

Date for the diary

Wednesday 5 March 2008 – for immediate release

Nature in the City

Tuesday 15 April 2008

London Zoo

Nature in the City, a conference organised by GreenSpace, is taking place on Tuesday 15 April 2008 at London Zoo. The conference is in partnership with IPGS and the Greater London Authority, and supported by Glendale. The one-day event will focus on managing urban parks for people, plants and wildlife.

Paul Bramhill, Chief Executive of GreenSpace, said “Managing parks for both people and wildlife can be a difficult balance to achieve.

“Today’s park managers face the challenge of making their green spaces accessible for everyone, in all seasons. There is a growing need to adapt to climate change and protect habitats so that the opportunity to experience wildlife in urban parks does not become a rarity”.

-Ends-

-Notes to Editors-

- For further information, or to arrange a press pass, please contact:

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- GreenSpace is a registered charity which works to improve parks and green spaces by raising awareness, involving communities and creating skilled professionals. For more information please go to www.green-space.org.uk

- **Presentations will include:**

Why we need green cities

Richard Lindsay, Head of Conservation, University of East London

Greener cities are healthier cities – and nature has a remarkable capacity to refresh the spirit and improve quality of life. Richard Lindsay will set the scene for the day by considering just why nature in the city is so important.

Bringing nature closer to people

Jan Hewlett, Senior Biodiversity Advisor, Greater London Authority

How can we ensure that natural environments are accessible to all, regardless of background, age or mobility? Jan Hewlett will draw on practical case studies to show how the challenges of improving access to nature can be met.

Contracts for wildlife

Nigel Dunnett, Reader in Urban Horticulture, University of Sheffield

It's essential that the importance of enriching the wildlife value of an urban park is communicated to everybody involved in its management and maintenance. Nigel Dunnett will focus on how to make contracts work for wildlife.

Creating sustainable wildflower landscapes

Richard Scott, Senior Ecologist, Landlife

Involving people in 'creative conservation' provides benefits both to communities and their environment. Richard Scott will present a practical guide to creating wildlife areas that bring nature and people closer together.

Access to nature

Claire Barrett, Access to Nature Grants Officer, Natural England

Natural England works to enhance biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife. Claire Barrett will focus on the work the organisation is doing to encourage people from all backgrounds to understand, access and enjoy the natural environment, with a particular emphasis on the Access to Nature grant scheme.

Playing naturally

Helen Woolley, Senior Lecturer, University of Sheffield

Research has shown that children benefit from experiences in spaces which have natural elements in them. Helen Woolley will discuss these benefits, some of the issues around the design of playgrounds during the last 40 years and how play space provision can take a more 'natural' approach.

Engaging young people in nature conservation

Paul Clay, Nature Conservation Officer and Katrina Baker, Head of Community, Education and Youth, Groundwork UK

How can young people be encouraged to volunteer for conservation work? Paul Clay and Katrina Baker will consider the benefits and give practical ideas of how to engage young people in nature conservation.

Wildlife in a changing climate

Mathew Frith, Landscape Regeneration Manager, Peabody Trust

How may climate change affect wildlife in the UK? Mathew Frith will examine how biodiversity is responding to changing conditions, and consider the opportunities for attracting new species of flora and fauna to parks and green spaces in the future.

Site tours will include:

Wild in the parks, Regents Park

This site tour will examine the work of the RSPB-funded Wild in the Parks project, which aims to bring people closer to wildlife.

Wetlands in Regent's Park

This site tour will explore the recently extended wetlands in Regent's Park, discovering how this important habitat is managed.

Bird and water management in St James' Park

This site tour will take in the famous lake in St James' Park, and find out more about how the park's birds are cared for.