



PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE

managing the environment for recreation

public parks . golf courses . country parks . playgrounds . nature reserves . woodlands



public rights of way . floral features . allotments . sports pitches . events . cemeteries & crematoria

Area Committee Update South Outer

Denise Preston, Chief Recreation Officer

Background - Parks Post 1988



- All energy spent on specifications and enforcing contracts
- A reduction in staff and the de-skilling of the workforce
- A dumbing-down of horticultural standards
- A service reduced to bulk grass cutting with roving gangs

and the results....

Crumbling parks...



...green deserts



Big Issues Locally and Nationally

- Ageing Workforce
- Loss of skills
- Low Profile
- Failing infrastructure due to lack of capital investment and revenue spend
- No Clear Direction
- Anecdotal evidence of successes, but tangible evidence of failures, e.g. complaints
- Resource pressures with no baseline data to support bids

Building A Team



**Developing our own staff –
199 Volunteers!
Kinaesthetic Learning Project –
project in South Leeds
Partnerships with Colleges –
Career Changers**

CABESpace: Parkforce



CABESpace PARKFORCE initiative
Gardeners Back into Parks

New direction –

Parks and Green Space Strategy



- Sets out vision and key priorities to 2020
- Based around 5 themes
- Sets out how issues faced can be tackled

Gathering the Evidence – Why? and How?

- Why? – to provide baseline data to support strategy development and support funding bids, ultimately improving responsiveness to customers
- Postal questionnaire 2004 and 2005, and used the GreenSTAT postal questionnaire for 2006
- 30,000 households (Electoral Register) 90,000 in total
- 4,500 children and young people (Breeze Card) 13,500 in total
- Ask respondents to identify the greenspace they normally visit and provide answers for this area

Household Survey – Adults

60 Million visits per year

Visits	2004	2005	2006	
Use a park	92%	86%	92%	
			Winter	Summer
Visit Daily (or most days)	15%	18%	20%	31%
Visit once or twice a week	35%	37%	23%	32%
Time: 30mins-1hr	42%	42%	42%	37%
Time: 1hr – 2 hrs	35%	34%	19%	33%

Household Survey

Adults

Reason to Visit	No. of Visits		
	2004	2005	2006
To exercise	21.5m	30.6m	
Fresh air			29.9m
Keep Fit			12.4m
To contemplate / relax	19.5m	24.8m	
Relax or think			14.3m
To take children to play	20.0m	22.8m	
Visit play area			13.8m

