

St. Stephen's Green Park Conservation Management Plan 2015-2020



**Consultation Draft
March 2015**



OPW

The Office of Public Works
Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí

St. Stephen's Green Park Conservation Management Plan

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction, background & context setting

1.1	Introduction	8
1.2	OPW approach & philosophy	9
1.3	External relationships	10
1.4	Purpose & Scope	10
1.5	Management Plan Structure	11
1.6	History	12
1.7	Size & location	15
1.8	Park Features	15
1.8.1	Built Heritage	15
1.8.2	Monuments & Statues	16
1.8.3	Water features & Fountains	18
1.8.4	Victorian Floral Displays	19
1.8.5	Trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants	20
1.8.6	Rockery and bog garden	20
1.8.7	Garden for the visually impaired	20
1.8.8	Playground	21
1.8.9	Paths	21
1.8.10	Signage & furniture	21
1.8.11	Park Depot	22
1.8.12	Events	22
1.9	Legal context	23
1.9.1	Introduction	23
1.9.2	Current Governance	23
1.9.3	Planning & Development Legislation	24
1.9.4	Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017	24
1.9.5	Strategic Infrastructure	26
1.10	Designations	26

Chapter 2: Where are we now?

2.1	Introduction	30
2.2	The Green Flag Award	30
2.3	A Welcoming Place	31
2.3.1	Welcoming	31
2.3.2	Good and safe access	31
2.3.3	Signage	32
2.3.4	Equal access for all	32
2.3.5	‘Something for everyone’	33
2.4	Healthy, Safe & Secure	33
2.4.1	Safe equipment & facilities	34
2.4.2	Personal security in park	35
2.4.3	Dog fouling	36
2.4.4	Appropriate provision of facilities	36
2.4.5	Quality of facilities	37
2.5	Clean & Well Maintained	37
2.5.1	Litter & waste management	37
2.5.2	Ground maintenance and horticulture	38
2.5.3	Building & infrastructure maintenance	41
2.5.4	Equipment maintenance	42
2.6	Sustainability	42
2.6.1	Environmental sustainability	42
2.6.2	Pesticide use	42
2.6.3	Peat use	43
2.6.4	Waste minimisation	43
2.6.5	Arboriculture & woodland management	43
2.6.6	Resource conservation	43
2.7	Conservation & Heritage	44
2.7.1	Conservation of natural features, wild fauna & flora	44
2.7.2	Conservation of landscape features	46
2.7.3	Conservation of buildings & structures	46
2.8	Community Involvement	46
2.8.1	Community involvement in management & development	47
2.8.2	Appropriate provision for community	47
2.9	Marketing	48
2.9.1	Marketing & promotion	49
2.9.2	Provision of appropriate information	49
2.9.3	Provision of appropriate educational information	50
2.10	Management	50
2.10.1	Implementation of management plan	50

Chapter 3: Where do we want to get?

3.1	Introduction	54
3.2	Vision & Objectives for the 21st Century	54
3.3	Landscape	55
3.4	Nature and Biodiversity	56
3.5	Archaeology, Architecture & Built Heritage	57
3.6	Access & Public Use	58
3.7	Management	58

Chapter 4: How will we get there?

4.1	Introduction	62
4.2	Action plan 2015-2020	62

Chapter 5: How will we know when we have arrived?

5.1	Introduction	70
5.2	Monitoring & evaluation	70
5.2.1	Conservation Management Plan	70
5.2.2	Conservation Management Plan – Action Plan	70
5.2.3	Operational Activities	71
	List of figures	72
	List of Images	72

Appendices

Appendix 1.	Organisational Chart	74
Appendix 2.	OPW National Historic Properties Countrywide	75
Appendix 3.	Annual Work Programme	76

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The Draft St Stephens Green Conservation Management Plan has been printed on paper from sustainable sources and thus kind to the environment.

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Chapter 1



1. Introduction, Background & Context Setting

Chapter 1

1.1 Introduction

St. Stephen's Green Park once formed part of an area extending as far as the banks of the Dodder, which was granted to Dublin Corporation by Henry II (1154). The earliest mention of the name 'St. Stephen's Green' goes back to the 13th Century.

In 1635 the City Assembly passed an ordinance *'That no parcel of St. Stephens Greene shall henceforth be lett, but wholie kepte for the use of the citizens and others to walke and take the open aire, by reason this cittie is at present growing very populous'*. In 1663, twenty-seven acres were set out as parkland.

An Act of Parliament in 1814 resulted in the Green becoming a key holder park. The present day perimeter layout with the bollards (and originally chains) on the perimeter was laid out in 1816. Lord Ardilaun brought about the Stephens Green Act of 1877 and remodelled the Green as a Victorian Park, the essence of which remains today.

On 1st January 2004 the operational functions of Ireland's built heritage functions (Incl. St. Stephen's Green) transferred to the Office of Public Works (OPW). The OPW is a central Government Office.

Mr Simon Harris TD is the Minister of State at the Departments of Finance, with Special Responsibility for the OPW, Public Procurement, and International Banking. The legal entity of the Commissioners of Public Works comprise of Chairman Clare McGrath, Commissioner John McMahon and Commissioner John Sydenham.

Today, the OPW's responsibilities relate to three main areas: Estate Portfolio Management and Heritage Services (incl. St. Stephen's Green), Flood Risk Management and the National Procurement Service.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Office of Public Works is to use our experience and expertise in our mandated areas of operation to provide innovative, effective and sustainable-shared services to the public and our clients

The OPW has responsibility for the care of 780 heritage sites in Ireland, including national monuments & buildings, historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes.

In excess of eight million people pass through St. Stephen's Green on an annual basis and enjoy its 10 hectares of parkland.

1.2 The OPW approach and philosophy:

The approach of the OPW Heritage Services is one of protection, management, and presentation. It has a conservation remit to maintain the built heritage in State care and an active role in facilitating presentation and public access. The OPW Heritage Services are essentially conservation orientated and indeed conservation driven. The bulk of their resources are dedicated to conservation activities. The vast majority of properties in State care are presented to the public without specific visitor facilities such as a guide service. Public access, however, to heritage attractions has a high priority and much effort has been made to improve access and information at all built heritage sites.

Millions of Irish and foreign visitors, visit our heritage sites every year to learn about Ireland's history and culture. Guide services, interpretive displays and many publications and newsletters are provided to assist the visitor in this educational process. National Historic Properties is a key contributor to Irish Tourism and through our professional staff we support active research on the flora & fauna of Ireland and assist in the delivery of third level education to horticulture & arboricultural students at many of our parks and gardens.

Matters relating to historic properties are administered centrally. Each site has a local management structure consisting of a manager (Park Superintendent or other), non-established staff and with the larger properties supporting professional and technical staff. Day to day management of the properties is handled through the local manager with more general issues such as general correspondence, legal, policy, permissions for use and budgeting/finance matters being referred to the central administration.

'All our sites are an integral part of Ireland's cultural heritage. We also have a duty to conserve the heritage of buildings and gardens in State care while encouraging the public to visit them.' OPW



1.3 External relationships

OPW Heritage Services work with other official agencies and partners who have key roles in promoting Ireland's heritage. These include:

Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
The Heritage Council
Fáilte Ireland
Local authorities (incl. Dublin City Council for St. Stephen's Green Park)
Heritage officers

In addition, we co-operate with a number of parties with an interest in Heritage, including:

Local history groups and societies
Archaeological groups
Academic and cultural institutions
An Taisce – Green Flags

1.4 Purpose and Scope

The objective of the study is to analyse & understand the 'essence' of St. Stephen's Green, its historical stature & esteem and its special place in the Municipality & Nation thereby establishing appropriate policies to enable that uniqueness to be retained in any future use or development. It will examine how the Green should be presented today in the light of this historical & cultural perspective and will assist in identifying any options for the future.

The purpose of this Management Plan is to provide guidelines, together with a set of specific actions, for the management of St. Stephen's Green for future generations while addressing the needs of the current generation within the context of a National Historic Park. It aims to balance the responsibility to protect, conserve and enhance the unique landscape, environment, ecology, wildlife, built heritage and views of St. Stephen's Green with active and creative policies to facilitate wider access and increased enjoyment, information, education and recreation for now and into the future.

St. Stephen's Green is renowned for its sense of peace in the centre of an urban hub. It is hoped that the plan will foster a better understanding of the designed landscape of the Green, where passing generations have laid down successive patterns of garden layout and structures, floral displays and tree plantings.

The Plan thus provides a framework for the sustainable management of the Green, including:

- Define an appropriate conservation philosophy that retains the essence of the Green and priorities conservation and restoration,
- Provide a basis for clearly identifying the vision, objectives and priorities of the Green,

- Fostering a better understanding of the Green, including its unique designed landscape value,
- Identifying all issues that affect the management and maintenance of the Green and assist with their resolution,
- Raise the standard and profile of the Green, National Historic Properties both internally and externally,
- Guide present and future management and ensure consistent management practices over time i.e. identify appropriate and inappropriate uses,
- Providing priorities for managing multiple uses and potentially conflicting interests within the Green,
- Ensure ongoing communications with internal and external stakeholders.

1.5 Management Plan Structure

This plan has been developed using studies undertaken, industry best practice and the Green Flag Award Guidance Manual – Raising the Standard. The plan is structured into five distinct chapters with a series of sub-sections each providing the following information;

Introduction, history and context setting

Chapter 1 provides an introduction, history and sets the management plan in context. It describes the current situation of St. Stephen's Green Park – what it is, who manages it, its history to date, what is known about the Green, where it is located and what policies and guidelines govern the way it is managed.

Where are we now?

Chapter 2 describes the current situation against the Green Flag criteria outlining what is currently done to address & meet each of the criterion. It involves a detailed examination of all aspects of the site and the circumstances in which services are provided.

Where do we want to get?

Chapter 3 takes a step back to assess the significance of St. Stephen's Green Park with particular reference to the following headings Landscape, Nature and Biodiversity, Archaeology, Architecture & Built Heritage, Access & Public Use and Management. This analysis presents a summary of the issues to be addressed, what improvements are needed both to the site itself and the way it is managed. Site objectives are outlined which are further translated into actions in Chapter 4.

How will we get there?

Chapter 4 of the Plan sets out a five-year plan of action that needs to be taken as well as considering the resources both financial and staffing.

How will we know when we have arrived?

This final chapter is an important element of the plan which details how and when the success of the actions and measures will be monitored and reviewed and when the plan itself will need to be monitored and updated.

1.6 History

Prior to being a park, St. Stephen's Green was a marshy piece of ground used for grazing livestock. The name originates from a church of the same name that was attached to a leper hospital in medieval times. In 1663, it was decided by the City Assembly to change its use to a park, in order to generate income and so the "*citizens of the city and others could walk and take the open aire*". At the time, St Stephens Green measured 60 acres. In 1664, a central area of 27 acres was marked out to be preserved. The remaining outer section was divided into ninety building lots with 60ft frontage and sold by lottery. Tenants of the houses had to plant 6 sycamore trees in order to provide privacy for the park. To this day, sycamore is still a common species in the tree mix within the Green.



Much of the 18th century saw the park as a fashionable place to be seen, owing to the development and rise of the Grafton and Dawson Street shopping areas and in addition to nearby desirable properties in the surrounding areas. Walks in the park such as The Beaux Walk, now the Lime Walk on the northern side, were popular promenades.

By the 19th century, the condition of the park and its features were greatly deteriorated. The perimeter wall was in disrepair, and trees were in bad condition. In 1814 the representatives of the local householders on the perimeter of the green or

'commissioners' were handed over the control of the park. They introduced the current perimeter granite bollards (originally with chains) and ornate Victorian railings for the boundary replacing the wall, planted trees and shrubbery, and added new walks. However, the park became a private park for the residents living along the perimeter of the green. Only those with keys had access, going against the earlier 1635 law stating it was to be a public park.

Living in Iveagh House, 80 St. Stephen's Green (now Department of Foreign Affairs), Sir Arthur Guinness, (later known as Lord Ardilaun), whose family and indeed himself were generous philanthropists, initiated with the support of the government the upgrade of the Green. Following this redevelopment, the Green was handed back to the public by means of the Saint Stephen's Green (Dublin) Act 1877. His statue can be seen on the West side of the Green.



On 27th July 1880, without any ceremony the gates opened to the public again. It is Sheppard's design with Lord Ardilaun's 'suggestions' that we largely see today. His vision of providing an oasis of peace and tranquillity can be seen and experienced to this day despite the fact that the city and population has increased many fold since his day

Since the late 19th Century, the park has largely stayed the same with only some minor alterations. Trees have matured, commemorative statues have been added (e.g. Fusilier's Arch 1907) and indeed disappeared for example an equestrian statue of King George II. This statue was erected in 1758 in the centre area, acting as a strong focus point. However, on May 13th 1937, a bomb destroyed it.

Earlier in the 20th Century, the Green played a significant role in the 1916 Easter Rising. Countess Markievicz and Michael Mallin were assigned to take control of the Green. The Royal College of Surgeons beside the Green was under IRA command. English soldiers kept control of another icon building on the Green, the Shelbourne Hotel. Casualties of this combat were taken for treatment in the now glasshouse area of the Green. In 2012 University College Dublin (UCD) undertook research with regard to the trenches and recorded shell casings from the Rising.

