

Community Engagement and Project Development for Platt Fields Park

Outline

This outline is intended to be a foundation for collaboration between the Community and Cultural Services, Park Services and interested community organisations/ individuals.

The overall outcome will be a park that is managed to the expectations of its users within the current environmental, social and economic restraints.

The overall aim is -

To maintain a healthy and productive green resource that is fit for the many purposes needed by Manchester citizens

To achieve this improvement a series of **common aims** should be adopted

- Creating an organic park
- Create activities that are interlink and support themselves
- Creating a full cycle composting system within the park
- Creating a space to help support social enterprise
- Creating links to the users of the park to encourage their involvement
- Creating new mechanisms to measure the value of the park
- Exploring new models of occupancy and revenue generation

This will involve new ways of working from those managing the park and new attitudes from those using the space. In order for this to be achieved a common appreciation of the benefits to the park as a public space will need to be agreed.

Benefits of the park as a public space

- as a place away from the whirl of city life - for quiet reflection, recreation, secret spaces - for individuals, friends and family groups
- as an educational resource for essential learning about nature, the rhythms of the seasons, pollution, climate change
- as a space for physical recreation, sport and exercise
- as a resource for biodiversity of species - animals, birds, insects and plants
- as a venue for events, social gatherings and festivals
- as a place for renewing' and re-using' essential local materials - composting, recycling, biological changes caused by pollution and over-nitration
- as a resource for producing food, for humans and animals; for teaching greater self-sufficiency among citizens

- Providing employment - for gardeners, administration and environmental businesses, of social benefit to citizens.
- as an income generator to contribute towards the costs of maintenance of the resource
- as a tool for measuring value
- as a resource to raise grant funding

The Anchors

Effective partnerships (Anchors) will be created to manage the separate areas of the park with interested people, community organisations and business.

The idea of having these Anchors' within the park performing mutually beneficial roles will need to be supported by the core task of maintaining a safe public space. This is currently the role of MCC (currently via CCS)

The anchors will be linked physical areas that link to the benefits mentioned above.