

**Gedling Borough Council's  
Green Space Strategy  
Executive Summary  
2012–2017**

# Green Spaces Strategy

## 2012–2017 Executive Summary

Gedling Borough has an array of superb publicly accessible green spaces that provide precious places where people of all ages can relax, play, enjoy nature and take part in recreation or keep fit by participating in sports activities.

They incorporate important historic landscapes, and include nature reserves, woodland and meadows which provide vital habitats creating environments where biodiversity can flourish.

The Borough's green spaces, which include Local Parish, County Council and Borough owned land, help enhance its appeal, and greatly add to people's satisfaction with their local area. They help to bring communities together offering positive activities for people of all ages and offer numerous volunteering opportunities.

They act as green lungs for the densely populated urban area which forms part of the greater Nottingham conurbation and are a vital asset to the local economy.

Additional to this they are crucial for maintaining and improving people's health and well-being. Evidence shows a brisk walk every day, in a local green space, can reduce the risk of heart attacks by 50%, strokes by 50%, diabetes by 50%, fracture of the femur by 30%, colon cancer by 30%, breast cancer by 30% and Alzheimer's by 25%.<sup>1</sup>

Add to this the impact of exposure to nature and green space on stress and mental health and the full picture in relation to health and wellbeing can start to be understood.

As such the green spaces need preserving, protecting and enhancing now and for future generations. This strategy is a key document in helping to support, protect and improve the green spaces to ensure that they meet the needs of the people and visitors to Gedling Borough.

The strategy provides a vision and objectives for how our publicly owned green spaces should be planned and managed, and provides strong links to the Council's Corporate Plan (2012/13) and Gedling Borough Council Sustainable Communities Strategy (2009/26).

It has been produced using best practice and guidance from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) Space documents and guidance



notes provided by GreenSpace, the national charity which works to improve parks and green spaces.

The Strategy contains ambitious plans for Gedling residents. Providing for the delivery of a new Country Park on the former Gedling Colliery site and for 'Green Gateways' at key entry roads into the Borough to serve as inviting and welcoming displays to help attract visitors to the Borough.

The implementation of the strategy will be supported by the Council and by partners involved in the delivery of the Action Plan using funding provided by Section 106 (S106) commuted sums from housing developers and via the new Community Infrastructure Levy. Such funds will be used to enhance and improve existing and create new, open spaces and play areas

It will also serve to identify poor quality open space that is of little value, such that land may be offered up for alternative use.

Reviewing progress and priorities at various points in the future will continue to ensure that this strategy is a living document, reflective to the needs of the Borough's residents and businesses.

I'm confident that this strategy will be well received by local people and know that the Parks and Street Care team are focussed on its delivery.

Consultation over the years has shown both a high level of usage and support for the parks and green spaces in Gedling Borough and the strategy aims to build on the already existing groups of volunteers who help to manage and protect these spaces.

Some of the proposed improvements will take time which is why this is a 5 year strategy. However there will be a focus on the next three years with a full review in 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Blue Sky Green Space: Understanding the importance of retaining good quality Park and Green Space and the contribution they make to improving people's lives, GreenSpace 2011.



**Councillor Seamus (Jim) Creamer**

Portfolio Holder for Environment



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## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Gedling Borough Council's parks and open spaces are of great significance. The surrounding area was once a hunting preserve of some 3,711 acres, part of the medieval Sherwood Forest which covered large areas of Nottinghamshire.

This 'Iconic Landscape' includes many sites of importance for nature conservation with fine examples of grassland, woodland, arable land and wetland.

There is one Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is located near Linby as well as three Local Nature Reserves, eighty one Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCS Biological) and several areas of fine landscape previously designated Mature Landscape Areas. In addition, some areas of woodland to the north and west of the Borough have been identified as a prospective Special Protection Area (SPA).

This together with a number of rivers and dykes all act as strategically important green connecting corridors. <sup>2</sup>

However, these green spaces represent more than just an iconic landscape, they are integral to the life of the Borough, its Local Parishes and its economy. The Borough's parks, open spaces, playing fields and allotments make a significant contribution to improving the outcomes for local people's health and well-being, help to build stronger, more engaged communities, and give people a greater sense of satisfaction with where they live. They also play a vital role in preserving the area's cultural heritage and biodiversity.

1.2 The 2009 Gedling Borough Council Place Survey <sup>3</sup> showed the importance people give to their local green space. Parks in Gedling are well kept and 74 per cent of people are satisfied with the Council's parks and open spaces. They also show that parks and streets are clean and performance targets for cleanliness have been exceeded. National surveys mirror this importance with 91% of people believing that public parks and open spaces improve their quality of life.

1.3 Whilst The Place Survey shows support for Gedling Borough Council's Green Spaces is high, the environment in which the service is managed is changing. In October 2010 the Chancellor published the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) for the period 2011-15. This sets out a major programme of public spending cuts and local government cuts that will impact on service delivery. This strategy is therefore a long term one that will focus on both the immediate Leisure & Parks and Street Care Service plans and on the CSR run for the immediate years ahead, whilst



recognising the timescales involved in changing the environment there are longer term objectives that run beyond 2017.

1.4 During the same period the Government also published The Localism Bill which includes measures to strengthen the role of neighbourhoods in helping to plan new developments in their areas. Parks and Street Cleansing Services already works in a variety of ways with volunteers and will continue to take advantage of these new opportunities for community engagement where it can and will support local residents who wish to get involved in the development and maintenance of their parks and open spaces.

## The Purpose of the Green Spaces Strategy is to:

- provide a strategic vision, a set of aims, a robust evidence base and, a set of objectives that together provide a strategic framework for the planning, development and management of parks and open spaces,
- protect and improve Gedling Borough's accessible parks and open spaces to meet community needs and aspirations,
- provide the Council with a robust basis for making development decisions and negotiating planning green space gain,
- identify ways in which parks and open spaces can be improved in a coordinated way whilst providing value for money.

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<sup>2</sup> Gedling Borough Council Replacement Local Plan – Adopted 12<sup>th</sup> July 2005.

<sup>3</sup> 2009 Place Survey – A national survey to report against National Indicators.

The minister for Housing and Local Government cancelled The Place Survey in 2010.

<sup>4</sup> 2004 CABE Public Attitudes to Architecture and Public Space, by MORI



Jackie Bells  
Playing Field  
Teen Shelter



## Links to the Local, Corporate and Service Plans

1.5. Gedling Borough Council is currently finalising its Aligned Core Strategy which it has prepared in conjunction with Broxtowe Borough Council and Nottingham City Council. The Strategy defines a spatial vision for the three Councils within Greater Nottingham to 2028. In particular it defines Gedling Borough Council's administrative area and sets out a spatial strategy and key planning policies for future development. The Aligned Core Strategy will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination, later this year with adoption planned in 2013. The Green Spaces Strategy fits in with Policy 16 and 17 of the Core Strategy by serving to both improve and protect the borough's natural assets.

1.6 The Borough Council Plan 2012-2013 vision is to be "the best place to live and work and the best council around. Best through the eyes of residents and staff." The Council's corporate priorities are: 'People, Homes, Jobs, Place, Performance and Recreation' and the following objectives serve as drivers to the Green Spaces Strategy.

