

BIRMINGHAM PARKS & NATURE CONSERVATION



The recruitment and use of community volunteers in Birmingham's Parks

Joe Hayden
Ranger Service Manager
Parks & Nature Conservation





Birmingham Parks Division is responsible for.

3,700 ha of public open space

Our 591 parks include. . . .

1 National Nature Reserve

10 Local Nature Reserves

6 Country Parks

176 SINC and SLINC

237 Playgrounds

115 allotment sites (7,600 plots)

**.attracting around
75,000,000 visits per year
(MENE Data)**



The Parks Team

Constituency Park Managers

Business Management Unit

Ranger Service

Allotment Service



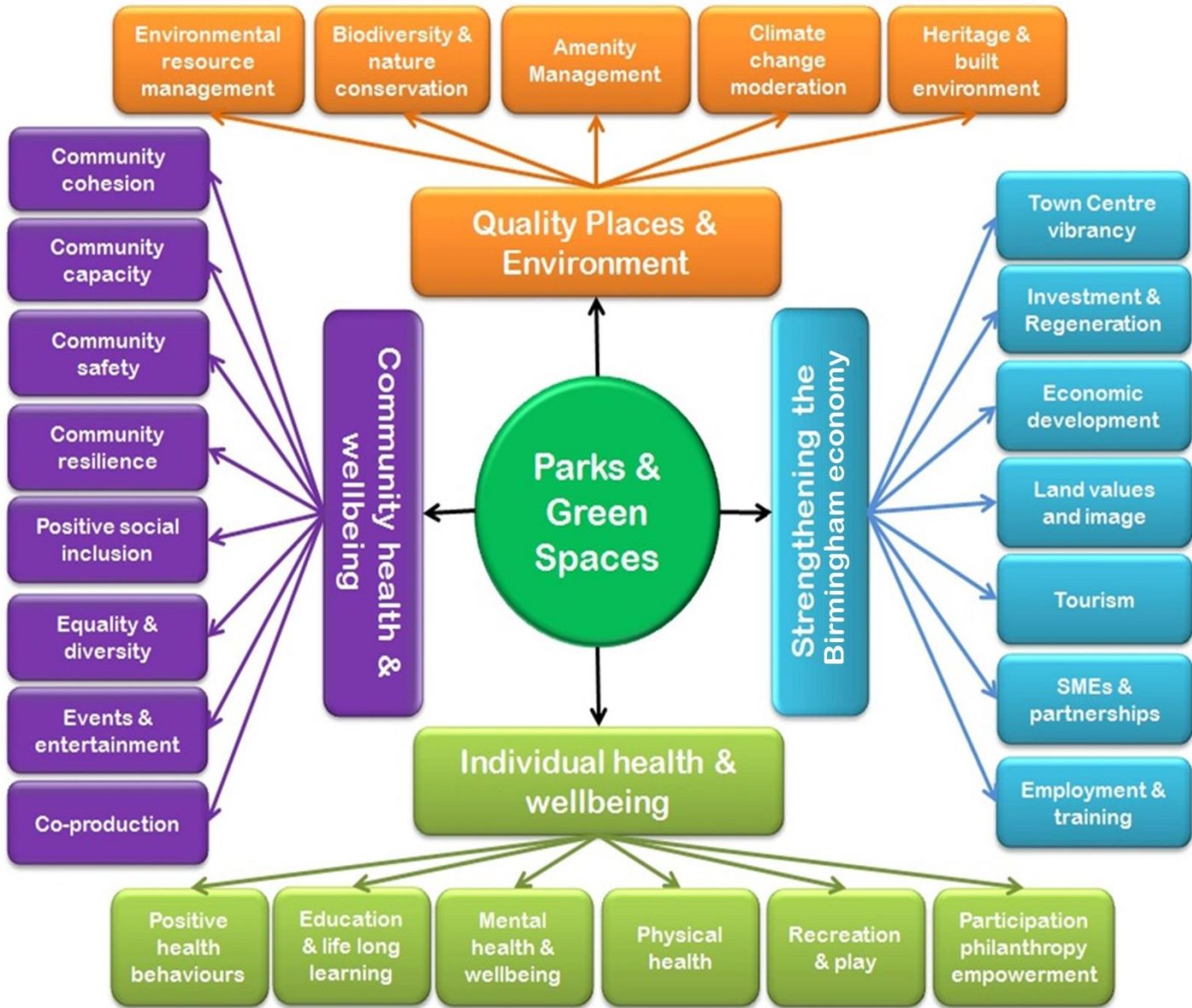
Woodland Management and Tree Officers

Playground Services

Landscape Practice Group

Service Providers (+Park Keepers)





