



Parklands
South Essex

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BACKGROUND TO GI IN THAMES GATEWAY

- Greengrid South Essex Strategy c. 2005
- Sir Terry Farrell's "National Park" idea
- TGF 2007 Sir Terry Farrell – TG Design Champion
- July 2008 South Essex Parklands Business Plan presented to CLG
- September 2008 Parkland Vision launched
- Margaret Beckett announced £11.5 m for 5 projects in South Essex at Thames Gateway Forum in Nov 2008



Final Spend

Parklands has funded 5 major projects in South Essex totalling £9.7 million

- South Essex Marshes (RSPB) £5.2 million
- Thurrock Thameside Pk (EWT) £675k
- Wat Tyler Country Pk (BDC) £1.6 million
- Thurrock Wildspace (RSPB) £1.3 million
- Canvey Wick (Land Trust) £800k

CENTRAL SOUTH ESSEX MARSHES

- Managed by the RSPB
- Restoration of Bowers, Gifford, Vange and West Canvey Marshes
- £5.2 million of Parklands funding
- 930 hectares of greenspace enhanced/created
- 17km routes
- New Visitor centre created
- 9 FTE jobs created



WAT TYLER COUNTRY PARK

- Managed by Basildon District Council
- £1.6 million of Parklands funding
- Creation of a Green Centre, promoting green training and education, low carbon technologies and sustainable land use.
- Improved landscaping and access works at the north end of the Park
- Creation of 3 new habitats

CANVEY WICK

- Managed by the Land Restoration Trust
- £2.6 million of Parklands funding
- Restoration of 100ha ex-petroleum refining site
- Unique industrial habitat supporting numerous rarities
- 7km cycle paths created/upgraded
- 6km footpaths created/upgraded
- 1 FTE job created



THURROCK THAMESIDE NATURE PARK

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- Managed by Essex Wildlife Trust
- £675,000 of Parklands Funding
- Restoration enhancement of the Mucking landfill
- 640 hectares of greenspace created/enhanced
- 8.2 km of new footpaths
- 5 FTE jobs created

WILDSpace THURROCK

- Managed by RSPB
- £1.3 million of Parklands funding
- Enhance 400 hectares of greenspace
- New bridge over the Mardyke river
- New wind Turbine
- Compost toilet block
- 2km of new/upgraded paths



HADLEIGH OLYMPIC SITE

- Linkage with Parklands
- Paths to the event from Leigh and Benfleet Stations
- Paths to other Parklands sites, West Canvey Marshes, Canvey Wick, Wat Tyler etc
- Another great reason to visit South Essex – the Olympic Mountain biking track and Centre



Parklands Outputs

- 3 new Visitor Centres/Green Centre with learning programmes
- An expected 360,000 extra visitors at the 5 projects
- 2060 hectares of new and enhanced greenspace
- 36 km of new and upgraded cycle and footpaths
- 17 new jobs created and 9 safeguarded jobs
- 13 hectares of SSSI improved at Canvey Wick
- 28 hectares of new habitat for BAP species
- 111 hectares of brownfield land remediated

Parklands Outcomes

- Visitors and local communities visit the local parks and nature reserve more often
- More understanding and pride in South Essex
- Healthier lifestyles
- Image of South Essex improved by association with good quality environment
- Increased investment as a result of better image



The Funding Process Path

**Vision
to
Strategy
to
Funders
to
Applications
To
Delivery**



Parklands the Vision

We hope to continue the momentum of the Parklands Initiative

Two major opportunities present themselves, namely;

a) The South Essex Marshes has the potential of a sub-regional park connected by the Thames Estuary Path, the C2C line and populated by some 20 parks, nature reserves and heritage sites

b) The Southend/Rochford Greenbelt where the Urban Habitats Programme (Interreg) is drawing up proposals to allow access to large swathes of greenbelt including, Barling, Cherry Orchard Park and Wallasea Island

GREENGRID ACTION PLAN

- 47 Strategic Green infrastructure projects
- Cost £55 million
- Sub regional projects

Thames Estuary Path	£13,108,000
Extending the Marshes	£19,809,000
Greenways to Greenspaces	£8,467,000
S. Essex Woodlands	£8,250,000



Potential Funders?

HLF,
Landfill Community Fund,
Interreg,
CIL,
S106,
LTP,
Single Conversation and
others



Parklands the Future



The principal potential funders became:

- 1) European funding via the Interreg programme
- 2) Landfill Community Fund
- 3) Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership

Parklands EU Interreg Funding

The project title is MAXIGREEN, maximising Green Heritage, was applied for in January 2011.

This will translate into a number of improvements locally, namely;

- Creating Visions for the South Essex Marshlands
- Creating linkages between the C2C train line stations and the Marshes
- Promoting the South Essex Marshlands
- Improving access with new paths, signage, maps, mobile phone tech etc
- Creating education programmes relating to the marshes history and biodiversity
- Linking the Hadleigh Farm Mountain biking venue to the Marshes and the Thames Estuary Path

The total bid for the South Essex Marshlands is worth £887,000, 50% of which is European funding.

Parklands Veolia Trust Funding

The local Veolia Trusts have agreed to fund sections of the Thames Estuary Path

The proposal includes:

- Improved surfaces on sections
- New directional signage
- New interpretation signage
- New infrastructure, eg stiles, gates, seats etc
- Promotion of the Path at visitor attractions along the Path
- Signage from the C2C train stations to allow for “train hopping”
- along the Path



The total bid is worth £150,000

Parklands Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

A HLF Landscape Partnership project bid for the South Essex Marshes was applied for in March 2011

Examples of Landscape Partnership projects:

- restoration of the freshwater marshes by the RSPB, EWT and others
- the creation of substantial sections of the Thames Estuary Path
- the involvement and participation of the marshland edge communities
- training of local people in conservation and recreation skills
- the restoration of Strand Wharf in Old Leigh and Coalhouse Fort, and other built heritage projects
- improving access to the Marshes by using mobile phone technology

The total HLF Landscape Bid will be worth £2.5 million, of which £2 million will be HLF funding

Total Parklands Funding for the South Essex Marshes

Current (June 2011) bids

MaxiGreen Interreg Application	£441,353 (confirmed)
Essex County Council	£291,353 (confirmed)
Veolia Mardyke Trust	£25,000 (confirmed)
Veolia Pitsea Marshes Trust	£125,000 (confirmed)
HLF Landscape Partnership scheme	£1,985,200 (decision July 2011)
HLF matching funding	£524,270 (pending HLF decision)
TOTAL	£3,392,176

Parklands: the Southend/Rochford Greenbelt

Three major projects are regenerating this area:

- 1) Belfairs Woodland Centre funded by HLF and Southend Council for c.£1.7 million
- 2) The Urban Habitats Programme funding a strategy for Barling and Great Wakering countryside, £120,000 funded by Southend Council and Interreg(EU)
- 3) Cherry Orchard Country, a 200 acre park created by Rochford District Council

MINIMUM TOTAL £1.82 million

Parklands Conclusion



- Currently there are £5.2 (£3.4 plus £1.8 million) million of bids for Green infrastructure improvements across South Essex
- If they are successful they will substantially change the image of South Essex
- They will improve the health, education and pride of local residents
- Improving the environment of South Essex will continue to be a long term positive process



Parklands
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THANK YOU

www.greengrid.co.uk/parklands



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