



Green Spaces for Good

2018-2022

FOREWORD

Few resources hold the potential to impact so positively on a wide range of social issues as parks and green spaces. By protecting these spaces in perpetuity, Fields in Trust works to ensure that our children and grandchildren will have places to run, move, breathe and play.

Access to parks and green spaces can help us to stay physically and mentally well, reduce social isolation and instil pride in our local communities. Whether it is playing sport, socialising with friends or taking a moment for quiet reflection, parks and green spaces quite simply make us happier.

Through this new strategy, Fields in Trust is seeking to change the conversation around parks and green spaces and how we measure their contribution to our communities, at a time when their future looks uncertain.

My family has supported Fields in Trust for over 90 years and I am proud to continue that support today through my role as President of the charity. I hope that you will join with us in our mission to protect these green spaces – for good.



HRH The Duke of Cambridge KG KT
President, Fields in Trust



OUR MISSION

Fields in Trust champions and supports our parks and green spaces by protecting them for people to enjoy in perpetuity.

Because once green spaces are lost, they are lost forever.

OUR VALUES



INTRODUCTION

Green Spaces for Good isn't just the name of our new strategy, it is the essence of what we do and why we do it; green spaces are good, they do good and they need to be protected for good.

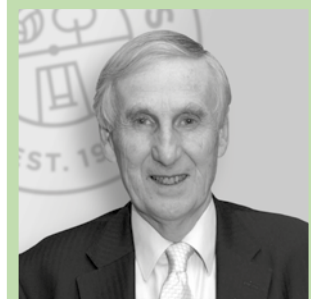
Fields in Trust is the only UK-wide charity legally protecting parks and green spaces in perpetuity and this protection is the only way to guarantee we keep these vulnerable spaces for future generations. The challenges facing owners and managers of parks and green spaces are now arguably greater than ever before. Pressure on local authority budgets and the need for new housing are resulting in an increasingly uncertain position for this non-statutory service.

Over the last six years our Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge and Centenary Fields programmes have enabled us to work in partnership with local authorities, town and parish councils, corporate funders, community groups and other charities to protect by legal deed a further 1,500 parks and green spaces in perpetuity. This brings the total number of sites protected to 2,735 across the UK.

Parks and green spaces are not simply nice to have; they are a necessity for healthy, happy communities positively impacting on a range of key wellbeing issues from physical and mental health to social cohesion.

Now, using HM Treasury approved methodology, we have developed a new way to quantify financially their critical importance to the communities in which they are located. We believe this new approach will help to support more informed judgements when difficult choices have to be made about how best to use land.

We hope this data will persuade many more landowners of the need to protect these spaces because once they are lost, they are lost forever.



Tim Phillips CBE
Chairman



Helen Griffiths
Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen Griffiths'.

Helen Griffiths
Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tim Phillips'.

Tim Phillips CBE
Chairman

ABOUT FIELDS IN TRUST

Established in 1925, Fields in Trust is an independent charity with a wealth of experience in protecting parks and green spaces.

We work with landowners, community groups and policy makers to champion the value of our parks and green spaces to achieve better protection for their future at both local and UK-wide level.

Protecting parks and green spaces

- › Fields in Trust works in partnership with landowners, including local authorities, voluntary organisations and private landowners, to protect land through a Deed of Dedication – a binding legal commitment with the landowner - to protect it in perpetuity.
- › **Green Spaces for Good** is our ongoing programme to protect parks, playing fields, nature reserves, children's playgrounds and other informal green spaces in perpetuity throughout the UK.
- › Time-limited projects sit alongside our permanent Green Spaces for Good programme. Active Spaces, funded by The London Marathon Charitable Trust supports community activation. Centenary Fields, in partnership with The Royal British Legion is our World War I commemorative programme. These follow the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge which marked the 2012 Diamond Jubilee and London Olympic and Paralympic Games and build on the legacy of the King George V Fields Foundation, created in memory of our founder.

2 7 3 5

UK SITES PROTECTED

INCLUDING:

- › **471** King George V Fields
- › **1,397** Queen Elizabeth II Fields
- › **121** Centenary Fields
- › **11** Active Spaces

WHAT WE DO



PROTECTING PARKS AND GREEN SPACES IN PERPETUITY

By 2022 we will protect a park or green space within a 10-minute walk of 75% of the UK population. Parks and green spaces are being lost to both development and budget cuts across the UK. We must act now to protect their future.

