

Empowering parks for the 21st Century

26 September 2019, thestudio, Birmingham

MORNING SESSION	
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Registration</p>
09:30 – 09:45	<p>Governments and Green Space</p> <p>Parks strengthen our communities and make our local areas more attractive places to live and work. They provide millions of us with a gateway to the great outdoors, so what should central government's role be in prioritising communities and their green spaces? MHCLG will discuss this in this session and provide an update on recent progress working with the Parks Action Group.</p> <p>Caroline Macdonald , MHCLG</p> <p>Chaired by Chris Worman, Parks Action Group</p>
09:45 – 10:15	<p>Putting parks first: Making the case for future investment</p> <p>Examine a 'Business Case for Parks', the Parks Action Group value proposition that addresses all of the benefits that parks provide to society and the environment. This presentation will explore the development, led by The Parks Alliance, and set out the main proposals the business case makes as the sector seeks to find a sustainable future for parks in England.</p> <p>Matthew Bradbury, Parks Alliance</p> <p>Chaired by Chris Worman, Parks Action Group</p>
10:20 – 10:50	<p>Parks of today: Taking on the challenge</p> <p>With deep funding cuts to local government over the past decade and no statutory protection, park managers are struggling to maintain and improve public parks. This presentation will draw on historically-informed research projects; Nicola will present the main findings from the 3-year Sheffield IWUN project to examine the implications of health findings for policymakers and practitioners, while Anna will advance a case for sustaining and revitalising park management to meet contemporary challenges.</p> <p>Dr Anna Barker, University of Leeds & Dr Nicola Dempsey, University of Sheffield</p> <p>Chaired by Chris Worman, Parks Action Group</p>
10:50 – 11:10	<p>BREAK</p>
11:10 – 11:40	<p>The Future of Parks: Creating the world we dream of</p> <p>Parks are now considered an essential social and environmental infrastructure for cities, evident with the development of urban forestry, nature-centric urban design and national park cities. As such, this is an exciting time to be working on parks at a global scale. This keynote will explore challenges, such as urbanisation and climate change, and the leadership responses required.</p> <p>Neil McCarthy, World Urban Parks</p> <p>Chaired by Chris Worman, Parks Action Group</p>

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11:10 – 11:40	<p>21st Century Park Management: The Essential Skillset</p> <p>Understand the key issues facing England’s parks and green spaces and how the effects of austerity have impacted upon their deliverability. Through examining the findings of the Skills and Knowledge work stream, part of the MHCLG response to the 2017 House of Commons Inquiry into Public Parks, this session will uncover: why parks matter, the challenges facing the parks sector, the growing number of roles and responsibilities that now face park managers, and how can we partner to secure a sustainable future.</p> <p>Paul O’Brien, Association for Public Service Excellence</p> <p>Chaired by Chris Worman, Parks Action Group</p>
12:10 – 13:10	LUNCH

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AFTERNOON SESSION	
CPD Sessions	
Sustaining Parks for the Future	
13:10 – 13:55	<p>Parks International: Learning from innovations abroad</p> <p>The challenges faced by parks are not unique to England. Across the globe, parks and green space managers are finding innovative ways to deal with the day-to-day issues of managing their sites. Carl and Dave will showcase just some of the many examples of international approaches in this interactive session, that will also explore options for improving sharing of learning and good practice.</p> <p>Dave Solly, Natural England & Carl McClean, Keep Britain Tidy Chaired by Chris Worman, Parks Action Group</p>
14:00 – 14:45	<p>The perfect model: what we've learned from the Rethinking Parks pioneers</p> <p>The Rethinking Parks programme has unveiled an extraordinary group of park pioneers, with practitioners exploring and trailing innovative new approaches to sustainability and design. Supported by the Heritage Fund and Community Fund, in collaboration with Nesta, the programme has shed new light on governance models, approaches to income generation streams and application of usage data. This session aims to inspire all those working in public parks services, whether in a planning, design or delivery capacity. Come and gain grounding in the current best practice in parks innovation.</p> <p>Alice Casey, NESTA Chaired by Chris Worman, Parks Action Group</p>
14:50 – 15:20	BREAK
Building your local strategy to create parks for the 21st Century	
15:20 – 16:05	<p>Applying the Natural Capital Approach</p> <p>Gain some clarity around the concept of the natural capital approach and how we can characterise parks as assets. This session will uncover data published at national, city region, local authority and site scales. Learn practical ways to apply such evidence and make the case for sufficient spending, using the Greater Manchester Natural Capital investment plan as an inspiring example.</p> <p>Ian Dickie, EFTEC Chaired by Chris Worman, Parks Action Group</p>

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Future Parks	
16:10 – 16:50	<p>Future Parks Accelerator: Transforming parks and green spaces for the 21st century</p> <p>Learn more about the Future Parks Accelerator, a new joint venture between the National Trust, National Lottery Heritage Fund, and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Using combined investment and expertise, the initiative will support ambitious projects, looking to transform the ways UK public parks and greenspaces are managed and funded. This session will further explore the skills and resources deployed through the Accelerator to aid park managers and provide headspace to plan for the future.</p> <p>Victoria Bradford-Keegan, National Trust and National Lottery Heritage Fund & Kathryn Deeney, Plymouth City Council</p> <p>Chaired by Chris Worman, Parks Action Group</p>
16:50	CLOSE

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