

Space To Breathe

ID 11195

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## ii. FOREWORD

Extract from the UK's Sustainable Development Strategy, January 1994:

*“Urban quality depends on the creation and protection of green space in cities, for amenity and recreation. Decisions on alternative uses of open space should take into account the needs of future generations, for once developed it is gone forever. Everyone should have easy access to public open space, and deficiencies will need to be made good as opportunities arise.”*

The purpose of ‘Space to Breathe’ is to ensure that the city’s green spaces are treated sustainably so that, not only are they there for present generations but remain available for future generations to enjoy. The Strategy provides the framework for achieving Agenda 21 objectives in relation to green space and will help establish a Local Agenda 21 for the city.

‘Space to Breathe’ was produced by a team of officers as a joint initiative of the Department of Leisure and Community Services, Development Department and Design and Property Services Department. Initial consultation was undertaken in parallel with consultation on the draft local plan and responses received were taken into account in producing this strategy. The officer team responsible for the draft strategy is as follows:-

### **Strategy Steering Group**

Michael Williams - *Director, Department of Leisure & Community Services*  
John Pell - *Assistant Director, Sport & Leisure Management, Department of Leisure & Community Services*  
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### **Strategy Working Group**

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### iii. SUMMARY

The purpose of this Open Space Strategy, which we have called, appropriately, 'Space to Breathe', is to bring about sustainable management of Nottingham's open space resource. 'Sustainable' in this context, is ensuring that our parks and other open spaces are not only there for current generations, but are protected and managed in ways which ensure they remain available to meet the needs of future generations.

The whole ethos of this approach is embodied in the philosophy that parks and other open spaces are there for people and are a major contributory factor to quality of life in the City. In addition, it recognises that many of the features in parks and open spaces, such as historic landscapes, views, ancient woodlands and other wildlife sites, are either irreplaceable or extremely difficult to replace. Such features are valuable both to the people who use and enjoy our open spaces and the plants and animals who inhabit them, and should be preserved and managed so as to secure their long-term future.

Local Authorities are required to produce Local Agenda 21's to guide the future sustainable development of the areas they manage. 'Space to Breathe' will be used to set and achieve Local Agenda 21 objectives in the City in relation to protecting green spaces, involving local communities in the use, care and management of open spaces and encouraging biodiversity through a range of wildlife habitats.

'Space to Breathe' is also about quality. It aims to ensure that open spaces are provided and maintained to the quality appropriate to their use or function. This ensures that resources are used most effectively and helps each type of open space fulfil the function it is designed for.

The Strategy also contains a range of measures to help people use and enjoy parks and open spaces. These range from promoting and publicising open spaces, to working with communities through Community Wildlife Wardens and to a new, customer-friendly Parks Ranger Service.

In summary, this strategy is for all us. It is for you and for your children. It will help to make and keep the city a better place in which to live, work and play. That is the basic message for the future.

#### Space to Breathe

'Space to Breathe' consists of six separate sections. The first of these, '**Why we need a strategy**' . . . sets out the background, including the purpose of the strategy, the history and importance of open spaces and progress to date. The second section details '**The Open Space Resource**' with brief details of space types, land ownership and management, protection, and provision of facilities. Section Three looks at the '**Open Space Issues**' ie problems effecting parks and open spaces.

Section Four sets out the '**Objections and Policies**' for achieving the Strategy. Each policy is explained, together with an indication of how it will be implemented. Where relevant, the reference numbers of statutory Local Plan policies which will be used to achieve the Strategy policies are also given.

Section five is the '**Proposals Section**'. This sets out, in detail, city wide proposals for implementing the strategy and detailed proposals on an Area basis, with the City being divided into eight Areas. For the City-wide and Area proposals charts showing the profile of open space provision are also provided. There is also a list of complementary strategies and initiatives which will be used to help achieve the Open Space Strategy, and details of Management, Monitoring and Feedback arrangements.

The final version of the Strategy will also contain appendices which will include details of the Open Space Resource and relevant Local Plan Policies.

# SPACE TO BREATHE!

## WHY WE NEED A STRATEGY

### SECTION ONE.

#### Section One: Why we need a strategy

- 1.1 The Purpose of the Strategy.....
- 1.2 The History of Open Spaces in Nottingham.....
- 1.3 The Importance of Open Spaces.....
- 1.4 Progress to date.....

## **1 THE PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGY**

### **1.1 The main aims of this strategy are to**

- \* Promote the importance of open space and of its management in a sustainable way.
- \* Provide a more co-ordinated and integrated approach to making the best use of spaces, leading to a quality service.
- \* Focus on community needs and aspirations on an area basis, in order to help people use and enjoy open spaces.
- \* Secure the resources to manage, improve and promote the City's parks and open spaces and the linkages between them, in order to maximise their value to the people of Nottingham.

The City Council is required to produce Local Agenda 21's in respect of sustainable development. The strategy which is titled "Space to Breathe" will make a practical and tangible contribution towards the Local Agenda 21 objectives by involving local communities in the use, management and care of open spaces and by improving and extending the network of spaces. Encouraging biodiversity will form a key part of this improvement process.

### **1.2 THE HISTORY OF OPEN SPACES IN NOTTINGHAM**

The origins of today's urban parks date back to the 19th century. At that time, many people lived in crowded, unsanitary conditions, often in houses without gardens and with little access to open spaces. This resulted in poor health, poor quality of life and high crime rates. The Public Health Act of 1848 set out to change all this by enabling councils to create municipal parks and other public open spaces in order to provide healthy outdoor leisure pursuits by bringing pieces of countryside into our cities. As a result of this, the City of Nottingham gradually acquired many fine parks and open spaces including Wollaton Park, the Arboretum, Bulwell Hall Park and the Forest.

Nottingham has 3.2 hectares (approximately 8 acres) of space per 1000 population which compares favourably with the 2.4 hectares (6.0 acres) minimum target recommended by the National Playing Fields Association. Table 1 summarises the provision by space type and by the eight areas shown on Plan 1. In addition to the public parks and recreation grounds there are significant other sites including allotments, school playing fields, woodlands, private and institutional grounds which provide over 834 hectares (2000 acres) of further open space. Private gardens and incidental areas of landscaping collectively also contribute to the City's green cover but for the purposes of this study are not included.



# CITY WIDE OPEN SPACE PROFILE

Note: Other space includes woodlands, institutional and private grounds

AREAS	PLAYGROUNDS		PARKS AND REC. GROUNDS		OTHER SPACE*		ALLOTMENTS		SCHOOL GROUNDS		TOTAL SPACE (1) TO (5)		PLAY AREA PER CHILD		PARK PER HEAD	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No. of children*	m2 per child	Total popl.	m2 per head
1	23	5.6	4	164.7	16	70.7	6	14.7	22	62.1	71	317.8	10343	5.4	45413	36.3
2	21	4.3	5	47.7	19	31.3	9	14.3	14	48.2	68	145.8	7261	5.9	39540	12.1
3	16	8.0	9	313.2	24	103.3	12	29.7	19	51.6	80	505.8	11077	7.2	49205	63.6
4	32	6.6	3	12.1	16	22.4	7	25.3	17	14.2	75	80.6	7958	8.3	37348	3.2
5	25	6.6	11	220.2	22	32.1	14	44.4	17	27.2	89	330.5	8126	8.1	38165	57.7
6	1	0.05	2	5.8	14	13.4	0	0	1	0.2	18	19.45	920	0.5	7951	7.2
7	11	2.1	7	73.6	46	155.2	2	3.1	8	7.5	74	241.5	3314	6.3	18089	40.7
8	13	4.8	3	29.9	88	255.3	7	13.2	15	44.0	126	347.2	5362	9.0	27819	10.7
<b>CITY</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>38.05</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>867.2</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>683.7</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>144.7</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>255.0</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>1988.65</b>	<b>54361</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>263530</b>	<b>32.9</b>



# LOCATION OF AREAS



- 1**
  - a Bulwell West
  - b Bulwell East
  - c Byron
  - d Bestwood Park
- 2**
  - a Portland
  - b Basford
  - c Sherwood
  - d Mapperley
- 3**
  - a Strelley
  - b Aspley
  - c Beechdale
  - d Wollaton
  - e Bilborough
- 4**
  - a Forest
  - b Lenton
  - c Robin Hood
  - d Radford
- 5**
  - a Manvers
  - b Greenwood
  - c Trent
  - d St. Anns
- 6**
  - City Centre
- 7**
  - a Abbey
  - b Bridge
- 8**
  - a Clifton West
  - b Wilford
  - c Clifton East

Nottingham overall has a wealth of open space, nature conservation, sports and recreational facilities. It has 36 parks, 147 children's playgrounds, and numerous sports and recreational facilities. It also has a legacy of historic spaces and boulevards which include Wollaton Park, The Castle, The Arboretum, Oaks and the Chase. Other unique sites include the Hungerhills "green reservoir", The River Trent corridor, the Nottingham Beeston Canal and the River Leen.

Another feature of overall open space provision is the diversity of ownership and of management arrangements. Agencies include the City Council, County Council, major institutions, universities and colleges, private organisations, the utility companies, highways authorities, British Rail, voluntary organisations and other individuals and groups. Responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of public sites sometimes rests with different committees. Inevitable priorities and spending programmes of different agencies do not always coincide with each other. Nevertheless all of these agencies have an important role to play in the provision and maintenance of open spaces in the City.

### **1.3 THE IMPORTANCE OF OPEN SPACES**

Open Spaces make a major contribution to the character, quality of life and image of Nottingham as they:

- help to provide the quality image which is a key factor in attracting visitors and inward investment, thereby helping our local economy and helping to create jobs for local people
- constitute the city's 'green lungs' by helping to combat pollution, are important for their landscape and nature conservation interest and providing buffers between land uses
- form an important part of the land use structure of the city and are part of its cultural heritage, providing a sense of place
- provide important linkages between different parts of the city and the countryside beyond
- provide for a diversity of recreational needs from active sports to passive relaxation
- provide the 'feel good' factor, the quality of life essential for combating the stress of urban living
- contribute to self development and a healthy, varied lifestyle by providing opportunities for play, keep fit, landscape and environmental appreciation and the pleasure of enjoying and even cultivating plants

As we have already seen, Nottingham's Open Spaces are important for a wide range of different reasons. Unfortunately, many spaces are becoming increasingly vulnerable to the combined threats of a lack of investment, vandalism and misuse, and development pressures.

Given the importance of our 'living landscape', it is essential that it is safeguarded and enhanced in order to benefit both present and future generations. This can only be achieved if a new, strategic, sustainable approach is taken to the provision and management of all our open spaces. Such an approach allows for sustainable provision and management of our open spaces within the overall strategic framework of the management of the City of Nottingham.

#### 1.4 PROGRESS TO DATE.

Much has been achieved by the City Council over the last few years with improvements to open spaces, additional open space provision and measures to help people enjoy spaces. these have included:-

**Children's Playgrounds** - A number of new playgrounds have been provided, often as part of new housing developments. In addition we have, for the past few years, been undertaking a major programme of improvements to playgrounds, including installing new equipment, safer surfacing and dog-deterrent fencing.

**Playspace Policy** - Allied to the above we have introduced a playsafe policy at children's playgrounds with a safety checking and repair programme and a telephone hotline for fault reporting.

**Space to Play**- We are also developing a playspace policy aimed at further improving play opportunities in the City.

**Nottingham in Bloom** - For some years now our participation in the Britain in Bloom competition has helped to brighten the City and its parks with floral displays and has promoted high standards of horticulture.

**Woodthorpe Grange Nursery** - To assist plant production for the above we have installed a new glasshouse complex which uses less peat-free composts and has a Display House open to visitors.

**Passport to Leisure** - To enable all City residents, particularly, those on low incomes to enjoy the facilities in our leisure centres, parks and open spaces we have introduced 'Passport to Leisure', a scheme which allows use of facilities at a reduced charge.

**Sports Improvements** - A number of all-weather pitches have been installed and we have a team of Sports Development Officers dedicated to impressing and promoting sporting provision.

**New Open Spaces** - In addition to new playgrounds a number of other new open spaces have been provided. These include linear walkways along parts of the River Trent and Leen, new community gardens, pocket parks and other local open spaces.

**Improvements to Parks** - Where possible we have undertaken improvements to our parks including major refurbishment at the Forest, new position and extensive planting at Bulwell Hall Park and new sports facilities at Southglade Park.

**Waterside Improvements** - We have undertaken a range of improvements to the Nottingham-Beeston Canal, River Leen and River Trent.

**Trees** - We have undertaken numerous tree planting projects in streets, the City Centre, parks and woodlands. To improve management of the tree resource we have increased our staff from one to two tree officers and are progressively computerising our work systems. A draft Tree Strategy has also been produced. This represents for the first time a holistic approach to the urban forest.

**Nature Conservation** - We have adopted a Nature Conservation Strategy and within this have defined and protected and are enhancing and promoting a City wide network of wildlife sites for everyone to enjoy. To produce the Strategy we approved a Nature Conservation Officer.

**Access** - To enable everyone to have access to open and later appointed an assistant in order to assist with implementation.

**Corridors to the Countryside** - As part of the Nature Conservation Strategy and in partnership with a number of other local authorities, the countryside commission, National Rivers Authority and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust we are creating access routes, with associated wildlife, landscape and recreational improvements, along river corridors and former railway lines to link into and from the wider countryside around Nottingham.

# SPACE TO BREATHE!

## THE OPEN SPACE RESOURCE

### SECTION TWO.

#### Section Two: The Open Space Resource.

- 2.1 Space Types.....
- 2.2 Land Ownership and Management.....
- 2.3 Protection.....
- 2.4 Provision of facilities.....

## **2. THE OPEN SPACE RESOURCE**

### **2.1 SPACE TYPES**

#### **Major Parks**

Major parks are those with a catchment area that is city-wide and beyond, with a value to both residents and visitors, and are usually 100 acres or larger. There are five major parks comprising Bulwell Hall Park, Wollaton Park, University Park/Highfield, The Forest Recreation Ground and Colwick Country Park.

