

Forum Open Meeting

Monday 27th June 2011

Roundhay Park Education Centre, Leeds

*Over 30 million people in England use parks, making around 2.5 billion visits in total each year.
Nearly 70% of people use their parks frequently, and many go every day.*

(Blue Sky Green Space pg 6 - Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions, 2002)

Mission Statement...



...GreenSpace Yorkshire and Humber exists to champion quality and sustainable green spaces throughout the region that improve the quality of life for our residents and enhance visitor experience

91% of the public believe that parks and public spaces improves peoples' quality of life.

(Blue Sky Green Space pg 7 - CABE Space, 2005)

Aims

- Improve the value of parks and green spaces to the whole community by demonstrating the benefits and opportunities which they provide.
- Promote and support the value, regeneration, management and sustainable future of parks and green spaces in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- Help raise the quality standard of parks and green spaces in Yorkshire and Humber to reflect the needs and aspirations of all residents and visitors.
- Be the representative body for parks and green spaces in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

A person's ethnicity is the strongest indicator of the way they use their local green spaces. Therefore greater variety and flexibility in provision is required as well as consistently higher quality in all areas

Steering Group

Currently comprises of representation from:

Local Authorities

Voluntary/community sector

English Heritage

Federation of City Farms &
Community Gardens

Forestry Commission

Groundwork

Natural England

Green Flag Award Judges
Association Committee
regional representative

GreenSpace Staff & Trustee

Vegetation provides an opportunity for people to be close to 'nature' with the associated positive impact that this can bring in terms of mental health and the simple pleasure of experiencing trees, birds, squirrels, ladybirds and other wildlife in an urban situation.

Steering Group cont.

Current Local Authority sub regional representation

- North Yorkshire – Harrogate BC
- South Yorkshire – Sheffield City Council
- West Yorkshire – Leeds City Council & Wakefield MDC
- East Yorkshire – Kingston upon Hull City Council
- North Lincolnshire – North Lincolnshire Council

If people are satisfied with local parks, they tend to be satisfied with their council.

(Blue Sky Green Space pg 7- CABE Space., 2010)

GSYH Forum Update

- Steering Group met twice since Dec open meeting
- General forum management – Business Plan, Action Plan, Finance etc
- Instigated Performance Indicators Focus Group
- Networking with other parks and green spaces interest groups
- Attended National Forum and GreenSpace meetings to raise regional voice
- Responded to member needs by attending conferences and gathering info for Member Updates
- Secured funding... ... BUT NOT ENOUGH!

The annual economic value of the work of community groups in parks and green spaces across the UK ranges somewhere between £17 million and £35 million.

GSYH What next?

- Performance Focus Group feedback to the region
- Progress Heads of Service meeting
- Membership feedback survey
- Expansion of sector engagement
- Continue to improve communications: review website, social media
- Look at funding opportunities to secure sustainability of the Forum
- Open Meeting autumn 2011 – Green Flag Plus Partnership update

A daily walk in the park reduces the risk of a heart attack by 50%.

(Blue Sky Green Space pg 7- Hakim, A. A. et al. ,1999)



- **23 – 31 July 2011** - Less than a month to go
- New campaign toolkit and promotional materials are available to download from the website.
- Please register your event – aiming for 1500 events nationally! 78 last year across Yorkshire
- 54 to date = 69% registered in 2010
- NE Lincs = 6
- Aiming for over 1m visitors
- Goodies to buy to promote your events - every penny raised supports the campaign.

www.loveparksweek.org.uk



The Royal Parks generated over £14m from events throughout the capital in 2009

(Blue Sky Green Space pg 40 - The Royal Parks., 2010)

GreenSpace Update

- Policy, Research and Information Team – The team has been involved in responding to a number of consultations including the Right to Buy, with the draft of the Quality Manual has been circulated , photos being sought.
- A new version of Blue Sky Green Space document in relation to Climate Change has been produced.
- Natural Play Conference, 8th June in Leeds in conjunction with Play England, was successful. Conference report available for a small charge.
- IPGS are holding a workshop in Bristol next week on 29th June entitled Influencing and Advocacy
- GS have been involved in two major research projects: interim feedback today

A study in Merseyside revealed that the temperature was 7°C cooler where vegetation cover was 50% compared to where the vegetation cover was only 15%.

(Blue Sky Green Space pg 28 - Whitford, V., Ennos, A. R. and Handley, J. F. ,2001)

GreenSpace Update

- Green Flag
 - 1370 applications have been received this year
 - further interest regarding the scheme has been received internationally from Germany in particular.
- GreenLINK – steadily growing and a recent meeting with Andrew Stunell MP was fairly successful.
- CABE Space Leaders Conference booklets are now available following a successful conference. Inspiration in Challenging Times
- Green Space Fund – piloting in 3 areas
- NFPGS Conference - September 17th 2011 - World Parks Day!

The number one ranked issue for good parks and public spaces is that they give a sense of community

(Blue Sky Green Space pg 7 – Cabe Space, 2004)

Should you wish your organisation to become a paid member, or should you require any other information please contact:

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