



Rethinking Parks

Funding and support for organisations and partnerships to develop innovative ways of managing and financing the UK's public parks.

nesta



1. What is Rethinking Parks?
1. Rethinking Parks 2018-2020
1. Emerging themes/clusters
 - a. Park Foundations
 - b. Community Empowerment
 - c. Technology
 - d. Business Engagement
 - e. Wellbeing
1. What's missing?
1. Are you a park innovator?

What is Rethinking Parks?

Funding and support for organisations and partnerships to develop innovative ways of managing and financing the UK's public parks.

Working together

- Funding from National Lottery Community Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Management, support, learning from Nesta
- Ideas, delivery, reflection from parks innovators
- Reaching beyond the awards



2014-2016

Building on past work

- 11 projects, c£100k funding per project and support
- A platform to spread ideas
- 7 learning guides

2014-2016

Space and resource to learn and develop



We have been able to fully test our model and take advantage of the ongoing learning from our own project, and from other projects too. Being able to compare findings from around the country has been very beneficial.



Rethinking Parks Participant

Opportunity to capture impact – savings; engagement; income



Moving from a traditional 'closed' understanding of parks and greenspaces towards a more business orientated approach has been most useful. Understanding finances, forecasting, audiences/markets and products/services represent new skills that can be applied across a range of contexts.



Rethinking Parks Participant

Rethinking Parks 2018-2020

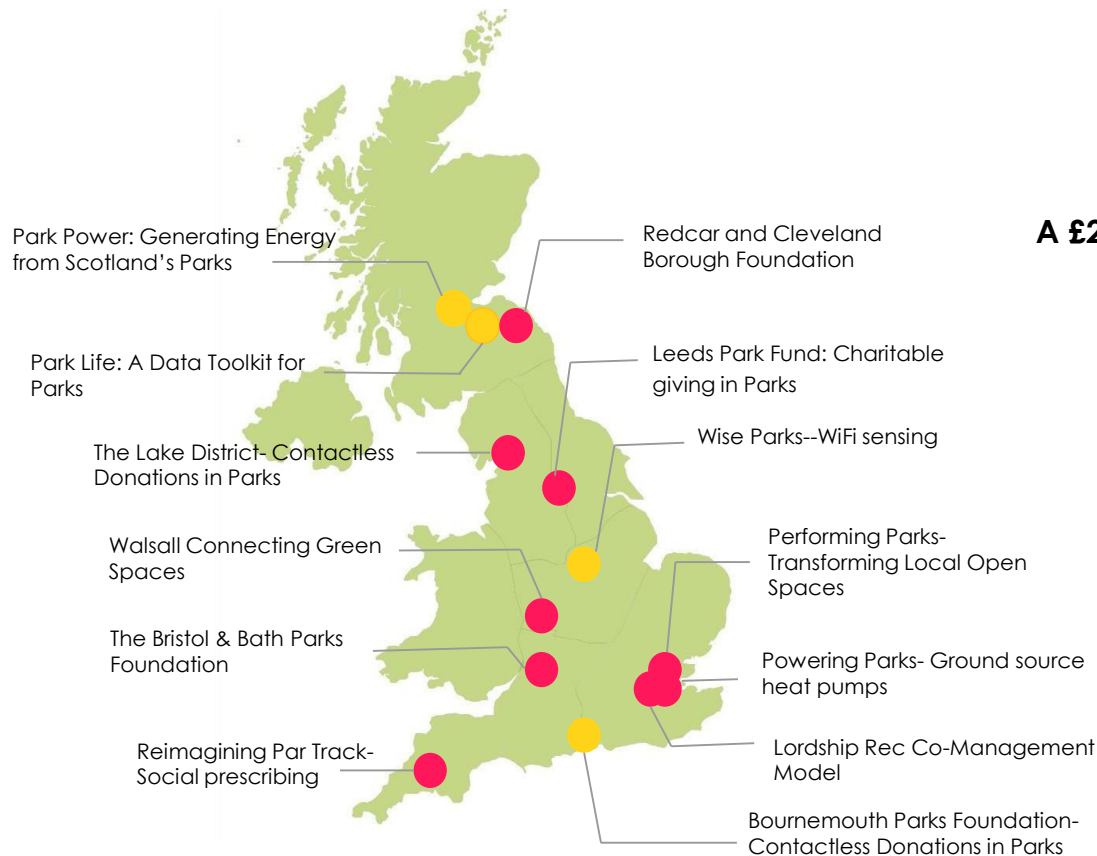
Rethinking Parks 2018-2020



5 Prototyping projects



8 Replication projects



A £2 million fund to support park innovators create a more sustainable future for our parks.