What Will We Do?

- › Legally protect parks and green spaces in perpetuity by working proactively and in partnership with landowners across the UK.
- › Identify specific areas where Fields in Trust's legal protection of parks and green spaces can significantly contribute to improvements in health and wellbeing.
- › Use our benchmark standard *Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond the Six Acre Standard* to encourage sufficient and equitable provision of parks and green spaces particularly in new developments.
- › Work with residential and commercial developers to embed legally protected parks and green spaces into new housing and retail schemes.
- › Work with funders to demonstrate the need to safeguard investments in parks and green spaces using Fields in Trust's legal protection.

**TO THE
PARK**

10 min



PROTECTING PARKS AND GREEN SPACES IN PERPETUITY

How Will We Measure Success?

- › Legal protection of targeted numbers of parks and green spaces particularly in areas of strategic need e.g. high levels of inactivity, deprivation and limited park and green space provision.
- › Increased engagement with local authorities and other landowners recognising the importance of protecting parks and green spaces.
- › Partnerships with developers evidencing a commitment to the inclusion and legal protection of parks and green spaces.
- › Signposting by funders and other partners recognising the need to protect parks and green spaces receiving capital or revenue funding.

Case Studies

1

HAB Housing, Hampshire

A partnership between HAB Housing and Fields in Trust in 2016 resulted in the protection in perpetuity of play areas, wildflower meadows, a running track and community orchard as part of a new residential development.

The protection of these spaces was included in the planning application and a long term ownership and maintenance agreement with the local parish council secured.

2

Glasgow City Council

In 2016 Glasgow City Council completed the protection of 26 parks, neighbourhood playing fields and other recreational spaces across the city.

The Council identified that protecting these spaces would support its Strategic Plan in two ways. Firstly by helping to build a world class city with strong and resilient neighbourhoods and communities and secondly by reducing health inequalities between neighbourhoods and supporting vulnerable people. The strategic location of these protected spaces ensures equitable access parks for all Glaswegians.

3

Centenary Park, Newbold on Avon, Rugby

This new park opened in 2016 on the site of a disused allotment site and was protected in perpetuity.

A study shows that 66% of people visit the park for physical activity and that the amount of visits to parks by local residents has trebled since the park opened. 70% of users travel less than a mile to use this space showing that improved access to local green space has significantly benefitted the local population.

CHAMPIONING THE VALUE OF PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

We champion parks and green spaces at local and UK level and across multiple sectors and government departments. Parks and green spaces impact on a range of key wellbeing issues from physical and mental health to community cohesion but they are an undervalued resource.

What Will We Do?

- › Demonstrate the value and impact of parks and green spaces through commissioning and collating research and insight to evidence their positive impact on health and wellbeing.
- › Use this revaluing to play a leading role in the UK debate around the provision and use of parks and green spaces relative to achieving public policy agendas.
- › Influence Government to recognise the contribution parks and green spaces make to multiple public policy agendas and the need for continued provision and investment.
- › Track trends relating to the closure or development of parks and green spaces using the UK Ordnance Survey Greenspace map baseline.
- › Champion the protection and equitable provision of parks and green spaces for all communities through our Guidance.
- › Deliver annual campaigns including the UK's Best Park to raise awareness of the importance of parks and green spaces.

REVALUING

GREEN

SPACES

CHAMPIONING THE VALUE OF PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

How Will We Measure Success?

- › A research and insight programme linked to the impact on health and wellbeing of parks and green spaces.
- › The aggregation of opportunities to participate in the debate relating to parks and green spaces and examples of positive influence on policy.
- › The annual publication of the Green Space Index combining the Ordnance Survey Greenspace map with other data sources to demonstrate the key trends relating to parks and green spaces.
- › Levels of stakeholder engagement with the UK's Best Park award and other national campaigns.

Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces:

Establishing the Economic and Wellbeing Value

Our new research provides a robust economic value of parks and green spaces in the UK based on socio-demographic characteristics.

