

Maryhill Park COMMUNITY GARDEN

Response to feedback

Response to comments/suggestions from KSB (Heather McLaughlin) September 2019 visit

Maryhill Park – Friends of Maryhill Park

Maryhill Park is a large park that has a small active Friends of group. The group predominately manage the site with a little support from the council. Consideration might be give to expanding the awarded area (or adding awarded areas) if possible.

For this we are considering the community growing space next to the bowling green and tennis court.

Below are some notes made against each of the criteria as part of the Community Green Flag Award.

Welcoming Place:

The site is intriguing to anyone walking past. It is the site of the old games house and still has some identifiable features which make it welcoming. With the new artpiece nearby, the quirky layout and the flourishing beds people should want to have a look round. There was a lot there that I was curious about and wanted to have a closer look at.

It would be good to see some signposting about what the site is and how people can get involved.

New signs added



The paths are wide and mostly can be used by a range of able people, but there could be issues with uneven surfaced. Although, the people using the site who are less able have other areas to visit.

Healthy, safe and secure:

The site provides people with an opportunity to learn and grow their own food. This is a great way to encourage people to eat fresh, local produce. Providing a safe space for people to have ownership of a bed will also encourage them to get out the house into the park.

The area looked secure and was open so that it felt safe.

No issues on site with dog fouling.

Is the wall and scaffolding up to requirements/standards?

Yes. Recently inspected by GCC personnel and minor remediation completed (loose masonry removed, sharp edges filed down)

Well maintained and clean:

The site is had no litter issue.

I can see a pile behind the shed the group use for felled trees – *is this a compost pile.*

Yes (but needs tidying!)

Keeping the area as tidy as it was today will also prevent people leaving more mess or vandalising the site. Also, outlining that the site is run by volunteers can help.

Environmental management:

Pesticide use? - No herbicides or pesticides used

How does the group dispose of garden waste? – compost pile

Is the scaffolding locally/reused? – sourced locally, some reused

What sort of wood is used for the planters? – used scaffold boards, sourced locally

Biodiversity, landscape and heritage:

It was really interesting to see the old wall getting used from when the site was a games house. It's also great to see local sculptures from nearby nightclubs too.

There were edible plants on site and bees were seen – *is consideration give for sustainable planting/biodiversity?*

Yes. One raised bed adjacent to the bug/bee hotel is reserved for native wildflowers. Indigenous native brambles are being trained up the back wall ('cos it's harder to remove them)

Community Involvement:

Facebook/Twitter?

Yes, plus a new dedicated web page...

<http://www.maryhillpark.org/active-life/community-garden/>

XXX = typically 4-6 FOMP volunteers at regular sessions or in nearby park activities, depending on season. About 12 people, plus a kiddies playgroup, were signed up for raised beds in 2019 growing season.

The group accept volunteers from a wider area and regular have around XXX helping at sessions. The active, regular supports are small in numbers, and though should be commended on their efforts, it would be great to see an increase. On a short visit there wasn't any promotion of sessions other residents could join. Equally I wonder whether the group could go to local events to promote the work they do and get others involved.

Would be good to target families using the tennis court and people at any fayres on the greens opposite. Make use of social media too.

The garden is now a focus for activities (plant sales, puppet making, etc.) at the annual FOMP Summer Fair, held on the adjacent (defunct) bowling greens.

Management/Achievements:

Good to see link with Judy Murray Foundation to make use of the old tennis court. Would be good to take advantage of this and encourage further support for other areas (and a wider range of visitors).

Yes, this project (Maryhill Tennis) is blossoming.

The group seem great at taking advantage of what's to offer in terms of equipment and art pieces.

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