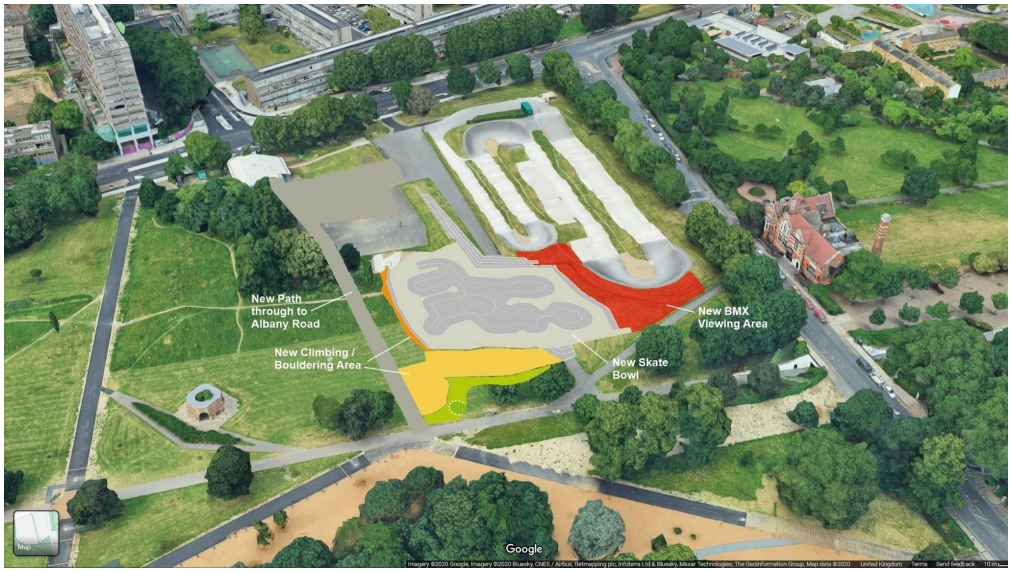
Friends of Burgess Park September 2020

The proposals
https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/environment-leisure/burgess-park-skate-bowl-urban-games-consultation/consultation/subpage.2020-08-19.5513243322/

We do not support the proposal

- The design takes out circa 11 tennis courts of green park space - this should be replaced elsewhere if the scheme goes ahead
- It does not provide toilets or deal with a long term plan for Giraffe House which provides after school and holiday provision for children
- The height of the bowl and the fortress wall will completely dominate the narrowest section of the park - the images do not convey this - see below
- What will the impact of noise and lights be on nearby homes?
- It is not integrated into the park.



We support

- Increased provision of free open access equipment suitable for young people
- Further provision on the site between the BMX and Giraffe House
- More consultation with park users and young people about the scheme

We would like to see:

- A repositioned child and youth friendly urban games provision on the site
- Open access MUGA
- Use of the existing mound

- Retention of trees

1 Please take a look at project information. Can you tell us what do you think about the project and why?

The Burgess Park masterplan - Metropolitan Open Land
The masterplan identifies the area between the BMX and Giraffe House as an area suitable for urban games activity, and there is a shaded area which indicates that use. However, the design put forward has taken this as a boundary line without any consideration for the interface with the park.

The level of hard surfacing and the size and scale of the proposal is not suitable for Burgess Park. The park is Metropolitan Open Land; it is a green space. Additional space has already been provided to sports with the extension of the astroturf, there is a wish for additional tennis courts.

The loss of 3,000 square meters of grass (a tennis court is 260.9 sqm so it is equivalent of 11/eleven tennis courts.

URBAN games activity should be in an urban setting not taking out green space. Have alternative sites been considered? Urban games, by their nature, are urban so will work well in a more built-up environment. More loss of existing park infrastructure eg mounds / trees and not a coherent use of the available space.

Is Burgess Park the best place for a 'world standard' urban park. Something slightly more modest, and more likely to be used could probably fit.

Location: Choosing the best location for a skatepark can often be one of the most challenging and important decisions in the process. Considerations need to be made for access, safety, surrounding landscape, noise, land ownership, services and conflict of activities. Skateboard England

The size and scale
The south side of the skate bowl is very high, incorporating the climbing wall as it does, and, from the one visual showing it, appears to be between 3 and 4 metres (circa 12 feet) above the nearby grass and paths. This will completely dominate the park at its narrowest point, as a 30-40 metre long fortress-like wall about 10 metres from the path.

They don't appear to be losing any trees around the path to the south but they seem to propose cutting into the woodland around the mound south of the Giraffe House but this is hard to tell from the information provided.

The main concern of the scheme is the way the skate bowl is built on virgin parkland at it's narrowest point creating this big visual impact on any casual user of the park, leaving a rather scrubby underused area behind it, instead of being built to the north, nearer to Albany Rd between Giraffe House and the BMX track, on land that is at present crying out for development and seems to be plenty big enough.

World class skate bowl - will this attract competitions, what about parking required for thi, crowds / toilets etc. There are already issues about parking and poor public transport for BMX events.

The design

Concrete -how will water run off be dealt with - not clear on plans.

Could alternative and more park-sympathetic materials to concrete be used for the bouldering and parkour? Could sand be used for landing jumps, existing grassy areas for calisthenics equipment and the bouldering be built from wood (in the style of the new playground pods) and placed sympathetically among the trees? The existing park should mould the design, it should not just be plonked down without thought to its park setting.

The size and scale of the design is inappropriate, it is cramped in next to the BMX. Where is the event team space, circulation space, room for spectators, Mums and Dads.

Phase 2 - Giraffe House

Further information needed.

MOL and greenspace

We would support the introduction of a youth games area, we object to the replacement of a green area with concrete, one of the worst producers of CO2 . This is the narrowest part of the park, which has been traversed with paths and cycle routes, with tall buildings planned to the north and possibly south, pouring concrete all over it is not an improvement. It is in fact turning this green area into an urban environment not a refuge from it.

Close Wells Way to traffic and put it there along with a cycle route.

5 Which other local skateparks do you use (please select all that apply to you)?

N/R

6 What do you like or dislike about other skateparks you have used? Like - please explain.:

What is happening with the old BMX on Bird in Bush Rd, it's derelict - still used a little bit but there are other places.

Sports, leisure and fitness provision should be distributed across the borough.

7 Do you have any further comments about the plans for skate bowl and urban games area? Please use this space to make your comments:

COVID-19 huge increase in park users - **the park is already very crowded.**

In a climate emergency better to use existing built-on areas of the park and divide activities between these areas eg. parkour and calisthenics on park area between Glengall and Trafalgar - something could be done quite quickly to put some provision in there - see example of Paris Street below. This would in addition contribute to benefits for local people of OKR regeneration.



This is a newly built parkour/skate area on Cator St, no more than 100m from the park, with no signage to indicate what it is, it's barely used. So,with existing facilities so close and so new, do we need more?

Could not all the new developments around the park insert elements of the urban games area into their designs to prevent overcrowding everything in one narrow area of the park?

New uses for urban streets Paris street based skateboard park

Lemvig skatepark is down by the docks in industrial land

The Malov Axis Copenhagen is next to an underpass oriented towards it.

Folkestone Gardens Skatepark - Concrete Skatepark in Deptford
This long, skinny skatepark is in a style that could be adapted around the existing and future sports without taking up more green area.

Other examples
Fairlop water country park bouldering

Crystal Palace skatepark is useful - it's back drop is the pool building but it is still a lump of concrete stuck in the green.

Royal Victoria Park Bath - large area adjacent to the playground and walkway through to the park