



Topic Paper: Open Space,
Sport & Outdoor Recreation

Local Development Plan 2020-2035



Belfast
City Council

Executive Summary

Context

Good quality open space makes our city an attractive and healthier place to live. Planning Policy 8 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPS 8) defines open space as "all open space of public value, including not just land, but also inland bodies of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity."

The typology of open space of public value ranges from parks and gardens to outdoor sports facilities, play parks, greenways, urban green spaces, community gardens and cemeteries.

Open space can perform a multitude of functions, for example well-appointed open spaces can attract investment in cities which have balanced urban development with green infrastructure. The variety in the urban scene can have positive impacts on the landscape as well as providing good places to work, live and visit. These high urban quality spaces can support regeneration, improve quality of life for communities as well as promote health and wellbeing. Open space has a strategic function by helping to define an area, create a sense of place as well as create linkages between Cities and its rural hinterlands.

Sensible, strategic land use planning can balance both the environmental function of open space to encourage biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystems but can also deliver outdoor recreational needs of communities' thus increasing quality of life through encouraging health and wellbeing.

Open space is not only used for exercise and relaxation purposes but can also enhance the character of an area and improve the quality of urban life by providing important green lung, health benefits, visual breaks from development, reducing flood risk and protecting wildlife habitats in built up areas



Evidence Base	Social, Economic & Environmental Factors
<p>The typology of open space ranges from parks and gardens to outdoor sports facilities, play parks, greenways, urban green spaces, community gardens and cemeteries. The value and function of open space is essential for a viable, healthy, greener and liveable city.</p> <p>Whilst this evidence is applicable throughout the plan area and is not an exhaustive list, the key areas are:</p> <p>Sport & Recreation – there are 216 grass pitches and 51 artificial pitches in Belfast. The BCC Pitches Strategy provides framework for informed planning decisions & measuring impact.</p> <p>There are 15 Leisure Centres in Belfast. Council has committed to an ambitious £105m investment in the upgrade of leisure provision across key sites in the city.</p> <p>Children’s Play Space Provision- Council manage 105 playgrounds across the city.</p> <p>Belfast has 42 Parks of which 15 Green flags. Orienteering is available at all Council parks and Eco trails and outdoor gyms can be found are various sites.</p> <p>Belfast has 11 designated greenways and linkages to a further 6.</p> <p>There are around 20 formal community gardens in Belfast and 12 allotment locations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, enhance and make open space accessible for enjoyment of the natural, cultural and industrial environment. • An assessment of open space will be conducted to enable the development of policy in the LDP • How can open space provided as part of residential development be better managed and used? • Greater linkages between open space and our built environment is required • Explore options for more effective use and management of public open spaces • Examine the spatial distribution of open space, sport and recreation and assess its accessibility by local catchment population • Consider the potential to support biodiversity by linking existing ecological areas and explore the potential to create a network of linked greenways throughout the Belfast area • Explore open space provision within the City Centre and identify potential hard and soft areas of open space. • How can we ensure open spaces contribute to health and wellbeing of all? • How can we best use our hard and soft open spaces?
<p>The Belfast Hills provides an array of outdoor recreational facilities alongside Colin Glen Forest Park and Cavehill Country Park. Other types of countryside recreation include Belvoir Forest Park, Community Woodlands at Knockmount Gardens, Ligoniel Wood, Old Throne Wood and Mill Dam Wood.</p> <p>Lagan Valley Regional Park covers 2116ha and stretches along the Lagan from Belfast to Lisburn. As an AONB, it characteristic feature include riverbank scenery, meadows and woodland and is also rich in biodiversity.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities for Growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a city wide open space strategy to take account of all types of open space, including an audit of open spaces, accessibility assessment and play/space assessment. • Potential to create an open space hierarchy which will ensure a consistent approach for understanding need and identifying broad areas of deficiency in provision. • Joining up existing greenway networks and identifying additional routes • Potential scope to make better use of existing or possibly create new areas of open space

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1.0 Introduction

Purpose of this document

- 1.1. This is one of a series of 17 topic papers which have been put together to inform the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP).
- 1.2. Each topic paper provides a summary of the evidence base required for the Sustainability Appraisal, Preferred Options Paper and Local Development Plan. They establish a baseline position and identify the key issues that need to be addressed.
- 1.3. By combining the evidence gathering stages for both the Sustainability Appraisal and Local Development Plan, we aim to streamline the documentation produced and avoid duplication. It will also help to ensure that sustainable development is embedded in the planning process and that sustainability appraisal is one of the main drivers informing the preparation of the Local Development Plan.
- 1.4. Each topic paper can be read separately but, inevitably, there are important related matters in other topic papers and background evidence.
- 1.5. The purpose of the planning system is to secure the orderly and consistent development of land to facilitate sustainable patterns of growth and development whilst protecting and, where appropriate enhancing the natural and man-made environment. To achieve this aim it is essential that the development needs of society are properly identified.

Member Workshops

- 1.6. A series of 17 Topic Papers were drafted in the early part of 2016 to provide elected members with baseline information to inform the preparation of the Local Development Plan. As such the information presented within this topic paper is intended to:
 - Build the capacity of the members to make informed planning decisions, particularly within the plan making context;
 - Provide baseline information which will inform Development Plan Policy making at a local level;
 - To link with important ongoing work in relation to the development of a Community Plan (the Belfast Agenda) and other strategic work being undertaken by the Council.
- 1.7. These papers were presented to members for discussion at a series of informal workshops with Planning Committee Members throughout the Spring 2016, with key issues and opportunities for the City identified for consideration.
- 1.8. It has since been updated to ensure the statistics referenced are up to date for publication alongside the Preferred Options Paper.

Open Space

- 1.9. Open space is essential in any society for both amenity and recreation purposes. It makes a valuable contribution in enhancing the character, attractiveness, economic competitiveness, and vitality of our City. It provides areas for child play, spaces for community events and enhances the quality of the built environment. Open spaces and green networks are valuable areas for nature and biodiversity, promotes safe accessible pedestrian linkages, can act as a buffer between conflicting land uses, helps to reduce flood

risk, and crucially provide 'green lungs' that can help to improve air quality. Ultimately open space within the City can make a valuable contribution to the health and quality of life for all our Citizens.

- 1.10. Good quality open space makes our city an attractive and healthier place to live. Planning Policy 8 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation (PPS 8) defines open space as "all open space of public value, including not just land, but also inland bodies of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity."
- 1.11. The typology of open space of public value ranges from parks and gardens to outdoor sports facilities, play parks, greenways, urban green spaces, community gardens and cemeteries. A full list of types of open space is documented in Appendix 1.
- 1.12. Open space can perform a multitude of functions, for example well-appointed open spaces can attract investment in cities which have balanced urban development with green infrastructure. The variety in the urban scene can have positive impacts on the landscape as well as providing good places to work, live and visit. These high urban quality spaces can support regeneration, improve quality of life for communities as well as promote health and wellbeing. Open space has a strategic function by helping to define an area, create a sense of place as well as create linkages between Cities and its rural hinterlands.
- 1.13. Sensible, strategic land use planning can balance both the environmental function of open space to encourage biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystems but can also deliver outdoor recreational needs of communities' thus increasing quality of life through encouraging health and wellbeing.
- 1.14. The Council of Europe's European Sports Charter 1993 defines sport as "all forms of physical activity which, through casual or organised participation, aim at expressing or improving physical fitness and mental well-being, forming social relationships or obtaining results in competition at all levels." This paper is primarily focused on gathering baseline information on the availability of open space for sporting purposes.
- 1.15. The following paper reviews the policy context of open space, sport and recreation on a regional and local level. It presents the foundation for an evidence base of open space, sport and recreation within the Belfast City Council area and highlights the need to carry out a more structured audit of the array of open space typology in the Belfast area.
- 1.16. It is important for members to note, that in compiling the position paper the best information available has been used however, it will need revised in light any new data. The paper will provide a foundation on which work can commence on a preferred option paper as part of introducing the new planned strategy for Belfast City Council to replace that contained in the exiting BMAP.

2.0 Policy Context

Regional Policy

- 2.1. The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035 highlights the link between the overarching environmental benefits of our green infrastructure with health and well-being. Our green infrastructure maintains air and water quality, provides drainage, absorbs carbon and other harmful gases as well as provides social benefits of exercise, recreational activities which supports a healthy lifestyle.

Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035

- 2.2. The Regional Development Strategy sets the context for the sustainable development of Northern Ireland to 2035. The RDS acts as the spatial strategy of the Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government. The RDS was revised in 2010 to reflect the changing development of Northern Ireland and continues to set the overarching planning framework for the region. The RDS offers two types of strategic guidance; Regional Guidance (RG) which applied to the entire region which relates to the three themes of sustainable development – Economy, Society and Environment; and; Spatial Framework (SFG) which is additional regional guidance which is shaped specifically to address the 5 elements of the Spatial Framework¹.
- 2.3. As a whole, Northern Ireland's environment is unique with its rich biodiversity, its quality landscape and its waterways. Everyone should have the right to a well-appointed environment for sport and outdoor recreation. One of the eight aims of the RDS reinforces the need to "promote development which improves the health and wellbeing of communities" is not only stemmed from "easy access to appropriate services and facilities, although this is important, but also from the creation of a strong economy set within a safe and attractive environment."²
- 2.4. The RDS places importance in promoting recreational space within our city and it is our responsibility to protect the environment as a sustainable asset for future generations. It reminds us that regeneration is not just about building new spaces but also points to the conservation and preservation of the 'natural capital' of the city.
- 2.5. The guidance set out in RG7 'Support Urban and Rural Renaissance' promotes a joined up approach to support sensitive and sustainable development. It outlines:
- Develop innovative ways to bring forward under-utilised land and buildings, particularly for mixed use development
 - Promote regeneration in areas of social need
 - Ensure that environmental quality in urban areas is improved and maintained particularly with adequate provision of green infrastructure
 - Reduce noise pollution
- 2.6. For the revitalisation of urban and rural areas, greater significance must be given to design, quality and the management of shared spaces including public realm and open space. It is important to promote recreational and open spaces within our City and integrate it as a matter of priority within new developments. The RDS states, "new developments or plans should make provision for adequate green and blue infrastructure. This is particularly

¹ The Spatial Framework enables coherent strategic decisions to be made in response to developmental and infrastructural investment challenges. It sets out priorities to achieve sustainable development and is focused on the main hubs and clusters of the region. The five areas are, the metropolitan area of Belfast, Derry – principle city of the North West, hubs and clusters of hubs, the rural area and gateways and corridors.

² RDS 2035

importance near designates nature conservation sites as it will help reduce recreational pressure on these sites.”

- 2.7. The designation of Quiet Areas is a further legal requirement of END and the Environmental Noise Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006. END requires Member States to ‘preserve environmental noise quality where it is good’ by identifying Quiet Areas within agglomerations (urban areas with a minimum population density). Whilst END does not provide a prescriptive definition of identifying quiet areas, it is up to DAERA to develop the approach, definition and protection measures and advice local authorities accordingly. The only agglomeration within Northern Ireland is the Belfast agglomeration which includes parts of Carrickfergus, Newtownabbey, Lisburn, Holywood, Dundonald, Carryduff and Bangor. On 7th June 2016, the Lagan Meadows³ was proposed as a Candidate Quiet Area to the People and Communities Committee. The proposal is currently under consideration by DAERA⁴. This designation was based upon the following qualifying criteria; publicly available park and open space within an agglomeration; a noise level less than or equal to 55 dB Lden; and a minimum area of 5 hectares. The council has indicated however, that that it will engage with DAERA in order to develop more appropriate Quiet Area screening criteria and supporting guidance to be employed in the subsequent identification, designation and management of Quiet Areas. The next round of Quiet Area designations by DAERA is due to commence in summer 2017.
- 2.8. The main policy goal of the END and action planning is therefore to ‘to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise’. This is to be achieved by determining the noise exposure of the population through noise mapping; making information on environmental noise available to the public; and developing Action Plans based on the mapping results, to reduce noise levels where necessary, and to preserve environmental noise quality where it is good (which includes protecting Quiet Areas).
- 2.9. RG 11, “Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment” recognises the synergies between the environment and its tourism potential. It also states everyone should have a right to a healthy environment with access to sufficient and appropriate environmental resources. Appropriately, the guidance outlines a number of key factors, including:
- Recognition of the built heritage as a tourism and recreational asset which impacts positively on our social, cultural, natural and economic environment.
 - Green and blue infrastructure can mediate the effects of hard surfacing;
 - The establishment of ecological networks, including designated sites, are needed for habitats and their ecosystems to survive in a ‘human dominated landscape’. It states that such networks could also be of amenity value if linked to green infrastructure provided by walking and cycle routes to heritage and other sites of recreational interest.
 - Encourages consideration to the establishment of one or more National Parks which would give weight to the enhancement and conservation of the natural, cultural and built heritage areas of outstanding landscape value while promoting the social and economic development of communities they impact upon.
- 2.10. The RDS recognises the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA) has a significant natural setting framed by the hills. It stresses the importance of creating a balance of the existing

³ Quiet area interactive map

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/quiet-area-interactive-map>

⁴ People and Communities Committee 7th June 2016.

<https://minutes3.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/s56260/Designation%20of%20Candidate%20Quiet%20Areas%20-%20Consultation%20Response.pdf>

environmental and natural assets and the protected areas of high scenic value with providing increased access for recreational use:

- **Protect areas of high scenic value, undeveloped coast line, Belfast Lough, the Lagan Valley Regional Park and the hills around the BMUA from development.** The attractive natural setting of the BMUA reinforces its uniqueness and brings benefits to economy and society. These areas should be safeguarded, but opportunities should be sought where appropriate, to increase access to them for residents and tourists, consistent with protecting their integrity and value.
- **Protect and enhance the network of open spaces in the BMUA.** The network consists of country parks, landscape wedges, parks and forests and community greenways. They are important recreational facilities which help to define a sense of place and character for urban communities. Opportunities should be taken for connections to an enhances network of pedestrian paths, cycle-ways and ecological corridors. These have the potential to support biodiversity by linking existing ecological corridors. These have the potential to support biodiversity by linking existing ecological areas creating a network of green spaces throughout the BMUA.
- **Make use of green space to help manage access to important wildlife sites and minimise the potential for damage due to visitor pressure.** Increasing access to the scenic and natural sites around the city could result in disturbance effects. It is important to ensure that visitor pressure and increased access does not further damage any important wildlife sites.

Strategic Planning Policy Statement

- 2.11. The Department of the Environment's Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) sets out strategic subject planning policy for a wide range of planning matters. It also provides the core planning principles to underpin delivery of the two-tier planning system with the aim of furthering sustainable development. It sets the strategic direction for the new councils to bring forward detailed operational policies within future local development plans.
- 2.12. The SPPS outlines the importance of open space, whether or not there is public access to it, as 'important green lungs, visual breaks and wildlife habitats in built up areas.' It recognises the multifaceted function of open spaces and its contribution to the aesthetic character of an area, whether it be in a residential area, city centre area, conservation area or rural location. Accepting the maxim, well kept open spaces make better places, it can go some way in attracting business investment, tourist potential thereby contributing to the process of urban and rural renaissance.
- 2.13. The SPPS provide the regional strategic objectives for open space, sport and outdoor recreation are to:
- Safeguard existing open space and sites identified for future such provision;
 - Ensure that areas of open space are provided as an integral part of new residential development and that appropriate arrangements are made for their management and maintenance in perpetuity;
 - Facilitate appropriate outdoor recreational activities in the countryside that do not negatively impact on the amenity of existing residents;
 - Ensure that new open space areas and sporting facilities are convenient and accessible for all sections of society, particularly children, older people and those with disabilities;
 - Achieve high standards of siting, design and landscaping for all new open space areas and sporting facilities; and
 - Ensure that the provision of new open space areas and sporting facilities is in keeping with the principles of environmental conservation and helps sustain and enhance biodiversity.

- 2.14. The SPPS provides guidance on the preparation of LDPs and in determining of planning applications. This will require a revision of the Council's Open Space Strategy which should take into account the aims, objectives and policy approach of the SPPS. Alongside this, an assessment of existing open space provision and its future needs in line with population forecast for the defined Council area, as well as adjoining Council areas. The assessment will include other forms of open space including children's play areas and the availability of sports facilities. Consideration to the distribution and accessibility of such spaces and facilities together with the amenity value, environmental assets and linkages they provide. Liaise with adjoining Council areas and other interested bodies as part of the process including Sports Council NI. From this, Councils can make local policies and proposals for the plan area.
- 2.15. The SPPS advises Council when preparing LDPs, that an assessment of "existing provision of open space in the plan area against the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) recommended minimum standard of 2.4 hectares of 'outdoor playing space' per 1000 population (commonly referred to as the '6 acre standard'). These assessments should consider both the level of 'outdoor playing space' provision in the plan area, and the distribution and accessibility of such use.⁵

Zoning for future development

- 2.16. Any loss of open space within the LDP of competing land uses must demonstrate clear and substantial community benefit. Cognisance of the precautionary principle is vital when plan making in particular when outlining proposed land use zonings, locations for development and settlement limits must take full account of the implications on open space including natural heritage features and landscape character. SPPS also outlines considerations for zoning land when plan making:
- Accessibility to and from existing and proposed housing areas with due consideration given to accessibility needs
 - The potential for any detriment to the environment, habitats, sensitive environmental features and other biodiversity assets
 - Assessment of the contribution that open space can make to overall environmental quality, sense of place and community life
 - The importance of protecting linear spaces such as pedestrian and cycle routes, community corridors, former railway lines, rivers and canal corridors many of which are valuable in linking larger areas of open space and providing important wildlife corridors/ecological networks
 - Promoting and protecting public access to and along the coast
 - Making adequate provision of green and blue infrastructure; and
 - Identifying and designating areas of open space which perform a strategic function, such as landscape wedges in urban areas.⁶

Key site requirements

- 2.17. In planning residential development, open space must be included to an appropriate scale i.e. 25 or more units or on sites of 1 hectare or above. A suitable mechanism for the future management of these sites must also be in place.
- 2.18. Where there are residential developments close to an existing or zoned open space, evidence of linkages between the development and ease of access will need to be included.

