



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 West Inner

Denise Preston, Chief Recreation Officer

 Leeds www.leeds.gov.uk

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....

 Leeds www.leeds.gov.uk

Crumbling parks...



 Leeds www.leeds.gov.uk


...green deserts



 Leeds www.leeds.gov.uk

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

 Leeds www.leeds.gov.uk

Building A Team



Developing our own staff –
 99 Volunteers
 Kinaesthetic Learning Project
 Partnerships with Colleges –
 Career Changers

 Leeds www.leeds.gov.uk

CABESpace: Parkforce



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	
			Winter	Summer
Use a park	92%	86%	92%	
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

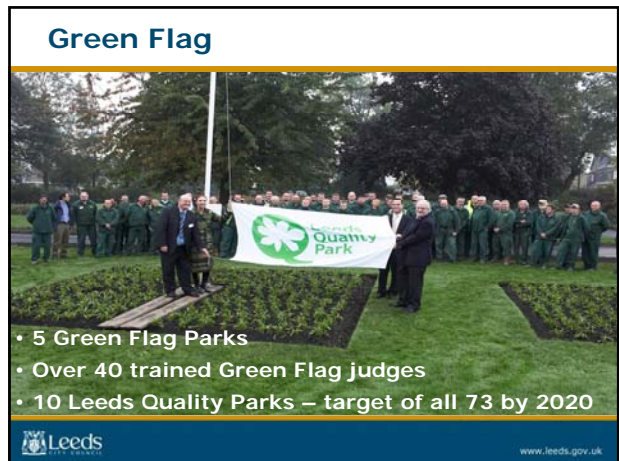
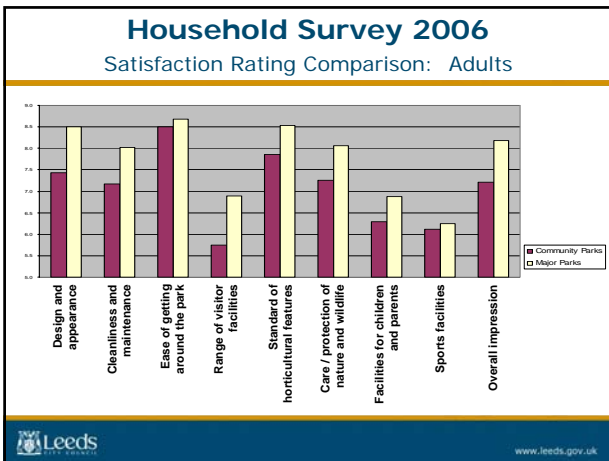
Adults

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%



Code	Site	Access	Facilities	Maintenance	Wildlife	Play	Sports	Other	Overall Score
50	Lebanon Recreation Sport Ground	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	7
47	Donhead Park	3	6	5	7	6	5	7	6
40	Donhead Park	5	4	5	5	7	4	7	5
64	Beckett's Park	6	7	4	4	8	8	4	5
110	Beckett's Recreation Ground	7	6	7	7	7	7	7	7
90	Donhead Park	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5
114	Donhead Park	7	1	2	6	7	7	6	5
59	Donhead Park	7	6	6	7	8	7	7	7
57	Donhead Park	4	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
74	Donhead Park	3	4	1	7	2	7	5	6
77	Donhead Park	4	6	0	4	6	6	4	5
90	Donhead Park	6	5	2	6	6	6	7	6

www.leeds.gov.uk

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.

www.leeds.gov.uk

- ### 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
- www.leeds.gov.uk

Survey results for the West Inner Area

How often do you visit the park or greenspace?	City %	Area %
More Often	72%	68%
2 or 3 times a year	16%	16%
Once a year	3%	3%
Less than once a year	3%	3%
Never visit	5%	8%

www.leeds.gov.uk

Survey results for the West Inner 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	14.38%	20.28%	17.85%	16.99%	14.38%	16.34%	West Inner
winter	11.85%	27.84%	15.68%	23.18%	12.90%	8.65%	(All)
summer	2.16%	11.51%	15.83%	31.65%	23.02%	15.83%	West Inner
summer	1.57%	17.60%	18.57%	33.10%	19.26%	9.89%	(All)