The Ranger Hubs

Below are the new constituency Ranger Hubs. The offices for each of the hubs are located at;

- Sutton park
(Sutton Coldfield and Erdington hub)
- Edgbaston Reservoir
(Perry Barr and Ladywood hub)
- Sheldon Country Park
(Hodge Hill and Yardley hub)
- Kings Heath Park
(Selly Oak and Hall Green hub)
- Woodgate Valley Country Park
(Edgbaston hub)
- Lickey Hills Country Park
(Northfield hub)



Opportunities for getting involved through volunteering

As an individual working alongside the rangers on a regular basis

This could be helping inside a
Visitor Centre on reception,

Assisting the rangers out on site

Helping to look after animals at
Sheldon Farm or Birmingham
Wildlife Conservation Park

Or as part of the D of E or other scheme

Last year 940 individuals gave 15,865 hours of volunteer time



Opportunities for getting involved through volunteering

As a group taking part in a ranger led practical conservation sessions.

Open to all through regular weekly or monthly advertised sessions.

Or for community and or corporate groups at their request

Last year 2,219 individuals gave 22,650 hours of volunteer time



Totals for Ranger led volunteering = 3,159 individuals 38,515 volunteer hours



Opportunities for getting involved through volunteering

As a Friends Group working under their own supervision

Tasks range from litter picking to habitat management activities.

All tasks are agreed, leaders are competent, tasks take place in an agreed manner at an agreed time of year.

All groups working in this way have their own Public Liability Insurance and will have received Risk Assessment and basic First Aid training funded by the City.

Last year Friends groups recorded 15,000 voluntary hours of activities on sites.



Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF)

Birmingham has around 150 active “Friends of Parks” groups that come together under the banner of BOSF

BOSF offer advice & help to their member groups:

Starting a new group
Where to go for funding
Helping groups fill out funding bids
Answering enquiries
Signposting to other agencies
Sites under threat advice
Conferences
Events & Shows
Networking & Communication
Information Sheet
Shrub Bed Project
Be Active - Out and About



.....and getting out and making a difference on local parks



Friends Groups do much more than conservation work



Providing opportunities for communities to organise and deliver their own events and fund-raising activities in our parks



Service menu

- Benefits
- Business and Economy
- Community and Living
- Council and Democracy
- Council Tax
- Education, Learning and Libraries
- Environment
- Health and Social Care
- Housing
- Leisure and Tourism

Parks and Open Spaces

Volunteering and Friends in Parks

- Friends of Kingfisher Country Park
- Friends of Sutton Park

Planning and Building

Streets, Transport and Parking

Waste and Recycling

Other Useful Sites

My Local Information

Find local facilities and services

Find

Volunteering In Birmingham Parks



The Parks and Nature Conservation division is committed to assisting community and voluntary sector groups to take a greater interest and active role in the improvement, management, use, access and protection of the greenspaces and facilities that we manage.

We recognise that there can be situations in which volunteers help can make an appropriate and significant contribution to the work and service objectives of Parks and in particular the Ranger Service.

Who can volunteer?

As a general rule volunteers working with Parks must be over 17 years of age. Young people under the age of 17 are welcome to attend events and activities but cannot become a volunteer.

Volunteers may be described as individuals who put their experience, knowledge and skills at the disposal of an organisation, free of charge, with the primary aim of helping an organisation to achieve its service objectives.

We are committed to developing and maintaining an organisation in which differing ideas, abilities, backgrounds and needs are fostered and valued, and where those with diverse backgrounds and experiences are able to participate and contribute.

Volunteers will be involved in work which adds value to that of existing staff.

To find out more about volunteering and what is involved, or to request a placement please follow this link [Volunteering In Birmingham Parks](#)



Looking for things to do in Birmingham?

[Submit your own event](#)

[Events in your area](#)

[Search Events](#)



Capturing a wider audience -

Well Being, Well Managed, Well Used, and Used Well

Birmingham Parks Well Being



“There are few public health initiatives that have greater potential for improving health and wellbeing than increasing the activity levels of the population of England.”
 Chief Medical Officer

HEALTH BENEFITS
 Evidence shows that a brisk walk every day, in a local green space, can reduce the risk of:


- heart attack by 50%
- strokes by 50%
- diabetes by 50%
- bone fracture by 33%
- Alzheimer’s by 25%

Our health partners



www.birmingham.gov.uk/parks

Birmingham Parks Well Managed




“Investment in urban green space and trees provides carbon free air conditioning and flood defence. So looking after our environment, working with nature-investing in our natural capital-makes economic sense.”
 European Parliament speech

HEALTH BENEFITS

- Over 90% of the UK population live in cities.
- Urban green space represents 14% of the urban land area - much of the quality of life depends on this 14%.
- Trees cut out particulate air pollution by 25%

Our health partners



www.birmingham.gov.uk/parks

Birmingham Parks Well Used



“Social Capital helps people live longer and healthier lives. Well designed walkable neighbourhoods with access to green space have been shown to develop this social capital.”
 American Journal of Public Health

HEALTH BENEFITS

- In a national survey 97% of people said that parks and trees help make their neighbourhood a much nicer place to live;
- 82% reported that parks were the focal point for communities
- 91% of people believe that public parks improve their quality of life.

