

Dundee Partnership

Dundee Public Open Space Strategy 2008 - 2011

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Dundee's Public Open Space Strategy

Introduction

This document sets out a strategic vision for the future of public open space in Dundee and is accompanied by a three year action plan designed to work towards that vision.

Public Open Spaces encompass a wide variety of sites including; public parks, roadside verges, school grounds, rivers and burns, city centre pedestrian areas, landscaped areas and wildlife sites. The impact of these spaces is further complimented by private gardens, which although not publicly accessible, help to enhance the overall quality of the City's environment.

The main focus of this Strategy is on open space that is managed for public use. However privately owned parts of the Dundee's greenspace will not be overlooked if these contribute to overall objectives such as biodiversity and landscape character.

The Dundee Partnership plays a key role in the provision, management, improvement, protection and promotion of public open space and leisure services within Dundee. Closer collaboration and partnership between the public, private and voluntary sectors will present new opportunities to enhance the quality and diversity of public open space for the benefit of all those who use and enjoy it including; the citizens of Dundee, business, visitors and tourists.

Many organisations and individuals are involved to varying degrees in the use, management and improvement of public open space. The Dundee Partnership also has an increasing role to play as enablers by encouraging and supporting initiatives with, for example, local environmental and community groups to enhance public open space and increase its use. Increasing the involvement of citizens, communities and the private, voluntary and public sectors will help to instil a greater sense of pride in the city.

1. The Benefits of Public Open Space

Public Open spaces have three main functions; to provide opportunities for recreation, to contribute to a sustainable natural environment and to enhance the visual amenity of the urban environment. From these three functions stem many benefits. For example, public open spaces help to;

Economic

- Generate a positive image of urban areas
- Create direct job opportunities
- Create training/skills development opportunities
- Attract inward investment and businesses
- Attract tourism

Social

- Provide opportunities for sport recreation and play
- Encourage healthy lifestyles
- Tackle social exclusion by providing opportunities that are accessible to all
- Build stronger communities by providing communal spaces and opportunities for community participation
- Promote mental wellbeing by providing relaxing places and an escape from the city
- Instil a sense of pride and stewardship in the local environment through development of volunteering and local action to improve the environment
- Provide opportunities for community learning and development

Environmental

- Reduce pollution and noise
- Mitigate flooding
- Protect and enhance biodiversity
- Provide an attractive setting for buildings
- Enhance local landscape character and distinctiveness
- Provide a resource for environmental education

An effective public open spaces strategy therefore needs to take a holistic approach that recognises the connections between the urban environment and the health, wellbeing and prosperity of Dundee's citizens. Awareness of The Quality of Life benefits of greenspace has also increased significantly in recent years through the activities of **Greenspace Scotland**. This organisation has worked extensively with local and national partners, including the Scottish Government, to highlight the role of greenspace in delivering on key policy agendas.

2. What is the Vision for Dundee's Public Open Spaces ?

The integrated vision of Dundee's Public Open Space Strategy is that The Dundee Partnership in conjunction with the public, private and voluntary sectors will seek to promote:

Public Open spaces that contribute to a high quality of life throughout the City, and which help to deliver environmental benefits, economic prosperity, a sustainable future and best value for all citizens and communities in Dundee.

3. What will the outcomes of the Public Open Space Strategy be ?

The outcomes will embrace social, environmental and economic objectives in order to deliver a strategy that can fulfil the "integrated" vision set out above.

- Outcome 1: Dundee's open space encourages and supports healthy lifestyles by providing opportunities for recreation, relaxation and fun for people of all ages and abilities.
- Outcome 2: Dundee's open space provides a network of diverse, attractive and inspiring greenspaces which add colour and life to the City including the urban environment.
- Outcome 3: Dundee's public open spaces are safe, accessible and meet the current and future needs of local communities.
- Outcome 4: Dundee's open space contributes to the economic prosperity of Dundee by helping to attract investment and tourism
- Outcome 5: The management of the City's public open space delivers quality and is cost effective, efficient and provides best value for citizens of Dundee.

The relationships between the various elements of this strategy (the functions, benefits, outcomes, vision and the action plan) are shown conceptually in figure 1.

In Figure 1 the functions of public open spaces are symbolised by three overlapping rings, reflecting the fact that any particular site might fulfil one or more of the functions according to its location, history, use and/ or suitability. The recreation, nature conservation and visual amenity potential of sites should be built upon as appropriate to secure the maximum environmental, social and economic benefits.

Greenspace Scotland has used some of the ideas contained within this conceptual model to help develop a framework to define quality standards applicable for greenspace.