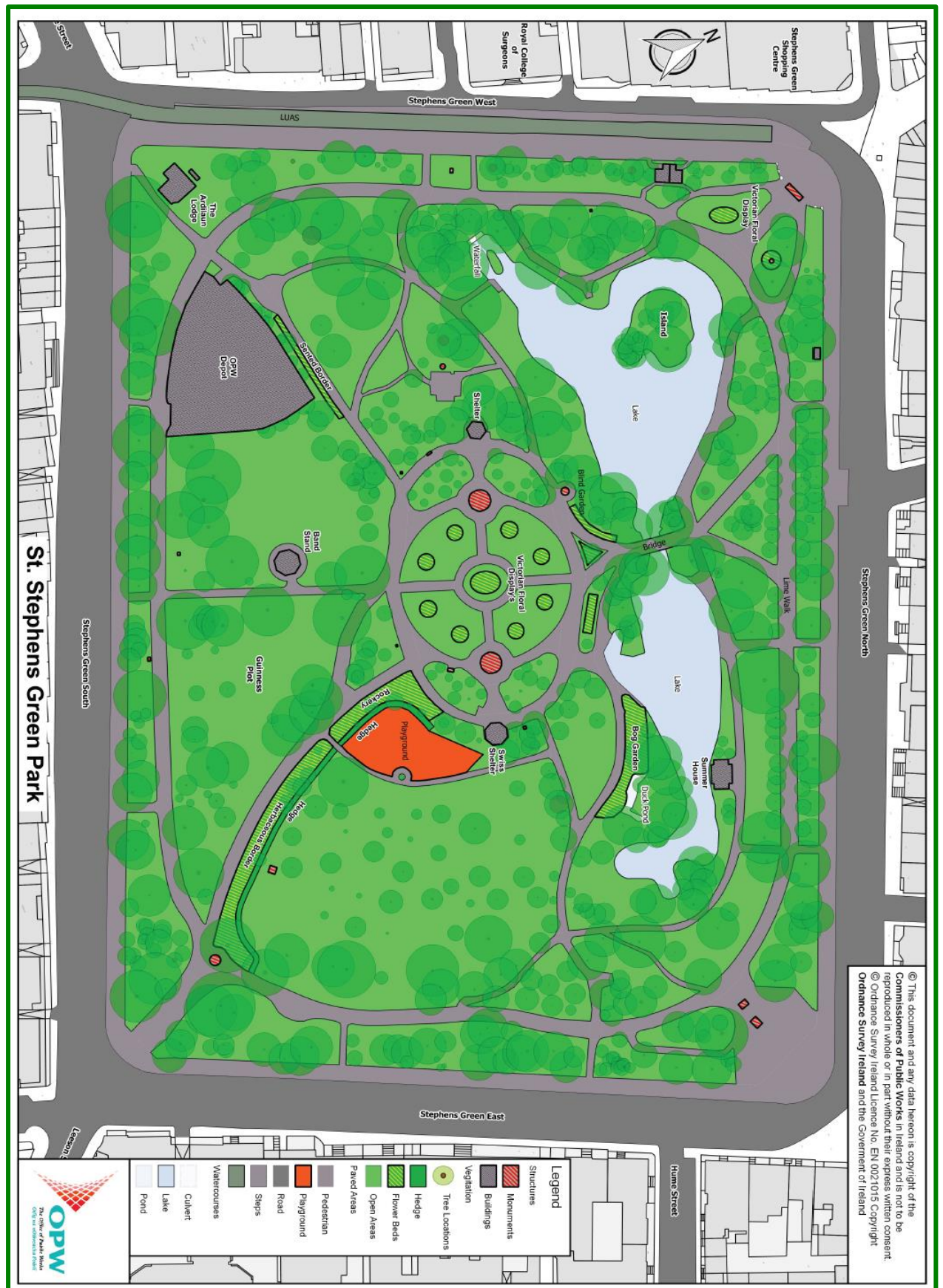


Figure 1: Location & layout of St Stephens Green Park

1.7 Size & location

St. Stephen's Green Park is located in the heart of Dublin's city centre area, just south of the River Liffey. St. Stephen's Green is Dublin's premier Victorian square, bounded by road and having Lesson Street at one corner, Grafton Street at another, Harcourt Street and Baggot Street at the other two corners. (See figure 2 on previous page) The Green is 24.6 acres (9.95 hectares) in total including the exterior paths outside the railings. The interior area is 22 acres (9 hectares), though originally, in the 17th century it was in excess of 60 acres.

1.8 Park Features

St. Stephen's Green Park is a historic Victorian park laid out from 1877-80 (previous layouts existed) and it still retains its original features and character to this day. The features offered to the user/visitor include:

1.8.1 Built Heritage

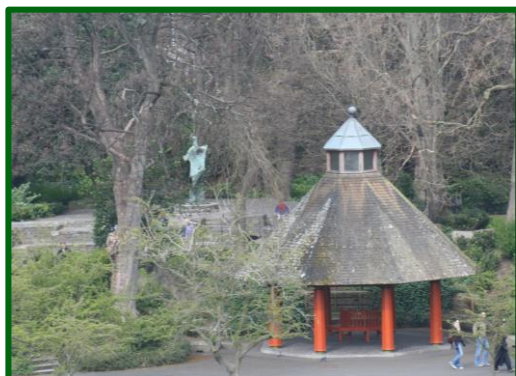
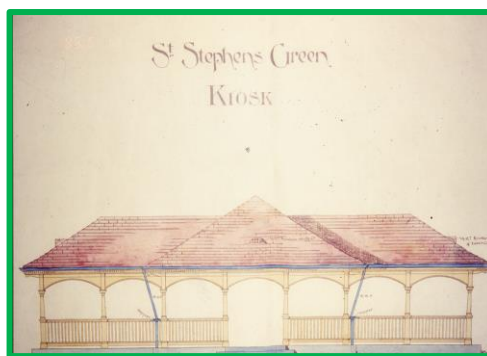
The architectural and artistic significance of the Green, in a national context, is due partly to the landscape setting surrounding important buildings and monuments, partly to the current high standards of maintenance of the whole, and partly to the national renown of architects and artists whose work survives in the Green.

Other features of the Green's landscape such as railings, gates, lamp posts, modern notices, footpaths, etc., while of varying historical value and with varying conservation requirements, all have a significant impact on the artistic and architectural value of the whole Green. A proper understanding of the architectural and artistic significance of the Green will emerge principally from continued historical investigation of its development since its creation in 1663.

St. Stephen's Green is fortunate to have a significant number of architectural buildings that add interest and architectural variety to the Green. All were designed over the last century and have been maintained to a high standard. UCD completed a report detailing the heritage features (e.g. Superintendent's Lodge/Gate Lodge, Summer House, Bandstand and Fusilier's Arch at the Grafton St. entrance).

The **Superintendent's Lodge**, built shortly after 1880 was designed by James Franklin Fuller. Fuller undertook considerable work for Lord Ardilaun, most notably Kylemore Abbey in Galway, and the refurbishment of Farmleigh House (next to the Phoenix Park) between 1881 - 1884. The lodge is located just inside the southwest corner entrance and is designed in the Queen Anne style. It has Farham styled brick, decorative mouldings, and ornamental bargeboards.

The **Summer House** (also known as 'The Kiosk') is on the northern side of the lake and was built in 1898. It is a rectangular pavilion with terracotta tiled roof and is beautifully placed to admire the lake and surrounds. It has recently undergone repair work (2013).



The **Bandstand** was erected by the Dublin Metropolitan Police in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Jubilee. It was manufactured by Musgrave & Co of Belfast. It has been described as one of the finest remaining bandstands in Ireland. The cast iron work, fringing, scrolling, and, organic details can but be admired. The bandstand underwent conservation work in 2013.

The two **Swiss Chalets** in the centre of the Green were built as part of the Sheppard/Ardilaun plans. They add to the built heritage of the Green and provide welcome protection to the public from inclement weather yet offer advantageous beautiful views of the Victorian floral displays. They under went conservation work in 2013, with the complete replacement of the cedar roofing shingles.

1.8.2 Monuments & Statues

A range of more than sixteen statues and commemorative pieces are well situated around the Green. These vary from famous Irish poets, to historical figures, to pieces representing important times of Ireland's history and culture. See Figure 2.

The main entrance at Grafton St. has since changed with the construction of The **Fusilier's Arch** in 1907. This was erected to commemorate the Dublin Fusiliers who died in the Boer War (1899-1900). Henry Laverty and Sons of Belfast were awarded the contract to build the arch which was made from Wicklow granite, with the names of the soldiers engraved in recessed panels of Drogheda limestone. The Arch of Titus in Rome was the source of inspiration to Howard Pentland, Royal Hibernian Academy and architect for the Board of Works, who designed the arch. The iron gates and railing are from a Dublin company, J. & C. M. Gloughlin Ltd. The crest and gates

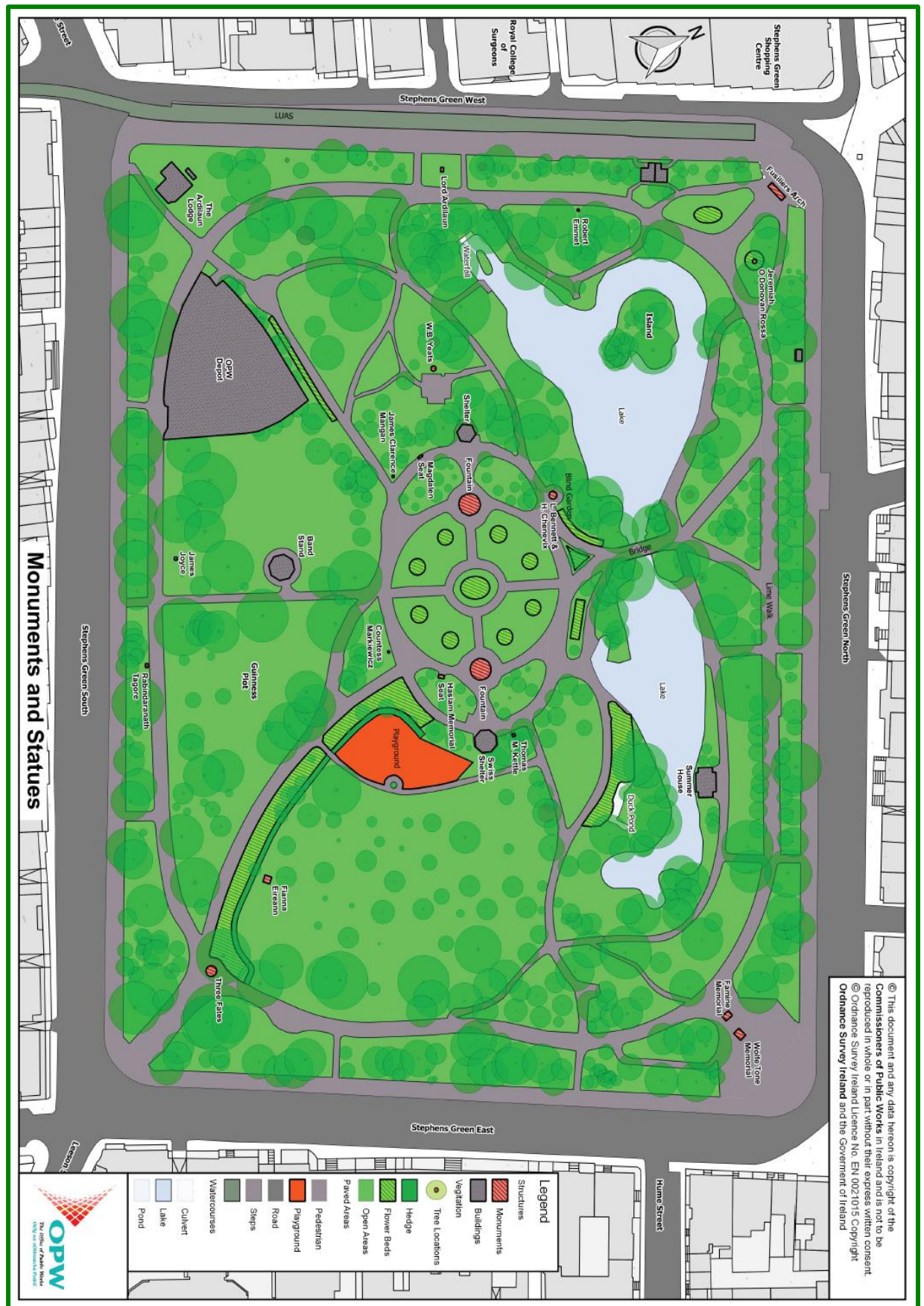


Figure 2: Monuments & Statues of St Stephens Green Park

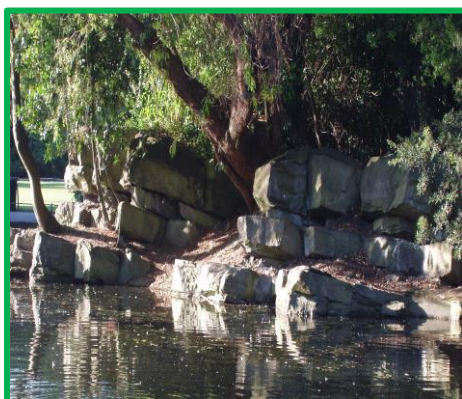
were cast from captured Boer guns. In addition to the soldiers' names, there are other inscriptions in Latin and English, for example the names of the battles in which the soldiers fell.



