

Princes Street Gardens



2017 – 2020

Interim Management Plan

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1 INTRODUCTION

This Management Plan sets out the management, maintenance and improvement plan for Princes Street Gardens and has been produced as an interim plan and a continuation of the previous management plan produced by the Princes Street Gardens Steering Group, made up of staff from the City of Edinburgh Council and external partners (Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and Historic Scotland). Although it provides a long-term vision for the Gardens and details on both developmental and operational actions required to achieve that vision, it is an interim plan due to conditions outlined below.

Princes Street Gardens is Edinburgh’s central garden and its’ most famous open space, lying in the very centre of the city between the Old Town and New Town. The setting of the



Gardens in the valley between these two contrasting historic areas of the city, with Edinburgh Castle on its rock towering above the western end, create urban scenery which is without parallel within the UK. Its proximity to the retail, office and civic areas of the centre, to tourist attractions, and to

main transport corridors and termini give it exceptionally high levels of use from city residents and visitors, many of whom cherish it as a special place.

The management plan covers the period 2017 to 2020 and has a detailed plan of works for that period.

Due to potential redevelopment works within the gardens during this period, this document is intended to be an interim plan.

During 2016/17 the council have been engaged with the Ross Development Trust which has been created to redevelop the Ross Bandstand, Ross Fountain, gardener’s cottage

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and wider re-landscaping of the west gardens. It is anticipated this work will commence during 2020.

The Ross Development Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered in Scotland, and constituted to deliver significant regeneration in West Princes Street Gardens. The Trust is responsible for managing the development phase of the proposed improvements, as well as raising the capital required to fund them.

The following link outlines the latest development relating to RDT;

<https://www.rdtrust.org/about-us/>

A concept design for the redevelopment has been chosen after an initial international architectural competition. From seven shortlisted designs, the concept from wHY was unanimously selected as the winner of the international competition.

They propose an organic landscape-focused scheme that respects the historic setting but also animates the Gardens through the introduction of a new undulating promenade, sculptural seating and dynamic open views.

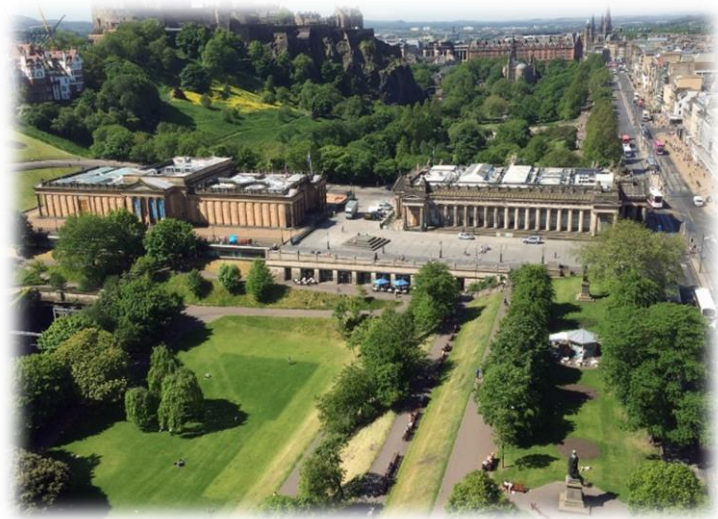


During 2017 work has already been completed to refurbish the gardeners cottage so it can be utilised for fund raising events by the RDT.

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Also during 2017, work started on refurbishing the Ross Fountain which is due for completion in June 2018.

In addition to these plans, there is also a planning application in process by the National Museums Scotland for a redevelopment of the east gardens. An anticipated timescale for these works is also 2020. This will involve relandscaping of the bankings and path layout adjacent to the museum on the Mound Precinct, which will improve overall access within the gardens and to the museum itself.



As this project is still progressing through the planning application process, full and final details are still unknown at the time of writing this management plan.

As this is an interim management plan a full review and update has not been carried out. However, where possible all future developments and actions from the previous management plan have been revised.

Also, some of the analysis and sources pre-date the previous management plan but some of the resulting actions are still valid and renewed consultation and analysis will be updated once redevelopment has been started and completed.

Like any Management Plan, its purpose is to provide a framework within which all future management is carried out. It will enable anyone involved with the park to understand how

the park is to be managed and improved to achieve the vision in line with our agreed policies.

This plan's target audience is the local community and businesses, park stakeholders, elected members and council officers. Its style and content should ensure continuity of purpose and consistency in service delivery. It is intended to be a flexible, working document that will be reviewed and updated annually.

The plan is set out in four distinct sections:

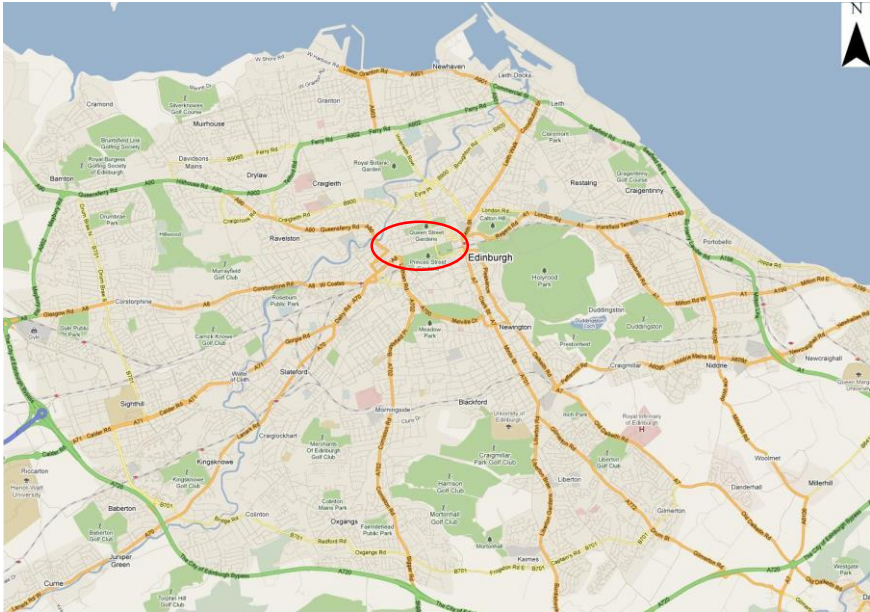

The first section, "*Where Are We Now?*" describes the current situation with Princes Street Gardens, which includes the policy and legal context within which it is managed and provides some basic information about the park.

The second section, "*Where Do We Want to Be?*" develops the vision for Princes Street Gardens and provides an assessment and analysis at the time of writing this Management Plan, and states the aims established for the park.

The third section, "*How Will We Get There?*" describes the aims and objectives for Princes Street Gardens.

The fourth and final section, "*How Will We Know When We Get There?*" explains how the improvement, maintenance and management of Princes Street Gardens will be monitored and reviewed.

1.1 Summary Information

<p>Grid Reference</p>	<p>East Princes Street Gardens: NT2573NE West Princes Street Gardens: NT2573NW</p>
<p>Location</p>	<p>East Princes Street Gardens: EH2 2EJ West Princes Street Gardens: EH2 2EG</p> 
<p>Size</p>	<p>East Princes Street gardens: 3.2 ha West Princes Street Gardens: 13.0ha</p>
<p>Boundary</p>	

Ownership	<p>Land ownership of the gardens is spilt between the land owned direct by City of Edinburgh Council and land leased from others. Most of land is owned by the Council and held under its Common Good Account. The land leases are long-established and were first agreed c. 1820 or soon after.</p> <p><u>In the East Garden:</u> Land is leased from the Bank of Scotland on the slope below the Bank’s headquarters building.</p> <p><u>In the West Garden:</u> The north and west Castle banks are leased from the Crown Estate (10.46 acres south of the railway and 0.61 acre on the north side of the railway).</p>
Contact details	<p>Graeme Craig, Horticulture Manager, graeme.craig@edinburgh.gov.uk</p> <p>David Dorward, Botanical Services Team Leader, parks@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>
Area Designation	World Heritage Site
Classification	Premier Park
Park Staff	<p>Botanical Services Manager, 13 Gardeners and two apprentices.</p> <p>Other Council staff with a remit for Princes Street Gardens include: Community Parks Officer, four Park Rangers, Trees and Woodland Officer, Environmental Wardens and Waste Services (litter collection and toilet attendants).</p>
Previous Plan	Conservation Management Plan (2003)
Stakeholders	City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh World Heritage Trust, Historic Scotland

Features	There is a broad range of historical and modern features, including: stunning gardens, plant collections, heritage trees, monuments, memorials, Ross fountain, play area, café, kiosks, seating and shelters.
Infrastructure	A database is used to manage all the park’s assets, these include: seats, litter bins, tarmac paths, bridges, buildings, information boards
History	The Gardens have an interesting and varied history. The Conservation Management Plan for Princes Street Gardens gives a thorough account of the development of Princes Street Gardens from c. 1140 through to present day.
Significance	<p>The Conservation Management Plan (2003) also makes a detailed assessment of the significance of Princes Street Gardens, in relation to it’s major features and values. In summary, the key factors of significance of Princes Street Gardens are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the valley greenspace between the Old and New towns in the very centre of the city and World Heritage Site • a landscape of outstanding refinement and cultural significance developed over two centuries • the setting for buildings of outstanding international significance including Edinburgh castle, the RSA and NGS Galleries and the Scott Monument and many other significant buildings and monuments • the most visited part of the World Heritage Site • gardens of varied plant interest and horticultural achievement • a unique source of passive recreational experience • a city centre landscape with high geological and some botanical scientific interest • the central park in Edinburgh Parks and Gardens Strategy and one of seven Premier parks

- one of the New Town Gardens listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscape in Scotland, assessed as outstanding in terms of aesthetic, historical, architectural and scenic values
- part of a system of geologically, topographically and visually linked spaces of outstanding quality in the city which also includes Calton Hill and Holyrood Park.

2 WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Princes Street Gardens is managed by the City of Edinburgh Council's Botanical Services Team. Previous management of this park has been guided by the Conservation Management Plan and the Botanical Services work plan. The Botanical Services Team manages two other parks (Lauriston Castle and Saughton Park) and is committed to developing the quality of them all.

