

Grafton Park Transformation

April 2024





BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

In April 2024, we assumed full management responsibility for Grafton Park, taking proactive steps to enhance its upkeep and restore it to a high standard. Our commitment has been to create a welcoming, clean, and ecologically balanced environment for visitors and wildlife alike.

Improvements Implemented

Since taking over, we have introduced a structured maintenance programme to significantly improve the park's overall condition and accessibility:

- **Grass Cutting:** We now cut the grass weekly and ensure all cuttings are collected. This prevents visitors from getting covered in clippings while enjoying the park, in contrast to the previous schedule of cutting every three weeks without collection.
- **Litter Management:** The park is now litter-picked at least four times a week, maintaining a consistently clean environment.
- **Sustainable Waste Management:** All green waste generated from maintenance is shredded or composted on-site. Chippings are used as mulch where necessary, and compost is utilised to nourish flower beds.
- **Accessibility Enhancements:** We keep all entrances and pathways trimmed and clear, ensuring easy access for all park users.
- **Waterway Maintenance:** The two main ponds and waterways are regularly cleaned and kept free from litter and debris.
- **Shrub and Hedge Maintenance:** All shrubs and hedges are routinely pruned, and flower beds are maintained weed-free, preserving the park's aesthetic appeal.



Ongoing and Future Projects



Through our hands-on approach, we have already seen remarkable improvements in the overall cleanliness, accessibility, and ecological health of Grafton Park.

With continued investment in maintenance and sustainability initiatives, we aim to preserve this much-loved green space as a vibrant and enjoyable environment for both the local community and wildlife for years to come.

As part of our long-term strategy, we are undertaking several key projects to further enhance Grafton Park:

- **Hedge and Shrub Reduction:** Some areas have seen excessive growth due to past neglect. We are carefully trimming back these sections to restore them to their original size and shape, aligning with the architect's original vision.
- **Wildlife Habitat Creation:** In September, we constructed a dedicated habitat area near the top pond. Using old bull rushes, collected leaves, and branches, we created a structured space for insects and small wildlife to shelter, particularly through the winter months.
- **Wildflower Planting:** A new initiative for spring will see the introduction of wildflowers throughout the park. This will not only enhance its visual appeal but also attract a greater variety of insects, promoting biodiversity.
- **Natural Algae Control:** To maintain the health of the park's waterways, we will be introducing barley straw bales into the top and bottom ponds in early spring. This environmentally friendly method helps control algae and unwanted aquatic weeds, ensuring clear and thriving water ecosystems.