



membership resources

APSE National Parks and Greenspaces Advisory Group

Thursday 23 February 2023

Get involved: **@apseevents**

#APSEenviro

www.apse.org.uk

APSE Innovation Awards Parks and Greenspaces 2022



Recognising and Sharing Innovation and Best Practice

- Re-introduced in 2017
- Proved popular with member authorities.
- Three areas of awards:
 - Refuse and Recycling
 - Streetscene
 - Parks and Greenspaces
- Winners promoted in APSE Report
- Quedos and publicity for winning authorities.
- Promoted through seminars and Advisory groups.



Parks and Greenspaces

A wide variety of initiatives were received including:

- Engaging volunteers to improve greenspace whilst providing recognised skills and qualifications,
- Engaging community volunteers to plant trees to increase canopy cover and the cooling benefits this brings,
- Using under-utilised park spaces to create community gardens through a multi-partnership approach,
- Repurposing unused golf course to provide improved greenspaces and improving community use,
- Renovating listed parks buildings to provide improved community facilities and park usage through new and partnership funding.
- Creating Healthy Spaces Teams to enhance health and well being opportunities for parks users whilst also improving the fabric of parks and greenspaces.



Parks and Greenspaces Winner 2022 - Plymouth City Council

Creative use of digital technology with communities to support urban nature recovery

- engaged residents, stakeholders and staff in changes to their grassland management across the city to support nature recovery.
- partnership with environmental and social charities, education and the cultural sectors
- delivered a creative digital tech and marketing campaign, working with local artists, environmentalists, educators and residents to help change values, attitudes and support pro-environmental behaviours, alongside their programme of grass cutting reduction.
- Move away from just noticing comments on social media to taking action for wildlife and caring for local parks/greenspaces.
- enabled 40% of land to be managed for wildlife
- reduced grass cutting in 1310 sites leading to 33% fuel reduction.



Examples of digital technology

- Providing information on why grass cutting was being managed to promote wildlife.
- Creating films on urban meadows highlighting the different plants which can be found growing there.
- Explaining rewilding at public events.
- Chatboxes which allow the public to ask questions of a park. Partnership with local university and colleges to promote nature and rewilding through public art projects
- Operational staff have reported a greater awareness of wildlife and habitat management and feel more positive about their work .
- Developed stronger, long-term partnerships between community groups, wildlife charities and operational staff
- Immersive technology dome to promote pollinators and used provided to local school children to promote pollinators <https://youtu.be/gd7sKd-ta6g>



How to be a winner and the benefits

- Transferability and practicality are key elements
- Clear and concise explanations
- Don't throw the kitchen sink in!
- Try to avoid off-the-shelf solutions – everyone can access these.
- Measurable achievements and benefits
- Customer opinions
- Evidence of 'making a difference'.
- Finalists and winners promoted by APSE.
- Quedos – internal and external
- Visible award.



Parks Seminar 2023

Wednesday 15 March 2023

Etihad Stadium, Manchester

Speakers include:

- Plymouth City Council
- Derby Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- The Tree Council
- Green-tech
- Denbighshire County Council
- Sheffield City Council
- Wirral Council

apse seminar

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Parks | People | Planet | Progress

Parks Seminar 2023

Going back to nature



Wednesday 15 March 2023
Etihad Stadium, Manchester



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