Our health partners



www.birmingham.gov.uk/parks

Birmingham Parks Used Well



“Green spaces need to be easily accessible by everyone and we should re-design them for what they are - A Natural Health Service with potential to transform our health and wellbeing.”
 Acting Chair of Natural England

HEALTH BENEFITS

- Where people have good access to green spaces they are 24% more likely to be physically active
- People who live more than 1/2 mile from a park are 27% more likely to be overweight or obese
- Only 21% of UK children play regularly outdoors - 71% of their parents played every day.

Our health partners



www.birmingham.gov.uk/parks

Growing medical evidence shows that access to the natural environment improves health and wellbeing, prevents disease and helps people recover from illness





Delivered by



/ NATURE



WOODLAND ACTIVITY

Monday 22 September,
10:30AM

**Balaam's Wood,
Birmingham**

More effort

» MORE INFO



Birmingham Parks Ranger Service Events & Activities



Northfield Ranger Service

Habitat Heroes: Volunteer Conservation Workdays

Every Tuesday 10am- 2pm and the following Saturdays:

Sat 15th March, Sat 29th March, Sat 26th April, Sat 10th May, Sat 5th July 2014

Interested in nature and love being outdoors? Want to get some fresh air, exercise and find out more about your local area? Meet nice people, learn new skills and feel like you are giving something back to your local environment?

Get out and about and join the Rangers to help care for the Lickey Hills Country Park and other green spaces in the Northfield Constituency.

Meet at the Lickey Hills Visitor Centre, Warren Lane (unless we pre-arrange to meet at another location – **ring for details or join our email contact list for updates**)

Wear suitable outdoor clothing that you don't mind getting mucky and sturdy footwear. Tasks include habitat management, path/step maintenance and more. Full training will be given and tools and equipment supplied. **Contact the Rangers on 0121 445 6036 or Email:**

lickey.hub@birmingham.gov.uk

Birmingham
Parks
birmingham.gov.uk/parks

Birmingham Parks Ranger Service



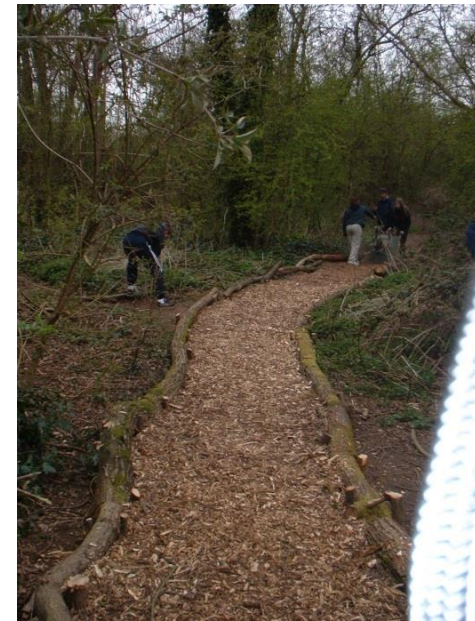
"Linking People and Nature"



Active Parks/Park Lives Outputs 2014-15

2,600 sessions attracting 30,000 participants taking part in 51,000 hours of activity across 63 parks

...of which Rangers delivered 622 sessions, for 4,772 participants, recording 7,573 hours of activity.



Celebrating community involvement and achievement



Birmingham IN BLOOM



Raising our profile . . . a work in progress

Well Being, Well Managed, Well Used, and Used Well

Focus on the environmental issues affecting your community



BATTLE TO SAVE OUR HEDGEROWS

By Sophie Cross

A NATIONAL biodiversity survey is uncovering the diverse range of habitats in England's hedgerows and the importance they have for the environment. Birmingham City Council is leading a campaign to protect them.

The survey supported the Open Air Foundation (OAF) and is part of a wider effort to increase awareness about the value of hedgerows. It is also part of a wider effort to increase awareness about how best to protect them and how they can be used.

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Pollution firm fined

A FIRM that has caused a major pollution problem in Birmingham has been fined for its actions.

