the Esplanade and level access to the path around the lake. There is currently no easy disabled access for all to Battery Point.

3.2 Relationship to other Green Infrastructure (Map 2)

Portishead Lake Grounds is part of the green infrastructure within Portishead and North Somerset. The site is one of several key green spaces around the periphery of Portishead, connected with Portishead Golf Course and Kilkenny Fields to the west of the site. The site links into the coastal path which runs from Clevedon around Portishead into the Marina and onto Portbury Nature Reserve. These green spaces are not only important areas for wildlife and the conservation of biodiversity, they also provide important links within the town and into the surrounding countryside. Portishead Lake Grounds provides an extensive recreational space for the community and is important for locals and visitors alike.

3.3 Ownership and Designations

3.3.1 Typology

Portishead Lake Grounds is considered a “Formal Park and Public Garden” within North Somerset Council’s Green Infrastructure document, which defines the area as ‘Accessible with high quality opportunities for recreation in a formal setting. Quality horticultural practices where visitors are drawn from within and outside the area’.

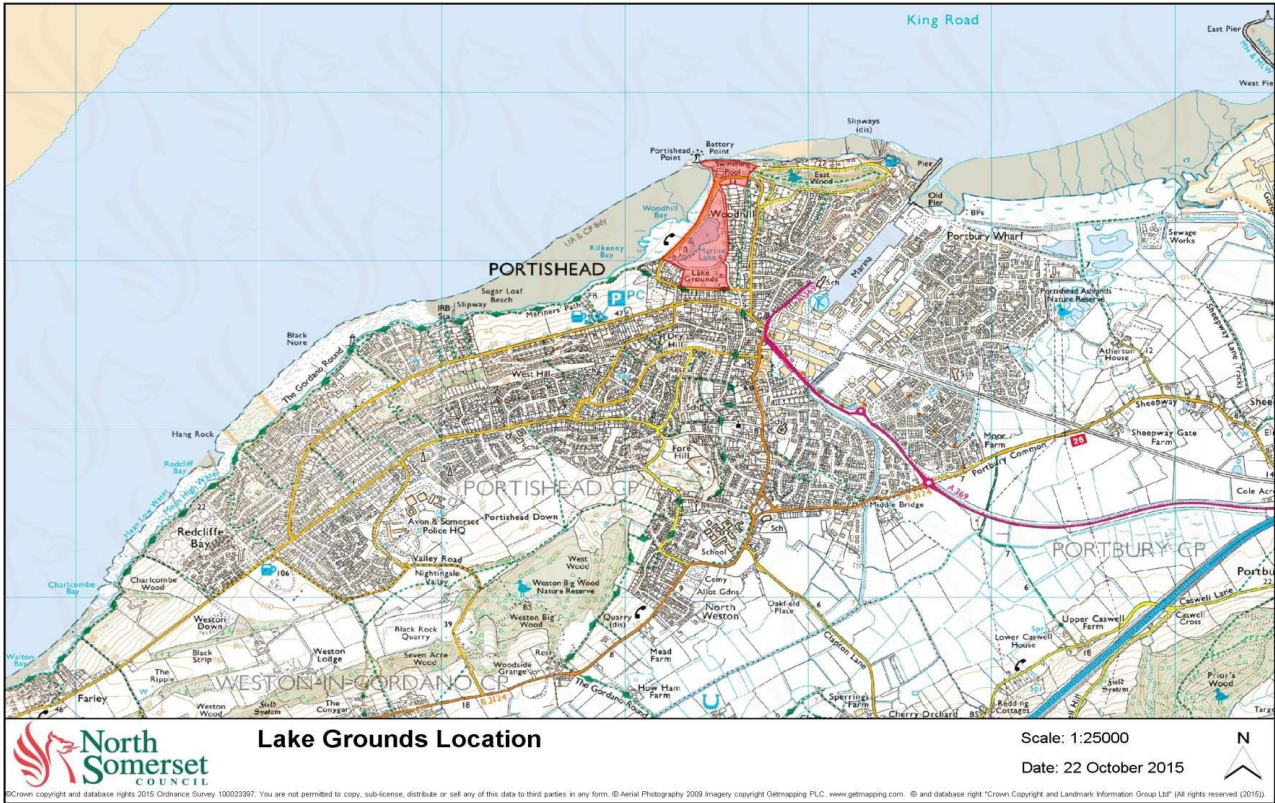
3.3.2 Land Ownership

The whole site is owned by North Somerset Council.

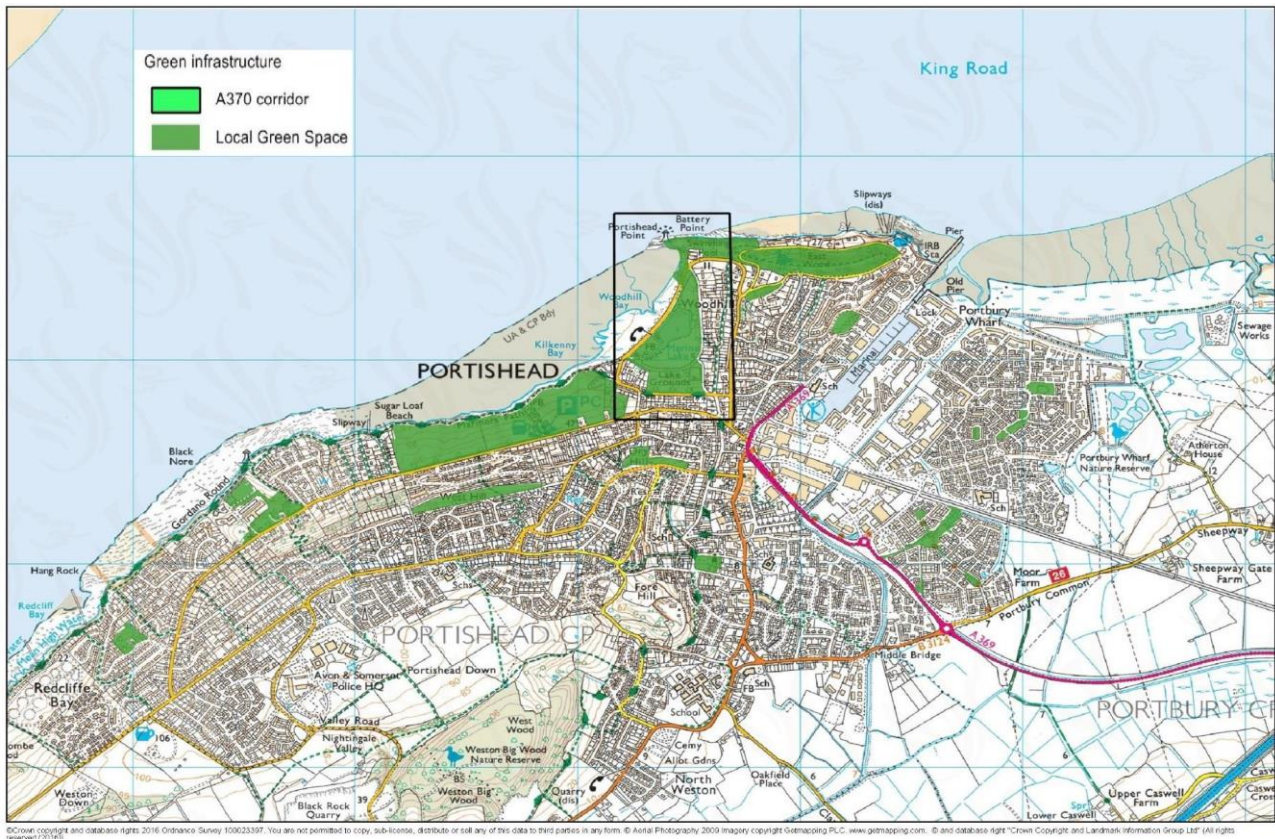
3.3.3 Legal Issues

- There are 8 concessions on site
- Battery Point falls within a Conservation Area
- Although not part of this Management Plan, the Estuary and foreshore are designated as part of the Severn Estuary SSSI, RAMSA and SPA

Map 1: Location of Portishead Lake Grounds



Map 2: Relationship to other Green Infrastructure



3.4 History of the Park

The following history is accredited to the late Sandy Tebbutt. Sandy was a local historian and pillar of the community who held great affection for the Lake Grounds and Portishead.

The story of how the Lake Grounds was excavated and built is an extraordinary one. During the 19th century, Bristol Corporation had begun to realise that the land it owned in Portishead could be further enhanced to bring in day-trippers and holiday makers by the train and boat load. The area around the old pyll (or creek) had been industrialised during the 19th century but from the Esplanade and the surrounding area it was hidden from view by the hilly terrain of Eastwood and Woodhill.

So, in September 1893, the Corporation proposed that a freshwater lake be excavated on the marshy ground between Adelaide Terrace and the newly built Esplanade. The area was known as Rodmoor and was the most northerly of the Somerset Levels. It was fed by many springs including one that trickled down from Battery Lane and Adelaide Terrace, as well as another that came down through the fields from Nore Road that eventually filled up the children's paddling pool when it was built.

Until the Lake Grounds was built, Rodmoor was a natural marshland with withy beds, thorny brushwood and stagnant water courses that teemed with wildlife, including snipe that prodded around in the wet ground. It was also a natural playground for local children. During the summer months, sheep and cattle were taken there to graze from local farms. Wildflowers grew in abundance and gypsies cut willow to make into baskets to sell.

The geology at the Lake Grounds area of Portishead which consists of Old Red Sandstone of the Devonian Period and also of the shales and limestones of the Carboniferous Period, has been sought out by geology students since 1824.

