
NORWICH'S PARKS AND GREEN SPACES - A 10 YEAR STRATEGY





NORWICH'S PARKS AND GREEN SPACES – HOW, WHY, AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

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NORWICH
City Council



A STRATEGY...

WHY HAVE ONE?

A Parks and Green Spaces Strategy offers a major opportunity to improve the quality and value of our parks and green spaces.

Government guidance as well as best practice continues to emphasise the need for a more strategic approach to green space management.





CREATING A VISION?

A Parks and Green Spaces Vision for the City of Norwich

Norwich will have a network of accessible, high quality and highly valued parks and green spaces to be proud of, promoting sustainability, enhancing health and wellbeing, supporting biodiversity, protecting their heritage, and extensively contributing to the economic, social and environmental aspirations of the city.





WHAT WILL IT COVER?

- 23 Parks, Gardens & Recreation Grounds
- 78 Amenity Green Spaces
- Blue / Green Corridors
- Natural and semi-natural green spaces
- 18 Allotments and Community Gardens
- 38 Churchyards, cemeteries and Crematorium grounds
- 81 Play spaces for children and young people
- 62 Teen facilities
- Outdoor sports facilities





IT WILL ALSO HIGHLIGHT THE FOLLOWING BENEFITS OF PARKS & GREEN SPACES

- Social benefits and opportunities, including
 - Children's play
 - Passive and Active Recreation
 - Community and Cultural focus
 - Educational resources
- Health benefits and opportunities
- Environmental benefits and opportunities
- Wildlife – opportunities for habitats and human experience
- Economic value of green spaces



CONSULTATION



We need to consult..... How?

- Away day – 27 November 2023 with over 120 attending – Friends Groups, community organisations, stakeholders (60 organisations)
- Assess recent consultation – GI Strategy work
- Inter-departmental within the City Council
- Members (Scrutiny / Cabinet)
- Norwich –Get Talking
- Roadshows and wider consultation
- Adoption Summer 2024





THE POLICY CONTEXT BACKGROUND – NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL





QUALITY & VALUE

Quality relates to the range of facilities or features on a site. The quality audit covers factors such as site accessibility, safety and security, management and maintenance and the presence of planting, trees, seats, and other facilities.

Value relates to the contribution the site makes to local amenity, recreation, health, and well-being, biodiversity, cultural heritage, community, or other strategic objectives.





WHY AUDIT?

Essentially both a quality and value audit have three purposes:

1. To ascertain the quality and value of each site through evaluating a range of features or characteristics as objectively and consistently as possible;
2. To identify the features or characteristics which result in some sites being of low quality or value, to **provide a focus for improvements or enhancements**; and
3. To identify those sites that the Council that require investment in protection, improvement and enhancement.



LOW QUALITY

Past it's best



Declining infrastructure



LOW QUALITY

Over use?



Any use anymore?



LOW QUALITY



LOW QUALITY



Assets or liabilities.... Or an opportunity??



HIGH QUALITY



HIGH QUALITY



HIGH QUALITY



HIGH QUALITY





SCORES ON THE DOORS

(THESE ARE EXAMPLES AND THIS WILL BE MAPPED ONTO GIS)

NAME	AREA (Ha)	QUALITY	VALUE	CATEGORY	STATUS
Churchyards & Cemeteries (CC)		70%	66%	HQHV	
Park #1		75%	68	HQHV	
Park #2		74%	48%	HQLV	
Park #3		45%	52%	LQLV	
Park #4		55%	76%	LQHV	



OUTCOME

The quality audits carried out give a clear view of how to develop our priorities.

The development of a strategic green space hierarchy outlines the Council's **key priorities in regenerating its parks and green spaces.**

A new investment plan

A “**Strategic Green Space Network**”, the sites which need to be prioritised for investment, which need to be protected as well as enhanced through capital investment as well as improved management and maintenance where appropriate and achievable





DELIVERY - PRINCIPLES

STEWARDSHIP – how we will manage our parks and green spaces in the interests of the whole community

MANAGEMENT – Acknowledging they are community assets and require continued investment

USE – Ensuring they are available for use by all sections of the local community

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – How we develop green spaces to ensure that they remain ‘living spaces’



ACTION PLAN

ACTION	7.1.1 The Council and identified partners will enhance its parks and open spaces based on an agreed investment strategy linked to the quality and value assessments, considering accessibility and local needs and develop the strategic green space network
WHO	
TIMESCALE	
PROGRESS	
ACTION	7.1.2 The Council and partners will enhance its parks and open spaces for the benefit of local biodiversity and enhance its green infrastructure based on GI principles, supporting in particular the Norfolk Local Nature Partnership
WHO	
TIMESCALE	
PROGRESS	
ACTION	7.1.3 The Council and partners will tackle issues related to anti-social behaviour in parks and open spaces including fly-tipping, graffiti and litter
WHO	
TIMESCALE	
PROGRESS	
ACTION	7.1.4 The Council will review all maintenance regimes, looking at standards, levels of specification in relation to typology of space and need for development of Management Plans for City and identified Community Parks.
WHO	
TIMESCALE	
PROGRESS	



THE NEXT STAGES

1. Complete all the audits (March – April 2024)
2. Engage with scrutiny (March 2024)
3. Engage with internal partners (Planning, Property, Events, leisure – April-May 2024)
4. Complete the first draft (May 2024)
5. Present to Cllrs (Cabinet June 2024)
6. External consultation (July - August 2024)
7. Adoption process to Cabinet (September 2024)
8. Deliver (Funding bids including National Lottery, Greater Norwich Growth Board, CIL, S106, capital funding)





**THANK YOU FOR
LISTENING
ANY QUESTIONS?**