1.7 The following table illustrates the links between the Council's Corporate Plan priorities and its objectives and the relevance of green spaces to those objectives. It also identifies the corporate portfolio.

Priorities	Objectives	Green Space Link	Corporate Portfolio
1 PEOPLE	<p>Reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime</p> <p>Give people more say, choice and ownership of local facilities and services</p> <p>Increase pride and personal responsibility</p> <p>Increase the support to, and profile of, elected members</p> <p>Improve health outcomes for local residents</p>	<p><i>Well-designed green spaces can help reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour.</i></p> <p><i>Green spaces provide an excellent venue for learning first-hand about the natural environment and can provide a stimulus for many areas such as art and design.</i></p> <p><i>Green spaces are proven to improve the mental and physical health of individuals. Natural England estimates savings of 2.1bn a year to the NHS by</i></p>	<p>Communications and Public Protection</p> <p>Economic and Strategic Development (Education)</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing</p>



		<i>improving green spaces.</i>	
<b>2 HOMES</b>	<p>Improve the quality and safety of existing housing</p> <p>Minimise the incidence of homelessness</p> <p>Provide more homes of the right type and in the right places</p>	<i>Well designed and managed green spaces add value to surrounding properties.</i>	Economic and Strategic Development
<b>3 JOBS</b>	<p>Improve local skills levels</p> <p>Grow new local businesses and develop existing ones</p> <p>Reduce unemployment</p> <p>Re-vitalise local shopping centres</p>	<i>Well managed green spaces attract businesses and employment opportunities and increase visitor footfall to the borough thereby improving the local economy.</i>	Economic and Strategic Development
<b>4 PLACE</b>	<p>Reduce the volume of waste generated and increase recycling</p> <p>Regenerate priority neighbourhoods</p> <p>Reduce the Council's and the Borough's carbon footprint and energy usage</p> <p>Keep our streets, parks and open spaces clean, tidy and attractive</p> <p>Enhance the profile of the Borough; celebrate and protect its heritage and sense of identity.</p>	<i>Well managed green spaces help to create a good image and give a sense of 'Place' and local pride.</i>	Economic and Strategic Development
<b>5 PERFORMANCE</b>	<p>Improve the customer experience of dealing with the Council</p> <p>Increase value for money to customers</p> <p>Improve staff satisfaction and morale</p>	<i>Well trained and motivated Parks and Street Cleansing Staff who have a positive attitude create a good impression with our customers, who are both residents and visitors to the borough.</i> <i>Accurate and</i>	Community and Employee Relations  Finance and





		<i>detailed contract documents specifications and bills of quantity ensure our customers get best value service delivery.</i>	Performance
<b>6 RECREATION</b>	Increase participation in leisure and culture Encourage more people to appreciate, enjoy and respect the local environment Encourage more people to get involved and active in their local community	<i>Well managed green spaces provide an opportunity for people to relax, take exercise and hold community and volunteer events.</i>  <i>Green spaces can provide 'green lungs' to mitigate against climate change and provide a haven for wildlife.</i>	Leisure and Culture  Environment and Sustainability

As can be seen from the table above the Corporate objectives inform the Green Space Strategy and are delivered via the strategies objectives and an action plan.

1.8 Gedling Borough Councils Parks and Street Care Annual Service Plan has as one of its main drivers the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy, vision being “To provide sufficient quality, inviting green spaces that are open and accessible to all and that enhance the quality of life of everyone, living, working or visiting Gedling Borough”.

### What does this Green Spaces Strategy cover?

1.9 Unlike Green Infrastructure Strategies which cover both privately and publically owned land and go beyond the site specific, considering also the ‘big picture’ – landscape context, hinterland and setting, as well as strategic links of sub regional scale and beyond;

Green Space strategies work within the typology of public recreational, amenity and open spaces identified by *PPG17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)*. They evaluate publicly accessible open space provision within set typologies at the local authority scale, noting issues in relation to condition, quality and access,

this information informs the strategy and action plan that sets out future management and regeneration policies.

1.10 The focus is on green space in the Borough that is freely available to the public irrespective of the landowner, for informal recreation, allotment and play spaces.

However, the main impetus will be on those areas that are managed by Gedling Borough Council. Parish Council land is covered and any deficiencies noted.

It includes green spaces that are managed specifically for recreation such as the Large Parks and other green spaces which are more informally managed for wildlife. It does not include green spaces closed to the public e.g. private gardens.

1.11 Gedling's playing pitches were audited separately in 2008 by Sport and Landscape Development, Consultancy and Advisory services and that data has been incorporated into this strategy document.

1.12 Gedling Borough Council's population is currently 113,600<sup>5</sup> and this figure is projected to rise. This will result in an increase in demand on the parks and green spaces and will affect the standards and objectives set in the strategy.

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<sup>5</sup> Office of National Statistics 2011 census.



Burton Road Skate Plaza.



## Gedling Borough Council's Green Space Typologies

The key national planning document is Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002). PPG17 which is to be superseded by a Planning Policy Statement (PPS), remains the current planning guide. It recommends that open space strategies consider all types of open space, and provides a typology of open space based on function.

1.11 The table below illustrates the land typography with definitions and examples. The exact distribution of parks and open spaces, play areas and allotments is covered in the PPG17 Audit document within the respective chapters.