In May 1900, the area was pegged out to show where the serpentine lake and roads would go. Because of the state of the Corporation's finances however, it was decided that the building costs could not be justified and the proposal was put on hold until 1909. At that time, the Corporation envisaged the total area of land that would form the lake and pleasure grounds as being 18.5 acres, of which the area of water would be 10 acres. For some reason, the lake is somewhat less than that planned. Portishead's population at that time was in the region of 3,000 people and it was hoped that the Lake Grounds would be used not only by its residents, but visitors from miles around, including those seeking fresh air and countryside from Bristol.

The Local Government Board offered a grant of £1,500 to Bristol Corporation provided that unemployed men were put to work in Portishead. On the 26th January 1910, work started on what to become Portishead's Lake Grounds. Eventually two shifts of 200 men were recruited so that the work could be completed early that spring although the men were labourers without much experience. The first cohort of men arrived by train, armed with spades, barrows and planks etc. Not many of them were kitted out properly for the

heavy navvying work that lay ahead of them – their boots especially were not even waterproof. Local people felt great sympathy for the poorly clad and underfed men, so a body of residents provided wholesome food and drink at cost price to the workers. The work was carried out during the winter and spring months of 1910 with the filling of the lake carried out on 11th May 1910. After this, the Lake Grounds was open for business.

By August Bank Holiday of 1910, it was reported that the many visitors were trying out the boats on the lake, some of whom had to wait a considerable time to hire one. The newly laid grass presented “a very pleasing appearance”. Early postcard views show six cubicles and a lifebelt that were provided for bathers. However, the depth of water was no greater than three and half feet which made swimming difficult and diving impossible.

Many local people have experienced the excitement of skating on the Lake. This must have started in a cold spell in February 1912 when the Lake was frozen over and illuminated during the evenings.

During the austere times of the Second World War, the local council organised a “Holidays at Home” week on the Lake Grounds. Entertainment consisted of fancy-dress competitions, “comic” events, dancing, community hymn singing and sports events.

During the 1950s, the Carnival Committee held a week’s events which took place wholly on the Lake Grounds.

The care and control of the Lake Grounds had been in the hands of Bristol Corporation until the 1950s although local people were employed. Portishead Urban District Council agreed a purchase price of £3,875 in July 1950 after long negotiations with the Corporation.

Storm damage has often wreaked havoc in the area. Only a few months after the Lake Grounds was completed it was flooded by storm water. In December 1981 and February 1990, more storms inflicted major damage which saw the shelters on the Esplanade damaged beyond repair with one being swept away by a large wave.

Now the Lake Grounds is used extensively for leisure purposes which include tennis, cricket and model boat sailing. The annual raft race happens every July and the annual carnival starts off on its long procession from the Esplanade.

The Lake Grounds is still a favourite place to visit both by residents and visitors alike. There is easy walking around the lake and Battery Point but many people prefer to sit either on the seats or in their cars to admire the magnificence of the Severn Estuary and the glorious sunsets that often occur.

3.5 Overview of the park today

Portishead Lake Grounds is a large open space used primarily for recreation purposes. The area attracts a large number of visitors from the immediate area as well as further afield including Bristol and is used by families, dog walkers and local children for a range of activities and events. Local schools use the area for a range of outdoor related activities, in particular a small local nursery school which is situated next to the site.

There are a range of facilities on site including a cafe, an open-air swimming pool (this is not considered in this management plan), children's play area (of which some play equipment has been provided by Portishead Town Council) and sports facilities such as the tennis club, cricket club and bowls club, as well as a planted enclosed garden of high horticultural value (Rodmoor Gardens).

The lake itself is the main focus of the site drawing a large visitor base. The lake is used as a key recreational site for a variety of reasons including feeding the birds, exercise, to walk around and as a meeting point. The model boat club regularly use it for everyday activities related to their clubs.

At the north of the park is Battery Point. This historically important area provides elevated views across the bay and is used as a frequent walking point by locals and dog walkers.

The area itself includes the following habitats:

- Amenity grass
- Tall Grass Meadow
- Hedgerows, Trees and Scrub
- Lake
- Planted Gardens (Rodmoor Gardens)

3.6 Mapping of the Park


Map 3: Conservation Areas and Tree Preservations




Map 4: Aerial Map




Description of key features and management issues **Grass areas**

<p>Covering the majority of this site, including Battery Point, the grass is mown as part of North Somerset Council's grounds maintenance contract on an approximately 12-day cycle throughout the summer.</p>	<p>We want to ensure the local community can enjoy the green space while achieving cost effective management, enhancing biodiversity, and addressing climate change. Whilst amenity grass does allow the local community a chance to enjoy the green space it does not encourage biodiversity.</p>	
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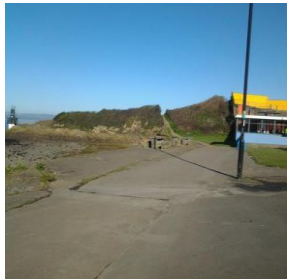
Tall Grass Meadow

<p>This area was introduced to a little used area of amenity grassland in 2013 to provide some biodiversity across a site of largely mown grass.</p> <p>The introduction of this site was at the request of Portishead in Bloom Committee and is managed by NSC grounds maintenance contractors using a hay cut method. This area is located to the north of the site opposite the open-air swimming pool.</p>	<p>Altering this area to Tall Grass Meadow improved biodiversity within the site by providing alternative management to the grassland.</p> <p>It is important to further enhance biodiversity of the grassland on the site, further areas should be altered to tall grass area, and this would also increase the number of associated wildflowers on site.</p> <p>Locations for this will emerge as the details of the plan develops. We will look for both small and large areas to use to continue variation.</p> <p>NSC is looking to promote the addition of tall grass areas across the region in both parks and on verges to create a network of alternative management techniques to increase biodiversity and viable wildlife habitats.</p>	
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Hedgerows

<p>There are two native hedgerows located at the end of the Esplanade. One borders the tall grass meadow and one borders the grass land at Battery Point. The hedge located along the tall grass meadow was installed as a replacement to a non-native hedgerow in 2014. Both were created in partnership with Portishead in Bloom.</p> <p>The hedges are cut on annually via flail cutting.</p>	<p>Cutting should take place outside of the bird nesting season. The best practice recommendation is to cut hedges on a two-year rotation.</p> <p>The base of hedgerows should not be treated with herbicide but should be encouraged to develop a healthy and diverse ground flora. Bramble in hedges is an important feature for birds, and management will reflect this. A variation of native hedgerow species is beneficial within a hedgerow.</p>	
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Scrub

<p>Dense scrub is located at the edge of the tall grass meadow and around the edge of Battery Point.</p> <p>There is no active management of scrub on this site, only to prevent encroachment over pathways.</p>	<p>Scrub is an important habitat. It provides protection for nesting birds and small mammals.</p> <p>Management of these areas when necessary must be completed outside of the bird nesting season and should be sensitive to the area, in particular not too much should be removed in one go to ensure some refuge is available at all times of the year. The scrub is currently managed ad hoc on this site but some areas could benefit from more regular attention to keep access clear.</p>	
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Trees

<p>There are a number of trees located across the park, including a row of street trees on both Rodmoor Road and Beach Road West.</p>	<p>The trees at this site are subject to strong winds and often show evidence of wind burn. Occasionally trees are brought down during adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>Some trees which edge this site, such as the limes on Beach Road West, are pollarded on a 4-year cycle. No other trees on the site are subject to pruning works unless they present a risk to health and safety. Trees on an open space are subject to 4-yearly health checks and will only receive works in relation to health and safety.</p>	
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The Lake

<p>The focal point of the park which has several different uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boating • Model boat clubs • Events such as the annual raft race • Visual amenity, including as a popular dog walking site and an area for families to visit <p>It is also an important nesting area for visiting breeding waterfowl.</p>	<p>The lake can be susceptible to algae blooms in the summer which can be harmful to health. Management is often reactive, in line with Environment Agency (EA) guidelines. Proactive management options will be considered.</p> <p>Litter can accumulate around the edges and at the shallower end of the lake, this is now cleared monthly by the ground's maintenance contractor. As part of this visit, they will also remove larger items from the main body of the lake if they are visible.</p> <p>The condition of the path around the lake needs to be monitored.</p> <p>The fish population needs analysis. For example, if considered to be over-populated this will need addressing.</p> <p>The lake is an important site for nesting birds, there is currently no sheltered area and only one small island to provide a 'safe' area for young.</p> <p>The boat house is in need of attention both externally and internally. It is currently shared by three organisations.</p>	 
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Rodmoor Gardens

<p>Managed by Portishead in Bloom, the flower beds are planted every year as part of the Portishead in Bloom route. The areas of high horticultural value and provides a haven for insects and birds, hedges provide a protected area for small hedgerow birds.</p> <p>These gardens are an inviting and tranquil place to visit and offer a different type of visitor experience to the Lake Grounds.</p>	<p>Litter can build up around the back paths.</p>	
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The Play area

<p>The play area is very popular and is enjoyed by both locals and visitors. Portishead Town Council provides some of the equipment.</p>	<p>The play area is subject to litter build up during peak times.</p> <p>Regular safety inspections are carried out.</p> <p>However, broken equipment is often not replaced due to financial constraints.</p> <p>The play equipment is targeted for primarily younger children, alternative equipment for older children and adults could be considered.</p> <p>Results of the 2021 consultation highlighted a need for additional play equipment that appeals to wider age groups. Older items also need replacing.</p>	
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Bins

<p>There are 40 litter bins and 12 dog bins across the site. These are emptied 6 days a week, once a day as part of the Street Cleansing contract with Glendale.</p>	<p>Old litter bins would benefit from being replaced when funding becomes available, Standardisation of the types used would improve the general look of the area.</p> <p>A condition survey of the bins will be taking place in 2022.</p>	
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Seating