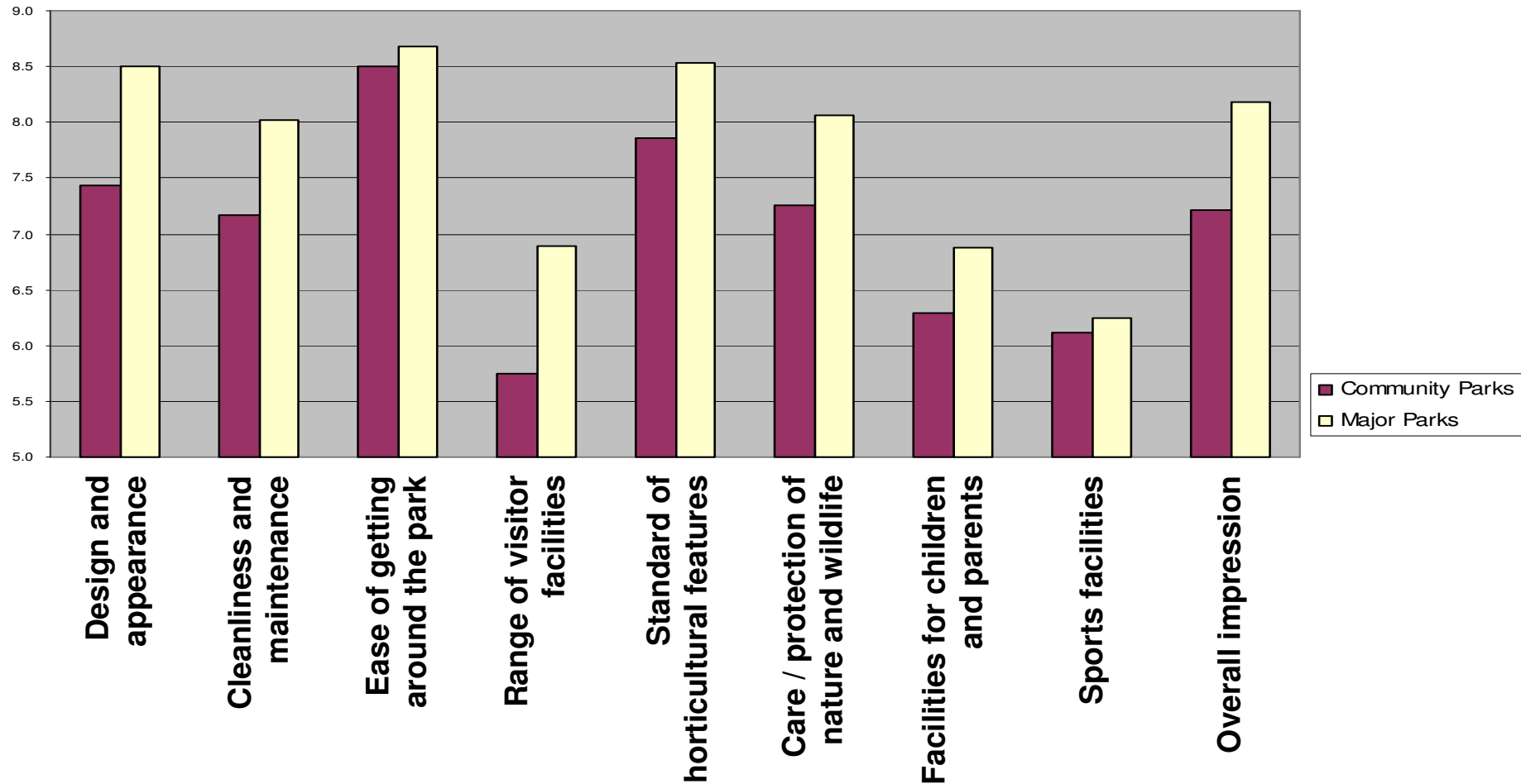
Household Survey

Adults

Transport Method	2004	2005	2006
Walk	53%	54%	59%
Car	43%	38%	37%
Bus	4%	4%	2.3%
Cycle	3%	3%	1.9%

Household Survey 2006

Satisfaction Rating Comparison: Adults



Green Flag



- **5 Green Flag Parks**
- **Over 40 trained Green Flag judges**
- **10 Leeds Quality Parks – target of all 73 by 2020**

	B	C	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI	AJ	AK
1			Welcoming Place				Healthy, Safe, Secure				Clean, Well Mnt.				Sustainability				Cons/Herit.		Com. Inv.		Marketing									
2			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
4	Site		Welcoming	Food and safe access	Image	Equal access for all	Safe equipment and facilities	Personal security	Sign fouling	Appropriate provision of facilities	Quality of facilities	Waste management	Grounds maintenance & horticulture	Building and infrastructure maintenance	Equipment maintenance	Environmental sustainability	Pesticides	Water at use	Waste minimisation	Contaminants	Conservation of natural features	Conservation of landscape	Conservation of buildings & structures	Community involvement	Appropriate provision for community	Marketing & promotion	Provision of appropriate info	Provision of appropriate educational info	Implementation of management plan	Number of scoring criteria applicable	Overall Score	
5	50	Allerton Bywater Sport Ground	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	7	7	7	6	7	8	6	7	6	7	7	8	8	6	6	4	n/a	177	26	48
7	47	Banstead Park	3	6	0	5	7	6	5	7	6	1	1	6	7	4	9	n/a	4	3	2	n/a	n/a	4	6	2	2	2	n/a	98	23	30
8	48	Barley Hill Park	5	4	0	5	5	7	4	7	5	1	2	5	4	4	2	8	4	5	2	5	3	4	7	2	0	0	n/a	100	26	27
10	64	Becketts Park	6	7	4	8	4	8	8	4	5	8	6	5	4	5	4	8	5	5	5	5	n/a	4	4	2	0	0	n/a	124	25	35
11	68	Bedquits Recreation Ground	7	6	7	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	4	7	9	9	8	7	5	8	7	4	7	7	2	0	0	n/a	159	26	43
13	85	Bramley Falls Wood Park	6	6	5	5	6	7	3	7	5	3	5	5	4	6	8	n/a	4	6	5	3	n/a	4	6	5	5	5	n/a	124	24	36
14	83	Bramley Park	2	5	2	6	6	7	7	6	5	5	5	4	5	5	7	8	4	7	4	5	6	4	7	2	1	1	n/a	126	26	34
19	58	Carr Manor Recreation Ground	7	6	6	8	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	9	8	5	8	8	6	5	4	7	2	2	2	n/a	164	26	44
25	57	Cranmer Bank Recreation Ground	4	3	0	6	6	5	5	8	7	4	3	7	7	6	5	10	7	n/a	3	n/a	n/a	4	7	2	0	0	n/a	109	23	33
28	74	Drighlington Park	3	4	1	7	7	2	7	5	6	2	3	4	6	4	2	8	6	5	3	2	3	4	5	2	2	2	n/a	105	26	28
29	77	East Ardsley Recreation Ground	4	6	0	4	6	6	8	4	4	3	5	5	4	3	3	8	4	4	2	n/a	n/a	4	6	2	0	0	n/a	95	24	28
32	88	Farnley Reservoir	6	5	2	6	6	6	6	7	3	1	7	7	3	7	9	10	8	7	8	8	n/a	8	7	5	5	5	n/a	152	25	43