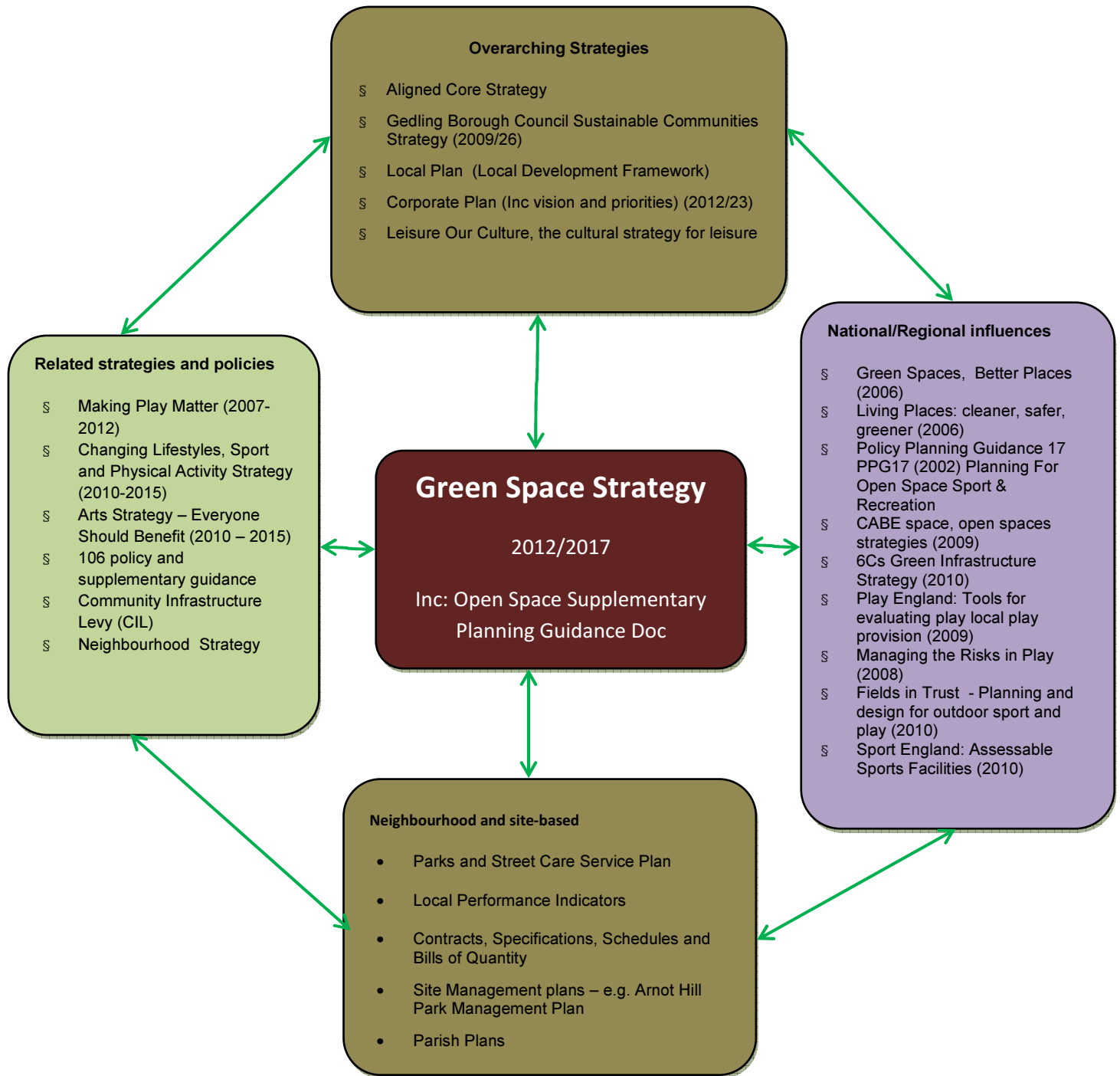
Table 1.1: PPG 17 National definitions and local examples

Type	Description	Examples from Gedling Borough Council
Parks and Gardens	Including urban parks, country parks and formal gardens	Arnot Hill Park,
Amenity Green Space	Including informal recreational spaces, green spaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens	Gedling Road, opposite the arrow pub
Provision for children and young people (fixed play areas)	Including play areas, skate parks, outdoor basketball hoops, ball courts and other informal areas (teenage hanging out areas and shelters)	Church Lane Play Area Papplewick Play Area
Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	Including woodlands, urban forestry, scrub, grasslands, wetlands, open and running water, wastelands and derelict open land and rock areas – cliffs, quarries and pits	Burnstump Country Park, Netherfield Lagoons, Gedling House Woods
Outdoor Sports Facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned)	Including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields and other outdoor sporting areas	Burton Road Jubilee Park, Conway Gardens
Allotments, community gardens	Opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.	Killisick & Robin Hood Allotments
Cemeteries and churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.	Carlton & Redhill Cemetery
Green Corridors	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration.	The River Trent



# How does the Green Spaces Strategy fit with other Strategies and Policies?

## Parks and Open Spaces Strategy - diagram linking strategies and policies



## 2.0 Parks and Open Spaces Vision and Aims

2.1 A vision statement and priorities have been agreed for Gedling Borough's green spaces.



“To provide sufficient quality, inviting green spaces that are open and accessible to all and that enhance the quality of life of everyone living, working or visiting Gedling Borough.”

Jackie Bells Play Area, Netherfield

This vision will be achieved by focusing on the following priorities to provide a range of open spaces and recreational experiences:

- to enhance peoples quality of life through the provision of sufficient, accessible, attractive green spaces,
- to promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the Boroughs biodiversity, sustainability and heritage,
- to provide open spaces and play and sports facilities to enable residents to undertake a wide range of recreational and educational activities for healthy living,
- to actively involve the community in their local open spaces,
- to Increase participation in green spaces for sport and recreation.

2.2 In order to achieve this vision, priorities and strategy, a wide variety of sources were drawn upon. Extensive consultation took place using door to door surveys, and meetings with sports club forums, Friends of groups, young people, parish councils and borough wide questionnaires and the 'Gedling Now' statistical evidence database.

Site audits were also undertaken to assess the quantity and accessibility of Gedling's Parks and Open Spaces. Several audits completed in the last 7 years were still found to be relevant in providing information to inform this strategy. For example, The Allotment Strategy 2004, The Nottinghamshire Parks Audit 2009, Playing Pitch Quality Audit 2008.



National, Regional and Local policies were also researched to ensure all relevant elements that apply to the management, protection and enhancement of the Boroughs green spaces were thoughtfully considered.

The Gedling Profile, internal and external influences and community views are covered in greater detail in the full Green Space Strategy Document in Chapters 2, 3 & 4 should the reader require more in depth information.

A brief audit of existing provision and proposed standards and a summary of key findings using the PPG17 typology audits are set out in the following section. Those readers requiring more in depth information are advised to read the full strategy document. (Chapters 5 through to 12) found on the GBC website on the Parks and Open Spaces page.



Colwick Rectory Recreation Ground





## **3. Green Space Types**

**PPG17 Typologies**

## 3.1 Parks and Gardens

3.1.1 Parks and gardens - areas providing high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.

Type of Green Space	Summary of existing provision and proposed standard
Parks & Gardens	<p><b>Quantity:</b> A total of 467.9 ha equating to 4.15 hectares per 1000 population.</p> <p><b>Quality:</b> A welcoming, clean, well maintained site that is free from vandalism and dog fouling that provides a range of facilities for all users creating a feeling of safety. All sites to achieve the Nottinghamshire Standard score of at least 6 or 42 when applied to green flag standards.</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b> 14 minute walk.</p>

3.1.2 Parks and Gardens - Opportunities for improvement.

There is a deficiency of Parks and Gardens in Daybrook and Bonington ward in the north of the borough and Porchester ward in the South. More parks and garden facilities are needed for the urban population and to accommodate the predicted increase in population due to housing developments. It is therefore vital the plan for a Country Park at the Gedling Colliery site is achieved.

The Council should aim to improve the quality of Parks and Gardens focusing on protection and enhancement of wildlife areas in the urban areas of the borough. In doing this it should maintain Green Flag status at Arnot Hill Park and aspire to establishing another site as a green flag destination park, preferably outside of the catchment area of Arnot Hill Park and within the urban conurbation.





