Monday 29 March 2010 – For immediate release

Diary date:
Parks for Youth
20 April 2010
Watershed, Bristol

GreenSpace's next conference, Parks for Youth, will take place on Tuesday 20 April at the Watershed in Bristol. The conference, which will focus on how to engage young people in parks and green spaces, is organised in partnership with IPGS.

Speakers at the event will include David Hopkins, national programme manager at youth charity Catch22, who will share case studies from the £8.3m Community Space Challenge programme, which is funding 70 projects supporting young people in taking a leading role in transforming their local environment.

The ever-growing popularity of social networking provides new ways to communicate with young people and encourage greater engagement and participation. Katie Bacon, a youth worker who specialises in using social media, will share her experience to help delegates begin to explore the possibilities for promoting events, organising activities, recruiting members and gathering feedback online.

Later in the day, delegates will also hear from Dr Natalie Djohari, who will share findings from research that has identified angling as an activity that has the potential to engage hard to reach young people and provide them with a sense of purpose and belonging. The presentation will explore how angling or similar activities could be delivered in parks and green spaces, and how to draw on the expertise of local specialist groups to increase the success of projects.

The one-day conference will consist of a packed programme of presentations, workshops and site tours. To find out more and book a place, please call Caroline Carsey on 0118 946 9068, email events@green-space.org.uk or go to www.green-space.org.uk.

-Ends-

-Notes to Editors-

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

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  Communications Manager
  T: 0118 946 9066
  E: emmad@green-space.org.uk

To book a place at the conference, please contact:
Caroline Carsey
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T: 0118 946 9068
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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 include:**

Transforming spaces with young people
David Hopkins, National Programme Manager, Catch22
Community Space Challenge is youth charity Catch22's £8.3m five-year programme, which is funding 70 projects supporting young people in taking a leading role in transforming their local environment. David Hopkins will share learning from the projects and will present case studies that highlight how young people are contributing to the creation of new community gardens, nature trails and allotment sites across England.

Providing the right facilities
Nigel Richardson, Outdoor Education Manager, London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Getting the right mix of facilities for different groups of young people can be a complex challenge that cannot be resolved through short-term consultation alone. Nigel Richardson from Tower Hamlets Urban Adventure Base will discuss how to work in partnership with young people and youth services to provide a range of activities and facilities with wide appeal.

Using social media to reach out
Katie Bacon, Director, Online Youth Outreach Training
The ever-growing popularity of social networking provides new ways to communicate with young people and encourage greater engagement and participation, making it possible to promote events, organise activities, recruit members and gather feedback online. Katie Bacon will share her experience to help delegates begin to explore the possibilities when using social media as a tool, and consider how to effectively and safely put this into practice.

Increasing engagement through activities
Dr Natalie Djohari, Researcher, Substance
Research has identified angling as an activity that has the potential to engage hard

to reach young people and provide them with a sense of purpose and belonging. Using case studies, Dr Natalie Djohari will discuss how angling or similar activities could be delivered in parks and green spaces, and how to draw on the expertise of local specialist groups to increase the success of projects.

Delegates may choose to attend a workshop or site tour:

Workshop 1: Giving young people a voice
Amy Harrison, Education Manager, Architecture Centre, Bristol
Many parks professionals face the challenge of how to provide young people with the opportunity to get involved with improvements in their area. Amy Harrison will demonstrate the new Spaceshaper 9-14 toolkit, which was developed by CABE Space, Beam and the Bristol and Kent Architecture Centres to give young people the opportunity to voice their opinions on a space.

Workshop 2: Using parks as an educational space
Beth Jones, Project Officer, Schools in the Parks, Field Studies Council
Attracting secondary schools to make use of local parks and green spaces as an educational resource can often prove challenging. This workshop will provide the opportunity to discover how the Schools in the Parks project delivers training to parks staff, environmental educators and volunteers so that they can work effectively with secondary schools to provide activities that support the national curriculum.

Two further workshops will be announced soon.

Site Tour 1: St Agnes Parks and St Paul's Adventure Playground
This site tour will offer the opportunity to explore a new project to extend St Agnes Park across a pedestrian street into nearby St Paul's Adventure Playground. Delegates will visit the site and discover how the new improvements maximise play opportunities for children and young people, enhancing the shared public space for all.