Representing 3,957,693 visits per year



Survey results for the West Inner Area

How long are your weekday visits during the summer?	City %	Area %
Less than 30 minutes	15%	23%
30 minutes – 1 hour	41%	49%
1 – 2 hours	31%	22%
2 – 4 hours	8%	4%
More than 4 hours	1%	1%
Do not visit	5%	1%

How long are your weekend visits during the summer?	City %	Area %
Less than 30 minutes	9%	16%
30 minutes – 1 hour	35%	44%
1 – 2 hours	36%	30%
2 – 4 hours	14%	6%
More than 4 hours	2%	1%
Do not visit	4%	2%



Survey results for the West Inner Area

Do you consider yourself to be disabled?	City %	Area %
No	90%	88%
Rather not answer	2%	2%
Yes	7%	10%

What age group best describes you?	City %	Area %
20-29	9%	14%
30-39	19%	28%
40-49	18%	22%
50-59	18%	11%
60-74	25%	18%
Over 75	9%	6%

Are you male or female?	City %	Area %
Female	63.5%	67.1%
Male	36.5%	32.9%



Survey results for the West Inner 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	4.8%	7.8%	Yes	48.8%	51.0%
No	95.2%	92.2%	No	51.2%	49.0%

If you would like to be consulted what format would you like this to take?	City %	Area %
Occasional visitor surveys	25%	22%
Comment / suggestion cards	16%	18%
Public exhibitions	9%	7%
Public meetings	6%	6%
Talking to staff on-site	8%	11%
Joining a user / volunteer group	5%	7%
Through a regular newsletter	26%	26%
Direct access to managers	5%	4%



Survey results for the West Inner Area

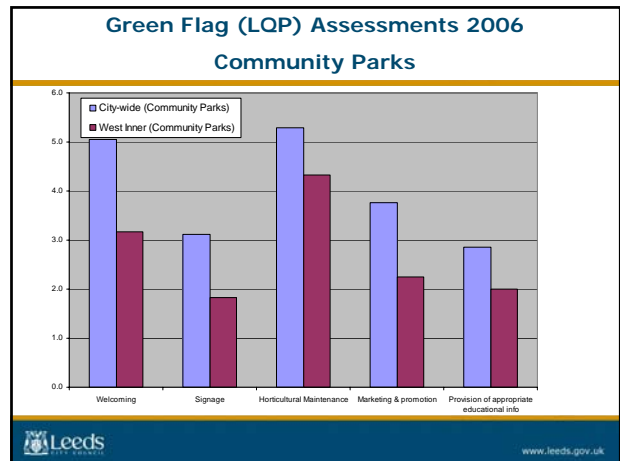
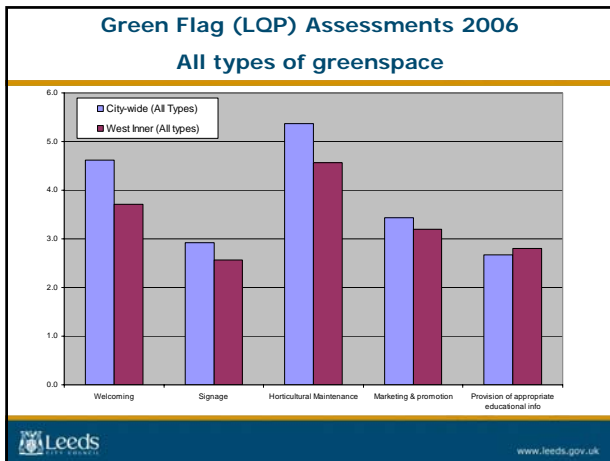
Why go?	City %	Area %
To relax or think	6%	7%
For peace and quiet	5%	5%
Enjoy flowers/trees	7%	6%
See birds and wildlife	6%	4%
Feed the birds / ducks	2%	1%
Enjoy the beauty of the surroundings	8%	6%
Get some fresh air	13%	13%
For a walk	12%	11%
Take a shortcut	2%	4%
Ride a bike	2%	2%
Walk the dog	5%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



