Wanstead Park is a nationally important historic landscape created around Wanstead House during the 17th to 19th centuries. While the mansion was demolished in 1823, much of its associated landscape survives under four ownerships and is registered at Grade II* - meaning it is a particularly important park and garden of more than special interest - on English Heritage’s Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

Since 2009, Wanstead Park has been included in the English Heritage ‘Heritage at Risk’ register due to concerns that the designed landscape was in poor condition, divided under separate ownership and management, and at risk of further decline.

The City of London is working with partner organisations - the Friends of Wanstead Parklands, Wanstead Sports Grounds Ltd, Wanstead Parish, London Boroughs of Redbridge, Waltham Forest and Newham, Thames Water and the Environment Agency - to develop a long-term Parkland Plan to identify and prioritise opportunities for capital investment and potential changes in management to restore many aspects of Wanstead Park.

The Parkland Plan offers the following vision for Wanstead Park:

“If Wanstead Park is London’s greatest surviving historic waterscape and one of the country’s most spectacular and ambitiously-designed 17th and early 18th century landscapes.

It has the potential to become one of the finest parks in East London — a unique and stunning landscape combining a sense of wilderness, tranquillity and experience of nature with spaces for fun, entertainment and getting active outdoors.

A revitalised Wanstead Park could reveal and celebrate the many unique aspects of its special landscape, welcoming all local people and visitors from further afield.”

In order to deliver this long term vision, the proposals will be varied and could range from one-off major capital expenditures, such as stabilising lake water levels, to relatively simple actions such as refocussing on-going maintenance in the Park.

The large size of the Park and the potential need for significant funding means that the plan and its delivery is a long term commitment with some actions more readily achieved than others.

Individual projects may include:

- Restoring the Park’s former landscape unity through coordinated management by the separate ownerships
- Improving water management to reduce calls upon scarce aquifer abstraction
- Re-lining Heronry Pond to stop water leaks
- Providing catering facilities at The Temple
- Revealing the shape of the historic water bodies
- Improving entrances and better surfaced paths throughout
- Enhancing the Park’s biodiversity heritage through the management of its ancient trees, woodland, grassland and water bodies
- Promoting research into the Park, its history, management and biodiversity
- Restoring views and revealing historic features
- Conserving The Grotto as an ‘accessible ruin’.

The following boards have the suggested individual projects set out in three priority groupings. We welcome your thoughts on what should be included, and what is most important to you.

All the information in this display can be found at: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/eppingforestconsultations

This will help us to formulate our plans, and help shape any future funding bids.
Priority projects

1. Conserve veteran trees and historic avenues: develop and carry out specialist conservation management work to extend tree life and improve biodiversity, including selective removal of encroaching trees and scrub to create views and access to water.

2. Improve the integrity and appearance of the historic water bodies: Selectively clear vegetation to open up views and access to water; remove vegetation and fallen trees from around ornamental ponds, lakes and canals.

3. Restore view between Mansion Site and Ornamental Waters: clear vegetation along sections of the Park and Golf Course boundary.

4. Reveal vista along Long Walk: Consolidate remains and make accessible as a ruin, and introduce new planting to re-create former Menagerie garden.

5. Create a visitor hub at The Temple: Improve sustainable drainage to all Lakes to reduce abstraction pressure on scarce aquifer abstraction from the Groundwater Protection Zone that encompasses the Park. Complete a plan for the management and restoration of Wanstead Park which will provide a foundation for park management and access to the river.

6. Conserve The Grotto: Selectively clear vegetation along sections of the Park and Golf Course boundary to reveal form and shape of designed islands within Ornamental Water at The Grotto.

7. Improve access and wayfinding from surrounding areas: Improve churchyard entrance on Overton Drive as a park entrance; introduce path through churchyard into Golf Course and at Mansion Site.

8. Improve churchyard entrance on Overton Drive as a park entrance; introduce path through churchyard into Golf Course and at Mansion Site.

9. Investigate potential connections to Roding Valley Way cycle route

10. To/from Leytonstone Underground & Leytonstone High Road Overground

11. To To Leytonstone Ferndale Road Roundabout

12. To/from Wanstead Underground station

13. From Wanstead Golf Club to Warren Road entrance

14. Consolidate remains and make accessible as a ruin, and introduce new planting to re-create former Menagerie garden.

15. Introduce new wetland and marginal habitats along edges of pond and islands.

16. Improve main routes from entrances to The Temple and The Grotto; adjust levels and restore profile (as necessary) and improve accessibility.

17. Selectively clear vegetation along sections of the Park and Golf Course boundary.

18. Reveal vista along Long Walk: Consolidate remains and make accessible as a ruin, and introduce new planting to re-create former Menagerie garden.

19. Introduce new wetland and marginal habitats along edges of pond and islands.

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80. Improve main routes from entrances to The Temple and The Grotto; adjust levels and restore profile (as necessary) and improve accessibility.

81. Selectively clear vegetation along sections of the Park and Golf Course boundary.
Longer term priorities

2A. Improve vista along Long Walk:
   - Undertake vegetation clearance to reveal mature trees along edges of Long Walk.
   - Introduce links via Eastern Avenue Pumping Station.
   - Introduce connections to Roding Valley Way and Quietway cycle routes.
   - Introduce Upperland Way and Valley Park to Aldgate-Hainault Quietway.