How are we using this information?

- Information available for service as a whole, by type of greenspace, or down as far as individual park level
- Link satisfaction to Green Flag assessments, Super Output Area information, etc.
- Performance Indicators / Service Planning
(see where we are; set realistic targets for improvement; plan actions to affect this improvement; and measure and report successes)
- Support Funding Bids
 - Capital Bids – Internal (Parks Renaissance)
 - Capital Bids – External (Lottery applications, etc.)
 - Revenue Bids – Site Based Gardeners, etc.

Key achievements - a few examples...

- Public Rights of Way £175k
- Allotments £175k
- BMX tracks £470k
- NRF bids – bedding and dog bins in SOAs £200k
- Community Parks £500k
- Parks Renaissance £2.5m
- 7 on site gardeners funded by area committees
- A further £750k announced by Councillor Carter

Survey results for the South Outer Area

How often do you visit the park or greenspace?	City %	Area %
More Often	72%	69%
2 or 3 times a year	16%	17%
Once a year	3%	4%
Less than once a year	3%	3%
Never visit	5%	6%

Survey results for the South Outer Area

B1b How often do you visit the park or open space? (Please tick one per season)	Seldom or never during this season	Once a month	Once every 2 weeks	Once or twice a week	Most days	Every day	Total Qs Answered
winter	10.00%	25.42%	12.50%	27.08%	11.67%	13.33%	South Outer
winter	11.85%	27.84%	15.58%	23.18%	12.90%	8.65%	(All)
summer	1.37%	10.05%	15.07%	37.90%	22.37%	13.24%	South Outer
summer	1.57%	17.60%	18.57%	33.10%	19.26%	9.89%	(All)

Representing 5,794,287 visits per year

Survey results for the South Outer Area

How long are your weekday visits during the summer?	City %	Area %
Less than 30 minutes	15%	21%
30 minutes – 1 hour	41%	51%
1 – 2 hours	31%	22%
2 – 4 hours	8%	3%
More than 4 hours	1%	0%
Do not visit	5%	2%

How long are your weekend visits during the summer?	City %	Area %
Less than 30 minutes	9%	10%
30 minutes – 1 hour	35%	50%
1 – 2 hours	36%	26%
2 – 4 hours	14%	9%
More than 4 hours	2%	1%
Do not visit	4%	3%

Survey results for the South Outer Area

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?	City %	Area %
No	90%	89%
Rather not answer	2%	2%
Yes	7%	9%

Are you male or female?	City %	Area %
Female	63.5%	66.3%
Male	36.5%	33.7%

What age group best describes you?	City %	Area %
20-29	9%	9%
30-39	19%	24%
40-49	18%	19%
50-59	18%	17%
60-74	25%	24%
Over 75	9%	7%

Survey results for the South Outer Area

Have you ever been consulted on the running of parks and greenspace?	City %	Area %	Would you wish to be consulted on the running of parks and greenspace?	City %	Area %
Yes	5.5%	7.8%	Yes	48.8%	45.0%
No	94.5%	92.2%	No	51.2%	55.0%

If you would like to be consulted what format would you like this to take?	City %	Area %
Occasional visitor surveys	25%	27%
Comment / suggestion cards	16%	17%
Public exhibitions	9%	7%
Public meetings	6%	6%
Talking to staff on-site	8%	7%
Joining a user / volunteer group	5%	5%
Through a regular newsletter	26%	26%
Direct access to managers	5%	6%

