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Parks Seminar 2023

Going back to nature



Wednesday 15 March 2023

Etihad Stadium, Manchester

Programme

9:00 Registration and exhibition viewing

10:00 *Session One*

Apse state of the market parks and greenspaces report 2023

- Results, analysis and trends.
- Future issues for the management of parks and greenspaces

Speaker: Wayne Priestley, APSE Principal Advisor

The creative use of digital technology with communities to support urban nature recovery - apse parks and greenspaces innovation award winner 2022

- Communicating changes to grassland management across the city to support nature recovery.
- The importance of partnership with environmental and social charities, education and the cultural sectors to bring about change.
- The benefits achieved both environmental and social.

Speaker: Zoe Sydenham, Natural Infrastructure Projects and Partnerships Manager, Plymouth City Council

Creating a natural health service by providing nature-rich greenspace

- The desire to provide spaces for wildlife-rich habitats and opportunities for people to reconnect with the natural environment.
- Creating Woodlands, grasslands, wetland and scrubland, community orchards and community growing areas together with looking at the feasibility of reintroducing key species.
- The wider environmental benefits achieved

Speakers: David Winslow, Community Parks Officer, Derby City Council and Katherine Clarke, Strategic Lead - Urban Rewilding, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

11:15 Tea/coffee and exhibition viewing

Audience question and answer session

11:45 *Session two*

5,000 trees and 5,000 native wildflower plants a year – establishing a local provenance tree nursery to help meet Denbighshire's climate and ecological emergency plans.

- Woodlands, wildflower meadows and roadside nature reserves.
- Increasing opportunities for biodiversity and securing the future of local species.
- Successes and future plans.

Speaker: Liam Blazey, Swyddog Bioamrywiaeth / Biodiversity Officer, Cygnor Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire County Council

Gathering Ground at Hillsborough Park

- Identifying the problems facing the park.
- Unlocking funding through partnership working.
- Developing an Action plan.
- Outcomes and benefits achieved.

Speaker Stuart Turner Service Manager, Green & Open Spaces, Sheffield City Council

Green-tech working towards sustainable landscapes

- Working within the landscape and amenity sector
- The evolution of tree planting products
- Where wildflowers can make a difference
- The importance of green spaces in urban settings

Speaker Roger McGivern, Sales Manager, Green-tech Ltd

Audience question and answer session

13:00 Lunch and exhibition viewing

14:00 *Session three*

Chair Mo Baines, Chief Executive, APSE

Parks and countryside career development pathways – creating a future for parks and greenspaces staff

- Designing a bespoke programme of in-house short modules, mentoring and structured assignments,
- The importance of Mentoring, tutoring and workplace assignments in developing future Parks Team Leaders.
- Future aspirations and opportunities.

Speaker: Matt Humble, Strategic Manager for Parks & Countryside Services, Wirral Council

The need for trees and woodlands strategies to ensure the future resilience of local and national woodlands

- Local authority Woodlands –the need for plan for their futures.
- Why local authorities need to have a Trees and Woodlands Strategy.

Speaker: Jon Stokes Director of Trees, Science and Research, The Tree Council

Biodiversity net gain – understanding the opportunities for parks and greenspace managers.

- Biodiversity Net Gain and its relevance to parks and greenspaces.
- Increasing the awareness and understanding of the opportunities presented.
- APSE's Biodiversity Net Gain Training Course

Speaker: Fiona Sutton-Wilson, Head of APSE Training and Amy Caldwell, Senior Training Officer, APSE

Audience question and answer session

15:30 Seminar close

Seminar Objectives

It has been recognised that our public parks and the wider green and blue infrastructure are continuing to play a critical role in maintaining the nation's mental and physical health and overall wellbeing. By providing places for everyday exercise, and recreation, parks (both urban and countryside) have shown themselves to be a vital part of our lives. Growingly there is a growing recognition about the biodiversity opportunities our parks and greenspaces offer and how through some changes in management practices these opportunities can be taken.