<p>Across the site there is an abundance of wooden benches and several wooden picnic benches.</p>	<p>Several benches need refurbishment. Most of these are memorial benches, it would be ideal to approach the families of these benches in the first instance. Alternatively, these should be refurbished where budgets allow.</p> <p>Most of the picnic benches on this site are in need of refurbishment, some have now been removed as they have been vandalised or decayed beyond repair. There is a requirement to repair these benches where possible and/or replace some of those removed.</p> <p>Portishead Great Lake project money is being allocated for investment in a new picnic area on the lake grounds that include several new picnic benches. Disabled access benches will also be installed.</p> <p>A condition survey of the park benches is taking place in 2022.</p>	
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Signage

<p>Currently there are two main interpretation boards on site, one by the lake and one on the Esplanade. Within the café carpark there is one sign showcasing the North Somerset area, Portishead Town Council also have a notice board at this location.</p> <p>Around the park there are a number of smaller information signs.</p>	<p>Many of the signs relating to alcohol consumption are faded and need of updating.</p> <p>Signs relating to no overnight camping are very small and ignored</p> <p>Signage generally needs to be updated across the park.</p> <p>A condition survey of the signs will be taking place in 2022</p>	
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Concessions

<p>There are several concessions on the site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowls Club • Cricket Club • Café/Pitch and Putt/part of the boathouse • Public conveniences • Tennis Club • Telescopes • Sailing club • Model boat club <p>The model boat club in particular regularly use the lake for events.</p>	<p>The condition of the café and boat house has been identified as a priority in the 2021 consultation.</p> <p>Both buildings are in a poor condition and investment is needed. The buildings need to be updated and made more appealing.</p> <p>The café and boat house are owned by NSC and leased to the concessions. The concessions are responsible for general maintenance of the buildings, but they need major investment.</p>	
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3.4 Detailed site statistics

A detailed asset survey was undertaken in the park, the following is a summary of key features recorded:

<p>There is also the open-air swimming pool, which is run by volunteers (the pool is outside the scope of this management plan).</p>	<p>There have been some issues relating to fly-tipped waste around some of the concession buildings.</p> <p>The sailing club in particular, have expressed concerns with the water quality of the lake and the silt build up over the years.</p>	
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Soft and hard landscape features

- Total area of Lake Grounds 150,000m²
- 10% of the total area consist of the Lake 16,031m²
- 42% of the area is managed amenity grass 64,069m²
- 2.5% of the area consists of tall grass 3,832m²

Boundaries and associated infrastructure

Length (m)

Fencing (bollards and metal fencing)
Not including fencing around concessions

1,198

Furniture	Number
Benches/Picnic tables	76
Dog bins	12
Litter bins	40
Signs	4
Gates	3
Life rings	2

3.5 Existing management arrangements

Management of the site is the responsibility of North Somerset Council. The grounds maintenance and litter clearance of this site is provided by external contractors (Glendale Service Ltd) and is monitored by the Councils Parks and Open Space Team. The grass area that the contractors cut is amenity grass, except for the meadow cut for the tall grass meadow which is cut and collected at the end of the season. Glendale undertake litter picks when they are on site emptying the bins and mowing the grass.

The Grounds Maintenance contract under which this management plan has been prepared ends in March 2023.

Key Grounds Maintenance tasks are described in appendix 1. The text has been taken directly from the Grounds Maintenance contract.

Work to trees within the site is carried out either reactively, when events or circumstances arise, or as part of the planned programme of risk reduction (see appendix 2).

The play area is inspected weekly by the Glendale Play Area Inspector.

Volunteers play an important role in the management of NSC open spaces including the Lake Grounds. Rodmoor Gardens for example, is not included within the grounds maintenance contract and management is carried out by the Portishead in Bloom Committee. The flower beds at the bottom of Rodmoor Road are also managed by Portishead in Bloom and are planted by Portishead WI.

Pride in Portishead currently undertake regular litter picks in the area in addition to North Somerset Council contractors. Turn the Tide also attend to litter picking the coastal area. The development of the management plan will enable the local community to become engaged with the development of the area through working with and building upon the current volunteer groups on site. Working in partnership with the volunteer groups already on site, and invitation to others to join in will enable ideas to develop and improvements made through practical management activities (see appendix 4 for volunteer work programme ideas).

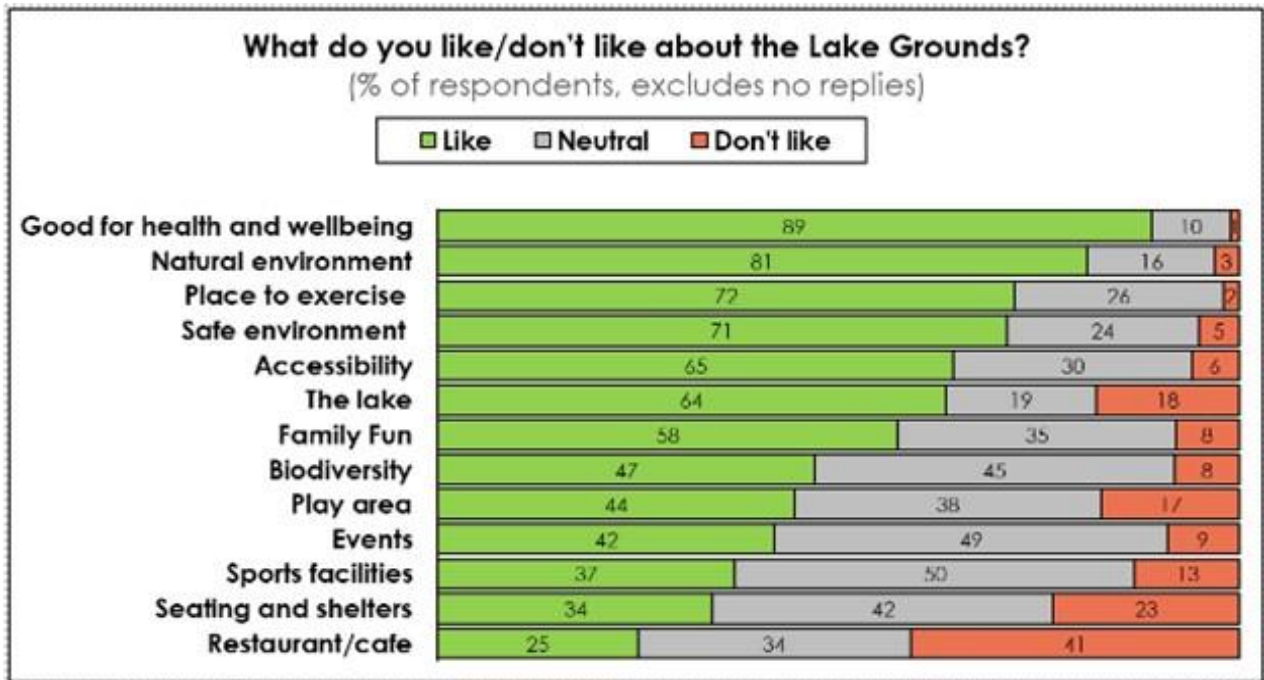
The cricket, tennis and bowls clubs manage their associated areas of grassland separately from North Somerset Council's Grounds Maintenance contract. With the exception of the Tennis Club, all the concessions are responsible for the upkeep of their associated buildings. With the Tennis Club, NSC still has some responsibility for the outside of the building. Unfortunately, most of the buildings are now on the older side and more than general maintenance is required in the long-term.

The boat house is owned by NSC, and with the exception of general maintenance, the upkeep is the responsibility of the council. The long-term aspirations of the boat house need to be considered, including a potential overhaul as the building reaches the end of its life.

4.0 ANALYSIS OF ISSUES

4.1 Site Analysis

- In 2021 North Somerset Council and Portishead Town Council held a consultation on the Lake Grounds, asking residents and visitors to give feedback on what they liked and disliked about the park, and asked what they would like to see as a priority for investment in the future.
- The consultation ran from 7 June to 2 Aug 2021 and received a higher-than-average response rate with 1008 individuals and 13 organisations responding to the consultation.
- The overall feeling about the Lake Grounds, 72% rated it as either very good (19%) or good (53%), with 17% being neutral.
- Specific likes and dislikes: good for health and wellbeing (89% likes), natural environment (81% likes), the restaurant/café (41% dislike).



Among people who overall feel bad about the Lake Grounds, the lake is an even clearer priority with a play area and 'new eatery with views' the other standout priorities.

Priorities to the local community for investment were:

- Dredging the lake
- Improving toilet facilities
- Improving the play area
- Rewilding part of the lake
- Family fun facilities
- New restaurant with views
- Replace café/restaurant
- Add biodiversity
- Improve seating and shelters

- More/different food concessions
- Add quiet areas
- Improve accessibility
- Introduce colourful plants

A full summary of consultation is found here <https://n-somerset.inconsult.uk/PLG2021/consultationHome>

The following section summarises an assessment of ‘what are we doing well’ and ‘where could we improve’. The analysis has been informed by considering the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) related to the park.

What are we doing well?

- Providing a park that is good for health and wellbeing
- Natural Environment
- Place to exercise
- Safe environment
- Family fun/friendly and used by all ages
- Working in partnership with the local community with Pride in Portishead regularly taking part in litter picks, and working with Portishead in Bloom committee to improve the appearance of the area
- There is community involvement and sense of pride – the Portishead in Bloom committee have greatly improved Rodmoor Gardens and were instrumental in the introduction of the wildflower meadow and native species hedge line
- The open grassland is widely used throughout the year for recreation and as a retreat in a dense residential area – it has a very seaside feel in the summer and attracts large numbers of visitors including individuals and families

Where could we improve?