2.1 Strategic Policy Framework

Programme for the Capital

The council's business plan sets out what we need to do as a Council over the next five years.

The Council needs a clear vision for the city we want Edinburgh to be and the type of organisation we need to be as a part of that vision. Most importantly we need to make sure that our

- strategies
- plans
- budget
- service plans

all combine to describe one direction of change, driven by the decisions made by elected members and our residents.

The Council business plan is built around [52 commitments](#) that the Council Administration has pledged to deliver over the next five years. The plan sets out what we aim to do and how we intend to do it. This plan will inform our decision making on how we use our resources. The principles and actions set out here will drive the way we reshape and redesign the way we deliver services and the way we work with communities and partners.

The Councils business plan can be seen at;

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20204/council_planning_framework/1255/council_business_plan_2016-20

Specifically, for Parks Greenspace and cemeteries the main commitment states “Continue to upgrade our existing parks and plant an additional 1,000 trees in communities. Protect major recreational areas such as the Meadows, Leith Links and Princes Street Gardens”

Additional policies and documentation specific for the management of parks and relevant to Princess Street Gardens would be;

- Edinburgh Parks & Gardens Strategy
- Open Space Strategy 2021
- Locality Open Space Action Plan – South East
- Open Space Audit
- Sustainable Edinburgh 2020
- Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto 2014
- Edinburgh Parks Management Rules 2013

Access to these documents can be found at <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk>

2.2 A Welcoming Place

Princes Street Gardens are a popular and beloved centrepiece to the city. They are the first sight for visitors as they emerge from Waverley Station and provide a welcome refuge from the hustle and bustle of the city centre for residents and visitors alike.

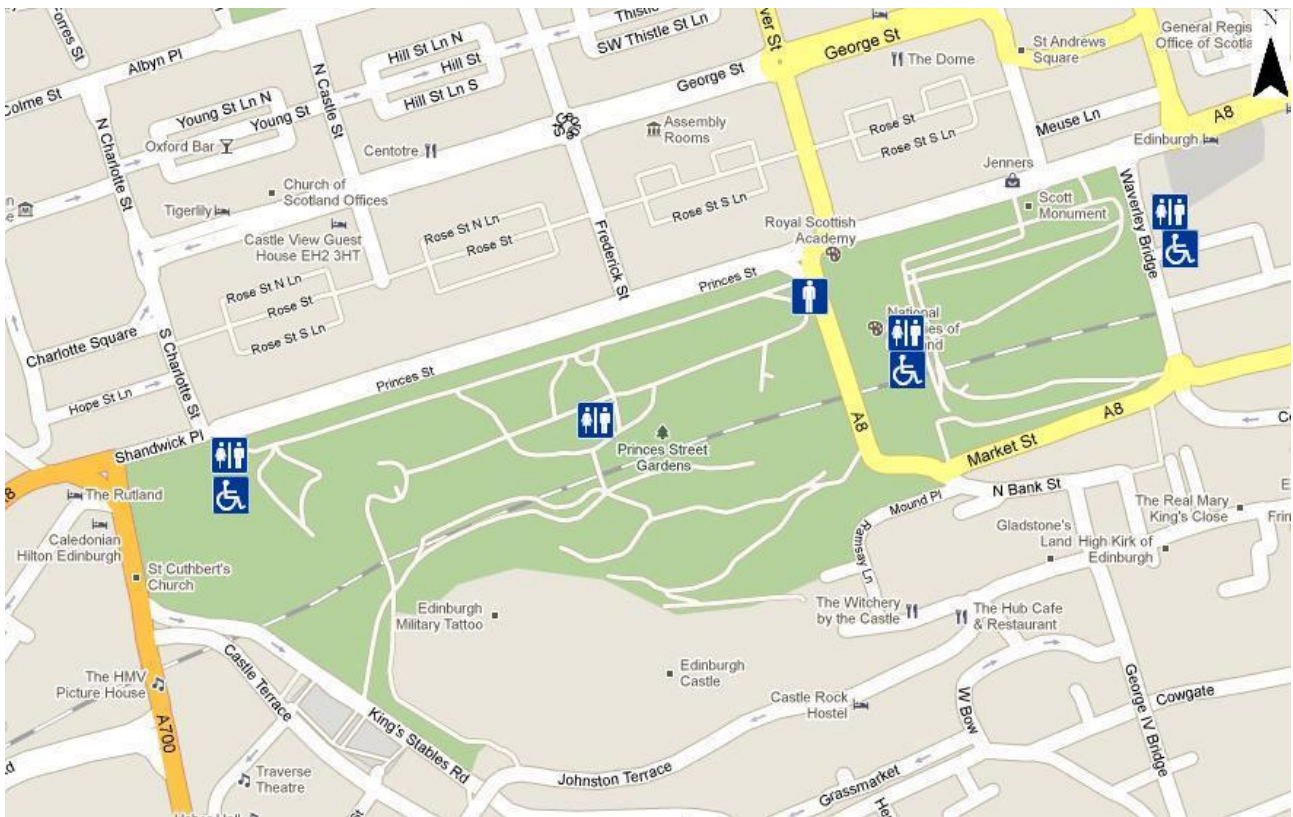
West Princes Street Gardens is attractively laid out with both formal bedding and a good mixture of trees and shrubs, lawns and the world famous floral clock. Facilities include the open-air Ross Theatre, cafeteria, refreshment kiosks, events area, children’s play area and toilets with disabled access and baby changing facilities. East Princes Street Gardens has tree lined pathways, formal bedding, and well laid out shrub beds. Facilities consist of a refreshment kiosk, toilets with good access for disabled and, for a small charge, a climb up the Scott Monument. The Gardens are home to a large and varied collection of exceptional monuments and memorials and host many varied events throughout the year including Edinburgh’s annual Summer and Winter Festivals.



The central city location means the Gardens are highly accessible by all forms of transport. Most of the city’s bus services pass along Princes Street, Waverley train station (the city’s main railway terminus) is immediately east of the Gardens, and, although there are no car parking facilities within the park, there are many, closely located, pay and display car parks.

Pedestrian access is via street footways to ten gates in the West gardens and eight gates in the East. Although surrounded by main city centre streets, traffic controls and restrictions allow free and easy access to the Gardens, with some pedestrian links to closes and the Esplanade from the Old Town side.

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Paths and toilet facilities in Princes Street Gardens

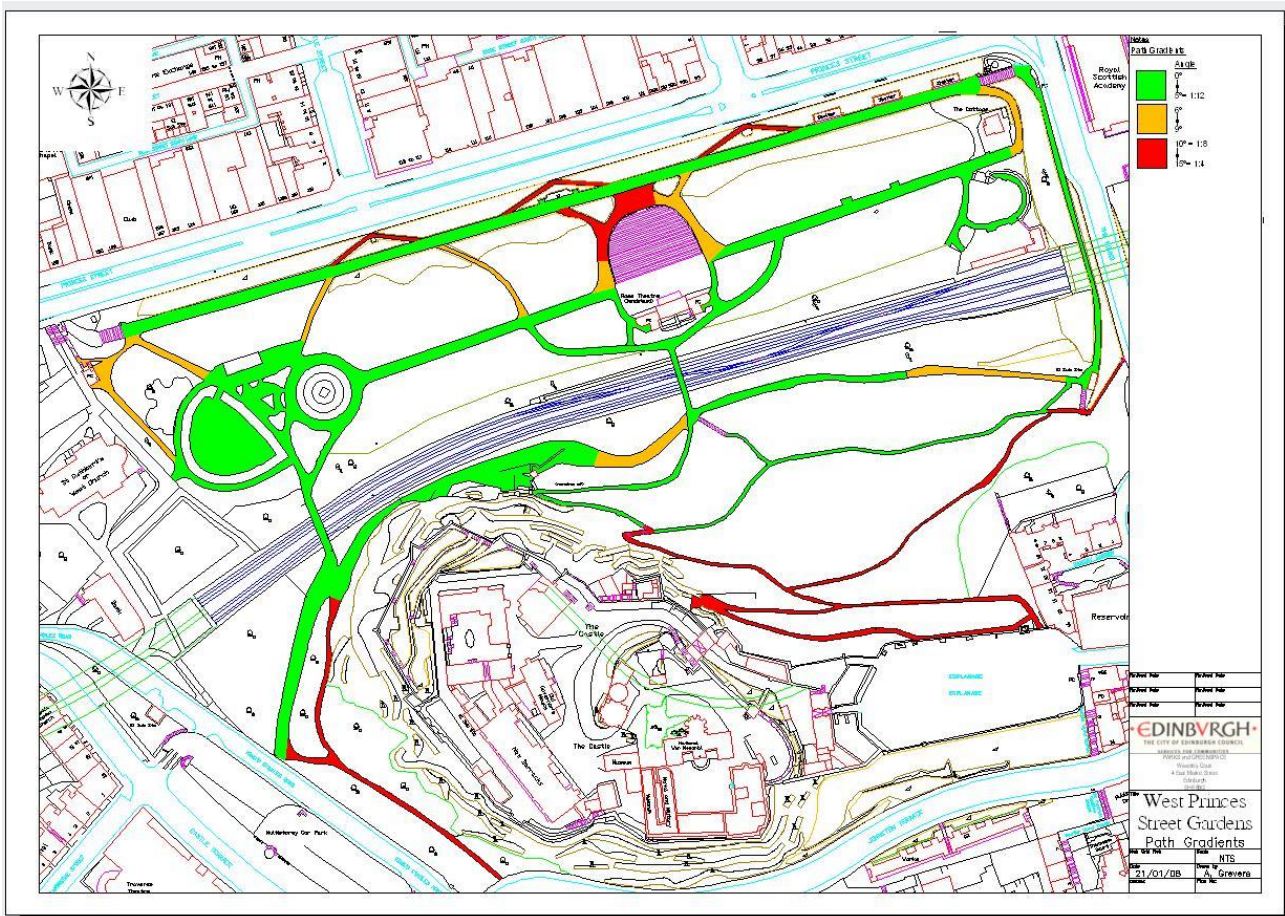
Vehicles access the Gardens daily to transport equipment and service the toilets and litter bins. There may also be delivery vehicles for the catering outlets and Network Rail contractors. Seasonally there will be transport related to events. All vehicles are restricted to a 5-mph speed limit. Vehicle access is limited to two entrances; one in the East Gardens (south east corner) and West Gardens (entrance from Kings Stables Road). The entrance from Kings Stables Road was widened in 2008, to improve vehicular access for event organisers. This work also included enhancements to the entrance with a new interpretation lectern, statue and planters. The Mound cycle lane serves the Gardens, although at present there is no related cycle parking provided in either Garden.

