

**Parks & Green Spaces Strategy
Action Plan 2015-2018**

<u>Strategic Objective 1</u>		
To create high quality and well maintained parks and green spaces		
What we want to do	How we are going to do it	Timescale*
Maintain our existing Green Flag Parks	Review and update maintenance plans/schedules for each park	Annually
	Encourage and support the professional development of staff to achieve horticultural excellence	Long Term
	Continue to support Friends & Volunteer Groups in developing and promoting their local parks and green spaces	Annually
Increase the number of Green Flag parks to seven by 2017	Submit Green Flag applications for King George V Park & Quarry Lane LNR	Short Term
	Submit Green Flag applications for The Carrs and Carr Lane Park, Warsop	Medium Term
	Continue to support Friends & Volunteer Groups in developing and promoting their local parks and green space	Medium Term
Encourage visitors to all our parks and green spaces and increase their dwell time	Maintain all parks & green space to an acceptable horticultural standard in line with Green Flag criteria	Long Term
	Ensure areas are welcoming, safe and clean	Medium Term
	Review parks facilities and respond to community needs when funding becomes available	Long Term
Develop Titchfield Park as an 'activity park'	Provide café/refreshment facilities during the summer months	Medium Term
	Investigate funding opportunities to install a new water play facility	Short Term

*Annually – Every 12 months Short Term – Less than 12 months Medium Term – 1 to 3 years Long Term – More than 3 years

Strategic Objective 2**To use parks & green spaces to encourage healthier lifestyles**

What we want to do	How we are going to do it	Timescale*
Devise a programme of events	Organise seasonal and mobile activities particularly during school holidays	Annually
	Creation of green gyms, trim trails and outdoor classrooms	Medium Term
	Target neighbourhoods with high levels of inactivity and adult & childhood obesity in partnership with Leisure colleagues	Medium Term
Enhancement of outdoor recreation facilities	Specific targeting of S106 funds where appropriate	Long Term
	Consultation and closer working with local wards councillors and community groups to establish community 'wish lists'	Annually
	Identify gaps in provision in priority areas	Short Term
	Support colleagues in the production of the MDC Playing Pitch Strategy	Short Term
Promote and encourage Green Exercise	Provision of play equipment in priority areas subject to availability of funding	Medium Term
	Develop Parks and Green Spaces Marketing Strategy	Medium Term
	Review, refresh and update website to help raise awareness of Parks, Green Spaces & MDC Allotments	Short Term

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Strategic Objective 3**To improve connections and relationships between our green spaces, town centre and neighbourhoods**

What we want to do	How we are going to do it	Timescale*
Develop a cultural/heritage route and attractive, clean, safe walkways	Improve pedestrian signage & interpretation information on identified routes and trails through the district	Medium Term
	Maintain routes (The Hermitage, Oakham, Quarry Lane, Maun Valley Park & The Carrs LNRs) to an acceptable standard	Medium Term
	Develop a dedicated website page	Short Term
	Produce and publish maps & leaflets	Medium
Increase accessibility to our parks and green spaces	Ensure all entrances into parks and green spaces are in-line with Equalities & Diversity Act 2010	Short Term
	Improve paths on LNRs for wheelchair users and pushchairs	Medium Term
	Ensure that those living in the most deprived neighbourhoods have reasonable access to nearby parks and green space in-line with the Mansfield Green Space Standard	Long Term
	Liaison with Community Safety Colleagues and Police	Short Term
Maintain and enhance the green corridors in the district	Review and update Management Plans for Parks and Local Nature Reserves	Medium Term
	Maintain MDC hedgerows and grass verges to a high horticultural standard	Annually
	Link into the Green Infrastructure Plan	Medium Term

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Strategic Objective 4**To raise awareness and education of parks and greens spaces including Local Nature Reserves and wildlife conservation**

What we want to do	How we are going to do it	Timescale*
Increase community engagement with schools, Friends Groups and Partner Agencies	Establishment of Mansfield in Bloom committee and support to groups in achieving It's Your Neighbourhood awards	Annually
	Organise volunteer work days in conjunction with Greenwood, Sherwood Forest Trust, The Conservation Volunteers and others	Annually
	Promote the benefits of allotments to potential new plot holders via website	Short Term
	Increase the number of wildflower meadow areas & community orchards in the district	Short Term
Identify and prioritise environmental issues	Reduction in the amount of dog fouling by promoting pink poo campaigns.....	Medium Term
	Monitor levels of litter picking, graffiti & detritus & flag up hotspots with the Community Safety Team	Annually
	Create sustainable permanent planted areas and reduce the amount of bedding plants used	Long Term
	Improve joint-working internally with Street Cleansing, Community Safety & Planning colleagues and externally with Partners inc. Police & Environment Agency	Medium Term
Preserve and celebrate our natural history	Work with Friends Groups and partners to develop further nature conservations activities & projects	Long Term
	Consult with the community, Friends Groups & partners to improve on-site interpretation on parks and LNRs	Long Term
	Working with partners, colleagues & the community to ensure existing sites are appropriately maintained	Long Term
	Working with partners, colleagues and the community to ensure new sites are developed in line with the characteristics of Mansfield	Long Term

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Strategic Objective 5**To improve the biodiversity of our parks and green spaces**

What we want to do	How we are going to do it	Timescale*
Ensure that design guidance for open space on new housing development will emphasise the importance of providing a green Infrastructure network	Closer working with Planning colleagues	Medium Term
	Early involvement with site plans at the Outline stage of planning applications including consulting with key partners	Medium Term
Protect ecologically sensitive sites	Partnership working with Natural England, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and the Sherwood Forest Trust in line with site specific Management Plans	Long Term
	Review and update site specific Management Plans	Long Term
Recognise the importance of 'natural habitats' and environmentally sensitive management plans within our maintenance	Partnership working with Natural England, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and the Sherwood Forest Trust in line with site specific Management Plans	Long Term
	Review and update site specific Management Plans	Long Term
Development programs for green space we manage	Partnership working with Friends Groups, Natural England, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and the Sherwood Forest Trust	Long Term
	Liaise with Planning, Conservation and Community Engagement colleagues to maximise funding opportunities	Long Term

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Strategic Objective 6**To inform appropriate policies in the emerging Mansfield Local Plan to protect existing green space from development and establish appropriate standards for provision of new parks and green spaces through new development**

What we want to do	How we are going to do it	Timescale*
Prepare a detailed evidence base on existing local green space provision and facilities	Complete green space audit of existing sites	Short Term
	Produce district and ward level analysis, including maps, based on results	Short Term
	Identify areas where there are gaps in green space provision	Short Term
	Make recommendations for improving the standard of green space at ward level	Short Term
Make informed planning recommendations about on and off-site green space	A decision flow chart has been developed to assist with decisions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• housing developments outside existing green spaces requiring Section 106 contributions• development proposed on existing green spaces	Annually

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