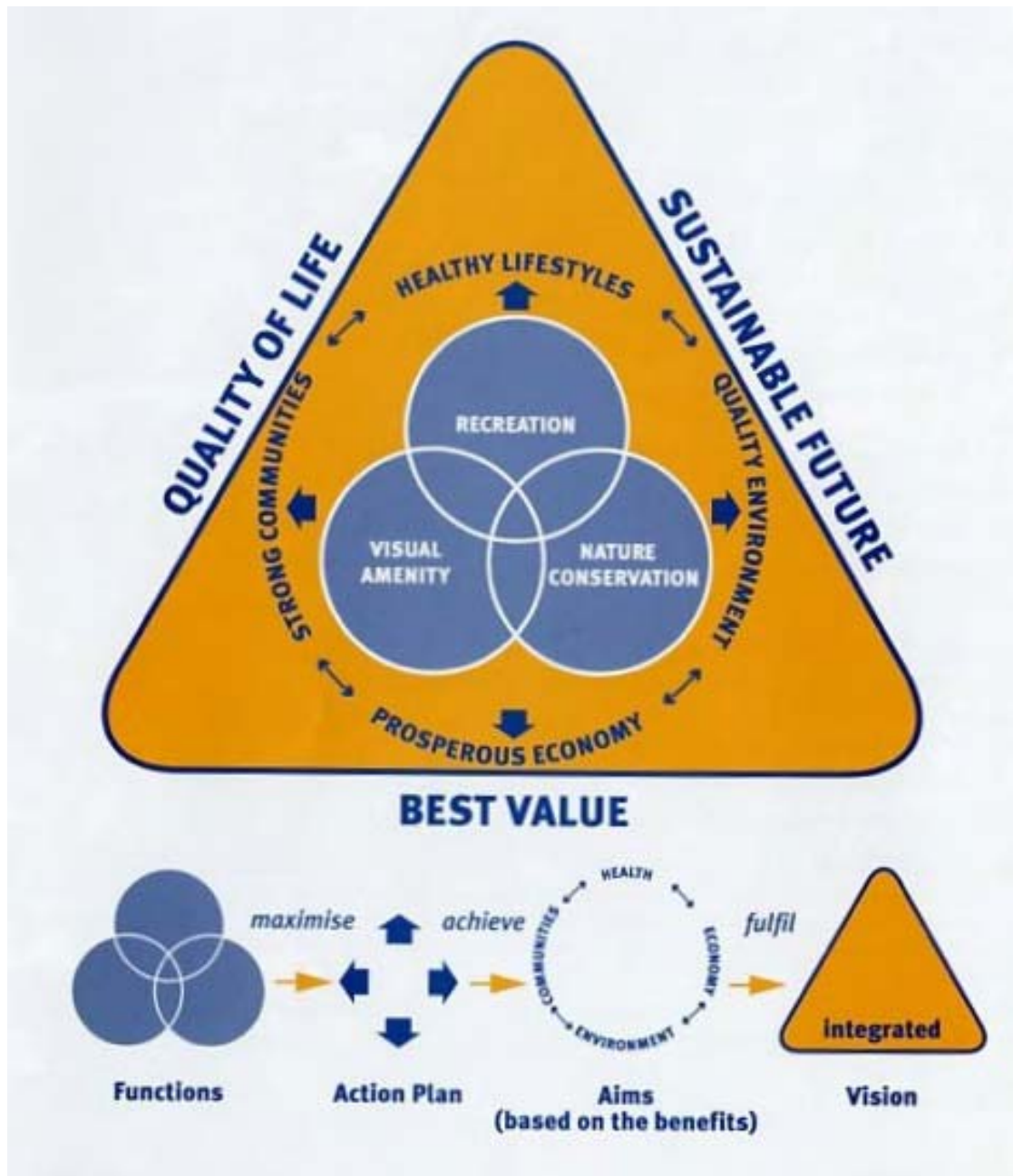


Figure 1: Conceptual model showing integrated approach to Public Open Space management within a sustainable development context

4. The Current Situation in Dundee

4.1 Dundee City Context

Dundee, as Scotland's fourth major city, acts as a major centre for sport, leisure, retailing, business and tourism. The population of Dundee currently stands at 142,170 (source: General Register Office, Scotland; Mid-Year Estimate 2005).

In common with most other Scottish Cities, Dundee has experienced economic decline and subsequent population loss over recent years. Population loss is expected to continue into the foreseeable future and has contributed to the existence of surplus housing stock, largely in the periphery of the City. Programmes and strategies designed to tackle urban deprivation and surplus housing stock, such as the demolition of unpopular stock, multi sectoral housing redevelopment and community regeneration are having significant implications for public open space and represent a significant opportunity to effect positive change.

4.2 Public Open space in Dundee

Dundee city has a wide diversity of public open spaces covering 1393 Ha, which accounts for 28% of the urban area (figures to be revised on basis of GIS 2007 Greenspace Audit). This includes; woodlands, beaches, parks, allotment gardens, wildlife sites, burns and ponds. Many are multifunctional and contribute to the quality of life in Dundee by providing; opportunities for active and passive recreation, an attractive and sustainable urban environment and a space for nature.

Public Open Spaces vary considerably in size from large country parks of over 100 ha to small local greenspaces of less than 100 m². Whilst large parks are required to accommodate the recreational needs of large sectors of the community, small sites can also make a valuable contribution to accessible local provision.

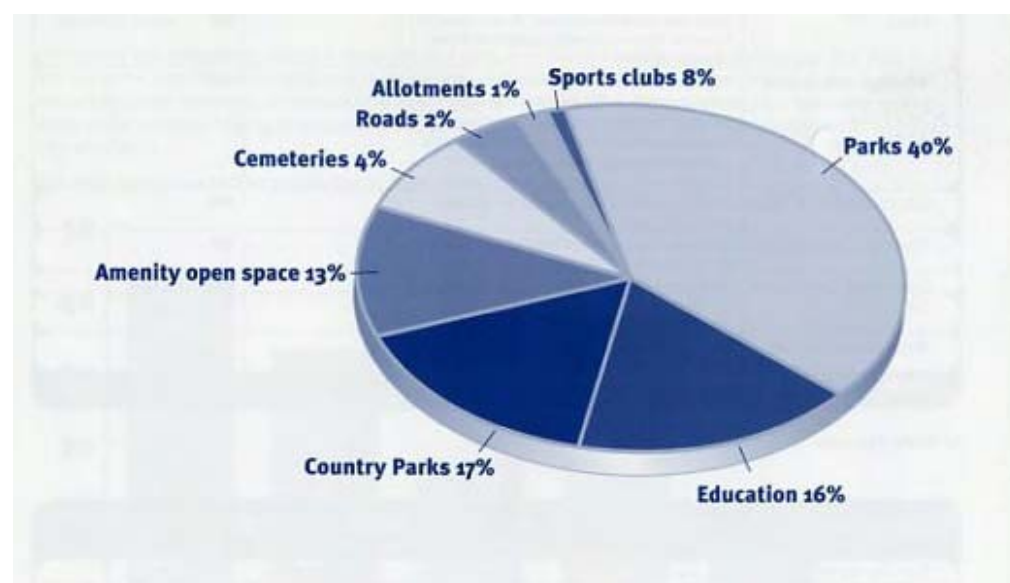


Fig 2: Distribution of Greenspace Types within Dundee

4.3 The Views of Local People

There have been a number of surveys and audits which give insights into public perception of greenspace management within Dundee. The most recent research into community attitudes to greenspace was undertaken in Ardler through the "Demonstrating the Links" initiative supported by **Greenspace Scotland**. This pilot study has directly involved the community in planning and carrying out their own research with assistance from a professional mentor. The results of this survey were produced in 2007. Of 200 respondents who were interviewed, the following trends emerged;

- 73% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that greenspace is important.
- 79% agreed or strongly agreed greenspace is good for health.
- 32% felt that greenspace is improving whilst 35% believed it is staying the same.
- 11% of people are concerned about decreasing greenspace.
- 33% use greenspace daily but 45% never use greenspace.
- 30% use greenspace for sport / exercise with 12% using it for dog walking.
- 27% of people use greenspaces more since regeneration work.
- 74% believed that existence of greenspace made people more friendly in the area.
- 98% felt children were able to play safely in their local greenspace
- 78% of people felt safe using the greenspace during the day but a much lower percentage at night.
- 57% were unaware of how to get involved in the decision making process over their local greenspace.