The firm, which is based in Birmingham, has been fined for causing a major pollution problem in the city. The fine is the result of a long legal battle.



IT'S ALL Yours

5 PAGES OF NEWS YOU MAKE

Doing the spadework

your SCHOOLS



RESEARCHED, WRITTEN AND EDITED BY THE BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM.

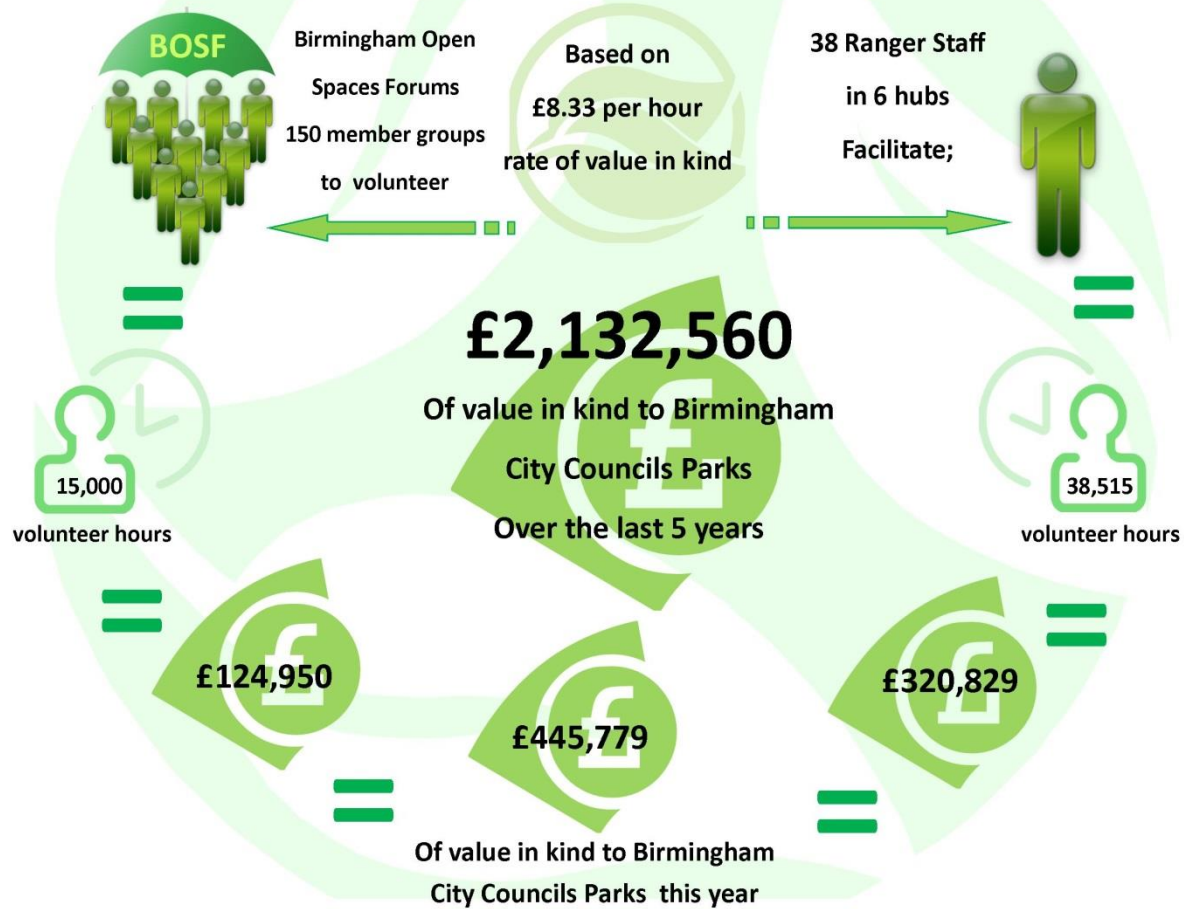
THE BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TEAM HAS BEEN WORKING WITH SCHOOLS ACROSS THE CITY TO COLLECT STORIES AND PHOTOS OF THE BEST PROJECTS.

THESE STORIES AND PHOTOS WILL BE USED TO INSPIRE OTHER SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED IN THE BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM.



Birmingham Parks and Nature Conservation

Volunteering outputs 2014/2015



Based on Natural England's volunteer value in kind rate of £8.33 per hour and Core City's standard volunteer day of 5 hours



Volunteers give their time freely

The sessions need to be worthwhile, rewarding, interesting, productive, educational, inclusive, safe, and pitched at the correct level for the ability of the participants.



But most of all, the sessions need to be fun and enjoyable