#### **District Parks**

District parks are those large enough to serve one or more districts. These include Bulwell Forest, The Arboretum, Southglade Park, Clifton Playing Fields and Clifton Central Park.

#### **Local Parks**

Local parks are those which primarily meet local needs within a small catchment area. These include Lenton Recreation Ground, Lenton Abbey Recreation Ground, Sycamore Recreation Ground and Radford Recreation Ground.

#### **Local Open Space**

This comprises a range of open spaces including those within housing estates, roadside verges, amenity grassed areas, tree and shrub plantings and hard landscaped areas. Such open space often makes a positive contribution to the visual appeal of areas and to quality of life and provides opportunities for informal play.

#### **Children's Playgrounds**

There are 147 children's playgrounds throughout the city offering a range of play opportunities at local level. Several are specially designed for integrated use, including use by children with disabilities, 32 playgrounds are on parks and the remaining 115, are located within housing estates.

#### **Allotments**

There are 58 City Council allotment sites in Nottingham, comprising 3273 plots. Approximately 77% of these are in use at any one time. There are also 4 private sites with a total of 371 plots.

## **Wildlife Sites**

The city has a comprehensive network of wildlife sites, reservoirs and corridors situated on parks and other open spaces. The network comprises 6 wildlife reservoirs, 3 wildlife corridors, wildlife links and stepping stones, 82 biological Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation and 35 geological Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

## **Open Space Corridors and other Routes**

The major wildlife corridors are also major open space corridors and offer scope for a range of wildlife, landscape and active and passive leisure opportunities. The key corridors are the River Trent, River Leen and Fairham Brook. Other routes which have scope for a range of opportunities include disused railway lines the Nottingham Beeston - Canal.

## **School Grounds**

There are a considerable number of school grounds in the city. These contain open spaces which are primarily used as sportsfields, but offer scope for landscape and wildlife enhancements and dual use of facilities.

## **Private Open Spaces**

Private open spaces range from those around institution grounds to sportsfields and gardens.

## **Gardens**

Gardens, both private and tenanted, are a major space type. Although they are not 'open space' in the sense that there is no public access to them, they provide much of the city's plant and animal diversity and contribute greatly to people's quality of life.



## **2.2 LAND OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Public Open Space**

This currently comes primarily under the City and County Councils, but also includes Hospital Trusts and Universities.

#### **a) Nottingham City Council**

owns extensive areas of public land including the City's 36 parks, most of the playgrounds and allotments and wildlife sites and much of the Open Space corridors.

#### **b) Nottinghamshire County Council**

owns school sites, libraries, grounds around ambulance and fire stations etc.

#### **c) Others**

The City Hospital, the Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham University and Nottingham Trent University also own extensive areas of open space within their grounds and campuses.

### **Private Open Space**

This often has no public access. In addition to private gardens, it consists primarily of the following space categories:

#### **a) Statutory Undertakers and Utilities**

This includes land owned by British Gas, the Electricity companies, Severn Trent and the National Rivers Authority. Although some of the land has public access, much of it does not. However, in many cases, it contributes to the visual 'green image' of the city.

#### **b) Institutions**

These include private firms, sports clubs etc. Again, such areas often make a positive contribution to the open space resource by providing either a visual amenity, habitat for wildlife, or sporting/leisure opportunities.

#### **c) Private Individuals**

Most of the land owned by private individuals is gardens, although some other areas of land, including several wildlife sites, are privately owned.

## **2.3 PROTECTION**

### **The Open Space Network**

Statutory Protection for the Open Space Network is provided in the City of Nottingham Deposit Local Plan. All spaces over 3 hectares are protected by policy R2 whilst spaces under 3 hectares are protected by policy CD1(d).

### **Wildlife Sites**

These are statutorily protected by policy CD28 which also protects wildlife reservoirs and corridors.

### **Conservation Area Status**

A number of areas within the city are also designated as conservation areas due to their historic townscape character and this also confers a degree of protection on spaces in such areas by placing constraints on development.

### **TPO's**

Many privately owned trees, which make a significant contribution to the city's character (and also some publicly owned ones) are protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

### **Other Measures**

A wide range of measures can be introduced effectively and in complementary ways to maintain and improve open spaces through positive action. This is the key to effective protection of spaces. These include the Green Charter, Green Partnership, promotional activities, the use of planning conditions for development and appropriate legal agreements and other related strategies for example the Nature Conservation Strategy.

## **2.4 PROVISION OF FACILITIES**

### **Passive Leisure**

All of the City's parks and some open spaces provide for passive leisure opportunities such as just sitting and relaxing in quiet surroundings, enjoying floral displays and watching wildlife.

### **Ornamental Features**

These include floral bedding displays in parks, traffic islands and city centre areas and a range of gardens such as those at Newstead Abbey, Wollaton park, the Arboretum and Clifton Central Park.

### **Wildlife Areas**

The wildlife network has many sites which are accessible to the general public and where wildlife can be enjoyed and appreciated.

### **Active Leisure: non-sporting**

The city's open spaces offer scope for a variety of non-sporting activities such as walking, cycling, picnicking, dog walking and informal play.

### **Sporting Opportunities**

Sporting opportunities are catered for at a range of spaces, Sports provision includes football pitches, cricket pitches, 3 18-hole golf courses, 2 pitch-&-putt courses, tennis courts, bowling greens, coarse fishing lakes, trout lake and windsurfing.

### **Allotment Gardening**

The City Council provides a range of sites many of which are run by associations on behalf of the Council. There are also a small number of private sites.

### **Events in Parks**

The City's parks play host to a range of events of various sizes ranging from major events such as the Heineken Music Festival and the Inland Boat Show to local community events and wildlife fun days.

### **Historical Features**

Our parks and other open spaces also reflect the city's history and contain preserved buildings such as Wollaton hall and the stable block at Bulwell Hall Park. History is also evident along areas such as the River Leen where the remains of former industry may be seen.

## **Animal Herds**

Wollaton Park, one of the city's foremost parks, contains herds of red and fallow deer as well as a small herds of white cattle and of donkeys.

## **Access Routes**

Most open spaces have good road access. Pedestrian, and where appropriate, cycle access is also being developed, including (where practicable) access for people with disabilities, in order to ensure everyone is able to enjoy our open spaces.

Access routes are currently being developed primarily through the Corridors to the Countryside Project and the River Leen Strategy.

## **Visitor interpretation**

Interpretative panels are located at some city sites and a few leaflets are available.

## **Visitor comfort facilities**

Most parks have public toilets. Cafe facilities are provided at Bulwell Hall Park, Wollaton Park and the Forest.

# **SPACE TO BREATHE!**

## **OPEN SPACE ISSUES**

### **SECTION THREE**

#### **Section Three: Open Space Issues**

##### **3.1 Open Space Issues**

## **3.1 OPEN SPACE ISSUES**

### **Introduction**

Much has been achieved by the City Council over the past decade in providing new playgrounds, footpaths and cycle paths, sports facilities and a range of other recreational facilities throughout the city using Capital Programme and Urban Programme resources. More recently, European funding, outside grant aid and private sponsorship has also helped us to undertake a variety of projects. A wide range of initiatives are currently being pursued. These include city-wide playground improvements, the Nature Conservation Strategy, the River Leen Strategy, the refurbishment of the Forest Recreation Ground, the Corridors to the Countryside Project and many others.

Although these improvements have done much to enhance open space in the city, they have generally been implemented as discrete elements rather than as part of a city-wide strategy and so they have been mostly unable to address or resolve the key issues facing our open spaces. These are detailed below:

### **Piecemeal erosion as a result of development**

Over the past few decades there has been a piecemeal erosion of open spaces particularly of amenity space within housing estates and of private sports grounds. These sometimes coincide with areas already deficient in open space and their loss places greater pressures on remaining spaces and facilities. The dwindling supply of land for new development within the City boundary will inevitably increase the vulnerability of existing open spaces, particularly those perceived and as under used or neglected.

### **Lack of Investment**

Many of our Victorian parks and other open spaces have suffered from under-investment and are now in need of major refurbishment. This is increasingly difficult to deal with as cutbacks in public expenditure and central government funding will affect future investment.

There is considerable scope for improving and refurbishing existing parks and open spaces throughout the City. More detailed suggestions are contained in each of the area profiles.

### **Under-utilisation**

Certain open spaces, notably non-City Council playing fields and some allotment sites are under-used. There is scope for rationalisation, improvements and alternative recreational uses.

### **Left over space**

Some open spaces are under-valued because they are perceived as 'left-over space'. This is a problem exacerbated by poor layout, design and subsequent maintenance. There are many instances, especially in the large, open plan estates, of small open spaces which are poorly conceived in terms of function, defensible space and ease of maintenance. Such spaces may have considerable wildlife value or may offer scope to create new play or recreational facilities. This is particularly important in areas of the city deficient in open space. Unfortunately, however, so-called left-over spaces are particularly vulnerable to development pressures.

### **Fragmentation**

The provision of and maintenance responsibilities for different types of spaces, both public and private, is fragmented. The priorities of different agencies and departments do not always coincide with local community needs. Fragmentation precludes strategic decision-making, makes it harder to secure resources and to maintain spaces overall in a coherent and efficient manner. It also reduces the likelihood of the City's green cover being managed in a sustainable way, and increases the risk of spaces being lost to development.

### **Inappropriate design and layout**

Poor quality development, inappropriate or inadequate design and other changes in the landscape can adversely affect the quality and character of open spaces and the open space network. Poorly thought-out schemes can also create problems by making future maintenance more difficult and consequently costly.

### **Lack of information on user needs**

There is a lack of available information on the usage of individual open spaces and of the extent to which these spaces are meeting a full range of local community needs including the needs of under represented groups. There is an urgent need to build up area profiles and overall customer satisfaction/needs assessments to help identify local City wide priorities for action.

### **Lack of information on the open space resource**

We lack sufficient information on the open space resource in the city. For example, what is the total open space resource? Who owns what land? How is the land used? What improvements are needed? What scope is there for change? Where is there no scope for change? What problems and issues do we need to resolve? This information must be available if we are to effectively implement the open space strategy.

## **Deficiencies in open space provision**

There are deficiencies in the distribution and quality of available open space. This affects both inner city areas and some of the outer housing estates especially those with a high proportion of young unemployed. The major deficiency City wide is not for equipped playgrounds but multi-use locally accessible open space. The main areas of deficiency taking into account both distribution and provision per head are as shown on Plan 1.

Aspley  
Basford  
Bestwood  
Bulwell, Parts of West and East  
Byron  
Clifton West  
Forest  
Manvers  
Park (New Lenton)  
Portland  
Radford  
Sherwood

A more detailed picture of each area with figures for individual wards are contained in the area profiles in Section 5. Each profile includes a table and a plan to show the location of spaces.

Many of these deficient areas, especially the inner city but also outer areas such as Aspley and Highbury Vale, tend to coincide with the least opportunities in terms of new sites and limited joint use options. With the exception of sites like Stanton Tip at Cinderhill the provision of most new open spaces are dependent on new development or redevelopment taking place. In the short term there are few opportunities for new sites compared to actual demand.

### **Lack of new sites**

With the exception of sites like Stanton Tip, the provision of most new open spaces are dependent on new development or redevelopment taking place. In the short term there are only few opportunities for new sites compared to actual demand.

### **Vandalism, misuse and community safety**

Vandalism is an increasing problem which costs many thousands of pounds annually in repairs and ruins enjoyment of many open spaces. Misuse ranges from litter and rubbish tipping to burning-out or dumping stolen vehicles, theft and threatening or attacking other users. Safety is also an important issue. People, especially the more vulnerable members of the community, need to feel safe in our parks and open spaces or they will not use or enjoy them. All of these issues need to be combated if people are to fully use, appreciate and enjoy open spaces.



## **Dogs**

Many people use open spaces for exercising their dogs. Whilst this is an important and legitimate activity, it must not be allowed to interfere with the enjoyment of other users. Dogs need to be under proper control at all times and dog fouling, which can ruin the enjoyment of other park users and is a recognised health risk, should also be controlled.

## **Sustainability**

Parks and other Open Spaces have an essential part to play in the future sustainability of the city. They are the city's 'green lungs' and provide us with 'space to breathe'. We hold them in trust for future generations and have a responsibility to ensure they are safeguarded and maintained.

## **Access to Spaces**

Not everyone has a car or wishes to travel by car to our open spaces. Nor is it desirable that they should since increased car use brings with it an increase in airborne pollutants. Good pedestrian and cycle access to open spaces would help reduce car visits and thereby reduce pollution. It would also make spaces more accessible and useable. Access problems in terms of crossing busy roads, lack of direct paths or cycle routes, lack of provision for disabled users and of convenient entry points to spaces exist throughout the City. Many sites have inadequate facilities for users with disabilities. There is also some conflict in gaining access to and circulation within open spaces, especially the larger parks, between motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

## **Cycle and Footpath Routes**

There is currently no intention to provide statutory footpath routes although a network of joint cycle and footpath routes is proposed. This, in some instances, where routes are unsuitable for joint use, is likely to lead to conflicts and problems between different types of users. There is little scope for providing horse routes.

## **Play Provision**

For a number of years the Council has been undertaking an ongoing refurbishment programme for children's playgrounds. This has focused on replacing worn-out or obsolete equipment with more exciting units, providing dog-deterrent fencing and safer surfaces, and introducing a 'Play-Watch' scheme. However, the level of play provision varies throughout the city. This needs to be addressed so that all children have a similar level of opportunity for play.

## **Quality Facilities and Service Delivery**

In spite of financial pressures the City Council seeks to provide a high quality of maintenance of sites but inevitably some customers have a poor image of the overall service. The lack of funding has resulted in a big variation between the availability and quality of pavilions, toilets, multi-use games areas, re- refreshment and other facilities at different locations. New spaces provided as a result of planning requirements do not always meet the standards required for adoption. Better co-ordination is needed to resolve this.

## **Competing user demands on open spaces**

Nottingham's open spaces face a variety of often competing demands. These range from the conflict between active and passive needs to the pressure on wildlife sites from sporting and other uses. The open space resource can only be managed sustainably if these various activities are balanced sensibly. This highlights the need for management plans and for consultation with user groups and the local community.