The topography of the gardens limit access to some areas of the gardens, particularly for the disabled and elderly. At-grade routes into both East and West Gardens are available, but in both cases, are by long and indirect routes. The Top terrace in the East Gardens is

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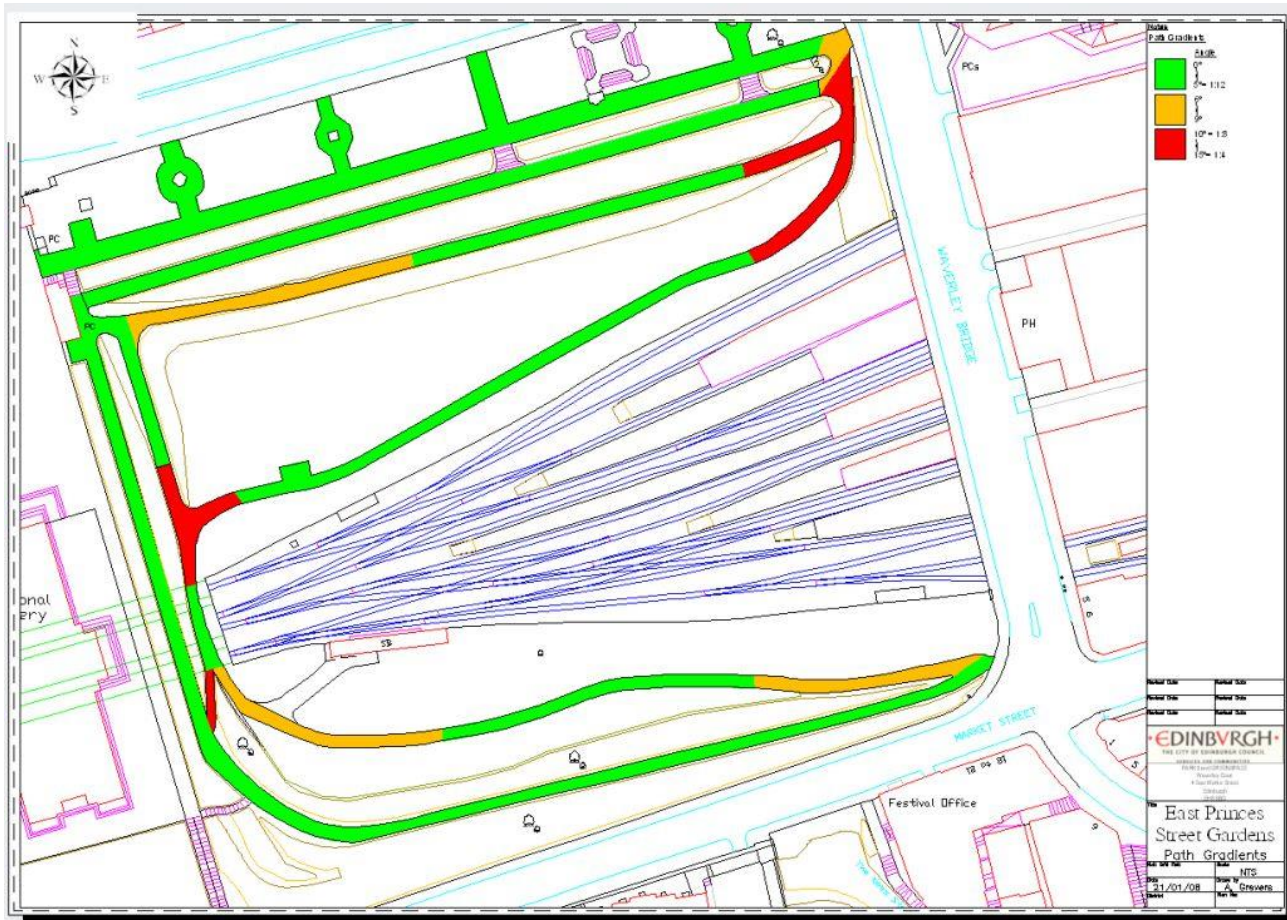
the only popular area which is freely accessible at-grade to disabled people. The Playfair project provides lifts, within it's building, which enable access to the mid-terrace level in the East Gardens for disabled people. A Disability Discrimination Act compliance audit was undertaken in 1999. In winter 2010 discussions were had with disability groups and other public bodies to investigate feasible ways (e.g. appropriate signage) of improving the accessibility of the gardens. The Park Rangers also recorded the gradients of all paths within the gardens.

It is the intention of both future redevelopment projects within the east & west gardens to ensure accessibility within the gardens is improved. Both project plans have placed this as one of their main aims and objectives.



Gradients in West Princes Street Gardens

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Gradients in East Princes Street Gardens

2.3 Healthy, Safe & Secure

2.3.1 Site equipment



All City of Edinburgh Council play areas are designed in house to meet BS EN 1176 Parts 1 – 11. Prior to 1998 all play areas were designed to meet BS 5696. All play areas are held on a data base called 'Playsafe' produced by Public Sector Software Ltd. This system holds information on all City of Edinburgh Council play areas, including; type

of equipment, installation date, type of surface, fences and bins.

Informal inspections are carried out by council employees who enter the play areas as part of their daily duties (Park Rangers, Playgrounds Maintenance Officer and Botanical Services staff). They report obvious hazards to the Councils workshop engineers. In-house ROSPA trained staff inspect the equipment on a 4-6-week basis. Any defects identified are either repaired immediately or isolated and made safe, for repair later. Written records of inspections and works undertaken are held with the Parks and Greenspace workshops at Inverleith Park. Annual inspections and risk assessments, conforming to the Register of Play Inspectors International (RPiI), are carried out in all the playgrounds by an independent Playground Inspector.



Wooden presentation seats are located throughout the gardens. These are routinely inspected for obvious defects and are repaired or re-varnished when required.

2.3.2 Personal Security

The gardens are opened at 7am throughout the year. They are closed 6pm during the winter and at dusk throughout the rest of the year. Park Rangers, based in the Cottage in West Princes Street Gardens, patrol the gardens daily. Their role in providing an education service is developing through their work with local schools and providing walks for community groups. Park rangers can be effective in dealing with undesirable behaviours by targeting education on local issues at local people. This involves raising awareness of an issue through the neighbourhood media, contact with the community, signage and providing events and activities designed to draw in the target groups, persuade them to stop and prevent the undesirable behaviours. They have no powers to apprehend, fine or prosecute offenders and are often working on their own. They must therefore rely on gentle, friendly



persuasion. This, for most behaviour, can be very effective but requires a good deal of skill. Training for rangers on how to deal effectively and safely with the public is therefore on-going.

When gentle persuasion fails Council officers and rangers can resort to regulation, using Management Rules, Environmental Wardens and the Police. Management Rules, made under section 112 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1989, allow Council officers and rangers to expel and exclude people from parks for minor offences. If the offending person does not leave they are committing a criminal offence. The threat of the offence is often enough to persuade people to stop. If they persist then it is a matter for the police.

The current Management Rules for Public Parks was renewed in 2014. These bring the rules in-line with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The new rules also address current issues in parks and attempt to provide a clearer interpretation to the public of the behaviours which are not allowed.

For people who will not be persuaded and for more serious behaviours in parks then Park officers and ranger and the public are encouraged to call the police. The police will respond in a time that resources and priorities allow.

All staff are tasked with reporting any potential problems and issues identified on site, including any concerns and issues raised by the public.

Dog owners are expected to keep their dog under control always and expected to remove their dog waste from all areas. Environmental Wardens and police also patrol the park daily.

2.3.3 Event management

A detailed event planning process is in place for all large external events that are hosted in the Gardens. The draft Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto provides the framework for the planning and managing of events within the park and all Event Organisers are expected to attend a series of meetings with the Parks and Greenspace Service, Edinburgh and Lothian



Borders Police, Licensing Officers, Roads, Waste Services, sponsors (if appropriate), known as the Emergency Planning Organisation Group (EPOG). An event plan must be produced along with Risk Assessments

and Public Liability Insurance, and all stakeholders notified, before an event can proceed. A refundable bond is also submitted to the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service by the Event's Organiser.

2.4 Well Maintained & Clean

The park is managed and maintained by the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service of the Place Department, City of Edinburgh Council.

2.4.1 Horticulture

The planting in Princes Street Gardens that we see today has evolved since the two parts of the garden were created in 1820 (West Gardens) and 1830 (east Gardens). The result of this long and complex history is a varied stock of planting reflecting the whole history of the

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Gardens since 1820. A summary of the planting in the East and West Gardens is given below. Full details of the development of the planting and spaces of the Gardens can be found in the Conservation Management Plan (Section 2.7).



The Councils Botanical Services Team is responsible for the high standard of maintenance of all horticultural features within the Gardens. Landscape Performance Quality Standards have been introduced in April 2011. These standards focus on the result not the process (i.e. the length of the grass not the number of times the grass is cut), and will for the first time provide a means of measuring the standard of maintenance in parks, gardens and greenspaces across the city. For example, ornamental lawns, such as those in Princes Street Gardens, will be expected to be maintained to an excellent standard exhibiting closely mown grass with little or no weeds, have clippings removed after cutting, have defined edges and no litter (see Appendix 8 for further details). These standards will be monitored monthly.

