

In this challenging year the Parks & Countryside Service delivered the following improvements led by the Projects Team with support from colleagues across the council, specialist contractors, community partners and the committed body of hardworking volunteers that contribute to Sheffield's rich variety of green and open spaces.

The work outlined below has helped to provide new facilities, improve the quality and create welcoming green and open spaces for the people of Sheffield to play, relax, socialise, and exercise but most importantly, enjoy.

2020 **SUCCESSES**



GENERAL CEMETERY Ward: Nether Edge and Sharrow

Capital works: appointment of consultant team and detailed design stage with lots of stakeholder engagement, all managed remotely – in particular structural investigations of the catacombs and TV coverage!





Activity Programme: Appointment of two new team members and delivery of package of distanced and digital activities promoting new ways of volunteering and engagement working closely with Sheffield General Cemetery Trust, Whole Site Management Group and local community.

PONDEROSA



PARSON CROSS Ward: Firth Park





Back in January contractors the much needed began improvement works to the skate park at Parson Cross. This the existing tired facility and building a new concrete area for 'all wheels' which can be used by BMX, Skateboard, Scoot, Roller Blades and Wheelchair MX.

SHIREBROOK VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE

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Ward: Woodhouse

2020 saw a new lease of life given to the visitor centre at Shirebrook Valley. This involved.....



Next Stage

Delivering visitor access, experience and environmental improvements to en'able people to enjoy and learn about local wildlife and heritage and to benefit their physical and mental health.





- A new education room, which can be opened into one large space
- A smaller meeting room Interior decor with welcoming
- colours that have been designed to be friendly for a wide variety of users.
- New accessible doors and secure shuttering



£40k has been secured as match funding from Veolia Environmental Trust to deliver this phase.

Many thanks to Woodhouse Community Forum, Shire Brook Valley Heritage Group, Shire Brook Valley Conservation Group and Friends of Birley Spa for your enthusiasm and involvement with the próject.

PLAY IMPROVEMENTS



HILLSBOROUGH 'All Wheels'

in partnership with



We've now secured over £250k towards a new Bike Park facility due to be completed in Spring '21. Working with partners at Access Sport and British Cycling the facility will be supported by an activity programme to encourage cycling, develop skills, and build a community club linked to the facility.

HILLSBOROUGH PARK

Ward: Hillsborough

Work is underway to begin a wide ranging stakeholder and community consultation exercise for a 5 year Forward Plan for Hillsborough Park with the ambition of achieving Green Flag Status for the park.



Playground

In partnership with the Friends of Hillsborough Park phase 1 of the playground improvements has now been completed.





During 2020 we were able to facilitate consultation [online] through the corporate Citizen Space platform. The COVID situation has really challenged the team to innovate and widen the methods of reaching the people of Sheffield to engage meaningfully in how people want to see their green space's improved and managed.



'My Park, My Health'

survey was created for the projects with Public Health Funding which asked people how the parks played a role in their Health & Wellbeing and how the spaces could be improved to support

Concord Park 72 Responses Ecclesfield Park 273 Responses **Oxley Park** 147 Responses



Consultation was also progressed for;

- Hillsborough 'All Wheels' 833 Responses
- Sheffield Botanical Gardens 218 Responses Education & Engagement
- Spider Park
- **79** Responses
- Shire Brook Valley Visitor 136 Responses Centre
- Sycamore Park Improvements 71 Responses
- Sheffield General Cemetery
 - **140** Responses
- safeguarding the next 100 years Across all consultations the following common themes emerged Many people felt the local greenspace was an important meeting place for the community Across sites people wanted more areas for picnics Before Improvement to **IT** existing 'play' areas continued to be a priority for To what extent is the park important to your **Physical** Health? people ^{Fo} what extent is the park important to your **Mental** Wellbeing? More wildflower and wildlife promoting habitats Not important portant

OXLEY PARK Ward: Stocksbridge & Upper Don

Working with the Friends of Oxley Park (FOOP) & For Stocksbridge Leisure Centre Trust (4SLC)

£500k has been secured from the Towns Fund accelerated funding pot.

This will enable the delivery of a new Playground, Path Improvements and expansion of the car park which will improve access for users of the park and leisure centre.

taken place to transform the

leisure centre





Construction works on this is to start early January 2021. The next phase of this project is to work with the local community to progress the 'All Wheels' facility that will replace the existing skate ramps that are in poor condition and difficult for all ages/skill levels to utilise.

Green Flag Award

The hard work of staff, Friends Groups and volunteers was recognised in October by the environmental charity 'Keep Britain Tidy' who once again awarded us 13 Green Flags for sites in Sheffield.



The success was marked by lighting some of our sites green, Botanical Gardens Pavilion, Weston Park Bandstand, the Winter Gardens and Ecclesall Woods Discovery Centre.



ffield

Despite the challenges, Sheffield's



most prevalent response was 'Important' followed by 'very important'



Carterknowle Park Ward: Ecclesall

400metres of woodland paths were built in 2020 which has made the woodland usable in the winter months- for residents and for school cross country. A new entrance has been designed and will hopefully be built in 2021.

Surveys have also been carried out with the aim of resolving the drainage issues.

Site Maintenance

Ward: Across All

One of the biggest challenges this year was keeping on top of the dropped litter where people were not using the bins or if full not taking it home with them. Parks staff maintain and empty 648 bins across the city.



Many thanks to the volunteers who have * assisted in keeping the parks and green spaces tidy.





With help from local residents the team regularly returned areas to their usual standard

Standard



green and open spaces quality levels maintain a high standard, with 68% of sites meeting the Standard. Sheffield This is achieved through positive site management and ongoing development/improvement projects.

The support of our Friends Groups, stakeholders and volunteers has also been during invaluable these difficult times.

The target for next year is for 70% of our sites to meet the Sheffield Standard.





During 2020 once the Playgrounds were allowed to re-open the Playgrounds Team and Maintenance staff planned and delivered a robust cleaning regime to protect people from the potential transmission of coronavirus. They carried out a staggering **200** cleans per week!





Maintenance Stats

5,486 beds have been maintained. Park users have fedback in consultations that 'flower beds' add colour to the sites and have been a feature of parks since Victorian times.

512,959 m2

of hedge has been cut and maintained, these provide valuable habitat to wildlife and helps define boundaries of sites.





This is the equivalent to 18,017 football pitches!

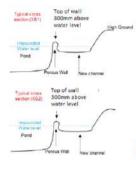


FORGE DAM

Ward: Fulwood

Agreement on the way forward for a technically specialist project working closely with Friends of Porter Valley

who have fundraised over £261,000 for the project, so that this project can be delivered in 2021.





Relaxed Mowing & Wildflower Ward: Across All



One of the measures introduced by the maintenance teams during the pandemic was the relaxation of existing mowing regimes. With staffing levels lower due to absence and shielding the team worked out which areas could be relaxed to allow for more wildflower to grow which has been a common request from the public throughout consultations. 105 acres have now been turned

over to relaxed mowing.



Community Tree Planting

The community tree planting programme was impacted heavily by the restrictions however the team worked hard to plant where possible.



- The team lead some COVID safe community planting at Worrall in December with 15 people volunteering and planting **700** trees. The team worked with Dore Primary School to plant **400** new trees, with the
- children learning about soils, worms and unearthing old pieces of pottery.

The team with the help of contractors, rangers and parks staff are on course to plant 10,000 trees this year!

Many thanks to Trees for Cities who are funding much of the planting this year.





JP NEXT IN 2021

planned, including;