- Play area
- The lake
- Seating and shelter
- The café and other buildings
- Toilets, including accessibility
- Family fun
- Add biodiversity
- More seating and shelter
- More/different/varied food concessions
- Add quiet areas
- Accessibility
- Introduce colourful plants
- More events
- Additional planting, such as creating an orchard
- Pathways and kerbs
- Parking and road system
- Measures to tackle ASB
- Litter bins could be updated to create a uniform appearance

- There is plenty of provision of seating offering a range of views around and over the site
- The play area is used at all times of year by local and visiting families
- The addition of the tall grass meadow provides habitat for a variety of species that would not be present if the grass was mown.
- The site offers an attractive landscape with a diversity of tree species
- There are a variety of concessions on site including, cafes, boating, open air pool, cricket and bowls clubs
- Scrub and tree species are prominent around the site and are important for varying habitats

Tall Grass Meadow

- This is important because it helps increase biodiversity and is a welcome alternative to a largely amenity grassland area
- The introduction of the adjoining native species hedgerow will provide long term benefits to the biodiversity of the area

Rodmoor Gardens

- This is a tranquil and relaxing place for people to visit and sit
- There is a diverse range of bedding flowers which are highly attractive, and of high horticultural value
- Portishead in Bloom have made a significant improvement to these gardens

- A review of the condition of the surrounding roads is required. (To clarify, the roads are not part of the adopted highway network except for Rodmoor Road).
- Scrub could benefit from management where views and pathways are being encroached. Fallen trees should be replaced where appropriate.
- The play area equipment is largely designed for young children and the addition of equipment designed for older children and adults could be considered

Tall Grass Meadow

- More areas need to be altered to meadow to improve biodiversity and to provide an attractive landscape and variation in management techniques

Rodmoor Gardens

- The area is fairly hidden and could be missed by anyone but locals; this could benefit from interpretation and signage directing them to the site
- The back path is very overgrown and struggles with litter build up
- The seat which overlooks the bowling green is being encroached on by the scrub and views are starting to become limited

The Lake

- Regular litter clearance is required to clear litter from the top of the water body
- Small Lake monthly clear-up
- Proactive measures must be considered to prevent algae blooms

The Lake

- There is limited sheltered area for visiting waterfowl

- This is largely the focal point of the site and is well used as an area to walk around and as a meeting point
- Several events on the lake throughout the summer
- There is also a concession which uses the lake during the summer
- The lake is valued for its nesting water fowl
- Various concessions use the lake for different activities including model boats and teaching sailing. There is also an annual raft race.

- The fish population needs to be properly evaluated so that future management will help its resilience
- The condition of the pathway needs to be evaluated
- The pathway can become flooded by water from the lake and natural springs from the local area. Drainage and water levels should be maintained where possible.
- Silt levels have built up over the years and are difficult to control. The only way of effectively maintaining the level of the silt is through dredging and these options are currently being explored.

4.2 Qualitative assessment – This describes the present condition of the park.

4.2.1 A Welcoming Place

The park is widely used throughout the year by families, friends, individuals, visitors, dog walkers and for exercise. The esplanade and the path around the lake have a high footfall throughout the year.. Several events are held across the park including the raft race, which the sailing club is involved with.

The amenity grass is regularly mown, with the cricket club providing extra maintenance on the cricket pitch. Scattered trees provide an attractive backdrop throughout the year as well as providing shade during the summer months. There are several concessions on the site which aid to the welcoming feel on a summer's day.

However, the pitch and putt green are mostly unused and does take up a substantial area of the park. Portishead Great Lake project funding will be allocated towards creating a picnic area. Tree planting and rewilded long grass areas are also being introduced to improve biodiversity and create a more appealing soft landscape.

There are interpretation boards around the access from the car park at the café, but there is lack of signage around the rest of the park and the NSC noticeboard is very out of date.

Battery Point is frequented on fine days as a look out, but is mainly used as part of the dog walking route to enter the woodland. Management of the scrub is ad hoc and could benefit for a more defined management structure.

Rodmoor Gardens is attractive, relaxing and inviting but has limited signage directing visitors to the site.

4.2.2 Healthy, Safe and Secure

The area feels safe being open and easily accessible. There are some concerns regarding vehicles parking overnight along the Esplanade, in particular mobile homes. This is not permitted and a Public Space Protection Order should be investigated.

The cricket club (and bowls club) car parks are locked at night to prevent access. There have been some historical problems with people racing cars around the car parks at night. There can be issues with parking along the roads at peak times in particular blocking access for residents.

NSC officers work closely with local residents and the local police to ensure the area stays safe and secure, if any issues are reported they are dealt with in a timely manner. NSC also have Community Response Officers that can help combat any low level anti-social behaviour if it arises.

Improvements to accessibility are needed and have been identified as a priority. This improvement work will take place in 2022 and will involve better accessibility to the disabled car parking bays on the Promenade on both sides of the road. New disability benches will be sited near to these parking bays. A new picnic area will be created on the area known as the old pitch and putt site, to include newly created paths and disabled accessible picnic benches. Additional disabled accessible picnic benches will also be installed in the picnic area next to the lido.

The lake is susceptible to summer blooms of Blue-Green Algae which can be harmful to health. It is currently managed within the Environment Agency guidelines of best practise and this plan will aim to look at longer-term methods of dealing with this issue.

There are sufficient scrub borders along Battery Point to prevent visitors coming in too close contact with the cliff edge. Some signage is also in place near the open-air pool highlighting the semi-exposed drop.

4.2.3 Clean and well maintained

The area is generally clean and litter free and the grass is in good condition. The play area is in good condition but does require investment as some of the play equipment is showing its age. It can also suffer from fly tipping, and litter can build up around the paths along the back of Rodmoor Gardens. There is a good provision of seating, litter bins and dog bins throughout the area. All the bins on site are cleared daily.

Litter accumulates from time to time along the edges of the lake. It is cleared on an ad-hoc basis. The water levels in the lake can rise during sustained heavy rainfall and this can be difficult to manage as the volume can be too large for the outlet gate. Manual opening of the sluice gate needs to take place during these times. There are several natural springs around the lake that can contribute to this, some path drainage has been installed but more should be considered.

NSC needs to investigate improving recycling opportunities for litter.

4.2.4 Sustainability

Felled trees are replaced where possible with native species. The introduction of the native species hedgerow is also contributed towards the sustainability of the area.

The tall grass meadow is cut once a year after the seeds have dropped. The arisings are then removed from site, so as not to create compost piles on site.

New areas of tree planting and long grass management are being introduced in 2022 as part of the Council's rewilding project. In addition to this other area within the park will also be considered for additional rewilding.

4.2.5 Conservation and Heritage

The Lake Grounds are host to a number of trees of varying age, there is one large 'veteran' oak near to the bowls club. The age is currently being assessed and if possible veteran oak status will be sought.

Interpretation signage has been improved in recent years to provide an understanding of the historic value and the heritage of the site.

The development of the native hedgerows will be an important feature bordering the amenity and tall grass areas, providing a rich alternative habitat for a variety of wildlife in the amenity areas and complementing the tall grass. The addition of other tall grass areas on the site will provide better opportunities for wildlife conservation and may reduce costs and the carbon footprint of the machinery used.

4.2.6 Community Involvement

There is existing community involvement within the open space. Portishead in Bloom and Pride in Portishead manage some aspects, such as litter picking, improving on equipment and the In Bloom route. A working relationship needs to be established with local neighbours, schools and police through events and practical habitat management volunteering activities.

Community involvement could be improved by increasing the number of volunteers and there is the opportunity to engage and involve other groups such as the local schools, Probation service and local residents in planting new areas, trees/hedges. In the region of 300 respondents said they would like to get involved in the recent Lake Grounds Public consultation

4.2.7 Marketing

There is little existing information for users of the site, and no mechanism in place for engaging with people. On-site provision of information is limited. Some information about the site exists on public websites and publications, but there is not a site designated to the Lake Grounds.

Local events taking place at the site are advertised by the Town Council and on the North Somerset Council events website.

There is local historic interest in the open space with books being published detailing the history and the development of the site.

4.2.8 Management

This is the third management plan that has been prepared for the Lake Grounds for the site as a whole. It will guide future management of the open space. Key to meeting this objective is ongoing review and monitoring to determine if the plan is being implemented effectively.

5.0 VISION, AIMS, OBJECTIVES & ACTION PLAN

This section uses the analysis of the park made in previous sections as follows:

- to reinforce the vision for the park
- to summarise the overall aims for the park for the next 5 years
- to summarise our 1 year and 5-year priorities for the park
- to provide a detailed one-year action plan for the park with aims, objectives and actions, as illustrated below:

5.1 Summary of 1 and 5-year priorities – these will be dependent on securing funding and resources

This section summarises our priorities for 2022 and sets out our aspirations and priorities for the next five years. The realisation of these aspirations will be strongly influenced by the availability of resources. Each year, we will review our progress against the action plan and draw from the aspirations to inform future action plans.

