

## KEW



### Description

The two main features of Kew are Kew Gardens and Richmond Riverside, providing a considerable local and indeed international resource in the case of Kew Gardens. As a result Kew is a heavily visited area.

Bordering the Kew area are Richmond, East Sheen and Mortlake and London Borough of Hounslow across the Thames. These areas have been taken into account in this area analysis.

### Characteristics - Facts and Figures

- Population 38,280
- Open space 13.71 hectares
- 2/3 bounded by the Thames and remaining bounded by Richmond UDP area towards the south

## Maps

The accompanying area Maps show analysis of:

- Hierarchy – the location of open spaces categorised according to the London Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC) size based hierarchy.
- Function – the main functions or types of open space e.g. parks and gardens; recreation ground; cemetery; allotment etc.
- Quality – an assessment of the overall quality of the open space, considering landscape quality, condition etc.
- Opportunities – identifies opportunities to improve access to open space, restore views, remove barriers to access etc.

## Audit of Current Provision

NAME	AREA	FUNCTION	LPAC	PRIORITY
ST LUKES OPEN SPACE	0.04	Open Space	S	36
NORTH SHEEN PARK	3.26	Recreation Ground	L	90
WESTERLEY WARE RECREATION GROUND	0.85	Recreation Ground	S	40
THAMES TOWPATH - RICHMOND LOCK/KEW KEW GREEN (PARK)	4.71	Semi-natural	Lin	21
TOWNMEAD (Education Site)	0.47	Sports Ground		
NORTH SHEEN RECREATION GROUND PG		Playground	PG	72
ST LUKES OPEN SPACE PLAYGROUND		Playground	PG	36
WESTERLEY WARE PLAYGROUND		Playground	PG	40
SHORT LOTS	0.61	Allotment	Not LPAC	42
TOWNMEAD	0.20	Allotment	Not LPAC	40
KEW GARDENS	129.21	Private		
OLD DEER PARK (PRIVATE)	90.37	Private		

### **Analysis of access to parks and open spaces**

- 95% of the area is within 3.2 km of a metropolitan/regional park, Richmond Park.
- 73% of the area is within 1.2 km of a district open space.
- 86% of the area is within 400m of a local open space
- 77% of the area is within 400 metres of an equipped playground
- 70% of the area is within 500 metres of an area of nature conservation interest

Note this analysis does not take into account GLA advice which recommends that a 10 minute rail journey or 15 minute bus journey can also increase the catchment area of larger parks.

### **Commentary**

Kew is an area, which is technically short of open space. However it has one of the largest open areas, Kew Gardens in its midst. Whilst this is not a freely accessible park and can only be used for quiet passive recreation, it is a tremendous resource.

### **Local Considerations and Issues**

- Heavily used area for tourists and local use alike. Currently suffering from lack of historic investment in infrastructure.
- Publicly accessible open space is limited (using 500m catchment) from a small area though most of this area is within 1.2 km of either Old Deer Park or Richmond Park.
- Community safety – fear of crime. The towpath stretch particularly around the Old Deer Park and Kew is relatively unpopulated, which causes concern about personal security.
- Providing positive diversionary activity for young people to reduce crime.

### **Opportunities to address issues.**

- Negotiate access to currently private open space
- Upgrade local facilities in local parks to partially compensate for lack of freely accessible open space.

## **Recommendations/Priorities for Kew**

Following analysis the following sites/priorities have been identified:

- Explore opportunities to gain access to areas, which are currently restricted open spaces. E.g. Access once per month to local people free of charge or after 6pm to Kew Gardens.
- If physical access is not possible, explore opportunities to improve views into the sites or 'visual access' such as opening views into Kew Gardens along the Kew Road and Thames Towpath.
- Improve access points to and from the Kew stretch of the towpath to encourage appropriate usage.
- Carry out priority improvements identified by the Disability Access Audit
- Create pleasant walking and cycling routes between sites – as proposed on the plan.
- Add St Georges Public Open Space provision once development is completed.
- Staff North Sheen Recreation Ground as Key Park (achieved 1<sup>st</sup> April 2003) in order to partially compensates for lack of a District Parks in this area.
- Propose designation of St Lukes, Sandycombe Road as public open space.
- Improve knowledge of open space opportunities through marketing/signage improvements e.g. to landscaped areas around the Public Records Officer in Kew. Add to signage scheme.
- Work with Youth Services and Policing Agencies to develop events and activities for young people focused around North Sheen Recreation Ground. Develop underused pavilion into a multi-use site.
- Develop resource management plans for the arts at Brentford
- Develop opportunities for S106 agreements to improve access and management of the towpath from Thameside development opportunities.
- Continue to improve Westerley Ware in partnership with Westerley Ware Association.