Survey results for the South Outer Area

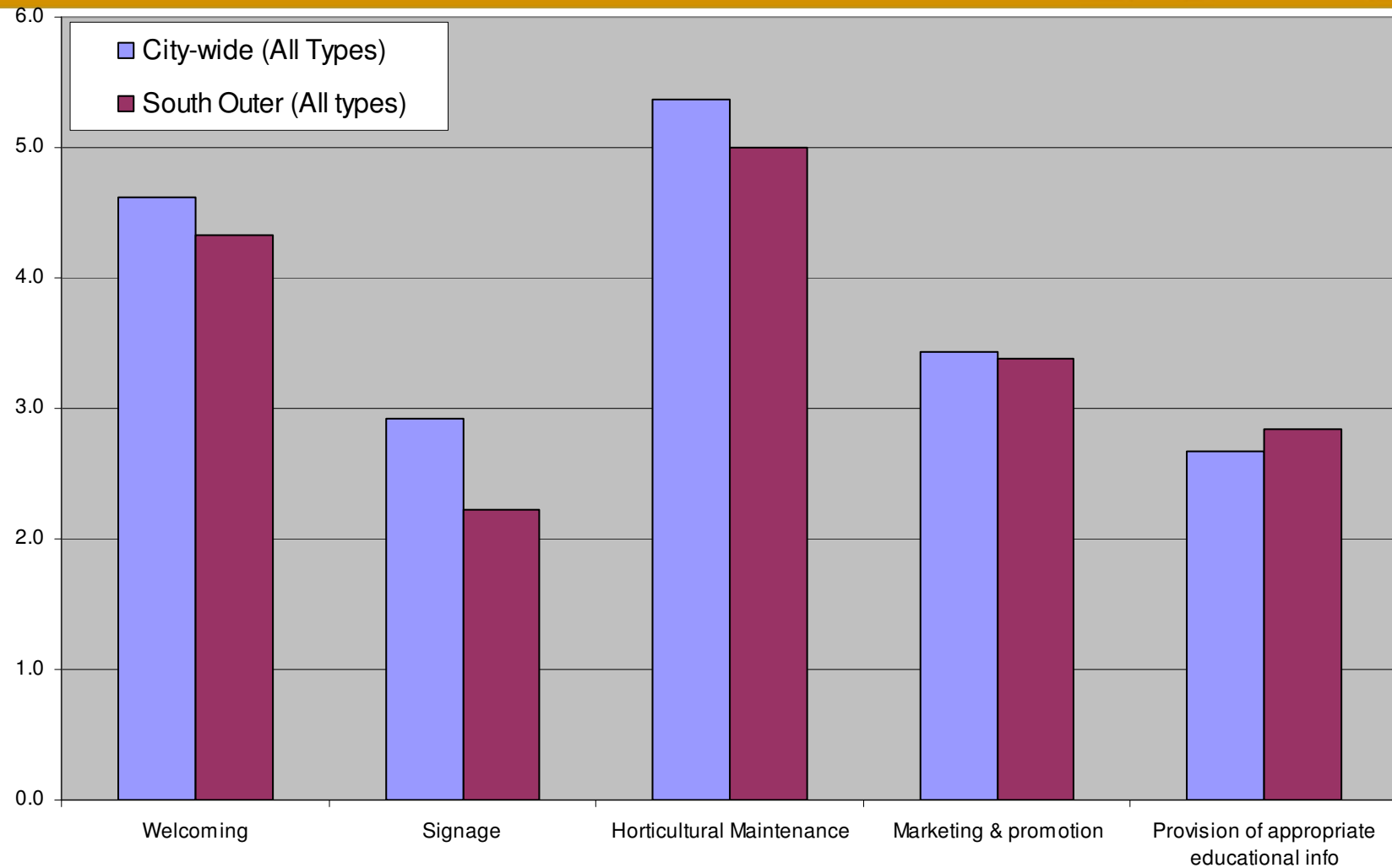
Why go?	City %	Area %
To relax or think	6%	5%
For peace and quiet	5%	5%
Enjoy flowers/trees	7%	7%
See birds and wildlife	6%	6%
Feed the birds / ducks	2%	1%
Enjoy the beauty of the surroundings	8%	5%
Get some fresh air	13%	13%
For a walk	12%	11%
Take a shortcut	2%	2%
Ride a bike	2%	2%
Walk the dog	5%	5%
Children / Family outing	5%	6%
Meet friends	2%	2%
Visit the play area	6%	8%
Picnic/barbecue	1%	1%
To eat/drink	2%	1%
Enjoy entertainment	1%	1%
Attend events	3%	4%
To keep fit	5%	5%
To improve my health	3%	3%
Organised educational visit	0%	0%
Guided walks and talks	0%	0%
Play sports or games	3%	3%
Watch sport or games	1%	1%

