

Nottingham City Council, Parks and Open Spaces Social Entrepreneurship & Commercialisation.



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Investment Funding

**APSE Best Service Team,
Parks, Grounds and Horticulture** ★★★★★



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Headlines

- Over the past 8 years, Nottingham has delivered a £250million reduction to its core budget and we have had to find a further £30million in the next year and most likely similar level savings each year up to 2019/20.
- Gross expenditure has reduced year on year since 2009.
- The service Budget has reduced from £8million to £5.07million.
- During this time Income has significantly increased, creating a **net service cost of around £404k**.
- The team brings in **92%** of service costs.
- Whilst our development team generate £12.5 external capital funding for every £1 of Council funds.
- External funding since 2007 totals £39 million, achieved through bids, commercial activities and partnerships.
- Quality services have been retained and service improvements continue.

The Service

Parks and Green Spaces

Total Number = 678

Total Hectares = 1,920ha



Play Areas

Total Number = 105

77 improved since 2010 - 15 play areas to be improved before 2019

28 Outdoor Gyms



Nature Reserves

Total Number 'natural and semi natural' = 117

Total Hectares = 358ha

Natural England LNR access PI = 0.5ha per 1,000 pop

No LNRS = 12 - 4 new in the last 2 years

No Of SSSI'S = 3



Allotments

Total Number plots = 2737

Direct let plots = 507 (52 derelict at Sneinton Dale)

Association Managed = 1535

St Ann's HLF Restoration Project = 695



The Service

Cemeteries and Crematorium

Crematorium = 1
Operational Cemeteries = 3
Closed Cemeteries = 17



Nottingham In Traffic Island and Parks Sponsorship

No Sponsored sites = 35
New advertising platforms developed on Parks



Trees and Woodlands

No of ornamental trees = 100,000
Hectares of Woodlands = 155ha



Woodthorpe Nursery Production and Horticultural Retail

- 2010 The Nursery was producing 80% of its plants just to serve our own internal needs. All these plants were plug purchased and grown on in our nursery.
- Following a reduction in the Parks budget the scale of our internal production needs significantly reduced leaving the nursery staff and future of the nursery very uncertain.
- What we recognised very early on is that we had a fantastic legacy of Horticultural Excellence – over 20 years of National and Internal Bloom Success. - Strong Brand
- We had good growing facilities but they needed modernisation to maximise efficiencies
- We have a great team with skills and knowledge.



Nursery Production

Now producing 80% of plants for other Local Authorities, & local Landscape contractors.
Including:-

We now produce around 1 million plants per year 30% of plants are grown direct from seed
This year plants will be grown in a 100% peat free compost

The service has been refocused and transformed into a fully modernised plant production unit including:-

LED propagation

Automated compost bail handling

Automated transplanting and potting on machines

The service has moved from having a £20k subsidy per year to now contributing a surplus.



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Woodthorpe Retail Garden Centre



Shop opened in November 2015
£50k Invest to Save - 5 year repayment plan
30% increase in turnover over 3yrs
Now delivering over £100k per year
Major period of Christmas sales over the next month

Potting Shed Café



Next phase of development will see the construction of a small café

- Regenerated abandoned / underused buildings.
- Construction in partnership with local construction college and a small local building company.
- 5yr Invest to save
- Anticipated Business plan forecast around £8-10k after costs but essential to driving footfall to the retail Garden Centre.



Parks Cafés

Existing Park Cafe's

Woodthorpe Grange - £200k

Forest Recreation Ground - £1million
pavilion restoration and part of a wider
£5.2Million HLF project.



Recently Opened Cafe's

The Arboretum Café Wren, S106 and Insurance Funds

Wollaton 508 Café £130k Wren S106 and Area Committee



Proposed Cafe's

Woodthorpe Potting Shed Café - £70k Invest to Save

Colwick Adventure High Ropes Adrenalin Centre and

Café £500k Invest to Save



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Nottingham Landscape Services

Established in September 2016

Small highly productive team

Commercial Landscape Construction and Grounds Maintenance contracts

- Schools Grounds contracts have continued to grow in the face of challenging and unpredictable annual contracts.
- The service has also secured major contracts with
- NHS City and QMC Hospitals
- Salvation Army Social Housing areas
- Highways England
- Numerous internal landscape contracts





Construction/ maintenance has grown from £50k to £450k per year.