West Princes Street Garden

Terrace bank

The Terrace bank between the Princes Street railings and Terrace Walk is the most seen part of the Garden, with its trees being part of the streetscape of Princes Street and the bank planting forming a display along the walk. The area is characterised by its variety of planting; different tree species, shrub, herbaceous and bedding planting. At the east terrace bank, there is mature Wheatley elms inter planted with Norway maples under planted with floribunda roses. The central terrace bank is formally planted with Japanese cherries, geometric beds of annual and roses beds in grass, end beds of roses and annual bedding edges beside the walk and ramps. At the west end the terrace is characterised by a variety

of tree species and lush shrubbery (e.g. *Viburnum tinus*, *Magnolia Stella*, *Mahonia fuchsine*) under the trees.

Within the Terrace bank there are also three sections of special displays;

- the open bank below the Royal Scots Grey memorial, which is planted with a varied mixture of perennial plants, small shrubs and large alpinines.
- a simply planted bank of *Microbiota decussata* edged along the ramp sides by holly hedges, which forms the setting for *The Call* memorial.
- a mass planting of Gordons College rose, which forms the setting of the Thomas Guthrie statue



The Royal Scots Greys Memorial

Floral clock

The Floral clock was first planted in 1903 and each year the planting scheme commemorates a special anniversary. The planting schemes are designed by the Technical team in the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service. The colourful displays take 30,000 plants, and a variety of flower and foliage plants are used in the designs. All are of a dwarf nature, suitable for carpet bedding, including annuals such as *Lobelia*, *Pyrethrum* and *Golden Moss* and succulents such as *Echeveria* and *Sedum*'s. To plant the whole area takes two members of staff five weeks. One member of staff looks after the trimming, weeding and watering for the season.

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1903 The first Floral Clock



1954 Floral clock celebrates the Golden Jubilee



2016

Floral clock celebrates the centenary of Incorporation of Architects in Scotland



2017

Floral clock celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Scotsman Newspaper

Main valley (north of railway)

A large area of ornamental lawns, planted with a mix of mature forest trees and smaller ornamental trees of a wide range of ages.

Railway shrubbery

A belt of shrubbery varying, between 6m and 12m wide, containing trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants screens the railway.

West End including Ross Fountain, Arena and Piazza

Detailed planting features, annual bedding, a circle of rowans and hydrangeas beds frame the Piazza café, play area and the events arena.



Memorial gardens



Small memorial gardens associated with architectural compositions:

- Scots-American memorial *The Call*, as described above
- Bedding and columnar trees associated with the Royal Scots memorial
- Falklands War memorial garden featuring ornamental

conifers, junipers and heathers.

Plant collections

There are many important plant collections including a collection of lilac cultivars donated by Kew Gardens and a Rhododendron collection donated by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

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Gardeners Cottage

Annual and formal shrub beds

Colourful annual bedding, replanted twice a year with seasonal bulbs, annuals and half-hardy perennials, occur locally in the Garden at: The Floral Clock (see above), Terrace bank east, Terrace bank centre, Gardeners Cottage garden, Ross bandstand beds and Ross fountain / Piazza area beds.

Castle Bank

The north facing slope is low amenity grass. The area is under planted with thousands of daffodils, which provide stunning displays in the summer.



Hedges

Hedges are a minor component of the Garden but are significant in the enclosure of the Gardeners Cottage garden, the setting of The Call, and around the Ross theatre seating area.

East Princes Street Garden

The planting of the East Garden can be divided into seven main components, as follows.

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- Terrace trees: formal planting along the top and mid terraces, and informal planting on the slope below.
- Railway screening: mixed beds, shrubs and herbaceous plants
- North valley: amenity grass with three feature trees
- Mound banks: planted with trees of various age
- South valley: amenity grass with specimen trees and six oval beds planted with rhododendrons and azaleas either side of the main valley path
- South bank planting: above the path there are large mature trees, under planted in places with ivies, Solomon’s seal and bulbs. Below the path the trees are under planted with ground cover shrubs and herbaceous plants
- Annual and formal shrub beds: colourful annual bedding, replanted twice a year with seasonal bulbs, annuals and half-hardy perennials are located along the top terrace lawn.



2.4.2 Litter

During the period of the previous management plan a significant change was introduced for the servicing of litter bins within the gardens. It had been identified the required resource for maintaining litter bins could not be continued and the large Euro 1280 litter bins being used within the gardens were not very attractive.

After a review and consultation with stakeholder's large silo bins were introduced at strategic points within the gardens. These allow a greater capacity and only require servicing 1-2 a week dependent on the weather and time of year. This servicing is carried out by waste services.

2.4.3 Arboriculture and woodland management

All the trees in the Gardens were surveyed in 2006. 1086 trees were recorded and their species, age, size and condition are now listed on the Parks and Greenspace "Ezytreeve" GIS-database. Only recently planted stock is not yet included on the database. This enables a proactive approach to manage the trees and prioritising required works on defective specimens.

Elms are surveyed annually for signs of Dutch Elm disease and felled if appropriate.

Plants are sourced by the Council's Inch Nursery staff from reputable suppliers and if possible from local suppliers. The choice of tree depends on location and its purpose.

Green waste is recycled. Limbs and wood are chipped and used as mulch and larger limbs and trunks are stored at Corstorphine for later sale.

Tree Preservation Orders

All trees lying within one of the two Conservation Areas are deemed to be covered by tree preservation order legislation.

Commemorative trees

Small commemorative trees or groups of trees are found in the West Gardens:

- Robert Louis Stevenson memorial grove of birch trees and inscribed column base

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- Bedding and columnar trees associated with the Royal Scots memorial
- Commemorative trees, particularly in the lawns close to the Royal Scots memorial; mainly small ornamental trees with metal plaques set in ground or on stone bases at the foot of each tree
- 100 transplants of native trees were planted on Castle bank to commemorate the Edinburgh Urban Forest project under the Millennium Forest for Scotland.

The number of commemorative trees and memorial gardens, and the finite space for additional memorials, means that a sustainable policy for such features will be necessary to ensure the right trees are used, that quality and design issues are considered and that the people and events are of sufficient merit and appropriate to this location.



Trees in West Princes Street Gardens

2.4.4 Buildings and Fabric Maintenance

There are a range of buildings all with different uses in Princes Street Gardens. These are listed, with use and ownership, below. Public monuments and memorials are dealt with in Section 2.8.3

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Name of building/structure	Use	Listing	Management
Ross Bandstand	Events	Listed Building Category B	Usher Hall
Gardener's Cottage	Park rangers base & internal meetings	Listed Building Category C	Parks and Cemeteries Service
Maintenance Yard (bothy and equipment stores)	Botanical Services staff	None	Parks and Cemeteries Service
Shelters on the Terrace Walk in West Gardens	Seating	Listed Building Category B	Parks and Cemeteries Service
Toilets: Ross bandstand	Toilet Block Facility	None	Waste Services
Toilets: Mound	Toilet Block Facility (gents only)	None	Waste Services
Toilets: West end	Toilet Block Facility (Disabled and baby changing)	None	Waste Services
Railway buildings and structures	Rail link between Edinburgh and Glasgow. Three metal bridges.	None	Network Rail
Temporary stances in West Gardens and piazza area	Refreshments	None	Independent traders

Arena	Events	None	Parks and Greenspace and Cemeteries Service
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An audit of all facilities (e.g. signage, services) in Princes Street Gardens was carried out in 2008, and this information is recorded on the Parks and Greenspace purpose built Asset Management Database. This includes a range of information including ownership, management provision and contact details.

Small scale graffiti is either removed or painted out by the Parks and Greenspace staff. The Specialist Services Task Force removes the more extensive graffiti on request.

The Gardeners Cottage, the Maintenance Yard and Ross Fountain are maintained by the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service. Monuments are maintained by Museums and Galleries.

2.5 Sustainability

2.5.1 Peat use

The only use of peat by the Parks, Greenspace and Cemeteries Service is in the production of bedding plants at the Council's Inch Nursery. Since 2004 the nursery has reduced its consumption of peat by 50% and aims to meet national targets of 90%. Many alternatives to peat have been incorporated into the growing mixes for plant production at the nursery, including; compost derived from the Council green waste collections, the nursery own compost, worm cast, fine bark, vermiculite and sand. Trials have been run since 2007 to assess the best mix to support seedling and plant growth.

2.5.2 Pesticides

A pesticide policy has been produced by the City of Edinburgh Council. It states that, where appropriate, all non-chemical alternative methods of weed control will be investigated and implemented depending on the requirements of the site, local environment and its users.

This will also take into consideration, all available resources and any cost implications, which could impact on the local service delivery.

When non-chemical alternatives are not suitable and chemical applications will be required, the council will ensure;

- Chemical amounts are reduced by using alternative, low a.i products.
- Application methods will be used to reduce the amount of chemicals applied.
- Application methods will be used to reduce chemical drift and any risk to the operator and the public.
- Chemical types and application methods will ensure that any risk to the environment is reduced or eliminated.
- Use well trained and certificated staff.
- Use well maintained and correctly calibrated application equipment.
- Continually monitor and review all chemical usage.

In Princes Street Gardens herbicide is used to manage the paths on Castle Hill. Occasionally herbicides are also used to spot control weeds in the lawns.

2.5.3 Waste minimisation

To reduce land filled waste, the City of Edinburgh Council is working to develop and extend initiatives to prevent, minimise, reuse and recycle not only the city's but also its own waste. The Council is actively collaborating with other local councils in progressing the Lothian & Borders Area Waste Plan. Tree limbs are chipped and used as mulch on site. Larger limbs and trunks are sold. Green waste and leaves are stored on site. Compost generated from household green waste collections is used by the Parks and Greenspace Service as a soil conditioner in seasonal bedding and a mulch on shrub beds.

Litter is disposed of appropriately to a licensed tip. A key aim of the waste management review (see Section 2.4.2) will be to investigate the introduction of recycling into the Gardens.

2.5.4 Environmental sustainability

The Council has a duty to protect the environment wherever possible. The Council aims to improve its environmental performance (in purchasing) by encouraging manufacturers, suppliers and contractors through contracts and other means to improve or develop environmentally preferable goods and services at competitive prices.