The Dundee Environmental Mapping Initiative (DEMI) was published in May 2006 and also collected views of residents about the environment within Regeneration Areas. The DEMI project covered a much wider range of issues than the Ardler study and the results were qualitative in nature rather than a detailed statistical analysis. However a number of comments received related to parks and greenspaces.



Fig. 3: Public Use of Greenspace - public demands

In addition to this a programme of Local Public Open Space Audits are being undertaken by Dundee City Council. The aim of these audits is to collect both qualitative and quantitative information on the City's greenspaces using a variety of methodologies including greenspace mapping and participatory appraisal. The technique has been piloted within the Coldsides area of Dundee and then broadened out to other regeneration areas.

5. Policy Context

5.1 National Policy Context

Public open space can contribute to the development of local and national policy objectives across a wide range of areas. The inclusion of public space in many government and national policy documents underlines its importance and the need to produce a strategy which integrates social, economic and environmental objectives. Some examples of National policy documents which particularly highlight importance of public open space include:

- **Sustainable Development**

'Choosing Our Future: Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy', Scottish Executive, 2005.

- **Public Health**

'Let's Make Scotland More Active' (Scottish Executive 2003), the National strategy for physical activity in Scotland.

- **Biodiversity**

"It's in Your Hands" Scottish Biodiversity Strategy; Scottish Executive 2004

- **Statutory Planning Framework**

SPP11 - Physical Activity and Open Space, Consultation Draft 2006

Regeneration

Regeneration Statement - People and Place 2006

In addition to Government Policies, there are also a number of organisations with relevant strategies and policy documents concerning public open space, notably:

- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Forestry Strategy
- Sport Scotland
- Paths for All Partnership, and
- Scottish Enterprise Tayside

5.2 Local Policy Context

Dundee Partnership Community Plan 2005 - 2010

Public Open spaces are a vital element of delivering the Dundee Community Planning vision for the City and can make a significant contribution towards improving the quality of life within Dundee. Dundee Partnership's Community Plan sets out strategies for Dundee and the priorities of the City. The three principles which underpin all of the Dundee Partnership's activity are:

- Social inclusion
- Sustainability
- Active Citizenship

Greenspaces can play their part in contributing to a thriving regional centre by helping to attract inward investment from businesses and tourism by contributing to the creation of a high quality urban environment. The aesthetic qualities of public open space in Dundee are a very powerful contributor to the overall image of the city. Open space has therefore an important role to play in the delivery of the Dundee Community Plan particularly with regard the following Strategic themes;

Community Planning Theme No.	Topic Area	Relevance to Open Space
1.	Building Stronger Communities	Capacity building / Community led solutions
2.	Community Safety	Practical management solutions / designing safe spaces
3.	Environment	Enhancing environmental quality
4.	Health and Care	Physical activity provision
5.	Lifelong Learning	The "outdoor classroom"
6.	Work and Enterprise	Attractive setting for investors/ Social Enterprise Development

Public open space is also an important element in many other local or departmental strategies, plans and initiatives in Dundee including:

- Dundee Council Plan, 2003 - 2007
- Dundee: A City Vision, 2006
- Dundee and Angus Structure Plan 2001 - 06, 2002
- Dundee Local Plan Review, 2003

A full list of all the relevant local plans and strategies impacting on open space can be found in section 9.1 (appendices) of this document.

The diversity of these national and local plans, policies and strategies relevant to public open space underlines the need for a corporate approach that recognises links and highlights the role for strong working relationships between private, voluntary and public sector organisations. Recently for example the SNH report on "Community Learning Development and the Natural Heritage" has helped to involve area based Community Officers in raising awareness of greenspace issues.

6. How the Dundee Partnership Will Work Towards the Vision and Aims

6.1 Overarching Principles

The Dundee Partnership aims to improve and maintain parks and greenspaces through the development of an Action Plan which accompanies this strategy. The environmental, social and economic principles already identified in section 2 have guided the setting of objectives and tasks so that the important core values are kept at the heart of future work.

Sustainable Development Principles	Core Values for Open Space Strategy
Environmental	Sustainable resource use
	Stewardship of the environment for future generations
Social	Equality of opportunity
	Community involvement and empowerment
	Meeting local needs
Economic	Providing best value through Efficient, effective and responsive service delivery.
	Encouraging partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors.

These principles help foster an integrated approach that lays the foundations for establishing a sustainable quality of life in Dundee. The strategy for achieving the vision and aims, in keeping with the core principles, is outlined in the following sections. This has been translated into a comprehensive implementation programme, contained in the 3 year Action Plan.

6.2 Developing the Strategy and Audit

The DPE & Greenspace Scotland

The development and delivery of the strategy requires stakeholders including council departments, community groups and agencies to work together for mutual benefit. The Dundee Partnership for the Environment (DPE), one of the Community Planning Strategic Theme groups, has been given the lead role in co-ordinating the strategy development process.

The DPE have produced their own 3 year Draft Strategy which links together the various environmental strands within Dundee City into one coherent format. In this respect the DPE Strategy can be seen as setting the wider policy context. The Public Open Space Strategy and Action Plan then develops this in more detail.

A Public Open Space (POS) working group has been set up by the DPE to take forward this process. This group is co-ordinated by the Partnership's Greenspace Development Officer. It is the aim of the DPE that the working group continues to oversee the delivery of the Strategy to ensure that actions are updated and revised as required.

