

Streets and Environment Sub-  
Committee  
July 2024

# Grounds Maintenance Service

The abundance of diverse parks and green spaces in Croydon is one of its greatest treasure.

Over 28% of the borough comprises public green open spaces (excludes Highways and Housing Land)



# Grounds Maintenance Service

The Grounds Maintenance Team are responsible for :-

- 127 Parks and Green spaces
- 94 Recreational play areas
- 30 Green spaces with Lakes and Ponds
- 75 Site of Importance for Nature Conservation
- 5 Nature Reserves
- 673 Highway Grass Verges
- Housing sites\*

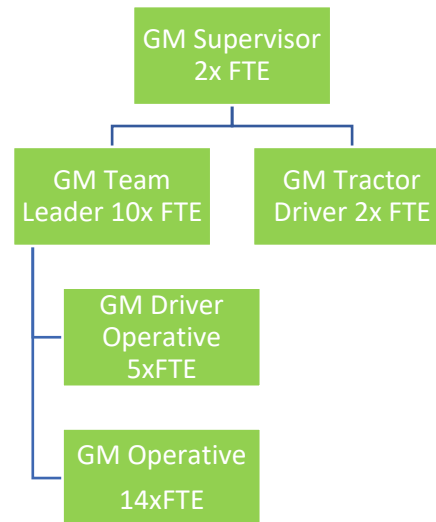


# Resource

In 2018 the Grounds Maintenance service provided by our contractor deployed **88** staff to undertake grass cutting and maintenance of our green spaces.

In 2021 £1m was taken from the service as part of the MTFS savings along with a significant reduction in front line resource.

Currently, **29** front line operatives undertake the grass cutting service across the borough  
This allows for the daily deployment of 10 operational crews





# Community support

Our Parks and green spaces are highly valued by our residents and visitors.

The Service currently works with over 50 active 'Friends of Group' who work in partnership with our Parks Strategy and Development team to maintain the parks horticultural areas and wild meadow planting.

In addition to this we have over 800 Street Champions who undertake regular litter picking in our parks.



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# Challenges

**Resource** – Croydon is one of London’s largest and greenest boroughs, with limited resources we need to ensure that we prioritise available resource appropriately taking into account scheduled seasonal events .

**Weather** – Traditionally the grass cutting service operates between April through to October, though we are seeing an increase in the growing season requiring us to deploy resources for longer. This year the service has been heavily affected by weather. We cannot cut our parks and open spaces during periods of heavy rainfall. This is not unique to Croydon and in line with the national trend our neighbouring boroughs and Surrey County Council are all experiencing delays in the service.

**Data** – The service is currently operating from old asset data and manual schedules, and as such we do not have the functionality of real time reporting and tracking progress against a pre agreed schedule.

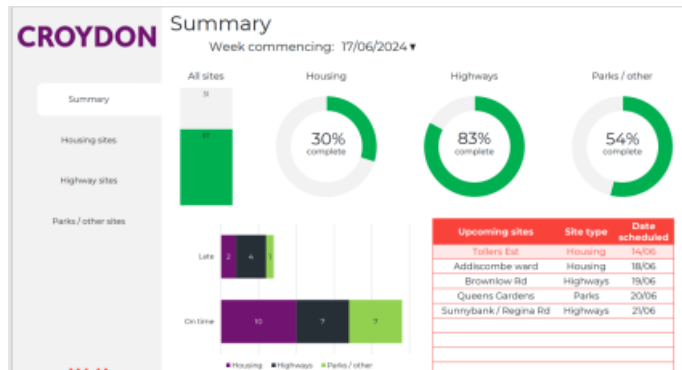
**Machinery and Plant equipment.** – Teams are currently working with operational equipment that was not replaced when the service was brought back in house in Jan 2019. As the equipment requires increased maintenance and repairs this causes down time and impacts on the service.

# Addressing the Challenges

**Resource** – In order to increase the level of resilience within the service and ensure that all areas of the borough are equally serviced we have commissioned contractors to undertake additional grass cutting services . This work is monitored by the Grounds Maintenance supervisors.

**Weather** – we will continue to deploy operational crews through to the end of the year supported by external contractors and agency staff.

**Data** – The service has begun work to digitally map all our parks and green spaces which, once completed, will allow the service to produce an interactive map of the service showing when and wear grass cutting has been undertaken and the next scheduled date .



# Addressing the Challenges

**New Machinery** – As part of our capital programme we are replacing our plant machinery and equipment. New equipment has been delivered and staff training is being undertaken, so it will be operational for the peak growing season in August.





# Questions



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