The lighting in the park is provided by low energy bulbs. Council vehicles are diesel. Machinery used in park use unleaded fuel and any products for fabric maintenance are CFC free.

2.6 Conservation & Heritage

2.6.1 Biodiversity

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 placed a duty upon all public bodies and office-holders to:

“further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.”

Additionally, in complying with this duty a public body or office-holder must have regard to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

All the Castle banks on the north, west and south of the Castle and south of the railway comprise part of the Arthur’s Seat Volcano Site of Special Scientific Interest designated for its botanical and geological interest. The biological interests are botanical and relate to the semi-natural acid, neutral and calcareous grasslands



present within Holyrood Park (i.e. out with Princes Street Gardens). However, although the SSSI interests in Castle rock are primarily geological the citation does refer to the presence of some nationally rare plant species on the Castle rock cliffs (e.g. sticky catchfly).

In 2002 Young Associates (Environmental Consultants) Ltd carried out a Phase 1 habitat survey of the Gardens and assessed the nature conservation value of the habitats and species present. Further information on the methodology used can be found in the Conservation Management Plan (Section 2.6). There are five main habitat types within the Gardens; amenity grassland, planted exotic shrubs, planted woodland, species-poor neutral grassland, species-rich neutral/acid grassland, and scattered scrub.

The part of the West Garden north of the railway line and all the East garden are comprised of a combination of amenity grassland and planted exotic shrubs with scattered mature and semi-mature, predominately broadleaved, parkland trees and planted broadleaved woodland.

The Castle bank area is dominated by rank species-poor neutral grassland and planted woodland. The less intense mowing regime in this area has resulted in the development of a grassland that is, although still relatively species-poor, of much greater value in terms of plant, and probably insect and small mammal diversity than the areas of short mown amenity grass elsewhere in the gardens.

The unique patchwork of the rock-faces and steep slopes of Castle rock have encouraged the development of a relatively un-improved and relatively species-rich acid and neutral grassland and scattered scrub vegetation. It provides opportunities for regionally or even nationally rare specialist plant and animal species. There are at least two plant species, sticky catchfly and rock whitebeam, that are known to occur in similar conditions within nearby Holyrood Park. Although neither of these species were recorded in the 2002 survey, the possibility of isolated plants being present on Castle rock should not be discounted.

There are a few records of rare animal species in the Gardens. The most notable is a record of a rare hoverfly (*Pipiza luteitarsis*) that is dependent on elm trees to provide its only food

source and is on the Edinburgh BAP list (Phase 1). Larvae of this species were found on an elm in the West Garden in 2001. The other notable species is the vulnerable plant sticky catchfly (*Lynchnis viscaria*) recorded on the southern side of Castle rock. An action plan for this species has also been produced as part of the Edinburgh BAP (Phase 1).

The Gardens are locally important for a range of typical urban, woodland and woodland-edge bird species that use the area for breeding, foraging and roosting habitat, including robin, wren, blackbird, house sparrow, magpie, greenfinch, dunnock, chaffinch, blue tit and great tit. House sparrow has recently been placed on the UK red list due to the rapid decline in the UK population (>50%) in the past 25 years and dunnock is on the Amber list due to a moderate decline (25-49%) in the UK population over the same period.

Future management

The Biodiversity Officer has produced development guidance on managing parks and gardens for wildlife. The purpose of the guide is to help park managers pick out biodiversity options for their parks by giving them ‘pick lists’ for each feature in the park. These biodiversity options can easily be added to Management Plans and then carried out on the ground. A copy of the document ‘Biodiversity options for parks and greenspaces – a guide for park managers’, is available. This will be used as the basis for future management for wildlife in the gardens.

2.6.2 Monuments

There is a diverse and fascinating collection of public monuments and memorials in Princes Street Gardens dating mainly from the 1840s to 1990s. There are three types. The first commemorate influential Scottish men of the 18th and 19th centuries. The second group remember those who have died fighting in wars and the third group include miscellaneous sculptures and monuments such



as the Ross Fountain. For further information on all these monuments and memorials refer to the Conservation Management Plan (Section 2.8).

All the monuments and memorials are managed by the Museums and Galleries section of the City of Edinburgh Council.

West Gardens

Name of monument	Date	Listing
Allan Ramsay monument	1867	Listed Building Category B
The Genius of Architecture statue group	1871	Listed Building Category B
The Ross Fountain	1872	Listed Building Category B
Sir James Young Simpson monument	1877	Listed Building Category B
Dean Edward Ramsay monument		
The Royal Scots Greys memorial	1906	Listed Building Category B
Dr Thomas Guthrie monument	1910	Listed Building Category B
The Scottish-American war memorial: The Call	1924-27	Listed Building Category B
The Royal Scots war memorial	1950-52	Listed Building Category B
The Norwegian stone		
Robert Louis Stevenson memorial	1992	Listed Building Category B

East Gardens

Name of monument	Date	Listing
Scott Monument	1846	Listed Building Category A
John Wilson monument	1865	Listed Building Category B
David Livingstone monument	1876	Listed Building Category B
Adam Black monument	1877	Listed Building Category B

International Brigade memorial		
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As well as the Listed Buildings described above, the Gardens also provide the setting for the Category A listed Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Scottish Academy and National Gallery of Scotland, and relate to many other listed buildings around the perimeter of the site including Ramsey Garden, New College, the Bank of Scotland, the parish church of St. Cuthbert, St John’s Episcopal church and many buildings on Princes Street.

2.6.3 Landscape

Princes Street Gardens, between the Old and New towns, is in the very centre of Edinburgh’s World Heritage Site. It has a landscape of outstanding refinement and cultural significance, with high geological and some botanical scientific interest. It is one of the New Town Gardens listed in the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscape in Scotland, assessed as outstanding in terms of aesthetic, historical, architectural and scenic values. The Gardens lie within either the New Town or the Old Town Outstanding Conservation Areas, the boundary between the two areas being the north fence of the railway.



2.7 Community Involvement

Princes Street gardens fall within the city centre Neighbourhood Partnership area. Three Community Councils surround Princes Street gardens; West End Community Council, Old Town Community Council and the New Town and Broughton Community Council. In many ways the local businesses (retail premises, hotels and restaurants) in the City Centre and

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the visitors they bring in are the primary community for Princes Street Gardens. Essential Edinburgh is the key link with the businesses and opportunities are being sought to build partnerships with them.

A key focus for community engagement in the Gardens is getting people involved with the creation of the Floral Clock. Groups are given the opportunity to see the creation of the floral display and see the workings of the clock.

Park Rangers provide guided walks and work with local schools and colleges. The Botanical Manager also gives guide tours, showing interested parties the Floral Clock and the rest of the gardens.



Edinburgh in Bloom plant give-away 2009



A boy scout helps plant the floral clock in 2007



Britain in Bloom 2009



Girl guides help plant the Floral Clock and see behind the scenes 2010



2.8 Marketing

A wide range of events are run in the gardens (Appendix 5). The Edinburgh Parks Events Manifesto allows a strategic and proactive approach to the planning and managing of these events within Princes Street Gardens. It gives a set of guidelines tailored to the park, which provide a framework on which a balanced and sustainable events programme can be achieved, whilst ensuring that the quality of the land is maintained to the highest standard possible.

An official guide to the Gardens, Princes Street Gardens; a Jewel in Edinburgh's Crown, gives a potted history of the Gardens, charting the many attractions and points of interest awaiting discovery by tourists and residents alike.

3 WERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO?

3.1 Vision Statement

The Council adopted its Edinburgh Parks and Gardens Strategy in March 2006. The strategy sets out a vision for its parks that states:

"A quality parks system worthy of international comparison; accessible, diverse and environmentally rich; which fulfils the cultural, social and recreational needs of the people".

In developing this management plan for Princes Street Gardens, its vision is:

"To maintain Princes Street Gardens as a distinctive, attractive and well cared for place for the enjoyment of citizens and visitors alike".

3.2 Assessment

The assessment and evaluation of Princes Street Gardens is an on-going and continuous process. The basic evidence, which provides material for management discussion are described below.

3.2.1 Conservation Management Plan

In 2003 Peter McGowan Associates produced a Conservation Management Plan for the Gardens.

The key purposes of the Plan were:

- To produce a comprehensive understanding of the Gardens, record their present features and condition, and consider all the issues relevant to their management
- To provide a plan for the conservation of the Gardens and their cultural values
- To prepare management proposals for future development of the Gardens, covering capital works and maintenance
- To establish a basis for applications to Heritage Lottery Fund and other funding bodies.

In the production of the Conservation Management Plan a Historic Landscape Survey, an ecological assessment and archaeological assessment were undertaken.

The Conservation Management Plan details 20 Conservation Policies, to meet the Plans overall goal, which is:

‘To conserve and enhance Princes Street Gardens and their urban setting and to maintain their history of evolution and primary passive recreational function; to promote understanding of their cultural significance; and to present them to a standard which exemplifies their civic and national status within the World Heritage Site and respects its sensitivity’.

The Conservation Policies helped focus the actions for this management plan and are listed in the Appendix 1-3. Copies of the Conservation Management Plan (Volume 1&2) are available on request.

3.2.2 Park Quality Assessments

The quality of all parks and gardens in Edinburgh are assessed annually, using 19 of the 27 Green Flag Criteria. This is referred to as the Park Quality Assessment. Most of the criteria are assessed during site visits, whilst the remaining (e.g. community involvement) are allocated scores by the Council’s Green Flag Forum.

Over 70 people take part in the assessments including representatives from:

- Community group members,
- External partners i.e. Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust,
- Senior Council management
- Council staff indirectly linked to Parks and who have an interest
- Task Force Managers
- Gardening staff

Each site is assessed using teams of assessors consisting of an experienced officer (Green Flag judge) and two or three assistants. Additionally, each site was also assessed twice by different teams and where variance outside 10% was noted in criteria that could not be explained i.e. signage then a third assessment was undertaken. The methods, variance and ultimately scores were validated by the Green Flag Forum. Awareness of the Green Flag scheme and guidance on scoring criteria is provided for all new assessors.