The DPE working group is also recognised as a Strategic Greenspace Partnership by **Greenspace Scotland** (a national organisation which supports the work of local partnerships to improve the quality of environments for people throughout urban Scotland). This reflects **Greenspace Scotland's** preference to work through Community Planning Partnerships as the main mechanism for facilitating development of greenspace initiatives at a local level.

7. Key Elements of the Action Plan

7.1 Greenspaces Network and The Planning Framework

As with most systems greenspaces can deliver greater benefits when considered as part of a wider network of interlinked spaces for people and wildlife. This maximises ecological benefits through providing wildlife corridors and also helps to provide opportunities for physical activity and green commuting.

Scottish Executive Planning Advice Note PAN65 recommends that local authorities develop such linked open space networks. These help to define the landscape and townscape structure, provide links to the countryside and allow movement of people and wildlife.

Developing a city wide Greenspace Network linking areas of existing and enhanced greenspace through green corridors is a priority for the Partnership. The greenspace network encourages walking and cycling and reduces car use. The development of the Network links closely with the outdoor access strategy and the adoption of the City's Core Path Plan. Through emphasising connectivity of greenspace sustainability, recreation and conservation benefits are maximised.

SPP11 (Scottish Planning Policy 11) compliments the principles outlined in PAN65. This policy requires Local Authorities throughout Scotland to produce and regularly update Public Open Space Audits and Strategies. Dundee has undertaken a GIS Mapping and Characterisation exercise of all the City's greenspaces including private gardens (which are not accessible to the public). The data from this exercise is helping in the development and planning the green network further as well as gaining important insights into loss or change in the City's greenspace over time.

Greenspace audits are being complemented by work undertaken by Greenspace Scotland to develop qualitative standards for assessing the recreational, amenity and environmental value of greenspace. This work has been developed along with consultants Ironside Farrar and piloted in Glasgow and the Clyde Valley. The qualitative assessment techniques have now been used to pilot an audit in the Coldside area of Dundee.

The Dundee Local Plan Review also emphasises the value of maintaining and enhancing the Open Space Network within the City. The Dundee and Angus Structure Plan stresses the importance of linkages of access and green corridors across the City boundary.

7.2 Public Open Space Hierarchy

Complimentary to the Greenspaces Network, Dundee City Council has developed a "Public Open Space" Hierarchy that provides a system for determining appropriate provision levels of public open space to ensure a fair distribution across Dundee. These aim to meet the needs of all people and ensure that valuable sites are enhanced and protected.

Public open spaces cater for a range of visits, from the family day out in a large country park from the daily visit to a local park to walk the dog. As well as meeting local needs public open spaces can also be of nature conservation, cultural, historic and landscape value. Recreational demands can best be met and important sites protected and enhanced by designating a hierarchy of parks, with parks in each tier of the hierarchy managed differently to meet these different needs or objectives (see figure 4.).

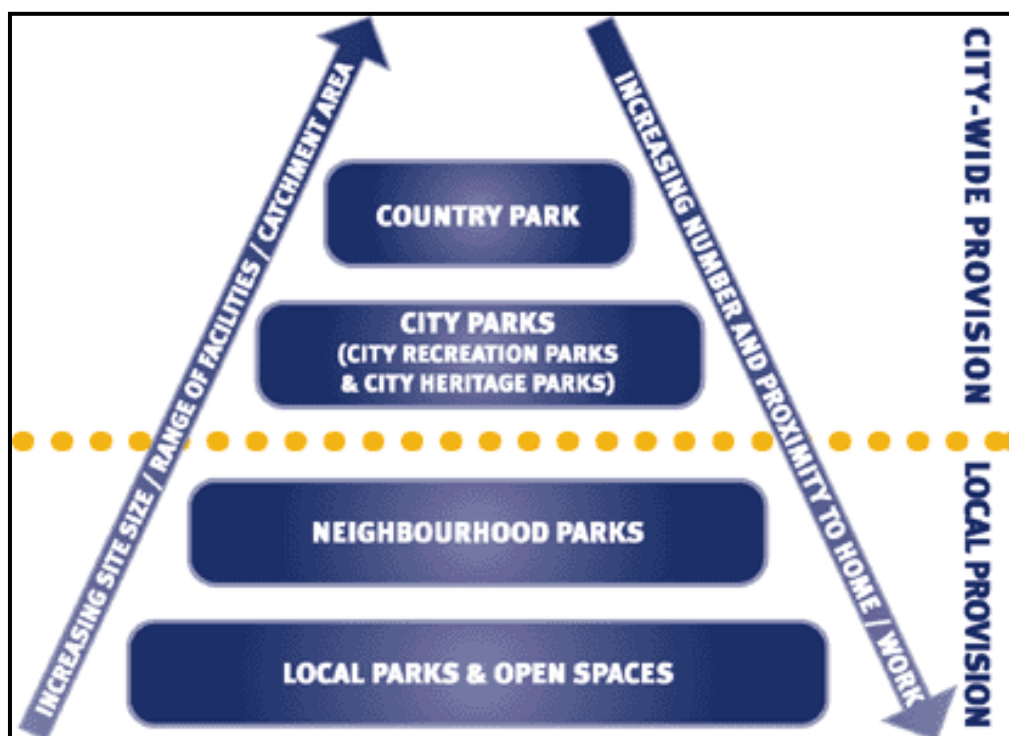


Figure 4: Heirarchy of Parks and Public Open Spaces

Guidelines for each tier of the hierarchy specify the facilities required, the most suitable size and the maximum distance that these should be from people's homes, these are shown in Appendix 3. The hierarchy is divided into two levels: city-wide provision and local provision.

7.2.1 City-wide provision

City-wide provision should be responsive to the needs of the City as a whole and cater for resident's tourists and visitors. Citywide trends in leisure patterns, demographics and needs should be reflected in the type of facilities provided and their distribution. The distribution of city wide public open spaces is shown in figure 2

Country parks:

Greater Camperdown Country Park (including Clatto country Park and Templeton Woods) is at the top of the hierarchy and is a regional facility for Dundee citizens, visitors and tourists. It is an aspiration that the site will be developed further to

provide a "family day out" with leisure, recreation and play facilities within a countryside setting.

