



Monday 1 February 2010 – For immediate release

Diary date:

Sustainable Parks: Sustainable Futures

2 March 2010

Liverpool, Merseyside Maritime Museum

GreenSpace's next conference, Sustainable Parks: Sustainable Futures will take place on Tuesday 2 March at the Merseyside Maritime Museum in Liverpool. The conference, which will focus on how to create and manage environmentally sustainable parks and green spaces, is organised in partnership with IPGS.

As the climate changes, it is important that parks and green spaces are able to adapt and help to mitigate the worst effects, as well as ensure sustainability is at the heart of their own methods and policies. Increasingly local authorities and other organisations are aiming to prove their environmental credentials by reducing waste and maximising water and energy efficiency, and will be looking to park services to play their part.

Speakers at the event will include Nicola Mathers, advisor at CABE, who will share examples of best practice from both the UK and overseas, including parks and green spaces that are effectively managing water to alleviate flooding and drought, embracing the latest in sustainable design and providing cost-effective environmental benefits city-wide.

Maryann Harris, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent at Dublin City Council, will share with delegates how Father Collins Park became Ireland's first public space to have the capacity to be entirely energy self-sufficient, while Dennis Clarke, Head of Parks Services, will talk about how The Royal Parks gained the internationally recognised ISO14001 environmental standard.

The one-day event will consist of a packed programme of presentations, with the option to attend a site tour to one of Liverpool's parks in the afternoon. 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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To book a place at the conference, 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 include:**

Adapting public space to climate change

Nicola Mathers, Advisor, CABE

Sustainability has been at the forefront of CABE's recent work, with a particular emphasis on adapting public space to climate change. Nicola Mathers will share examples of best practice from both the UK and overseas, including parks and green spaces that are effectively managing water to alleviate flooding and drought, embracing the latest in sustainable design and providing cost-effective environmental benefits city-wide.

Building environmental issues into park management

Paul Hyde, Freelance Consultant, In-Place

Improving a park service's environmental performance is about more than considering peat and pesticides. Paul Hyde will explore practical examples of how best to conduct an environmental review, and how to share the outcomes with internal and external stakeholders.

Providing park facilities that improve environmental and financial sustainability

Andy Barnard, Superintendent of Burnham Beeches, City of London

The City of London was the first local authority to develop a climate change adaptation strategy and at their Burnham Beeches site this underpins work being carried out to ensure the long-term sustainability of the ancient woodland. Andy Barnard will explain how, on a tight budget, it was possible to create two new cost-effective and sustainable park buildings using only local subcontractors and incorporating solar power, water saving mechanisms, recycled materials and green roofs to minimise the impact on the surrounding environment.

Achieving sustainability service-wide

Dennis Clarke, Head of Parks Services, The Royal Parks

Having gained the internationally recognised ISO14001 environmental standard, The

Royal Parks are committed to ensuring environmental issues are at the heart of their management strategies. Dennis Clarke will explain how this affects how the parks are run, why it is important, and how The Royal Parks plan to achieve sustainability across their whole service.

Increasing energy self-sufficiency

Maryann Harris, Senior Executive Parks Superintendent, Dublin City Council

Father Collins Park is Ireland's first public space to have the capacity to be entirely energy self-sufficient, with five wind turbines powering the park's lighting, water pumping system, changing rooms and maintenance depot. Maryann Harris will discuss how this was delivered and how it forms part of a wider initiative to encourage the use of renewable energy sources and improve energy efficiency in Dublin City Council's service delivery.

Improving sustainability for the Green Flag Award

Mel Henley, Parks Manager and Green Flag Judge, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Sustainability is the main area of the Green Flag Award that applicants most struggle to achieve high scores in, with parks managers failing to demonstrate that a well-informed environmental policy and environmentally sound methods are in place. Using his experience as a Green Flag judge, Mel Henley will discuss what can let a site down and use examples of best practice to explore how to avoid this.

Taking a strategic approach to water management

Cathy Johnston, Group Manager - Development and Regeneration Services, Glasgow City Council

Glasgow has suffered severe flooding in recent years, which has highlighted the city's need for a more efficient and sustainable drainage system. Cathy Johnston will explore how the Glasgow City Council and Glasgow and Clyde Valley (GCV) Green Network Partnership is committed to providing a network of quality green spaces that will enable a strategic approach to the area's water management, with parks and green spaces playing a lead role in fulfilling the partnership's long-term vision of creating a truly sustainable metropolitan region.

Delegates may choose to attend a site tour instead of the afternoon presentations

Site Tour 1: Croxteth Hall and Country Park

Croxteth Hall and Country Park is one of Liverpool's most significant heritage assets. Delegates will have the opportunity to learn how the use of traditional management techniques has helped maintain a sustainable and educational space.

Site Tour 2: Stanley Park and Walton Hall Park Closed Loop Recycling Depot

Stanley Park has recently undergone extensive restoration, which included the transformation of a derelict glasshouse into a new events venue and the creation of a filtration drainage system for the site. Delegates will have the opportunity to also visit the nearby Walton Park Closed Loop Recycling Depot to learn how Liverpool City Council recycles all organic material from its parks and reuses the material as compost or mulch across the city.