⁵ SPPS 2015 pp88

⁶ SPPS 2015 pp.88

Developer Contributions

- 2.19. The SPPS states that planning authorities can require developers to bear the costs of work required to facilitate their development proposals. Contributions may be required in a variety of circumstances including:
- where a proposed development requires the provision or improvement of infrastructural works over and above those programmed in a LDP;
 - where earlier than planned implementation of a programmed scheme is required;
 - where a proposed development is dependent upon the carrying out of works outside the site; and
 - where archaeological investigation or mitigation is required.
- 2.20. The SPPS goes on to say planning agreements cannot usually be used to deliver community benefits as they cannot be considered material considerations in decision-taking. They may however be applicable in some circumstances if there is a loss of open space in the context of Planning Policy 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation. In addition they may be offered voluntarily by developers to communities likely to be affected by a development.
- 2.21. There is opportunity within the development of policy for the LDP to explore options around developer's contributions and use for open space and provide appropriate guidance. There is scope for planning agreements for developer's contributions to contribute public realm/environmental improvement works, regeneration proposals, sustainable transport systems, provision and maintenance of open space, waste management plans etc, or whatever is deemed suitable to make the development proposal acceptable in land use planning terms.

Outdoor Recreation in the Countryside

- 2.22. Strengthening the rural economy is a key policy issue for government which has meant more creative use of the countryside in terms of sport and outdoor recreation. The countryside is our most important natural assets and LDPs should contain policy for development proposals for outdoor recreation. In doing so, Council should have regard to a range of issues including:
- Visual and residential amenity
 - Public safety, including road safety
 - Any impact on nature conservation, landscape character, archaeology or built heritage and
 - Accessibility
- 2.23. The RDS is complemented by the Department of Environment's suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPS), in particular **PPS8 'Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation'** which is retained under the SPPS. The policy objectives of PPS8 are:
- To safeguard existing open space and sites identified for future such provision
 - To ensure that areas of open space are provided as an integral part of new residential development and that appropriate arrangements are made for their management and maintenance in perpetuity
 - To facilitate appropriate outdoor recreational activities in the countryside
 - To ensure that new open space areas and sporting facilities are convenient and accessible for all sections of society, particularly children, the elderly and those with disabilities
 - To achieve high standards of siting, design and landscaping for all new open space areas and sporting facilities and

- To ensure that the provision of new open space areas and sporting facilities is in keeping with the principles of environmental conservation and helps sustain and enhance biodiversity

2.24. Alongside PPS8, the suite of PPS' retained under SPPS have been examined and the relevant planning objectives are noted in this paper which are pertinent to open space, sport and outdoor recreation:

PPS 2 'Natural Heritage' Policy objectives are:

- to seek to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage
- to further sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integrated part of social, economic and environmental development
- to assist in meeting international (including European), national and local responsibilities and obligations in the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage
- to contribute to rural renewal and urban regeneration by ensuring developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment
- To protect and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity and the environment
- To take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaption to climate change.⁷

PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' objectives are:

- To promote an integrated approach to achieving sustainable and quality residential environments.
- To promote quality residential development that:
 - creates places for people which are attractive, locally distinctive and appropriate to their surroundings, safe, convenient, adaptable and easy to maintain;
 - respects and enhances features of value and local character and promotes biodiversity; and
 - reduces reliance on the private car, supports movement by pedestrians and cyclists, provides adequate and convenient access to public transport and connects well with the wider locality.
- To promote the comprehensive planning and development of residential areas and ensure that adequate information accompanies planning applications which will enable the delivery of an improved design quality.
- To ensure that adequate provision is made for infrastructure and appropriate local neighbourhood facilities as an integral part of residential development.

2.25. The policy stresses the importance of 'greening' to raise the design quality of residential developments to promote biodiversity and to foster a sense of community. The integration of open space and its associated green infrastructure, provides important natural buffers to alleviate noise, provide natural flooding defences and aesthetically soften the impact on the countryside. Under Policy QD1 of PPS7, sets out the criteria for proposals for residential development including adequate provision for public and private open space and landscaped areas as an integral part of the development to achieve quality design.

PPS 21 'Sustainable Development in the Countryside' objectives are

- to manage growth in the countryside to achieve appropriate and sustainable patterns of development that meet the essential needs of a vibrant rural community;

⁷ DOE (2013) Planning Policy Statement 2: Natural Heritage

- to conserve the landscape and natural resources of the rural area and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development and from the actual or potential effects of pollution;
- to facilitate development necessary to achieve a sustainable rural economy; including appropriate farm diversification and other economic activity; and
- to promote high standards in the design, siting and landscaping of development in the countryside.

2.26. The SPPS outlines the key role in which the LDP will play in balancing the needs of the rural assets (and its communities) with the protection and conservation of the natural environment. An evidence base should be developed through the production of a Countryside Assessment to take cognisance of environmental assets and landscape character assessment.

Local Policy Context

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015

2.27. BMAP recognises the significant role open spaces play in the life of communities within the Plan area. The Belfast Metropolitan Area (BMA) Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation Strategy comprises of the following elements:

- Facilitating the development of a network of Community Greenways
- Facilitating the provision of new open space

2.28. BMAP refers to the extensive range of open space provision within the BMA, from countryside recreational facilities at the edge of the urban fringes, to formal recreational provision such as our golf courses and pitches, to our urban parks throughout the City. The suite of outdoor open spaces, indoor leisure and recreation centres play a key role in enhance the recreational offer to communities. Particularly within areas of high urban density, the role of indoor recreational and leisure centres are significant as the availability of outdoor space for recreational activity can be limited.

2.29. Open space is enhanced by the designation of community greenways which provide access to walking and cycling networks and recreation. It should be noted; Urban Landscape Wedges also function as Community Greenways. BMAP stresses, “it is important these areas are protected from development, as once lost, they cannot be easily replaced”⁸. Community Greenways serve a variety of functions:

- Offering pedestrians and cyclists the opportunity to travel from one green area to another via pleasant green surroundings
- Providing an ecological haven and green linkage along river corridors, pathways and disused railway lines⁹

2.30. It is clear in BMAP Policy OS 1: Community Greenways, that development will not be granted within or adjacent to a designated Community Greenway or where the development would prejudice the retention, enhancement or further development of an identified route. The Policy OS 1 encourages proposed developments to include open space linkages to Community Greenways.

2.31. The DoE published the Community Greenway Clarification Booklet to be read in conjunction with BMAP and in particular the adopted BMAP Policy OS 1: Community

⁸ Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan: Plan Strategy and Framework 2015 BMAP

⁹ Community Greenways: Clarification Booklet BMAP 2015

Greenways. The Booklet offers supplementary guidance for the consideration and operation of Community Greenway designations. The LDP's have opportunity to forge the links between the network of community greenways and how they best access the Belfast Hills and ecological networks within the Belfast Council area but as well as working with our neighbouring Council areas in consolidating linkages between greenways including access to coastlines and other areas of interest.

2.32. Policy OS 2: New Open Space Provision stipulates planning permission will be granted for the development of open space where the following criteria are met:

- Satisfactory arrangements are provided for an appropriate landscaping scheme
- There is no unacceptable impact on visual or residential amenity
- There is no adverse impact on either of importance to nature conservation, archaeology or built heritage
- Ancillary building are design to a high standard, are of scale appropriate to the character of the local area or townscape and are sympathetic to surrounding environment in term of siting, layout and landscape treatment
- The extra vehicular traffic generated by the proposal has no adverse impact on road safety, traffic or congestion levels
- Satisfactory arrangements are provided for linkage to the pedestrian and cycle network, and, where appropriate, access to the site by public transport, and
- Satisfactory arrangements are provided for site access, car parking, drainage and waste disposal

Strategies

2.33. The approach to the Strategies is twofold:

- Open Space
- Sport and Outdoor Recreation.

