

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

Priority 4: Culture

Providing exciting, diverse, interesting and enjoyable green spaces that reflect the history and culture of their local communities.

Goals	Actions	Timescale	Measuring success	Progress update, Jan 2024
To provide a range of fantastic visitor attractions that contribute to making Leeds a great place to live and visit.	Create new indoor playbarn at Temple Newsam to improve the winter visitor offer at Home Farm.	Short	Playbarn open	Play barn construction was quite advanced until a fire in May 2023 caused significant damage and delay to the scheme. Work clearing the site and preparing to re-build is underway with the completion date now estimated as autumn 2024. Meanwhile, we have also been working with colleagues from the Museum and expert contractors to improve the experience at the rest of Home Farm through installing new, improved signage and interpretation and creating interactive, educational elements so children and adults get more from their visits - this element of the scheme should be completed and open to the public by Easter 2024.
	Create new cycle trails, Learn to Ride area, playground and café on area of Temple Newsam that was previously a golf course.	Short	Facilities open	The plans have been finalised (following a public consultation) and are awaiting planning permission with the aim of completing the project in 2024.
	Develop an outdoor water play visitor attraction	Long	Water play open	This scheme is currently on hold pending a review of the business case.
	Continue to improve the visitor offer at Lotherton	Medium	Wider variety of animals and new playground.	A key decision was taken in July 2023 to spend, inject capital and begin the procurement of this playground. The procurement process is underway. Deer tours were introduced at Lotherton in 2023 and were well received.
	Create an indoor play centre at Tropical World	Medium	Indoor play centre open	This proposed development has been postponed whilst the future of Tropical World as a whole is reviewed to ensure investment is undertaken in the most efficient way - building condition surveys are underway. In the meantime, to retain its place as one of the most popular visitor attractions in the city, we invested in refurbishing the Rainforest area and introducing some new animals (porcupines, tamarins, pygmy marmosets and tegus) to the zoo in 2023.
	Promote Golden Acre Park as a botanical garden	Medium	Golden Acre launched and promoted as 'Leeds Botanic	Initial research is underway to understand what actions would need to be undertaken to achieve Botanic Garden Status
	Develop a new public parkland area at the site that was previously <i>South Leeds Golf Course</i> including a covid memorial woodland, new walking routes, viewpoints and education and information points.	Medium	New park open to public	The area is now open for public use and access improvements have been undertaken. A whole-site masterplan is currently in development.
For lifelong learning to be integrated into our parks and green spaces and associated visitor facilities.	When developing/improving our green spaces and visitor attractions, include relevant education and interpretation e.g. the new cycle trails at Temple Newsam will include signage about historic features along the way.	Ongoing		Information signs are provided at sites where there is new tree planting/relaxed mowing/wildflower meadow creation and the like - these have been a great success in terms of reducing enquiries and complaints about site management. New interpretation about the wildlife and history of the sites has been developed as part of investments at Farnley Reservoir, Gledhow Valley Woods and Tulip Street, Hunslet. New interactive educational interpretation (focussing on the history of the site) was procured and designed for Home Farm in 2023 and will be installed in spring 2024.

	To provide activities (including school visits) for over 30,000 people to educate and inspire them about the animals at Temple Newsam farm, Lotherton and Tropical World, and key features (historic, artistic etc) in Leeds parks.	Ongoing	Number of children taking part in an educational event/activity.	12,013 children have visited TW on school trips, with 6,248 attending a workshop; 2,542 have visited Lotherton Wildlife World with 1,959 attending led workshops at the zoo and a further 390 children attending led workshops on the wider estate; 2,248 children visited Home Farm on school trips and 961 attended a farm tour, plus a further 60 who attended led workshops on the wider estate. An additional 15,430 children engaged with informal education activities in the Nestbox at Wildlife World and on the wider Lotherton estate during school holidays. TOTAL: 32,683 children reached on the estates.
For our visitor attractions and city parks to be recognised as key elements of local tourism offer.	Continue to refresh and deliver marketing plans for visitor attractions (Temple Newsam, Lotherton, Arium, Roundhay park/Tropical World)	Ongoing	Marketing plans in place	Marketing plans for Temple Newsam, Lotherton and Tropical World are in place and a marketing plan for the Arium is under development and will be completed in line with the growing programme review in 2024. The Green Space's events and activities leaflet was re-launched (post-Covid) in spring 2023 and is widely distributed across the city.
To preserve, promote and provide information about features of cultural interest (e.g. historic landmarks) found in our parks and green spaces	The preservation and interpretation of historic and other interesting features in community and city parks should be included in their management plans/plan on a page	Medium		Conservation Management Plans have been completed for Temple Newsam and Lotherton setting out how the heritage of the sites will be promoted and preserved for the future, work has commenced on identifying how they will be delivered.
	Seek and use external funding to preserve and provide interpretation about features of interest. Includes large-scale NHLF bid for Temple Newsam.	Ongoing	Temple Newsam NHLF bid submitted	Conservation Management Plans, setting out how heritage features will be sustainably managed at the sites, were produced for Temple Newsam and Lotherton in 2023. Having those plans in place is an essential step towards securing funding from the National Heritage Lottery for the preservation of key historic features and colleagues are currently in discussions with the NHLF in relation to conservation projects at both sites.
To host a diverse range of events in green spaces across the city every year.	Promote our sites as excellent venues for events of all types and sizes.	Ongoing	Number of events hosted each year	757 events (including markets, community galas, funfairs, sponsored walks, rock concerts etc) were facilitated by the Green Spaces service in our parks during 2023 with around 650,000 people participating in them overall. These included live music concerts – 'Let's Rock', 'Live at Leeds' and 'Slam Dunk' returning to Temple Newsam and the Leeds West Indian Carnival, which is Europe's longest running Caribbean carnival parade, with 2023 being its 56th year. We also hosted 25 'My Leeds,' community-led events along with the WOW (Women of the World) Barn at Cinder Moor for the 2023 City of Culture.
	Support community event organisers with advice and guidance	Ongoing		164 community-led events took place in parks in 2022. Support for them is ongoing through the Bookings and Licensing team who provide advice and guidance to enable community organisers to ensure event legislation is adhered to and the events go ahead safely.
	(Subject to a suitable business case) create a new event space at Temple Newsam to facilitate more events and move larger events away from the historic core of the estate.	Medium	New event space created	A feasibility study for this scheme is currently underway.
	Work with Leeds 2023 team to ensure parks and green spaces contribute to the year of cultural activity both as event venues and destinations in themselves.	Short		Green Spaces were represented on the City Readiness Team and 2023 Operations Delivery Team. Several events took place on parks and green spaces as part of 2023 including the WOW Barn (celebrating women of the world on Cinder Moor) and Children's day revisited at Roundhay park, along with 25 of the community-led <i>My Leeds</i> events taking place across the city. ACTION COMPLETE.

<p>To provide exciting and diverse parks that reflect the history and culture of their local communities.</p>	<p>When planning new developments, consider their context and history, and be creative to cultivate green spaces with their own unique character, that provide for, and represent their local communities, resulting in a varied and complementary offer across the city</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>This is considered by our Landscape Architect and other relevant staff/suppliers when putting designs together for our green spaces. For example, the brief for the planned Lotherton playground asks suppliers to consider the history of the site as part of the design process and new interpretation being designed for Home Farm focusses on the history of that site.</p>
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Timescales: Short = 1-3 years, Medium = 4-6 years, Long = 7-10 years.