Despite these benefits, there is still a great deal of pessimism about the future funding of our parks, and despite Government's recent funding announcements, there is still a long way to go to make up the losses experienced over the last decade to parks budgets.

Whilst the seminar will touch on some of these issues, it will take a more up-beat approach to the future of our parks and greenspaces by looking at new park developments, innovative and award-winning techniques which are engaging local communities to become more involved together with ways in which our parks and greenspaces can be preserved, protected and regenerated.

The seminar will also look at how more environmentally practices are paying dividends for the nation's biodiversity and the wider environment.

Critically the seminar will also look at how existing parks and greenspace staff can be trained and sustained on a long-term basis by improving skills and knowledge in an area where attracting new staff is becoming difficult.

And finally, the oncoming requirements of Biodiversity Net Gain will also be addressed via the creation of a new training programme from APSE which aims to help parks and greenspace managers engage in the opportunities presented by Biodiversity Net Gain agreements.

APSE's 2023 Annual Parks Seminar intends to give colleagues greater hope, by exposing them to innovative approaches to increasing, improving and securing the long-term future of these valuable environmental assets and the wider ecosystem they inhabit.

Therefore, this seminar is a **MUST ATTEND EVENT** for those officers and members who want to look at new ways of understanding and coping with parks and greenspace issues, whether these be financial, environmental, technological or social.

The Speakers

This seminar has been designed to look at as wide a range of topics affecting parks as possible, but with a particular emphasis on: increasing and improving the quality of parks and areas of greenspace, looking how such areas can be managed to improve levels of biodiversity, developing strategies and policies

both for parks, but also for the ongoing development of the staff who manage and maintain them.

- **APSE** will introduce the seminar by outlining some of the key issues for parks managers through providing feedback on the results of APSE State of the Market report 2023.

- **Plymouth City Council** will explain how through the use of digital technology they are creating more nature friendly and more interactive greenspaces together with the benefits this approach brings.

- **Derby Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust** will be explaining how their innovative rewilding of a major urban park has not only brought increased opportunities for biodiversity, but also increased their residents abilities to reconnect with the natural environment.

- **Denbighshire County Council** will be explaining the importance of growing its own stocks of trees and wildflowers as a response to meeting climate change and ecological emergency requirements but also from a achieving a sustainable and bio-secure source of plant stocks.



Booking Information

Sheffield City Council have made significant improvements to a major urban park through innovative partnership working which as a result has breathed new life into the parks and greatly improved the visitor experience.

Green-tech the award winning landscaping supplier which provides innovative products that enhance, protect and improve plants and their environment will be speaking on how they can help local authorities develop more sustainable landscapes, whether it be tree planting in a woodland, creating an urban landscape or planting a biodiverse wildflower meadow.

At a time when nationally local authorities are struggling with recruiting and retaining horticultural staff, **Wirral Council** has developed a parks and countryside career development pathway which is helping develop and improve the employment experiences of their parks and greenspaces staff.

Trees and Woodlands have grown in strategic importance over the past few decades as their importance to addressing the impacts of climate change has been recognised. **The Tree Council** has therefore developed a Trees and Woodlands Strategy Toolkit which will help provide valuable guidance to local authorities to grow and manage a healthy and resilient treescape across public and private land.

Biodiversity Net Gain is a term which has appeared more and more on local authority planning and greenspace management agendas.

Despite this its actual purpose and the opportunities it can provide are still not widely understood. **APSE** has therefore developed a training course which will help parks and greenspace managers understand both the concept and the opportunities it may bring.

Venue

Etihad Stadium

Ashton New Road

Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance, delegates' documentation, lunches and light refreshments.

APSE member delegate fee: **£184 + VAT**

Non member delegates fee: **£272 + VAT**

Commercial delegates: **£389 + VAT**

[Click to reserve your place on this event](#)

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to

mkenny@apse.org.uk. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for nonattendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or mode of delivery should this become necessary. If due to emergency action by UK Governments/Administrations or Public Agencies this event is postponed, for example for reasons of public health and safety, the organisers will transfer your booking to the replacement event or provide a credit voucher against a future event booking.