Open Space

Living Places: An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for Northern Ireland 2014

2.34. The DoE published the "Living Places" in 2014 and aims to clearly establish the key principles behind good place making. Living Places provides guidance for developers submitting planning applications for urban masterplans and seeks to not only inform but inspire the stewardship and design of urban places. Urban stewardship and design are treated in equal measure, owing to the contribution they both make to the quality of the urban environment and the role individuals have to play. The ten 'qualities of urban stewardship and design include:

- Collaborative: shared in use, management and planning
- Responsible: resource efficient, minimising impact
- Hospitable: welcoming, safe and healthy
- Crafted of excellent design quality and aesthetics
- Visionary with clarity of purpose and direction
- Contextual: the 'right fit', reinforcing sense of place
- Accessible: easy to access for all of us
- Vibrant and Diverse: Alive with centralised activity
- Viable, functional, flexible and lasting
- Enduring: imbued with a legacy of contributed understanding and interpretation

Creating Places: achieving quality in residential developments 2000

- 2.35. Creating Places describes the contributions to quality and sustainability developers in Northern Ireland will be expected to make through the design of new residential developments. The provision of open space will enhance the quality and sustainability of the residential environment and contribute to people's health, well-being and quality of life, particularly that of children. This section considers the location, level of provision, design and maintenance of public and private open space.
- 2.36. The main objectives to the provision of public open space should be considered as an integral part of the design, in order to:
- meet formal and informal recreation and amenity open space needs,
 - contribute to the attractiveness and distinctiveness of the development,
 - create safe, convenient and accessible space for all sections of society, particularly children, the elderly and people with disabilities,
 - reduce the need for residents to travel to open spaces elsewhere,
 - enhance security through increasing activity.

Belfast City Council's 'Your City, Your Space' Strategy 2005-2020

- 2.37. This strategy sets out the vision of how Belfast's open spaces will develop between 2005-2020. At the time of publication, it was estimated the strategy could take up to £40million to put in place and is the largest ongoing investment in parks and open spaces in many years and will improve the design, management, heritage value and levels of community involvement in Belfast's public spaces.

Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy

- 2.38. This Strategy was launched in 2015 and sets out the context for developing the City Centre and the aspirations for regeneration and growth of the city core and its surrounding areas. The strategy is based on eight core principles:
1. Increase the employment population
 2. Increase the residential population
 3. Manage the retail offer
 4. Maximise the tourism opportunity
 5. Create a regional learning and innovation centre
 6. Create green, walkable, cyclable centre
 7. Connect to the city around
 8. Shared space and social impact
- 2.39. The Strategy recognises the lack of green open space in the city centre and provides potential solutions to soften the harsh concrete and tarmac appearance of the city centre. It states, "the centre is lacking in green space, in tree-lined streets, in the softness that can provide relief in the most densely developed part of a great city. There is great opportunity to provide a sizeable new open space in the north end by considering options for the parking area around St Anne's Cathedral for green space and linking it to Bouy's Park and Writer's Square."¹⁰
- 2.40. The Strategy takes cognisance of BMAP and regional planning policy and provides guidelines on land use including public realm and open space. Appendix 2 shows the potential and actual open space in the city. Alongside the suggestions for Cathedral Gardens in the city, the Strategy encourages more meanwhile use spaces such as sports fields and community gardens on the newly purchased Sirroco site. The Map also shows

¹⁰ Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy 2015 pp.59

how the interaction with the waterfront promenade could be punctuated by larger open spaces including parks or plaza spaces particularly around Queen's Quay and City Quays.

Sport and Outdoor Recreation

- 2.41. The Department for Communities (DfC) is responsible for the central administration and promotion of arts and creativity, museums, libraries, sport, inland waterways and inland fisheries, linguistic diversity, archives, and for advising on National Lottery distribution. A number of documents produced by the Department are examined below. Sport NI is a lead development agency for sport in Northern Ireland as established under the Recreation and Youth Service (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

Play & Leisure Policy Statement NI

- 2.42. This policy was produced by the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdfM) in 2011, aims to improve current play and leisure provision for all children and young people aged 0-18years and for children who are/have been in care or children with a disability the age limit extends to 21 years. The Executive's vision for play is "to recognise, respect and resource play is to recognise, respect and value childhood."¹¹

- 2.43. The ten-year strategy for children and young people sets out six high level outcomes which are Underpinned by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child¹² (UNCRC), 'Our Children and Young People – Our Pledge', namely:

- Healthy;
- Enjoying, Learning and Achieving;
- Living in Safety and with Stability;
- Experiencing Economic and Environmental Well-being;
- Contributing Positively to Community and Society
- Living in a Society which respects their rights.

The Play and Leisure Implementation Plan 2006-2016

- 2.44. This was developed from the policy and published in 2011 is aimed to recognise the importance of play, improved play and leisure facilities for all children and young people. Work is currently underway on the review of the plan and the development of a new strategy post 2016.

Sport NI Active Places Research Report 2009 and 2014 update

- 2.45. In 2009, Sport NI published a report 'Bridging the Gap' which identified unmet demand and shortfalls for facilities such as sports halls, swimming pools, tennis courts, pitches and athletic tracks. The publication encouraged the strategic development of sports facilities in Northern Ireland and presents opportunities for facility providers to address key issues and unmet facility demands within their geographical area.

- 2.46. Sport NI believe that in order to encourage a greater strategic approach to facility development, the need/demand for sports facilities should represent emerging trends from within the District Council areas, in particular the new District areas established under the Review of Public Administration (RPA). Therefore Sport NI has agreed with councils to deliver a Sports Facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland with 11 District Council Area Reports for facility development, which, based on existing and new evidence, will provide a framework for the strategic delivery of sports facilities throughout Northern Ireland.

¹¹ <https://www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/publications/play-and-leisure-plan-statement-and-implementation-plan>

¹² UNCRC ratified by the UK Government in December 1991

- 2.47. In 2014, Sports NI presents facility shortfall tables for Pitches and Sports Halls (only) per 11 District Council area. The 2014 update however does not present tables for Athletic Tracks or Swimming Pools as the perceived shortfalls has either been met, or is no minimal it cannot be attributed to the Council areas.
- 2.48. Recent practical guidance from Sports NI and Department of Education has been published on addressing facility shortfalls in Northern Ireland through the Community Use of Schools (2014).

Community Use of Schools

- 2.49. Following the 2009 Sports NI 'Active Places Research Report' a shortfall of sports facilities was highlighted throughout Northern Ireland. The report highlighted the valuable supply of sporting facilities within schools and suggested if the facilities were available to the wider local community, facilities could go towards 'bridging the gap' to community access to sporting facilities.
- 2.50. Current legislation for schools is outlined in Article 140 of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989 which enables schools to make provision for wider community to use their premises when not otherwise required for educational purposes. The effective community use of schools not only increased community access to sporting facilities, it helps to develop local sport and recreation, provides value for money but also contributes to the wider health and wellbeing agenda of the Executive.

Sports Facility Strategy Northern Ireland

- 2.51. Sports NI is currently working with local authorities to develop a sports strategy for Northern Ireland which will identify sport facility needs across Northern Ireland and more specifically within the Council areas.

Sports Matters – the Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport and Physical Recreation 2009-2019

- 2.52. In partnership with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL), Sports NI produced the 'Sports Matters Strategy' which focuses on improving participation, performance and places. The strategy imparts a shared vision for sport as being, "a culture of lifelong enjoyment and success in sport"¹³. The 10 year strategy sets out strategic priorities for the future investment of sport and recreation through the support of three 'anticipated needs of sport' – participation, performance and places.
- 2.53. The strategy encourages organisations to embed the 26 high level targets within development and business plans for the improved quality, quantity and access to places of sport to promote increase participation and improve sporting performances. The strategy articulates the case for ongoing and increased investment in sport and physical recreation to deliver the 26 high level targets and support the wider social and economic agenda in areas such as education, health and the development of communities over the 10 year period, affirming the Executive's commitment in support of the vision.

Mountain Bike Strategy for Northern Ireland 2014 –2024

- 2.54. This strategy was published by Outdoor Recreation NI and sets out the framework for the development, management and promotion of bike trails in Northern Ireland. The strategy aims to generate £25million of the local economy by 2024.

¹³ <https://www.dcalni.gov.uk/articles/sport-matters-strategy>

- 2.55. Barnett's Demesne in south Belfast is home to the city's first mountain bike trails and the only official dirt jump park in Ireland which were installed as part of the Council's Investment Programme.

Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland – Making Northern Ireland's Outdoors Great: A Strategic Plan for outdoor recreation in NI 2015-2020

- 2.56. Outdoor Recreation NI deliver a not for profit role under a number of arrangements including delivering for strategic partners and consortiums through Service Level Agreements and on a project by project basis. ORNI's role is to develop and manage outdoor recreation across Northern Ireland. The vision articulated in the strategy sets to 'place outdoor recreation at the heart of society.' The strategy sets out six key priorities:

1. Championing the outdoors
2. Developing partnerships and promoting best practice
3. Improving the nation's health and well-being
4. Empowering volunteers
5. Delivering and managing quality outdoor recreation products
6. Increase awareness of outdoor recreation opportunities

Belfast City Council Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy

- 2.57. The strategy has five key goals to improve sports development in the city:

- partnership - encouraging effective co-ordination and communication between the strategy's partners
- capacity - developing community, volunteer and club involvement in sport
- facilities - making sure Belfast has the 'right' facilities in the 'right' places
- participation - boosting participation in sports
- performance - looking at ways in which performance can be developed.

- 2.58. It also identifies seven main ways to help it achieve these goals. These are:

- supporting schools and third-level institutions
- building sustainable club and community development
- raising the profile of sport and physical activity in Belfast
- promoting health and physical activity
- developing coaches and volunteers
- supporting leisure centres to become development and community-focused
- developing 'pathways to performance'.

Playing Pitches Strategy 2011-2021

- 2.59. With the development of new residential areas, population groups and the changing expectations of leisure facilities users', prompted the Playing Pitches Strategy. The Playing Pitches Strategy provides a framework for:

- making informed planning decisions (particularly PPS8) and measuring impact
- targeting financial support and investment in facilities, and
- planning the delivery of sports development programmes.

- 2.60. The strategy is necessary to:

- protect facilities against development pressures, and specifically residential proposals for land in and around urban areas
- identify an appropriate mix of facilities to best meet predicted population growth and changes to demand levels

- provide enough information to inform planning decisions, for sites where applications have been made for changes in land use
- provide a framework for identifying priorities for investment and prioritising support for funding applications
- address demand created because of specific sports development pressures
- inform future policies in our role in providing and enabling pitch provision, and in particular provide a steer on leasing sites to established sports clubs. A number of our pitch sites in Belfast are under facility management arrangements involving key sports clubs.

Belfast City Council Growing Communities Strategy 2012-2022

2.61. Belfast City Council, Belfast Healthy Cities, the Public Health Agency and Belfast Health Development Unit under Active Belfast, led to the development of the Growing Communities Strategy which aims to ensure all parts of the community have the opportunity to participate in and experience the benefits of growing.

2.62. The objectives of the strategy until 2022 include:

- To support healthier lifestyles by providing growing opportunities to people of all ages;
- To support and develop communities by building and encouraging ownership of and pride in the city's growing spaces;
- To work to support environmental sustainability by ensuring that growing spaces and activities contribute positively to the local environment and support the attainment of sustainable development targets set for local government;
- To engage the wider community through inclusiveness in the development of shared growing spaces;
- To improve communication and models of management by providing growing communities and allotment holders with timely advice and guidance including site management protocols; and
- To encourage the development of the social economy in local neighbourhoods and suitable training and skills development for employability.

Belfast City Council – Belfast: Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015-2020

2.63. The strategic themes of this document are reputation management, promoting what the City has to offer; capacity building by strengthening the service and hospitality sectors and product development by developing new things for visitors to see and do. Key action areas include marketing and branding; visitor management; business tourism and tourism events and key projects include an international hotel school, quality city centre attraction, urban sports hub, hotel rooms and a maritime visitor experience.

2.64. The strategy highlights opportunities for developing the River Lagan as a green artery and the Harbour and Lough and Belfast Hills for recreation. It also recognises the accessible countryside and coast surrounding the city as a hard asset, which is defined as a place that best reflects the city's narrative and has the potential to be further developed as a priority project. This is further developed in Position Paper 5: Tourism.

3.0 Open Space, Sports and Outdoor Recreation Profile

- 3.1. The following information provides a general overview of the open space, sport and outdoor recreation provision in the Belfast City Council area. It is recommended that further examination of provision should be undertaken with the various bodies who have responsibility for open space, sport and recreation to produce a more up to date and extensive evidence base for the Council area.
- 3.2. Open space is defined in PPS 8 and the typology can be viewed in appendix 1. To reiterate, open space of public value, including not just land, but also inland bodies of water such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs which offer important opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation and can also act as a visual amenity¹⁴.
- 3.3. Open space is not only used for exercise and relaxation purposes but can also enhance the character of an area and improve the quality of urban life by providing important green lung, health benefits, visual breaks from development, reducing flood risk and protecting wildlife habitats in built up areas¹⁵. The Council, with its suite of new planning powers including the formulation of the LDP, is responsible for planning, designating and protecting open space. Open space is our biggest asset and once open space is lost, it is difficult to retrieve.

Sport and Recreation: Outdoor Playing Space

- 3.4. The Council produced a 'Playing Pitches Strategy 2011-2021' which provides a framework for:
 - making informed planning decisions (particularly PPS8) and measuring impact
 - targeting financial support and investment in facilities, and
 - planning the delivery of sports development programmes.
- 3.5. Through the Investment Programme and ongoing in the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Council have invested substantially in outdoor and indoor recreation in the city.
- 3.6. The SPPS advises Council when preparing LDPs, that an assessment of "existing provision of open space in the plan area against the National Playing Fields Association (NPFSA) recommended minimum standard of 2.4 hectares of 'outdoor playing space' per 1000 population (commonly referred to as the '6 acres standard'). These assessments should consider both the level of 'outdoor playing space' provision in the plan area, and the distribution and accessibility of such use.¹⁶
- 3.7. Due to inconsistencies of the 6 acre standard in measuring the demand of quality of pitches, the Council used the guidance developed by Sports England and the Central Council of Pitches for Physical Recreation (CCPR) detailed in 'Towards a level Playing Field'. Instead of using 'generalised' methodologies, it focused research to identify factors to assess how adequate provision is in relation to quantity, quality and access for individual sports. This was agreed as a Council position in order to give a more detailed citywide understanding of provision.
- 3.8. The 'Pitches Strategy' applied an eight stage playing pitch model used to assess provision against a predicted set of circumstances for example, population estimates. The model assessed:

¹⁴ PPS 8

¹⁵ BMAP Open Space Technical Supplement

¹⁶ SPPS 2015 pp88

1. identify the number of teams
 2. calculating home games per team per week
 3. assessing total number of home games per week
 4. estimated temporal demand for games
 5. defining pitch used or needed on each day
 6. establish how many pitches are available
 7. assess finding
 8. identify policy options and solutions.
- 3.9. Using the CCPR methodology, the headline findings of the strategy (2011-2021) include:
- There is adequate supply of Association Football pitches for the demand
 - There is a shortfall of pitches for Gaelic Sports
 - Two Camogie pitches were identified and currently meet demand.
 - There is a shortfall of cricket pitches
 - There is adequate provision of Rugby pitches
 - There is a slight shortfall in Hockey pitches
- 3.10. To address the need outlined in the Pitches Strategy 2011-2021, the council, through its £150million Investment Programme allocated £14.1million to a programme of pitch provision and upgrade throughout the city. Alongside this, GAA is provided an additional £1million. The improvements include:
- Falls Park
 - Woodlands Playing Fields
 - Cliftonville Playing Fields
 - Cherryvale Playing Fields
 - Ormeau Park
 - Victoria Park
 - Ballysillan Playing Fields
 - Musgrave Park
 - Dixon Playing Fields
 - Waterworks
- 3.11. As part of the investment a £750,000 capital enhancement programme has been awarded to six schools to improve facilities and allow for greater community use including:
- Corpus Christi College
 - Aquinas Grammar School
 - St Mary's CBD, Grosvenor Grammar and Belfast Royal Academy
 - Bunscoil an tSliebhe Dhuibh
- 3.12. A review of the baseline assessment of the supply and demand that informed the strategy was undertaken two years after implementation of the strategy. The table 1 below provides a summary of all grass and synthetic pitches in Belfast informed at the time (2013), from data provided by Belfast City Council, Belfast Education Board, Governing Bodies and survey work. Other sports pitch surfaces such as shale and polymeric are not noted.

Table 1: Pitch Inventory in Belfast City Council area 2013.

