

“A Call to Action”



State of the Nation

Key Findings

Answer Options	Agree strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	No opinion
The squeeze on public sector resources is affecting parks and green spaces disproportionately to other service areas	37.4%	37.4%	19.8%	1.1%	4.4%
Reductions in funding has resulted in a withdrawal of maintenance from some land and an increase in unmaintained land	34.1%	42.9%	20.9%	0.0%	2.2%
Lack of investment in parks and green spaces will have health and social impacts	56.7%	36.7%	3.3%	2.2%	1.1%
There is a clear link between parks/play provision and levels of crime/anti-social behaviour	31.5%	43.8%	9.0%	2.2%	13.5%
There's a limit to the extent to which volunteers can be involved in delivering parks and green space services	61.8%	25.8%	7.9%	2.2%	2.2%
The public should get free access to all parks	61.1%	27.8%	7.8%	2.2%	1.1%

How do you expect the parks and green space budget to change over the next year?

Capital expectations

8.1%

Expect an increase

71.0%

Expect a decrease

Revenue expectations

1.6%

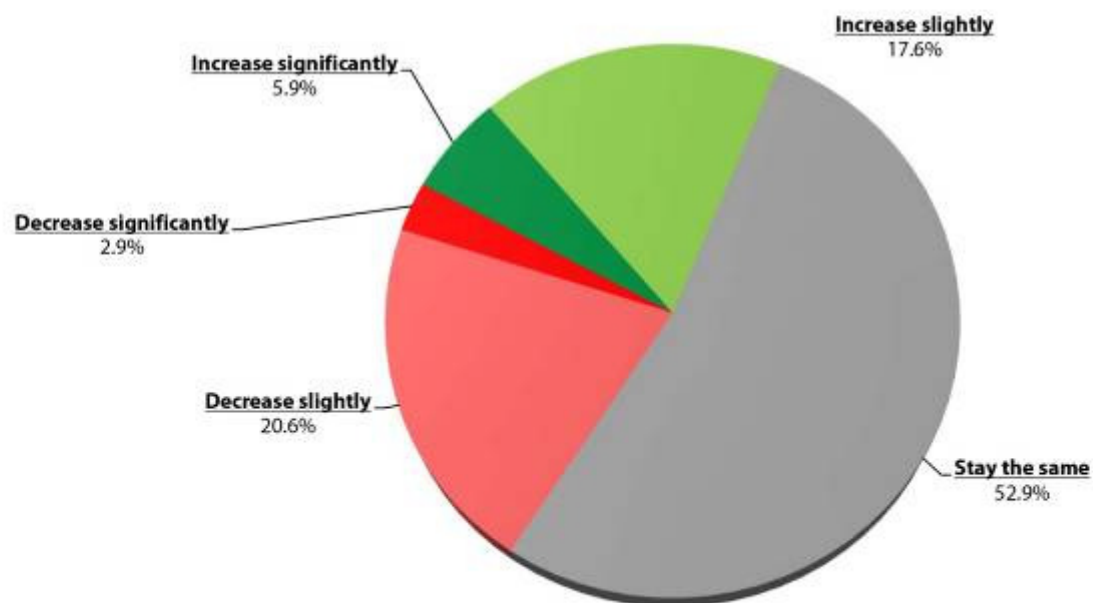
Expect an increase

93.5%

Expect a decrease

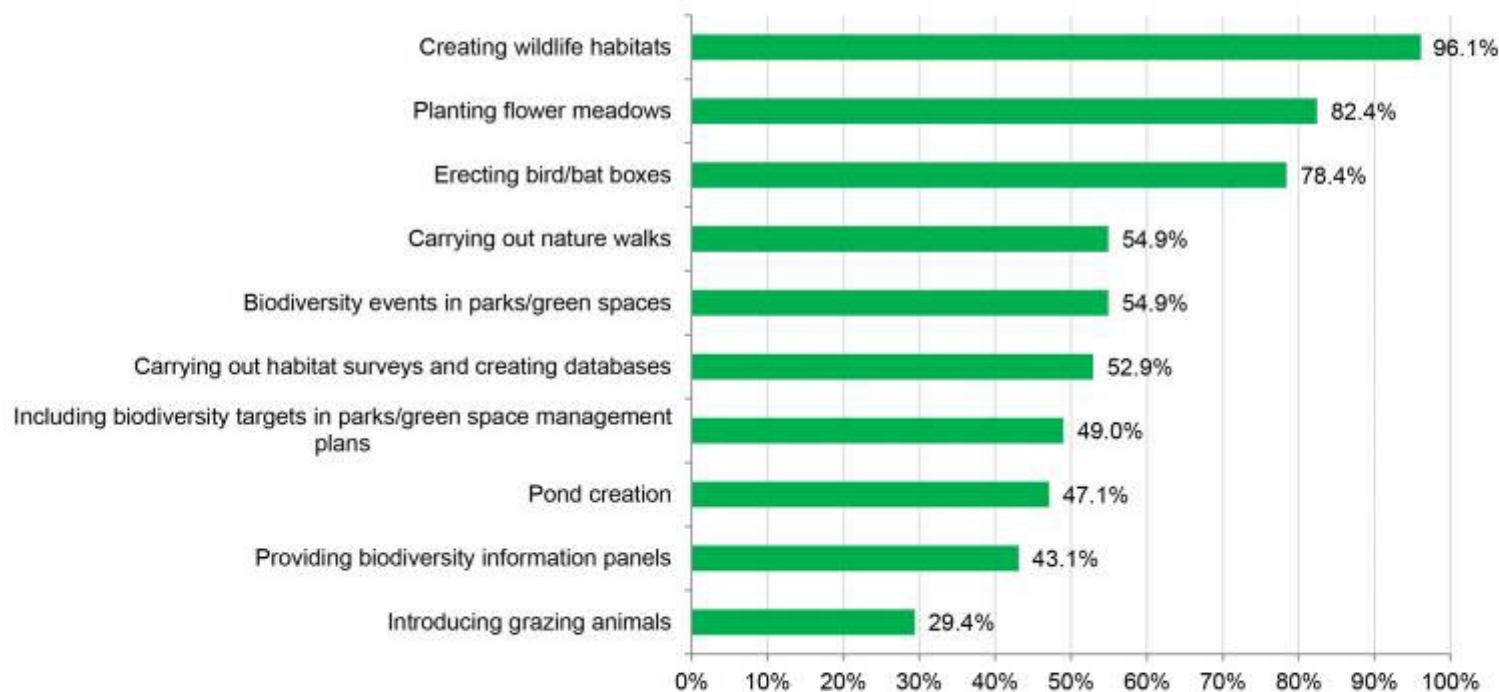
Security of asset

Overall how do you expect the total number of formal parks (including playgrounds) to change over the next year?



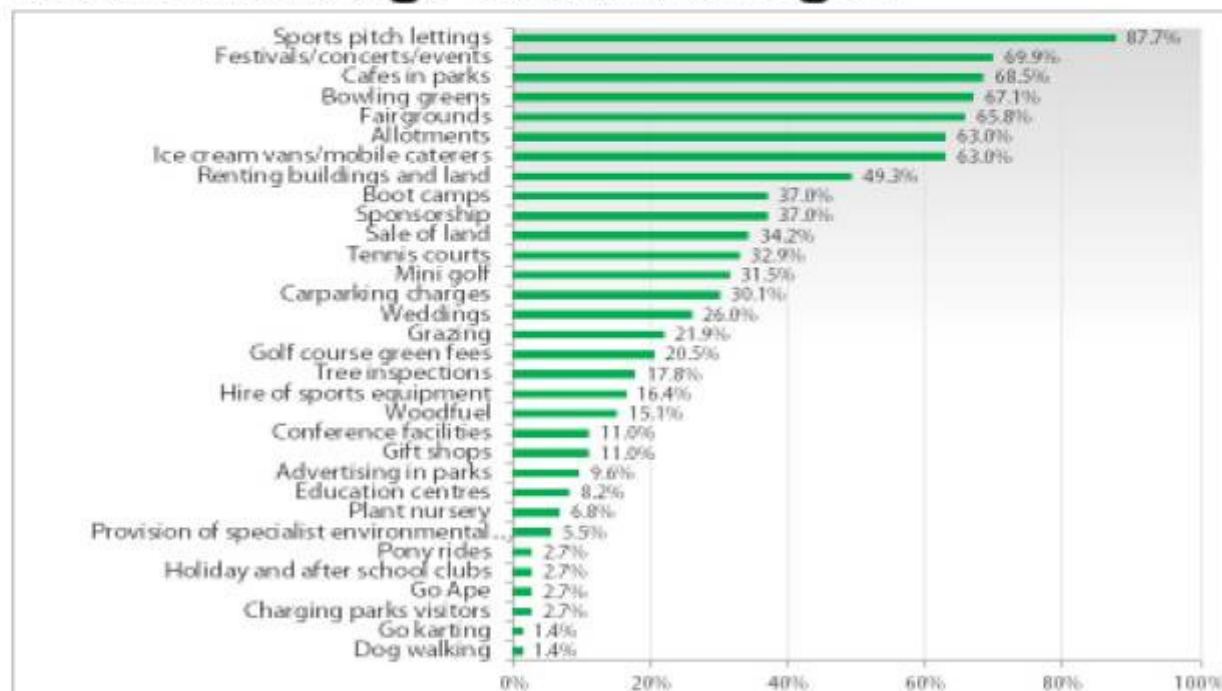
‘More than flowers and grass’

If you make a specific provision for the promotion of biodiversity, which of the following have you carried out?