Another entrance that has changed since Sheppard's time is the northeast entrance. The two original gateways were similar to the present southwest gate at Leeson St. Now, this entrance has a statue of **Theobald Wolfe Tone**, the 1798 Irish Rebellion leader. Immediately inside stands a memorial to Ireland's **Great Famine** (1845-1850). The backdrop is made from rough granite. Both pieces are by Edward Delaney.

1.8.3 Water features & Fountains

Water features include a two-acre lake, waterfall and fountains. The lake is found on the north side, and flows from west to east, spanning nearly the length of the Green. It is fed from the Grand Canal from the nearby Portobello Bridge and then the water circulates back to the canal at Baggot St. A range of waterfowl inhabit the lake and surrounding vegetation. Pike, perch and roach have been seen in the lake. The waterfall at the west end of the lake is formed where the canal water enters the Green and flows over the Pulham rockwork.



The Pulham rockwork is an unusual feature for Ireland, only appearing in 2-3 Irish gardens. It can be seen in large gardens and landed estates in the UK, most notably Buckingham Palace and Sandringham, Norfolk. James Pulham & Sons used both artificial and natural rocks to which they added a mortar as a render which had a striking resemblance in colour and durability to natural stone.

There are three fountains in the Green. Two are situated in the centre flower area and are constructed from granite, and both have floral centrepieces, known as the ‘*centre fountains*’.



The third fountain is just inside the Leeson Street gate representing ‘*The Three Fates*’. The Three Fates (or ‘Norns’) are considered to be female beings or deities often appearing in Norse and Germanic mythology. Their role was to weave, measure and cut the thread of mens’ destinies. It was presented by the German people to the Irish Government after many German children were fostered in Ireland after World War II during the project known as the ‘*Operation Shamrock*’.

1.8.4 Victorian floral displays

Victorian style floral beds form a strong focal point in the centre of the Green and are planted up twice yearly with bedding plants (pansies, polyanthus, wallflowers, tulips for Spring colour, and geraniums, petunias, dahlias, and begonias for Summer colour). In addition to the bedding, specimen plants are also included in each bed.





1.8.5 Trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants

Trees have always played an important part in the history of St. Stephen's Green and now number approximately 800. The main species include: sycamore, plane, holly, thorn (mainly hawthorn), lime, birch, holm oak, beech and horse chestnut.

The breakdown of trees is as follows:

- 24 species account for 86% of total tree population
- Over 54% are classified as mature
- 30% are made up of Sycamore, Holly and London Plane
- Tallest tree is London Plane measuring over 25 metre

As is typical of a Victorian park, the perimeter is enclosed by a dense perimeter of shrubs and trees. This important feature helps to enclose the park, and reduces noise and pollution from nearby traffic.

The 85m long herbaceous border runs from the Leeson St. corner to the centre area of the Green. The border is seen by hundreds of thousands of visitors annually as this path is a much used walkway to the city centre. In addition to this border, a scented border is located to the west of the centre area. Spring bulbs also add extra seasonal colour.

1.8.6 Rockery and bog garden

A rockery with alpine plants and original stone from Ballyknocken quarry in Co. Wicklow is located close to the central floral areas. A bog garden makes an interesting addition to the lakeside environment. Both gardens help to provide seasonal and visual interest to the visitor.

1.8.7 Garden for the visually impaired

This feature is located to one side of the formal beds and is beautifully designed with scented plants and textured foliage, the names of which are presented in braille. A

gentle curved bench commemorating Louie Bennett and Helen Chenevix who worked for women's rights, social justice and peace is situated in the garden.



1.8.8 Playground

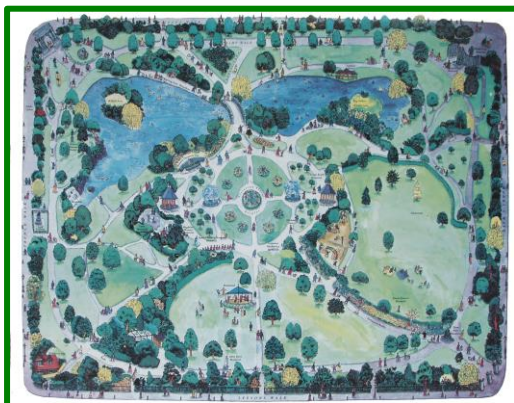
A new playground has been recently installed (2010) replacing an older version. The playground contains three designated age appropriate sections providing a safe, inclusive play environment. The playground meets all the EU Standards for Playground Equipment (EN 1176 and EN 1177) and is inspected daily, weekly and annually to maintain these standards are maintained.

1.8.9 Paths

There is a comprehensive pathway system which traverses the park. The majority are tarmacadam, with the remaining being cobbled and paved paths. The pathways are edged with black, steel foot-rails which are highly characteristic of Victorian parks. However, these once common features are now quite rare in other similar parks and thus their significance in the Green is considered noteworthy.

1.8.10 Signage & furniture

Signage includes interpretive panels with information relating to the park's layout and features and other panels providing opening/closing times and bye-laws. The interpretive panels are located in various locations (entrance and centre areas) in the Green and show a map of the park and its main features.



The first wooden seats appeared as far back as 1753. Now, furniture is plentiful throughout the park and includes two distinct types of park benches. In the central flowerbed area original cast iron Victorian style benches are used. While in the more informal tree/shrub planted areas the traditional metal/wood type are used. There are now approximately 89 benches within the Green allowing for passive enjoyment of the park. In addition, there is a long bench in the garden for the visually impaired.

1.8.11 Park Depot

The depot area is located in the south west corner of the park. It is a restricted area with no public access. It is made up of the modern oak clad office/staff /machinery building, stores and nursery area with glasshouses.

1.8.12 Events

Specific measures continue to ensure that the general public can enjoy the Green as primarily a place of historic serene beauty where passive recreational activities, open to all, enjoy the greatest possible priority. The achievement and realisation of this core objective must have central focus in all management policies. The cooperation of all stakeholders, including the Local Authorities in their traffic management around the Green and planning roles, must be canvassed and harnessed.

Having regard to usage levels, future policy should be framed to provide greater opportunities for sustainable passive recreation by the greatest possible numbers of the public. This would mean that no facilities or grounds would be provided or reserved for organised sports, sporting organisations or other related activities. The scope for commercially organised events in the Green is and must remain very limited. The primary objective must be the conservation of the grounds. Large and medium scale events are not suited to St. Stephen's Green. Only appropriate small events should be confined to the limited areas of the Green where least damage can be done to plantings, structures and archaeological remains. At all times the Green's status as a free amenity for the general public must be to the forefront when proposals for commercial events are being considered.

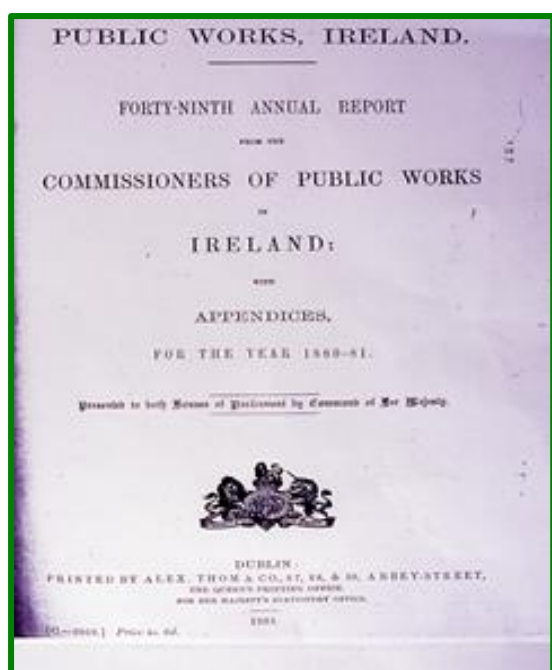


The Green has a range of events throughout the year including such notably events as Tree Week in Spring, Squares Day in Summer and Heritage Week and Tree Day in Autumn. Local schools frequently use the Green as an outdoor classroom. While there is no OPW dedicated guide service, specialised horticultural and historical tours can be accommodated and facilitated by one of the gardeners. External tour operators give guided tours of the Green such as The Little Museum of Dublin. (More details of the range of events is given later in the Community Involvement section.)

1.9 Legal Context

1.9.1 Introduction

The legislation for the maintenance and regulation of St. Stephen's Green Park as a public park is set out in the St. Stephen's Green Act 1877. However, development within the Green is also controlled by other legislation, particularly relating to planning, nature conservation and conservation of the built environment. The management of the Green must also accord with the full range of relevant legislation including that governing building control, health and safety and disability.



1.9.2 Current Governance

Overall responsibility for St. Stephen's Green is shared between the Minister of the Department of Enterprise and Economic Reform (DEPER) and the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Minister of DEPER is responsible for operational policy and manages the Green through the OPW, whilst the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht is responsible for heritage policy, for implementation of

the National Monuments Act and is a prescribed body under planning legislation for developments affecting architectural, and archaeological heritage.

1.9.3 Planning and Development Legislation

Development in and around St. Stephen's Green is subject to the requirements of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2010. Under these Acts, planning permission must be sought from the relevant planning authority (in the case of St. Stephen's Green, Dublin City Council and any proposed development will be assessed against the objectives and policies of the relevant authority's statutory Development Plan. The planning authority's decision can be appealed to An Bord Pleanála by a first party or by any third party who has made a valid submission during the planning process.

In making a Development Plan, planning authorities have extensive powers to designate lands for specific objectives and policies, such as Special Amenity Area Orders, Architectural Conservation Areas, Landscape Conservation Areas, and Tree Preservation Orders in addition to powers for the statutory protection of certain structures and monuments.

Where a proposed development would impact upon the built heritage, the planning authority is obliged to notify a number of prescribed bodies including the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the Heritage Council, An Taisce, the Arts Council and Fáilte Ireland. In relation to natural heritage, the prescribed bodies are the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, The Heritage Council, and An Taisce.

Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 deals with architectural heritage. Statutory guidance on the application of Part IV has been published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in 'Architectural Heritage Protection – guidelines for planning authorities' (2004).

1.9.4 Dublin City Development Plan 2011 - 2017

The Dublin City Development Plan 2011 - 2017 places a land-use zoning objective on St. Stephen's Green as Zone Z9, *"to preserve, provide and improve recreational amenity and open space and green networks"*. It also designates the entire St. Stephen's Green as a Conservation Area (Dublin Development Plan 2011-2017 Map E). The plan states:

"The special value of conservation areas lies in the architectural design and scale of these areas and is of sufficient importance to require special care in dealing with development proposals and works by the private and public sector alike. Dublin City Council will thus seek to ensure that development proposals within all conservation areas complement the character of the area, including the setting of protected structures, and comply with development standards."
(Section 7.2.5.3)

It will be noted that this designation, which is applied to a number of areas within the city, is intended to conserve the architectural heritage. A list of the protected structures within the Green and recorded in Dublin City's plan is given below:

Reference Number	Feature
7751	Railings, gates, and plinth walls of perimeter boundary on St. Stephen's Green
7752	Surrounding bollards and traditional-style lamp-posts
7753	Fountain and horse trough on St. Stephen's Green North, facing Dawson St.
7754	Superintendent's house
7755	Bandstand
7756	Open-sided summer house/pavilion beside ornamental lake
7757	Ornamental granite fountains with florid feature – two in number
7758	Statue of Lord Ardilaun and statue plinth
7759	Statue of Countess Markievicz
7760	Statue of James Clarence Mangan
7761	Robert Emmet memorial (on St. Stephen's Green West)

Figure 3:- Dublin City Development Plan 2011 – 2017, Record of Protected Structures



1.9.5 Strategic Infrastructure

The Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 provides An Bord Pleanála with ‘fast-track’ powers to grant permission for certain infrastructure developments, such as railways and electricity related development, which the Bord deems to be of “*strategic national importance*”.

1.10 Designation

St. Stephen’s Green has been managed as a National Historic Park since it was designated in 1986. This designation was given to highlight the historic elements to the Green but does not confer any legal protection. The whole of St. Stephen’s Green is protected under the National Monuments Acts. St Stephen’s Green was included in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) of County Dublin in the National Monuments Amendment Act of 1994. The inclusion of St. Stephen’s Green (class – a park) within the RMP has important implications for its protection and conservation.

