



Park Quality Assessment Result 2019

Assessment Date:

23 May 2019

Lead Assessor:

Gary Law

Little France Park

Classification: Natural Park

PQS: 65%

Grade C

Edin Std Met 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

Welcoming

2019 Strengths

6 Large park with a good linear path offering good travel links for walking/cycling. Signage at relevant access points. Good views across and beyond at either end.

Weaknesses / Recommendations

No orientation map or distance indicators.

Good Safe Access

7 Good entrances and wide tarmac path with lighting offering easy access from one end to the other with other paths allowing access / exit from surrounding streets. Clearly contributing to the wider travel network. Good crossing point in the middle. Bus links and access from surrounding neighbourhoods.

A very wide path which could easily offer a dividing line to separate cyclists and walkers. Cyclists going at speed especially on down hill sections appear silently and from almost nowhere. Grass paths weren't that obvious. One entrance is blocked off by a tree trunk to prevent unauthorised access but appearance doesn't suggest a welcoming feel.

Signage

6 Threshold signage and notice boards announce the park well. Way markers offering some directional information. Clear signage indicating a cycling/walking route and wider cycle network.

Lack of clear map and boundary showing entrance/exit points. No phone number seen in the notice boards or on signage.

Equal Access

6 Good wide path with seating available at good intervals. Dropped kerbs at most entrances.

Although the paths remove some severe gradients, there is still an element of steepness. May have been an option to level some parts out further and provide steeper shortcuts for more abled cyclists / walkers (desire lines may indicate need for this).

Healthy, Safe & Secure

Appropriate Provision of Facilities

5 Good paths and seating. Notice boards offering some information

Distances on the way markers would have been useful as well as a clear map in the notice boards. The feeling of the park is one of a through route or a place to walk a dog. Consider how to make the park more of a destination. Potential to maximise the views and offer more interpretation at points.

Safe Equipment & Facilities

8 Nothing stood out as unsafe. Crossing points etc all designed well.

Cyclist / pedestrian separation line could be provided.

Personal Security in Park

7 The path is lit and sightlines are good in places.

Better way markers could be provided, A few areas that were isolated. Evidence of drinking at a bench on a side path with lots of empty cans suggest a hangout.

Dog Fouling

4 Some signage.

More signage on lamp posts perhaps. Instances found on the path. No bins on site as yet.

Clean & Well Maintained

Litter & Waste Management

6 Fairly clean with only the odd bit of litter here and there with the exception of one specific area.

One heavily littered (empty beer cans) area though at the seat near the north east side of the park. No bins on site.

Grounds Maintenance

6 Site is still maturing.

Management strips along path edges could be maintained better although appreciate that these areas appear to be establishing following path works. Grass paths are not that well maintained.

Tree Maintenance

8 Lots of new trees (mixed species) planted as well as some more established woodland areas.

Couple of failed trees.

Building & Infrastructure Maint

8 Path in excellent condition, minor paths are okay.

Equipment Maintenance

6 Bins, seating and signage mostly in good condition.

Some graffiti on signage towards Craigmillar side.

Sustainability

Environmental Sustainability

8 Some grass paths cut and established for access into site. Limited grass cutting, preservation of grassland habitat. Any grassland cut on site left to



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		mulch.	
Waste Minimisation	8	Council's litter recycling policy is adhered to. Specific strategic planting to minimise green waste. Where green waste is generated, it is re-used or composted on site.	
Pesticides	9	Decision made to not use pesticide/herbicide on site unless to control NNIS.	
Peat Use	10	No peat used on site	
Climate Change	0		
Conservation & Heritage			
Conservation Fauna & Flora	8	Lots of habitat provided and planting that will be of value to wildlife.	Road splits the park in two, is there a need for a safe wildlife corridor? Desire lines could potentially disrupt habitats unless carefully managed.
Conservation Landscape	7	Site under development as public park from historical farmland use. Individual trees planted to interpret arboretum collection historically found in Edmonstone Estate.	
Conservation Buildings	0		
Community Involvement			
Community Involvement	1	New site with no friends group as yet. Communities around site still developing with new property developments and new build estates not yet complete. Some engagement with local individual dog walkers, site users etc.	No information in noticeboards about getting involved
Community Provision	7	Cycleway, rest stops with benches, cycle racks, two stone cairn seats and new grass pathways being established in 2018/19. Feature trees planted and woodland development anticipated. Further site features to be developed over time as site develops.	
Marketing & Promotion			
Marketing & Promotion	5	Entry signage / noticeboards have been installed at entrances. Finger posts are provided to allow travelling across and through the site. Noticeboards have relevant information on the site development.	
Information Provision	6	Some good information about the park and the perceived use and travel links.	Would benefit from an orientation map and distance indicators. Some information about the timetable of future developments of the park and how to get involved i.e. starting a FG. No contact phone number.
Educ. & Interpretative Provision	4	A little interpretation about bees and how to get involved.	Consider maximising the view points, potential of viewing areas or interpretation of specific areas along the way.
Management			
Management Plan Implementation	0		

Overall Comments A new large park that offered lots in habitat provision and a cycle / walkway for access and links to the wider network. Good views that should be maximised as not a lot more reason to visit at this early stage unless you are using it as a through route or walking a dog.

Recommendations Ensure litter hot spot cleaned up and monitored in future.



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Provide better contact information both for reporting and for community engagement

Provide clear map for orientation along with distance indicators.