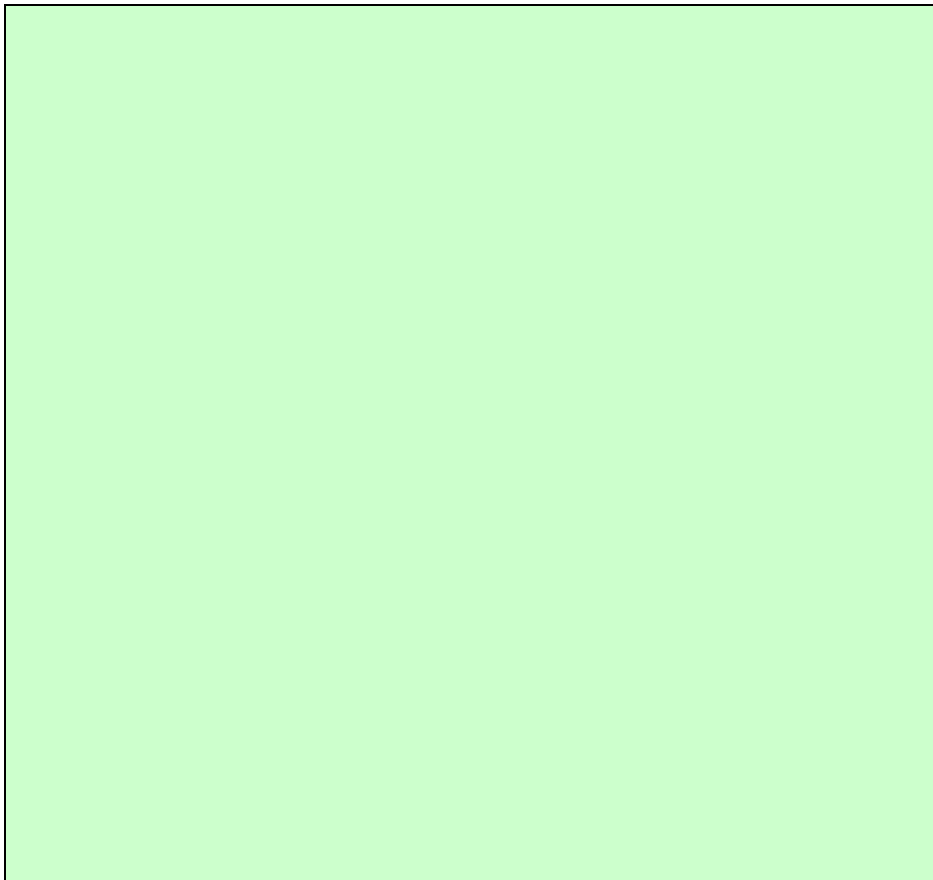
Priorities for 2022

- Commission a business plan/case to investigate the options with regards to providing better built/quality facilities and agree plan for the café/restaurant, toilet, and boathouse/community storage area
- Investigate the options regarding dredging the lake to improve its visual appearance and usability
- Investigate/explore improving biodiversity in and around the lake. Introduction of native planting that improves the water quality, visual appearance and provide a more diverse habitat.
- Improve the variety of attractions/reasons for visiting
- Explore the opportunity of using this site as a venue for more events, whilst being mindful of the size and physical constraints of the Lake Grounds
- Introduce rewilding areas that will benefit biodiversity, create a more interesting landscape and interest in the natural environment
- Develop a picnic and wildlife area
- Accessibility improvements
- Finalise lease with Portishead Town Council to take on the responsibility for the play area. Portishead Town Council have identified projects that will bring improvements to this area.
- Work with concessions on long terms plans for

Priorities for the next 5 years, 2022-27 (subject to funding and community support)

- Deliver the café, boathouse, and toilet facilities plan
- Investigating making the park more financially sustainable by exploring new/improved commercial opportunities that can be reinvested back into the Lake Grounds
- Explore any of grant/external funding options for future improvements and deliver successful bids
- Explore the opportunity of additional concessions that appeal to the users of the park and deliver outputs
- Work with Portishead Town Council with the aim of improving the provision of play for a more varied age group
- Work with Portishead Town Council to increase family fun facilities
- Retain the history of the park whilst making it a modern park
- Improve general infrastructure within the park, e.g., bins, seating and shelters
- To recognise and encourage further community involvement in the park
- Re-enter into the Green Flag competition and achieve Green Flag status

improving facilities, for example by granting long term leases to help unlock grant funding



5.2 5-year action plan

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
A Welcoming Place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that Portishead Lake Grounds is welcoming and accessible to the local community and visitors Ensure signage is adequate for the site Advertise up and coming events that will appeal to the local community and visitors Provide a clean and well-maintained environment 				
A1.1) Improve provision of signage and interpretation	A1.1.1) Carry out a review of all signage at the Lake Grounds A1.1.2) Identify if there is a need for additional signs/information boards or if existing signs need to be replaced with new	<i>To be completed in 2022</i>	2022 Implement when funding available	Officer time Capital/Revenue
A1.2) Improve access	A1.2.1) Improve accessibility to Battery Point A1.2.2) Improve the overall quality of the road surface around the site	To be included in the accessibility improvement plan. <i>Some road surface improvement work to the prom are identified in the accessibility improvement plan for 2022</i>	2022 2022	Great Lakes project funding Great Lakes project funding/Capital/Revenue

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
	A1.2.3) Improve accessibility for disabled user of the park. Improvements to parking bays with better line marking, more dropped kerbs and disabled accessible furniture	<i>Included in the accessibility improvement plan for 2022</i>	2022	Great Lakes project funding
A1.3) refurbish old benches and review bins around the site	<p>A1. 3.1) Carry out condition survey of all benches and bins</p> <p>A1.3.2) Consider looking at means of contacting families in relation benches that need work. Otherwise look at implementing a one-off basic refurbishment of these benches.</p> <p>A1.3.3) Refurbish or replace old picnic benches over the period of the plan</p> <p>A1.3.4) Replace bins where needed</p>	To be completed 2022	<p>Implement when funding is available</p> <p>Implement when funding is available</p> <p>Implement when funding is available</p>	<p>Officer Time</p> <p>Revenue</p> <p>Revenue/Capital</p> <p>Revenue/Capital</p>
A1.4) Maintain pathways to an acceptable standard and improve signage around the lake	A1.4.1) Carry out path repairs such as clearing detritus and filling in potholes as necessary		Ad-hoc basis/ongoing	Revenue

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
	<p>A1.4.2) Investigate funding to improve pathways around the lake</p> <p>A1.4.3) Implement a regular maintenance programme to keep scrub back from footpaths to provide constant access</p> <p>A1.4.4) Investigate minimising impact from flooding from natural springs in the grassland by installing further drainage</p> <p>A1.4.5) Investigate improving the sluice gate to control the water levels in the lake and prevent the water from overflowing the path. In the meantime, continue to open the gate manually whenever possible to let excess water out of the lake.</p>	<p><i>Cost to replace paths arounds the lake to be established. Work to be included in the accessibility improvement plan.</i></p> <p>Work attended to by contractors</p> <p><i>Drainage improvements taken place winter 2021.</i></p> <p><i>Portbury Warden has been instructed to monitor this during periods of adverse weather – no flooding reported since 2016</i></p>	<p>2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Implement when funding is available</p> <p>Implement when funding is available</p>	<p>Capital</p> <p>Revenue</p> <p>Capital</p> <p>Revenue/Officer time</p>

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
A1.5) maintain standards within the play area	<p>A1.5.1) Play area is inspected on a weekly basis.</p> <p>A1.5.2) Consultation highlighted a need for better/additional equipment to suit a wider range of ages</p>	<p><i>Portishead Town Council will be taking on a long-term lease of the play area</i></p> <p>NSC have are giving the Town and Parish Councils the opportunity to apply for match funding for play area projects. Portishead Town are invited to apply for this project money.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>2022</p>	<p>Revenue</p> <p>Capital match funding provided by NSC</p>
<p>Healthy, Safe, Secure, and improved accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Work towards keeping risk as low as is reasonably possible for all users of the park by maintaining a safe working procedure</i> • <i>Improve accessibility for the disabled</i> 				
A2.1) Risks from blue green algae bloom	A2.1.1) Consider ongoing management of the lake in relation to stock piling where possible Barley straw and introduce throughout the season. Work with the Environment Agency to	Ultrasonic device was installed in 2016 with additional barley straw, the springvalve is constantly being left open also (A2.1.2). the	Ongoing	NSC Officers

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
<p>A2.2) Seek to reduce and control anti-social behaviour, litter and fly-tipping</p>	<p>produce a management strategy and consult with water body specialists. (Appendix 6)</p>	<p>combined efforts has seen a dramatic decrease in presence of algae, with no large scale blue green algae blooms recorded since 2016</p>		
	<p>A2.2.1) Engage and involve local communities e.g., schools, Police and Community Response Officers. Speak to Concessions.</p>	<p>No fishing signs have been installed and signage indicating the benefits of feeding ducks' alternatives to bread 2016 No overnight parking signs add 2018.</p>	<p>Implement when funding is available</p>	<p>NSC Officers/Friends Group/Town Council</p>
	<p>A2.2.2) Incorporate literature into new signage produced, such as new no alcohol signs. No parking overnight signs. No fishing signs.</p>	<p>All signage being reviewed 2022</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Capital/Revenue</p>
<p>A2.2.3) Continue litter picking especially around scrub areas</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Contractors/Friends group</p>	

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
	<p>A2.2.4) Develop and produce a strategy for dealing with anti-social behaviour and litter</p> <p>A2.2.5) Look at possibilities of imposing anti-social behaviour laws to prevent overnight parking and long stay on the Esplanade</p>	<p>2017 targeted approach started with Community Response team and local PCSO's</p> <p>Overnight parking being monitored</p>	Ongoing	<p>NSC Officers/Friends group</p> <p>NSC Officers</p>
A2.3) Keep risk of harm from trees to a minimum	A2.3.1) Implement risk management process following NSC's Tree Risk Management Policy	Site walk-over was carried out by Tree Officer every 4 years	Ongoing	NSC Tree Team
A2.4) Risks from steep drops at Battery Point are controlled	A2.4.1) Implement a programme to manage scrub along edge and monitor to ensure gaps do not appear. Carry out remedial works where the risks are deemed unacceptable, such as addition of further signage.	Date of inspection to be logged and justification of actions to be recorded	Annually, ongoing	NSC Officers/Friends group
A2.5) Maintain play equipment in safe condition	A2.5.1) Play area inspector to continue weekly monitoring.	Date of inspection to be logged	Weekly	Portishead Town Council