## **Joint Use/ Dual Use**

There are approximately 248 hectares (620 acres) of potentially use able school grounds in the City. Given the extent of open space deficiency and lack of new sites, joint use offers considerable scope for short and long term opportunities. Further liaison with individual schools and the local community will be needed. The issue of funding will be central to any initiative. Schools cannot be expected to incur additional financial or maintenance costs as a result of such schemes.

Unitary Status offers the prospect of better opportunities in terms of co-ordinating short and long term capital programmes and investment decisions to develop appropriate joint use/dual use campuses. The individual area profiles highlight a number of potential options that could help to meet local needs.

## **Lack of Resources**

Open spaces as a group are under-resourced. If we are to make the vision in this strategy happen, we must have the resources to do so. We all need to actively pursue all possible external sources of funding as well as committing city resources to achieve this.

The City Council is dependent on central government support grant for a substantial amount of its budget. This support grant is determined by a spending assessment formula which takes no account of the costs of managing public parks and open spaces.

With pressure to cut public expenditure there is inevitably a danger that open space will be adversely affected as a "less essential service" than other needs. The importance of adequate resources for urban open space needs to be addressed as a national issue perhaps in association with other authorities and agencies.

## **Conclusion**

In order to tackle these and other related issues that affect open space a major commitment to a co-ordinated campaign of action is proposed based upon:-

- \* A clear vision statement.
- \* Comprehensive set of policies.
- \* City wide open space network plan.
- \* Area profiles and proposals.

# SPACE TO BREATHE!

## OBJECTIVES, VISION AND POLICIES

### SECTION FOUR

#### Section Four: Objectives, Vision and Policies

4.1	Objectives.....
4.2	The Vision .....
4.3	Open Space Policies .....

#### **4.1 THE OBJECTIVES OF THE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY**

- **To safeguard and protect existing open spaces by means of a linked, statutorily protected open space network containing a hierarchy of space types**

##### **Reason**

To provide a basis for sustainability by securing the protection of the city's living landscape in order to benefit both present and future generations.

**To raise the profile of open space and its central role in sustainable development and urban regeneration.**

##### **Reason**

Parks and other open spaces are a key element in quality of life in the City. Managing them sustainably is essential for our future well being.

- **To provide a more strategic and co-ordinated approach in order to enable people to derive more benefit from and make best use of our open spaces**

##### **Reason**

Open space needs to be managed as a whole if the needs of people throughout the city are to be properly met. This strategic approach avoids piecemeal decision-making, ensures best use of existing resources and helps secure additional resources.

- **To focus on people's needs and aspirations with regard to open spaces, including identifying deficiencies in provision**

##### **Reason**

Parks and open spaces are for people. Traditionally, they tend to focus on providing primarily for sporting needs. However, many of the needs of people are for passive rather than active recreation. We therefore need to re-examine the services we provide to ensure that open spaces more closely reflect user needs, and to target action to areas of deficiency. This is essential if parks and open spaces are to remain viable entities in the future.

- **To complement the Nature Conservation Strategy by helping people to enjoy the natural areas within the city's wildlife network**

##### **Reason**

People gain many benefits by being closer to nature. It adds to their enjoyment of open spaces and creates relaxing, interesting surroundings.

- **To highlight and promote the importance and benefits of open spaces to all sections of the community in order to encourage maximum usage and enable people to gain added enjoyment from them**

#### **Reason**

Open spaces fulfil a wide variety of needs. They provide for a range of active and passive recreational pursuits, enhance the environment of the city, absorb pollution and water run-off, add to property values and encourage tourism and investment.

- **To create a climate of partnership and a feeling of local 'ownership' of spaces with public, private and voluntary interests**

#### **Reason**

If people are to value open spaces, they need to feel a sense of ownership. One way of achieving this is to actively involve them in looking after open spaces. This does not mean that people should be asked to take on the maintenance of these spaces, which would be unfair, but would be involved in works of interest e.g. tree and wildflower planting, park-watch schemes etc.

- **To provide proposals which indicate the opportunities for improving the provision of parks and open spaces and their facilities and overall improvements to the open space network**

#### **Reasons**

The strategy will show what the scope is for change, where improvements are needed and where they are possible. It will also allow resources to be targeted to specific areas.

- **To examine and bring about new initiatives and co-ordinate all sources of funding in order to improve and regenerate parks and open spaces**

#### **Reasons**

With the current pressure on resources, it is essential that appropriate funding opportunities and initiatives are maximised if the open space strategy is to succeed. The provision of the strategic framework will assist in securing resources.

- **To review the management of the city's parks and open spaces in order to improve the service we offer to the people of Nottingham**

### **Reasons**

If people are to get maximum benefit and enjoyment from open spaces management must be geared towards enabling this. The public must see a long-term commitment to keeping open spaces up and running if they are to support this initiative.

- **To improve the usability, safety and attractiveness of open spaces**

### **Reasons**

Safety is essential if people are to enjoy using open spaces. Threat, whether perceived or actual, spoils enjoyment. A series of measures are required to counter this.

- **To increase the educational value of parks and open spaces**

### **Reasons**

If children learn to enjoy the natural environment they learn to appreciate it and to care for it. This in turn reduces vandalism and misuse.

# The Vision

Our vision for the future is the creation of a comprehensive, linked City-wide Network of quality parks and other open spaces that are protected and managed as a sustainable resource to meet the needs of current and future generations of Nottingham people.



### **4.3 OPEN SPACE POLICIES**

- OS 1 The Open Space Network
- OS 2 Safeguarding the Open Space Network
- OS 3 Green Corridors and other Open Space Linkages
- OS 4 Sustainable Management of Open Spaces
- OS 5 Provision of Additional Open Spaces
- OS 6 Major Parks
- OS 7 District Parks
- OS 8 Local Parks
- OS 9 Space to Play
- OS 10 Parks for People
- OS 11 Parks, People and Partnerships
- OS 12 Nature Conservation
- OS 13 Safety and User Enjoyment
- OS 14 Playing Fields, Pitches/Sports grounds and Golf courses
- OS 15 Allotments
- OS16 Private Open Space
- OS 17 The Greenwood Community Forest
- OS 18 Trees and Woodlands

- OS 19 Access Routes for the Open Space Network
- OS 20 Parks and Open Spaces as an Educational Resource
- OS 21 Nottingham - City of Flowers
- OS 22 Other Urban Spaces
- OS 23 Design for Open Spaces
- OS 24 Securing Resources through a Business Plan/Action Plan

A reference to the appropriate key policies of the Draft Nottingham Local Plan (NLP) is shown in brackets where relevant.

### **POLICY OS 1 - The Open Space Network**

**The City Council will seek to negotiate with developers or itself undertake the provision and enhancement of a wide range of different types of public and private open spaces to meet the needs of City residents and visitors, and enhance the City's character, landscape, image, amenity, cultural history and wildlife through the provision of a City-wide linked network of parks and open spaces. (NLP R1).**

#### **Implementation**

Open spaces both public and private and the linkages between them will be considered not only for their individual open space function but also for their value to the open space network as a whole. Implementation will be achieved by a combination of direct action through investment by the City Council and by negotiations, liaison, and partnership with other agencies, organisations and developers. Initiatives such as the Green Partnership will help to promote this and other policies of the strategy. The support of developers, landowners, voluntary and other groups will be essential.

The Local Plan policies also safeguard the Network and the sites within it from any detrimental development on or adjacent to the Network.

## **POLICY OS 2 - Safeguarding the Open Space Network**

**The parks and open spaces, proposed open spaces and the links between them which together form the Open Space Network will be safeguarded from any development on or near those spaces which would be detrimental to the spaces or to the overall network. (NLP R2 R5).**

### **Implementation**

Statutory protection for the network is provided in the City of Nottingham Draft Local Plan. Other measures include Conservation Area designation, the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, Tree Preservation Orders, planning conditions, legal agreements allied to a positive commitment by the whole community to look after and support the vision.

## **POLICY OS 3 - Green Corridors and other Open Space Linkages**

**The City Council will encourage and promote the development of a comprehensive network of strategic corridors and other local green linkages between open spaces. The River Trent, River Leen, Nottingham Beeston Canal and Fairham Brook will form key elements in the strategic network. (NLP R3).**

### **Implementation.**

Corridors to the countryside - establish continuous footpath and where appropriate cycle links with associated wildlife, landscape and recreational improvements through the City linking into wider countryside along the Trent and Leen corridors, the Fairham Brook and the Nottingham to Beeston Canal and similar areas, through the corridors to the Countryside Project partnership.

“Boulevards” - roads and pedestrian routes which function as links for the open space network will be improved by appropriate tree planting and landscape treatments. These routes could also be used as part of the development of Green Commuter Plans throughout the City.

“Gateways” - the development of key approaches into, and vistas of, the City.

Waterways and Railway Lines - to improve the landscape, wildlife, visual and amenity value of routes.

#### **POLICY OS 4 - Sustainable Management of Open Spaces**

**The Council will manage the Open Space Network sustainably to achieve the objectives of the Strategy and to ensure it remains able to meet the needs of both present and future generations.**

##### **Implementation**

Sustainable management will be achieved through the Parks and Open Spaces Section of the Department of Leisure & Community Services and through setting up sustainable management practices and sustainability monitoring procedures. The Development Department will also have a key role to play in sustainable development.

The Council will review its open space management practices within all departments and will introduce where necessary appropriate sustainable management practices and monitoring procedures.

#### **POLICY OS 5 - Provision of Additional Open Spaces**

**The Council will encourage or itself make provision for new or additional areas of open space, both public and private, in order to achieve the objectives of the Strategy.**

##### **Implementation**

This will be achieved by:-

- a) Provision of local open space and appropriate play facilities on new Housing Development. A minimum of 6m<sup>2</sup> of space over bedspace will be sought. This 6m<sup>2</sup> standard is in addition to any other landscape or wildlife features of the development site which are to be safeguarded and/or provided in connection with other planning requirements. (NLPR10).
- b) Joint use and /or dual use of school playing fields and other appropriate institutional, church and private grounds.
- c) Temporary use of appropriate sites.
- d) Improvements and adaptations to existing open spaces to meet more fully locally community needs.
- e) Off site improvements to access, safety, circulation, signing and linkages between spaces.
- f) Safeguarding of sites and opportunities for future provision where appropriate.

## **POLICY OS 6 - Major Parks**

**The City Council will seek to improve the major parks as key assets of the network and will consider the development of appropriate high quality leisure and visitor attractions and other ancillary facilities where these enhance the recreational landscape, tourism, wildlife, environment, amenity and cultural contribution which these spaces make to the City. (NLP R7)**

### **Implementation**

The major parks are key assets in the open space network. Part of their attractiveness lies in their diversity and individual uniqueness. In addition to catering for local and district needs they have catchments that are City-wide and beyond. They include Woolaton Park, Nottingham Castle, Colwick Country Park, University Park, Highfields, and Bulwell Hall Park. Priority will be given to these spaces in preparing management plans.

## **POLICY OS 7 - District Parks**

**The City Council will seek to upgrade district parks to meet local community needs and will consider the provision of appropriate multi-use leisure, community and other facilities in these parks subject to the capacity and suitability of the park. (NLP R8).**

### **Implementation**

Our parks are generally under-resourced and many are in need of major improvements and refurbishment's. The City Council will review through the Open Space Strategy proposals and sources of funding to upgrade these parks to provide a wide range of active and passive recreational facilities subject to local needs and opportunities afforded by each park and its location. Some district parks will have certain facilities with City-wide catchment such as Harvey Hadden Stadium at Bilborough Park. Ordinarily they will tend to have catchments of up to 2 kilometres subject to location and overall quality of the space. Many of these parks will provide key opportunities for developing multi-use and integrated indoor and outdoor leisure and community facilities, improving landscape features and creating or improving wildlife habitats.

## **POLICY OS 8 - Local Open Spaces**

**The City Council will seek to improve existing local open spaces (NLP R9) in consultation with the local community.**

### **Implementation**

Local open space covers a variety of small open spaces including recreation grounds and play spaces which cater, more for the day to day and casual recreational and play needs of residents and workers. It also covers wildlife sites, woodlands and amenity open spaces within housing areas. Proposals to improve these spaces in order to

enhance their value to local people will be developed and implemented in consultation with the local community.

### **POLICY OS 9 - Space to Play**

**The City Council will seek through its playspace policy to establish a safe, easily accessible network of innovative and exciting play facilities to cater for all age ranges and abilities.**

#### **Implementation**

Play forms an integral and essential part of a child's self development and the City Council recognises the need to cater for the needs of different age groups, and to provide a wide range of social and recreational experiences. A substantial commitment has been made over the years in providing new playgrounds and support for other play initiatives. The Community Development Committee has approved for consultation its Playspace Policy.

The City Council will seek to ensure that proposed play areas are easily accessible, capable of casual observation by adults, and have an acceptable size, shape, slope and ground condition. Play areas should be located and designed to be educational, attractive, stimulating and also to minimise nuisance to residents living nearby. The priority City wide is for multi-use games area and for more casual play activities. See the area profiles in Section 4.

### **POLICY OS 10 - Parks for People**

**The Council will seek to enable and encourage a careful balance between open space uses which encourages more people to use open spaces including greater community use, use by disadvantaged groups and by people with disabilities and facilitates sustainable management whilst catering for a range of active and passive recreational pursuits and providing a range of new outdoor leisure facilities.**

#### **Implementation**

This will be achieved firstly through the Local Plan policies R20,21,22

All proposals for open spaces will be assessed against the objectives of this strategy and will only be implemented where they help achieve the strategy or contribute to specific objectives.

### **POLICY OS 11 - Parks, People and Partnerships**

**In order to implement the Open Space Strategy the Council will work in partnership with a wide range of organisations and with local communities to secure the future provision and management of open spaces and the facilities within them.**

### Implementation

The Council will, when improving/managing parks and open space, work in partnership with the community to identify local, district and city-wide needs and, where practicable, to bring about improvements in the provision of local open spaces and open space facilities.