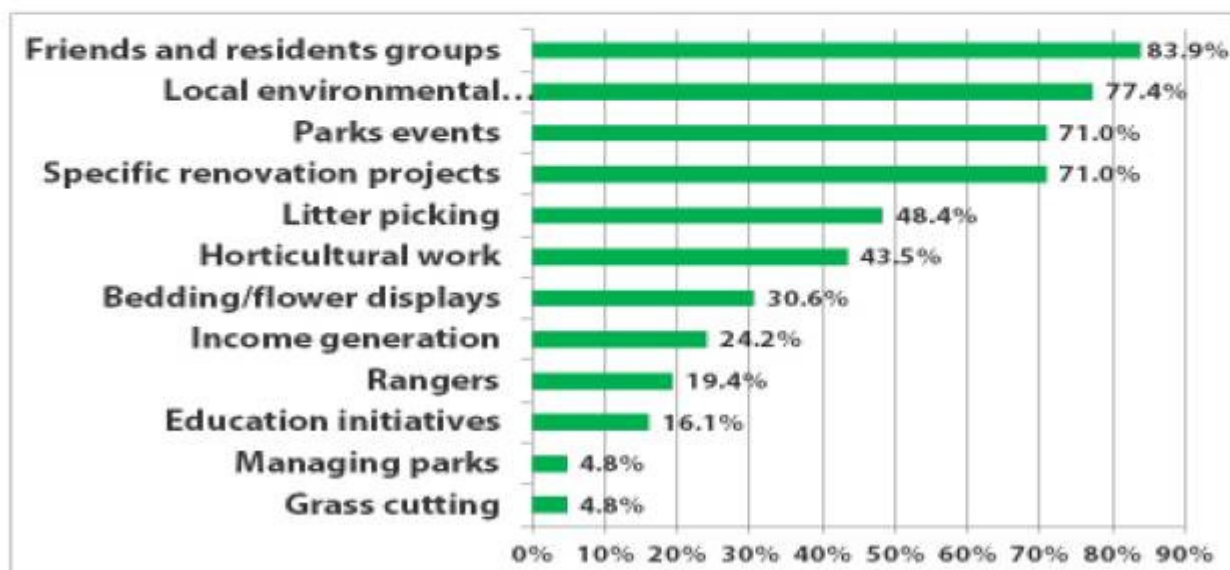
‘Municipal Entrepreneurialism’

What areas do you currently generate income in through fees and charges?



Public involvement

How are volunteers involved in the parks service?



Birmingham Parks

- Reduction in Budgets £5,972,000
- Reduction in Staff 110.5 posts
- Savings Targets for 2015/16 £572,000
 - Cease Bowling
 - Reduce Cricket
 - Reduce Football
 - Introduce Car Parking in certain Parks

The Changing Council



Council Priorities

- Future Council Programme
- Council Values
 - Put residents first
 - Act courageously
 - Be true to our word
 - Achieve excellence



Parks Priorities

- Protection
- Direction
- Connection



The Way Forward



The State of Natural Capital – Protecting and Improving NATURAL

- Natural Capital Committee 2012
- Managing the natural wealth of the nation in a sustainable manner
- Unlocking opportunities for sustained prosperity and well being
- Looking at greatest risk and reverse decline of natural capital
- Key aims **measurement, accounting** and **economic valuation**
- Carefully planned investment – VFM and large economic returns
 - Woodland planting
 - Peat land restoration
 - Wetland creation
 - Creating inter tidal habitats and restoring commercial fish stocks.

**Work will be driven through the creation of a
strategy and corresponding 25 year plan**

Corporate Natural Capital Accounting (CNCA)

- Accounting for the natural capital you own , liabilities, income and **external benefits that society derives**
- Value of assets/maintenance cost/changes in conditions over time/risks of depleting them/opportunities from utilising them/returns from investment/effects on stakeholders and communities
- CNCA can sit alongside traditional financial and management accounts
- Birmingham City Council is developing its own CNCA which will transform the understanding of key decision-makers on the 'hidden value' of the City's natural environment.
- This approach will allow people to understand the impacts of not investing in natural capital more fully rather than ignoring it has as often been the case in the past throughout the UK, resulting in areas such as green space and urban parks being unappreciated, over-consumed or underinvested in.
- Local authorities need to get better at **valuing** their natural capital assets if they are to ensure their long term sustainability

Valuing Green Spaces

**Build on growing recognition of cross cutting values of green spaces
And their ability to deliver multiple benefits simultaneously**

- Physical and mental health value estimated at £2.1 billion in reduced health costs (c. 7 million people have been diagnosed with mental illness in UK).
- Reduction in sickness means increased labour productivity - impacts on national GDP.
- Help ameliorate urban heat island effect
- Flood alleviation benefits.
- Filtering of local air pollution.
- Carbon sequestration.
- Increased biodiversity.
- Recreational value and well-being.
- Important to national environmental strategies e.g. Pollinator Strategy.
- Cultural, historical and societal value
- Develop a register of natural capital for which the local authority is responsible.

**What is the value of the
UK's Natural capital?**

£1,573 billion

4% lower than figures for 2007

- Lets keep working together and make a real difference