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
<p>A2.6) Ensure all path and roads are in safe condition</p> <p>A2.7) Improve accessibility for the disabled</p> <p>A2.8) Improve paths around the lake</p>	<p>A2.6.1) Ensure all pathways and roads are maintained and all health and safety issues addressed (See A1)</p> <p>See A1.2.3</p> <p>See A1.4.2</p>		Ongoing	NSC Officers
<p>Clean and Well Maintained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain a good standard of cleanliness and site maintenance 				
A3.1) Maintain standards of amenity grass cutting	A3.1.1) Grounds Maintenance (GM) to continue grass cutting (See section 3.9 for details)	Grass is cut to meet Grounds Maintenance (GM) contract performance standards	As per contract	Contractors
A3.2) Maintain hedge cutting	A3.2.1) GM to continue hedge cutting for selected hedges. Consider a rotation management for new native hedge once established.	Hedges are cut to meet GM contract standards	Annual cut	Contractors/Friends group
A3.3) Maintain sites free of litter and dog fouling	A3.3.1) GM to continue litter picking before grass cutting		Ongoing	Contractors

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
	<p>A3.3.2) Friends group to continue litter picking on a regular basis, supporting work carried out by Pride in Portishead</p> <p>A3.3.3) Dog fouling issues to be monitored by Community Response officers</p>		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Friends Group</p> <p>Officers</p>
<p>A3.4) Maintain scrub boundaries appropriately so that there is minimal encroachment on footpaths or important habitats</p>	<p>A3.4.1) Control bramble where necessary in consultation with Friends group</p> <p>A3.4.2) Ensure that pathway access is kept clear and scrub is regularly cut back</p>	<p>Neighbours on Lake Road maintain path from car park to lake – cricket club car park</p>	<p>Annually</p> <p>Ad-hoc /ongoing</p>	<p>Friends Group/ Contractors</p> <p>Friends Group / Contractors</p>
<p>A3.5) ensure all buildings are safe and maintained</p>	<p>A3.5.1) Carry out remedial works to buildings when needed, in accordance with lease agreements and concessions terms</p> <p>A3.5.2) Consider updating buildings in line with lease agreements and concessions terms</p>		<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Implement when funding available and when agreements can be</p>	

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
A4.2) Reduce/restrict the use of chemicals in Portishead Lake Grounds	<p>A4.2.1) Investigate and Implement weed killer protocol, to insure only formal paths are treated</p> <p>A4.2.2) stop the use of fertilisers on the site, predominantly on the cricket pitch</p>	<p><i>NSC have stopped weedkiller being used in the parks, unlesson highways/hard standing. Specific ad hoc usage will be monitored by the Contract Officer.</i></p> <p>See A4.2.1</p>	Annually	Officer Time
A4.3) Reduce carbon footprint of operations	A4.3.1) Reduce the frequency of grass cutting in suitable areas by introducing long grass areas and carrying out a hay cutting trial (See also A5.1)	<i>Consider other areas to rewild in addition to the current rewilding that is planned</i>	2022	Friends Group / contractors / revenue
A4.4) Investigate planting food producing trees in suitable areas	A4.4.1) Consider fruit trees as replacements to non-native felled trees or as memorial trees in conjunction with the Tree Officer	<i>Further fruit trees are being planted in the native hedgerow bordering the meadow and PiB are developing a nuttery at Rodmoor Gardens</i>	Ad-hoc	NSC officer/Friends' group

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
	A4.4.2) Engage and encourage the community/householders e.g., by donating fruit trees and whips	<i>Other areas to introduce fruit trees will be considered</i>	Ad-hoc	NSC Officers/Friends group
A5.1) Increase the amount of tall grass areas at Portishead Lake Grounds	<p>A5.1.1) Consider introducing tall grass margins in some areas to break up the amenity areas and/or further long grass areas</p> <p>A5.1.2) Investigate possibility of planting wildflower species to current Tall Grass Meadow such as Yellow Rattle</p> <p>A5.1.3) Review for additional tall grass areas dependant on funding and resources</p>	<p>New areas of rewilding being introduced this year on the old pitch and putt site and slope above Lake Road</p> <p>This will be a combination of tree planting and long grass management</p> <p>Portishead in bloom have carried this out, yellow rattle is establishing</p>	<p>2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing Implement when funding available</p>	<p>Officer Time/Revenue</p> <p>Revenue/Friends group</p> <p>Revenue</p>
A5.2) Manage native species hedgerows and increase connectivity, improve management	A5.2.1) Plant gaps in the hedgerow with native species plugs	See A4.4.1	Ongoing	Friends group

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
	<p>A5.2.2) Where possible alter the cut type from flailing to a less destructive cutting method, and cut hedges on a two-year rotation</p> <p>A5.2.3) Plant native species at the hedge base in targeted areas, if they do not develop by natural regeneration. Assess as necessary.</p> <p>A5.2.4) When possible, engage the community/householders by providing whips and training/information on hedge management and planting</p>	See A4.4.1	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing/ implement when funding available</p> <p>ad-hoc</p>	<p>Friends' group/revenue</p> <p>Friends group</p> <p>NSC Officer time</p> <p>NSC Officer time /Friends' group</p>
A5.3) Increase wildlife value of tall grass areas	<p>A5.3.1) Carry out native wildflower planting (local provenance) in meadows and tall grass areas</p> <p>A5.3.2) Investigate areas that can be managed for seed production to benefit seed eating birds</p>	See A5.1.4	Implement when funding available	Friends Group

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
A5.4) Undertake/update species surveys to inform subsequent management	A5.4.1) Carry out fauna surveys e.g., bat, bird and butterfly A5.4.2) Carry out flora surveys (including trees)		Implement when funding available Implement when funding available	Avon Bat Group/ Volunteers/ Ecologist/Friends group Botanist/Friends group
A5.5) Introduce variations to the trees across the site	A5.5.1) Introduce copse areas around existing trees, creating a new type of habitat and alter the age range of the trees on the site A5.5.2) Replace felled trees with native whips		Implement when funding available Ad-hoc	Friends' group/grants NSC Officer time
A5.6) Manage the fish population in the lake	A5.6.1) Consider options for rejuvenating the current fish population and allowing the population size to stabilise	<i>To be monitored</i>	Ongoing	NSC Officer time
A5.7) Improving roosting opportunities for nesting wild fowl.	A5.7.1) The current island is a fraction of the original size due to erosion, consider rebuilding this. A5.7.2) As part of the island redevelopment shelter for the	<i>A plan has started involving a local</i>	As soon as possible – in conjunction with algae bloom control programme As soon as possible – in	NSC Officer time/friends' group NSC Officer time/Friends' group

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
	<p>nesting birds should be considered</p> <p>A5.7.2) where possible alternative nesting sites should be added to the lake, this would include floating reed pontoons</p>	<p><i>school and material supplier in 2016</i> Added 2018</p>	<p>conjunction with algae bloom control programme</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NSC Officer time/revenue</p>
<p>A park that encourages community involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To recognise and encourage further community involvement within Portishead Lake Grounds through consultation, events and activities • Involve as many of the local community as possible in ensuring the park vision is met • Encourage as many of the local community involvement in the management of the park 				
<p>A7.1) Consult with the community to get a better understanding of what they like and dislike about the park</p>	<p>A7.1.1) NSC and Portishead Town Council worked in partnership to agree a consultation. The consultation was completed by residents and visitors in 2021.</p> <p>A7.1.2) The results of consultation identified key areas that need investment</p>	<p><i>The majority of responses confirmed that the community thought the lake grounds is good. It also identified areas for improvement.</i></p> <p><i>Accessibility Improvement Plan, and Picnic and Wildlife Area Plan will</i></p>	<p>2022</p>	<p>Great Lake Project funds</p>

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
<p>A7.2) Ask the community what they consider is the priority regarding future investment</p> <p>A7.3) Continue to engage with the existing volunteers involved with managing the park</p> <p>A7.4) Involvement of the community in the rewilding project</p>	<p>A7.3) Portishead in Bloom and Pride in Portishead are continually active assisting with regular maintenance within the park</p> <p>A7.4) Ask the community to help with future rewilding and with maintaining the rewilding that has/will be taking place this year</p>	<p><i>work towards addressing some of these priorities</i></p> <p><i>Portishead Town Council have plans to improve the play area</i></p> <p><i>Other areas highlighted as being a priority need to be discussed in more detail</i></p> <p><i>Increase numbers of existing volunteers.</i></p> <p><i>Advertise up and coming projects</i></p>	<p>1-5 years</p> <p>2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Portishead Town Council</p> <p>NSC/Portishead Town Council</p> <p>NSC/volunteers</p> <p>NSC/volunteers</p>

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
Provide quality recreational facilities and improved infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and modernise existing facilities • Explore options for more diversity in the facilities currently being offered • Provide facilities that appeal to all ages 				
A.8.1) Commission a business plan to address the need to rebuild the café, boathouse, and toilet facility	A.8.1) Work in partnership with Portishead Town Council and agree how the business plan is to be funded. Agree on the overall aim of the business plan.	<i>Once in agreement the business plan can be commissioned</i>	2022	Revenue
A.8.2) Explore the option of increasing the diversity of concessions within the site	A.8.2) Draw from other authorities' experience about what works well elsewhere and identify what opportunities the park presents		2-5 years	NSC Officers
A.8.3) Increase the age range of the existing play area by providing a better facility	A.8.3) Portishead Town Council to lease for the play area	<i>Process has started</i>	2022	NSC Officers/Portishead Town Council
A.8.4) Explore the option of increasing the number of events within the park	A.8.4) Discuss the opportunity of increasing events with the NSC Events Team. Portishead Town Council to assist with promoting the park as an event space. Incorporate the Lake Grounds into the emerging NSC Events Strategy. Event Team to	<i>Continue previous discussion of increasing events with Portishead Town Council</i>	2-5 years	NSC Officers/Portishead Town Council