Park Quality Scores (bandwidths) for Princes Street Gardens

2015: Good+	2016: Good+	2017: Good+
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The Park Quality Assessment in 2017 highlighted what is good about the Gardens (range of facilities, grounds maintenance, dog fouling) and gives areas requiring improvement (signage, accessibility).

3.2.3 Tree survey

All the trees in the gardens, except those recently planted, have been surveyed and their species, age, size and condition are now recorded on the Councils “Ezytreeve” GIS-database. Any trees that were considered dangerous have been removed. The



key

concern for the Gardens is the number of elms present and the important role they have in the setting of the Gardens. They are surveyed annually for Dutch Elm Disease and any showing evidence of the disease are removed. However, planning is required to ensure a sustainable planting programme is put into place.

3.2.4 Community consultation

Visitor Survey 2001

A user survey of the Gardens was carried out during April to December 2001 by TMS. The user survey sought to assess user profiles, motivations and behaviours, as well as their attitudes to what the existing Gardens offer and possible development options. 1000 face-to-face interviews were carried out. Two additional specifics of the survey were to seek the views of people attending events in the Gardens and to cover a proportion of Edinburgh residents on Princes Street who may or may not have visited the Gardens.

The survey found that most users (88%) were day visitors to the city centre for the purposes of work, shopping and a leisure outing. Almost 7 in 10 users of the Gardens were residents of Edinburgh City or the other three Lothian authorities. Only 11% came from outside



Scotland, most of these being from England. Very few overseas visitors were picked up in the survey.

The results of this survey are available on request. In summary TMS concluded that as the first-ever user survey of the Gardens, the study provided useful profile and behaviour data, but no radical findings in terms of development options demanded by users. Peter McGowan Associates concluded that this is was a radical finding in that the ambience created by the Gardens is the main attraction. They concluded that any development should therefore add to the current appeal of the Gardens, rather than subsume or rival it.

EDI Group Survey 1998

The EDI Group (City of Edinburgh Council and partners in the public and private sectors) sought to gain further insight into why and how people currently use the city centre by survey. The research was designed to shed light on some simple but fundamental questions about the city centre (e.g. who visits the city centre? What are they doing here? Etc). The results are of general interest in providing the context for Princes Street Gardens in the life of the city centre and include some specific reactions as to how the Gardens are perceived, used and appreciated.

Parks and Greenspace Survey

The Parks and Greenspace Survey is designed to capture people views on a range of issues relating to parks in Edinburgh in general and the park they visit most frequently.

The survey is available on-line at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parksurvey

The survey data is collated and analysed annually in June. The results are distributed to staff and stakeholders, such as Friends of Park groups. They are also posted on the Council website and in park notice boards.

SWOT analysis

During spring 2010 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis was carried out with stakeholders (e.g. staff of the ground, back office staff, senior managers and external organisations) to gather their opinions on the Gardens as they are today and their views on how the Gardens should be taken forward. The SWOT analysis was for all the Green Flag criteria. The results of this are summarised in Appendix 5.

3.3 Analysis

The Steering Group has assessed all the information gathered from the SWOT analysis, along with surveys and internal assessments as described above, with reference to the Conservation Management Plan. As there were many data to analysis a system was put in place to help weight the different issues raised (see table below) and prioritise the main aims and objectives to be taken forward in this management plan.

Weighting (Priority)	Reasons
<p>1 (high)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative / policy requirements • Mentioned frequently in workshops/surveys • Fully meets the Conservation or Management polices • Likely to be funded (internal or external) • Highlighted by Park Quality Assessment
<p>2 (medium)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines • Mentioned regularly in workshops/surveys • Partially fulfils Conservation or Management polices • Some chance of funding (internal or external) • Not highlighted by Park Quality Assessment, but highlighted by others (e.g. Britain in Bloom judges)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No legislative / policy requirements

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<p>3 (low)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentioned once or twice in workshops/surveys• Does not meet any of the Conservation or Management policies• Unlikely to be funded (internal or external)• Not highlighted by Park Quality Assessment
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Aims of this management plan

The key aims identified are:

Aim 1 - A Welcoming Place – *to ensure PSG is welcoming and accessible to all possible users*

Aim 2 - Healthy, Safe and Secure – *to ensure the safety of all staff and users of the park*

Aim 3 - Clean and Well Maintained – *to maintain the highest standards of horticulture, cleanliness, grounds and building maintenance*

Aim 4 – Sustainability – *To adopt environmental management principles and therefore reduce the impact of operations on the environment*

Aim 5 – Conservation and Heritage – *To maintain and promote the historic significance of the gardens and promote biodiversity through appropriate management*

Aim 6 – Community Involvement – *To encourage community involvement in the park*

Aim 7 – Marketing – *To actively promote the park to all potential users*

Aim 8 – Management – *To provide a responsive, flexible and high-quality management service*

4 HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

4.1 Princes Street Gardens Action Plan

(Updated Aug 2017)

Note: As this is an interim plan, no new action points have been included. The action list from the previous management plan has been updated. All completed actions have been removed and any remaining relevant actions have been continued and assigned to new officers.

Status key	
	Work has not started
	Work has not begun pending completion of earlier stage
	Work is progressing as expected
	Work is progressing with some issues/risks
	Work has stopped unexpectedly/failed
	Work has completed

Lead key	
GC	Graeme Craig, Horticulture Manager
DD	David Dorward, Botanical Service Team Leader
MS	Mike Shields, Parks & Greenspace Officer
PR	Park Rangers Team
P&G	Parks and Greenspace Team
SC	Steven Cuthill, Locality Environment Manager
DJ	David Jamieson, Parks and Greenspace Manager
SF	Susan Falconer, Biodiversity Officer

Aim 3: to maintain the highest standards of horticulture, cleanliness, grounds and building maintenance

Objectives	Action	Lead	Timetable	Status
3.1 To ensure high quality horticultural standards	Catalogue plant and tree collections	DD	2018	
	Create sustainable planting programme (including trees)	DD/GC	2018	
	Maintain current tree stock	DD	On-going	
	Develop partnership working (RBGE, HS)	DD/GC	On-going	
3.2 To reduce the impact of events on Gardens	Seek guidance from senior CEC officials / politicians on future / aspirations for events (winter festivals) in park	DJ/GC	2018	
	Develop action plan accordingly – i.e. seek investment where required	GC	2018	

Aim 6: To encourage community involvement in the park

Objectives	Action	Lead	Timetable	Status
6.1 To engage with local community	Provide information at City Centre Neighbourhood community consultation events	MS	2018	
	Meet with Essential Edinburgh/BID to discuss opportunities	GC	2018	
	Develop links with local schools/colleges	MS	On-going	

	Promote Parks and Greenspace Survey	DJ	On-going	
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Aim 7: To actively promote the park to all potential users

Objectives	Action	Lead	Timetable	Status
7.1 Improve promotion of Gardens	Review and update web content	P&G	2017	
	Develop web based materials (e.g. guided tours podcasts)	P&G	2018	
	Link with companies running tours within Gardens	GC	On-going	
	Promote plant and tree collections	P&G	2019	
	Establish links with Visit Scotland and other tourist organisations	P&G	2019	
	Feasibility of developing Gardeners Cottage into education / information centre	GC	2020	

Aim 8: To provide a responsive, flexible and high-quality management service

Objectives	Action	Lead	Timetable	Status
8.1 Ensure co-ordinated approach to management	Set up steering group to develop a management plan	GC	2018	
	Set up a management group to oversee the delivery of the management plan and other relevant business	GC/DD	2018	
	Hold management group meetings every 3 months	GC	On-going	



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8.2 Increase income	Identify ways to increase income (sponsorship, events, plant sales)	GC	On-going	
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5 HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE HAVE ARRIVED?

5.1 Management Plan

A Princes Street Gardens Working Group has been established to ensure delivery of the action plan within this document. The Management Plan will be reviewed annually by the Steering Group.

5.2 Performance Measures/Monitoring

The quality of Princes Street Gardens is monitored annually via the Park Quality Assessments. These scores will be used to help assess the success of the management plan and help with the review of the action plan.

5.3 Survey & Feedback

The Parks and Greenspace satisfaction survey is available on-line for people to comment on the park, highlighting what they do in the park, what they enjoy but also what concerns they may have. It is also an opportunity for them to indicate how satisfied they are with the park and its general upkeep. The information from the survey is collated and analysed annually in June. The link to the survey is: <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/parksurvey>

6 APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 Conservation Management Plan: Conservation Policies

The Conservation policies are as follows (no particular priority is intended by their order)

CP1 Conserve the Gardens as the setting of Edinburgh Castle

CP2 Conserve the layout of the East Garden terraces as the setting of the Scott monument

CP3 Maintain and enhance the views and physical relationship between the Gardens and adjoining streets and public places, conserving the setting of the Gardens

CP4 Conserve the form of the valley, as represented by both its natural and man-made landforms

CP5 Eliminate the deficiencies of access resulting from topography, historic layout and current condition of features to make the Gardens easily accessible to people of all abilities.

CP6 Develop the layout of the Gardens to maximise the design potential and historic resources of the site.

CP7 Conserve the appearance of the Gardens as a wooded valley in views along their length while retaining cross views.

CP8 Maintain and develop the Gardens' essential character as a green, open and restful haven, for passive recreation, away from the hard, enclosed and busy city streets.

CP9 Conserve historic buildings, features and details of quality which contribute to the character of the Gardens.

CP10 Conserve the culturally significant monuments and memorials in the Gardens and establish policies for new monuments of equal importance and quality.

CP11 Conserve and upgrade the general fabric and horticultural features of the Gardens to a standard compatible with their World Heritage Site status and capital location and with their historic features.

CP12 Aim to eliminate or reduce the effects intrusive features.

CP13 Reduce the volume and impact of vehicular traffic in the Gardens.

CP14 Encourage traditional, well-established and popular uses of the Gardens and provide for contemporary demands which reflect genuine social needs and fit with the character and conservation policies of the site.

CP15 Plan events in the Gardens to avoid displacing regular uses, minimise intrusion, and attention to sustainability and carrying-capacity of the landscape.