	Grass					Artificial Turf Pitches					
	Rugby	Assoc Football	Gaelic	SSG	Cricket	Hockey (Astro)	Rugby	Assoc Football	Gaelic	SSG	Total
Clubs	16	10	11	0	6	6	0	2	0	0	51
Queens	2	3	3	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	16
Belfast Met	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sec. Schools	22	5	4	1	5	8	0	4	0	2	51
Prim. Schools	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
BCC	1	76	10	1	4	0	0	4	0	2	98
FMA (council)	0	22	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	29
Community	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	16
Totals	43	117	35	6	15	16	1	12	1	21	267

3.13. From the review, a number of key issues emerged:

- In terms of supply of pitches there have been no significant changes in the number of pitches that are available across the city. However, the ongoing capital investments will impact on this;
- There has been a decrease in adult participation across sporting codes. One of the reasons for this is the growth in other physical activities such as cycling in this period, which are attracting people who would have previously played pitch sports. This has been confirmed anecdotally by sporting codes;
- There has been a dramatic increase in youth teams across sporting codes. This is a very positive outworking of the sporting codes' focus on their respective youth participation strategies, which will in turn sustain demand in the city in the adult leagues. Specifically, youth participation from 2009-2014 has grown as follows:
 - 22 mini soccer teams to 172 small sided games teams
 - 8 mini Gaelic games teams; this has increased to 128 Go Games teams
 - 12 mini rugby teams, this has increased to 31 mini rugby teams

3.14. The review also noted that an analysis of supply and demand relating to matches does not take into account requirements for pitches for training and informal use. Grass pitches are generally limited to competitive play, due to the restriction on level of usage, leaving synthetic surfaces to cope with demand for training sessions. This displaces individuals who choose not to be part of formal clubs and leagues, potentially discouraging more people from being active.

3.15. On the basis of the 2013 review, Council recommended some adjustments to the provision of outdoor pitches and the implementation of the Strategy, most notably increasing provision for youth sports by marking out adult pitches for short-sided games.

3.16. With ongoing investments from Council and other bodies in outdoor pitches, this data is constantly changing and needs regularly updated. Under the recommended methodology a further review of the baseline assessment is due to be undertaken in 2019. However given

the significant capital investment by Council and other Bodies, it may be appropriate that consideration is given to undertaking this review at an earlier stage. A review would involve consultation with relevant stakeholders including leagues and governing bodies and will analyse the demand for grass pitches from all users. The results and outcomes of a review would help to inform policy as part of the LDP.

Children's Play Space Provision

- 3.17. Every child has the right to play. Children's playgrounds can encourage health and well-being as well as refine motor skills and development milestones in a child. Belfast City Council manage 105 playgrounds across the city (see appendix 6: Map 2 Distribution of Playgrounds and Parks in Belfast), two of which are located within rural Belfast (a full list can be viewed Appendix 7). As part of the Council's Investment Programme, £1.8million is being invested in the refurbishment of 21 facilities, creating modern and attractive play parks for children to enjoy. In assessing children's play provision two factors are taken into consideration:
- The overall quantum, and
 - The spatial distribution
- 3.18. Relative to each other, the spatial distribution is seen as more important as it relates to access to provision within the various settlements i.e. distance from children's homes. NPFA/Fields in Trust's "Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play" sets out a standard of 0.8 ha per 1000 population of Children's Play Space. It further outlines a minimum standard of 0.6ha per 1000 population.
- 3.19. The SAS sets out the minimum standards for outdoor play space including travel times and distance from a playground. It defines three hierarchical categories of play areas:
1. LAP – Local Area for Play
With a minimum activity zone of 100m², a LAP should be within 1-minute distance from home and should be positioned beside a pedestrian pathway on a well-used route. It contains features that enable children to identify the space as their own e.g. low key games such as hopscotch a foot print trail and basic mushroom style seating
 2. LEAP – Local Equipped Area for Play
Located within a 5 minute walk from home, a LEAP's main activity zone is 400m² as a minimum. It contains at least five different types of equipment, of which 2 are individual pieces rather than a multi play unit/gym. Each type of play equipment should be designed to stimulate and challenge children i.e. balancing, rocking, climbing or sliding apparatus
 3. NEAP – Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play
The minimum activity zone of a NEAP is 1000m² and is divided into two parts; containing a range of playground equipment and; having a hard surface of at least 465m² (the minimum standard to play 5 aside football). It is located 15 minutes walking from home and contains at least 8 types of play equipment comprising:
 - at least 1 item to stimulate rocking, touch, social or developmental play among younger children;
 - at least 2 items to facilitate sliding, swinging or moderate climbing;
 - at least 5 items to encourage either more adventurous climbing, single point swinging, balancing, rotating or gliding (e&g& cableway). At least 3 of these items should be individual play items rather than part of a combination multi-play unit
- 3.20. Within the Belfast City Council owned playparks, 26 are considered LEAP playgrounds and 44 NEAP. 5 belong to community centres and the remaining 30 are still to be classified.

LAPs have not been considered for analysis as they serve housing areas within their immediate vicinity and are thus not deemed strategic.

- 3.21. There are many passive recreational and leisure facilities in Belfast including cinemas, snooker clubs, night clubs, pubs and restaurants, art galleries, museums, theatres etc.

Accessibility Assessment

- 3.22. Accessible open space and recreation facilities are places the public can use and enjoy, regardless of age, gender or socio-economic status. The amount and quality of open space and recreational facilities are related to the health and well-being of communities thus improving quality of life for all. The purpose of an assessment of the accessibility of open space provision is the analysis of the age breakdown of the local population to identify if existing open space provision meets the local needs. It is recommended that an accessibility assessment is conducted to enable the development of policy in the LDP.

Other forms of Sport and Leisure

- 3.23. In addition to open space provision in the city, other forms of recreation activities are available within Belfast. A list of Belfast City Council Parks can be viewed in Appendix 9 and general list of outdoor recreation activities in Appendix 10.
- 3.24. The River Lagan has potential for angling, kayaking, canal barges, walking and cycling trails. The Lagan Canal Trust state that if the waterways were reinstated there are employment and business opportunities for boat owners and operators, overnight visitors and riverside cafes and restaurants (Appendix 11).

Walking, Orienteering and Eco Trails

- 3.25. Walking is one of the easiest ways of enjoying the outdoors and keeping fit. There are a number of walking guides throughout the City including:

- Barnett Demesne
- Belfast Castle Estate
- Belvoir Park Forest
- Bloomfield Walkway
- Bog Meadows
- Botanic Gardens
- Cave Hill Country Park
- Clement Wilson Park
- Colin Glen Forest Park
- Cregagh Glen/Lisnabreeny
- Belfast Hills
- Divis and Black Mountain
- Falls Park
- Giants Ring/Lagan Valley Regional Park
- Lagan Meadows
- Musgrave Park
- Ormeau Park
- Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park
- Stormont estate
- Victoria Park
- Waterworks
- Woodvale Park

- 3.26. Orienteering is an outdoor adventure sport which involves walking or running, while navigating around a course using a detailed map and a compass. Orienteering can take place anywhere, from remote forests and countryside to urban parks and school playgrounds. Any of the Belfast City Council parks can be used for orienteering. Eco Trails encourage environmental learning through orienteering trails and is available Ormeau Park, Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park, Barnett Demesne, Clement Wilson Park and Cave Hill Country Park.

Outdoor Gyms

- 3.27. An outdoor gym is a purpose built gym built outside in a public park, with the all-weather construction of its exercise machines. Outdoor gyms can be found at the following locations:

- Blythefield Park
- Musgrave Park
- Ligoniel Park
- Falls Park
- Grove Playing Fields
- Mountforde Playground
- Ormeau Park
- Orangefield Park
- Victoria Park
- Lamh Dhearg Gaelic Athletic Club, Hannahstown

3.28. Public Rights of Way (PROW) is adequately defined where:

- “the route has been used ‘as of right’ by the general public. Use of the route by expressed or implied permission of the owner e.g. employees, social visitors or tradesperson does not create a public right of way
- The public’s use of the route was open, so that the landowners knew or should have reasonably known about it and did nothing to stop it.
- Use continued, without interruption, for a sufficient person to imply that the landowners intended to dedicate it as a public right of way
- The route connects two public places or places to which the public regularly and legitimately resort e.g. public roads, other public rights of way, a church, the seashore etc.”¹⁷

3.29. PROWs are created through the ‘Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983. Under this order, Councils have a duty “to assert, protect and keep open and free from obstruction or encroachment any public right of way, and compile and preserve maps and other records of public rights of way in their district”. In cases where public rights of way are disputed, Council have a duty to investigate the claims and gather evidence to reach an informed decision over the existence of the disputed public right of way. In Belfast, the following areas are asserted as PROWs:

- Chichester Park South – Salisbury Avenue
- 22-24 Hillside Drive & Stranmillis Road
- Giants Ring
- Castledona Gardens to Church Road
- Castledone Rise/Gardens to Leadhill Park
- Castlemore Park to Castlemore Avenue
- Milltown Road to Lock Keepers Cottage
- APROW from Upper Knockbreda Road to Castledona Rise
- Upper Knockbreda Road to Castledona Park
- Gilnahirk Road (Between Property No. 83/85) – Mill Gate

3.30. The Ulster Way, Northern Ireland’s only long distance walking route passes through the urban fringes of Belfast and onto the open moorland of the Antrim Plateau.