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
<p>A.8.5) Improve the paths around the lake</p> <p>A.8.6) Improve parking areas and road surface on the promenade</p> <p>A.8.7) Work with Portishead Town Council to increase family fun facilities</p> <p>A.8.8) Improve general infrastructure</p>	<p>engage with Portishead Town Council to be included in the emerging Events Strategy</p> <p>A.8.7) Explore options available with Portishead Town Council regarding increasing facilities</p> <p>A.8.8) Condition survey taking place 2022</p>	<p>See A1.4.2</p> <p>See A1.2.2 & A1.2.3.</p> <p><i>Progress previous discussions</i></p>	<p>2022</p> <p>2022</p> <p>2022</p> <p>2022</p>	<p>Capital/Great Lake Project</p> <p>Great Lake Project funding</p> <p>NSC Officers/Portishead Town Council/Capital</p> <p>NSC Officers. Revenue/Capital when funds are available</p>
<p>Financial Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the park more financially sustainable by exploring new/improve commercial opportunities that can be reinvested back in the Lake Grounds • Explore the opportunity of grant/external funding for future improvements 				

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources (staff/capital/ revenue)
A.9.1) Look for grant/external funding opportunities for improvement projects	A.9.1) Future project will need to be identified once the Portishead Great Lake funding has been delivered. Funding/projects can then be explored		2-5 years	NSC Officers/Portishead Town Council
A.9.2) Widen range of concessions being offered in park	A.9.2) site survey will need to take place to identify whether there are opportunities to increase the number of concessions. Current concession arrangements will have to be taken into consideration as well as available space.		2-5 years	NSC Officers/Portishead Town Council
A.9.3) Consider all options for increasing revenue for the lake grounds	A.9.3) New areas of income that can be invested back into the lake grounds need to be explored		2-5 years	NSC Officers/Portishead Town Council

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Timetable	Resources <i>(staff/capital/ revenue)</i>
Achieve Green Flag recognition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-enter into the Green Flag competition and achieve Green Flag status 				
A.10.1) Enter the Lake Grounds back into the Green Flag competition	A.9.1.1) Once the park is to a Green Flag standard the Green Flag management plan will have to be updated and application submitted		1-5 years	NSC Officers/Friends group

6.0 FINANCE

6.1 Existing expenditure

The Lake Grounds is maintained through the Councils £2.1m Parks & Streetscene Contract.. This contract maintains all North Somerset Council parks and open space throughout the district.

The contract is a resource-based contract and the core services that it provides are street cleansing, litter removal and litter bin emptying, tree management and grounds maintenance.

As this is a resource-based contract and not a bill of quantity contract it is not straightforward to quantify a cost to this site. However, we can confirm what maintenance activities take place which are follows:

- * Daily litter picks and litter bin emptying
- * Grass cutting and strimming on an approximately 10/12 working day cycles
- * Once per annum hedge cutting
- * Weed treatment of hard standing and roads
- * Tree maintenance when required

The Council also provides additional grounds maintenance and cleansing as and when required as well as ad hoc infrastructure repairs when needed.

7.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW

The management plan sets out a clear and detailed 5-year action plan and outlines a number of aspirations.

The action plan will also be reviewed quarterly, and progress monitored. This will be used to inform the action plan for the following year, and if appropriate, make minor changes to the overall management plan.

The management plan will be subject to a major review every 5 years, when it will be re-drafted and subject to consultation to develop a plan for 5 years.

Appendix 1: Grounds Maintenance Contract

Grounds Maintenance Tasks

The text below has been taken directly from the Grounds Maintenance contract. It is possible that this list of tasks and outputs will alter when the new contract is re-let.

Task	Output												
<p>Amenity grass mowing</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;">Grass Cutting Performance Standards:</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Minimum Height</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Maximum Height</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March to October inclusive</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15 mm</td> <td style="text-align: center;">35 mm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>November to February inclusive</td> <td style="text-align: center;">15 mm</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50 mm</td> </tr> </table> <p>Associated Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half Moon Edging For information over the last 2 seasons it is anticipated that this specification equates to a minimum of 14 cuts per annum. <p>All areas in this category as indicated by the Supervising Officer shall be cut with an approved type of cylinder or rotary mower, either pedestrian controlled, ride on type or tractor mounted. There shall be no requirement for cuttings to be collected.</p>	Grass Cutting Performance Standards:				Minimum Height	Maximum Height	March to October inclusive	15 mm	35 mm	November to February inclusive	15 mm	50 mm
Grass Cutting Performance Standards:													
	Minimum Height	Maximum Height											
March to October inclusive	15 mm	35 mm											
November to February inclusive	15 mm	50 mm											
<p>Hedge Cutting</p>	<p>Annual cut on one side by flailing. Not every section of hedge on the site is maintained.</p> <p>The existing heights and widths of the hedges shall be maintained unless otherwise agreed by the Supervising Officer. Regular cutting will remove all growth back to the point of the previous cut, unless otherwise agreed with the Supervising Officer.</p>												

	<p>In conjunction with the Supervising Officer, the Contractor shall develop an annual programme of hedge cutting operations taking into account the necessity for operations to be undertaken both once and twice per annum dependent upon the location of the hedge. Once agreed this annual programme shall be adhered to by the Contractor.</p> <p>The Contractor shall clear the hedge base of all leaves, litter and debris once per year during January to February. All Bramble stem and roots should also be removed at this time.</p> <p>Informal hedges shall be cut once during the winter period or as agreed with the Supervising Officer. These tend to be hedges of mixed plant species although some single specie hedges are located throughout the district. Certain natural hedges shall require cutting back from the highway or footpath from time-to-time as instructed by the Supervising Officer.</p> <p>The Contractor shall, when undertaking this work use secateurs, loppers and pruning saws. After completion of the work the hedge shall give an appearance of being completely natural having a 'soft' outline. Squaring up of the sides or top will not be permitted.</p>
Litter Picking	<p>All litter and debris on areas to be mown shall be removed immediately prior to mowing. Any shredded as a result of the mowing operation, shall be removed as part of the same operation before machinery and equipment leaves the site. Removal by manual, mechanical or vacuum sweeping all litter, detritus, rubbish, tree debris, weeds, animal fouling and other deposited or abandoned material. All areas will be free of the above materials immediately after completion and achieve a standard that meets Environmental Protection Act Grade A.</p>
Bin Emptying	<p>The Contractor should empty litter bins as per the schedule.</p> <p>The Contractor shall ensure that any litter in the area surrounding the receptacle (i.e., within approximately 2 metre radius) shall be cleared at the same time as the bin is emptied.</p>

Appendix 2: Tree Works

Tree Management

Work is carried out on the instruction of one of the Council's Tree Officers, or by another officer with out of hours authority. The work is carried out by external contractors (Glendale Services Ltd), who provide 24-hour emergency service. The tree works contract ends 31st March 2023. In some instances, it may be more resource-efficient to instruct another fully trained and insured contractor to carry out specified work.

Tasks include the full range of arboriculture operations, including felling, crown pruning, limb removal, removal of deadwood, climbing inspections, and planting and young tree maintenance.

The Council's Tree Risk Management Plan will be applied to the site to ensure that the council's duty of care is met in a reasonable way. This will be achieved through regular surveys to identify unacceptable hazards, with follow-up remedial tree work to remove the hazards or to reduce them to an acceptable level. Common tasks will include the removal of significant deadwood over footpaths, of the removal of trees at high risk of failure. Tree work to reduce the likelihood of legal claims will also be considered.

Risk management will be balanced against the ecological value of features such as deadwood and cavities, and with the aesthetic, ecological and social benefits that trees bring.

Appendix 3: Extract from weekly play area inspection form

Play Areas Weekly Inspection and Maintenance

Site name and number	Portishead - Lake Grounds	8	Inspector	
Date of inspection			Time from site	

	N/L/M/H	Cleared Y/N ?	Other action taken
Litter:	N		
Glass:			
Dog Faeces:			
Other:			
Bins emptied:			

Item:	Condition	Risk Factor (1-25)		Date resolved
T Bar 3 Cradle Swing	Satisfactory	Low	2	
Kompan Supernova	Satisfactory	Low	5	
Hags Play Boat	Satisfactory	Low	5	
Wicksteed 4 Flat Seat Swing (One Disabled Seat)	Satisfactory	Low	5	
Kompan Red Spinner	Satisfactory	Low	2	
Kompan Yellow Spinner	Satisfactory	Low	2	

(Portishead Council Section)				
Proludic Rotating See-Saw	Satisfactory	Low	5	
Proludic Exercise Pedalers	Satisfactory	Low	2	
Proludic Rowing Machine	Satisfactory	Low	2	
Proludic Rodeo Board	Satisfactory	Low	5	
Proludic Multi-Play	Satisfactory (2 tube end caps missing)	Low	6	
Benches (2)	Satisfactory	Low	2	
Bin	Satisfactory	Low	2	
Signs (3)	Satisfactory	Low	2	
Bins	Satisfactory	Low	2	
Self-closing gates	Satisfactory	Low	2	
Dog-proof Fence	Satisfactory	Low	2	
Seating	Satisfactory	Low	2	
Safety impact surfacing	Satisfactory	Low	5	
Comments / Vandalism:				
Service gate locks replaced Muddy around Proludic items				

Appendix 4: Volunteer Work Program

DATE	AREA	TASK	CONTRACTOR/ VOLUNTEER	COMPLETEION DATES/NOTES
Practical management tasks				
October- November		Grass cutting	Volunteers. Contractors may need to cut some areas, and volunteers can rake.	
October - February		Hedge planting	Volunteers	
September- October		Plant hedge base seed mix	Volunteers	
September - January		Wildflower planting in tall grass meadows	Volunteers	
November - January		Hedge pruning	Volunteers	
Mid November - Mid January		Scrub management	Volunteers	
October - February		Hand pulling invasive species	Volunteers	
Ongoing		Clearing between tree whips	Volunteers	
Ongoing	Whole site	Litter picking	Volunteers	
Surveys				
Once a month		Site inspections	Volunteers	
Summer		Bat, bird, butterfly, and botanical surveys	Volunteers.	
April- October		Dormice surveys	Volunteers	
October- February		Check bird and bat boxes	Keith and Linda Hall (Specialised nest boxes)	
May-June		Carry out blue bell survey to determine if present and if English, Spanish or hybrid.	May require specialist	

Appendix 5: Management Committee

A management committee will be formed to oversee the ongoing management of Portishead Lake Grounds.