The Council will also maintain and improve existing working arrangements and bring about new arrangements and partnerships with businesses adjoining local authorities, statutory and voluntary organisations and other groups in order to achieve effective implementation of the Strategy. Such partners are likely to include, by way of example but not by limitation:

The Corridors to the Countryside Project Partnership

The Countryside Commission

The Forestry Commission

The Forestry Authority

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

English Nature

The Sports Council

The National Rivers Authority

British Waterways

The Greenwood Community Forest

The Area Forums

Local Community Groups

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

Greater Nottingham Groundwork

Developers

The Private Sector

### **POLICY OS 12 - Nature Conservation**

**The Council will ensure nature conservation interests are protected by continuing to implement its Nature Conservation Strategy and associated Corridors to the Countryside Project and in particular will seek to ensure that enjoyment of wildlife sites is available to all City residents.**

### Implementation

In May 1992, the City Council launched its Nature Conservation Strategy. This being successfully implemented through a five year plan running from October 1992 to October 1997, when it will be reviewed and updated. The Nature Conservation Strategy is complementary to the Open Space Strategy. With its detailed objectives and policies, it is the best vehicle for protecting, promoting and enhancing nature conservation in association with the statutory powers of the Nottingham Local Plan.

The City Council will create access routes, with associated wildlife and landscape improvements, along river corridors, canals, former railways and other suitable routes to link into the Greenwood Community Forest and the wider countryside around

Nottingham. This will be achieved primarily through the Corridors to the Countryside Project. The proposed appointment by the City Council of community wildlife wardens will also be of benefit.

### **POLICY OS 13 - Safety and User Enjoyment**

**The Council will seek to make open spaces safe and enjoyable places to use and visit by improved wardening, security, signing and interpretation, by improving facilities and maintenance standards and by adopting appropriate measures to combat misuse and vandalism.**

#### **Implementation**

The adoption of good design, layout and management practises will help to improve user safety and optimise open space use. The existing Parks Patrol Service will be reviewed to provide a new Ranger Service dedicated to helping people get more enjoyment from visiting parks and open spaces.

Dog control bylaws are gradually being introduced into parks and open spaces in a phased programme.

General park bylaws will be sought and trialled at Wollaton Park. These will be assessed against similar sites with wardens but no bylaws. If successful, consideration will be given to extending bylaws to other major parks. A range of improved safety measures are being implemented at playgrounds throughout the City.

### **POLICY OS 14 - Playing fields, pitches, sports grounds and golf courses**

**The City Council will seek to improve and develop a wide range of sports and active outdoor facilities in liaison with user groups, Sports Council, National Playing Fields Association and other organisations. The Council will promote appropriate joint use/dual use initiatives to make better use of sites and facilities.**

#### **Implementation**

Active games and sports are key components in the use of many open spaces and are essential in promoting a healthy life style for many participants. Sports grounds are important not only to particular users but also for their contribution to the overall space network. Private Sports grounds and school playing fields have been subject to development pressures as the supply of development land has reduced in the City. Loss of these grounds inevitably places a further strain on remaining facilities. It is essential that existing grounds and playing fields both public and private, including schools, are safeguarded especially in areas deficient in open space and recreational facilities. This reflects central Government policy contained in Planning Policy Guidance No. 17.

The City will continue with its successful programme of sports development and promotion initiative. The council will seek to make provision to remedy gaps in the supply of sports facilities at all levels and to the targeting of under-represented groups including the young unemployed.



The Local Plan has policies to safeguard these facilities from inappropriate development.

### **POLICY OS 15 - Allotments**

**The City Council will seek to safeguard allotment sites and to secure improved use of allotments, including possible management measures and other initiatives, in consultation with allotment associations and plot holders. (R13).**

#### **Implementation**

Allotments have an important recreational hobby function and make a valuable contribution to the overall green network of spaces. Many sites are in need of improvements in terms of fencing, access, security, services, and ancillary facilities to make them more attractive to potential users. The City Council will continue to promote the use of sites through its Allotment Charter in liaison with user groups. Subject to available resources it will continue its programme of site improvements with priority to security and essential site services.

### **POLICY OS 16 - Private Open Space**

**The City Council will encourage developers to provide and to maintain quality open spaces as part of development schemes.**

#### **Implementation**

Private open space and amenity areas make an important contribution to the overall network of open spaces. These spaces provide attractive surroundings for the occupiers and compliment the public provision in providing a diverse, rich tapestry of urban spaces. Other policies of the open space strategy are applicable to private sites but with OS 16 the City Council wishes to acknowledge the valuable role of these spaces to the City wide network.

The provision of quality design, including landscaping and open space provision, will be promoted by the City Council. Through planning controls the City Council will seek to negotiate good sustainable design and management practices in the layout and long term maintenance of amenity areas and open spaces.

### **POLICY OS 17 - The Greenwood Community Forest**

**The City Council will encourage and itself implement schemes to help achieve the Greenwood Community Forest both within the current Community Forest boundary and by seeking to extend that boundary into other appropriate parts of the City. In addition, the City will seek to create access routes into the Greenwood and will seek to develop both Bulwell Hall Park and Stanton Tip as 'gateways' to the Greenwood. (NLP CD28)**

### Implementation

The Greenwood Community Forest will, over time, change the landscape of the County and create a range of additional recreational, leisure, wildlife and landscape opportunities. By implementing the Greenwood within the City and creating access routes and 'gateways' this will enable City residents to enjoy the access and Greenwood areas into the City. Contributing to the Greenwood concept will also assist the implementation of both the Nature Conservation Strategy and the Tree Strategy. See Area 1 profile and proposals for further reference to Bulwell Hall Park and Stanton Tip in Section 4.

### **POLICY OS 18 - Trees and Woodlands**

**The City Council recognises that trees are an important part of the City's landscape and will take appropriate steps to secure their protection, management and enhancement through its City-Wide Tree Strategy.**

### Implementation

Protection is achieved primarily through Local Plan Policies CD26 and CD26 (see below) also R16, R17

The Council has produced and is implementing a separate Tree Strategy which is complementary to both the Open Space Strategy and the Nature Conservation Strategy. It will help achieve elements of both of these and will be implemented to take account of their objectives.

### **POLICY OS 19 - Access routes for the Open Space Network**

**In order to ensure the Open Space Network is reasonably accessible, the City Council will seek to improve and safeguard existing key routes and to bring about comprehensive cycle and pedestrian route networks.**

### Implementation

Good pedestrian and cycle routes are essential to encourage sustainable use of the environment. These improvements will need to be carried on an area basis with regard to other access initiatives such as Green Commuter Plans and Traffic calming measures. A network of both local and cross city routes will be developed. The national network or routes proposed by Sustrains is also relevant. Access along the River Trent, River Leen, Nottingham-Beeston Canal, Fairham Brook and Hucknall Road Walkway routes will be primarily achieved through the Corridors to the Countryside Project and in respect of the Leen, The River Leen Strategy. Improvements will also be achieved through the Waterside Strategy.

Footpaths bridleways and cycleways will need to be maintained and safeguarded. The City Council is aware of the lack of a Definitive Map of footpaths and bridleways in Nottingham. It is currently the responsibility of the County Council, as Highways

Authority, to prepare the Definitive Map. This responsibility will be passed to the City Council when Unitary Status is implemented and the Council will, as a matter of priority, seek to produce a definitive Rights of Way map. Improving access to existing open spaces with routes that are well signed and which make provision for people with disabilities will be a priority. Routes will therefore need to be designed sensitively and where possible to discourage misuse by motor cyclists.

#### **POLICY OS 20 - Parks and Open Spaces as an Educational Resource**

**The City Council will seek to encourage and promote the use of parks for interpretation and environmental purposes.**

##### **Implementation**

Environmental education is a key component in the process of achieving sustainable development. Many of the City parks are already well used by schools for educational visits. Learning in a park environment can help engender respect for nature and form part of the course work for the National Curriculum. Familiarity and respect for open spaces will help to foster ownership and concern for facilities.

A corporate interpretation strategy will be developed for parks and other spaces. Material and signage will need to be informative, legible and enjoyable for a wide range of interests. The needs of different age groups, people of different ethnic backgrounds, of users with learning difficulties and of people with disabilities should be considered.

The potential link up between parks and other leisure facilities with schools, particularly in the light of proposals for unitary status, needs to be examined further.

#### **POLICY OS 21 - Nottingham - City of Flowers**

**The Council will encourage and itself provide high quality floral displays in key parks and open spaces including the City Centre/Nottingham in Bloom route in order to increase the attractiveness of the City to residents and visitors and attract inward investment.**

##### **Implementation**

This objective will be primarily achieved through the Nottingham in Bloom initiative.

Local Plan Policy CD30 will also be applied to this objective.

#### **POLICY OS 22 - Other Urban Spaces**

**The City Council will encourage the provision of a wide range of quality urban spaces such as squares, plaza, courtyards, sitting out space and linkages between them, especially in the City Centre. (NLPT 24)**

##### **Implementation**

The City Council will actively promote and implement vision of a quality, European style regional capital for Nottingham. A wide range of linked initiatives are being pursued in the City Centre. Quality design will continue to be promoted through partnerships and negotiations with developers and investors.

The Local Plan contains a wide range of policies in respect of the environment, good design, conservation, landscaping, facelift improvement, open space, access, pedestrian links, traffic calming, provision of public square, new developments and other related proposals which are designed to promote and bring about quality spaces in the City, particularly the City Centre.

### **POLICY OS 23 - Design for Open Spaces**

**The Council will ensure in designing parks and open spaces and the facilities within them, that they are designed to fulfil the required function, to be visually attractive and harmonise with their surroundings and to enable ease of future maintenance.**

#### **Implementation**

Design standards and guidance will be established to achieve the above. These will also require designers to take future maintenance into account in planning or designing schemes and to produce costed maintenance schedules as part of the scheme.

### **POLICY OS 24 - Securing Resources through a business plan/action plan**

**The Council will use this strategy and other complementary Strategies and initiatives as a basis for prioritising the development of the Parks and Open Spaces network, This will be undertaken within a business plan/action plan geared towards securing and optimising resources to implement the strategy.**

#### **Implementation**

Following consultation a business plan/action plan will be produced and initial funding bids prepared and submitted for the first phase of the Strategy Implementation. This will be undertaken by the Steering and Working Groups who will also devise suitable Implementation feedback and monitoring systems to make the strategy a reality.

# **SPACE TO BREATHE!**

## **PROPOSALS**

### **SECTION FIVE**

- 5.0 How the Open Space Strategy will be implemented
- 5.1 Relationship to complementary Strategies and initiatives.
- 5.2 Existing and potential partnerships
- 5.3 Management, Monitoring and Feedback
- 5.4 City-Wide Proposals
- 5.5 Area Proposals

Area 1 - Bulwell West, Bulwell East, Byron and Bestwood Park.

Area 2 - Mapperley, Basford, Sherwood and Portland Wards.

Area 3 - Aspley, Streley, Beechdale, Bilborough and Wollaton.

Area 4 - Radford, Forest, Robin Hood and Lenton.

Area 5 - St Ann's, Manvers, Greenwood and Trent.

Area 6 - The City Centre, New Lenton and The Park.

Area 7 - Abbey Ward, Bridge Ward.

Area 8 - Clifton East, Clifton West and Wilford.

## **5.0 HOW THE OPEN SPACE STRATEGY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED**

### **Introduction**

**The Open Space Strategy** provides an overall strategic framework for the future provision, protection, management and improvement of the City's parks and open spaces in partnership with local people and a wide range of private and public sector agencies. In doing so it draws together a number of complementary strategies and initiatives which are currently either already being implemented or are in the process of being drawn up. These deal in-depth with specific topics or areas of work. They currently comprise the following:

### **Complementary Strategies and Initiatives**

#### **5.1.1. Parks for People**

This exciting initiative is the first phase of an imaginative scheme to maximise the value of parks and open spaces to the people of Nottingham. It broadly comprises reviewing the management of parks and open spaces, quality management, promoting Parks and Open Spaces, income generation, Local Agenda 21, in relation to urban green spaces and the provision of Community Wildlife Wardens. It also proposes a review of the existing Parks Patrol Service to create a new customer-orientated Parks Ranger Service. Parks for People is complementary to the Open Space Strategy and is a key means of achieving the Strategy.

#### **5.1.2. The Nature Conservation Strategy**

The Nature Conservation Strategy was adopted in May 1992 and is being achieved initially through a five-year implementation plan. It defines a City-wide network of wildlife sites linked together by wildlife corridors, reservoirs, links and stepping stones. Its aims are the protection, promotion, management and enhancement of the wildlife network and of wildlife interests throughout the City. It also aims to ensure that everyone has access to natural areas in order to enjoy them. To date it has been very successful in meeting most of those aims.

#### **5.1.3. The Corridors to the Countryside Project**

This project was begun in October 1993 as part of the Nature Conservation Strategy. It has since expanded to become multi-partner and includes the City Council, Countryside Commission, County Council, Gedling Borough Council, Ashfield District Council, National Rivers Authority and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. Broxtowe Borough Council and Rushcliffe District Council are also keen to join the project. A number of other organisations are also involved.

The project is successfully creating routes along waterways, footpaths and former railway corridors, with associated wildlife and landscape improvements, both through Nottingham and to the wider surrounding countryside including the Greenwood Community Forest.

#### 5.1.4. The Tree Strategy

The remit of the Tree Strategy extends beyond the Open Space Strategy since it covers all trees in the City and not just those in parks and open spaces. However, it will assist with implementing the Open Space Strategy in relation to the provision and management of trees and woodlands in parks and open spaces. It is currently in draft form and is undergoing public consultation, following which a final draft will be produced for adoption and implementation.

#### 5.1.5. The River Leen Strategy

This Strategy has been run by the Council's Development Department for the past three years and has been very successful in implementing a number of facelift, environmental, wildlife, access, and landscape improvements to enhance the River Leen within the City. Further improvement works are planned for this year.