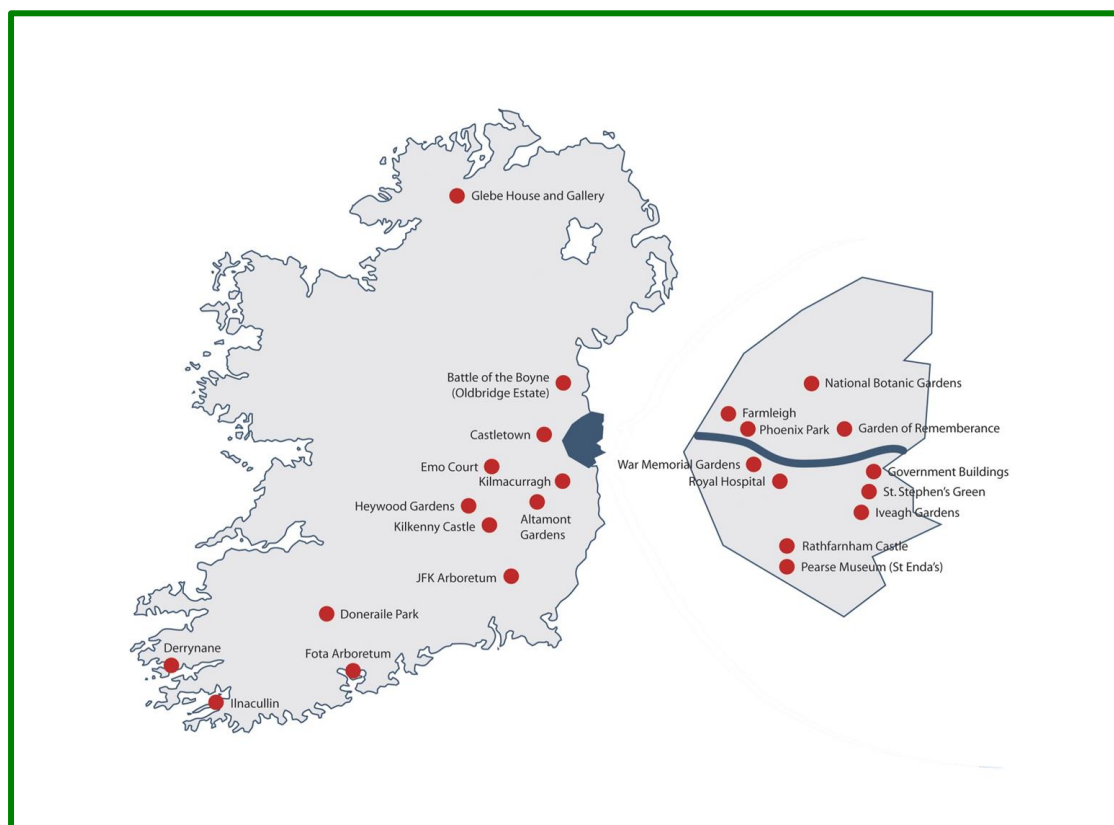


Figure 4:- Designated OPW National Historic Properties

Chapter 2



2. Where are we now?

Chapter 2

2.1 Introduction

Through the delivery of resources, the OPW has made a long term commitment to continuous improvement in the protection, management and presentation of St. Stephen's Green to the public. This chapter describes & reviews the current situation against the Green Flag criteria- identifying and exploring any issues and what the park currently does to address and meet each of the criteria. This chapter examines all aspects of the site and the circumstances in which the services are currently delivered.

2.2 The Green Flag Award

The Green Flag Award scheme is a benchmark international standard that recognises and encourages good standards in the management of parks and green spaces. The scheme was launched in 1996, gave its first award in 1997 and was first piloted in Northern Ireland in 2008. The UK, Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand and Australia take part in the Scheme, with 1370 Green Flags awarded in 2014 for high quality parks and green spaces.

In 2014, Dublin City Council, Fingal County Council & the OPW agreed to pilot the Green Flag Awards scheme in Ireland. Six parks are being put forward for the Award in 2015.

For ease of reference this section of the plan will outline the processes and issues that exist within St. Stephen's Green and what is currently done to address and meet each of the criteria under Green Flag. Each of the criterion is explained at the beginning of each subsection. The criteria are:

- ✓ A Welcoming Place
- ✓ Healthy, Safe and Secure
- ✓ Well maintained and Clean
- ✓ Sustainable
- ✓ Conservation and Heritage
- ✓ Community Involvement
- ✓ Marketing
- ✓ Management



2.3 A Welcoming Place

The OPW wants the overall impression for all users approaching and entering its parks, gardens and designed landscapes to be positive and inviting regardless of the reasons for which they are visiting. The OPW will endeavor to ensure that there is:

- ✓ Good and safe access;
- ✓ Good signage and information for the Green; and
- ✓ Equal access for all members of the community

2.3.1 Welcoming

St. Stephen's Green is a very well known and integral part of the city. The Green is identified on all tourist maps, websites and on the Dublin City Council's signage in the city. As the Green is a National Monument, interventions are not permitted. No maps or signs are affixed to any structure.

There are four main entrances located at each corner of the park, two of which are featured on the Green's Monument's Trails (see later). In addition to the main entrances, there are entrances along each side thus giving many access points to the park. At each main entrance there are interpretive panels (detailed later).

2.3.2 Good and safe access

In total, there are 14 entrances to the park. The park is surrounded by busy roads, which includes the LUAS tramline on the west side. To gain safe access there are traffic lights at each corner and three extra pedestrian crossings along the busy north, south and east sides.



The bye-laws located at the entrances state the opening and closing times. The park is open 7 days per week including Christmas Day (10am-1pm). The Green opens Monday-Saturday for 8am, Sundays and bank holidays for 10am. Closing times are season dependent with decreasing daylight hours. During the Summer the latest closing is 9pm and during the Winter the earliest closing is 4pm.

There is a written procedure in place for the Green's Constable unit controlling the opening and closing of the park. This procedure amongst others is part of the staff Safe Operating Procedures. The procedure also covers the opening and closing of the playground which occurs thirty minutes prior to the main closing time.

The four main entrances are of different designs. The smaller entrances dotted along the sides consist of painted black iron gates. Prior to the 1880 redevelopment, the main entrance was along the west side.

Pathways are mostly tarmac surfaced, with some stretches having paved and cobbled surfaces. They are edged by Victorian black foot-rails. The terrain of the park and the even surfaces allow for easy access to all areas for pedestrians and those with limited ability. They receive spot repair when needed, to maintain standards, for a safe walking environment.

Vehicles allowed into the Green are limited to maintenance vehicles and staff/contractors. Staff and contractors have access to the maintenance compound via the Leeson St. entrance. Hazard lights and a speed limit of 5mps are required upon entry. For occasional large delivery trucks, drivers are requested to give prior notice and if necessary a constable will meet them at the Leeson St. gate and they are then walked to the compound or work location.

2.3.3 Signage

At each corner, there are interpretive panels providing a map of the park, outlining the features to the Green's visitors. A fifth interpretive board is also located in the centre by the bridge where the majority of the public pass by.

There are no directional signs, as it is preferred to keep signage to a minimum in keeping with the style of a Victorian park. Close to the centre flowerbeds is a panel giving information on the various statues and heritage features i.e. the St. Stephen's Green Monument's Trail. This trail is available to download from the website.

The bye-laws are also detailed on a separate panel at each main entrance, including times of opening/closing and other necessary information.

2.3.4 Equal access for all

With a good network of pathways, most of the park's facilities are accessible to all. The bandstand due to its original Victorian design with steps, and Yeats' Memorial have restricted access.

The playground is enclosed and designed with the intended end user very much in mind thus making it very user friendly and accessible for the young. The brief for the playground design included universal access. A number of the playground features include inclusive play elements such as the 'nest swing'.

2.3.5 ‘Something for everyone’

There are no facilities for active sports as they would be inappropriate for a park of this type. However, passive recreation is encouraged and catered for in St. Stephen’s Green and to summarise what the Green offers the visitor includes:

- ✓ Clean, well maintained park in the middle of a city
- ✓ Historic property open to all on a daily basis
- ✓ Playground
- ✓ Heritage features, statues, buildings and park furniture
- ✓ Trees, shrubs and flower beds and borders
- ✓ Water features
- ✓ Wildlife
- ✓ Cultural events/lunchtime concerts



2.4 Healthy, Safe and Secure

Public safety is a major concern for the staff and management of St. Stephen’s Green. To achieve this, close working partnerships have developed between the Green’s staff and management with external agencies e.g. ROSPA, Gardai and the State Claims Agency. Similarly under the provision of the Safety, Health and Welfare Act 2005 and the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007, the Park’s management have a duty to ensure that their employees and contractors

also have a safe, healthy and secure working environment. Specific measures are continually been developed, reviewed and monitored to ensure that St. Stephen's Green is at all times a healthy, safe and secure place for the visitor to spend time in. The following section describes how St. Stephen's Green endeavours to provide:

- ✓ Safe equipment and facilities
- ✓ A secure place for the community to use and traverse
- ✓ A park free from dog fouling
- ✓ Appropriate facilities that are comfortable and safe
- ✓ Quality facilities

2.4.1 Safe equipment & facilities

Equipment while not in use is stored in the maintenance depot on the west side. All machinery is serviced on a yearly basis. At other times, if a piece of equipment breaks down, it is immediately reported, tagged and removed from service for repairs. Only trained staff can operate equipment.

Under the provisions of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 and the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007, the park's management is required to have a safety statement, risk assessments covering all activities and safe operating procedures for all staff. These are in place for the park and are regularly updated. There is a designated safety representative and regular safety meetings with representatives of all grades of staff takes place and are minuted.

Management and staff at St. Stephen's Green have a set of policies, bye-laws and procedures helping them to create a safer, better and healthier environment for the worker and visitor alike. Gardening and maintenance staff have Safe Pass and other appropriate training. The bye-laws are placed at all main entrances. As stated earlier, deliveries where possible are restricted to early mornings via the Leeson St. gate and vehicles should have their hazard lights on while in the park.

The play area was completely re-developed in 2010 and was designed and constructed to comply with EU standards (European Standards for Playground Equipment EN 1176 and EN 1177). The playground is surveyed annually by an independent inspector through the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA). This enables the Green to maintain the high standards for safety. The constables check the playground on a daily basis and complete daily inspection sheets for which they have been trained. Similar to the main park, at the entrance gate to the playground there is a notice displaying rules and regulations along with opening and closing times and a contact phone number for a constable in the case of an emergency. The OPW have in place a comprehensive Child Protection Policy.



The only CCTV in the Green is located in the maintenance depot. There are no public phones as there are sufficient numbers in the surrounding areas. The park is closed and locked at night. The only outdoor light provided is in the depot area and there is good lighting on the external perimeter footpaths.

The security of lone workers in the park is supplied by the issuing of walkie-talkies to constables at all times and to gardeners when they are working in isolated areas (e.g. in the shrubberies).

No toilets are provided for the public as there are numerous toilets in the immediate area.

2.4.2 Personal security in park

The role of security and general supervision of activities in the park falls with the constable unit. The developed and implemented Safe Operating Procedures provides the constable unit with detailed guidelines on how to cover and manage a large range of issues and daily/weekly duties. The duties of a constable include:

- ✓ Monitor park
- ✓ Opening/closing of park
- ✓ Bell ringing duties
- ✓ Locking up (first locking and final locking covering minor and main gates)
- ✓ Lost and found
- ✓ Dealing with sharp objects
- ✓ Working with minors
- ✓ Daily inspection report for playground
- ✓ Interaction with members of the public
- ✓ Monitoring events
- ✓ Monitoring filming/photoshoots
- ✓ Implement high winds and storms guidelines

- ✓ Guidelines for dogs, dog fouling and their owners
- ✓ Emergencies, fires and other incidents
- ✓ Lost children



Constables will also have regular contact with the Gardaí. Constables patrol the park during opening hours. Likewise the Gardaí will regularly patrol the park either by footpatrol, mounted units, bicycle or vehicle. These measures help provide a safe and secure environment for all users. The safety of visitors is a priority for management and the OPW is a member of the Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group (vscg.co.uk).

While the park itself does not have its own insurance to cover public liability, if there is a situation warranting compensation, this will be processed through the State Claims Agency and the Courts.

2.4.3 Dog fouling

A Code of Conduct for Dog Owners has recently been introduced for the Green and other OPW National Historic Properties in the Dublin region. It has recently been developed and completed following a period of public consultation. As mentioned it covers not only dog fouling but also other issues (e.g. dogs and wildlife on OPW sites and details areas where dogs are permitted or where they should be on leads). The Constables regularly interact with dog owners and walkers in St. Stephen's Green. Bins on site accept general litter and dog waste and this is clearly stated on the bins. The OPW and the Dublin Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals signed an agreement on the 7th March 2015 supporting the OPW's Dog Policy in St Stephens Green.

2.4.4 Appropriate provision of facilities

Given its location, it is used by people working in the area on lunch breaks and families using the playground. Many people have grown up with the tradition of feeding the ducks in the Green or by shoppers needing a break from the hustle and bustle of the nearby Stephen's Green Centre and Grafton St. shopping areas.

Normal park facilities such as toilets and tea-rooms are well provided for in the surrounding areas. Otherwise visitor comfort and safety are well catered for by having excellent procedures and policies in place, implemented and enforced by the Green's staff and management.

2.4.5 Quality of facilities

The Constables also have the responsibility of bringing to the attention of management, any issue or damage to any feature (e.g. a broken bench). The maintenance department will then be contacted. With the help of the OPW Architectural Services section and the maintenance unit such features are restored. New or replacement facilities (e.g. playground) are designed to the best standards available and follow best practice principals.