City Parks:

Next in the hierarchy are the City Parks of which there are 2 main types: The City Recreation Park and the City Heritage Park.

City Recreation Parks will seek to provide "something for everyone" by delivering a range of sport, recreation and play facilities in an attractive setting with room just to sit or walk. They will be spread across the city to provide equal access and will include; Caird Park, Dawson Park, Baxter Park, Greater Balgay Park, (including Balgay Hill, Lochee Park and Victoria Park), South Rd Park, and Broughty Ferry Esplanade and beach (including Castle Green, Windmill Garden and Barnhill Rock Garden).

City Heritage Parks are important elements of Dundee's greenspace. They will be designated for their nature conservation, cultural, historic or landscape value but also have recreation value. As important heritage sites they will require special consideration to enhance their value for Dundee's citizens, visitors and tourists whilst safeguarding and improving the heritage interest. The City Heritage Parks will be the Dighty Linear Park, the Law, Stobsmuir Ponds, the Firth of Tay Linear Park (including Riverside Nature Park), Reres Hill, Dudhope Park, Trottick Ponds Nature Area and the Duntrune Demonstration Garden.

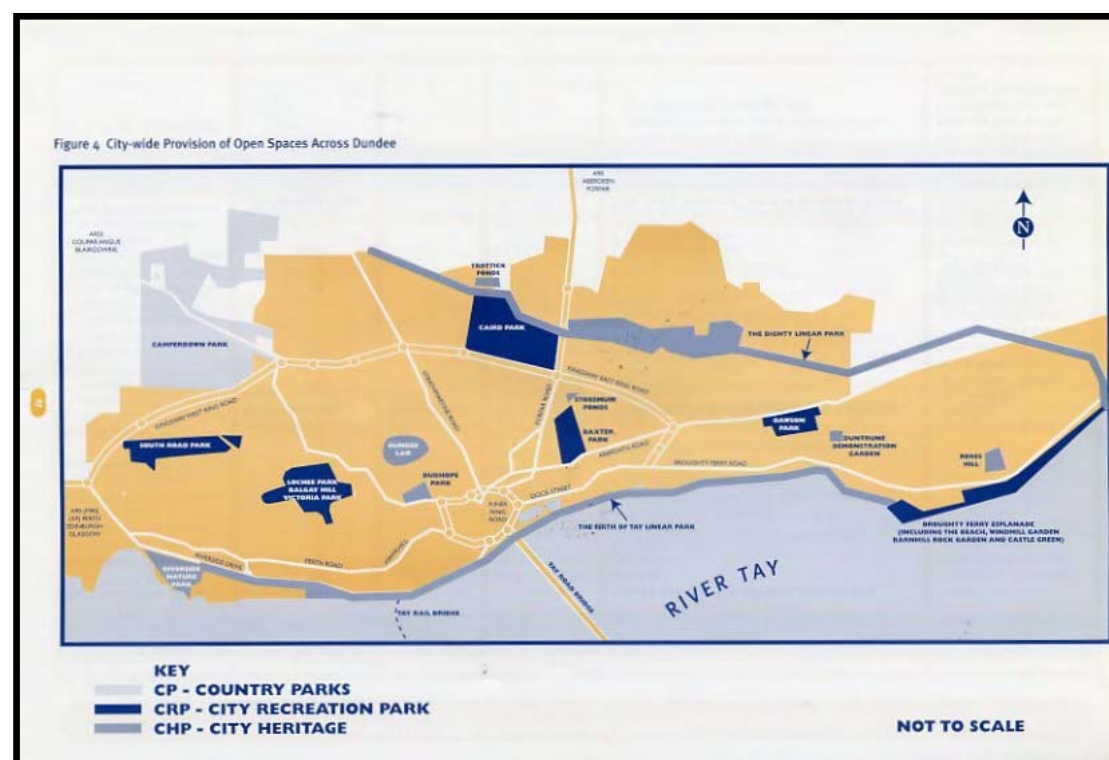


Figure 5: Dundee's Greenspace Network showing major areas of public open space and connecting links. Developing the network is an aspiration of the strategy.

7.2.2 Local Provision

Local open spaces should reflect and add distinctiveness to areas and new housing developments. Current provision includes neighbourhood parks, local parks and play areas. Provision levels need to be determined at a local level rather than for an individual site with city wide provision.

As local public open spaces the emphasis will be on accessibility and safety. Local consultation will be used to direct provision of and to identify local issues that need to be addressed. The planning and management of local provision should be devolved as appropriate to encourage local stewardship and increase community participation.

Neighbourhood Parks

Neighbouring Parks will provide a range of uses across and area: from football pitches, to nature areas and should be tailored to local recreational needs. There are many examples of neighbourhood parks across Dundee that are of value to communities such as Magdelene Green, Orchar Park, Finlathon Park, Whitfield Green, Fintry Park, Fairmuir Park, Middleton Community Woodland and Sheill Street Nature Area. In the future civic spaces of village greens will be developed in the heart of neighbourhoods, contributing to the provision, where there is interest from local communities.

Local Parks and open Spaces:

These provide places for everyday use on peoples doorsteps. They will be designed to be safe and accessible, particularly for children and elderly people. They will include play areas, informal kick about areas and also places next to factories, retail centres or business parks where people can sit out during lunch times, take a break from shopping or work or meet to enjoy a relaxing few minutes.

7.3 Reconciling demands and priorities

Complimentary to the strategic vision of the Open Space Network and Hierarchy are a number of cross cutting themes which must be considered in the development of any strategy which is intended to produce a successful outcome.

Because of the wide range of environmental, social and economic outputs that open spaces provide it is essential to consider the full range of competing functions that need to be accommodated within these spaces. Failure to consider the various demands and opportunities for open spaces will at best result in mediocre spaces where potential is not maximised.

At worst this will result in conflict with spaces not satisfying the demands and expectations of the public or the agencies which manage these spaces. Thus may result in some spaces being considered as a liability rather than the asset which they should be to the City.