## 3.2 Amenity Green Space

3.2.1 Amenity green space - areas providing opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.

Type of Green Space	Summary of existing provision and proposed standard
Amenity Green Space	<p><b>Quantity:</b> A total of 59 ha equating to 0,52 hectares per 1000 population.</p> <p><b>Quality:</b> A clean and well maintained green space site with well-kept grass and varied vegetation, and large enough to accommodate informal play. Sites should have appropriate ancillary facilities (benches, litter bins) and landscaping in the right places providing a spacious outlook and overall enhancing the appearance of the local environment.</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b> 8 minute walk.</p>

### 3.2.2 Amenity Green Space - Opportunities for improvement.

Overall the quantity of amenity green space is good. It is recommended amenity green space should be protected and enhanced in the district providing it holds recreational value (over 0.2ha). A quality standard needs to be established to aid identifying sites which hold recreational value. All new developments must have access to amenity green space to act as a positive focal point of the community. The planning green space gain process will support this.



## 3.3 Provision for Children and Young People

3.3.1 Provision for children and young people - areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, multi-use games areas, skateboard parks and teenage shelters.

Type of Green Space	Summary of existing provision and proposed standard
Amenity Green Space	<p><b>Quantity:</b> A total of 132.5 ha of casual play areas and 3.26 ha of fixed casual play areas. 1.21 hectares per 1000 population. Fixed play provision for younger children equates to 0.001618 hectares per 1,000 population and older children 0.001298 hectares per 1,000 population.</p> <p><b>Quality:</b> “A site providing a suitable mix of well-maintained formal equipment with an enriched play environment to encourage informal play and recreation by children and young people. A safe and secure location with good access to the site that includes ancillary facilities such as ‘hang out shelters’ and seating where appropriate.” To strive for all play sites to have a quality assessment score of 40% or above.</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b> 15 minute walk for NEAPs (1.2km) and 5 minute walk (400m) for all other sites.</p>

3.3.2 Provision for children and young people - Opportunities for improvement.

The quality of play areas is notably lower in rural areas of the borough than urban. The quantity is below national standards however meeting national standards is considered unrealistic. Strategic placement of play areas to ensure maximum impact is recommended. Therefore it is recommended to protect and enhance (where required) all children and young person’s sites in the district. This can be achieved by;

- upgrading sites falling below a 40% quality score by improving landscape design and natural play.
- Identify green spaces and install play facilities appropriate to local demand in areas where there is a deficiency. Particular deficiency areas include Mapperley Plains area near Mapperley Top, the north side of Porchester ward and the border of Carlton Hill, Carlton and Valley ward.



## 3.4 Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces

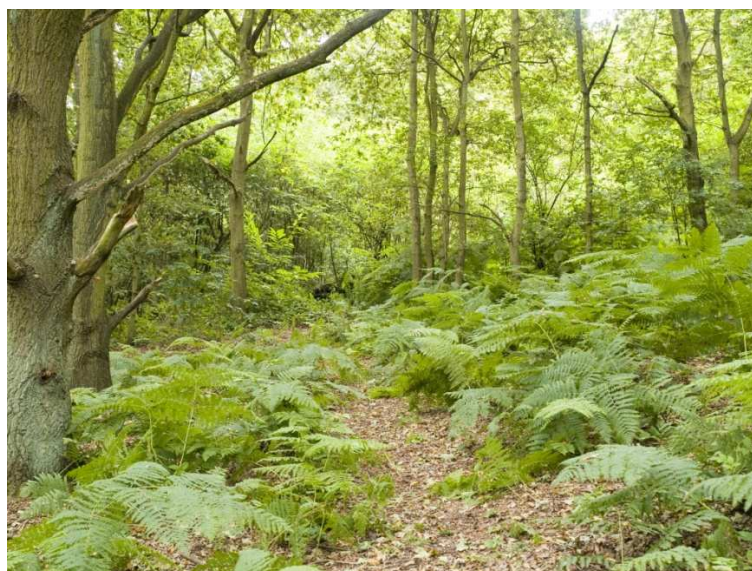
3.4.1 Natural and semi-natural green space - areas providing for wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.

Type of Green Space	Summary of existing provision and proposed standard
Natural and Semi Natural Green Space	<p><b>Quantity:</b> A total of 406 ha equating to 4.86 hectares per 1000 population.</p> <p><b>Quality:</b> “A publically accessible, spacious, clean and litter free site with clear pathways and natural features that encourage wildlife and improve biodiversity. Sites should be maintained to protect and enhance nature conservation and be interpreted with appropriate signage and safety features where appropriate.”</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b> 16 minute walk.</p>

3.4.2 Natural and Semi Natural Green Spaces - Opportunities for improvement.

There are deficiencies of Natural and Semi Natural green spaces in the urban conurbation and on the North East of Ravenshead village. It is recommended the current level of provision is protected and to improve provision of Natural and Semi-Natural sites located in the urban conurbation of the borough. This can be achieved by:

- The enhancement of space with other primary purposes
- The development of the Gedling Colliery site
- Consulting with Natural England on potential sites for LNR status
- Identifying a quality standard for semi natural and natural green space in the borough.



Burntstump Country Park



## 3.5 Outdoor Sports Facilities

### 3.5.1 Outdoor sports facilities -facilities for participation in outdoor sports.

Type of Green Space	Summary of existing provision and proposed standard
Outdoor Sports Facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces)	<p><b>Quantity:</b> A total of 136 ha. Current standard is 1.44 ha per 1,000 population. The proposed standard is to maintain the current standard at 1.44 ha per 1,000 population and revise when a playing pitch strategy has been produced.</p> <p><b>Quality:</b> All outdoor sports facilities should be free from dog fouling, vandalism, graffiti and litter, with level, well drained and good quality surfaces. Sites should provide good quality ancillary facilities, where appropriate, including changing accommodation, toilets, car parking and facilities for a range of age groups. The maintenance and management of sites should continue to ensure safety and effective usage. Gedling Borough Council owned facilities should aim to meet the outdoor facility standard score of 66% and Changing Room percentage of 59% or above.</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b> 10 minute walk is the preferred standard however a 15 minute drive may also be acceptable under certain circumstances..</p>

### 3.5.2 Outdoor Sports Facilities - Opportunities for improvement.

Sports have reported a static or steady increase in memberships. Different areas have different sports requiring pitches, football in the south and rugby in the north of the borough. It is therefore recommended that outdoor sports facilities are protected from redevelopment. This can be achieved by:

- improving the quality of facilities based on the results of the National Playing Field Association (Fields in Trust) quality assessment and club consultation with particular focus on changing facilities and maintenance of bowls greens,
- to produce robust data to identify sports pitch demand by reviewing the playing pitch strategy. To meet any demand by endeavoring to increase usage of playing pitches within the education sector and identifying the feasibility of alternative playing surfaces,



## 3.6 Allotments, Community Gardens

3.6.1 Allotments and community gardens - areas providing opportunities for those who wish to grow their own produce as part of the promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion.

Type of Green Space	Summary of existing provision and proposed standard
Allotments and community gardens	<p><b>Quantity:</b> A total of 28.4 ha. Current standard:            Urban 20 allotments plots per 1,000 households            Rural 27 allotments plots per 1,000 households            Quantity standards set            Urban 20 allotments plots per 1,000 households            Rural 30 allotments plots per 1,000 households</p> <p><b>Quality:</b> A clean, well-kept and secure sight with clearly marked pathways to and within the site that encourages sustainable communities, biodiversity and healthy living with appropriate ancillary facilities to meet local needs.</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b> 10 minute walk is the preferred standard however a 10 minute drive may also be acceptable under certain circumstances..</p>

3.6.2 Allotments, Community Gardens – Opportunities for improvement.

The current supply of allotments is not meeting demand in almost all areas of the borough, therefore all allotment sites should be protected against development unless:

- long term poor usage is shown and then sites should be considered for re-designation to another type of open space,
- alternative land can be used for allotment provision that is considered to be in a better location and is not classified as another open space typology.