#### 5.1.6. The Playspace Policy

The council is currently producing a Playspace Policy following a programme of improvements to playgrounds including safer surfacing and equipment, the launch of a 'Play safe' scheme, and a review of play provision throughout the City. The Playspace Policy will seek to bring about a network of safe play provision, catering for all children's age ranges, on sites throughout the City.

#### 5.1.7. Nottingham in Bloom

For a number of years now the Council has entered the Britain in Bloom competition and has developed its own 'Nottingham in Bloom' initiative. This aims to bring high quality floral bedding, plant and shrub displays to a range of sites throughout the City and makes an attractive feature for both residents and visitors alike.

#### 5.1.8. Management Plans

A management plan has been successfully developed and adopted for Wollaton Park and we intend to continue the success of this by developing innovative management plans for the other larger parks and open spaces within the City. These will be consulted on fully with the community and other interested groups and agencies.

### 5.1.9 Other Strategies and initiatives

In addition to the above The Open Space Strategy also links to a number of other strategies and initiatives, both within and outside the City Council. These include:-

- a) The Leisure Strategy 2000
- b) The Greenwood Community Forest.
- c) The Riverside Strategy
- d) Sports Development - Programmes for People

### 5.2 Existing and Potential Partnerships

The involvement, support and co-ordinated input of a wide range of partners, "co-owner" and agencies will be crucial to the implementation of the strategy. They include:

- 5.2.1. A wide range of local community, voluntary neighbourhood, residents and user groups; ethnic minority, people with disabilities, other interest groups and voluntary "umbrella" organisations.
- 5.2.2. Landowners, developers, institutions in providing and maintaining open spaces in the City.
- 5.2.3. The City Council and County Council as providers of public open space and grounds used by the public.
- 5.2.4. East Midlands Sports Council in providing technical advice and grants and promotion of recreational space and activities.
- 5.2.5. National Rivers Authority, Severn Trent Water and British Waterways in maintaining water courses and provision of access to these.
- 5.2.6. Countryside Commission, notably in support of the "Corridors to the Countryside" initiative and Greenwood community Forest.
- 5.2.7. English Heritage and English Nature in the promotion and development of historic, nature conservation, archaeological potential of open spaces.
- 5.2.8. Environmental groups such as the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Greater Nottingham Groundwork Trust in community/voluntary schemes and improvement of sites.
- 5.2.9. Health & Safety , involvement of the relevant health education and community safety agencies in design, promotion of recreational activity, pollution, stress and individual well being.



- 5.2.10. Access groups, such as Pedals, Ramblers Association, City of Nottingham Working Party on Disabilities.
- 5.2.11. Transport, including British Rail and the highway authorities. This includes aspects of maintenance of embankment verges, tree care, access and traffic calming measures.
- 5.2.12. National pressure groups and associations such as the National Playing Fields Association, Open Space Society, Garden History Society, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and other specialist interest organisations.
- 5.2.13. Schools in using open spaces as an educational resource and in joint use of suitable school sites particularly in areas deficient in open space.

### **5.3. Management, Monitoring and Feedback**

#### **5.3.1 Management**

In order to achieve the objectives of the Open Space Strategy in relation to managing the open space resource, we will review our current management and, where necessary, bring about changes to facilitate this.

##### Inter-departmental Working Arrangements

In particular we will build on the successful inter-departmental work which produced this strategy and use it as a basis to set up future inter-departmental working arrangements to help make the strategy a reality.

##### Community Involvement

The management review will also look at the ways in which community involvement in parks and open spaces can be encouraged. Subsequently we will put in place and implement suitable measures to achieve this.

#### **5.3.2 Monitoring**

Suitable monitoring procedures will be put in place in order to ensure the objectives of the Strategy are achieved. This will consist of both internal and external measures, as follows:

##### Internal Monitoring

The Steering and Working groups who produced the Strategy will meet on a quarterly basis to oversee overall implementation and to monitor progress and reports will be submitted to relevant committees at appropriate intervals. They will be chaired by the Assistant Director (Sports and Leisure Management).

##### External Monitoring

User surveys, questionnaires and other monitoring mechanisms will be used to obtain community feedback on the implementation of the Strategy. Results obtained will be considered by the officer Steering and Working groups and reported by them to relevant committees as above.

##### Review

The Strategy will be reviewed at regular intervals and where necessary amended to better achieve its objectives as to reflect changes in current thinking or to Central or Local Government policy.

### 5.3.3 **Feedback**

In addition to the external monitoring measures described above, continuous feedback on the open space resource and the facilities it offers will be provided through a wide variety of measures. These include performance contract monitoring, user questionnaires, feedback from Rangers and Wardens, monitoring of complaints and queries, feedback from local community groups, etc.

## 5.4 **CITY-WIDE PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

### 5.4.1 **Securing Resources to Implement the Strategy.**

The success of the strategy depends on securing the resources to make it happen. We will seek to achieve this by:

- a) Lobbying to help change Central Government's needs assessment formula which makes no allowances for maintenance of public open space in the allocation of funding to local authorities.
- b) Maximising available internal funding and identifying and leveraging in external funding to help achieve the vision of space to breathe. This is essential to reverse the problem of under-investment in the City's parks and open spaces which has been compounded further by cutbacks in public expenditure and the demise of the urban programme.

### 5.4.2. **Protecting Our Parks and Open Spaces**

In order to ensure that parks and other open spaces remain available for people to enjoy, now and in the future, we have set out, in this strategy, a City-wide network of open spaces. The Open Space Network will be statutorily protected by policies in the City of Nottingham Local Plan.

### 5.4.3. **Provision of New Open Spaces**

To ensure there is satisfactory provision of open spaces the Local Plan not only safeguards the Open Space network but also has policies for additional open space to be provided in new developments. Both it and this strategy also identify areas of open space deficiency where priority will be given to new open spaces as opportunities become available. A number of existing sites are also safeguarded for future open space use.

Additionally, we will improve procedures for the planning, design and subsequent adoption of new open spaces, particularly those provided as part of new housing developments.

#### 5.4.4. Quality Parks and Open Spaces

In managing our parks and open spaces we will seek to ensure that all areas are maintained to the quality standard appropriate to their use and function. Initially we are seeking to achieve this through changes to our grounds maintenance contracts designed to bring about the required quality standards.

Additionally, we will be seeking to improve the standard of existing contracts by introducing a policy of continuous improvement designed to improve existing quality within contracts and deal with maintenance problems.

#### 5.4.5. Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces

For a number of years the Council has been improving its parks and open spaces. Recent examples include installing safer surfacing and new equipment at children's playgrounds, a play safe scheme, installing new pavilions at Bulwell Hall Park and the Forest, major tree planting schemes, improving wildlife sites through the Nature Conservation Strategy and creating routes along river and other corridors through the corridors to the Countryside Project.

We will, subject to securing sufficient resources, continue to carry out a range of improvements to our parks and open spaces including upgrading existing facilities and installing a range of new facilities to cater for all sections of the community.

#### 5.4.6. Sustainable Management of Parks and Open Spaces

In order to manage open spaces sustainably they must be managed strategically, as a whole unit. This is best achieved through a single agency which can, in managing the open space resource, take full account of all related factors in any decisions relating to open spaces. This approach also facilitates involving local people in consultation and decision-making on local issues which affect them.

We therefore propose that all City owned open spaces be brought together for management purposes under the Parks and Open Spaces Section of the Leisure and Community Services Department, who will work closely with other departments and agencies and local people to secure sustainable management of the Open Space Resource.

We also propose to review the provision, management, maintenance, enhancement and, where necessary, protection of the Open Space Network and, where necessary, bring about changes to ensure these works are undertaken sustainably. This will include the development monitoring procedures to secure quality and sustainable management.

#### 5.4.7. Nature Conservation

The Nature Conservation strategy is one of a number of complementary strategies which we will continue to implement within the overall framework of the Open Space Strategy. Using this and the associated corridors to the Countryside Project we will maintain, improve and extend the wildlife network, improve access to it and create access routes through and to the city along our wildlife corridors. We will publicise and promote the Wildlife Network and provide a range of opportunities for people to visit, use and enjoy wildlife sites. We will also manage the network sustainably to encourage biodiversity. Additionally, we will seek to introduce Community Wildlife Wardens to help schools, communities and other users get the maximum benefit from the Wildlife Network.

#### 5.4.8. Trees

The City's tree stock is a vital component of its quality of life. In recognition of this the Council has produced a separate Tree Strategy which seeks to secure effective management of all trees, both public and private. The Tree Strategy complements the Open Space Strategy in respect of trees in parks and open spaces and will be the means by which we will seek to effectively manage these trees for the future.

#### 5.4.9. The Greenwood Community Forest

The North of the City, Bulwell, Bestwood and Top Valley, forms part of the Greenwood Community Forest. Within this area we will, as appropriate, open spaces, seek to bring about planting and landscape improvements and introduce new facilities. Two areas, Bulwell Hall Park and the former Stanton Tip, are identified as gateways to the Greenwood and we will seek to bring about a range of planting and appropriate user attractions at these sites. We will also provide access routes to the Greenwood via the Corridors to the Countryside Project and will seek to extend the area of the City currently within the Greenwood to include areas such as the River Trent and Colwick Park at the first available opportunity.

#### 5.4.10. Promoting Parks and Open Spaces

We will, subject to available resources, seek to fully promote the range of facilities available within our parks and open spaces in order to help people to use them effectively and gain maximum benefit from them. The measures we will seek to undertake include having a Marketing Officer to market and promote the Open Space Resource, developing a co-ordinated City-wide approach to signing, interpreting and publicising our parks and open spaces and producing a range of easy-to-use leaflets, self-guided walks, user information and similar publications.

#### 5.4.11. Income Generation

We will, whilst managing our parks and open spaces sustainably, seek to capitalise on their potential for income generation including maximising income generation from existing facilities. This income will assist in offsetting the costs of managing the Open Space Resource.

#### 5.4.12. Ranger Service

We will undertake a review of the existing parks patrol service and will develop a new Parks Ranger Service whose main role will be to help people use and enjoy our Parks and Open Spaces. They will help control anti-social behaviour and will work with local people to develop the use of parks and open spaces through community initiatives.

#### 5.4.13. Local Agenda 21

The City Council will gradually, in consultation with local people, be developing a local Agenda 21 for Nottingham. This will help manage all the City's activities sustainably in the future.

We will pursue Local Agenda 21 initiatives for open spaces in partnership with local people. This will include; sustainable management of open spaces; biodiversity (maintaining a range of different wildlife habitats); and involving people in the planning, management and upkeep of open spaces.

#### 5.4.14. Sporting Provision

We will review existing sporting provision within our open spaces and identify scope for possible changes and improvements within the overall strategic framework of this strategy and the Open Space Network.

#### 5.4.15. Nottingham in Bloom

As part of our commitment to attractive, high quality parks and open spaces we will continue to provide a range of high quality floral, tree, shrub and bedding displays at appropriate locations throughout the City. This will continue to be primarily achieved through the Nottingham in Bloom initiative.

#### 5.4.16. Control of dogs

Whilst many dog owners keep their pets under proper control some do not and this causes problems to other open space users. We are therefore introducing dog control bylaws into our parks and open spaces, in order to encourage all dog owners to use them without causing problems which spoil the enjoyment of other users. Initially bylaws were introduced successfully at Woodthorpe Grange Park and Robin Hood Chase. This is now being extended, in batches, to children's playgrounds and we eventually intend to extend it to our other parks also.

#### 5.4.17. Play Provision

We believe every child has a right to play and we recently undertook a review of play provision in the City. As a result of this we are producing a Playspace Policy aimed at providing a safe, easily accessible network of innovative and exciting children's play facilities on a range of sites throughout the City. The network will be designed to cater for all children's age ranges and abilities to enable them to develop their physical and social skills through play.

#### 5.4.18. Misuse, Vandalism and Community Safety

Dealing satisfactorily with these issues is a difficult process. However, the Parks Rangers and Community Wildlife Wardens (see 5.1.11. and 5.1.6.) and Promoting parks and open spaces (see 5.1.9.) will be key parts of dealing with this problem. In addition to the Rangers and Wardens policing function and their deterrent value as a visible authority presence they and the publicity officer will actively seek to re-educate users to respect and enjoy open spaces. Networking with schools will be an important part of this. Other measures will include anti-vehicle barriers, use of anti-vandal materials, making facilities more interesting to discourage wanton damage and increased litter and rubbish clearance frequencies.

#### 5.4.19. Bylaws

Although not a panacea bylaws also offer a useful additional mechanism for controlling anti-social or unacceptable behaviour. In addition to the dog control bylaws already proposed we will gradually seek to introduce bylaws into parks and other key open spaces.

#### 5.4.20. Access to Open Spaces

We want to ensure everyone has good access to open spaces and the Area Proposals in this Strategy therefore also contain proposals for access improvements. Appropriate pedestrian and cycle access to the open space network on a City-wide basis is seen as important. The Corridors to the Countryside Project is helping to achieve this by creating footpath and, where appropriate, cycle access routes along areas such as the River Trent and River Leen corridors.

#### 5.4.21. Management Plans

We have recently produced a management plan for Woolaton Park. As resources allow we will produce similar places for other parks and open spaces to guide their future sustainable management and assist in securing resources.

#### 5.4.22 Meeting People's Needs through Parks and Open Spaces.

We recognise the value of the Parks and Open Space Resource in meeting people's needs. We will develop this important aim to help people meet their needs, for example, play, sport, entertainment, education, relaxation, history, ecology, wildlife, etc.

#### 5.4.23 Joint/Dual Use of School Sites

In areas of the City which are deficient in open space provision we will investigate the potential for joint/dual use of school grounds and similar sites to provide additional recreational opportunities for local people.



