

The Parks Alliance

The Voice of UK Parks

APSE Seminar 1st October 2015

**Green Space –
Why we can't live without it**



What is The Parks Alliance?

- The voice of UK parks
- 40 members representing the people and organisations that create, maintain, invest in and use the public green spaces at the heart of British life.
- Currently representing more than 150,000 employees and members central to delivering UK parks including in:
local authorities, national and local friends groups, commercial and membership organisations for Horticulture, Landscape, Arboriculture, Groundspeople and Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Greenspace organisations.



What is The Parks Alliance trying to achieve?

- Protect and improve the country's public parks for future generations.
- Increase understanding among national politicians and policy makers of the value of public parks to the current and future quality of life and health in the UK.
- Secure and boost the existing world-leading skills and expertise delivering UK parks as well as quality training and employment opportunities.
- Influence national, regional and local policies and funding decisions that impact on UK parks.



What will The Parks Alliance do to achieve this?

- Government Minister with lead responsibility for parks.
- Champion innovative approaches to park management, design and public engagement.
- Connect and facilitate collaboration between the people and groups that care passionately about parks, including between local authorities, contractors, NGOs and friends groups.
- Through a funding and delivery partnership, and with the support of friends groups across the UK, aim to establish a single 'Park Champion' within each local authority elected membership.



What will The Parks Alliance do to achieve this?

- Support efforts by local authorities and share information ; for example did you know that Community Infrastructure Levies and Section 106 funds can be used to maintain and protect existing local parks.
- Propose and lobby for the establishment of a national agency for parks to monitor the quality standards of UK parks and their funding. The agency would also generate and support the implementation of solutions to improve parks and deal with funding issues.
- Provide a single trusted source of information and case studies on UK parks to enable partners to easily demonstrate the importance of parks and argue for their funding and protection.



Parks Alliance current advocacy

- Minister for Parks – Marcus Jones MP
- Saltex Birmingham 4th November 2015
- Green Flag awards
- Future Parks Advisory Panel
- London GI Task Force
- Value of parks for children's health
- Park Watch launch on our website



Your support now

- Saltex 4th November 2015
- Park Watch - testimonials
- LA Park Champions
- National Agency for Parks
- Single source of parks info & examples – abstracts
- Sign up as a supporter
- Join twitter



The Parks Alliance

The voice of UK Parks, representing the people and organisations that create, maintain, invest in and use the public green spaces that we are proud to have at the heart of British life. At a time when resources committed to parks and green spaces are under threat like never before, we need to ensure our visitors and users have quality facilities now and for the future.



And finally...

- Make two commitments; sign up on the web site and provide at least one Park Watch testament.
- Thank you for listening – any questions?

