



THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL PARKS & GREENSPACE



Park Quality Assessment Result 2017

Assessment Date: 24 May 2017
Lead Assessor: Stephen MacGregor

Lauriston Castle

Classification: Garden

PQS: **73%** *Bandwidth: Excellent* Edin Std Met **Yes**
2016 70% - Excellent - Yes

Criteria Score Key 0 = N/A; 1 = Very Poor; 2-4 = Poor; 5-6 = Fair; 7 = Good; 8 = Very Good; 9 = Excellent; 10 = Exceptional

A Welcoming Place

	2016	2017	Strengths	Weaknesses / Recommendations
Welcoming	7	6	good open views.	entrance car park area looks a little run down, squint exit sign, light damage, bollard at car park damaged.
Good Safe Access	8	8	car parking and near bus routes, good access around site.	car park was quite busy, would be full at weekends I would imagine
Signage	6	7	Threshold signage and signs around site	damage to exit sign
Equal Access	7	6	good seating around park	disabled access to house would be difficult for wheelchair users. Picnic benches at entrance have been removed. Perhaps explore improved wheelchair access to Japanese and Italian garden

Healthy, Safe & Secure

Safe Equipment & Facilities	7	8	good areas for kids for informal play, toilets good condition, paths/seating fine	some lights need attention
Personal Security in Park	8	8	Mostly open views, some lighting and CCTV and Japanese garden	Some hidden areas in the park
Dog Fouling	9	10	No evidence of dog fouling on site, park rules/dog walking	
Appropriate Provision of Facilities	8	8	Toilets good condition, informal play areas and paths fine. Japanese garden really good	Picnic tables have been removed
Quality of Facilities	8	8	Quality of facilities generally very good	some seats need attention

Clean & Well Maintained

Litter & Waste Management	9	9	Bins serviced, on the whole the site is very clean	The odd instance of litter.
Grounds Maintenance	8	8	On the whole GM and horti very good.	GM at old picnic area not good
Building & Infrastructure Maint	7	7	Majority of buildings etc. look well maintained	The glasshouse could do with some attention
Equipment Maintenance	7	7	Bins well maintained, the majority of seats fine	some seats need attention, broken light

Sustainability

Environmental Sustainability	6	6	All current Council policies regarding environmental sustainability are being adhered to in the park.	
Pesticides	7	7	Many of the shrub borders have been dressed with bark mulch to reduce herbicide use.	
Peat Use	7	7	Peat use within the park continues to be monitored with the intention of reducing its use in new planting and seasonal bedding.	
Waste Minimisation	7	7	No waste removed from site, leaves are composted and used in borders.	
Woodland Management	8	8	good range of trees that look well maintained	

Conservation & Heritage

Conservation Fauna & Flora	8	8	Bee hives, various wildlife in park	did not see bird boxes or much info on wildlife
Conservation Landscape	7	7	Tree replanting with estate trees, replacing some of the conifers that John Playfair had designed into the garden. Italian garden planted.	
Conservation Buildings	6	7	Majority of buildings/structures fine	glasshouse could do with some work



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Community Involvement

Community Involvement	4	4	There is periodic involvement in the park	
Community Provision	6	6	The Council provides support in the form of funding etc.	

Marketing & Promotion

Marketing & Promotion	8	8	museums and parks web site	
Information Provision	4	7	Info re Japanese garden, info re war memorial. Good info at entrance with the plan of the park	
Educ. & Interpretative Provision	5	7		good info at points of interest

Management

Management Plan Implementation	0	0		
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Overall Comments A interesting park to visit that has lots of interesting features around the site, slightly let down by maintenance issues at car park

- Recommendations**
- Consider reinstating picnic tables at car park area
 - Straighten exit sign at car park
 - Fix lights