3.31. National Cycle Network was established to encourage cycling and bike touring throughout the UK. The NCN, a millennium project, provides a comprehensive network of safe and attractive cycling routes developed by the charity Sustrans. There are 10 UK National Routes, Route 9 is the Belfast to Newry route with the goal of extending this route to Dublin. There are over 1000 miles of the national cycle network across Northern Ireland, of which *** miles are located in Belfast. There are 3 types of cycle networks available in Belfast:

¹⁷ Extract from “Rights of Way, A Guide to the Status Investigate Procedure”. Environment and Heritage Service. Following the Access to the Countryside (NI) Order 1983.

National Routes

- Route 99: Comber Greenway provides an 8 mile traffic free walking and cycling route connecting East Belfast, Dundonald and Comber
- Route 9 & 93: The Lagan and Lough Cycle Way is a 21 mile which is mostly traffic free and walking route linking Lisburn, Belfast and Newtownabbey.

Urban Maps

- Belfast by Bike: a route map of cycling around the city

Long Distance Route Maps

- Belfast to Ballyshannon encompasses National Routes 9, 91, 92 and 95 is a 242mile routes from Belfast Lough to Donegal Coast which takes in the Sperrins, Fermanagh Lakes, parts of Leitrim to the picturesque coast of Donegal.

Community Greenways

- 3.32. Community Greenways are green space networks, which enhance existing open space provision by linking areas together. Greenways can have recreational, ecological and aesthetic roles. In the urban area, they can ideally offer pedestrians the opportunity to walk from one area to another via pleasant green surroundings. Community Greenways may also act as a cycle network, allowing cyclists to have a safe journey with less noise and pollution. Whilst river corridors and disused railway lines can also provide a haven for wildlife, Community Greenways may also act as corridors linking areas of open space in urban areas to the countryside. Private open space can also be part of greenways – where public access is not allowed, the green space still provides some visual amenity within the built up area. Where public access is not available, BMAP detailed an alternative route to circumvent the private areas – these routes were intended to retain an appreciation of the greenway route. BMAP also suggested extensions to existing routes too.
- 3.33. BMAP states that all Community Greenways should meet at least one of the following criteria:
- Offer recreational linkage
 - Offer ecological/environmental linkage
 - As a source of visual/recreational amenity.
- 3.34. There are 11 designated community greenways in the Belfast Metropolitan Area and are shown on Appendix 3: Map 1 Open Space, Sport and Recreation in Belfast
1. BT 147/01 Carr's Glen/Waterworks
 2. BT 147/02 Forth River/Glencairn/Ligoniel Route
 3. BT 147/03 Shore Road/Belfast Hills
 4. BT 147/04 Lagan Valley Regional Park/Bog Meadow/Whiterock Route
 5. BT 147/05 Ballymurphy Route
 6. BT 147/06 Comber Greenway (Belfast)
 7. BT 147/07 Odyssey/Tullycarnet Park/Ormeau Park
 8. BT 147/08 Odyssey/Stormont
 9. BT 147/09 North Belfast/South Belfast/Lagan Valley Regional Park
 10. MCH 41/01 Annadale/Lagan Valley Regional Park
 11. ML 23/01 Lady Dixon/Belfast Hills
- 3.35. Following Local Government Review, parts of the following 6 designated community greenways also falls within the Belfast City Council area:
- HD18 Holywood
 - MCH 41/02 Annadale/Castlereagh Escarpment
 - MCH 41/03 Castlereagh Escarpment/ Lagan Valley Regional Park
 - MCH 41/04 Castlereagh Escarpment/ Lagan Valley Regional Park at Belvoir

- MCH 41/06 Comber Greenway (Castlereagh)
- ML 23/02 Lagan Valley Regional Park to Colin Valley Golf Course

Connswater Greenway

- 3.36. As part of the Belfast City Council Investment Programme, and in partnership with EastSide Partnership and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD)'s Rivers Agency, the Council are developing the £40million Connswater Community Greenway. The Department of Regional Development (DSD) and the Big Lottery Fund are also contributing financially to the project. The Greenway will reconnect the exiting Connswater Knock and Loop Rivers to create a 9km linear park running from Belfast Lough to Castlereagh Hills.

Countryside Recreation

- 3.37. The natural resources within the Belfast City Council area offers a wealth of opportunities for residents to enjoy the countryside experience in an urban setting through its provision of urban Parks located throughout the City (see Appendix 6 and 7). Belfast, a city framed by the Hills, is unique in its location offering countryside recreation opportunities just outside the city limits with its close proximity to the Belfast Hills.
- 3.38. One of the actions outlined in SPG5 'Protect and enhance the network of open spaces in the BMA' of the RDS 2035 promote a sustainable access to the countryside:
- 3.39. "The network consists of country parks, landscape wedges, parks and forests and community greenways. They are important recreational facilities which help to define a sense of place and character for urban communities. Opportunities should be taken for connections to an enhanced network of pedestrian paths, cycle-ways and ecological corridors. These have the potential to support biodiversity by linking existing ecological areas creating a network of green spaces throughout the BMUA"
- 3.40. The many natural resources encourage a range of outdoor pursuits and recreational activities such as hill walking, cycling, canoeing etc. Such natural tourism products can offer substantially to the local economy.

Lagan Valley Regional Park

- 3.41. The Lagan Valley Area Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) was designated in 1965 and most of which falls within the Lagan Valley Regional Park. The legislation under which the LVRP AONB was designated has since been superseded by the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985 (as amended), however Lagan Valley AONB is yet to be reviewed or designated under this legislation.
- 3.42. It is the only AONB in the Belfast City Council Area. The Lagan Valley Regional Park is a valuable asset for the people of Belfast. It has an integral position adjacent to Belfast and is a huge recreational resource covering 2116 hectares and stretching for 13 miles along the River Lagan from Belfast City to Lisburn City. Its location is situated partly within the Belfast and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council areas.
- 3.43. The characteristic features of the Lagan Valley AONB include riverbank scenery, diverse biodiversity, meadows, woodland and amenity parklands. Alongside the natural environmental assets of this area, it is also rich in diverse heritage including its contribution to the development of Belfast through its cultural and industrial heritage through linen production. Containing impressive monuments of local importance including the Giant's Ring, early Christian raths, the area became an attractive location for the early industrialists of Belfast whose successors built large houses and create the distinctive planted demesnes.

- 3.44. Over recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the conservation, recreation and tourism potential of the river, towpath and canal. There have been improvements in the water quality of the River Lagan over the years and water activities, such as angling, canoeing, rowing and motor boating are becoming a regular feature of the river. Lagan Valley Regional Park attracted the highest numbers of visitors off all the Country Parks/forests/gardens with 1.3million persons in 2014.
- 3.45. In April 2015, under the provisions of Local Government Reform, Belfast City Council assumed responsibilities for the management and maintenance of the River Lagan from Lagan Weir to its new administrative boundary at Edenderry. The Council developed 'Back to the River' strategy to set out its management and development of this riverine corridor as an environmental and community resource that can help to drive economic and social regeneration of the city and its rural hinterland.
- 3.46. It sets out the vision for the area:
- (for the inner city part of the corridor) the waterfront will become a fully integrated part of an expanded city centre
 - development on the east bank from Albert Bridge to Odyssey that will create a vibrant waterfront on both sides of the river and will enhance linkage from the city centre to Titanic Quarter and to inner East Belfast
 - a vibrant waterfront as further residential, leisure, hotel and restaurant uses bring more activity to the area
 - enhanced linkage across the river through the provision of pedestrian bridges
 - greater recreational use of the river itself especially in the area from Abercorn Basin to the Lagan Gateway as port activities move downstream
 - the reopening of the Lagan for navigation upstream of the Stranmillis Weir
- 3.47. One of the catalyst projects identified in the Back to the River Study is the Lagan Gateway at Stranmillis.
- 3.48. Linked to the Lagan Valley ANOB, the **Lagan Valley Regional Park Strategy** seeks to protect and, where possible, enhance the natural and man-made heritage of the Park and the conservation of its essential character and for that part within Belfast City Council area the planning actions are:
- specific additional policy for the control of development (Policy COU 12: Part 4) within the urban parts of the park to balance the presumption to approve, associated with urban development, with the need to protect and enhance the Park's character in an environmentally selective manner, and to resist pressure from inappropriate development;
 - specific additional policy for the control of development (Policy COU 10: Part 4) outside the urban parts of the Park particularly to ensure the conservation of its high quality landscapes;
 - designation of six nodes and a specific policy (Policy COU 11: Coast Section Part 4) for control of development within these, to focus the opportunity for sympathetic recreational, tourist related and educational related facilities in appropriate locations within the Park, based on existing activities;
 - additional protection of natural environment and heritage features by designation of two Local Landscape Policy areas and designation of seven Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance, to conserve and enhance the ecological richness of the Park (see section on Outer Belfast City); and
 - additional protection of build environment features by designation of one Area of Townscape Character and two Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes to conserve the

Park's man-made heritage and promote its wider public appreciation (see section on Outer Belfast City).