To manage this it is recommended to:

- accurately identify the level of demand in the urban conurbation by combining waiting lists,
- reduce the sizes of allotment plots in the urban conurbation to below the national standard of 250 square metres. This will also meet the needs of customers who are unable to manage larger plots,
- identify additional land for allotment provision by conducting a cost benefit analysis exercise between provision of a new site in comparison to the extension of existing sites. In doing this consider the relocation of Chandos Street allotments,



- support the parish councils in meeting their current level of demand and identify the local level of demand for those areas of the borough without any allotment provision,
- introduce a policy allowing one community allotment plot per Gedling Borough Council owned site. (Community rented as opposed to individually rented).

Gedling Borough Council to improve the quality of allotments by:

- sharing of best practice between the allotment sites,
- providing support where required to help allotment associations and parishes improve the quality of sites including seeking external funding to improve the quality of allotment sites,
- exploring opportunities to release land owned by the Council for allotment use.



A Council Allotment Plot



## 3.7. Cemeteries and Churchyards

3.7.1 Cemeteries and churchyards provide green spaces for quiet contemplation and the burial of the dead, and are often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

Type of Green Space	Summary of existing provision and proposed standard
Cemeteries and churchyards	<p><b>Quantity:</b> A total of 16.83 ha No standard was set because PPG17 states that in terms of green space function 'the only provision standard that will be required is a qualitative one. However there is a high priority to acquire additional burial space due to Redhill Cemetery being close to capacity.</p> <p><b>Quality:</b> " A well maintained, clean and safe site with the provision of seating areas, clear footpaths and car parking on site or nearby. The site will encourage biodiversity through providing varied vegetation and aim to be an oasis for personal quiet contemplation.</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b> No standard set because PPG17 states that in terms of their green space function, 'the only provision standard that will be required is a qualitative one'.</p>

### 3.7.2 Cemeteries and churchyards - Opportunities for improvement.

The borough needs to acquire land for burial space and in addition to this, it is recommended there is more efficient use of existing land. This can be achieved by introducing restrictions on pre-purchasing graves for funeral directors and explore alternative methods for burials. It also needs to introduce a measurable quality standard based on consultation with local residents and visitors to ensure current standard are maintained.



Gedling Church



## 3.8. Green Corridors

3.8.1 Green corridors are linear areas providing for walking, cycling and horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel and opportunities for wildlife migration.

Type of Green Space	Summary of existing provision and proposed standard
Green Corridors	<p><b>Quantity:</b> No standard set because PPG17 states that ‘the need for green corridors arises from the need to promote environmentally sustainable form of transport such as walking and cycling within urban areas. This means that there is no sensible way of stating a provision standard’.</p> <p><b>Quality:</b> Clean, well maintained, safe and secure routes with clear, level and well drained paths, which are provided the protection and reinforcement of existing vegetation. The green corridor should provide links to major open spaces, urban areas and community facilities. Sites should provide a natural wildlife and accommodation such as seating, toilets cyclist provision where appropriate</p> <p><b>Accessibility:</b> No standard set because PPG17 study states there is no need to develop an accessibility standard for green corridors because they cannot easily be influenced by planning policy and are much more opportunity led than demand led</p>

3.8.2 Green Corridors - Opportunities for improvement.

The River Trent is considered the only large green corridor in the Borough. Public rights of way in the urban conurbation show very few green corridor opportunities although more work is required to identify liner routes. It is therefore recommended to continue with Local Plan Protection Policies and stop inappropriate development at green corridor sites. In addition there needs to be appropriate green corridor linkages and improvements on all new large housing sites.

The Borough is considered to have a number of good circular routes in the rural conurbations. These need to be promoted more and a quality standard set to ensure the standard is maintained.





# 4 Aims and Actions

## 4.0 Aims, Objectives and Actions.

4.1 In order to achieve the Green Space Strategies vision the following aims are proposed. The objectives to meet these aims are set out in the following action plan.

	Aim		Objective
1	To enhance peoples quality of life through the provision of sufficient accessible, attractive green places	1.1	Quantity: To address supply and demand issues for identified typologies to meet existing and future needs of residents, workers and visitors
		1.2	Quality: To achieve attractive high quality green spaces across Gedling Borough, including spaces that are nationally recognised for their quality and attractions.
		1.3	Access: To ensure everyone living, working and visiting Gedling Borough has easy access to well-maintained safe open spaces
2	To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the Boroughs biodiversity, sustainability and heritage	2.1	To protect and enhance local sites of Biodiversity and allow access to such conservation areas
		2.2	Promote Sustainability within the Parks Service
		2.3	To ensure that any historic and archaeological features on sites of historic importance within the borough's green spaces are protected and preserved.
3	To providing open spaces and play and sports facilities to enable residents to undertake a wide range of recreational and educational activities for healthy living	3.1	To promote the role green spaces play in contributing to the boroughs health and well-being by promoting play, sport and physical activity
		3.2	Expand on the opportunities for and from the education sector
		3.3	Promote links between green spaces
4	To actively involve the community in their local open spaces	4.1	To promote community cohesion and community involvement in the stewardship of green spaces
		4.2	Increase the numbers of active volunteers
		4.3	Support new and existing community involvement in the design of open spaces and play areas
5	Increasing participation in green spaces for sport and	5.1	Promote increased outdoor sport and recreation participation through targeted



	recreation.		programming and outreach.
		5.2	Identify constraints to using sports and recreation facilities and determine how to negotiate them
		5.3	Ensure all green spaces are safe and secure using best practice design principals and necessary policing methods including the use of CCTV to reduce levels of environmental crime and anti-social behaviour

### Information to Support Objective 1.1 Recommended Quantity Standard for the Relevant Typologies

Typology	Number of Sites	Hectares	Population	Provision per 1,000 Population
Parks and Gardens	15	467.90	112,735	4.15
Parks & Gardens (Inc. Gedling Colliery Site)	16	587.90	112,735	5.21
Amenity Green Space	N/A	59 (Audited)	112,735	0.52
Provision for children and young people				
Casual Play Areas	39	132.5	112,735	1.21
Fixed Casual Play Areas		3.26		.001618
Fixed Play Areas (Young)				.001298
Fixed Play Areas (Old)				
Natural and semi natural urban green spaces	72	549	112,735	4.86
Outdoor Sports Facilities (Includes natural or artificial surfaces, either publicly or privately owned, indoor or out and adult and junior)	27	162.33	112,735	1.44
Allotments, community gardens	14	28.4	112,735	0.25
Rural				30 per 1000 homes
Urban				20 per 1000 homes
Cemeteries and Churchyards	No Local Standard Set		112,735	
Green Corridors	No Local Standard Set		112,735	



## 5.0 Strategic Outcomes:

Agreeing on and adopting this strategy will confirm that this is the principal evidential basis for local standards proposed through the local planning framework. This will ensure the borough has a consistent process for assessing its open and green spaces.