In this respect the management, provision and functions of the City's greenspaces must be considered dynamic as demands from communities, agencies and stakeholders changes over time. This may mean that priorities for individual areas of

greenspace have to be reconsidered every so often. This should however create opportunities for innovation, community involvement and learning.

Some issues which the Action Plan must address in particular are:

- Children's play
- Allotment Gardens
- Events and activities
- Promotion and marketing of Open Space
- Amenity Open Space Management
- Natural Heritage and biodiversity
- Trees and woodland management
- Arts and Historic Interest
- Community Learning Development
- Community Safety
- Role of Rangers and CLD staff to facilitate local action
- Physical Activity, health and Greenspace
- The Dundee Core Path Network
- Greenspaces and Equality
- Involving Local Communities
- Tourism and Economic Development
- Planning, Management and Protection of Public Open spaces

More detailed description of how these activities impact on Public Open space is provided in Appendix 2.

8. Implementation of the Strategy

The strategy will be implemented through the Action Plan which provides detailed objectives and associated tasks. The Action Plan identifies the processes by which tasks will be achieved and identifies the bodies, organisations and lead partners who will be responsible for taking these processes forward.

8.1 Structure of The Action Plan

The action plan sets out long term objectives and short term tasks that will work towards achieving the vision and aims of the strategy over a three year period from 2007 - 2010. The Action Plan is presented in a tabular form which comprises the following format:

- **Objectives**

The objectives seek to work towards the vision and aims of the strategy in the long term and are designed to be achievable, appropriate and flexible.

- **Tasks**

The tasks are the actions required to achieve the objectives in the short to medium term and range from easily achievable specific actions to wider ranging reviews and investigations.

- **Outcomes**

Noting which of the 5 key outcomes of the Strategy that the tasks will achieve.

- **Processes**

The exact mechanisms by means of which these tasks will be achieved

- **Appropriate Policy Links**

Action points from relevant corporate and national initiatives , policies and strategies are cross referenced within the action plan. The purpose of this is to compliment relevant corporate strategies and provide an efficient means of achieving shared objectives

- **Key bodies and Organisations Responsible**

Key bodies with responsibility to deliver the tasks are indicated.

- **Lead Partner**

Individual or Department responsible for co-ordination.

- **Timescales**

Approximate time scales are specified for each of the tasks.

To assess the overall performance of the Strategy, the five Strategic Outcomes listed previously in section 3 will be assessed using the LEAP (Learning, Evaluation and Planning) framework developed by Greenspace Scotland. Further information on this is provided below in section 8.2 and within the Action Plan.

8.2 Ongoing Consultation

During the development of this strategy many varied uses and benefits of the public open space have been highlighted and a wide spectrum of views and interests identified. The extensive consultation conducted to date is a start, but there is also an ongoing commitment to consultation throughout the life of the strategy to enable the Partnership to be responsible to the needs of stakeholders; the individuals or groups that visit Dundee and live and work within the City. Further consultation will influence the development of action plans associated with this strategy.

8.3 Developing a Partnership Approach

See section 6.2 for an overview of partnership working procedure including Strategic links to the Dundee Partnership.

8.4 Monitoring and Review

The document represents the beginning of the strategic process, for which the vision and aims will provide the longer term strategic direction.

The strategy will continually be monitored and reviewed, with major reviews being conducted every three years. Reviews will be conducted and action plans adjusted in the interests of continual improvement and best value. The rolling programme of review will enable appropriate adjustments to be made to the strategy as necessary in response to future changes or opportunities,

The performance indicators for the action plans will be monitored using the City Council's Strategic Monitoring Database. Actions attributable to other partner organisations will also be fed in to the system and the achievements reported. As a Strategic Greenspace Partnership the Dundee Partnership for the Environment will also make use the LEAP (Learning Evaluation and Planning) Framework developed by **Greenspace Scotland**. An effective evaluation system will effectively integrate the outcome based requirements of LEAP with the more specific progress measures embedded within the Action Plan (see Action Plan, page 3 for strategic outcomes and indicators).

Subsequent action plans will be readjusted as indicated by previous performance and changing circumstances to enable continuing improvement.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1.

Local strategies, plans and initiatives in Dundee impacting on Public Open Space:

Public open space is an important element in many other local or departmental strategies, plans and initiatives in Dundee including:

- Dundee Council Plan, 2003 - 2007
- Dundee: A City Vision, 2006
- Dundee and Angus Structure Plan 2001 - 06, 2002
- Dundee Local Plan Review, 2003
- Dundee Urban Nature Conservation Subject Local Plan 1995, DCC
- Dundee Partnership for the Environment Draft Strategy, 2007
- Dundee Tree and Urban Forestry Policy, Draft 2008
- Dundee Community Plan 2005 -2010
- Dundee Community Regeneration Area Outcome Agreements
- Dundee Scheme of Decentralisation (2002 amended version)
- Community Learning Development Action Plans 2005 - 2008
- Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy 2005
- Dundee Draft Core Path Plan 2008
- Dundee Departmental Service Plans 2005 - 08
- Dundee Housing Department Service Plan 2005 - 2008
- Dundee Cultural Strategy 2001 - 2006
- Joint Health Improvement Plan 2005 - 2008
- Dundee Urban Design Guide
- Ambassador Routes, Dundee Partnership 1997

- Tayside LBAP
- Dundee Draft Play Strategy 2008

The diversity and range of national and local plans, policies and strategies relevant to public open space underlines the need for a corporate approach that recognises links and highlights the role for strong working relationships between private, voluntary and public sector organisations.

9.2 Appendix 2

Context and Issues Relating to Open Space

As shown from the previous section the cross cutting themes of the Open Space strategy require a number of social, economic and environmental issues to be addressed. A number of the keys issues to be addressed within the Action Plan include;

- **Children's Play**

One of the most important functions of parks and open spaces is to provide children's outdoor play opportunities that balance acceptable risk with real challenge and excitement. As well as formal equipped play areas and play services, opportunities for adventure play and imaginative play in informal settings will be considered. Whilst play provision is included within the Public Open Space hierarchy, there is also a need for a city wide initiative for children's play to co-ordinate provision and consult with Dundee's children and young people to ensure that all ages and abilities are catered for. This has been addressed through the development of the Dundee Outdoor Play Strategy.