2.5 Clean & Well Maintained

Earlier in this report, the vast array of features in this historic property have been identified and described. Given the conservation responsibilities of the OPW for this site, the continued and growing use and popularity of this much loved park, the on-going natural wear and tear through use and the climate to the various features, the staff and management have detailed practices (e.g. Safe Operating Procedures or Yearly Work Programme) to maintain this park in a manner befitting a National Historic Property and a park in the heart of Ireland's capital visited by in excess of 8 million people on a yearly basis.

To achieve and maintain the high standards of park maintenance a 'Yearly Work Programme' (Appendix 3) has been developed. This programme which allows some flexibility provides a framework for the ongoing monitoring and maintenance required i.e.:

- ✓ Manage litter & waste
- ✓ Maintain the grounds to a high standard using horticultural practices
- ✓ Maintain buildings and infrastructure, including dealing with graffiti
- ✓ Maintain equipment in a safe and working condition

2.5.1 Litter & waste management

Given the large number of people using the park, litter & waste management is essential to maintain the Green's high standards, and its pleasant and inviting atmosphere. There are guidelines for dealing with emptying of the 46 bins located throughout the park. These accept general waste and dog waste. This is clearly stated on each bin. It is the responsibility of the general operatives to clean the park and they empty bins first thing every morning. Bins are emptied again after lunchtime. Depending on the season one person can complete this during quiet times. Otherwise 4-5 people are required during busy (often good weather periods) when in excess of thirty to forty thousand could use the Green in a single day. A sharps policy is in place.

One general operative is designated the 'litter warden' and works five over seven days enabling weekend cover. All litter is brought back to the maintenance yard and skipped. The recycling of waste was researched but it was decided not to proceed due to the cross contamination of waste making it unsuitable for recycling.

The exterior paths surrounding the park up to the granite bollards are cleaned as part of normal duties. While general litter is not recycled, garden waste i.e. wood, branches, leaves and grass are recycled.

2.5.2 Ground maintenance & horticulture

Grass areas are cut weekly to maintain a high level of neatness expected for St. Stephen's Green. The central, formal areas are cut every Friday morning and in this area grass clippings are collected. In other areas, grass is cut using a Kubota mower over five mornings during the week. The Kubota mower allows for a side discharge and the clippings are allowed to naturally decompose. Edging is done when it is considered necessary, approximately twice per year.



The shrub area comprises a mix of evergreen and deciduous species including privet, cherry laurel, holly, lilac and viburnum. There is an on-going programme ensuring that plant health, cover and vigour is maintained. The shrub areas are pruned back on a phased basis. The perimeter areas are pruned in such a way as to maintain the vital screening/anti-noise/pollution control they offer the park and its users. The park side (or interior side) is completed first, after which, it is allowed to regenerate. Following this, the railing side is pruned. The shrub areas in the more central areas are more evenly pruned back at the same time.

The Jekyll style herbaceous border, is a welcome feature comprising a variety of colour, shape, textural and seasonal interest. It stretches along the path from the

Leeson St. entrance towards the centre. In 2012, it was completely re-designed and re-planted. General maintenance is carried out during the year, cutting back, staking, and division of over grown crowns. Every year it receives well-rotted manure from Dublin Zoo. During 2013/2014, a few minor alterations/additions have taken place. It is hoped that by 2015 the border will be in full cover, providing a long season of colour and interest. If a plant can offer architectural or unusual seed heads for winter interest it is retained and not cut back.

Trees play a vital role in the park's layout and add to people's enjoyment and well-being, as well as helping the OPW and indeed Ireland, contribute to national environmental policies. However, we recognize that while trees provide us with many benefits, they are living organisms with a potential to cause harm and damage. The OPW prepared a 'Tree Safety Management' policy in 2014 for National Historic Properties countrywide. This includes the benefits of trees, potential risks trees can pose, surveying trees (how and when), deciding on the level of risk, site zoning and the hiring of professional tree surgeons through a detailed tender process, should they be required.

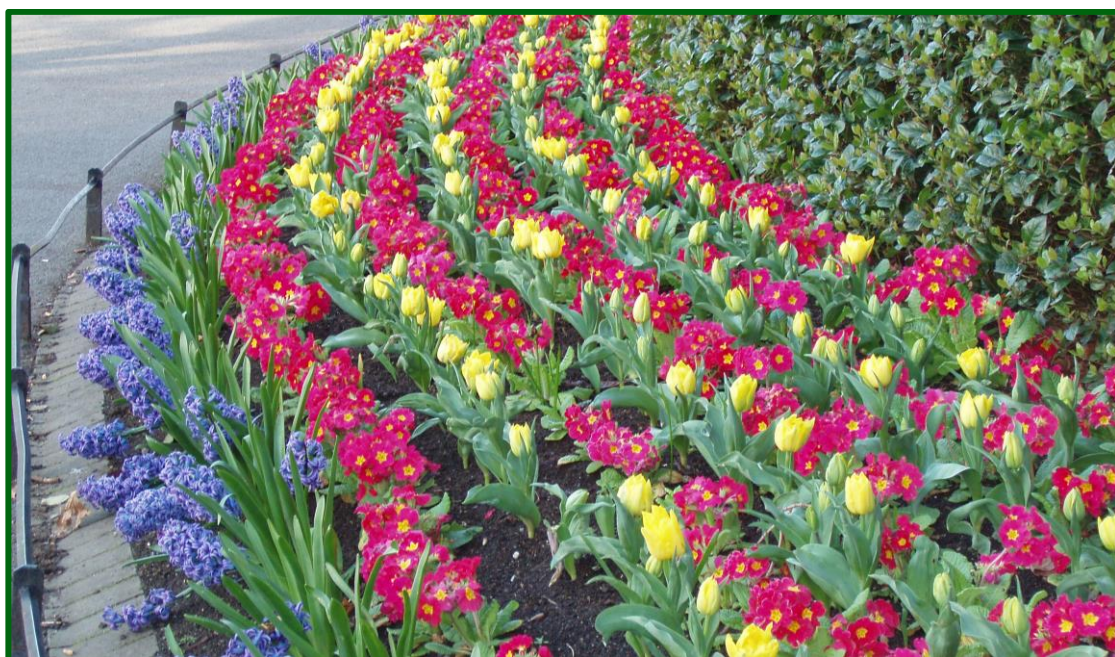


There are 719 surveyed trees in St. Stephen's Green with a dbh (a measure of the tree's diameter taken at 1.5m from the ground) greater than 150mm. All are surveyed yearly and have been tagged and identified on a GPS plan. It has been identified that because of the high number of mature trees, it is becoming difficult to locate an area to plant new trees. Tree surgeons are frequently asked to open up the tree canopy or to create a 'tunnel' in the canopy giving new trees space and light to grow and that will serve as future replacement specimens.

The OPW recognise the increasing threat of damage or harm to people or buildings caused by trees or branches falling during high winds. With this in mind, the OPW have developed and put in place a 'Checklist for Managing Access in High Winds &

Storms' to deal with foreseeable emergencies that may occur in windy or stormy conditions.

The formal flowerbeds, designed by gardening staff are planted twice a year with seasonal bedding following the Victorian bedding style. Beds are edged and hoed on a regular basis. The centre beds require a high level of labour to maintain the horticultural standards of excellence associated with St. Stephen's Green. This maintains a clean soil bed, allowing the bedding plants to be prominent as designed and planned. Horticultural students are generally taken on for work experience and they assist in the summer maintenance workload. Once a year the lawns in the formal areas are scarified and sprayed for weeds if necessary.



As much as possible, bedding is grown on site from plugs. Some are grown from seed. However with limited space, some bedding is contract grown (e.g. the wallflowers). Peat is used as a growing medium. This year (2015), we aim to reduce the amount used by 10% by adding a bark mulch mix. No peat is added to the beds on site. Instead, leaf mould is used and sand is added for soil aeration.

The lake, fed from the nearby Grand Canal, enters the Green on the west side and flows over the waterfall. The water level is controlled by a valve. During March/April, the water level is sufficiently lowered to allow decaying leaf litter and general litter to be removed by using a JCB front bucket. In particular, the Grafton St. end and the Wolfe Tone statue end suffers most from litter. The lake, as much as resources allow, is thoroughly cleaned approximately every 10 - 15 years. It involves not only emptying the lake but also the transferring of fish which can be a task in itself. The last time the lake was completely cleaned pike, perch and roach of considerable size were found. However, in order to protect them, they had to be caught and transferred from one side of the lake to the other.



The fountains are also maintained and cleaned on a regular basis. Coins or 'donations' are collected and given to a nominated charity. All the fountains are mains fed. The heads tend to get dirty with litter/rubbish. To keep the fountains clean, they are emptied and cleaned when necessary, usually twice per season.

2.5.3 Building & infrastructure maintenance

The Constable unit are responsible for monitoring the park's infrastructure, i.e. furniture, buildings, signage/interpretive panels, playground on a day-to-day basis. The maintenance department and the district OPW Architects' Office, undertake the conservation and repair work. In very recent years, the Superintendents Lodge, Summer House and the two Swiss Chalets have received funding for conservation to the fabric of the buildings. The bandstand received similar funding and underwent repair work in late 2014. In addition, gardeners and general operatives will support the on going monitoring of buildings and infrastructure. When an issue arises, it is reported to management, passed onto the building maintenance unit and dealt with as quickly as resources permit.

Park staff will promptly deal with graffiti by using a power water washer. This quick response has been very useful in keeping this anti-social behaviour in check. The constables have procedures enabling them to deal with any anti-social behaviour in their Safe Operating Procedures.

Footpaths are kept clean. In particular, during the September-December period, leaf blowers are used to blow leaves to minimize the risks of slippery areas. These leaves are collected and composted at a nearby park.

The majority of the gates and railings were repaired during the 1990s and thus are currently in good condition. The Victorian footpaths in general are in good condition. However, some short stretches are in need of repair and repainting (see Action Plan).

The playground is inspected and cleaned on a daily basis thus helping to maintain its high standard for park users. Supporting the on-going maintenance, the park has

developed a daily inspection form for the playground. This is part of the Safe Operating Procedures.

2.5.4 Equipment maintenance

All machinery and equipment is serviced on an annual basis. At any other time, when an issue arises the item is tagged and removed from service. Repairs are usually undertaken.

2.6 Sustainability

It is now generally recognised that the way we have been living and developing our economies, has negatively impacted on our natural environment. Worldwide we are witnessing loss of biodiversity, increasing levels of pollution and climate change impacts amongst other issues. Over the last 20-25 years, there has been a strong movement towards identifying and implementing a more sustainable way of living and working. This has been encouraged and led by various EU and national policies and legislation.

With this in mind, management and staff of St Stephen's Green have implemented policies and practices in order to facilitate St. Stephen's Green play its role in becoming more sustainable and environmentally friendly. This section will show how St. Stephen's Green will endeavour to:

- ✓ Be more environmentally sustainable
- ✓ Reduce and justify its pesticide use
- ✓ Reduce peat use
- ✓ Continue best practice in arboriculture & woodland management
- ✓ Conserve natural resources

2.6.1 Environmental sustainability

While St. Stephen's Green Park does not have an environmental policy documented, many of the on-going practices and procedures are firmly rooted in environmental best practices which has helped the Green be more sustainable.

2.6.2 Pesticide use

The EU 2009/128/EC Directive or the Sustainable Use Directive was transposed into Irish law in 2012. It requires members of the Community to reduce the use of pesticides (including herbicides) and those used should be used in a more sustainable manner. The Directive also requires member states to develop and implement a National Plan enabling the private and public sector to comply with the various rules. In 2013 the Department of Agriculture published the '*National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides*'. The Directive also covers herbicides. The Department of Agriculture states what chemicals may be used. The OPW is working with NUI Galway with regard to new policies and risk assessments. The Service Manager for the Green is representing the parks section on the working group.

The use of herbicides is generally kept to a minimum and is only used where absolutely necessary. Organic methods of weed control are used to help reduce chemical use e.g. hand weeding and hoeing. Currently, a small number of chemicals are used on site. Once a year, daisies are treated in the grass areas only in the centre area. A controlled droplet applicator (or CDA) is used to apply herbicides rather than lance application. This is a safer method from a staff and public perspective and more environmentally friendly. The well maintained shrub area helps suppress weed growth thus reducing the need for herbicides. Mulch is also applied to shrubberies.

2.6.3 Peat use

In the past, there had been a 100% dependence on peat, as a growing medium for the park's bedding plants. However, there is a commitment to reduce this. A pilot project is currently underway where a bark mulch mix is being substituted for 10% of the peat. This will be monitored for plant vigour and if successful will be adopted in all bedding schemes.

2.6.4 Waste minimisation

Approximately 90% of grass clippings are allowed to naturally decompose in grassed areas. Leaves collected in the autumn/winter season are recycled in other OPW sites. In the past horse manure was obtained from Dublin based horse stables. However this became an unreliable source. In recent years, animal manure is obtained from Dublin Zoo.

Tree waste from maintenance work is composted on site. Tree contractors will frequently deliver their own tree waste to the park supplementing mulching material available for the park. In addition, at the end of the season bedding and bulbs are distributed to the public free of charge.

In the office, recycling also takes place (e.g. paper is shredded and is taken for recycling).