Areas of interest:

- Innovative operating models and partnerships
 - Foundations
 - Community (co)management
- Use of technology (data and digital tools)
 - Contactless donations
 - Understanding parks through wifi sensing
 - Opportunities for renewable energy
- Engaging businesses
- Social prescribing



Walsall Green Spaces Forum

LOCAL ENERGY SCOTLAND



CLIMATE ACTION

ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH



Lordship Hub Co-op
Community building in every sense



Nottingham City Council

ageUK

One Walsall
Inspiring and supporting social action

Haringey LONDON



ldf Lake District Foundation
visit.give.protect

NHS



Cumbria Tourism
At the heart of our visitor economy



GROUNDWORK
CHANGING PLACES
CHANGING LIVES



RED CAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

Fife COUNCIL



PAR TRACK.
Run, Ride, Relax, Repeat.

Leeds Community Foundation



Bournemouth BOROUGH COUNCIL
Building a Better Bournemouth

my park
Scotland

National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces
supporting grass roots

goodbox

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL



Dorset Local Nature Partnership

LEAP

LORDSHIP REC
Friends of Lordship Recreation Ground



Lake District National Park



Walsall Council



RCVDA
Redcar & Cleveland Voluntary Development Agency

greenspace scotland
transforming urban spaces into people places

Leeds CITY COUNCIL

LEEDS parks and green spaces forum

Hackney



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



Falkirk Council

The Midcounties Co-operative

Rethinking Parks: core principles and assumptions

1. There is a pipeline of ideas and approaches that the parks sector would and could adopt if tested and funded. A lack of evidence of 'what works' is currently a barrier to innovation.
1. Innovation in the parks sector doesn't just need funding, but also capacity building support including to build a community of innovators and advocates for new approaches.
1. Local authorities cannot work alone in managing public parks, but Rethinking Parks isn't about scaling back their role. In fact, councils need to play a stronger strategic role in shaping green spaces.
1. There might be many partners involved in each local operating model for parks, but this should always include park users and the wider community being empowered and involved.
1. Parks are key community assets that can't be managed in isolation. There are particularly strong opportunities for greater collaboration with the culture, leisure and health sectors.
1. Parks make a positive contribution to health and wellbeing, biodiversity and environmental outcomes but are poor at collecting high quality data to evidence their impact.

1. Building a cluster of foundations, working towards wider adoption across the UK



Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation



Leeds Parks Fund



Redcar & Cleveland Parks Foundation

2. Supporting grassroots replication of community business, stewardship and co-management models



Reimagining Par Track, Cornwall

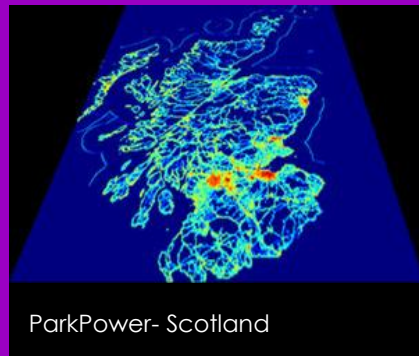


Friends of Hardie Park, Thurrock



Friends of Lordship Rec, London

3. Testing ideas that use technology: digital tools and data to address challenges parks face



4. Effective approaches to business engagement and employee volunteering



Leeds Parks Fund



Redcar & Cleveland Parks Foundation



Walsall Connecting Green Spaces

5. Embedding and valuing health and wellbeing activities in parks



Reimagining Par Track

What's missing?
What are you doing?

Community Empowerment in Parks: People Powered Parks



Community Stewardship

Community-led organisations take on ownership or management of parks.

Likely to be applicable only in minority of parks - needs community support, and assets to generate new income.



Co-management

'Friends of' or other user groups have a formal but not necessarily lead role in park management.

The principles of good community empowerment are applicable to all parks.



Place Based

Foundations or Parks Forums can act as an umbrella for community empowerment, social action and donations across a whole city or region.



Technology in Parks: Data powered Parks



The Lake District

Digital Donations

How can parks maximise opportunities for digital donations to generate new income streams for parks.

Likely to be applicable in a minority of parks and part of a wider fundraising strategy.



Bournemouth



10:10 & Hackney

Renewable energy

How can parks leverage **renewable energy** technologies to generate new income streams and cost savings for public parks and reduce carbon emissions.

Longer term payback options but could lead the way in terms of carbon reduction.