Survey results for the South Outer Area

Satisfaction Criteria		City	Area
C1	Design and appearance	7.9	7.4
C2	Cleanliness and maintenance	7.6	7.1
C3	How easy is it for you to get around	8.5	8.3
C5	The range of visitor facilities	6.3	5.8
C6	The standard and maintenance of the trees, the flowers and flower beds, shrubs and grass areas	8.1	7.8
C7	The care and protection of nature and the wildlife that lives in the park or open space, the insects, birds, and animals etc	7.6	7.2
C8	The facilities and / or services that are provided for children and their parents	6.5	6.5
C9	The sports facilities	6.1	6.1
C10	Overall impression of the park or open space	7.6	7.2

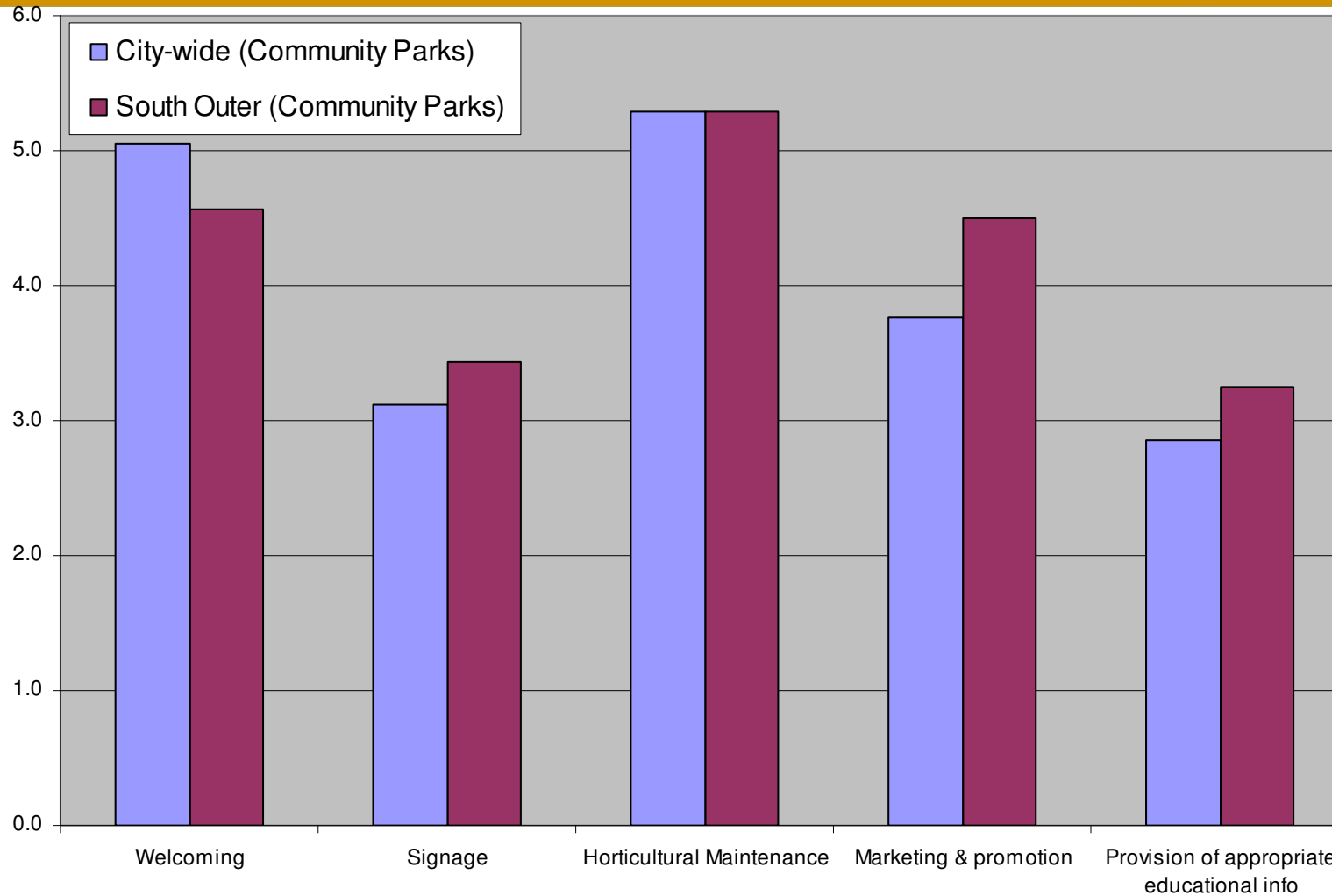
Green Flag (LQP) Assessments 2006

All types of greenspace



Green Flag (LQP) Assessments 2006

Community Parks



Current work in the South Outer Area

- Refurbishment of the Jaw Bones
- Refurbishment of Carlton Village Green
- Refurbishment of Scatherd Park and Scarth Gardens
- Refurbishment of Lofthouse Recreation Ground

Current work in the South Outer Area

Allotments:

- Common Lane – Grazing land (part) brought back into use and new fence and gate erected
- Dolphin Lane – Water issue resolved
- Rooms Lane – Encroachment issues resolved
- Springfield street – Plots identified for clearance and regeneration
- The Crescent – Sec 106 funding proposed for site regeneration
- Westerton Road – Car park installed
- Lofthouse – Fencing replaced and top soil imported to site
- Carlton – Asbestos removal
- Reservoir – Asbestos removal

Planned work in the South Outer Area