The purpose of the management committee is to work towards:

- Ensuring the vision and specific policies of the management plan are followed
- Improving, conserving, supporting and protecting Portishead Lake Grounds
- Overseeing the delivery of the action plan and priorities.

The management committee will consist of:

- North Somerset Council Ward Councillor (Chair)
- Two representatives from the lake grounds community groups.
- Two representatives from Portishead Town Council
- Representative from Portishead in Bloom
- North Somerset Council Offices

Appendix 6: Management of Algae bloom

Blue green algae has been a problem with the Lake previous years seriously affecting users' enjoyment of the park, and threatening the health of visitors and pets. To date we have followed the Environment Agency's advice about how to deal with it, as laid out below.

Summary of Environment Agency recommendations for algae management:

Blue/green algae is a naturally occurring organism which is present in most water bodies and it is often only when blooms develop that there become any potential issues. There are a number of contributing factors that can result in the onset of a bloom.

Barley straw is the most effective organic form of management. Ideally this should be placed into the water body from March onward to allow the straw to start to break down before the algae blooms are likely to occur. It is the breakdown of the barley straw which releases the natural chemicals which in turn breaks down the algae and prevents further growth.

North Somerset Council's proposal:

The presence of blue-green algae indicates wider water quality problems which need to be addressed. Dealing with these problems will improve water quality and reduce the likelihood of blue/green algae happening in the future thereby enhancing the whole site.

With this objective in mind, and the urgent need to resolve the problem, we have already appointed a water quality expert to provide guidance to help us improve water quality. The initial assessment has highlighted several issues which generally contribute to conditions that enable algal blooms to develop. These are all related in some way to high levels of nutrients in the water and the probable main contributors to this are identified below:

- Waterfowl – both food from feeding them and their faeces
- Insufficient flushing from fresh water
- Lack of aquatic plants
- Possible introduction of fertilisers
- High fish population
- Silt build-up

There are few methods that can be used to try and reduce nutrients levels and to disrupt algal growth. The measures that have been discussed as a possibility are listed below:

- Increasing water movement, increasing frequencies of freshwater present
- Addition of aquatic plants, including the possibility of increasing the size of the island and adding floating plant islands.
- Stop fertilisation of any of the grass and monitor run off from the grass and from any surrounding drainage
- Reduce the fish population
- Dredging areas of the lake
- Installing aerating systems – such as pumps
- Ultrasound technology
- Ongoing addition of barley straw

The management plan will be updated to reflect the relevant proposals once they are received.

Appendix 7: Risk assessment forms

WORK ACTIVITIES FOR: Visitors to the Lake Grounds	DIRECTORATE: Development & Environment
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Name of Assessor	
Date	

<p><u>Activities Identified:</u> Portishead Lake Grounds is a popular place with local people and visitors to the area for recreation, exercise, relaxation, and the walking of dogs.</p> <p><u>Associated Hazards:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Open water body 2. Steep drops from Battery Point 3. Dog fouling 4. Paths 5. Trees 6. Vehicles <p><u>People at risk:</u> Visitors to the area, contractors.</p>
<p><u>Existing Control measures:</u> (e.g., Safe Methods of Work, Training/Information/Instructions, NSC guidance/best practice, PPE etc)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Lake is regularly checked by NSC staff, contractors and volunteers, and litter removed. If algae is noted the lake is to be fenced off and appropriate warning signs erected. 2. Scrub around Battery Point is regularly checked for gaps, signage is to be installed if gaps become too large. 3. Dog bins and litter bins are provided across the site. Friends group walk the site on a regular basis and chat to dog walkers who use the site. 4. Paths and road surfaces are checked regularly for trip hazards by volunteers and NSC officers. 5. A 4-yearly inspection of trees is undertaken. Most recent inspection was carried out in 2020. 6. Speed bumps on lake road and the esplanade to keep traffic within the speed limit <p><u>Action Required:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regular checks to ensure all furniture (fencing/seats/bins) are in good repair. 3. Regular checks of paths and desire lines/main access routes. Deal with as necessary. 4. Any trees found needing attention are dealt with as appropriate. <p><i>Written Procedure Completed? YES / NO</i></p>

Example volunteer risk assessment
 (Volunteers have approved risk assessments for all tasks they carry out)

SITE RISK ASSESSMENT

VENUE: Portishead Lake Grounds

ASSESSMENT DATE:

PROPOSED ACTIVITY / ENVIRONMENT: Litter picking

COMPLETED BY:

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY:

DATE:

Hazards <i>List significant hazards that may result in serious harm or affect people in the party.</i>	Risk <i>Indicate the level of risk involved</i>	Who might be harmed? <i>List groups of people who are especially at risk from the hazards identified.</i>	Is the risk adequately controlled? <i>List existing controls or note where information may be found. (e.g., information, instruction training, systems, or procedures)</i>	What further actions are needed to control the risk? <i>List the risks that are not adequately controlled and propose actions that are needed to reduce or eliminate the risks.</i>	Tick if these actions are in place	Out-come
Slips/trips/ falls Sharp objects at eye level Lifting of weights/ bending/stretching	Low	Friends of Lake Grounds volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - volunteers not to work alone - volunteers to carry mobile phone to contact emergency services in the event of incident / injury - new volunteers to be given guided tour of area, pointing out hazards prior to start of first litter picking session - volunteers to wear suitable protective clothing & safe footwear - volunteers to be advised of safe working practices prior to work session - volunteers to carry First Aid kit during work session. Ensure First Aid materials are replaced if used. 			

<p>Dogs and dog fouling</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Friends of Lake Grounds volunteers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - avoid confrontation with aggressive dogs - report any incidents with aggressive dogs to NSC/Police - wear protective clothing/gloves & footwear - use litter tongs/pickers at all times to collect bagged faeces. Never handle unbagged faeces. - dispose of dog faeces in designated dog bins 			
<p>Sharp objects: - broken glass - needles - tin drink cans Other hazardous rubbish</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Friends of Lake Grounds volunteers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - volunteers not to work alone - volunteers to carry mobile phone to contact emergency services in the event of injury - volunteers to be advised of safe working practices prior to first litter picking first session - volunteers to use equipment provided i.e. suitable gloves/bags + rubbish sacks - use adequate grade of plastic rubbish sack to avoid glass/needles cutting bags and causing injury - carry First Aid kit during work session. Ensure First Aid materials are replaced if used. 			


Appendix 8: Monthly inspection record (example sheet)

Portishead Lake Grounds monthly inspection record

	Date Inspected	Date Inspected	Date Inspected	Date Inspected	Date Inspected
Grassland					
Play area					
Lake					
Paths					
Benches					
Bins					
Signage					
Miscellaneous					
Miscellaneous					

Appendix 09: Updates for Portishead Lake Grounds 2017/18

<p>Improvement of signage on site</p>	<p>directional signage has been installed at 3 key points around the site highlighting key areas</p> <p>interpretation designs are under way for Battery Point</p> <p>old signage on site has started to be removed or updated</p>	
<p>Planting</p>	<p>In conjunction with Portishead in Bloom 3 new Cherry Trees have been planted in a previously underused scrub area to the North of the lake adjacent to the Tennis courts. It is the plan that these will create a focal point for this end of the lake, especially when in bloom</p>	

<p>Solar panel</p>	<p>Since the intro of the ultrasonic device we have had no algae blooms on the lake, this year the machine was serviced and whilst we had it against the shoreline the opportunity was taken to 'green up' the float to make it more aesthetically pleasing. Since this has happened more wild fowl have been spotted sitting on the float and using it as an island.</p>	
<p>Fishing of the lake</p>	<p>Following the suggestions of the Ecological Consultant to improve the health of the lake the final suggestion of removing the larger bottom feeding fish from the lake was actioned. Two trips to the lake were made by a professional fishing company with a large number of the bigger fish removed. This is hoped to improve the health of lake by reducing the amount of sediment that is stirred up by the fish and reducing nitrate levels within the water.</p>	



Community involvement/events

Pride in Portishead led a litter pick in March for Keep Britain Tidy's 'Spring Clean'

Portishead 2nd Scouts held a fun event at Battery Point to raise funds for a local good course.

The Lake Grounds held its first Soap Box cart race this summer to great success.

Portishead in Bloom won Gold in the South West awards and Gold in the Champions of Champions – Rodmoor Gardens, flower beds managed by the WI and the Lions and the Wild Flower Meadow were a main feature of the judging route.



In bloom judging 2017



Spring clean 2017

Appendix 10: Updates for Portishead Lake Grounds 2018/19

Improvement of signage on site	Interpretation signage has been installed at both entrance points to Battery Point which collates some of the history and geological interest of the area, much of the information was gathered from other sources/organisations from Portishead.	
Portishead in Bloom	Once again were awarded Gold for their efforts around Portishead, which include Rodmoor Gardens and other planting across the lake grounds. They have also installed a new pipe outlet and redesigned one of the larger beds this year	
Health of the lake	Despite an incredibly dry summer season, which provided ideal growing conditions for blue green algae no blooms were recorded. This is an indication that all the preventative measures that have been put into place have worked at this time to prevent blooms developing	
Community involvement/events	After the 'beast from the east' cancelled Spring Clean events earlier in the year, NSC and Glendale chose a later date later in the spring to hold another event. Battery point was awarded Centenary Fields – fields in trust status due to its links with WW1 http://www.fieldsintrust.org/FieldSite/Battery-Point	
Improving access	Due to continued beach erosion the steps down onto the foreshore are starting to become tricky to negotiate, we will be looking into options to improve access going forward.	