CP16 Maintain and develop the biodiversity of the Gardens and protect features and species of scientific value.

CP17 Conserve features of archaeological significance and their settings and define areas of archaeological sensitivity.

CP18 Promote understanding of the Gardens and their historic and contemporary context through interpretation and education.

CP19 Maintain and develop the Gardens using sustainable principles, in terms of the environment and cultural heritage.

CP20 Continue research into the history of the valley and the Gardens as a basis for restoration and interpretation.

APPENDIX 2 Conservation Management Plan: Management objectives

- To conserve and develop the Gardens based on the Conservation Plan policies
- To respond to the findings of the Parks and Gardens Strategy
- To optimise the accessibility of the Gardens for all people
- To achieve a safe, secure and healthy environment with the Gardens
- To achieve an excellent and memorable visitor experience by the highest quality of site presentation and interpretation
- To achieve quality fitting the Gardens' position in the centre of the capital city and World Heritage Site
- To manage the Gardens to the benefit of the city economy and to optimise its income generating capacity
- To organise management in a structure that best serves the care and conservation of the Gardens and provision of services to visitors

APPENDIX 3 Conservation Management Plan: Management policies and proposals

The following is a summary of the main management policies and proposals included within the conservation Plan. Priority proposals to form early action programme are marked thus *. Priority proposals for detailed feasibility study or design development, before commitment to implementation are marked thus #.

Castle setting

- Preserve Castle banks as open grassland with margins of woodland belts fitting to their historic pattern.

Scott monument and terraces

- Preserve the setting of the Scott monument and the layout of the North terraces, retaining the characteristic tree planting and bedding.
- Remove scattered tree planting on slope below middle terrace as historically and visually intrusive and screening views. *

Relationship to adjoining developments

- Manage the planting along Princes Street boundary within the Gardens to achieve forms which relate to the street and allow views. #
- Investigate the potential for decking over the railway in East Gardens to create a public city space for street theatre, demonstration, ice-rink and other seasonal events, if technically feasible within Conservation Plan policies. #
- To assess the impacts of future planning proposals on the Gardens using the Conservation Plan policies. #

Accessibility

- Commission a detailed technical appraisal of means of providing disabled access to the Terrace walk and valley floor in the West Gardens. *#
- Reduce gradient of ramps from Princes Street by extending the length of one or more pairs of ramps. *

- Re-open Valley path through the Ross theatre area as a requirement of the brief for upgrading the theatre. Reopen existing path in the short-term. *

Develop and maximise potential

- Implement a comprehensive replanting scheme along Terrace bank, West Garden. *
- Replace Terrace walk asphalt surface with paving and design features appropriate to its use as the principle ‘promenade’ of the Gardens. *
- Develop design proposal for the west end of the West Garden including permanent café, seating area and garden. #
- Remove Mound motif; develop design ideas incorporating an alternative horticultural display with changing themed element. *#
- Prepare a design guide of materials, signs and furniture to be used in the Gardens which will insure consistent quality is maintained in all repairs, replacements and new work, in co-ordination with external interpretation proposals. *#
- Develop policy on memorial benches; develop an alternative scheme for permanent placing of ‘retired’ plaques. #
- Prepare concept plan or design master plan incorporating all management plan and design proposals to promote the vision for the future. #

Planting: restocking, restoration or renewal

- Prioritise use of forest trees in restocking generally using existing species supplemented by ecologically beneficial species.
- Restock woodland areas on south of the railway in West Garden; base replanting on existing tree mix with suitable additional forest trees.
- Prepare complete tree survey of the Gardens as a basis for future management. #

Conserve historic features

- Gardener’s Cottage: restore and convert to use as interpretation/information centre and/or café based on a detailed feasibility study. #
- Terrace shelters: consider options for alternative uses. E.g. ice cream kiosk, or remove after discussion with Historic Scotland.

- Maintain historic tree planting features and replace when necessary.

Conservation of monuments; new memorials

- Maintain policy of restoration and repair of monuments and memorials within the Gardens, with priority to monuments requiring early attention. *
- Develop policy for new memorials in Gardens.
- Halt further memorial trees and garden planting, unless conforming to an approved plan for the Gardens.

Upgrading the fabric

- Carry out a comprehensive programme of repairs and resurfacing to the paths, steps, edges, handrails etc on Castle banks. *
- Replace railings and gate along Johnston Terrace boundary. *
- Railway path: plan improvement and future use with Network Rail. *
- Maintain the highest standards of horticulture and arboriculture in all planting.

Intrusions

- Design purpose-built café in keeping with the outstanding setting below Castle rock, as a replacement for the Piazza, including new seating area. #
- Remove ice-cream caravans from Gardens and accommodate in permanent buildings, e.g. converted terrace shelter.
- Investigate the redesign of the Ross theatre seating area as a component of a feasibility study of the whole facility. #

Traffic

- Relocate facilities where possible to redirect traffic away from central busy areas of West Gardens; use railway path as preferred access. *

Events

- To establish a presumption against events which will take space out of public use in busy seasons and affect access or enjoyment of the Gardens.

- Ensure events operate within sustainable principle and do not affect the quality of permanent Garden features, planting and surfaces.
- Consider alternative locations of the Gardens for established annual events which can use existing resources of the Gardens or redesign the layout and services to properly accommodate these events within the constraints of the Conservation Policies.

Natural conservation

- Protect habitats and species identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Include native trees and shrubs in replanting, where appropriate in design terms, to encourage diversity of associated flora and fauna.

Archaeological conservation

- Survey, stabilise and repair remains of the Wellhouse Tower and improve its setting by improvements to Railway path. #

Interpretation and signing

- Prepare an Interpretation Strategy for the Gardens. *#
- Develop an interpretation or visitor centre in the Gardener's Cottage. #

Maintenance facilities and resources

- Investigate feasibility of relocation of maintenance yard and offices to compactor compound. #
- Retain a dedicated direct-works maintenance unit as the only dependable basis to achieving the quality required for a city premier city park.

APPENDIX 4: SWOT Analysis (all comments)

A Welcoming Place

<p style="text-align: center;">Strengths</p> <p><u>Access</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very good public transport • Central location, yet secluded from the hustle and bustle of Princes Street • Lots of entrance points • Obvious visually • Obviously well looked after – draws passer bys into the Gardens. • Lots of seats • The presence of lots of people in the Gardens makes it feel safe and inviting 	<p style="text-align: center;">Weaknesses</p> <p><u>Signage</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Gardens there is limited signage, which is a mixture of styles, over complicated and/or outdated. • No management rules on display – makes it difficult to enforce rules. • No information on closing times • Only bits & pieces of interpretation • No co-ordinated approach to signage • Restrictions on what you can do because of World Heritage Status. <p><u>Access</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape of the Gardens means it will never be fully accessible to all potential users. • People with limited mobility may enter the Gardens from KSR and not be aware that they can't get out at any other entrance. • People with buggies have a difficult job getting into West Gardens – conflicts with the fact that the play area is located here. <p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The damage to the East Gardens after the Winter Festivals, creates a poor impression • Handrails and paths leading down from Princes Street are in poor state of repair. • No control on vehicles using site • Railway bridge restricts size of vehicles coming into Gardens.
<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities</p> <p><u>Signage</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing uses of Princes Street

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blank canvas to improve the signage of gardens, simple quality signage will address many issues (accessibility, promotion, management etc) • Install interpretation points at appropriate points. EWHT willing to provide content for signs <p><u>Access</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show accessible routes and access points on all site maps • Other options: new paths with gentler slopes (may still not be DDA compliant as if too shallow they will take up too much of the garden area), lift, chairlift at steps, Funicular railway down from the Mound. • Look at getting support from commercial stakeholders for upkeep of Gardens • Work with public realm team looking at Princes Street (and Tram), with view to improving accessibility at some entrances • Require management rules for vehicles • Promote links to and from Old Town • Make closing times simpler and publicise them at entrances and on website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of the tram: potential to either increase number of events in park or potentially take them away and house them on the street (more of an opportunity). • There will be one Tram Stop on Princes Street Gardens and this is just outside the entrance at the Floral Clock. This will have an impact on numbers of people using this entrance. This could be an opportunity too, with a focus for pedestrians at the Mound and the entrance to the gardens. • Scale of funding required to make a comprehensive change may not be available • New signage next to poor railings may make current condition look even worse
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Healthy, safe and secure

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ross Fountain: briefing mg held at start of each year with all interested parties (Parks, Museums, Analytical Services, Services) – has really helped everyone know what is expected of them. • Park Rangers, Environmental Wardens and police patrol Gardens • No problems with dog fouling 	<p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Wardens don't carryout any enforcement in Gardens • Anti-social behaviour in toilets – lots of needles in bushes outside. • Toilets at Ross Bandstand open during summer months only • Poor signage to and at toilets
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed restrictions in place • Play equipment well looked after • You feel safe in the gardens • Toilets are serviced daily – there are facilities for baby changing and disabled. • Events have health & safety procedures in place • Well overlooked, topography helps you see across the gardens, few hidden areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paths at either side of seating at Ross bandstand in poor condition (potholes etc) and need investment • Lots of vehicles moving about the Gardens, especially when events on. • Paths weren't designed for heavy use by vehicles and weight of vehicles causing problems in East Gardens to top path • Lots of staff using Gardens to park their cars (& then going to mtgs in WC). • No process of informing Garden Manager of when people are bringing vehicles into Gardens. • No way of knowing who vehicles belong too. • Lighting removed from steps at Floral Clock (currently too expensive to repair) • Not enough lighting at dusk • Anti-social behaviour in shelters & graffiti – makes people feel unsafe • Play area not in best location (visually, access) • No first aid point • Last Risk Assessment carried out over ten years ago (1999) • Lack of money to upgrade infrastructure – so works carried out in a reactive, bit by bit, way. Not helped by the impact of events. • No maintenance programme for infrastructure • Castle Bank gets dark early
<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better communication between Council staff when looking at maintenance of structures / monuments • Identify dedicated paths for vehicle use – target investment to upgrade to appropriate standard. 	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continual use of heavy vehicles in East Gardens could cause structural damage to balustrade along top path and slopes down from path. • Proposed Garden of Remembrance

