**Countryside Park Draft Maintenance Schedule 2024/25**

| **Location** | **Maintenance task/ Specification** | **Timing** | **Who will do it** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Whole park** | **Weekly condition check** – check all public routes for path safety, general condition, check all infrastructure for damage/integrity, remove litter, fallen branches/trees, etc. Where issues cannot be immediately remedied, report need for remedial action to …. ???. | All year | Volunteers (rota of 2-4 people ideal) |
| **Car Park** | **Trim hedge** – cut top to ?? cm high and sides to ??m wide; will need to be done twice ? a year; selected trees to be allowed to grow as standards -how many, which ones? Too many currently which will shade out hedge? | ? | Volunteers? |
| **Strim car park edges** – strim grass, etc around edges, around entrance gates and visibility splay on road, and inside bin shelter. Every 3-4 weeks in growing season. | May, Jun, July, Aug, Sep, Oct | Contractor |
| **Repair car park surface** – the surface is slowly eroding and will become unacceptably uneven in time; |  | Contractor? |
| **Cut back brambles**– on the N side brambles will need and annual cut back of years growth in autumn and trimming of long shoots at least monthly during growing season | Jun, Jul, Aug, Oct | Volunteer |
| **Empty bins** – two Veolia bins and dog bin – frequency? Is this frequent enough? | All year | Parish clerk/contractor |
| **Replenish dog poo bags** – frequency? I notice these have often run out | All year | ??? |
| **Paths/open areas** | **Mow paths and short grass** – frequency? | Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct | Contractor |
| **Trim overhanging trees/shrubs/brambles** – best carried out as two operations:  1. Light trimming little and often during growing season  2. A more comprehensive trim in autumn/winter which will include removal (uprooting) of some self-seeded or suckering trees/shrubs within 1m of the path and proactive pruning of trees close to the path. | May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct | Volunteers |
| **Strim around/under benches** – monthly? in growing season (are there other places along the paths that the mower does not reach?) | May, Jun, July, Aug, Sep, Oct | Contractor?? |
| **Clean/oil benches** ??? |  | Volunteers |
| **Tree safety checks** – checking mature trees formally at agreed frequency by a trained tree safety inspector, reporting findings and need to tree safety management to parish clerk/LMC. | ? | Tree Warden ? |
| **Maintain drainage pond** in SW corner – not sure how well this is working, but if path is draining into it, the ditch connections will need unblocking periodically. Annually? | ? | Volunteers |
| **Path surface maintenance** – spread sand on sticky levels areas to reduce water pooling and slipperiness; level surface where erosion has created unevenness … | Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb | Volunteers |
| **Clean/oil noticeboard** – when this is installed it will need some routine maintenance | ? | Volunteers |
| **Grassland** | **Control self-seeding trees/shrubs** – this is a big task and increasingly urgent as most of the grassland is now full of young trees; retaining some suitable, native species as scattered trees and scrub will be beneficial to biodiversity, but hundreds if not thousands of young trees will need removing. How this is done/who does it is an important and urgent decision. | Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, Mar | Volunteers and/or contractors |
| **Mowing grassland** – BWG recommendations will be to develop a plan for the grassland that will include mowing areas on different rotations, and leaving some unmown, to create a mosaic with varied structure. Three areas currently?  Wildflower meadow – this is ideally mown every 2 yrs, or better half every year  Other grassland areas inside of path network – wildflowers will increase if some is mown  Boundary grass strips – these would benefit from periodic mowing (perhaps a 3yr rotation).  Flower-rich cuttings should be spread on less flower rich areas; otherwise cuttings should be left in piles in less visible areas to compost. | Aug, Sep, Oct | Volunteers, contractors |
| **Control brambles** - along boundary strips cut back brambles every 2-3 years to maintain these grassy strips. | Sep, Oct | Volunteers |
| **Woodland** | Currently no maintenance is necessary, but as the trees mature some coppicing/thinning would be desirable to maintain a varied structure to maximise biodiversity value. This may be considered desirable by 2025/26 (eg. start hazel coppicing). BWG will make recommendations. | Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb | Volunteers |
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