



Diary Date

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Love Parks Week 2008 announced

This year's Love Parks Week, organised by parks charity GreenSpace, will take place between Saturday 14 and Sunday 22 June 2008.

The national campaign aims to raise awareness of the importance of Britain's parks and green spaces and the central role that parks play in communities across the country. This is the third year that GreenSpace have held the campaign, and in 2008 the focus is on the role that parks can play in the health of children.

Childhood obesity is rising throughout the UK and action is needed to curb this worrying trend. According to the Department of Health, one fifth of children under the age of 16 are obese and this is set to rise to 25% of children by 2050. Parks provide free access to valuable spaces where children can play and maintain higher levels of physical activity, while having fun in a safe environment. Throughout Love Parks Week there will be scheduled events in some of the UK's best-loved parks and green spaces that will provide a wide range of healthy activities for children to get involved in.

Paul Bramhill, Chief Executive of GreenSpace, said: "Rising childhood obesity levels are a growing concern, and so this year's Love Parks Week is all about encouraging children to get active in their local park and to take advantage of the free and fun events on offer."

Other events taking place during the week include a national conference, Parks for Life, which will look at how to maximise the health potential of parks, and a round table debate to discuss the future of parks and what has been achieved a year on since the first debate took place in Love Parks Week 2007.

Visit www.loveparksweek.org.uk for more information and to find out what's on in your local area.

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-Notes to Editors-

- 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
- Love Parks Week was launched in 2006, when it was celebrated by 200 park events attracting 150,000 attendees. In 2007 300 events took place during the week and encouraged over 250,000 people to get out into their local parks and green spaces.
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