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelters in need to big overhaul but meanwhile keeping them clean and free of graffiti would really improve the situation in short term. • Link with Public Convenience Strategy • First Aid / health & safety policy – needs to be updated • Proposed Garden of Remembrance. • Levy on events so we can improve infrastructure • Any income generated should be used to improve the whole city centre • Make links with BID/Essential Edinburgh. Look at ways with working with their maintenance teams • There are toilets in Castle car park and Galleries 	
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Clean and well maintained

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p><u>Horticulture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site gardeners – standard of horticulture very high • Horticultural features (Floral Clock) • Specimen plants from Kew and Botanicas • Tree maintenance • Looks well maintained <p><u>Litter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot of using large bins (1280s) very effective. People did walk to use them (not always the case when there were lots of smaller ones) • In W Gardens 5 large bins replaced 20 small bins. Met requirements for litter disposal • Hogmanay: fencing along paths really helped restrict litter to paths. 	<p><u>Horticulture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events have big impact on grass and plants (which aren't always replaced). Staff disillusioned with current situation. • Some planting areas needs refreshing / new young plant stock • Very limited tree maintenance • Gardeners often must spend lots of time litter picking and servicing bins – poor use of their time. <p><u>Litter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult (dangerous) to service bins when there are lots of people about • High levels of litter left at peak times • Bin capacity not high enough to deal with peak times (overflowing)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of fast food retailers near gardens (Sainsburys, M&S) • Environmental Wardens don't carryout any enforcement in Gardens <p><u>Buildings, monuments etc</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelters in poor condition No formalised programme for maintenance of monuments. Depot for gardeners is in poor state
<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities</p> <p><u>Horticulture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce the quality of the Gardens by highlighting the plant collections (e.g. labels) • Catalogue plants in the Gardens • Create re-planting programme (e.g. herbaceous perennials border) using catalogue and ideas from staff • Get money back from events to invest in the re-planting programme (not just replacing damaged stock) • Promote quality & range of plants (use labels) • Staff could carryout some tree maintenance (from ground) if appropriate equipment was available. • Develop links with Botanics <p><u>Litter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste management review required. • Potential of working with Essential Edinburgh tackle issues within gardens • Encourage people to take their waste home? <p><u>Buildings monuments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Twelve Monuments Restoration Project, if rest of funding found, will include three monuments in East Gardens. • Proposed to put in LED lighting at Scot Monument 	<p style="text-align: center;">Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events causing long term damage to fabric of Gardens • Impact of reduced budget for upkeep of presentation seats • High Speed Rail (20yrs +) • Impact of loss of elm trees • Lack of joined up approach and responsibility for waste management could impact on the decisions taken on a suitable solution

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardeners Cottage needs maintenance and re-developed. Could be used for visitor centre or ticket centre. Police use it as a control room, maybe look at charging a fee for this. 	
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Sustainability

<p style="text-align: center;">Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wood taken off site (sold or recycled) • Compost generated from Council green waste collections used on site • Peat material only used in the growing of plants from Inch • Grass cut frequently so little grass clippings to compost 	<p style="text-align: center;">Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No proper disposal of green waste. It's either dumped round the back or taken away with the litter. • Herbicides used along paths on Castle Hill. • Herbicides used occasionally on lawns. • No tree planting programme or maintenance programme in place • No specific environmental policy • High fuel usage with all the mowing
<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop on-site composting facilities • Look at recycling opportunities • Reduce fuel consumption (electric vehicles) • Put any lighting onto timers • Develop tree planting programme with trees and woodland officer 	<p style="text-align: center;">Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of loss of elm trees

Conservation and heritage

<p style="text-align: center;">Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monuments are good – bring lots of visitors into Gardens • The long grass of Castle Bank is good for invertebrates (biodiversity) 	<p style="text-align: center;">Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gardeners Cottage under utilised • Confirmation Act restricts changes to structures • Piazza café tacky / tatty • The current annual memorial garden (next to Scott Monument) is a bit tacky. Once finished
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many plants within the gardens are good for invertebrates (biodiversity) • Gardeners Cottage very attractive 	<p>it's quickly covered by the Winter Festivals – not appropriate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorials etc are often just plonked into the gardens, with little thought given to the long term look of gardens
<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage Castle Rock more actively for biodiversity • Investigate how Gardeners Cottage could be developed into a visitor centre and base for Park Rangers. • Improve Gardeners Compound – does it suit their requirements? • Biological assessment of Gardens would help highlight how the Gardens already benefit wildlife • Use the information within the Conservation Management Plan • Working with the public realm team to look at the boundary with Princes Street. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Garden of Remembrance • Possible changing boundary with Princes Street • Continuing to do nothing • The creation of another memorial garden. Concerns over the proposal at the Shelters. • Impact of reduced budget for upkeep of presentation seats

Community involvement

<p style="text-align: center;">Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of users • Good transport links • Parks and Greenspace Survey captures information • Heritage Garden with range of facilities • Park Rangers on site 	<p style="text-align: center;">Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Friends group • Access a barrier to some • No community involvement in decision making • No defined community
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Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local schools / Colleges already use the Gardens informally for lots of projects (bird watching, photography projects) so this could be built on in a more formal way. Some Gardeners may be interested to explain what they do. • Work with local businesses (Essential Edinburgh / BID) • Provide information / have presence at the next city centre neighbourhood community consultation event (Your City, Your Views). • Utilise Scott Monument records 	<p>None raised</p>

Marketing

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International status and role as part of the centre of Edinburgh. Winter Festivals and other events can be used to market the gardens more broadly • There are some guided walks (botanical & monuments) in Gardens (on request) • Lots of people visit the Gardens already • Good location for events (high visitor numbers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the events have a negative impact on the Gardens • Staff disillusioned – want to know what the Gardens are. Gardens or a venue for events? • Private companies run tours in the gardens – we don't charge them for doing this • Rangers stopped doing their guided walks • Little interpretation in Gardens • Usher Hall gets all the money for any events held at the Ross Bandstand • Only get re-instatement costs following an event • Gardens never get a chance to move on – always just recovering from the last event
Opportunities	Threats

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks Manifesto will help manage future events • Develop webpages on PSG – most people now use Google to look at places they are going to visit so we need to make sure they find our information • Develop pod casts on features (Floral Clock, monuments) Catalogue and label plants • Work with the private tour companies or charge them (need to get their details) • Park Rangers to run health walks • Work with Visit Scotland • Develop monument trail 	<p>Current level of use by events may cause great damage the Gardens</p>
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APPENDIX 5: Sample Events List 2017

Month	Event	Location
Apr	The Easter Play	West
	Holocaust Memorial Service	West
	Scottish Cadet Open Day	West
May	Fair Trade Fiesta	West
	Scottish American Memorial	West
	German Village Festival	West
Jun	Edinburgh Pipe Band Championship	West
	Windband Concert	West
	45 Commando Challenge	West
	Armed Forces Day	West
	Scots Greys Memorial Service	West
Jul	Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival	West
	Windband Concert	West
	Edinburgh Festival Carnival	West
	Bubbleparc	West
	Ceilidh for Wishes	West
Aug	Music in the Park	West
	Tai Chi in the gardens	West
	The Edinburgh Festival	West
	Virgin Money Fireworks Concert	West
Sep	Edinburgh Lindy Exchange	West
	Fly Open Air Festival	West
Oct	Garden of Remembrance	East
	Diwali	West
Nov	Regimental Armistice	West
Dec	Social Bite – Sleep in the Park	West
	Winter Festival	East
	Hogmanay Celebrations	West

APPENDIX 6: Parks and Greenspace On-line Survey:

Princes Street Gardens Results June 2008 – June 2009

Number of responses	Satisfied with Park	Upkeep / appearance is good	Average length of visit (minutes)
49	84%	88%	43

What do you enjoy most about this park?	A place of tranquillity	28%
	Backdrop to Castle	13%
	Openness	13%
	Planting	13%
	Location	9%
	Everything	7%
	Trees	2%
	Bandstand	2%
What changes or improvements would you like to see made to this park?	Less major events	11%
	Disabled access improved	9%
	Litter management	9%
	Nothing	7%
	Planting improved	7%
	Bandstand improved	6%
	Good café	6%
	More events in Ross	6%
	ASB controlled	6%
	More info on park and plants	4%

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	Shelters being misused	4%
	Opening times extended	2%
	Cyclists controlled	2%
	Wild areas created	2%
	Putting green	2%
	Ban on cars	
	Less professional tours	
What is your main reason for visiting the park?	Walking / Walk through	40%
	Enjoy open space	34%
	Quiet relaxation	17%
	Have lunch	7%
	Sports / Personal fitness	2%

Visitor Survey 2001

Important features	Features most satisfied with	Most important development options
Picnic facilities	Attractive flower / plant displays	More seating
Good maintenance	Ease of access	More trees
Ease of access	Safety / security	More interpretative panels to explain features of the Gardens
Cleanliness / litter control	Maintenance	
Sufficient seating	Picnic facilities	

Appendix 7: Landscape Performance Quality Standards: Example - Ornamental Lawns

Ornamental lawn specification table

Characteristics	After maintenance operation	Between maintenance operations	Unacceptable
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Priority Characteristic

Grass length	18-25mm	25-30mm	Under 18mm Over 30mm
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Other Characteristics

Litter	0%	1%	Over 1%
Grass arisings visible in clumps of 100mm or more	0%	2%	Over 2%
Edges / channels	In line with turf in clean and even manner	25-30mm	Over 30mm
Arisings on paths	0%	2%	Over 2%
% of grass sward cover	98%	95%	Under 95%
Bare patches of .mm diameter should not exceed ...% total area	150mm	200mm	Over 200mm
	0%	2%	Over 2%
Dog fouling	None	One	More than one
Overall Appearance	All aspects of the feature being maintained in a co-ordinated and appropriate manner	Most aspects of the feature being maintained in a co-ordinated and appropriate manner	Aspects of the feature not being maintained in a co-ordinated and appropriate manner



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