## **5.5 AREA PROPOSALS**

- 5.5.1 This section identifies a number of opportunities and potential projects for each area of the City. These relate to the boundaries of the recently established Area Committees.
- 5.5.2 Each area contains a summary of issues relevant to that area and a list of potential projects. This is accompanied by a plan\* for each area and a table which summarises existing open space provision by ward. A comparison is given to the City wide average of space provision.
- 5.5.3 The proposals from each of the individual areas together with an outline of the network of spaces are summarised on Plan No. 2.\*
- 5.5.4 A large number of potential projects and improvements are identified including
- \* Over 30 joint/dual use options
  - \* Over 40 major improvements/new spaces
  - \* 8 new pedestrian bridges at strategic locations
  - \* Suggestions for additional play facilities
  - \* Comprehensive City-wide network of pedestrian routes and boulevards.
- 5.5.5 In addition to the proposals in each section detailed works to playgrounds, nature conservation sites etc. are dealt with by complementary initiatives. Further proposals for these will be added to this strategy prior to consultation commencing.

Note

\* Plans being prepared

## **AREA 1 - Bulwell West, Bulwell East, Byron and Bestwood Park.**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Area 1 comprises the wards of Bulwell West, Bulwell East, Byron and Bestwood Park in the North of the City. It contains some major spaces such as Bulwell Hall Park, Bulwell Forest, River Leen, Southglade Park and benefits in part from proximity to the countryside notably Bestwood Country Park.

### **2 KEY ISSUES**

- 2.1 Improvements to Parks and Open spaces:** There is considerable scope for improving parks and other spaces and the facilities within them including and creating more adventurous play provision, multi-use sports facilities, and new visitor facilities.
- 2.2 Lack of Parks:** the amount of parks per head does not reflect the inequitable distribution of space. Parts of Bulwell, Highbury Vale, Top Valley and Rise Park are deficient in locally accessible open space. Bestwood Park does not have a recreation ground but is part served by the Hawthorns/Chiltern Way open space and by Southglade in Byron Ward.
- 2.3 Lack of Playspace:** in Byron Ward and of 'kickabout', open areas for older children throughout the areas including Bulwell, Crabtree Farm, Highbury Vale, Bestwood, Top valley and Rise Park.
- 2.4 Shortage of new Sites:** limited scope for new play/local open spaces.
- 2.5 Access problems:** particularly with crossing of busy roads. For example there is no direct, safe footpath from Top Valley to Southglade Park. Highbury Vale is "road locked" by St Albans Road and Highbury Road. The western outer loop road restricts access to facilities.

### **3 OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **3.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:**

- a) Bulwell Hall Park, need for a comprehensive management plan for this key space which is one of the City's major nature conservation reservoirs. Scope for new visitor interpretation centre and other works to develop the park as a 'gateway' to the Greenwood Community Forest.
- b) Bulwell Forest, scope for making better use of existing complex of buildings, tennis courts south of the golf club house. Improve east-west footpath incorporating anti-motorcycle measures. Re-create heathland on golf course roughs. Enhance play provision.

- c) Southglade Park, potential to develop as a multi-use leisure and community park including a new swimming pool, themed play facilities and landscape improvements, including tree planting.
- d) River Leen, continuation of improvements as a major north-south green corridor linked to adjoining areas.
- e) Land at rear of BMX track at Sellers Wood Drive, opportunity for tree planting.
- f) Improvements to other parks in the area eg. Hempshill Lane Recreation Ground, in consultation with the local community. *(These will be detailed further prior to consultation)*
- g) Works relating to playgrounds, wildlife sites, trees and other areas are covered by complementary initiatives eg. Nature Conservation Strategy, Parks for People, Tree Strategy, Playspace Policy etc. *(These will be detailed further prior to consultation)*

### 3.2 a) **New Open Spaces**

New Park (Stanton Tip), opportunity for a new, imaginative, leisure themed park in a country park setting. The site is a potential 'gateway' to the Greenwood Community Forest and has scope for extensive tree, woodland planting and wildlife enhancement. A network of improved paths, proposed LRT line and adjacent park and ride site will enhance the popularity and viability of this scheme. Will benefit young people especially in Crabtree, Hempshill Vale, Bulwell and Highbury Vale.

- b) New Playground and retention of nature conservation areas at former Basford Miners Welfare.

### 3.3 **Joint/Dual Use Possibilities:**

- a) Top Valley Comprehensive, use of playing fields
- b) Padstow Comprehensive, use of playing fields
- c) Beckhampton Road, use of playing fields
- d) Hoewood road, use of playing fields
- e) Alderman Derbyshire, use of playing fields
- f) Henry Mellish Comprehensive, use of playing fields
- g) Cantrell Primary, possible play facility
- h) Church grounds, e.g. St. Mary's Bulwell, mature conservation enhancement.

Close liaison will be essential to clarify the feasibility of individual options.

### **3.4 Access Improvements:**

Scope for creation of major east to west and north to south routes, paths and cycleways, linking residential areas with open spaces, schools, facilities and countryside. Routes include:

- a) Bestwood Country Park through the "Hawthorns" to Edwards Lane
- b) New route from Top Valley to Southglade Park
- c) Improvements to Hucknall Road (former railway line)
- d) River Leen through Highbury Vale to Bulwell Forest and Southglade
- e) River Leen, Cinderhill, Stanton Tip to countryside and the Great Northern railway path.
- f) Improvements from Bulwell via Ravensworth Road/Squires Avenues to Bulwell Hall Park.
- g) Local neighbourhood links connecting into this strategic network complemented by appropriate traffic calming measures.

### **3.5 Boulevards and new Planting:**

Scope for improving and extending existing roadside planting as part of a comprehensive city wide network of boulevards, examples:-

- a) Western Outer Loop Road (A6002)
- b) Sellers Wood Drive
- c) Highbury Road and St Albans Road
- d) Hucknall Road
- e) Arnold Road
- f) Bestwood Park Drive
- g) Ridgeway, Top Valley Drive



# AREA 1 OPEN SPACE PROFILE

- Notes: 1. Other space includes:- Woodland, cemetery/church grounds  
 2. Bulwell West, figure for parks includes the whole of Bulwell Hall Park

WARD	PLAYGROUNDS		PARKS & REC. GROUNDS		OTHER SPACE		ALLOTMENTS		SCHOOL GROUNDS		TOTAL SPACE (1) TO (5)		PLAY AREA PER CHILD		PARK PER HEAD	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No. of children	m2 per child	Total popl	m2 per head
Bulwell West	8	1.3	2	101.6	8	59.6	4	11.2	6	10.7	28	184.4	2944	4.4	12146	83.6
Bulwell East	5	1.5	1	36.3	4	3.6	2	3.5	4	8.8	16	53.7	1993	7.5	9998	36.3
Byron	5	1.1	1	26.8	1	1.1	0	0	9	36.9	16	65.9	3695	3.0	14427	18.6
Bestwood Park	5	1.7	0	0	3	6.4	0	0	3	5.7	11	13.8	1711	9.9	8842	0
Area 1 Total	23	5.6	4	164.7	16	70.7	6	14.7	22	62.1	71	317.8	10343	5.4	45413	36.3
													City Average:	6.9		32.9

## **AREA 2 - Mapperley, Basford, Sherwood and Portland Wards**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Mapperley, Sherwood, Basford and Portland Wards extend across the north eastern part of the City. Representing both inner city areas and adjacent suburbs, this patch contains a wide range of open space issues. Foremost amongst these is deficiency in **public** open space.

### **2 KEY ISSUES**

- 2.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:** there is a need for better play equipment landscape improvements, signage safer surfaces, access improvements and surveillance/security improvements.
- 2.2 Lack of Parks:** the patch contains Vernon and Woodthorpe Parks but access is restricted by physical constraints. Large areas of Sherwood, Basford and Mapperley have no provision.
- 2.3 Lack of Playspace:** across the area as a whole, particularly Sherwood and Mapperley; houses within Mapperley Park have large garden areas; terraced properties with small gardens predominate in north east Mapperley.
- 2.4 Shortage of New Sites:** for new playgrounds particularly in inner areas and established housing estates.
- 2.5 Access Problems:** a need for improved routes and road crossings to provide safer access to nearby facilities. Attention should be paid to the needs of users with disabilities.
- 2.6 Loss of Private Space:** increasing development pressures on large private spaces notably, the City and Mapperley Hospital sites and at private sports grounds.

### **3. OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **3.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces**

##### **a) Vernon Park**

Opportunity for environmental/landscape enhancement including the River Leen and Lakeside areas; further improvement to play equipment, access arrangements and signage provision; scope for localised specialist activities/facilities identified through public consultation; local participation in the development of a 'Community Park'.

**b) Woodthorpe Grange Park**

Focus theme on existing park assets e.g. visitor nursery; potential for access car park and circulation improvements; buildings upgrade including new pavilion/changing room; possible new 'adventure' play area.

**c) River Leen**

Further funding required to realise the Corridor's full potential as a key pedestrian linkage, wildlife reservoir and local recreational resource.

**d) Other Parks**

Improvements to local parks in conjunction with local community. *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation)*

**e) Other Open Spaces**

Works relating to playgrounds, wildlife sites, tree and other areas are covered by complementary initiatives eg. Nature Conservation Strategy, Parks for People, Tree Strategy, Playspace Policy etc.

**f) Ellis Guildford School/Bar Lane (kickabout/Sport). *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation.)***

**3.2 New Open Space**

- a) Mill Street, open space, wildlife area and playground, also footpath improvements.
- b) New playground as part of future developments on former Mapperley hospital site.

**3.3 Joint/Dual Use Possibilities:**

Opportunities for shared use exists at:-

- a) Walter Halls Primary School, Mapperley (kickabout/play)
- b) Severn Trent Water Authority sports ground, Quorn Road, Basford (kickabout/sport)
- c) Nottingham High School playing fields, Valley Road (sport)
- d) Basford College, Cinderhill (linked to the Nuthall Recreation Ground)
- e) Police Sports Ground, Mansfield Road (Sport)

### **3.4 Access Improvements**

Open space opportunities within the patch are limited, but major facilities exist nearby at Southglade Park and The Forest. Linkage improvements to these areas are key to enhancing open space provision. Other routes which could be developed include:

- a) North-south link from The Forest to Top Valley via Carrington Lido and the City Hospital, using Devonshire Road, Victoria Road and Edwards Lane.
- b) North-south route from Sherwood to Bulwell Forest via Hucknall Road.
- c) East-west Bulwell Forest to Broxtowe Park walk via Nuthall Recreation Ground, Stockhill Lane and Park Lane.
- d) East-west River Leen - Woodthorpe Park via New Basford along Haydn Road (new River Leen bridge crossing required at Basford Gas Works)
- e) Long distance River Leen footpath system, crossing north-south through Mill Street playing fields, 'on-street' along Lincoln Street, rejoining the river at Whitemoor, south and Western Boulevard.

### **3.5 Boulevards and new Planting:**

Options include:-

- a) Replacement and additional planting along existing boulevards such as Mansfield Road, Hucknall Road, Valley Road and Arnold Road.
- b) 'Greening' new routes like Woodborough Road and Radford Road.
- c) Local tree planting by schools, volunteers, community groups and residents to a co-ordinated programme.





# AREA 2 OPEN SPACE PROFILE

WARD	PLAYGROUNDS		PARKS & REC. GROUNDS		OTHER SPACE		ALLOTMENTS		SCHOOL GROUNDS		TOTAL SPACE (1) TO (5)		PLAY AREA PER CHILD		PARK PER HEAD		
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No. of children	m2 per child	Total Popl	m2 per head	
Basford	5	1.9	1	8.7	6	8.5	1	2.1	2	10.2	15	31.4	1913	9.9	9854	8.8	
Mapperley	3	0.3	1	20.3	5	8.2	1	0.5	2	10.2	12	33.6	1433	2.1	9690	20.9	
Portland	7	1.6	2	10.9	5	11.0	5	8.7	8	26.0	27	58.2	1988	8.0	9644	11.3	
Sherwood	6	0.5	1	7.8	3	3.6	2	3.0	2	1.8	14	16.7	1927	2.6	10352	7.5	
IPatch	21	4.3	5	47.7	19	31.3	9	14.3	13	48.2	68	145.8	7261	5.9	39540	12.1	
												City Average:			6.9		32.9

## **AREA 3 - Aspley, Strelley, Beechdale, Bilborough and Wollaton**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Area 3 comprises the five wards of Aspley, Strelley, Beechdale, Bilborough and Wollaton located on the west side of the ring road (A6514). It contains some major spaces, such as Wollaton Park and benefits in part from proximity to the countryside.

### **2 KEY ISSUES**

- 2.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:** need for better play equipment, surface improvements, anti-dog fencing, kickabout space, more adventurous play and surveillance/security improvements.
- 2.2 Lack of Parks:** in Aspley, parts of Beechdale and Bilborough. Aspley and Bilborough are served by Melbourne Park and Bilborough Park but access is constrained by busy main roads.
- 2.3 Lack of Playspace:** in Aspley, parts of Beechdale and Strelley - Aspley is the most deficient.
- 2.4 Shortage of New Sites:** few opportunities for new playgrounds.
- 2.5 Access Problems:** need for improved routes, road crossings to provide safer access to facilities including the needs of users with disabilities.

### **3 OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **3.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:**

- a) **Broxtowe Park**  
Scope for major upgrade to include grass and all weather pitches, pavilion, play provision, access improvements to Helston Drive and a green link to countryside west of Woodhouse Way; improvements to West Leigh Road allotments.
- b) **Bilborough Park**  
New playground, all weather pitches, access improvements especially across Wigman Road; other facilities linked to Harvey Hadden which is a key city-wide, multi-use, joint use park campus. (Also see 3.4b)

- c) **Wollaton Park**  
Scope for major improvements in light of recent management plan and Millennium/Lottery proposals, particularly for Wollaton Hall and the former walled nursery and land at Bramcote Lane.
- d) **Other Parks**  
Improvements to Birchover, Strelley and Lenton Abbey Recreation Grounds in conjunction with local community. *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation).*
- e) **Other Open Spaces**  
Works relating to playgroups, wildlife sites, trees and other areas are covered by complementary initiatives eg. Nature Conservation Strategy, Parks for People, Tree Strategy, Playspace Policy etc. *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation).*

### 3.2 New Open Spaces:

- a) Major new woodland proposal at Chilwell Dam
- b) Local tree planting by schools, volunteers, community groups and residents, co-ordinated programme

### 3.3 Joint/Dual Use Possibilities:

- a) William Crane Comprehensive - subject to relocation of existing school- (playgrounds/kickabout)
- b) William Sharp Comprehensive, (kickabout area)
- c) Manning School, (play/kickabout area)
- d) Bilborough Community Centre - Old Park Farm) amenity area, open space).
- e) Amesbury Circus (kickabout area)

### 3.4 Access Improvements:

- a) Major leisure east to west link from Strelley Village, Chilwell Dam Plantation, Broxtowe Park to Cinderhill and the River Leen
- b) New 'priority' route from Trowell Moor, Bracebridge Drive, Bilborough Park, Kingsbury Drive, through Aspley to the River Leen (Mill Street). Linked to major improvements of Bilborough Park.