2B. Reveal Great Mount:
   - Clear vegetation to open up vista between Mansion site and Long Walk; open up the cricket club car park to Park visitors.
   - Make improvements to riverside edge to establish grass on both sides of path and resurface in gravel.

2C. Restore views:
   - Clear vegetation in Chalet Wood and Warren Wood to open up lost historic views.
   - Remove or replace boundary fencing and railings as they come to the end of their design life, using designs appropriate for the character and appearance of the environment.

2D. Improve access and interpretation in Wanstead Golf Course:
   - Clear vegetation to open up views; introduce new and improved signage and interpretation; improve path surfaces.

2E. Management of Bush Wood:
   - Manage vegetation along rides in Bush Wood to open up vista between Mansion site and Long Walk; open up the cricket club car park to Park visitors.
   - Management of The Plain:
     - Introduce grazing to enhance the acid grassland habitat.
   - Management of The Dell:
     - Develop management proposals to create wet woodland.

2F. Improving internal views: remove redundant fencing; thinning and managing vegetation to maintain open views.

2G. Improve access and wayfinding from surrounding areas:
   - Use ornamental planting to reflect the former American Garden in this part of the park.
   - Clear vegetation to open up lost historic views.
   - Use ornamental planting to reflect the former American Garden in this part of the park.

2H. North Reservoir Wood:
   - Remove or replace boundary fencing and railings as they come to the end of their design life, using designs appropriate for the character and appearance of the environment.

2I. Improve access and interpretation in Wanstead Golf Course:
   - Clear vegetation to open up views; introduce new and improved signage and interpretation; improve path surfaces.

2J. Improving internal views: remove redundant fencing; thinning and managing vegetation to maintain open views.

2K. Management of The Dell:
   - Develop management proposals to create wet woodland.

2L. Management of The Plain:
   - Introduce grazing to enhance the acid grassland habitat.
Possible aspirations

- Further development of The Temple area with increased planting.

- Clear corridor through Chalet Wood to restore view and axis between The Temple and The Plain.

- Potential selective thinning of vegetation to create focal points on bluebell walk.

- Reveal historic features: e.g. using site-won timber from tree falls and other creative recycling.

- Interpret Repton Parterre:
  - Clear corridor through Chalet Wood to restore view and axis between The Temple and The Plain.
  - Use formal planting in this part of the Golf Course to reflect the former early 19th Century parterre garden by Humphrey Repton.

- Improve paths and access within Park:
  - Restore paths and views through The Grove to the Ornamental Water along lines of former patte d'oie avenues – radiating paths in the shape of a goose's foot.
  - Clear corridor through Chalet Wood to restore view and axis between The Temple and The Plain.

- Additional Partner Organisations include:

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- Additional Partner Organisations include:
Next steps

Working together
Following the demise of Wanstead House, the City of London, the London Borough of Redbridge and the Wanstead Sports Grounds Ltd all intervened to purchase sections of the Park to prevent its further loss to housing.

Now for the first time, all these parties are working as partners on a joint plan to guide the future of the site. Our initial ideas and proposals include the following:

★ Developing a vegetation management plan for the whole Park including, restoring lost views, improving access and habitat management
★ Expanding opportunities for local people to get involved with the care and management of the Park
★ Exploring the potential to develop an apprenticeship scheme in the Park
★ Develop income generation opportunities to help fund a sustainable future for the Park.

Reaching the community
We want to encourage more people to visit and enjoy Wanstead Park. We have developed some ideas to achieve this and we would like your thoughts on these as well as suggestions for others.

★ Self-guided walks using information uploaded onto smart phones from Quick Response (QR) codes or Augmented Reality applications.
★ Animated trails and community events for people of all ages and backgrounds, involving experts and artists, to bring the Park’s amazing history to life.
★ Open air cinema and small concerts at The Temple and other managed activity spaces.
★ ‘Pop up’ cafes and catering beside the lakes.
★ Improving and promoting opportunities for private functions, such as weddings and parties to help bring in revenue to fund the Park.
★ Reintroduce boating to the Park, eg on the Heronry Pond.
★ Expanding the successful ‘Park Run’ on Wanstead Flats to include the Park.
★ Establish the Wanstead Park Festival as the highlight of the park’s events calendar, building on the success of Music in the Park.
★ Undertaking outreach and promotional activities in the culturally diverse communities beyond the park, such as Ilford, Leytonstone and Forest Gate, to attract a wider audience to the Park.
★ Providing access to the site of the former Wanstead House (within the golf course) so that the general public can find out more about the mansion and also use the club’s social facilities.
★ Encouraging more visitors to enjoy the Grade I listed St Mary’s Church by expanding events and guided activities in the Park that link with the church.

What do you think?
★ What makes Wanstead Park special for you?
★ What would spoil a trip to Wanstead Park for you?

Please fill out our survey form and help us to shape a better future for Wanstead Park – London’s greatest surviving historic waterscape and planned to become the finest park in East London.

What happens next?
Feedback Fortnight is an important part of our work to develop a Parkland Plan that covers the four different ownerships at Wanstead Park.

The findings will be included alongside technical studies to ensure we prepare a plan that meets the different needs as fully as possible. The aim is to have plan in place for work to start in 2016.

Friends of Wanstead Parklands
If you are interested in getting involved further, why not join the Friends of Wanstead Parklands?

They hold activity days, talks, walks and more. More information can be found at: www.wansteadpark.org.uk

More information about the Park and our plans is online

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