2.6.5 Arboriculture & woodland management

A high level of arboricultural standards is in place to ensure the historic integrity and visual amenity of St. Stephen's Green. The Tree Safety Management Policy promotes best arboricultural practices to be executed on site.

2.6.6 Resource conservation

Water is collected from the nearby canal to irrigate the flowerbeds during dry periods. Rainwater harvesting occurs in the nursery area and supplements glasshouse irrigation needs.

There is no lighting in the park (except in the depot area and along external paths) as it closes at 4pm during the winter and 9pm during summer months. The depot while not open to the public, has double-glazed windows and is designed with natural oak cladding to blend naturally with its surrounding environment.

2.7 Conservation & Heritage

Since the time this area was a marshy area of common ground used for livestock grazing, St. Stephen's Green has had 3 main phases in its development. The original enclosure took place in 1664 and measured 27 acres and had a boundary wall. Lines of trees were planted around the periphery providing privacy and shelter.

The second phase took place in 1815 after the park fell into a poor state of repair. The City Surveyor, Arthur Neville introduced a series of serpentine walks, namely the Beaux Walk, Monk's Walk, Leeson's Walk and French Walk and iron railings replaced the wall. During the 1860s, a movement began to re-open the park to the public. The City Engineer of the time, W.G. Hemans drew up a plan proposing a new large entrance at Dawson St, on the north side, broad avenues with flower beds and four main entrances at either corner to allow for easy crossing of the park. The four entrances would also link up with the named walks. However his plan was not realised but it can be seen that some of his ideas were implemented during the Victorian period of Sheppard's and Sir Ardilaun's time i.e. during the years of 1887-1880. It was at this stage that fountains and the formal flowerbeds were introduced in the central area. In addition, the lake, the Pulham rockwork with waterfall and bridge, the two Swiss shelters and Superintendent's lodge were added.

Guided and supported by various legislative and policy tools, (e.g. National Monuments Act and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000), St. Stephen's Green has in the past and will continue to prioritise the conservation of its many natural and built heritage features. This will be facilitated by the ongoing implementation of existing plans supported by surveys and reports for such features and the development of new plans, again supported by similar documentations (see Action Plan 2015-2020). With this in mind the staff and management will endeavour to:

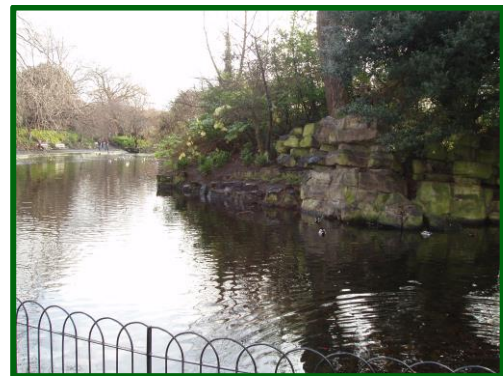
- ✓ Conserve and provide appropriate management for the natural features, wildlife and flora in the Green,
- ✓ Conserve and provide appropriate management for the landscape features,
- ✓ Conserve and provide appropriate management for the buildings and structural features

2.7.1 Conservation of natural features, wild fauna & flora

Within the 22-acre park, St. Stephen's Green has a number of different habitats. These were reviewed using Fossitt's 'A Guide To Habitats In Ireland'. The following habitats were identified:

- FL8 - Other artificial lakes and ponds. As stated above, the lake is an artificial lake and fed from the nearby Grand Canal. A range of birds (black headed gull, mute swan & mallard) and fish (e.g. perch & roach) are known to use it. BirdWatch Ireland completed a bird survey and a report can be found on the St. Stephen's Green website,

- GA2 - Amenity grassland (improved). This covers the areas of grass in the more open areas, for example, by the formal flowerbeds.
- WD5 - Scattered trees and parkland. Large sections of grass occur where trees are a major feature. These areas are heavily used by visitors especially during good weather but are equally important for nesting and foraging birds (e.g. thrushes, blackbirds, tits). The plant mix includes native and non-native species (e.g. sycamore, oak, holly, and London plane),
- WL1 - Hedgerows. Within the park there are some lengths of hedgerow (e.g. a beech hedge at the back of the herbaceous border running roughly in a northwest/southeast direction). These areas often provide shelter for birds, small mammals and invertebrates (wrens, beetles, mice),
- BC4 - Flower beds and borders. The main formal flowerbeds in the centre, herbaceous border in the southeast area and scented border, west of the central beds are covered by this category. These are valuable areas for pollinating insects especially bees and butterflies in an otherwise heavily built up area,
- BL1 - Stonewalls and other stone work. The rockery and the Pulham rockwork are covered in this category. While manmade, stonewalls and similar structures can provide important habitats for invertebrates, small birds, mosses and lichens especially in older features,
- BL3 - Buildings and artificial surfaces. The various buildings, maintenance depot, gate lodge and other built structures including the pathways are placed in this category.



In 2012, a bird survey was undertaken. An excellent range of birds including tits, blackbirds and thrushes were found to be using the various habitats within the Green. Five species having conservation concern, namely three species of gulls, mute swan and tufted duck were found. Work to trees and shrubs are programmed to avoid nesting seasons in compliance with the Wildlife Act.

During the planning stages of the LUAS tram line and Metro underground works, a bat survey was conducted. However, no species were recorded. There is anecdotal

evidence of city foxes using the Green, possibly taking advantage of leftover food. A mammal survey is planned to take place over the term of this plan.

The ornamental flower and shrub beds are maintained and covered by the Works Programme. The beds are maintained in keeping with the Victorian bedding style.

Trees are acknowledged as important features of the Green. The Tree Safety Management policy is in place to protect and ensure they reach their full potential and at the same time minimise the risk to park users or other heritage features. A full tree survey has been completed and each tree is identified and tagged. A number of trees are labelled with both their Latin and Common name.

2.7.2 Conservation of landscape features

Landscape features include:

- Trees which are covered under the OPW's Tree Safety Management Policy
- The lake and Pulham Rockwork,
- Vistas and views,
- Overall historical landscape design,
- The underlying rock is made up of Lower Carboniferous limestone.

To continue and improve the appropriate management, various actions have been identified and included in the 2015-2020 Action Plan (See Chapter 4)

2.7.3 Conservation of buildings & structures

This plan has mentioned recent conservation work to a number of the historic buildings of the Green. A five yearly management survey takes place covering the buildings and structural features. On a daily basis as part of their duties, the Constables monitor these structures. This routine helps to feed into the appropriate management of the buildings and structures. To cover the above and indeed the other landscape features mentioned above, the preparation of a landscape plan has been identified as an action. A cultural heritage assets inventory is currently underway for the Green.

2.8 Community Involvement

Going as far back as the early 17th Century, there is evidence that the Green has been used by the citizens of Dublin and further afield. While cattle are no longer grazed as they were in the early days, the Green remains a vital community resource. Indeed it was in 1635 when the City Assembly passed an ordinance stating:

“That no parcel of St. Stephen’s Greene shall henceforth be lett, but wholie kepte for the use of the citizens and others to walke and take the open aire, by reason this cittie is at present groweing very populous”.

Informal discussion between the management and staff of the Green with the local community provides a platform where needs, wishes and issues are identified,

discussed and resolved. Achieving an appropriate balance between the conservation needs of a historic property and delivering the desired community activities and events is vital.

The staff and management will endeavour to

- ✓ Facilitate appropriate community involvement
- ✓ Continue to provide facilities and events that are inclusive and appropriate for the community and the Green

2.8.1 Community involvement in management & development

One of the roles of the Constables is to proactively interact with members of the public. This is a helpful method in receiving feedback and the raising of issues affecting users of the park. The Constables will conduct visitor surveys on a yearly basis (see Action Plan). During the development of the dog fouling policy, a period of public consultation occurred.

2.8.2 Appropriate provision for community

Given its central location, St. Stephen's Green is an extensively used park with over eight million visitors recorded (using a 'click & count' method) in 2009. Visitors range from those who simply cross the park from Leeson St. to Grafton St. on their way to work or home, to those who partake in the various events held during the year. Some of the groups of the community known to use the park (but not limited to) include:

- ✓ Local community
- ✓ 'Bench Watching'- those who enjoy watching the world go by from a park bench
- ✓ Family groups using the Green's amenities & playground
- ✓ Office workers using it for their lunch time break
- ✓ Shoppers en route to the Grafton St. areas
- ✓ Individuals using it as an area for exercise (walking) and for health & well-being purposes (yoga)
- ✓ School groups – nature/ecology/history
- ✓ Artists & art group exhibitions
- ✓ Tourists visiting a heritage site
- ✓ Wedding couples from the nearby churches for wedding photos
- ✓ Commercial photo-shoots and filming
- ✓ Photo-shoots relating to press releases including those associated with the nearby government departments



In addition to its informal use, St. Stephen's Green has regular annual events including events in partnership with other organisations. These include:

- ✓ Music in the bandstand, including many visiting brass bands
- ✓ 'Art on the railing' events. Artists are invited to display and sell their work on the railings.
- ✓ 'Open Day' for family groups with face painting and nature craft type activities and other appropriate activities relating to the natural environment.
- ✓ 'Squares Day' in association with the Dublin Civic Trust. This takes place in unison with other parks e.g. Mountjoy Square and other similar Victorian squares
- ✓ Tree Day is held in October, an initiative of The Tree Council of Ireland.
- ✓ National Tree Week, also a Tree Council initiative in March
- ✓ Heritage Day in association with the Heritage Council
- ✓ Fitness classes

2.9 Marketing

Over 1.6 million overseas visitors to Ireland visit gardens. Many of these visitors visit or pass through the Green. Over its long history, management have developed and implemented policies and procedures to enhance and improve the quality and enjoyment experienced by members of the public. The management and staff will endeavour to:

- ✓ Provide effective promotion of the Green as a community resource and all its events
- ✓ Provide quality information to users in a sustainable manner

2.9.1 Marketing & promotion

Historic parks and gardens will be promoted at a corporate level as ‘ a destination that provides a cultural and heritage tourism offering’. The OPW is currently working on the development of an overarching marketing and promotion strategy. This will help maximise OPW assets and to increase our offering, as a tourist destination for the city. The key target audiences for St. Stephen’s Green are local residents, commuters, visitors from outside the immediate area and tourists.

Overall corporate promotion has improved. However, there are some opportunities to promote the Green that are currently being missed such as highlighting our Tree Management Policy, green maintenance initiatives, recycling of bulbs and bedding plants etc.

St. Stephen’s Green promotes itself through the various initiatives and joint ventures:

- ✓ Squares Day, with Dublin Civic Trust
- ✓ The two tree themed events with the Tree Council of Ireland
- ✓ Various other cultural events for example the Gaiety Theatre School of Acting and family events
- ✓ Shakespearean plays organised by Trinity College Drama Department

In addition, up-coming events are advertised using posters in stands, located beside interpretive panels in the park. With the new increased online presence (website, social networking accounts), St. Stephen’s Green will have more avenues to help promote itself as a community resource and advertise its various events while at the same time increasing peoples’ awareness and indeed valuing its offerings.

2.9.2 Provision of appropriate information

There are various products providing further information about St. Stephen’s Green including:

- ✓ Interpretive panels located in the park,
- ✓ OPW Leaflet on St. Stephen’s Green is available on pre-arranged guided tours, through the park office and the local tourist office
- ✓ Heritage Ireland website, which gives basic visitor information on its heritage sites,
- ✓ OPW website gives more information about the work and responsibilities of the government agency,
- ✓ St. Stephen’s Green Website (launched March 2015),
- ✓ Social networking; Facebook and Twitter accounts to be going live in tandem with the new website,
- ✓ Various reports and documents will be available on the Green’s website (e.g. Tree survey, Bird survey),
- ✓ Guided tours – while there is no guides service available, specialised tours may be accommodated if booked in advance,
- ✓ Public consultation forums – for example members of the public were invited to comment on the recently developed Code of Conduct for Dog Owners,

- ✓ The constables and gardeners interact with the public on a daily basis giving information on the Green's activities

2.9.3 Provision of appropriate educational information

The role of St. Stephen's Green as an important educational resource has been recognised and is used as such. With this in mind the new website will have a specific educational section. A trail focusing on the rich heritage features of the park has already been developed and has been in use to help visitors and children engage with this aspect of the park. There are plans (see Action Plan) to develop further educational resources for school groups.

Local schools frequently use the park as an '*outdoor classroom*'. The local schools are invited in for the tree events listed above. Management and staff engage with students at all levels, in various project and schoolwork, covering horticulture, heritage and architecture.

2.10 Management

2.10.1 Implementation of management plan

The overall high standard of management and maintenance of the park, that currently exists, is critical to its success. The Conservation Management Plan 2015 – 2020 is linked to the corporate and departmental business plans and objectives, and addresses the range of issues that affect the Green, its users and stakeholders. The plan will be subject to consultation and reviewed, published and implemented during 2015.



Chapter 3



3. Where do we want to get to?

Chapter 3

3.1 Introduction

The objective of the Conservation Management Plan is to identify and understand the ‘significance’ of St. Stephens Green, its historical stature and its special place in the culture and literature of the City and Nation. This chapter will examine how the Green should be presented today in light of its historical and cultural perspective. Site objectives have been developed in order to improve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the Green.