- Creation of new Multi Use Games Area at Drighlington
- Environmental improvements to Rothwell Country Park
- Installation of fencing at Drighlington Park
- Woodland improvements at Fleet Lane
- Provision of new sports pitches on The Crescent at Tingley including Changing rooms
- Extension of the Rose Lunn Centre, changing facilities
- Westerton Road Allotments – Extension proposed and encroachments removal – Install Water supply
- Bridge Street Allotments – asbestos removal
- Copley Lane Allotments - new fencing project and rubbish clearance
- Victoria Pit Allotments – Clearance and fencing works to unused part of site

Aspirations for the South Outer Area

- Street Lane, drainage of whole site, new changing facilities and off street parking
- Provision of new sport facility at the former Langdale primary school, to include pitch, parking and landscape works
- Oulton and Woodlesford Sports and Social club partnership project to develop new sports facilities
- Provision of new play area and multi use games area at Thorpe recreation ground
- Improvements to local allotments sites including Copley Lane and the Crescent
- On-site (Parkforce) gardeners in all community parks
- All community parks achieve the LQP standard

...and the end result?

Well managed parks, enjoyed by all



Positive signs – national satisfaction survey 2006/07

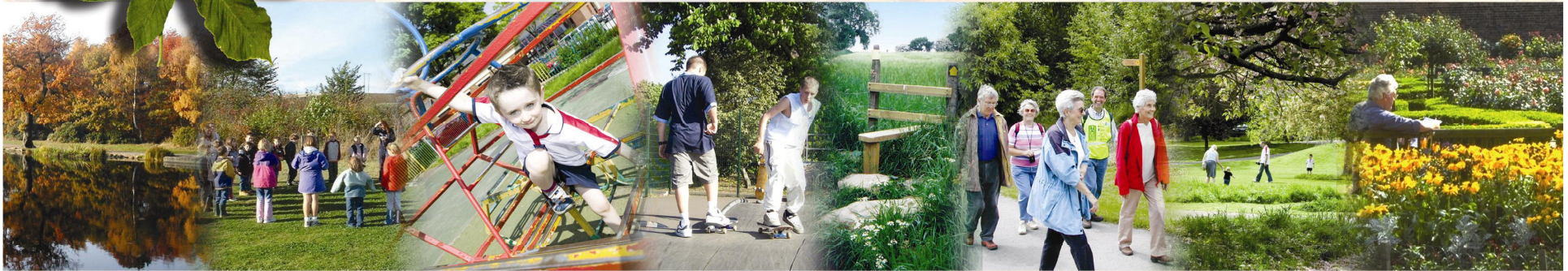
Core City	Percentage
Sheffield	80%
Leeds	79%
Liverpool	74%
Manchester	73%
Bristol	71%
Newcastle upon Tyne	71%
Birmingham	68%
Nottingham	67%



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