

Parks for People

18.11.08, Nottingham Arena

A conference focusing on how community groups and local authorities can work together to successfully manage parks and green spaces.

0900: Coffee and registration

0945: Chair's introduction and welcome: Michael Rowan, Director of Mile End Park, LB Tower Hamlets

0955: Welcome from Nottingham City Council: Councillor Dave Trimble, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Leisure and Communities

1000: Communities in control: Charles Woodd, Partnership Delivery Team Leader, Department for Communities and Local Government

The government's recently published White Paper is about passing power to communities and giving real control and influence to more people. Charles Woodd will discuss the paper and its implications for local authorities and community groups across the country, focusing particularly on how communities can become more involved in managing local services and assets.

1030: GreenSpace Fund: Matt Kelly, Head of Parks and Open Spaces, Preston City Council

This presentation will explore the new GreenSpace Fund, which will encourage local businesses to invest in improvements to their local environment under the corporate social responsibility and climate change agendas. Developed by Preston City Council and supported by KPMG and GreenSpace North West, the fund will offer the opportunity to involve all stakeholders in successfully improving their parks - from community groups to local authorities to local businesses.

1055: Coffee

1120: Bringing people together: Sarah Royal, Chair and Emma Woolf, Vice Chair, Birmingham Open Spaces Forum
Birmingham Open Spaces Forum works to bring together a diverse range of groups to share knowledge and experience from parks and green spaces across the community. Sarah and Emma will discuss how and why the forum was set up and how much there is to be gained from balanced representation and increased communication.

1145: Managed by communities: Viv Cole, Trust Manager, Warley Woods Community Trust

The management of parks by community trusts offers a way to ensure our green spaces are valued now and in the future. This presentation will explore how Warley Woods Community Trust raises money for maintenance and improvement and how community involvement is fundamental to making this model of management work. It will also reflect on the benefits of a positive relationship with the local authority.

1210: Lunch & GreenSpace AGM

1330: Afternoon session. Delegates choose to attend a workshop or site tour, or stay to hear the speaker session in the main auditorium.

Site Tour 1: Victoria Park and St Mary's Rest Garden

Delegates will learn about a partnership between the community restoration team and park rangers, and discover how they are working together to maintain this Green Flag park in the city centre.

Site Tour 2: Lenton Recreation Ground

This site tour will explore how a partnership between Nottingham's parks team, Lenton Forum and the University of Nottingham has led to the regeneration of this historic recreation ground.

Site Tour 3: Martins' Pond Local Nature Reserve

Delegates will meet representatives from the nature reserve's friends group, the local authority and the ranger service in order to learn about how different groups have worked together to improve the infrastructure of the nature reserve and how its future management has been secured.

Speaker session in main auditorium:

1330: Nottingham in Bloom: Caroline Elmhirst, Partnership Manager, Nottingham City Council

Nottingham has recently been crowned 'Champion of champions' of Britain in Bloom, largely due to the high level of engagement from all sections of the community on the competition. This presentation will explore how the campaign was used as a springboard to increase community engagement, and how this has been sustained beyond the competition.

1400: Engaging communities through art projects: Abigail Downer

Abigail Downer is an experienced artist who has worked in the public realm for many years, with projects developed and realised throughout the UK. In this presentation she will discuss how working with diverse communities on creative projects can help them to engage with the environment and people around them.

1430: The true value of community farms and gardens: Lynn Taylor, Field Worker, Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG)

A recent research paper published by the FCFCG found that the benefits created by community farms and gardens go a long way towards supporting government agendas on health, education, climate change and social inclusion. Lynn Taylor will discuss the findings using practical examples from the Nottingham area, and provide advice on how their work can be applied elsewhere.

1500: Coffee

1530: Panel discussion

1600: Summary and close: Michael Rowan