

Changing the Climate of Traditional Parks Management

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Introducing Wirral Resilient Parks Project

Funded by CLASP - an Environment Agency and NWIEP funded climate change support programme for North West local authorities and public sector partners.

- **Project Scope and Stages**
- **Link to Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy**



THE
ENVIRONMENT
PARTNERSHIP



CLASP.  **WIRRAL**

WHAT WILL CLIMATE CHANGE MEAN FOR YOUR PARK?

What will

More rainfall in Winter...



...higher temperatures



...& hotter Summers

Mean for

- *Grass areas and sports pitches?*
- *Drainage?*
- *Play areas?*
- *Plants and trees?*
- *How people use and enjoy parks?*
- *The work of Parks staff and Friends groups?*



Building climate change resilience into operational management

Grassland, Playing Fields, Meadows and Heathland

Intensively used amenity grass

- Drainage
- Irrigation
- Aeration
- Grass sward

Semi-natural grassland, meadows and heathland

- Diminish surface water run-off
- Differential mowing



Building climate change resilience into operational management

Planting



Shrub and tree planting

- Carbon store
 - Shade
- Forage food

Species selection

- Drought and storm tolerance
 - Wide range

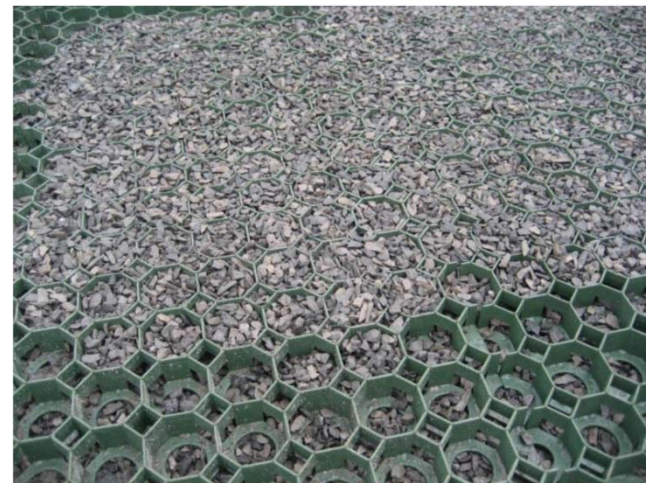
Establishment

- Moisture, aeration and nutrients
 - Granular polymers
 - Mulching

Building Climate Change resilience into operational management

Surfacing, irrigation and drainage

- Path network
- Permeability and resilience
- Drainage charges
- Playable and useable surfaces
- Link to Playing Pitch Strategy
- Irrigation
- Above ground and below ground options



Building Climate Change resilience into operational management

Play areas, street furniture, equipment and lighting

- Shade
- Use of timber
- Low energy or solar lighting
- Equipment to encourage 'social' use
e.g. outdoor gym



The wider climate mitigation value of parks and green spaces

- Urban cooling in Summer
- Microclimate moderation
- Evapotranspiration
- Flood risk management
- Carbon footprint reduction:
'leisure miles', 'food miles'
and more...
- Exemplar and education projects



Example pilot park study: Wallasey Central Park



Learning points from the project

- People are interested in climate change!
- An opportunity to engage communities about parks, including Friends groups and young people
- The importance of good parks 'on the doorstep'
- Ensuring the additional use of parks e.g. in warmer weather is 'social'
- Drainage, irrigation and more...
- Low tech to high tech solutions
- A menu of possibilities to develop as exemplar projects
- The 'Muddy Dog Principle'!



For more information

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Wirral Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
(Policies 4.2a-4.2c):
www.wirral.gov.uk

Wirral Resilient Parks Project/CLASP
www.claspinfo.org/news/climate-resilient-parks

Climate Change
www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk/climatechange

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