Greenspace Scotland



Nottingham

Understanding parks

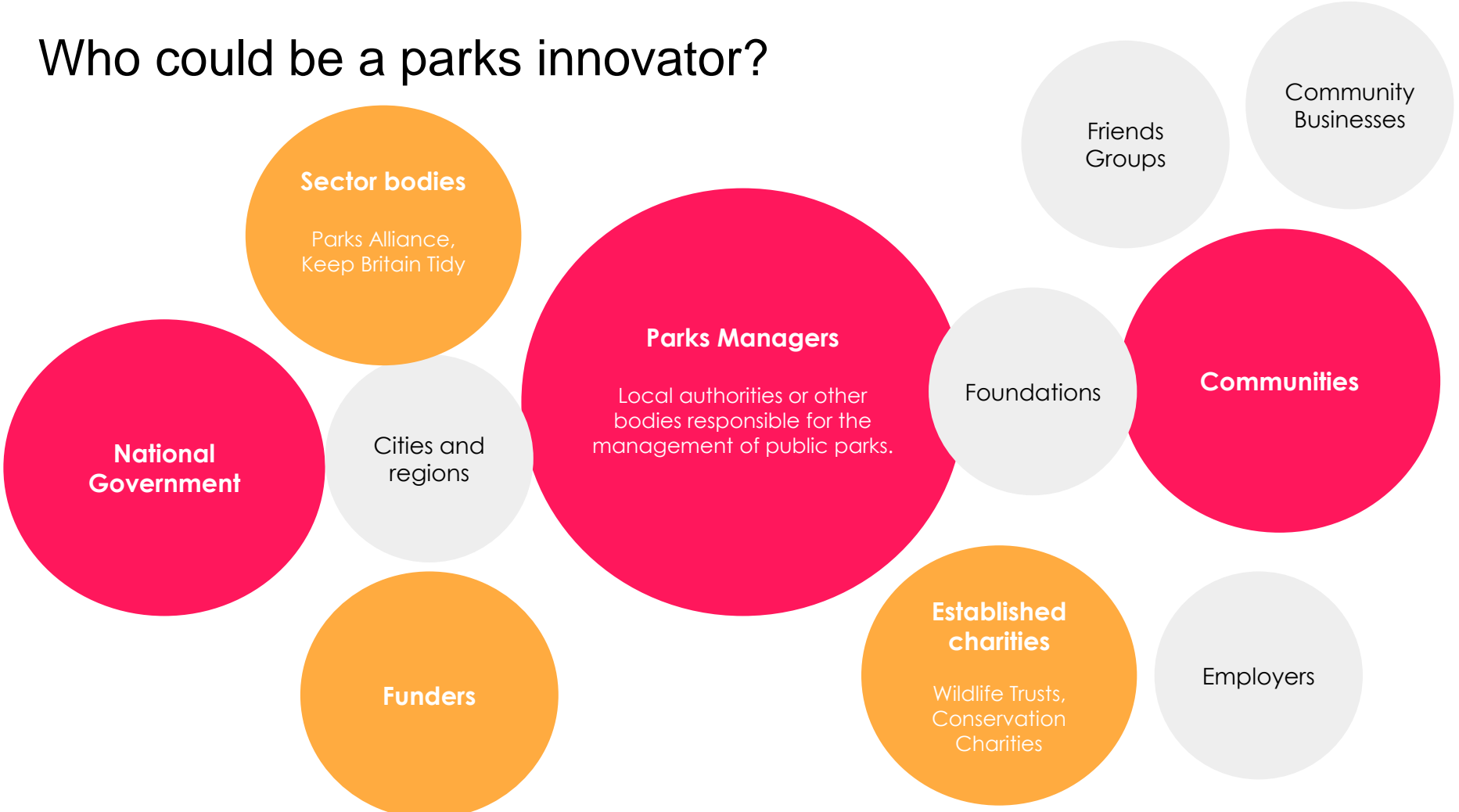
How can we better understand how parks are used to help inform future investment in parks and land management plans.



Edinburgh

Are you a park innovator?

Who could be a parks innovator?



Sector bodies

Parks Alliance,
Keep Britain Tidy

**National
Government**

Cities and
regions

Parks Managers

Local authorities or other
bodies responsible for the
management of public parks.

Foundations

Communities

Friends
Groups

Community
Businesses

Funders

Employers

**Established
charities**

Wildlife Trusts,
Conservation
Charities

Opportunities to engage with Rethinking Parks.

1. **Get in touch directly with the projects**

1. **Learning with our projects**

- Webinars on specific topics
- Cluster working
- Workshop and tools

1. **Wider network for parks innovators**

- Case studies & evidence of impact
- Blogs
- Blue prints/toolkits

1. Park Foundations

2. Community Empowerment

3. Technology:

- renewable energy
- digital donations
- wifi sensing

4. Business Engagement

5. Health & wellbeing

Get in touch: rethinkingparks@nesta.org.uk

A close-up photograph of a person's hand raised in the air, palm facing forward. The hand is positioned on the right side of the frame. The person is wearing a watch on their left wrist. The background is out of focus, showing warm, bokeh-style lights and the silhouettes of other people in a social setting.

Thank you

Any questions? Contact the
programme team at
rethinking.parks@nesta.org.uk