

Our vision is to provide the best parks and green spaces in the UK

Priority 1: Quality

Providing high quality parks and green spaces

Goals	Actions	Timescale	Measuring success	Other council services	Progress update, Jan 2024
For all city parks to retain the Green Flag award for the life of strategy.	Continue to use the Green Flag criteria as a best practice guide to managing Temple Newsam, Roundhay Park, Chevin Forest Park, Golden Acre Park, Kirkstall Abbey Park and Middleton Park.	Ongoing	Green Flag Award		All city parks were awarded a Green Flag in 2023.
For all community parks to reach the Leeds Quality Park standard during the life of the strategy.	Area based operational teams to prioritise community parks	Long	Leeds Quality Park Assessment – the percentage of community parks that reach LQP standard - Key Performance Indicator.		In 2023, 50 of the 65 community parks (77%) that were judged, passed LQP. This means the number of community parks reaching the LQP standard has increased year on year since 2010 and that we continue to get closer to our goal for all community parks to reach the standard.
	Continue to target S106 (and other suitable external-) funding on community parks where possible (and in consultation with ward members and Community Committees).	Ongoing			This work is ongoing with S106 and match investment totalling approximately £1.2 million committed for community parks this year. Externally funded improvement works in community parks in 2023 have included soft landscaping, refurbishing playgrounds and paths and installing benches and bins.
	Establish a strategic investment fund to improve parks and green spaces in areas most in need.	Medium			£1 million of discretionary capital for the purpose of 'preventing decline' in parks (particularly with regards health and safety concerns like broken equipment) was proposed in 2023 and approved at Full Council in Feb 2024.
For all cemeteries and crematoria to reach Leeds Quality Park standard during the life of the strategy.	Bereavement and operations to work together to get sites to LQP	Long	Leeds Quality Park Assessment – the percentage of cemeteries and crematoria that reach LQP standard		14 of 25 (56%) of cemeteries and crematoria achieved LQP standard in 2023 - the same number as last year when the sites were judged for the first time.
	Ensure all relevant staff (including apprentices) have a good understanding of the LQP standard (through training) and that the LQP judging process involves a wide range of staff from across the service.	Medium	Number of staff trained in LQP standard		The LQP training process was updated in 2023 and 23 members of staff were newly trained (59 people are already trained). So 82 members of staff were involved in the judging process in 2023. The process for assessing LQP will be reviewed in 2024 to ensure it is efficient, effective and consistent across the board.
For all community parks to have a 'plan on a page'.	Produce a 'plan on a page' for each community park, setting out a vision for each site in consultation with ward members and local community.	Long	Plan on a page available for each community park		In 2023, a new process for developing the Plans on a Page was established which includes a comprehensive public consultation process through online surveys and face to face conversations on site and in the local community. Plans for Harehills, East End and Burley parks and Blenheim Square were completed with Woodhouse Ridge nearly there. The plan for Blenheim is now being used to allocate investment in the site through S106 and the plans for Harehills and Burley are being used to support funding bids for MUGA refurbishments on those sites. In 2024, consultations will be undertaken on a further 12 community parks and the plans for those sites should be finalised by the end of the year.
For Parks and Countryside visitor attractions to meet the Visit England Quality Assurance Standard .	Use the Visit England Quality Assurance Standard as a good practice guide to managing our visitor attractions at Temple Newsam, Lotherton and Roundhay Park.	Short	Temple Newsam, Lotherton and Roundhay park meeting the VE Quality Assurance Standard		Lotherton and Temple Newsam have both retained the accreditation and are now judged every other year with the next visit planned for June 2024. Some improvement works are planned for Tropical Work after which judges will be invited to assess Roundhay park.

To have excellent animal welfare standards in our zoos and at Home Farm.	Ensure our zoos meet the standards set out in the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 and that Home Farm meets standards set out in Animal Welfare Act (2006), Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 and the Animal Welfare (licencing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018.	Ongoing	All standards met		Home Farm, Lotherton and Tropical World all have the relevant licenses in place. Tropical World was successful in having its zoo licence renewed in December 2023. The Lotherton interim inspection is due December 2024.
To reduce anti-social behaviour and ensure people feel safe in our public green spaces.	Develop an evidence-based approach to tackling issues with dogs, to be targeted at problem sites as necessary.	Medium	Approach to dog-related issues agreed and implemented as necessary	Dog wardens	This is planned for delivery by 2028.
	Develop an evidence-based approach to tackling litter to be targeted at problem sites as necessary.	Short	Approach to litter agreed and implemented as necessary	Environmental Action	This action is planned for delivery in 2024. In relation to litter problems, (externally funded) new bins were installed at several sites in 2023 including at Gildersome park, Hall Lane recreation ground, Stanningley park and West park fields play area.
	Work with <i>Safer Leeds</i> to target anti-social behaviour hotspots as necessary	Ongoing		Safer Leeds.	ASB is usually referred to the police and support is provided by Safer Leeds where possible. Sometimes site management can be done in such a way as to make a site less attractive for ASB, for example, by cutting back shrubs and this is done as required. Also, where necessary, parks officers attend local Neighbourhood Policing team meetings to discuss issues on site and take positive actions. Two initiatives underway in 2023 were; an anti-social behaviour working group for Temple Newsam and plans for access controls at Middleton park funded by Safer Streets (proposals are currently out for consultation).

Timescales: Short = 1-3 years, Medium = 4-6 years, Long = 7-10 years.