

Wednesday 11 February – for immediate release

Last few places available for Parks in the Credit Crunch conference

Parks in the Credit Crunch, a conference organised by GreenSpace, is taking place on Tuesday 17 February 2009 at the Royal Geographical Society in London. The conference, which will explore how to secure funding for parks and green space in an uncertain financial climate while utilising their existing resources to the full, is organised in partnership with IPGS.

Paul Bramhill, Chief Executive of GreenSpace, said: "During these times of financial uncertainty it is more important than ever for parks managers to be able to explore innovative ways to raise funds and secure resources for their parks and green spaces.

"This conference seeks to highlight and share success stories that will inspire delegates, and to provide valuable tools that will to the make the most of existing resources."

Places are limited and delegates are advised to book their places as soon as possible.

-Ends-

-Notes to Editors-

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

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Communications Officer
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To book a place at the conference, please contact:

Jessica Reid
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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:

Securing resources for parks

Paul Bramhill, Chief Executive, GreenSpace

In difficult economic times, what resources are available for parks and green space? How should parks professionals be approaching the issue of resources, and what can they do to secure them? Paul Bramhill will provide advice on the opportunities available by looking at a variety of case studies and examples.

The Green Space Fund: A new model for funding parks

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 offers the opportunity to engage all stakeholders in parks and secure their future in doing so.

Measuring the value of green space assets

Helen Beck, Research and Futures Advisor, CABE Space

Most councils assume that each park they own is worth just £1. New research by CABE Space suggests an alternative way of valuing parks in order to get people thinking about the true value of the assets they manage. Helen Beck will summarise the research and the framework which can be used to put forward well-evidenced arguments for the funding of parks and green spaces and to negotiate confidently in a climate of tightening budgets.

Attracting sponsorship for parks and green space

Eddie Curry, Head of Parks and Open Spaces, Nottingham City Council

Nottingham in Bloom has attracted over £90k worth of corporate sponsorship, which helped the city win the 'champion of champions' award in the competition last year. Eddie Curry will discuss how the scheme obtained this funding and provide advice on taking up a similar approach elsewhere.

Obtaining funding through partnership working

George Broughton, Countryside Management Service Manager, Cheshire County Council

In this presentation George Broughton will describe how partnership working in Cheshire has provided access to significant funding streams from a wide variety of sources, and how this approach has been used to pool resources across organisations.

Working effectively with volunteers

Tony Newby, Head of Programmes, BTCV

Volunteers contribute to green space in a variety of ways, but the financial impact of this contribution is not always fully appreciated. Tony Newby will discuss the challenges and opportunities when working with volunteers, and explore how they can become a valuable asset to any green space if managed effectively.

Successful funding applications

Lorna McRobie, Head of Parks for People Programme, Heritage Lottery Fund

Lorna McRobie will provide delegates with information and advice on the new 2009 and onwards processes for Lottery funding applications through the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Parks for UK People' Programme.

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