- **Allotment Gardens**

Allotment gardens across Dundee provide an invaluable resource for people wishing to grow their own vegetables, fruit and flowers or to tend their own garden space. An allotment policy for the city is required to ensure that local needs are met and that new trends in allotment gardening, such as community gardens, wildlife gardening and organic gardening are accommodated.

- **Events and activities**

Many successful events are held in public open spaces in Dundee every year such as the Dundee Food and Flower Festival. In addition the Countryside Ranger Service and outdoor activity leaders based within the Ancrum centre for the environment co-ordinate many activities, including guided walks. These events and activities will be continued and extended as appropriate.

- **Promotion and marketing of Open Space**

There are many parks across Dundee that provide unique recreational opportunities as well as features of nature conservation, cultural, historic and landscape interest. Information on parks should be available to all the citizens and visitors to increase awareness of these valuable places and to encourage people to visit and look after them. New leaflets will be produced for both residents and visitors to Dundee such as the recent publication on Dundee'd Trees and Woodland Heritage.

- **Amenity Open Space Management**

Amenity Open spaces such as road verges and landscaped areas help to enhance the quality of the environment by; providing wildlife habitats, reducing pollution and noise along roads, and providing an attractive and colourful setting for buildings. They can also provide routes for walking and cycling through residential areas and places for informal recreation. These sites will be retained and improved as appropriate and key amenity open spaces such as the main vehicular routes and the City Centre will be enhanced as part of existing initiatives with the City Council and Dundee partnership.

- **Natural Heritage and biodiversity**

The Natural Heritage of Dundee is a valuable resource that should be protected and enhanced. Parks and open spaces provide a space for nature and an opportunity to experience and learn about local wildlife and habitats on the doorstep. The strategy proposes that important wildlife sites in Dundee be managed and enhanced in partnership with local groups and people. In addition to this there is considerable scope for improving the biodiversity within areas of amenity greenspace and along green corridors through less intensive management regimes.

- **Trees and woodland management**

Dundee has many important trees and woodlands that add to the quality of the City, provide valuable wildlife habitat and supply timber products. Recently the Forestry Commission Scotland WIAT (Woods in and Around Towns Initiative) has made a significant contribution to improving the City's Tree and Woodland Resource. The Dundee TWIG (Trees and Woods in Greenspace) initiative has been established to bring forward a more co-ordinated approach. A Tree and Urban Forestry Policy is being produced which aims to increase tree cover, promote the recreational use of woodlands and promoting community understanding and stewardship of trees.

- **Arts and Historic Interest**

Dundee has several parks and cemeteries of historical value, such as the Howff cemetery which dates back to the 16th Century and Baxter Park which was designed by Joseph Paxton, the famous landscape architect in the late 19th Century. These important sites will be identified and restoration plans drawn up for the priority sites.

- **Community Learning Development and Greenspace**

Increasing levels of awareness through education, interpretation and information will be necessary to achieve many of the aims and objectives of the strategy such as increased community participation, stewardship of the environment, healthy lifestyles and generating a positive image for Dundee.

Public open spaces can also provide valuable "outdoor classrooms" for schools and further education institutions, providing opportunities to learn about the environment, landscape design, history and culture and, contributing to the educational curriculum.

New information will be produced to increase awareness and on site interpretation will be developed where appropriate. The countryside ranger service will continue to provide an environmental education service for school and information from this strategy will be widely distributed.

- **Safety**

The public survey conducted for the strategy indicated that people were concerned about dog fouling, vandalism and fear of crime in some public open spaces. Providing safe and clean public open spaces is essential to increase accessibility and use. Action will be taken to combat these problems alongside other existing Council initiatives such as the Community Safety Strategy produced in 1998.

- **Urban Rangers**

The introduction of out-posted urban rangers into Community Regeneration Areas and City Parks such as Baxter has proved highly successful in recent years as a means of facilitating community based environmental activity. This activity needs to be continued and this successful model rolled out to other areas of the City

- **Physical Activity and Greenspace**

Delivering a high quality of life that encourages active and healthy lifestyles requires public open spaces that are accessible. Physical, social and economic factors can all effect accessibility and will vary considerably in different areas of Dundee. Addressing barriers, such as busy roads and perceptions of crime can ensure that all sectors of society and people of all ages and abilities have equal opportunities to access public open space.

- **The Dundee Core Path Network**

Going for a walk or a stroll is one of the most popular outdoor recreation activities in Dundee. The survey indicated that more people like to go for a walk in a park than any other activity. The Land Reform Act (Scotland) 2003 set the scene for local authorities to create core path networks for walking, cycling and horse riding for people of all abilities. Under the legislation an Outdoor Access Officer is employed by the City Council to take forward delivery of the Core Path Plan in partnership with the Dundee Outdoor Access Forum.

- **Greenspaces and Equality**

The Dundee Outdoor Access Strategy proposes that provision for people with disabilities should be integrated into parks and open spaces. Initiatives to improve facilities, access and information will be targeted initially to the country and city parks, building upon for example the special needs play area in Camperdown Country Park so that such improvements will benefit the maximum number of people. Information on parks, events and visually impaired will be produced.

- **Involving Local Communities**

Local people are often the experts in their local environment and the problems that need to be tackled. Community involvement in parks and open spaces will be supported and "Friends of Parks" schemes increased and encouraged through the implementation of the strategy. There will be increasing emphasis on supporting existing groups and fostering new groups including Community Woodland Groups and Tree Wardens.

- **Tourism and Economic Development**

Public Open spaces help to create an attractive City with a high quality of life. This helps to generate a positive City image and contributes towards making Dundee a competitive business location. Dundee's country Parks and City Parks will help to provide valuable tourist attractions. Greater Camperdown Country Park will be developed further to increase its potential as a major regional tourist attraction.