- c) Improved signing and road crossings of routes from Wollaton Park to inner and outer estates including long distance routes to Bramcote Hills, Ilkeston, River Leen and River Trent.
- d) Direct River Leen - Western suburbs route from Bobbersmill via Strelley Road and Aspley Lane.
- e) Develop local, neighbourhood, network of routes complemented by tree planting and traffic calming measures as required.

### **3.5 Boulevards and new Planting:**

Options include:-

Additional tree planting on existing boulevards such as Glaisdale Drive, Wigman Road, Beechdale Road, Strelley Road, Aspley Lane, Broxtowe Lane and Bells Lane



# AREA 3 OPEN SPACE PROFILE

Notes 1. Other spaces includes Bramcote Ridge (Part), Quarry Holes Plantation and Robins Wood

2. The figure for Wollaton includes whole of Wollaton Park

WARD	PLAYGROUNDS		PARKS & REC. GROUNDS		OTHER SPACE		ALLOTMENTS		SCHOOL GROUNDS		TOTAL SPACE (1) TO (5)		PLAY AREA PER CHILD		PARK PER HEAD		
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No. of children	m2 per child	Total Popl	m2 per head	
Aspley	1	0.7	0	0	1	2.4	1	4.1	1	1.1	3	8.3	2964	2.4	10,895	0	
Beechdale	1	0.6	3	39.2	3	14.1	3	12.1	9	26.1	19	92.1	1525	3.9	9,039	43.4	
Bilborough	5	2.3	2	16.3	1	1.7	2	0.2	5	15.7	15	36.2	1420	16.2	7,446	21.9	
Strelley	6	2.2	2	45.1	7	65.2	4	1.6	1	1.6	20	115.7	2740	8.0	9,331	48.3	
Wollaton	3	2.2	2	212.6	12	19.9	2	11.7	3	7.1	22	253.5	2428	9.1	12,494	170.2	
West Patch	16	8.0	9	313.2	24	103.3	12	29.7	19	51.6	79	505.8	11077	7.2	49,205	63.6	
													City Average:		6.9		32.9

## AREA 4 - Radford, Forest, Robin Hood and Lenton

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Situated to the north west of the City Centre, Area 4 comprises four inner city wards; Forest, Lenton, Radford and Robin Hood. As may be expected open space is at a premium and in most instances deficiencies are acute. Eighty per cent of open space in Area 4 is within Robin Hood ward.

### 2.0 KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:** As open space is not a premium, the key opportunities are improving Melbourne Park and Bailey Street Playground.
- 2.2 Lack of Parks:** There is an uneven distribution of parks/recreational facilities. Neither Forest nor Radford benefit from large scale spaces.
- 2.3 Lack of Playspace:** Area play provision is equal to the City average but local deficiencies occur, particularly in Forest Ward.
- 2.4 Shortage of New Sites:** Limited opportunity for new or change of use sites east of the Robin Hood railway line. Forest and Radford wards particularly affected. Joint use offers the only solution in many circumstances.
- 2.5 Development Pressures:** A significant number of both public and private key spaces are subject to development pressures.

### 3.0 OPPORTUNITIES

#### 3.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:

- a. Melbourne Park**  
Part of the park is designated as a replacement school site. Master plan required to minimise disturbance to park users and capitalise upon new joint use opportunities, e.g. indoor sports provision and all weather pitches.
- b. Bailey Street Playground**  
Enhance this open space to "recreation ground" status. Possibilities include planting/landscape upgrades, new sports provision, access and linkages, additional play equipment and all weather  
enhanced pitch.
- c. Other Parks**  
Improvements to local parks eg. Radford Recreation ground in conjunction with local community. *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation)*

**d. Other Open Spaces**

Works relating to playgroups, wildlife sites, trees and other areas are covered by complementary initiatives eg. Nature Conservation Strategy, Parks for People, Tree Strategy, Playspace Policy etc. *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation)*

**3.3 Joint/Dual Use Possibilities:**

Opportunities for shared use exist at:-

- a. Radford Primary, Forster Street (kickabout and play).
- b. Sandford school field, Derby Road (sport and kickabout).
- c. School field, Charnock Avenue (sport and kickabout).
- d. Berridge School, Berridge Road West (play).
- e. St Mary's School, Beaconsfield Street (play)
- f. Robert Shaw Primary, Southfield Road (play).
- g. Players Sports Ground, Aspley Lane (sport).

Sites b and c. subject to development pressures. Close liaison required with all schools to clarify details and feasibility of each option.

**3.4 Access Improvements:**

Within Area 4 existing open space provision and possible opportunity sites are limited, especially east of the Robin Hood railway line. Significant space however may be found nearby at The Forest, Wollaton Park and Vernon Park. Route improvements linking the Area to these spaces is central to enhancing levels of provision.

In addition to the local network, strategic links may be identified as follows:

- a. Reinforcement and improvement of the north south River Leen corridor, including new pedestrian bridge north of Wilkinson Street.
- b. City Centre - River Leen walk via the Arboretum, the Forest and Radford Road to the Wilkinson Street footpath.
- c. Cross City leisure walk east west along Waterloo Promenade, Hartley Road, New Road, Southfield Road and Beechdale Road.
- d. Wollaton Park link via Wollaton Hall Drive and Derby Road.

- e. Sherwood - River Leen access route east-west along Hadyn Road and North Gate, and
- f. Gladstone Street, Sherwood Rise, Forest Fields, Bobbers Mill link.
- g. River Leen Footbridge, Whitemoor, Construction of pedestrian footbridge spanning the River Leen and Robin Hood railway line to complete Whitemoor section of the strategic River Leen walkway.

### **3.5 Boulevards and new Planting:**

Particular neighbourhoods within Area 4 suffer from acute open space deficiencies. Tree lined linkages to nearby spaces, could provide pleasant access routes.

Planting options cover:

- a. Replacement and additional planting along existing boulevards, namely Middleton Western, Gregory, Radford and Lenton, Derby Road, Mansfield Road, Hucknall Road, Nottingham Road and Melbourne Road should equally be addressed.
- b. Boulevarding new routes such as Radford Road, Alfreton Road and Ilkeston Road.
- c. Co-ordinated local initiatives by schools, volunteers, community groups and residents.





# AREA 4 OPEN SPACE PROFILE

Note: 1. Other space includes private grounds, and Waterloo Promenade

WARD	PLAYGROUNDS		PARKS & REC. GROUNDS		OTHER SPACE		ALLOTMENTS		SCHOOL GROUNDS		TOTAL SPACE (1) TO (5)		PLAY AREA PER CHILD		PARK PER HEAD	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No. of children	m2 per child	Total Popl	m2 per head
Forest	5	0.7	1	0.2	2	2.3	0	0	4	0.9	12	4.1	2312	3.0	10334	0.2
Lenton	7	1.9	1	2.3	2	0.5	0	0	6	3.2	16	7.9	1423	13.4	6899	3.3
Radford	10	1.8	0	0	3	2.8	0	0	2	0.6	15	5.2	2002	9.0	8618	0
Robin Hood	10	2.2	1	9.6	9	16.8	7	25.3	5	9.5	32	63.4	2221	9.9	11497	8.4
Patch	32	6.6	3	12.1	16	22.4	7	25.3	17	14.2	75	80.6	7958	8.3	37348	3.2
												City Average:	6.9		32.9	

## **AREA 5 - St Ann's, Manvers, Greenwood and Trent**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

This area comprises the wards of St Ann's, Manvers, Greenwood and Trent on the east side of the City. It contains some major spaces including: The Forest Recreation Ground, Arboretum, Hungerhills, Colwick Woods, Colwick Country Park, part of the Nottingham Canal and a section of the River Trent east of Trent Bridge.

### **2 KEY ISSUES**

**2.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:** Big variation in local availability of a wide range of play provision. Need for more adventurous play, surface improvements, anti-dog fencing and surveillance security measures.

**2.2 Lack of Parks:** Especially for locally accessible open space throughout the area, notably in Manvers (Sneinton). The relative high figures per head of parks shown on the table disguise the overall distribution pattern and relative inaccessibility of the major spaces such as the Forest, Arboretum and Colwick Country Park.

**2.3 Lack of Playspace:** Some localised deficiency in Trent and Greenwood wards and St Ann's (notably Brewsters Gardens).

**2.4 Access Problems:** Problem of crossing busy radial roads and a lack of direct routes to major spaces such as Colwick Country Park. This problem is compounded by the railway line and local topography. Access to the City Centre including the Nottingham Canal is also problematic.

### **3 OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **3.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:**

- a) Colwick Woods, improved play facilities to meet local needs including multi-use games/kickabout.
- b) Colwick Park, in association with Colwick Woods, the Racecourse, River Trent and nearby open space on the south side of the River Trent is a strategic space of City wide importance. There is a need for a park management plan. There is also scope for improving a wide range of facilities including the marina, play, nature conservation, adventurous/outward bound activities (e.g. TS Orion) with a strong water theme, interpretation and visitors centre with other related facilities. Potential linkages with Holme Pierrepont should be explored. Other opportunities include better use of the Racecourse and Colwick Hall.

- c) Sneinton Greenway, completion of this east-west green corridor with links to other existing and proposed open spaces, including Greens Gardens, to ensure best use of limited provision in this area.
- d) Robin Hood Chase, in conjunction with the Community Plan for the Chase, enhancement of the existing open space.
- e) Hungerhills, improvements of this unique inner city "green reservoir" of allotments, Coppices and Sycamore, recreation grounds and woodland. There is scope for extending the existing improvement scheme. (St Ann's Allotments Campaign) for both allotments, allied facilities, nature conservation and landscape purposes, and possible training initiatives linked to the revitalisation of the allotments.
- f) The Forest, continuation of the improvements programme for this strategic, multi-use inner city space. Close consultation with the local community will be essential.
- g) Arboretum. as Nottingham's first park, this is of particular historic interest. The current programme of improvements reflecting both its historic and local recreational function should continue. It also acts as an anchor space/focus for the inner ring of the Chase, Oaks and Elm Avenue Boulevards and links with the General Cemetery to the west in Area 4.
- h) Midland Railway/Boots Island Site/ Sneinton Market, new squares, and plazas as part of redevelopment schemes.
- i) General Cemetery scope for open space enhancement.
- j) Improvements to local parks and open spaces in conjunction with local community. *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation).*
- k) Works relating to playgroups, wildlife sites, trees and other areas are covered by complementary initiatives eg. Nature Conservation Strategy, Parks for People, Tree Strategy, Play Space etc. *(This will be detailed further to consultation).*

### **3.2 New Spaces:**

Sneinton Hermitage, approximately 0.4 hectare (1 acre) on derelict land as part of a new housing development adjacent to Sneinton Greenway. The local community has been closely involved in ideas for the use of the Tricketts yard provision to the rear of the Greenway Centre.

### **3.3 Joint/Dual Use Possibilities:**

Potential opportunities to meet local needs include:

- a) Huntingdon Junior and Infants, Woodborough Road - playing field.
- b) Sycamore Junior & Infants, Church Road - playing field.
- c) Manvers Pierrepont Comprehensive/Forest Fields VI Form College Campus, extensive playing fields.

Close liaison will be essential to clarify feasibility of individual opportunities.

### **3.4 Access Improvements:**

Significant opportunities for improving strategic and local network or routes including;

- a) Trent Corridor, extension of the riverside path east of Trent Bridge to Colwick Country Park.
- b) Improved crossing (new bridge) over the Nottingham canal at Turneys Quay in the vicinity of the lock.
- c) Review of original pedestrian bridge proposal from Colwick Park to Holme Pierrepont over the River Trent.
- d) "Inner Rings" extension of the unique promenades. (Oaks/Chase) to form a more comprehensive network. This would link to River Trent, Colwick Park via Sneinton and St Ann's in a circular green necklace of routes with the City Centre, Canal (via Sneinton Greenway with Wollaton Park to the west and Clifton/Attenborough Nature Reserve in the south-west.
- e) Allied to d) a series of local networks of pedestrian and priority routes linking residential areas with major facilities, and open spaces. Schemes already proposed in Sneinton (City Challenge).
- f) "Crossing the Gap" to the City Centre, improving the existing radial routes for pedestrians to provide better links between the City Centre and adjoining inner areas. This will include appropriate traffic calming and improved road crossings, and other safety measures.

**3.5 Boulevards and new Planting:**

- a) In association with 3.4 additional street planting on the main routes which “radiate” out from the City Centre.
- b) Major new planting at Hungerhills to reinforce, in association with other initiatives, the wildlife and landscape value of this strategic space.
- c) Tree replacement as part of all open space improvement schemes.

**3.6** Improvements to other existing project such as St Ann’s Play Centre (Adventure Playground) St Ann’s Adventure Base, Greenway Centre, Brakeway and other local initiatives.