Cemetery and Cremation Services

- Fees & Charges – comprehensive review of fees each year
- Land use – all areas of land reviewed to ensure best use and to maximise space available including provision of new burial systems to be sold as family plots
- Challenge to Business rates - £40k per year saving



Parks Development and Investment Funding

- During the last 10 years, strategic development work has helped identify priorities, engaged the public and secured political support. Over the last 5 years, £39 million of external income has been secured from a wide range of national and local funding organisations including:-
- Heritage Lottery Fund £9.3m
- ERDF £5.7m
- Football Association, Foundation & Premier League £1.5m
- DCMS Play Funds £1.4m
- Big Lottery play £5,000
- WREN £2.2m
- Veolia £192,500
- NHS £316,000
- Police Crime Commissioner £150,000
- S106 £3m
- Area Capital Funds £2.1m (used as match funding)



Capital Projects - Highfields Park

HLF Restoration Project

£4.8million restoration of Highfields Park. It includes refurbishing and repairing historic buildings; restoring the lake, and new features including adventure golf. £3.2million was awarded through the HLF and Big Lottery Fund's Parks for People programme, with funding from Nottingham City Council and partners, including the University of Nottingham. The community get involved through 'restoration rambles.' The University Conservation Society is amongst volunteers.



Partnership with Showcase Greens
Major Capital Investment
10 year lease
Annual rent and profit share

Sponsorship and Charitable Donations

Corporate Sponsorship

Island and Park Sponsorship have continued throughout the recessions and annually bring in up to £100,000.



Corporate Social Responsibility

An unprecedented level of volunteering led by the Ranger Service, which ran 156 volunteering sessions working with 1,286 volunteers from 35 community groups and corporate partners, giving an 'in kind' value of £69,400.



Nottingham Open Space Forum

Registered Charity number 1176727

Nottingham Open Spaces Forum is an independent charity which brings together Friends of Groups, other volunteers, community gardeners, partner organisations and other stakeholders to create a support network.

The Forum aims to work together and in partnership with Nottingham City Council and other public landowners to promote, protect, conserve and enhance the open and green spaces of our City.

Key benefits

- Improved communication
- Sharing good practice amongst the friends groups
- Volunteers training / development / Insurance
- Advocacy / Local Voice
- Fund Raising / Charitable Giving



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NOSF Charitable Giving

Nottinghamshire WW1 Centenary Roll of Honour Memorial Project

- **Project Cost £350k**
- **Funding**
 - £200k Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City Councils
 - £70k All 7 Borough and District Councils in Nottinghamshire
 - 70k Charitable donations / On Line Giving page managed by NOSF
 - Final 10K to be confirmed





<http://nosf.org.uk/roll-of-honour.html>



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Green Flag Awards

- Nottingham has 64 Green Flags - 36 for parks and open spaces, 4 Green Heritage Awards, 21 Green Flag Community awards, plus three contributed by the universities.
- Citizen Satisfaction 96% 2016/17



Awards

Since 2009 the Parks and Open Spaces Team have won:-

4 Apse Best parks grounds and Horticultural Service team of the year Awards

2009 , 2012, 2013, 2104

2016 the Service also won the Best Private / Public Sector Partnership Award

Future Vision

1. Continue to Deliver our 2010-2020 Breathing Space Strategic Framework.
2. Deliver our Manifesto Commitments and Corporate Priorities.
3. Continue to Innovate and remodel the service in order to generate more income and deliver our budget savings targets without reducing quality or service delivery.
4. Continued drive towards to reduce council subsidy and achieve full cost recovery.

Thankyou

Eddie Curry

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Parks and Open Spaces

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