The Parks and Street Care Service will act as the custodian and lead in respect of strategic improvements, management and maintenance of the Borough's green spaces. By liaising with Estates and Planning with regards to decisions concerning changes to typologies or disposals to the Borough's green spaces.

In this way customers will know which department to contact for all green space issues.

The intention is to create a consistent approach to future land use by working with planners to ensure all proposed sites are assessed before any decisions are made, so that the effect of proposed developments on the existing green space infrastructure can be taken into account.

By working with Planning Services to better understand the impact that the green infrastructure has on the local environment we aim to ensure the green spaces and biodiversity are given sufficient priority within the Local Development Framework.

Working together we will ensure we improve the production and management of Section 106 agreements with developers to better meet local needs. Such agreements are used to provide new open and green space, play area facilities and future maintenance funding.

The same aspiration applies equally to the new Community Infrastructure Levy which is a new levy that local authorities in England and Wales can choose to charge on new developments in their area. The money can be used to support development by funding infrastructure that the council, local community and neighborhood's want - for example new or safer road schemes, park improvements or a new health centre.



## 10.0 Delivering the Strategy

10.1 The detailed actions necessary to deliver the vision, aims and objectives adopted in this strategy are set out in the following action plan. For each objective a set of actions is given with timescales and those responsible for delivery. The action plan will be reviewed and updated yearly until the end of the strategy period. Detailed specific projects will be addressed in a targeted way through the annual PASC Service Plan.

The Green Spaces Strategy action plan will be delivered using the existing revenue budget. However as a result of the comprehensive spending review, the department has had to make efficiencies over the next three years to this revenue budget. In order to maintain a high level of service, and still deliver, the service is looking at efficiency savings, income generation and greater use of volunteers.



# Action Plan

## Aim 1 To enhance peoples quality of life through the provision of sufficient, accessible, attractive green spaces

ACTION PLAN			
What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
<p><b>Objective 1.1:</b> To address supply and demand issues for identified typologies to meet existing and future needs of residents, workers and visitors.</p>	<p>The strategy sets recommended quantity standards for all the relevant PPG17 typologies in order to ensure that Gedling Borough has a minimum standard of green space provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that Gedling has an agreed amount of green and play spaces</li> <li>The standards are used to identify parts of the Borough that are currently deficient as regards the amount of various green space typologies, so as to inform proposals to increase or if necessary decrease green space in different parts of the borough as identified in the PPG17 audit. (E.g. Address the current play area shortage in the Mapperley Plains area).</li> <li>The provision of green space will be increased as the population grows.</li> <li>Ensure that Gedling has a good balance of different types of green space by addressing current deficiencies identified in the PPG 17 audit.</li> <li>The Strategy will support and inform Planning Services in preparation of the Local Plan and in any local community/neighbourhood plans. Areas where there is deficiency will be identified and recommendations made.</li> </ul>	<p>2012 onwards</p> <p>When applicable</p> <p>2012 onwards</p> <p>2012 onwards</p> <p>2012 onwards</p>	<p>Parks &amp; Street Care Services (PASC) Planning Services</p> <p>All stakeholders</p> <p>Planning / PASC Services</p> <p>Planning Services Parks &amp; Street Care Services (PASC)</p> <p>Planning Services Parks &amp; Street Care Services (PASC)</p>
<p><b>Objective 1.2:</b> To achieve clean, attractive high quality green spaces across Gedling Borough, including spaces that are nationally recognised for their quality and attractions.</p>	<p>The strategy sets recommended quality standards for all the relevant PPG17 typologies in order to ensure that Gedling Borough has a good provision of high quality green space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The standards will be used to identify green spaces within the Borough that fall below the correct/acceptable standard, so as to inform proposals to improve green space in different parts of the borough. Work to existing specification which will automatically start to bring up the standard of the Medium or Small parks which</li> </ul>	<p>2013</p>	<p>Service Manager Parks and Street Care (PASC)</p>



	<p>currently fall below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>• Develop Site Management Plans for all Large Sites, along with generic site management plans sites for Medium and Small Parks.</li> <li>• Develop a volunteers action plan opportunities.</li> <li>• To increase the standard of all green space sites to achieve a Nottinghamshire Standard score of at least 6 Or 42 when applied to Green Flag standards.</li> <li>• Achieve service standards set out in the specification.</li> <li>• Through the application of best practice design principles and utilise in-house skills and specialist where appropriate</li> <li>• Through site management plans</li> <li>• Consultation on introducing “No Smoking Zones” in play areas</li> <li>• Achieve performance indicator set in Corporate Plan (2011-2015 to remove offensive graffiti within two working days and high visibility within 10 working days).</li> <li>• Review every 6 months the specific teams created to ensure high standard of cleanliness.</li> <li>• Utilise the Community Payback Scheme to clear litter hot spots.</li> <li>• Draft new Tree Policy for adoption, then work to the policy to continually provide quality tree management and encourage the provision of urban trees to provide shade from heat and identify areas for further planting.</li> <li>• Cyclical inspections on a three year rolling programme to determine and complete required works in a timely manner.</li> <li>• Create A Skilled Workforce through expansion of the apprenticeship scheme to 2 (2012/13) and 3 (2015/16), subject to an appropriate curriculum becoming available from local colleges and provide two internships at managerial / supervisory level.</li> </ul>	<p>2017</p> <p>2013</p> <p>Throughout strategy</p> <p>Throughout strategy</p> <p>On all new play areas</p> <p>2015 then yearly</p> <p>2015</p> <p>3 monthly</p> <p>Throughout strategy</p> <p>Throughout strategy</p> <p>2013</p> <p>3 Year Inspections</p> <p>2015 / 2026</p>	<p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Parks Development Officers and Parks Rangers</p> <p>PASC Services All Teams</p> <p>PASC Services All Teams</p> <p>Development Officers</p> <p>Development Officers</p> <p>Operations Manager PASC &amp; Street Cleansing Teams</p> <p>Operations Manager PASC &amp; Street Cleansing Teams</p> <p>Probation Service</p> <p>Service Manager, PASC</p> <p>County Council Tree Officer</p> <p>Service Manager PASC / All PASC Staff</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a Skilled Workforce through performance management, the implementation of the training matrix and the appraisal system. Keep training up to date with relevant legislation. .</li> <li>• Develop clear employment pathways.</li> </ul>	Yearly  2012/13	Service Manager PASC  Service Manager PASC
<p><b>Objective 1.3:</b> To ensure everyone living, working and visiting Gedling Borough has easy access to well-maintained safe open spaces</p>	<p>The strategy sets recommended access standards for all the relevant PPG17 typologies in order to ensure that Gedling Borough has a good provision of accessible green space that is fully DDA compliant.</p> <p>Where there is a deficiency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The standards will be used to identify parts of the Borough that are currently deficient in terms of access to the various green space typologies, so as to inform proposals to improve access in different parts of the borough. (e.g. The creation of a new Gedling Country Park and the site of the former Gedling Colliery).</li> <li>• The provision of accessible green space is increased as the population grows.</li> <li>• Gedling has a good balance of different types of accessible green space.</li> <li>• To apply the following principles to the location and design of play spaces: The Play England manual 'Design for Play'. 10 principals for Play. Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents design guides. The Association of Play Industries design guide lines. Play spaces should be located where there is good natural Surveillance from street and neighbouring houses. Play spaces should be located on accessible green space where feasible and include elements of natural and free play A buffer zone should be provided around play areas</li> <li>• All play areas should be designed to be inclusive for children and young people with disabilities. Where there are deficiencies they are identified and recommendations will be acted upon.</li> <li>• Investigate the possibility of increasing levels of cycling within the borough's green infrastructure through, routes to schools through parks and open spaces and promote family based cycling</li> </ul>	2012 onwards  On all new play areas  2012 onwards  2014 onwards	Development Officers  Planning Services / PASC Services  Development Officers  Development Officers and Service Manager PASC / Groundwork / Notts City Council / County Council  Development Officers  Development Officers





