

GREEN SPACE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

On the 18th June 2013 the draft Green Space Management Strategy for 2014 – 2019 was reported to Cabinet. The strategy was then circulated to all Area Committees for their comments and formally adopted by Cabinet on the 24th September 2013.

The strategy can be viewed at the following web link:

http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/index/leisure_and_culture/parks_countryside_and_open_spaces.htm

Progress in Hitchin for period 2014/15 - 2015/16

Item	Project	Status	Value	Comments
2014/15 Works				
Hitchin Cemetery	Construction of garden of remembrance	Completed	£17K	Work undertaken by volunteers under the supervision of the Countryside Management Service (CMS). Grass cutting changed to conservation cut, wild bulbs & flowers planted, interpretation boards installed in summer 2014.
Purwell Recreation Ground	Improve entrances, enhance biodiversity and interpretation	On-going	£25K	First phase of works undertaken by unemployed Job Seekers under the supervision of Groundwork Hertfordshire. Installed new seating, viewing platform to nature reserve, tree planting. Second phase involving contractors will install new entrance gates and improve site interpretation due February 2015.
Purwell Nature Reserve	Construction of new fencing, hedge planting 7 interpretation	Completed	£40K	Works undertaken by volunteers and specialist contractors under the supervision of the CMS. Official opening took place 4 th December 2014.

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King George V Recreation Ground	Enhancements to skate Park	Completed	£24K	Design selected by existing park users. Works supervised by Groundwork Hertfordshire. Completed in July 2014.
*Walsworth Common	Refurbishment of paly area	On-hold	£118K	Application made to The Planning Inspectorate for the installation of the new play area. The closing date for representations was 2 January. No objections were received. The Planning Inspectorate have considered the application, they are satisfied that they can proceed to determine the application without the need for a public inquiry, hearing or site inspection. This will shorten the process and we hope to be informed shortly of their decision.
*Ransoms Recreation Ground	Refurbishment of paly area	Completed	£95K	There were some delays while awaiting delivery of equipment from supplier. Works completed in early January 2015.
2015/16 Works				
Bancroft Recreation Ground	Provision of Water Splash Park & associated baby changing / toilet facility	Subject to Councils approval of budgets in February 2015	£90K	<p>In order to have the facility completed at the earliest opportunity in advance of the meeting of Council on the 12th February 2015, officers are already developing a tender specification for a water splash park at Bancroft Recreation Ground, Hitchin. Part of the specification will require the tenderer to demonstrate level of play value and appropriateness of theme, layout and design. The final draft specification will be circulated to Ward Members for their comments.</p> <p>Whilst it would be desirable to have this facility and a similar facility at Royston open ready for the school holidays the works need to be tendered and there are set timeframes that need to</p>

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				be adhered to. In view of this if the works can not be completed prior to the school holidays it would be preferable to delay the start until the autumn to maintain public access during the busy summer period with a view to having the facility fully operational for the following spring.
Smithsons Recreation Ground	Resurfacing pathways, enhanced planting with improved biodiversity	Subject to Councils approval of budgets in February 2015	£30K	
Cadwell Recreation Ground	Enhance riverside biodiversity	Subject to Councils approval of budgets in February 2015	£5K	
Butts Close	Improvements to pathways, benches, replace gate, historical interpretation	Subject to Councils approval of budgets in February 2015	£30K	
Total Proposed Investment to date 2014 – 2016			£474K	

* Works carried forward from previous strategy