Conducted in line with HM Treasury best practice on valuing non-market goods we have valued the maintenance and continued existence of publicly accessible parks and green spaces and assessed the health and wellbeing value associated with frequent park use.

The headline findings from this report show:

The Total Economic Value to an individual is **£30.24 per year** and includes benefits gained from using the park or green space and non-use (such as the preservation of parks for future generations).

The Wellbeing Value associated with the frequent use of local parks or green spaces is worth an annual **£34.2 billion** to the entire UK adult population.

Parks and green spaces are estimated to save the NHS around **£111 million per year** based solely on a reduction in GP visits and excluding any additional savings from prescribing or referrals.



SUPPORTING PARKS AND GREEN SPACES, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND USERS

Parks and green spaces should be open to everyone, connecting people and catalysing community spirit.

Places where we can all move, breathe, run and play. Parks and green spaces need supporting and protecting for the benefit of the communities they serve.

What Will We Do?

- › Provide online advice and information on key issues relating to the protection and management of parks and green spaces to landowners, managers and users.
- › Use our Guidance as a tool to support landowners, individuals or community groups to ensure the provision of parks and green spaces through local planning.
- › Provide a platform for concerned individuals or community groups to register parks and green spaces under threat.
- › Empower individuals or community groups to seek the protection of parks and green spaces through local campaigning.
- › Support volunteers on parks and green spaces and help increase capacity across this valuable network.
- › Provide grant funding for parks and green spaces legally protected by Fields in Trust.
- › Meet our obligations to legally protected parks and green spaces through excellent support.



SUPPORTING PARKS AND GREEN SPACES, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND USERS

How Will We Measure Success?

- › Increased traffic to our online advice and information services.
- › Case studies demonstrating where our Guidance has positively influenced local planning.
- › Aggregation of data on parks and green spaces under threat to show trends relating to the closure or development of parks and green spaces.
- › Use of online campaigning tools to support parks and green spaces under threat.
- › Increased training and resources for parks and green space volunteers.

Case Studies

1

Hervey Road Sports Field, Blackheath, London Borough of Greenwich

Earmarked as the potential site for a new school, the future of this well used playing field was at serious risk.

The local community group, with the support of Fields in Trust, waged an eight year campaign to save the playing field and it was protected in perpetuity in 2015. Hervey Road Sports Field is now a thriving sports hub providing the community with multiple activities.

2

Cregagh Green, Belfast

Our new research demonstrates that green space has a significant impact on community health and wellbeing. Learning from these insights, our Active Spaces programme inspires the most inactive communities to use their local outdoor spaces.

The London Marathon Charitable Trust is funding projects on fifty local sites with £5,000 to initiate community participation in physical activity. The first protected site, Cregagh Green in Belfast, Northern Ireland, was the place where footballing legend George Best first learned his sport.

3

Llantwit Major Town Council, Glamorgan

The 2015 Fields in Trust Welsh Partner of the Year award recognised that Glamorgan's Llantwit Major Town Council had protected for its local community all the publicly accessible recreation spaces in the town.

A major supermarket expressed interest in a local green space and, whilst the income could have secured the council's finances for many years, instead they decided to protect the site with Fields in Trust to ensure its future use for community play sport and relaxation.

WORK WITH US

There are many ways to help Fields in Trust protect the parks and green spaces you love.

DONATE NOW

Local parks and green spaces are places of joy and of togetherness. They shape the spirit of the communities we live in, but they are disappearing fast. Once green spaces are lost, they are lost forever so please help support our work today.

FUNDRAISE

Challenge yourself! You can support our work to protect parks and green spaces in perpetuity by joining #teamFIT on one of the UK's most iconic challenge events including the London Marathon, the British 10k and Ride London.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Parks and green spaces are the green glue that bind our communities together. If you and your employees want to be an integral part of doing good, for good contact us to find out about how you can partner with Fields in Trust.

MEMBERSHIP

Become a Friend of Fields in Trust and receive regular updates on our work to protect more parks and green spaces for good.

If you would like to discuss how we can work together, to protect the parks and green spaces you own please get in touch at info@fieldsintrust.org

FIND OUT MORE AT
www.fieldsintrust.org





Green Spaces for Good

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