	<p>activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out disability access audits for all the main parks and open spaces, then develop a plan to prioritise and implement access improvements are identified in the access audits.</li> </ul>	2013/14/15	Development Officers
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## Aim 2 To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the Boroughs biodiversity, sustainability and heritage

<b>ACTION PLAN</b>			
What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
<p><b>Objective 2.1:</b> Protect the Biodiversity of the many habitats found in the borough's urban and rural green spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure any development works protect and conserve vulnerable habitats and protect and enhance all native species to ascertain any losses that might occur. This should be a routine part of the decision making process.</li> </ul>	2012	PASC Services / Planning Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertaken biodiversity surveys for all applicable sites and update the specification to take account of any changes. Work to reduce sources of harm to habitat and associated species and create and develop new habitat sites, including link green corridors.</li> </ul>	2015	Parks Development Officer / Notts Wildlife Trust / County Council / Park Rangers / Volunteers / Universities / Planning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Act on national guidance and best practice guidelines, e.g. DEFRA hedge cutting and review the specification accordingly in relation to aspects such as habitat piles from cuttings for invertebrates, reptiles and small mammals.</li> </ul>	2015	County Council / PASC Services / Parks Development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where applicable analyse grass cutting regimes and machinery used, review changes to accommodate best practice to encourage biodiversity. For example, leaving cuttings in piles on site to be used by invertebrates and reptiles.</li> </ul>	2013	PASC Services Operational Staff
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audit current practices to determine where pesticides are being used, for what purposes and which chemicals are used. Particular attention should be paid to fine turf areas, rose gardens and hard surfaces.</li> </ul>	2015	PASC Services Operational Staff
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with volunteer groups and other partners to develop and manage open space areas within cemeteries with initiatives such as wildflower meadows and other suitable habitat areas.</li> </ul>	2014	Service manager, PASC Services / Development Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement organic cultural methods or Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies in parks, and seek alternatives to chemical pesticides where possible.</li> </ul>	2015	PASC Services Operational Grounds Maintenance Staff



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare Management Plans for Bestwood Country Park, Burntstump Country Park and Gedling Country Park. Management statements for all other countryside sites, LNR's, SSSIs and SINCs with action plans for delivery. Consult and involve relevant local groups regularly on proposed management.</li> <li>• Ensure protection by designating new sites as Local Nature Reserves E.g. The Hobucks and Midland Woods sites.</li> <li>• Work with Gedling Conservation Trust and the Royal Society for Protection of Birds on making the Trent Valley area, and in particular the Netherfield Lagoons a valuable green corridor and important LNR for the Borough's residents.</li> </ul>	<p>2012</p> <p>2015</p> <p>2012</p>	<p>Parks Development / Notts Wildlife Trust / County Council Countryside Services / Park Rangers / Volunteers / Friends Groups / Universities</p> <p>Parks Development / Notts Wildlife Trust / Parks Rangers</p> <p>Parks Development / Gedling Conservation Trust / County Council / Park Rangers / Volunteers / RSPB</p>
<p><b>Objective 2.2:</b> Promoting Sustainability within the Parks Service and modify practices to adapt to Climate Change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recycle 100% of tree produce for either biomass or as a timber product for carving and joinery</li> <li>• Ensuring that local residents recognise the role that green spaces can play in mitigating effects of Climate Change so that the potential benefits of green space for the Borough as a whole can be maximised.</li> <li>• Provide a peat free service - Source suppliers who use peat free compost.</li> <li>• Use water retaining pellets in flower beds, hanging baskets, shrub beds to reduce the amount of watering required.</li> <li>• Where possible plant perennials and reduce bedding plants.</li> <li>• Broaden tree and other plant species selection to cope with climate change and research potential new habitats whilst controlling invasive species.</li> <li>• Review the management of existing green spaces and trees within the boroughs to reduce the risk of flash flooding from intense periods of rainfall causing high levels of surface water run-off.</li> <li>• Review maintenance regimes of gulley's, grids and drainage assets, continue to identify priority areas most at risk such as the Lambley Dumbles, and amend as required to cope with changing climate conditions. (Inc. Sand bag materials and storage for</li> </ul>	<p>Yearly</p> <p>2025</p> <p>2015</p> <p>2012 onwards</p> <p>2012</p> <p>2016</p> <p>2014</p> <p>Monthly</p>	<p>PASC Tree Team</p> <p>PASC Services / Sustainability Officer</p> <p>PASC Operations Manager</p> <p>PASC Grounds Maintenance Operative Team</p> <p>Grounds Maintenance Team</p> <p>Service Manager PASC / PASC Operations Team</p> <p>Service Manager PASC / PASC Operations Team</p> <p>Service Manager PASC / PASC Operations Team</p>



	<p>emergency response)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant 100 new trees per year in the Borough parks and open spaces.</li> <li>Look at effective cost effective ways of green waste recycling and provide education and learning opportunities regards disposal of waste by recycling via junior ranger events.</li> </ul>	<p>Yearly</p> <p>2012 onwards</p>	<p>Service Manager PASC / PASC Operations Team / Woodland Trust /Volunteer Groups</p> <p>Service Manager PASC / PASC Development Officer / Parks Rangers / School Groups</p>
<p><b>Objective 2.3:</b> Protect and preserve the archaeological features and heritage in Parks and Open Spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enforce the byelaws to deter metal detecting, bottle digging, unauthorised vehicle use and other activities which may damage archaeological remains.</li> <li>Closely monitor the potential impact that events and other activities may have on historic landscapes and fabric, and, where necessary, take action to limit or preclude such activities where there is a clear risk of significant erosion or damage.</li> </ul>	<p>Throughout strategy</p> <p>Throughout strategy</p>	<p>PASC Services</p> <p>PASC Services</p>

### Aim 3 To provide open spaces and play and sports facilities to enable residents to undertake a wide range of recreational and educational activities for healthy living