- **Planning, Management and Protection of Public Open spaces**

This strategy will be implemented as part of the Council's programme for delivering best value for its citizens by improving the quality of life in Dundee in an efficient and effective manner. Successful implementation of the strategy will require a partnership approach between the private, public and voluntary sectors and the citizens of Dundee and should result in a higher profile for Dundee's Open spaces and increased understanding of the issues facing open spaces today.

9.3 Appendix 3 - Citywide and Local Provision

a) Citywide Provision

Overall Requirements	Category	Size	Access	Functions	Examples
City - wide Open Space Definition: Parks and open spaces of importance to the City for their recreational, landscape, historic, cultural, nature conservation or educational value Requirements: 1. Major outdoor formal and informal recreation and leisure and recreation facilities. 2. Protect areas of value for their natural heritage, cultural, historic or landscape interest. 3. Provide attractive places that improve the	Country Parks	Minimum size: 200 ha	<p>Accessible by public transport, car, foot and bicycle</p> <p>Catchment area: Regional and beyond.</p>	<p>"Family Day Out" for residents, visitors and tourists.</p> <p>Type of visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended visit <p>Provision for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Countryside" experience • Major outdoor leisure and recreation opportunities • Visitor attractions • Nature conservation interest • Toilets, cafe provision, major events 	Greater Camperdown Country Park (includes Clatto country Park and Templeton Woods)
	City Recreation Parks	Minimum size: 10 ha	<p>Accessible by public transport, car, foot , bicycle</p> <p>Catchment area: City and beyond.</p> <p>Maximum distance from homes: 2.5km</p>	<p>"Something For Everyone" particularly groups and families</p> <p>Type of visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit of up to a day <p>Provision for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure and recreation (range of facilities for formal and informal recreation) • Toilets, refreshments • Events • Nature conservation interest • Visual amenity value • Individual character 	Caird Park Dawson Park Lochee Park / Victoria Park & Balgay Hill Baxter Park Broughty Ferry Esplanade (includes Castle Green, Windmill Garden, the beach etc.) South Road Park
	City Heritage Parks	Size appropriate to size and function of park	<p>Accessible by public transport, car, foot, bicycle.</p> <p>Catchment area: City</p>	<p>"The Cities Treasures" areas of landscape, nature conservation, historic, recreational and educational value.</p> <p>Requirements:</p>	Dighty Linear Park, The Law, Stobsmuir Ponds, The Firth of Tay Linear Park (including

<p>quality and diversity of the urban environment.</p> <p>4. Account for City-wide trends in leisure patterns and opinions.</p> <p>5. Promote to visitors and tourists.</p>			and beyond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance value • Manage / enhance access and recreation whilst safeguarding their heritage value 	<p>Riverside Nature Park), Reres Hill, Dudhope Park, Trottick Ponds Nature Area and Duntrune Demonstration Garden</p>
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b) Local Provision

Overall Requirements	Category	Size	Access	Functions	Examples
<p>Local Open Space</p> <p>Definition Parks and open spaces of local importance for their recreation, play, landscape, nature conservation, historic, cultural or educational value.</p> <p>Requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide for informal and formal recreation and play across an area according to local needs. 2. Consult and involve local people in the design, planning and management as appropriate. 3. Account for local characteristics such as housing type, density and population structures. 	Neighbourhood Parks	Minimum size: 1 ha	<p>Accessible on foot and bicycle</p> <p>Maximum distance: 1.2km from every home</p>	<p>Variety of provision across an area and at the heart of Communities.</p> <p>Type of visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent local use <p>Range of provision across an area for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation (mainly informal, some formal, sport and play) • Nature conservation interest • Visual amenity, providing a setting for buildings • A civic square or village green at the heart of each community if desired. 	Magdelene Green, Orchar Park, Finlathan Park, Whitfield Green, Fintry Park, Fairmuir Park, Middleton Community Woodland and Broughty Ferry Local Nature Area.
	Local Parks and Open spaces	Minimum size: 100m2	<p>Accessible on foot by children, adults with pushchairs and elderly people.</p> <p>Maximum Distance: 400 metres of every home</p>	<p>Safe, locally accessible open spaces for people of all ages, especially children.</p> <p>Type of visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily use <p>Provision for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal recreation and play • Nature conservation interest • Visual amenity, providing a setting for buildings 	Play areas, kick-about areas and local parks.

4. Seek to ensure that all the local open spaces are safe, supervised (i.e. overlooked and accessible on foot).					
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9.4 Appendix 4 - Glossary of Terms from Dundee Public Open Space Strategy and Action Plan

BEAR Scotland	Private company contracted to Scottish Government to maintain trunk roads
BTCV	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.
COSLA	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
CLD	Community Learning Development
DCC	Dundee City Council
DCS	Dundee Contract Services
Decentralisation Areas	Designated local areas for community planning purposes
DEG	Dighty Environmental Group
DPE	Dundee Partnership for the Environment
ECP	Environment and Consumer Protection
EHTS	Environmental Health and Trading Standards
FCS	Forestry Commission Scotland
FEI	Forest Education Initiative
Greenflag Award	A national system of accreditation for quality greenspace management
Greenspace	Any area of vegetated land within the urban area
Qualitative Greenspace Standards	Measure for assessing greenspace based on the standard and quality of provision rather than the physical amount of space provided
L&C	Leisure and Communities
Land Management Contracts	A mechanism of financial support to landowners for integrated land-use
LBAP	Local Biodiversity Action Plans
LEAP	System of evaluation based on Learning, Evaluation and Planning
Natura	Network of European protected sites based on European birds and habitats directives
NPNs	Neighbourhood Partnership Networks - Community Planning designation
NPPG	National Planning Policy Guideline
Open Space	Areas of open land within the urban area.
Open Space Hierarchy	A system for classifying types of open space according to function.
PAN	Planning advice Note
P&T	Planning and Transportation
PFAP	Paths For All Partnership
POS	Public Open Space
SAC	Special Area of Conservation

SCVO	Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations
SET	Scottish Enterprise Tayside
SPA	Specially Protected Area
SPP	Scottish Planning Policy
TWIG	Trees & Woods in Greenspace
UKBAP	United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan
WIAT	Woodlands in and Around Towns