

WEPRE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2022-2027

2.1 Resources

Wepre Park is currently managed by the Sites Team within the Access & Natural Environment Service with input from other Authority departments such as Aura and Streetscene.

2022 Staffing

POST	MAIN DUTIES	% TIME AT WEPRE	COST
Access & Natural Environment manager	To conserve and enhance the natural environment of Flintshire and to promote its sustainable enjoyment and understanding by the public through the management and development of Flintshire's Countryside and Natural Environment teams	5	£4,100
Team Leader	As part of the Countryside Service management team, the post is responsible for the management, development and promotion of countryside sites and projects for nature conservation and public recreational access within rural Flintshire	20	£11,600
Ranger	Assist in the development, management, maintenance and promotion of Countryside Service and partnership sites. The work will include conservation, public and private sector relations, promotion of environmental awareness through events and education work; maintenance of the linear and circular walks	90	£42,300
Assistant Ranger	Assist in the management and maintenance of countryside sites and promotion of environmental awareness through events and education work.	25	£7,750
Relief Ranger	Assist in the development, management, maintenance and promotion of Wepre Park and Greenfield Valley.	As necessary	£
Admin/finance Officer	To provide an effective and comprehensive administrative support and reception service to the Countryside Service.	30	£5,000
Countryside Awareness Officer	To promote public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the countryside and its heritage. To increase environmental awareness and encourage sympathetic use of the	25	£11,750

	countryside by the public through the provision of high quality information and education services.		
Volunteer support	Non skilled £50 per day	C20 days/month	£12000

Budget	2022/23
Staff	
FCC staff apportioned to Wepre (see table for apportionment)	£94,500
Operations	
Play area maintenance, inspection (Aura)	£5,225
Grass Cutting – (Streetscene)	£3,346
CCTV Monitoring and maintenance and alarms	£6,000
Ewloe Castle	£600
Visitor Centre and premises costs	£29,967
Interpretation and publicity	£1,000
Site maintenance budget to include:	£5,235
Site infrastructure	

	Path maintenance	
	Woodland management/tree works	
	Old Hall Garden maintenance	
Total operations		£51,373
Total Staff & operations		£145,873

Aura and Streetscene manage the Play Area and Skate Park and the mowing of the Leisure areas including all the grass around the car park, play area, football pitches and skate park.

The Valuation and Estates Portfolio manage the pavilion on site.

The Access and Natural Environment Team secure external grants for development projects, including habitat works, access management and visitor services.

2.2 Annual maintenance programme

Feature	Responsibility	Funding	Year
1. Wepre Brook			
1.1 Overhanging branches/trees managed to create areas of open/dapple/shade on water	CR	FCC	Annual
1.2 Fallen trees and branches removed which may affect flow to dam and to stone bridge	CR	FCC	Annual
1.3 Monitor flow and areas of erosion and consider remedial management through revetment	CR	NRW FCC	Annual

1.4 Survey and management of non-native species, Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed Manage bracken, blackthorn regeneration and ragwort in new fields.	CR	NRW FCC	Annual
1.5 Remove in-water litter at lowest flow	CR	FCC	Annual
2.Ponds			
2.1 Rosy Pond – All fishing platforms are monitored for damage and repaired when necessary. Liaise with club and review lease as necessary.	Connah’s Quay Angling Club	CQAC	Annual
2.2 Aquatic vegetation. Maintain 33-50% open water	CR	NRW FCC	3 year rotation Bank side year 1, aquatic side year 2, leave pond from works year 3
2.3 Bank-side vegetation Cut 3m from edge on south side to prevent shade and leaf litter.	CR	NRW FCC	3-year rotation
2.4 Survey and management of non-native species	CR	NRW FCC	Annual
2.5 Maintain pond numbers.	CR	NRW FCC	Annual
2.6 Survey by torch for newt spp.	CR	NRW	Annual

		FCC	
2.7 De-silt ponds – Taylor’s and Brewery	CR	NRW FCC	Year 1 and 3 Taylor’s – year 1, Brewery year 3 (was desilted in 2015)
3.Access and Infrastructure			
3.1 Carry out patrols to monitor and flag up any issues such as vandalism or damage and to litter pick.	CR	FCC	Weekly
3.2 All main footpaths are surveyed weekly to assess for problems such as erosion, trip hazards. Surfacing when required. Paths are cut back of encroaching vegetation	CR	FCC	Weekly Monthly from May-Sept
3.3 Open Drainage Ditches are cleared out to allow water flow. French drains renew 1 x 10 yrs.	CR	FCC	Annual 3 month check
3.4 Interpretation Panels/Signs Restoration as and when needed. Painted/varnished.	CR	FCC	Annual check, renewed year 5
3.5 Steps and Bridges checked Leaves and debris are cleared off Topped with dust and maintained when required.	CR	FCC	Monthly Annual - Dec