<b>ACTION PLAN</b>			
What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
<p><b>Objective 3.1:</b> To promote the role green spaces play in contributing to the boroughs health and well-being by promoting sport and physical activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To deliver the recommendations in the Playing Pitch Strategy.</li> <li>Develop further links with the local health service to promote physical activity within parks and open spaces.</li> <li>Free training for volunteer leaders of health walks.</li> <li>Through working with Sports Development Team to encourage external clubs to utilise parks. E.g. Tennis Coaching, fitness classes etc.</li> <li>Monitor usage in parks and play areas</li> <li>Promote parks through the delivery of the Parks and Open Spaces Marketing Plan.</li> <li>Increase free opportunities to exercise.</li> <li>Monitor the effects (using PCT standard Health Questionnaire) in</li> </ul>	<p>2014 onwards</p> <p>2015</p> <p>2015</p> <p>2015</p> <p>2014</p> <p>2012</p> <p>2012</p> <p>2015</p>	<p>Sports Development / Parks Development Officer / Service managers PASC / Leisure</p> <p>Sports Development / Parks Development Officer / Service managers PASC / Leisure</p> <p>Sport Development</p> <p>Sports Development</p> <p>Development Officers / Groundwork / Greenwood / Friends Groups</p> <p>Development Officers</p> <p>Parks Development Officers</p> <p>PASC Management Team</p>



	<p>order to gather a robust evidence base.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore partnerships with Gedling Leisure</li> <li>• Review lease agreements with boot camp trainers</li> <li>• Continue to achieve the Allotments standard.</li> <li>• By using Gedling Borough Council's Allotment Standard continue to build on these relationships on the relationships with the associations</li> <li>• Attain updated figures for the number of plots, occupancy of sites and accurate waiting list data. Each site will be asked to submit this data on a quarterly basis and develop a checking system to reduce multiple site holders.</li> <li>• 100% utilisation of current allotments.</li> </ul>	<p>2012</p> <p>2013</p> <p>Yearly</p> <p>Throughout Strategy</p> <p>2013</p> <p>2012</p>	<p>Service Manager PASC</p> <p>Parks Development Officers</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p> <p>Parks Development Officer</p>
<p><b>Objective 3.2:</b> Expand on the Opportunities for and from the Education Sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage University students to undertake dissertations and research projects in parks and open spaces</li> <li>• Work with local schools to become more involved in parks and open spaces either as outdoor classroom, education about the environment e.g. pond dipping to gain a greater understanding and respect for parks and open spaces.</li> <li>• Develop clear employment pathways.</li> </ul>	<p>2015</p> <p>2015</p> <p>2012</p>	<p>Parks Development Officers</p> <p>Parks Development Officers</p> <p>Service Manager PASC</p>
<p><b>Objective 3.3:</b> Promoting Links between Green Spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct surveys of the borough to map and assess the green infrastructure. Such data can then be used to identify any deficient areas that might receive priority action and any linking areas that might be used to establish green walking and cycling routes including any required signage.</li> <li>• Include options for linked green spaces within any Community / Neighbourhood Plans.</li> </ul>	<p>2020</p> <p>2015</p>	<p>Parks Development Officer / Sustrans</p> <p>Service Manager PASC</p>



**Aim 4 - To actively involve the community in their local open spaces.**

<b>ACTION PLAN</b>			
What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
<b>Objective 4.1:</b> To promote community cohesion and community involvement in the stewardship and use of green spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting stewardship of green spaces through support for the Green Flag</li> </ul>	2015	Development Officers / Friends Groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Award (formally Green Pennant) for community groups and develop new friends groups.</li> </ul>	2020	Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft a Parks Service Marketing Plan to increase community awareness and involvement and implement any recommendations.</li> </ul>	2014	PASC Management Staff / Parks Development Officers /
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve the local and wider community in decision making around major improvement projects and in the design of new green spaces.</li> </ul>	2012	Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish an annual programme of events and activities taking place on parks and open spaces</li> </ul>	2012	Development Officers / Leisure / Marketing & Communications / Local Media
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the work of the Friends Groups to other internal and external agencies.</li> </ul>	2012	Development Officers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to develop partnership working opportunities such as those already in place with Groundwork and Greenwood Trust.</li> </ul>	2012 onwards	Development Officers / Friends Groups
<b>Objective 4.2:</b> Increase the number of active volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the number of active volunteers by 5% 2013 then 2% annually.</li> </ul>	2012 onwards	Development Officers / Friends Groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote physical activity through volunteering on conservation tasks within parks and open spaces.</li> </ul>	2012 onwards	Development Officers / Friends Groups
<b>Objective 4.3:</b> Support new and existing community involvement in the design of green space and play areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out resident, community and school consultations when upgrading or redesigning existing green space and when designing and constructing new green spaces.</li> </ul>	2012 onwards	Service Manager, PASC / Development Officers / Friends Groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure local people have the opportunity to take part in decision making. Investigate feasibility of forming a 'Friends of' group to take effective community ownership of existing and new green spaces.</li> </ul>	2012 onwards	Service manager, PASC / Development Officers / Friends Groups



## Aim 5 – Increase participation in green spaces for sport and recreation.

<b>ACTION PLAN</b>			
What do we want to achieve	How are we going to do it	Timescale	Lead & Key Partners
<b>Objective 5.1:</b> Promote increased outdoor sport and recreation participation through targeted programming and outreach.	There are many good reasons for individuals to take part in outdoor recreation and sport, from physical and mental health to sociability to strengthening community and family ties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage Gedling Boroughs aging population to partake in healthy but non strenuous activities such as walking, allotments, community plots.</li> <li>• Promote activity opportunities to new residents and visitors to the Borough, some of whom may have experienced different kinds of outdoor recreation—or may have little information about the activities available</li> <li>• Design more attractive outdoor recreation environments for young people. Carry out consultations to ensure we understand their changing interests.</li> <li>• Explore innovative ways of linking outdoor experiences with the electronically focused and connected world of young people.</li> </ul>	2012 onwards	Sports Development / Parks Development
		2013	Sports Development / Parks Development
		2012	Parks Development / Groundwork
		2014	Parks Development
<b>Objective 5.2:</b> Identify constraints to using sports and recreation facilities and determine how to negotiate them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult on the constraints on people's ability to take part in and enjoy recreational and sports activities. Reasons previously cited include: time, cost and lack of a companion. Investigate opportunities to resolve such constraints.</li> </ul>	2013	Parks Development / Leisure Services
<b>Objective 5.3:</b> Ensure all green spaces are safe and secure using best practice design principals and necessary policing methods including the use of CCTV to reduce levels of environmental crime and antisocial behaviour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where a green space is under-used due to anti-social behaviour the Parks and Street Care Team will work with partners to tackle the anti-social behaviour and achieve legitimate use.</li> <li>• Link with Police Community Support Officers and Neighbourhood Management teams to provide additional staffing and enforcement on borough's green spaces as needed.</li> </ul>	2012 onwards	PASC Services / Police (PCSO's) / Dog Warden / neighbourhood Wardens / Locality Co-ordinators.
		2012 onwards	PASC Services / Police (PCSO's) / Dog Warden / neighbourhood Wardens / Locality Co-ordinators



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