

Appendix 3

Oxford Green Spaces Strategy 2013–2027

Summary

The Green Spaces Strategy is a key document to show how and why Oxford’s parks and open spaces will be preserved, protected and enhanced over the years to come.

The vision is: “To provide world class parks and open spaces to enhance the quality of life of everyone living, visiting or working in Oxford”

The Green Spaces Strategy has been developed during 2011/12 using best practice guidance from CABE Space and GreenSpace. The strategy has been informed by the Oxford Green Space 2012 Update Report produced by URS (formerly Scott Wilson). The strategy explores the importance of parks and open spaces, which should not be underestimated. They are crucial for maintaining people’s **health and well-being**, allowing **biodiversity** to flourish, contributing to the local **economy**, providing stronger more engaged **communities**, helping to **adapt to and combat climate change**, adding quality to the built environment and protecting our **heritage**. It runs for 15 year so that it can provide a robust framework for resource prioritisation and informed planning decisions.

The strategy has been developed through consultation with organisations such as GreenSpace, Natural England, Campaign to Protect Rural England, Environment Agency, Oxford Preservation Trust, Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association, Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, The Oxford and District Federation of Allotment Associations and Inland Waterways Association amongst others. There has also been consultation with the general public and council employees.

GreenSpace, the national charity which works to improve parks and green spaces has provided the following quote. *“GreenSpace South East has worked collaboratively with Oxford City Council in the production of this Green Space Strategy. By choosing to work collaboratively Oxford City Council has ensured that this document follows available guidance and good practice. Reviewing progress and priorities at this point will continue to ensure that this strategy is a living document, reflective to the needs of city residents and business. I’m confident that this strategy will be well received by local people and the parks team are focussed on its delivery in the future.”* Michelle Parker. (2011). GreenSpace South East Manager

The strategy sets out six aims, which focus on provision, accessibility, quality, biodiversity, health and community engagement.

Aim 1	To establish a standard of green space provision to ensure that Oxford has an agreed amount of green spaces to meet existing and future needs of residents, workers and visitors.
Aim 2	To ensure everyone living, working and visiting in Oxford has easy access to open space.
Aim 3	To achieve high quality green spaces across Oxford, including spaces that are nationally recognised for their quality and attractions.
Aim 4	To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the city’s biodiversity, sustainability, heritage and culture.
Aim 5	To promote the central role that green spaces play in contributing to the city’s health and well-being.
Aim 6	To support community cohesion and community involvement in the design and stewardship of green spaces.

These objectives support the Council’s corporate plan outcome of Strong and Active Communities. Vibrant Sustainable Economy and Cleaner, Greener Oxford. In order to assess if the strategy is delivering on its objectives it will be reviewed and updated yearly.

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