3.6 Fencing/Gates are checked and repaired when required	CR	FCC	Annual.
3.7 Bins/Benches are replaced when damaged. Benches are put in from milled timber from Wepre's Woods and are replaced when worn. Since 2021 Volunteers and members of the public litter pick the park as part of Keep Wales Tidy Litter Picker Champions scheme. Averaging 16 bags / month in high season.	CR + volunteers etc.	FCC	High season – twice daily, more on bank holidays. Low season – every other day The front of park is cleared of litter daily.
4. Meadows - Dell, Red Rock, Taylor's, Compound, Rosie, Education Area, New woodland fields.			
4.1 All meadows are cut, raked and baled once flowers have seeded.	CR / Contractor	FCC	Sept – Oct Annual
4.2 Paths cut through	CR	FCC	May – Sept Monthly
5. Hedges			
5.1 Front hedge and play area hedge cut 3 times in high season May to Sep All other hedges are cut end of February to retain berries for wintering wildlife.	CR	FCC	3 times in High Season Annually
6. Trees			

6.1 Trees adjacent to footpaths, buildings, recreational areas and boundaries are checked for health, damage and works are carried out as soon as possible on recommendation.	CR / FCC Tree Inspector	FCC	Annual
Ash Die Back Survey when trees have flushed	CR		May / June
Maintain new plantings.	CR		
Over hanging branches on main footpaths are cut back annually.	CR		July-Sept
Remove fallen trees/branches on paths when necessary			

Play

Weekly inspections are carried out by the play team within Leisure services and equipment is replaced/repaired as required.	Aura	Aura	Weekly
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Grass cutting regime

Cut grass on pitches and front fields	Streetscene	FCC	Weekly / monthly seasonal variance
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Activity

9.1 Education programme	CR / AO	FCC	Summer term
9.2 Events programme	AO / CR /Partners	FCC	Annual
9.3 Support groups and schools in activity	AO / CR /Partners		
9.4 Deliver talks to external groups	CR	Group	

2.3 Woodland Management Grant Scheme

Wepre Park Better Woodlands for Wales Commitment and Review

Signed 2012

10 years through a 20 year commitment.

Licence 2018 to 2023 (Expires 21/10/2023)

Operation Group Harvesting

Compartment	Location	Activity	BWW Status	Status	Comments
Cpt 11a	Wepre	Thin	Partially thinned	Ongoing	Function retained in thinning licence.
Cpt 17a	Wepre	Clean & Respace	Completed	Ongoing	Infected ash marked for removal 2022-23.
Cpt 2a	Wepre	Thin	Partially thinned	Ongoing	Function retained in thinning licence.
Cpt 3a	Wepre	Thin	Partially thinned	Ongoing	Function retained in thinning licence.
Cpt 4a	Wepre	Thin	Completed	Ongoing	Monitor stocking levels due to ADB
Cpt 6a	Wepre	Thin	Completed	Ongoing	Monitor stocking levels due to ADB
Cpt 8a	Wepre	Thin	Partially thinned	Ongoing	Target further removal of Hemlock and Turkey oak regeneration Maintenance programme only. Now access developed to Devils Basin
Cpt 9a	Wepre	Thin	Incomplete	On hold	
Cpt 1a	Wepre	Thin	Completed	Ongoing	Monitor stocking levels due to ADB
Cpt 5a	Wepre	Thin	Completed	Ongoing	Monitor stocking levels due to ADB
Cpt 7a	Wepre	Thin	Completed	Ongoing	Monitor stocking levels due to ADB
Cpt 9a	Wepre	Coppicing	Incomplete	On hold	Maintenance programme only.
Cpt 10a	Wepre	Thin	Completed	Ongoing	Monitor stocking levels due to ADB
Cpt 19a	Wepre	Thin	Completed	Ongoing	Monitor stocking levels due to ADB and consider replanting alder carr.
Cpt 24a	Wepre	Thin	Completed	Ongoing	Monitor stocking levels due to ADB.
Cpt 29a	Broadoaks	Thin	Incomplete	Ongoing	Function retained in thinning licence. Target further removal of Hemlock and Turkey oak regeneration
Cpt 18a	Wepre	Selective Fell	Incomplete	Ongoing	

Cpt 12a	Wepre	Thin	Incomplete	Ongoing	Monitor stocking levels due to ADB.
Cpt 13a	Wepre	Thin	Partially thinned	Ongoing	Function retained in thinning licence.
Cpt 8-12	Wepre	Hab	Incomplete	On hold	Bird and bat box programme cancelled.

Wepre and Connah's Quay Woodland Compartment Plan (excludes newly planted extension area to the east)

