

Report of: Chief Officer Parks and Countryside

Report to: Inner West Community Committee

Report author: Chris Simpson (3957400)

Date: 10/12/14

To note

Parks and Countryside Report Update

Purpose of report

1. This report provides an area profile of key assets and services provided in the West Inner area.
2. It details capital improvements in community parks, sport pitches and fixed play in the area for the last 12 months and planned improvements to be delivered in the next 12 months

Main issues

Area Profile of the Service

3. The following table summarises community green space assets managed by Parks and Countryside in the West Inner Area:

Asset	Quantity
Community parks	8
City Parks	1
Playing Pitches:	
Cricket	
Football	18
Rugby League	6
Rugby Union	4
Bowling greens	8
Playgrounds	10
Multi-use games areas	5
Skate parks	1

4. The community parks in the West Inner area are as follows:

- Burley Park
- Armley Park
- Bramley Falls Wood Park
- Bramley Park
- Gotts Park
- Rodley Park
- Stanningley Park
- Ley Lane – Mistress Lane

5. The City Park in the West Inner Area is:

- Kirkstall Abbey

Community Parks – Leeds Quality Park Status

6. The Parks and Green Space Strategy approved at Executive Board in February 2009 sets out the vision and priorities to 2020. One of the key proposals contained in the strategy is the aspiration for all community parks to meet the Green Flag standard for field based assessment by 2020. The Green Flag Award Scheme represents the national standard for parks and green spaces. It has been developed around eight key criteria as follows;

- **A welcoming place** - how to create a sense that people are positively welcomed in the park
- **Healthy, safe & secure** - how best to ensure that the park is a safe & healthy environment for all users
- **Clean & well maintained** - what people can expect in terms of cleanliness, facilities & maintenance
- **Sustainability** - how a park can be managed in environmentally sensitive ways
- **Conservation & heritage** - the value of conservation & care of historical heritage
- **Community involvement** - ways of encouraging community participation and acknowledging the community's role in a park's success
- **Marketing** - methods of promoting a park successfully
- **Management** - how to reflect all of the above in a coherent & accessible management plan or strategy and ensure it is implemented.

Kirkstall Abbey currently has the Green Flag award and was originally chosen to be put forward for the award as it is a City Park. Pudsey Park is the only Community Park in the city which has a Green Flag status and this was chosen because, at the time, there were no 'City' or 'Country' parks in the West wedge. To forward a community park in the inner West area for Green Flag status would require the

development of a suitable management plan, which is a considerable undertaking, typically taking around 6 months to complete. The resource requirement equates to approximately 1 X SO2 officer (£17,000).

Leeds has developed an assessment method for community parks based on the Green Flag criteria known as the Leeds Quality Park (LQP) standard. The following table provides a provisional profile of these assessments for the Inner West Area.

An appendix is attached which shows the LQP Award Score Sheet used by the judges when assessing sites. The criteria used are the same for LQP as is for the field based Green Flag award.

Site	Year Assessed	Welcoming Place	Healthy, Safe, Secure	Clean, Well Maintained	Sustainability	Conservation / Heritage	Community Involvement	Marketing	Meets Standard?
Armley Park	2014								Yes
Bramley Falls Wood Park	2014								No
Bramley Park	2014								Yes
Gotts Park	2014								No
Rodley Park	2014								Yes
Stanningley Park	2014								No
Burley Park	2014								Yes
Ley Lane	2014								No

Key:

Meets Leeds Quality Park Standard on average for this key criteria	
Below Leeds Quality Park Standard on average for this key criteria	

7. Capital Improvements to community parks that are planned to take place during 2014/15 are as follows:
 - Burley Park – Community orchard planted
 - Dunkirk Hill – tree works, paths, fencing works and visitor interpretation
 - Armley and Gotts Park – tree works, paths and visitor interpretation
 - Bramley War Memorial – completed and opened
 - Rodley Park – Drainage improvements, paths, picnic benches, wildflower meadow, improved planting schemes, removal of disused bowling green infrastructure.
8. Improvements proposed to take place in 2015/16 are:
 - Armley Park – further improvements in Armley Park to include relocating of skatepark, the installation of a small MUGA and further tree works.

- Stanningley Park – proposed consultation to establish improvement priorities

9. In 2014/15 a site based gardener was funded by Community Committee Wellbeing fund and this provided for one person:

The site based Gardener was in post from April to Sept 2014 working a four day, 29.6 hour week for 6 months of the year, across three sites in the Inner West Area (Rodley Park - 11.84 hours, Bramley Falls Wood – 11.84 hours and Stanningley Park – 5.92 hours).

The gardener undertook general gardening duties including: grass cutting, pruning, de-littering, emptying of litter bins, removing fly tipping, inspection of play equipment, maintenance of park infrastructure, planting and sweeping paths.

This project has helped to improve the physical environment and security issues at the above sites. The site-based gardener was available to engage with the public to enhance visitor experience at the sites

Recommendations

10. That the Inner West Community Committee note the contents of this report.