3.2 Vision & Objectives for the 21st Century

The long-term vision for St. Stephen’s Green combines its protection, conservation and, where appropriate, restoration as an important and unique historic landscape with the facilitation of appropriate access and use.

The achievement of this vision requires a greater awareness and appreciation of the key qualities of the Green, especially its historic landscape character, together with the provision of adequate resources. For residents of Dublin and visitors to the city, the Green will continue to be an extremely valuable recreational amenity and an area of tranquility in the busy city centre, as well as an educational and research resource. The Green will therefore continue to be a place where people go to experience heritage, culture and nature.

In light of the above, the overall **Vision** for St. Stephen’s Green Park is:

‘To protect and conserve the historic landscape character of St. Stephen’s Green, its sense of tranquility and its natural, built and cultural heritage while at the same time facilitating and promoting visitor access, education and interpretation. This shall be achieved by following sustainable practices, using both our own resources and those of the planet wisely with due regard for future generations’

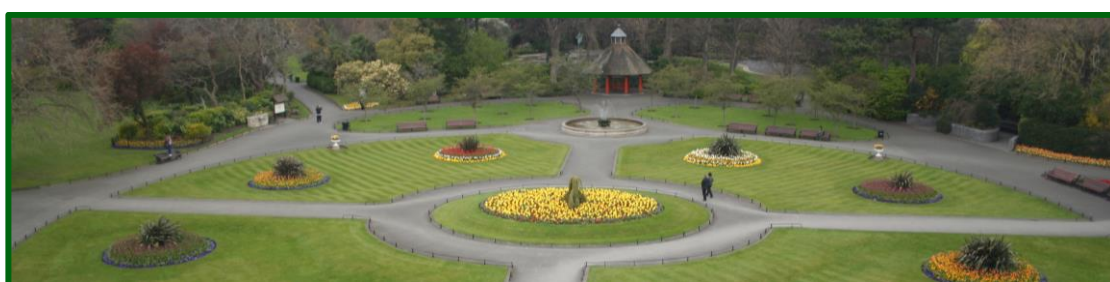
The following are the strategic objectives guiding the conservation and management of St. Stephen’s Green Park for the 21st century:

1. To protect and conserve the historic landscape character of St. Stephen’s Green Park,
2. To protect the historic setting of St. Stephen’s Green and conserve its archaeological and architectural heritage,

3. To achieve a high quality Park that is nationally recognised for its quality and attractiveness,
4. To conserve the plant and animal species along with their habitats while improving biodiversity,
5. To promote the central role that the Green plays in contributing to the city's health & well being,
6. To facilitate an appropriate mix of recreational use, that maximises visitor enjoyment and protects the landscape and infrastructure of the Green,
7. To present St. Stephen's Green to best advantage ensuring that its potential to promote tourism is maximised and that visitor understanding and education is enhanced,
8. To adopt a sustainable approach in the conservation and management of the Green with an emphasis on standards of excellence in all areas of work,
9. To preserve the peace and tranquility of the Green,
10. To liaise and consult with interested and relevant parties, organisations and community groups in the achievement of the above objectives,
11. To secure the necessary resources to achieve the above.

3.3 Landscape

The overall objective in respect of the landscape of St. Stephen's Green and its important landscape setting is to ensure its continuing protection and conservation and as appropriate, its restoration and enhancement as a place for public recreation and appreciation of designed landscapes and historic gardens.



Specific objectives include:

- ✓ To encourage the planning authorities to have regard to the landscape setting of the Green, including its perimeter footpath,
- ✓ To ensure that trees and plantations continue to thrive in the Green, using species that are appropriate to the setting and soil conditions. Such features are fundamental in creating the landscape character by defining spaces and in directing views within the Green. Sustaining the current balance between open space and plantations is essential to the landscape character. The form, structure and species diversity and character of plantations will be conserved and new plantations established by sensitive management including felling, remedial work and appropriate replanting,
- ✓ To conserve the existing topography of the Green which is integral to the character and quality of the designed landscape and to ensure that if changes to landform are required these reflect and enhance the historic landscape,
- ✓ To conserve and enhance buildings, structures and works of art that form focal points for views in the Green and give a special sense of place and, where appropriate to the setting, to reinstate those that have been removed,
- ✓ To ensure that, where any new features, services and amenities in the Green are required, it is essential that they are appropriate and sensitive to the historic character of the Green,
- ✓ To continue to develop educational materials on the historical and designed landscape of the Green.

3.4 Nature and Biodiversity

The overall objective is to secure and sustain the biodiversity value of St. Stephen's Green into the future, to protect key habitats and species, enhance their status and recreate valuable wildlife habitats where appropriate to increase the biodiversity value of the Green and its habitats.

Specific objectives for biodiversity include:

- ✓ To continue to adopt management measures sensitive to biodiversity, to identify areas where such measures would have precedence and to develop action plans to maximise biodiversity,
- ✓ To raise awareness of biodiversity,
- ✓ To protect and enhance the condition of rare and important species of flora and fauna,
- ✓ To continue research and development and monitoring on all aspects of biodiversity, in order to support the decision making process in management practices for the overall enhancement of biodiversity,

3.5 Archaeology, Architecture & Built Heritage

The overall objective in respect of the architectural and archaeological heritage of St. Stephen's Green is to ensure its on-going protection and conservation.

Specific objectives include the following:

- ✓ To record a comprehensive inventory/audit, with periodic reviews, of the full extent of the archaeological, architectural, engineering and artistic heritage of St. Stephen's Green, including buildings, monuments, other structures and artefacts, details such as ironwork, gardens, etc.,
- ✓ To identify infrastructure and artefacts (including street furniture, fences, railings, etc.) that are inappropriate to the setting of St. Stephen's Green and to seek for replacement with more appropriate forms,
- ✓ To encourage and facilitate further studies of the archaeological, architectural, cultural and artistic heritage (including excavations, where appropriate) and to promote a better understanding of the importance and significance of this heritage,
- ✓ To promote and facilitate high standards of conservation, architectural design, construction and craftsmanship in all developments within the Green,
- ✓ To ensure that the DoEHLG Guidelines for Protection of Architectural Heritage be adopted as best practice for all works in the Green,
- ✓ To maintain the current lighting levels within the Green so as to minimise levels of light pollution.



3.6 Access & Public Use

The Green consists of 22 acres, the majority of which is directly accessible to the public for passive recreation. The Green offers a wide variety of visitor experiences including landscape, social and cultural history, architecture, nature and biodiversity as outlined in previous sections.

Specific objectives relating to access and public use include the following:

- ✓ The overall objective is to provide a world-class visitor experience within the setting of a National Historic Park,
- ✓ To facilitate an appropriate balance of recreational use and public appreciation that maximises visitor enjoyment and protects the landscape and infrastructure of the Green in a sustainable manner,
- ✓ To facilitate and encourage a greater public understanding of the national and international significance of the Green, through continued research, publications and use of technology such as the internet,
- ✓ To ensure that all events demonstrate that they will minimise their carbon footprint within the Green,
- ✓ To reduce the environmental impact of traffic & transport infrastructure on the perimeter of the Green,
- ✓ To maintain the current high levels of access to the Green 365 days per year.
- ✓ To respect and conserve the layout and distribution of the designed features and facilities,
- ✓ To promote St. Stephen's Green including its landscape, natural amenities and wildlife as a unique passive recreational area for refreshment of body, mind and soul,
- ✓ To develop educational and tourist programmes facilitating the interpretation of the significance of the Green in a historic, landscape, natural and sociological context,
- ✓ To continue to implement high standards of security and policing of the Green.

3.7 Management.

The overall objective is to ensure the highest professional standards in the management and operation of St. Stephen's Green.

The specific objectives include the following:

- ✓ To maintain and support a dedicated team responsible for management and conservation of St. Stephen's Green, working to the objectives and actions as set out in this Conservation Management Plan,
- ✓ To encourage and promote academic research to achieve a deeper understanding of the Green necessary for its appropriate management,

- ✓ To strive for the highest standards of environmental sustainable management and ensure that the Park's impact on climate change will be minimised,
- ✓ To ensure sufficient resources are available for the management of uses and activities, to avoid unsustainable damage to the sensitive historic fabric of the Green,
- ✓ To establish St. Stephen's Green as an Irish and International show case for landscape horticulture and arboriculture.



Chapter 4



4. How will we get there?

Chapter 4

4.1 Introduction

This chapter sets out a five year action plan (figure 5) to be delivered as part of this conservation management plan, as well as considering the financial and resources implication of the actions. The actions will support the Green Flag process. It is important that these actions are delivered upon in order to safeguard the integrity of St. Stephen's Green.

4.2 Action plan 2015-2020

The delivery of the activities, projects and programmes are required to meet the public's, departmental and site objectives. The actions detailed within the action plan have been derived from staff observations, internal advisors and park management. Feedback from the public is reflected in the actions.

Staff from National Historic Properties will implement the actions with the support of the Conservation & Regional Architects, OPW Engineer, BMS and external providers.

This action plan is a live and flexible document which may be subject to change and improvement as we take account of changing circumstances in the next five years.

St Stephens Green Park, Five Year Action Plan 2015-2020

This action plan to be read in conjunction with the Draft St Stephens Green Conservation Management Plan.

Status		Colour
Completed		
Commenced		
Not commenced		

Project	Action	Resources	Timescale	Status
Landscape				
Prepare a Landscape Plan for the Green	Develop a Landscape plan that shows : (a) the open space, enclosure, views & vistas that define the character of the Green (b) NB landforms, water features, archaeology, historical, cultural features & locations that characterise the Green (c) extent of sequential changes & improvements to the Green since its formation	To be undertaken in-house when available staff resources are available	To be completed in 2016	
Conserve the arboreal character of the green to reflect the historical design intentions	Prepare trees surveys & undertake a programme of tree planting & maintenance	Internal & external resources	Considerable work undertaken in 2014 /15	
Reduce Peat use	Eliminate peat use in flower beds Introduce pilot project with use of peat substitutes in growing medium for glasshouse production for 2015. Monitor & review	In-house resources	No peat use in outdoor flower beds - 2015 Implement pilot propagation trials in spring 2015	
Standards of Excellence in grounds maintenance	Continue staff training & upskilling in horticulture, arboriculture, Health & Safety	As time & resources permit	Ongoing	

Figure 5: Five Year Action Plan

Nature & Biodiversity				
Continue to adopt measures sensitive to biodiversity	Carry out bird survey with Birdwatch Ireland & replace bird boxes	External resources	To be undertaken in late 2015/early 2016	
Protect appropriate mammals habitats	Undertake mammal survey & adopt best practice in protecting sensitive habitats	External & internal resources	To be undertaken in 2016/17	
Adopt sensitive measures for bats	Prioritise bat habitats while undertaking tree surgery	Internal staff & tree contractors	Ongoing	
Ensure the parkland setting is maintained free from compaction & damage	Implement events matrix for St Stephens Green & work closely with all event organisers	Internal resources	Ongoing	
Archaeology, Architecture & Built Heritage				
Prepare Inventory & GIS database of Green Infrastructure	Design database for all furniture, statues & infrastructure	internal resources	To be undertaken in 2015/16	
Encourage & facilitate further studies of archaeological, architectural, cultural and artistic heritage to promote a better understanding of the importance & significance of the Green	Fund research on St Stephens Green	Internal & external resources	To be undertaken in 2016/17	
Continue to facilitate high standards of conservation, architectural design, construction and craftsmanship in all developments in the Green	Restoration of Lakeside Shelter, Bandstand and Swiss Structures	Internal Architects Office, external contractors & resources	Completed	
Ensure adoption of	Liaise with Principal Conservation Architect &	Internal Resources	Ongoing	

Guidelines for Protection of Architectural Heritage	Regional Architect on best practice			
Infrastructure upgrade	Repair concrete sides on lake, footrills & railings	Internal Architects Office, external contractors & resources	To be undertaken in 2015/16	
Ensure the historic character of the Green is retained	Develop policy on new statutory	Internal resources including the Art Management Office	To be undertaken in 2016	
Wolfe Tone Upgrade	Resurface paving to provide equal access for all	Internal Architects Office & external contractors & resources	To be undertake in 2015	
Infrastructure maintenance	Path repairs & painting of benches	Park Staff & Building Maintenance Staff	On-going as required	
New infrastructure	Carry out geophysical analysis and if required, targeted test trenching in advance of any ground disturbance associated with planting, landscaping or development works within the Green to mitigate the impacts on any buried archaeological features.	External resources	As required	
Access & Public use				
Continue to ensure that visitors have a world class experience	Ensure park accessible 365 days of the year, during opening hours, for all users free of charge and that park constables enhance the public's experience	Internal resources	Ongoing	
Ensure all events appropriate to the setting of St Stephens Green	Implement ESMP guidelines for NHP which prioritises passive recreation and events which respect the finite resource of the Green. Commercial events are not permitted within this high amenity park.	Internal resources	Ongoing	
Encourage guiding opportunities within the Green	Facilitate knowledgeable 3 rd party guiding opportunities	External resources	Ongoing	
Access for all in Playground	Maintain the playground to ROSPA standards	Internal & external resources	Ongoing	

Management					
Expand publics knowledge & appreciation of St Stephens Green	Develop website for the Green	Internal & External resources	Website to go live in 2015		
Expand publics knowledge & appreciation of St Stephens Green	Develop educational material for primary schools in the areas of history, biodiversity & built environment. These actions will be undertaken with the aim to increase public knowledge, understanding and interpretation of the Green in all its aspects.	Internal & External resources	Material available for autumn school term in 2015		
Ensure competent staff resources available	Complete NHP Workforce Plan and maintain current staffing levels	Internal resources	Ongoing		
Continue to ensure Visitor & Staff Safety	Implement OPW Health & Safety Policy	Internal Resources	Ongoing		
Best Practice standards adopted	Implement actions adopted within this Conservation Management Plan & the Green Flag Standards	Internal & external resources	Ongoing		
Continue liaison with relevant government bodies & local authority	Hold regular meeting with relevant bodies on matters of mutual interest & concern	Internal & external stakeholders	Ongoing		



5. How will we know when we have arrived?

5.1 Introduction

This Conservation Management Plan 2015-2020 is the first such document developed for the St. Stephen's Green. In practical terms the conservation management plan will be reviewed on a regular basis and amended over time, to take account of changing circumstances and future developments. National Historic Properties staff will be responsible for the implementation, delivery and review of this plan under the leadership of the Director of National Historic Properties, Chief Park Superintendent, Commissioner and Chairman of OPW. This will ensure that the plan remains valid and a contemporary document for the effective management and maintenance of St. Stephen's Green. The Senior Management team recognises that monitoring and review of the conservation management plan is as important as the delivery of it.

