

# BERKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

## Public Parks Project 2021

### Objectives

- To raise awareness of the historic value of the County's publicly owned parkland within the membership and to a wider audience;
- To encourage a closer relationship between BGT and those who manage or look after the parks;
- To celebrate positive measures being taken within the parks, by either the owners or Friends' groups;
- To inform the planning process to help conserve and enhance the parks;
- To help identify any heritage at risk and help where we can to remedy problems (for example working with Friends' groups);
- To maintain membership interest by balancing short term small sub projects with long term projects
- To support the GT's Unforgettable Gardens and Public Parks Campaigns.

### Criteria for inclusion

The Public Parks Project will focus on historic Parks that are in public ownership (such as local authorities and parishes) where "historic" is defined<sup>1</sup> as having:

- historic interest or containing surviving historic features
- strong associations with locally significant persons
- early or representative examples of a style of layout or a type of site, or the work of a designer (amateur or professional) of Berkshire importance
- a strong group value with other already recognised heritage parks
- laid out before 1945 unless of exceptional quality

### Sources

Historic England, Historic Environment Record (HER), Berkshire Gardens Trust Depository of Parks and Gardens, Parks & Gardens UK, Heritage Lottery, Urban Parks Programme and its successor, Parks for People and Green Flag Awards, Friends Groups, Parks Alliance, and others. A full list is available from [bgtmembership@gmail.com](mailto:bgtmembership@gmail.com)

### Planned Outcomes

- Identification of range of Parks across Berkshire by local authority
- Sift of potential parks for inclusion into the Depository in accordance with the above criteria
- Record of publicly available data for each park
- Detailed studies of individual parks
- Contact to be made with representatives for the parks (eg local authorities, friends groups)
- Photographic record of the parks
- Online map of Depository of Public Parks

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<sup>1</sup> Criteria from Historic England and Gardens Trust