# AREA 5 OPEN SPACE PROFILE

Note: Other space includes the Chase, Oaks and Elm Avenue

WARD	PLAYGROUNDS		PARKS & REC. GROUNDS		OTHER SPACE		ALLOTMENTS		SCHOOL GROUNDS		TOTAL SPACE (1) TO (5)		PLAY AREA PER CHILD		PARK PER HEAD	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No. of children	m2 per child	Total Popl	m2 per head
St Anns	9	1.9	4	46.2	8	13.2	3	30.4	4	1.3	28	92.7	1452	13.1	8019	57.7
Manvers	6	2.4	4	7.3	3	3.4	4	2.4	6	16.8	23	32	2363	10.2	10578	6.9
Greenwood	5	1.5	1	50.0	4	3.6	6	11.5	5	8.1	21	74	2385	6.3	10846	46.1
Trent	5	0.8	2	116.7	7	11.9	1	0.1	2	1.0	17	130.5	1926	4.2	8722	133.8
<b>Area 5 Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>220.2</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>329.2</b>	<b>8126</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>38165</b>	<b>57.7</b>
													<b>City Average:</b>	<b>6.9</b>		<b>32.9</b>

## **AREA 6 - The City Centre, New Lenton and The Park**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Area 6 covers the Park ward which includes the City Centre, The Park and New Lenton. It contains some key spaces such as Market Square, the Castle and Nottingham Canal.

### **2 KEY ISSUES**

**2.1 Lack of Parks:** lack of open space in New Lenton and centrally located park in the City Centre; shortage of sites for new open space, lack of City Centre public spaces and sitting out areas.

**2.2 Lack of Playspace:** in New Lenton east of Lenton Boulevard

**2.3 Access:** problem of crossing busy major radial roads, the inner ring road and City Centre routes. These create barriers to safe cross-city movement for pedestrians and cyclists.

### **3 OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **3.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:**

- a) Market Square, Scope for developing this strategic multi-use civic space into a high quality, European style of plaza
- b) Castle, This is a major tourist attraction and designated Ancient Monument. There is scope for refurbishment of the grounds and gardens as part of current comprehensive improvement proposals for the Castle.
- c) Willoughby Flats, Lenton, Scope for improving existing grassed amenity space in consultation with residents.
- d) Improvements to Lenton Recreation Ground, Garners Hill Park and other local open spaces in consultation with the local community. *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation).*
- e) Works relating to playgroups, wildlife sites, trees and other areas are covered by complementary initiatives eg. Nature Conservation Strategy, Parks for People, Tree Strategy, Playspace Policy etc. *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation).*

### **3.2 New Spaces:**

- a) New squares and plazas allied to redevelopment and improvements in the city centre possibly at the Midland Railway Station, south end of Maid Marian Way, Toll House Hill, Victoria Centre extension, the Sneinton market redevelopment and Boots Island.
- b) Creation of Theatre Square linked to the LRT line.
- c) Lace Market Square adjacent to the Adams building.
- d) Canalside, additional leisure uses on the north side with a bridge link over the towpath.

### **3.3 Joint/Dual Use Possibilities:**

Possible use of Edna G.Olds school playground, Willoughby Street, Lenton

### **3.4 Access Improvements:**

Key philosophy of current City Centre planning is to create a comprehensive network of quality pedestrian routes for shoppers, tourists and the 50,000 people who work in the centre.

- a) Provide direct, safe at grade crossing over the 'inner ring' (Station Gateway, Friar Lane, Toll House Hill, Theatre Square).
- b) Extend current programme of improvements to the network of City Centre streets co-ordinated with other existing initiatives for signage, street furniture, public art, lighting improvements, street planting, Britain in Bloom and other related projects.
- c) Encourage provision of additional sitting out space, courtyards linked to and extending the existing network of routes
- d) In connection with i) extending the City Centre network of pedestrian routes into adjoining inner city area as priority pedestrian routes
- e) Capitalising on major redevelopment opportunities including the Millennium proposals to provide more direct links, for example with the canal and Sneinton Greenway to Colwick as part of the strategic City-wide network of routes.
- f) The proposed LRT network provides a further opportunity to improve cross-centre pedestrian linkages, for example reinforcing Waverley Street to Market Square as a key route.



### **3.5 Boulevards and new Planting:**

Consider creation of a boulevard ring around the City Centre with a system of radiating links out to adjoining inner city areas. Comprehensive programme of appropriate street planting and replacement tree planting as required.



# AREA 6 OPEN SPACE PROFILE

WARD	PLAYGROUNDS		PARKS & REC. GROUNDS		OTHER SPACE		ALLOTMENTS		SCHOOL GROUNDS		TOTAL SPACE (1) TO (5)		PLAY AREA PER CHILD		PARK PER HEAD	
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No. of children	m2 per child	Total popl.	m2 per head
Park	1	0.05	2	5.8	14	13.4	0	0	1	0.15	18	19.45	920	0.6	7951	7.2
Area 6 Total	1	0.05	2	5.8	14	13.4	0	0	1	0.15	18	19.45	920	0.6	7951	7.2
												City Average:	6.9		32.9	

## **AREA 7 - Abbey and Bridge Wards**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Abbey and Bridge Wards form Area 7. They contain three major parks, extensive industrial estates and washlands which cannot be developed.

Residents are concentrated in three main areas: north and east of Wollaton Park (only housing in this area offers gardens of sufficient size), Dunkirk/Old Lenton and the Meadows Estate. Public open space provision in the latter is therefore critical and, despite the presence of large parks nearby, is deficient.

### **2 KEY ISSUES**

**2.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:** need for improved access, safer surfacing, more adventurous play and increased surveillance/security measures.

**2.2 Lack of Parks:** University Park, Wollaton Park and The Embankment are key strategic city-wide strategic spaces, the future of which will have implications for local residents.

**2.3 Lack of Playspace:** adequate levels within Abbey Ward, but insufficient provision for Bridge residents. Localised shortages occur across the patch.

**2.4 Shortage of New Open Space Sites:** notably in or around the Meadows estate and Old Lenton/Dunkirk.

**2.5 Access Problems:** enhanced road crossings, signage and footpath improvements paving works necessary to increase access to public spaces.

### **3. OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **3.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:**

##### **a) Wollaton Park**

Programme of co-ordinated measures within the context of a park management plan. Potential for sports improvements (including new pitches at Bramcote Lane), formal/informal landscape regeneration, building refurbishment (including refreshment facilities), footpath enhancement and access upgrades. New visitor facility at walled garden area. All work would be beneficial to further promoting the park as an outdoor events venue.

##### **b) University Park and Highfields**

Opportunity to develop and expand park facilities through redevelopment of lakeside pavilion and car park area, new circular walks and better links to the city network; play enhancement, improved access to University playing fields and a 'conservation park' based upon Dunkirk Pond also a possibility.

- c) **Riverside/Victoria Embankment/Memorial Gardens/Queens Drive.**  
Riverside/Trent Bridge location offers considerable potential for themed water and sports based improvements; scope for permanent outdoor events area, major regional play facility and waterside building with terrace and cafe; possible sports upgrade including changing pavilion and all weather pitches, access and lighting improvements. A Riverside Strategy will be prepared.
- d) **Other Parks**  
Improvements to local parks and open spaces in consultation with the local community. *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation).*
- e) **Other Open Spaces**  
Need for overall landscape master plan for enhancement of the River Trent Washlands.
- f) Works relating to playgrounds, wildlife sites, trees and other areas are covered by complementary initiatives eg. Nature Conservation Strategy, Parks for People, Tree Strategy, Playspace Policy etc. *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation).*

### 3.2 Joint/Dual Use Possibilities:

Possible additional pitches and dual use scheme at Grove Farm, Lenton Lane.

### 3.3 Access Improvements:

- a) River Trent bank side walk from Trent Bridge to Wilford Washlands via Victoria Embankment
- b) Towpath walk from Beeston to Trent Bridge along the Nottingham-Beeston Canal.
- c) Cross City east-west link from Dunkirk to Bramcote Hills and Beeston via Wollaton Hall Drive, Wollaton Park, Nottingham University Campus and Broadgate.
- d) Lenton to the western suburbs crossing east-west along Wollaton Rd
- e) Riverside pedestrian links to the City Centre along Arkwright Walk and Queens Walk. Continuation of Queens Walk over the Wilford Bridge to connect with new route to Clifton. See proposals in Area 8.

### **3.4 Boulevards and new Planting:**

Planting options covering:-

- a) Replacement planting and boulevard strengthening along existing avenues such as Queens Walk, Arkwright Walk, London Road, Castle Boulevard, Derby Road and Western Boulevard
- b) Additional tree planting on key strategic routes i.e. Queens Drive, Clifton Boulevard, Thane Road.
- c) Need for overall landscape master plan for enhancement of the River Trent Washlands.



# AREA 7 OPEN SPACE PROFILE

Note: Other spaces includes railway corridors and institutional grounds (The Nottingham University Campus)

WARD	PLAYGROUNDS		PARKS & REC. GROUNDS		OTHER SPACE		ALLOTMENTS		SCHOOL GROUNDS		TOTAL SPACE (1) TO (5)		PLAY AREA PER CHILD		PARK PER HEAD		
	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No.	Area (ha)	No. of children	m2 per child	Total popl.	m2 per head	
Abbey	6	1.5	3	43.9	35	138.3	2	3.1	3	3.9	50	190.7	1478	10.1	9227	47.6	
Bridge	5	0.6	4	29.7	11	16.9	0	0	5	3.6	25	50.8	1836	3.3	8862	33.5	
Area 7	11	2.1	7	73.6	46	155.2	2	3.1	8	7.5	75	241.5	3314	6.3	18089	40.7	
												City Average:			6.9		32.9

## **AREA 8 - Clifton East, Clifton West and Wilford**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

This comprises the wards of Clifton East, Clifton West and Wilford. It benefits from access to the Trent corridor, Fairham Brook, open space in Rushcliffe and proximity to the countryside.

### **2 KEY ISSUES**

- 2.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:** these are subject to increasing levels of vandalism and abuse, enhancement and protection of the nature conservation and recreational interests of the River Trent required.
- 2.2 Lack of Parks:** some deficiencies particularly in Clifton West and also in Silverdale and Wilford.
- 2.3 Lack of Playspace:** overall provision is above the City average, but local deficiencies occur, particularly in the Wilford/Silverdale area.
- 2.4 Access Problems:** A high proportion of space is located at the periphery. There is a need for improved routes and road crossings to provide safer access.
- 2.5 Development Pressures:** much of the peripheral agricultural land is designated for new housing in the Draft Nottingham Local Plan. Further development pressures exist at private sites e.g. Wilford House and Nottingham Trent University.

### **3 OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **3.1 Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces:**

- a) **Clifton Central Park**  
Opportunity for landscape, access and play improvements; provision of 'adventure' play area (possibly in association with new leisure centre); scope for localised activities/facilities identified through public consultation - a 'Community Park'.
- b) **Clifton Playing Fields**  
General improvement scheme as part of the Fairham Brook Corridor. Work to incorporate footpath enhancements, landscape planting and multi-surface sports pitch provision.
- c) **Fairham Brook**  
Upgrade as an important linear green corridor along the east side of Clifton, incorporating access, landscape, wildlife, and sporting improvements.

- d) **Clifton Wood/Clifton Grove**  
Upgrade as an important wildlife reservoir linked to Burrows Farm grassland, Holme Pit and the River Trent.
- e) **Other Parks**  
Improvements to local parks and open spaces in consultation with the local community. *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation).*
- f) **Other Open Spaces**  
Works relating to playgroups, wildlife sites, trees and other areas, are covered by complementary initiatives, Nature Conservation Strategy, Parks for People, Tree Strategy, Playspace Policy etc. *(This will be detailed further prior to consultation).*

### 3.2 New Open Space:

Opportunities for new open spaces occur at:-

- a) **South of Nobel Road:**  
play site and kickabout area (part of the 'Clifton South' development)
- b) **West of Harness Road:**  
play site and kickabout area (part of the 'Clifton West' development)
- c) **Land adjacent to Clifton Spinney:**  
potential pitches on north side of the estate on the washlands if required.
- d) **Burrows Farm:**  
Major new woodland planting north of Burrows Farm (to link Clifton Wood with Fox Covert Wood) and south of Nobel Road (as part of the Clifton South development).

### 3.3 Joint/Dual Use Possibilities:

- a) **South Wilford Primary, Hannah Crescent** - play site
- b) **St Patrick's Primary, Coronation Avenue** - play site
- c) **Whitegate Junior and Infant, Whitegate Vale** - kickabout area
- d) **Glapton Primary, Glapton Lane** - play site
- e) **Fairham Comprehensive, Farnborough Road** - use of sports pitches;
- f) **South Notts. College, Farnborough Road** - use of sports pitches
- g) **Wilford House, Wilford Lane** - use of sports pitches

### 3.4 Access Improvements

- a) New pedestrian bridge over the River Trent near Beeston Weir with footpath link to Clifton Grove.



- b) Ramped steps to track level and surfacing of informal footpath along the former railway embankment between Coronation Avenue and Wilford Lane; longer term possible pedestrian bridge crossing to existing footpath south of Wilford Lane.
- c) New walkway from Ruddington Lane to the Clifton Playing Fields footpaths system along the Fairham Brook, need for new pedestrian footbridge across the Fairham Brook and footpath link from Clifton Playing Fields to the former railway embankment.
- d) Upgrade of east-west trans-Clifton path. Linking Fairham Brook to the River Trent via Swansdowne Drive, Glapton Drive and nethergate. Appropriate traffic calming/pedestrian crossings over Southchurch Drive, Farnborough Road and Clifton Lane.
- e) New entrance into Clifton Playing Fields at Farnborough Road/Swansdowne Drive.
- f) Footpath link along the Fairham Brook from Ruddington Lane to Summerwood lane allotments; continuation to;
- g) Traffic Calming/Local Priority Routes, Consider measures to improve access for cyclists and pedestrians, including people with disabilities, to play facilities and the overall open space network.
- h) Summerwood Lane allotments to Clifton Wood via new woodland at Nobel Road and Burrows Farm; a complete Clifton circular walk; appropriate pedestrian safety measures at Barton Lane and Clifton lane.

### **3.5 Boulevards and new Planting :**

- a) Replacement and additional planting along existing boulevards namely Clifton lane, Wilford Lane and Southchurch Drive.
- b) Boulevarding new routes such as Farnborough Road, Southchurch Drive and Green Lane, with further opportunities along Green Lane, Clifton Boulevard and Clifton Lane (north of Clifton Spinney).
- c) Close liaison with local residents, community organisations and schools will be essential in ensuring a successful co-ordinated programme.