The aims of monitoring and evaluating the plan are to:

- ✓ Ensure operational activities, projects and programmes are being delivered in time and to budget,
- ✓ Ensure that the vision and objectives within the plan are being met,
- ✓ Ensure accountability and ownership,
- ✓ Review and improve the conservation management plan with ongoing data collection from the users,
- ✓ Proactively manage and measure performance.

5.2 Monitoring & Evaluation

5.2.1 Conservation Management Plan

The management plan will be reviewed annually by the Chief Park Superintendent in consultation with site-based staff, administrative staff and stakeholders to take account of any changes or developments within the Green. Feedback from the annual Green Flags Awards inspection will also be fed in and action taken, ensuring continuous improvement. New strategies, policies, research or procedures developed and implemented by the OPW during the life span of the plan will also be incorporated as appropriate.

5.2.2 Conservation Management Plan- Action Plan

The Chief Park Superintendent will monitor the delivery of projects & activities outlined within the action plan during regular site based team meetings and monthly management meetings with the Director of National Historic Properties. On an annual basis, the action plan will be updated following a complete review of the achievements identified and an assessment of the successes and failures to date.

5.2.3 Operational activities

Operational routine works will be monitored daily and weekly on site to ensure that maintenance operational standards are being met and the standard is being adhered to. Skilled gardeners ensure that the standards of excellence in Horticulture and Landscape maintenance are maintained. The gardening staff are pro-active and have a can do approach. Park Constables patrol the Green daily to ensure the upholding of the Bye-laws and to interact in a positive way with the local community and visitors to the Green. Specialist teams look after the trees and infrastructure.



List of Figures

Figure 1:	Location & layout of St Stephens Green Park	14
Figure 2:	Monuments & Statues of St Stephens Green Park	17
Figure 3:	Dublin City Development Plan 2011-2017, Record of Protected Structures	25
Figure 4:	Designated OPW National Historic Properties	26
Figure 5:	Five year Action Plan	63

List of Images

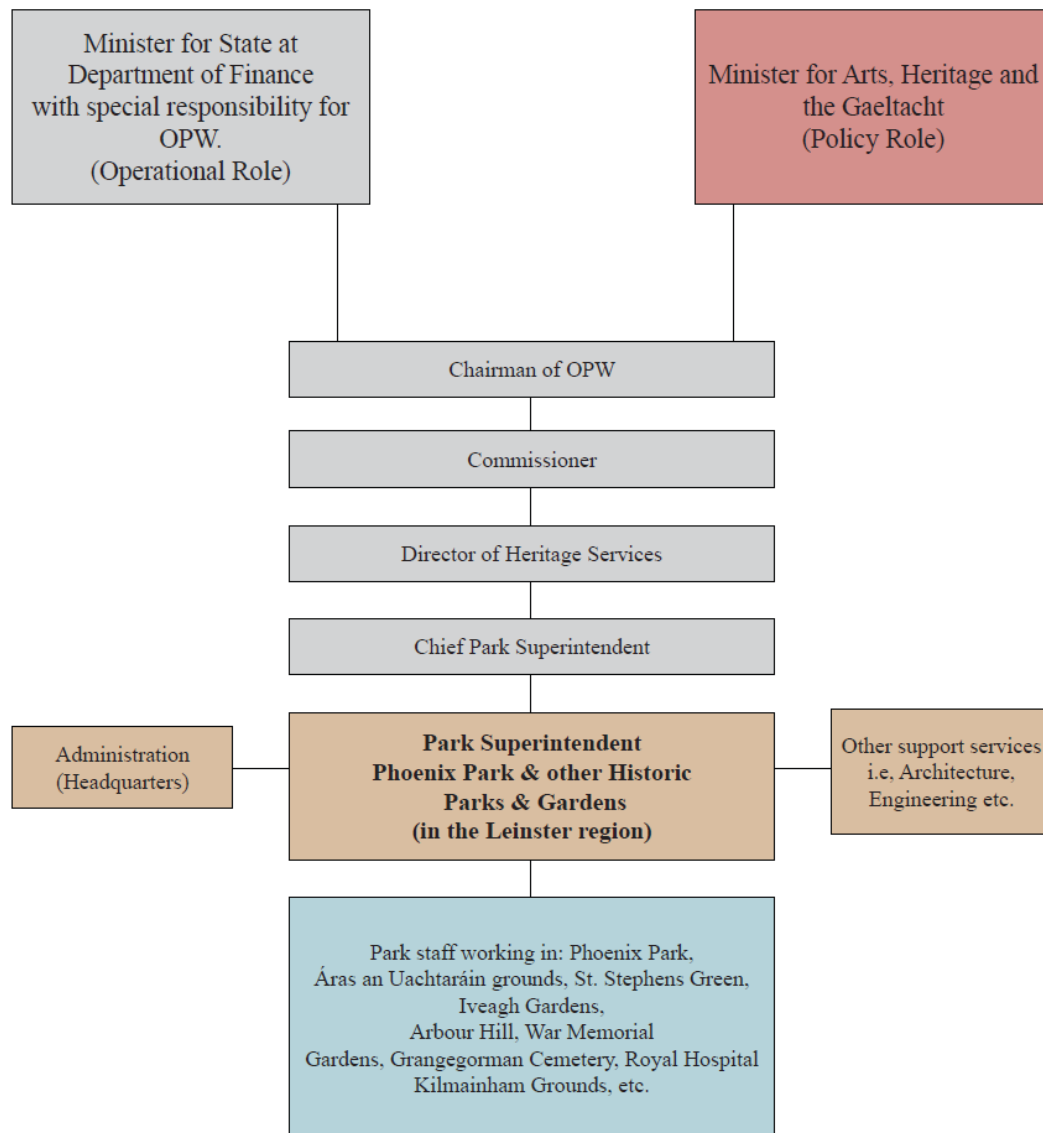
1. Aerial View of St Stephens Green Park	Front cover	
2. 'Bench sitting' in St Stephens Green Park		6
3. Minister Simon Harris with staff at opening of Heritage Day		9
4. Herman Moll's map of Dublin c 1714		12
5. View of Lord Ardilaun's Statue & pedestal		13
6. Image of Countess Markievicz		14
7. Superintendent's Lodge		16
8. Plan of Kiosk		16
9. View of Swiss Shelter		16
10. Band performing in Bandstand		16
11. The Famine Memorial		18
12. Pulham rock work		18
13. Centre fountain		18
14. The Three Fates Fountain		19
15. Bedding Displays in the Green		19
16. Bedding Displays in the Green		19
17. Bedding Display at Lodge		19
18. Aerial view of Victorian Bedding Display		20
19. Commemoration seat for Benett & Chenevix		21
20. Information panel		21
21. Victorian Park bench		21
22. Special Olympics event with 'Jedward' in the Green		22
23. Front cover Commissioners of Public Works Annual Report 1880		23
24. Malton's Image of the Green		23
25. View of Lord Ardilaun, Luas & Royal College of Surgeons		25
26. Image of public enjoying the Green		28
27. Fusilier's Arch		31
28. Perimeter Railing detail		31
29. The Lime Walk in Winter		33
30. Tulip displays		33
31. Guinness World Record attempt in St Stephen's Green		33
32. View of the Lake		33
33. New Playground		35
34. Park Constables on patrol		36
35. Summer bedding display		38
36. View of Lime trees		39
37. Spring bedding display		40
38. Ducks enjoying the lake		41

39. Resident Swans on the Lake	45
40. Pulham Rock work	45
41. Family day	48
42. OPW staff	50
43. Cherry Blossoms on southern side of the Green	52
44. Aerial view of the centre of the Green	55
45. View of Lakeside Shelter	55
46. Image of main entrance to the Green c1904 (Lawrence Collection)	57
47. OPW Chairman, Commissioners & staff	59
48. National Tree Week with Brian Hayes TD & CUS pupils	59
49. Park Staff mowing the lawns	59
50. Park Policing by An Garda Siochana	59
51. Bust of JC Mangan	60
52. Lunchtime in the Green	68
53. Mother & chicks enjoying the lake	71

List of Appendices

Appendix 1:	Organisational Chart	74
Appendix 2:	OPW National Historic Properties Countrywide	75
Appendix 3:	Annual WorkProgramme	76

Appendix 1 : Organisational Chart



Appendix 2 : OPW National Historic Properties Countrywide

Phoenix Park

St. Stephen's Green

Iveagh Gardens

National Botanic Gardens

Kilmacurragh Arboretum

Glebe Gallery

St. Enda's National Park

Rathfarnham Castle

Fota Arboretum

Innacullin – Garnish Island

Derrynane House & Garden

John F. Kennedy Arboretum

Farmleigh Estate

Castletown House & Demense

Kilkenny Castle & Demense

Dublin Castle

Casino Marino

Áras an Uachtaráin

Oldbridge House & Demense

**Great Blasket Island & Visitor
Centre**

National War Memorial Gardens

The Garden of Remembrance

Doneraile Court

Emo Court

Heywood Gardens

Altamont House & Gardens

Royal Hospital Kilmainham

Grangegorman Military Cemetery

Arbour Hill Cemetery

Appendix 3: Annual Work Programme

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME			
Area	Action	Frequency	Occurrence
Planted Areas			
Trees	Maintenance	As needed	
Shrubbery	Maintenance	As needed	
Hedges	Maintenance	Once	Summer
Flowerbeds Winter/ Spring	Planting	Once	Oct/Nov
	Weeding	As needed	
	Spraying	Once	Oct
	Edging	As needed	
Flowerbeds Summer	Planting	Once	June
	Weeding	As needed	
	Edging	As needed	
	Spraying	Once	June
Nursery	Transplanting Plugs	Twice	Feb-Apr & Aug
	Sowing seeds	Once	March - May
Herbaceous Border	Weeding		Throughout year
	Dividing		Oct - Mar
	Feeding		Spring
	Mulching		Spring
	Cutting back		When needed
Scented Border	Weeding		Throughout year
	Spraying		Spring
Rockery	Maintenance		Throughout year
Bog Garden	Maintenance		Throughout year
Garden for Visually Impaired	Maintenance		Throughout year
Grass (Centre Areas)	Feeding	Twice	Spring & late Summer
	Spraying	Once	Spring
	Mowing	Weekly	Throughout year
Grass (Other areas)	Mowing	Weekly	Throughout year
Litter Management			
	Leaf collection		Autumn
	Bin emptying		Throughout year
	Litter picking		Throughout year

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME			
Area	Action	Frequency	Occurrence
Litter Management			
	Leaf collection		Autumn
	Bin emptying		Throughout year
	Litter picking		Throughout year
Lake			
	Inspection	Daily	Morning (& after lunch)
	Leaf/Litter removal		As needed
	Complete clean	Yearly	Spring
Pulham Rockwork	Inspection	Yearly	
Fountains	Inspection	Daily	
	Cleaning		As needed
Buildings	Inspection	Daily	
Gate Lodge			
Bandstand	Maintenance	Daily	
Swiss Chalets		Daily	
Summer house		Daily	
Playground	Inspection	Daily	
	ROSPA Inspection	Yearly	Autumn
	Cleaning	Daily	Throughout year
	Maintenance		As needed
Garden Furniture/Structures			
Benches	Inspection	Daily	Throughout year
	Maintenance	As needed	
Interpretive Boards	Inspection	Daily	
	Maintenance	As needed	
Statues/sculptures	Inspection	Daily	
	Maintenance	As needed	
Pathways	Inspection	Daily	
	Maintenance	As needed	
Grass railings	Inspection	Daily	
	Maintenance	As needed	
Gates	Inspection	Daily	
	Maintenance	As needed	
Boundary railings	Inspection	Daily	
	Maintenance	As needed	
Equipment	Inspection	Daily	
	Servicing	As needed	Yearly service