Survey results for the West Inner Area

Satisfaction Criteria	City	Area
C1 Design and appearance	7.9	7.0
C2 Cleanliness and maintenance	7.6	6.8
C3 How easy is it for you to get around	8.5	8.3
C5 The range of visitor facilities	6.3	4.9
C6 The standard and maintenance of the trees, the flowers and flower beds, shrubs and grass areas	8.1	7.5
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	6.9
C8 The facilities and / or services that are provided for children and their parents	6.5	5.8
C9 The sports facilities	6.1	5.8
C10 Overall impression of the park or open space	7.6	6.6





- ### Current work in the West Inner Area
- Armley Park - new skateboard park, re-surfacing footpaths, new cricket wicket, re-furbish tennis courts
 - Oak Road Recreation Ground - new multi-use games area
 - Cobden Road Allotments – Major site clearance
 - Lastingham Road Allotments – Reused fencing supplied and two plots cleared plus are used formerly as “site tip”
 - Stanningley Road Allotments – Major clearance of neglected plots and rubbish including tyres and doors
- www.leeds.gov.uk

- ### Current work in the West Inner Area (cont.)
- Westover Road Allotments – Major site clearance and top soiled, site brought back into use
 - New Wortley Allotments – Two plots cleared and brought back into use
- www.leeds.gov.uk

- ### Planned work in the West Inner Area
- Armley Common Rights Trust - design concepts for Little Moor, Armley Moor, Hill Top
 - Cobden Road Allotments – water system to be upgraded, plots and paths laid out
 - Lastingham Road Allotments – new fencing
 - Westover Road Allotments – Install water system and rebuild dry stone wall
 - Greenthorpe Allotments – Palisade fencing approved and funded to be erected
 - Haley’s Field Allotments – Install new water meter
 - New Wortley Allotments – New gates to be installed
- www.leeds.gov.uk

- ### Aspirations for the West Inner Area
- West Leeds Country Park
- www.leeds.gov.uk

West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways

One of the most important influences on the initiative are local people and other stakeholders.

Aspirations and concerns for the areas on their doorstep.

Desire to pursue their own specific recreational interests in those places.

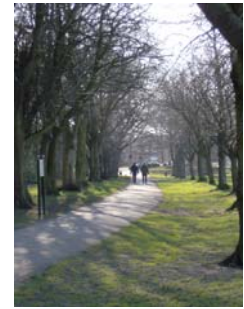


West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways

Objectives

Detailed consultation with these Stakeholders has helped to establish a set of

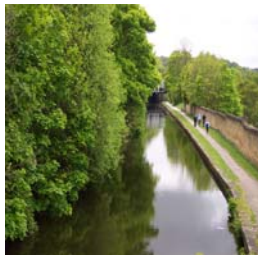
- Short Term
 - Medium Term
 - Long term
- } objectives



West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways

These objectives form the basis of a management plan, which is currently being prepared, and has four key aims:

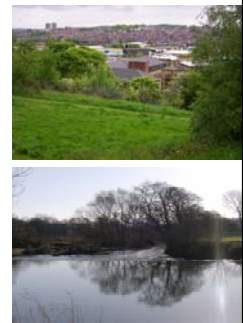
- To increase in the availability of suitable and sustainable greenspace.
- To consolidated and enhance wildlife habitats
- To established and maintain recreational areas and facilities.
- To forge strong links with local communities and to encourage greater involvement



West Leeds Country Park & Green Gateways

To date –

- 70 separate Stakeholder groups and organisations have been approached and consulted about the initiative.
- 38 of these groups or organisations have had a direct input in to the Management Plan, by offering objectives, ideas and issues.
- 25 000 specific leaflets have been printed and distributed.
- The first of 46 information boards are soon to be installed along the first stretch of the trail.



Further aspirations for the West Inner Area

- 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%

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

Denise Preston
Chief Recreation Officer
denise.preston@leeds.gov.uk

Leeds

www.leeds.gov.uk