Belfast Hills

- 3.49. Belfast Hills provides walking, mountain biking and rock climbing pursuits (Appendix 12). The Belfast Hills area takes in Carnmoney Hill and Cave Hill to the north and Colin Glen, Divis and Black Mountain and Slievenacloy to the west. The operational boundary encompasses approximately 4,400 hectares (11,000 acres). From these hills, users can see a huge area that not only includes a number of key landmarks within the greater Belfast area, but also most of the counties in the north of Ireland and beyond to Scotland and the Isle of Man. Together the hills provide Belfast with a unique, stunning backdrop that dominates most of the city and offer a chance to take in magnificent views. However, much of the land within the Belfast Hills is privately owned which limits formal access.
- 3.50. The Belfast Hills have six main sites which are open to the public:
1. Carnmoney Hill
 2. Cave Hill Country Park and Belfast Castle
 3. Ligoniel mill dams and Park
 4. Divis and the Black Mountain
 5. Slievenacloy Nature Reserve
 6. Colin Glen Forest Park
- 3.51. **Cavehill Country Park** is managed by Belfast City Council and encompasses the heath and moorland above Cavehill, the meadows and the Milewater streams at Carr's Glen linear park, the woodlands at Hazelwood and the Belfast Castle Estate. Rich in biodiversity, the Park also offers panoramic views as well as archaeological sites of interest include the remnants of an old mill at the Milewater Stream.
- 3.52. **Colin Glen Forest Park** is managed on behalf of DoE by the Colin Glen Trust. Colin Glen Forest Park offers a 'countryside experience' close to the city limits. Describes as 'Belfast's Green Lung', the Park was awarded a Green Flag Award – a national benchmark for quality parks and green spaces. The Park offers a range of outdoor activities including golfing, archery, gymnasium, a high ropes course (funded by BCC), are just a few to mention. BCC has committed £2.5 million towards the Parks ambitious £6million masterplan which will see the creation of a new visitors' and outdoor pursuits centre, camp sites and mountain bike trails with a view to achieve self-sufficiency as well as protect the forest.

Woodlands

- 3.53. Northern Ireland is current one of the least wooded countries in Europe and many of the woodlands are in poor condition both in terms of age structure and the presence of wildlife. There is greater awareness of the benefits of woodland as a viable educational source, outdoor recreation provision and the wider contribution they make to quality of life. Their value to the environment is vital for fostering biodiversity, providing habitats but also help to ameliorate pollution and stabile soil.
- 3.54. Forest Service, DARD sustainably manage existing woodlands. Belvoir Park Forest is the only forest recreation area DARD manage. Covering 94 hectares along the south bank of the River Lagan, it is situated in the boundary of Lagan Valley Regional Park. Alongside its value as a unique natural heritage asset, the Park contains archaeological sites. Whilst commercial forestry is the main role of these areas and have an open public access policy on all woods, hence they never close to the public and provide an accessible recreation and amenity resource.

Community Woodlands

3.55. The Woodland Trust is a charity dedicated to the protection of native woodland heritage. They protect ancient woodland, acquire woodland and sites for planting, creating valuable urban green space, enhancing biodiversity by expanding woodland cover for the benefit of public enjoyment. The Woodland Trust manages the following sites:

- Woodland Walkway, Knockmount Gardens
- Ligoniel Wood, Mill Avenue
- Old Throne Wood, Antrim Road
- Mill Dam Wood, Ballygomartin Road

Community Gardens and Allotments

3.56. Belfast has many community gardens, where local residents can grow vegetable, fruit, flowers, meet their neighbours and learn about the environment. Such spaces can offer an environmental haven in an urban area, shared spaces as well as support the Council social agendas of health and well-being and creating shared and greener spaces. The location of community garden is listed in Appendix 13

Alongside community gardens there are twelve allotment locations:

- Albert Drive Allotments
- Annadale Allotments
- Ballysillan Allotments
- Belmont Allotments
- Blythesfield Allotments
- Glenbank Allotments
- Grove Playing Fields Allotments
- Seaview Allotments
- Suffolk Allotments
- Musgrave Allotments
- Waterworks Allotments
- Whiterock Allotments

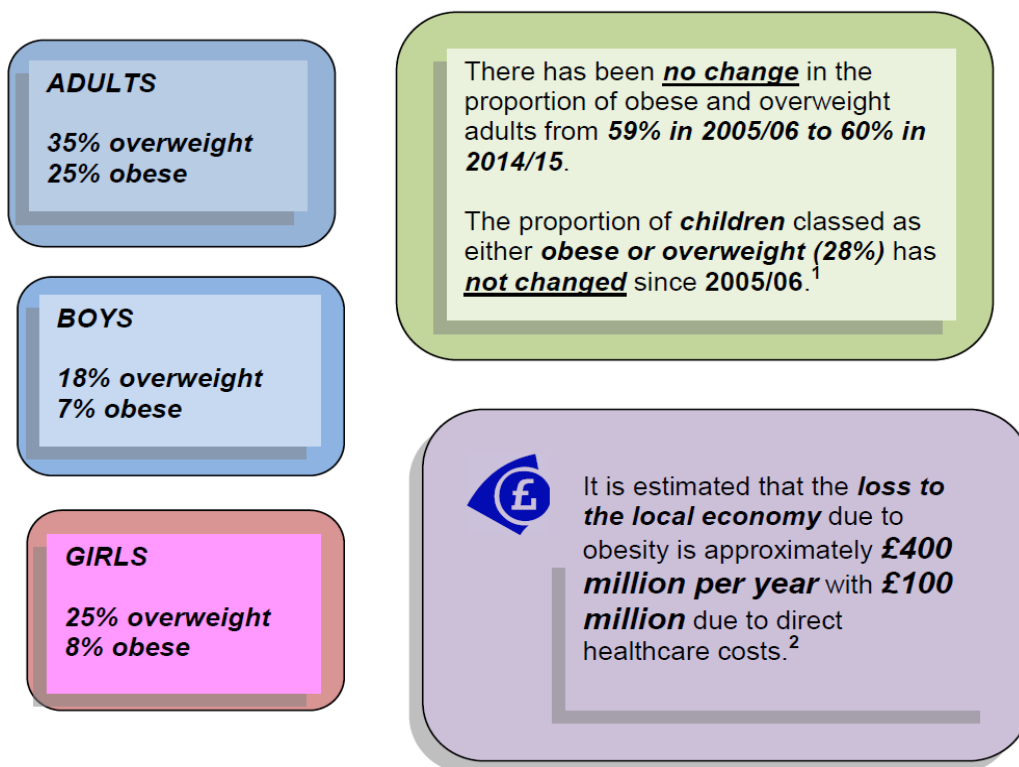
4.0 Issues and Approaches

Current Provision of Open Space in Belfast

- 4.1. Belfast has a relatively low level of green space for a city of its size. The Local Development Plan is promoting growth, with an estimated 19,000 additional residents living in the City by 2035, however this will place pressure on the need to protect existing space and the importance of providing new space is increased. It should be recognised that developing new open space in an existing urban area is difficult and development should seek to enhance open space and create attractive linkages between areas through approaches such as greenways. In approaching the development of the Local Development Plan it will be necessary to carry out further work to establish the spatial extent of open space, accessibility, examine potential linkages, the role and the potential multi functionality of spaces within the city environment.

Health- Obesity

- 4.2. Open spaces are important for health, as they provide opportunities for physical activity. Good quality accessible green spaces are also linked to positive mental health benefits and can support community cohesiveness. However obesity is still one of the most important public health challenges facing Northern Ireland.



¹ Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. Health Survey Northern Ireland First Results 2014/15. Belfast: DHSSPS, 2015).

² Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety. Making Life Better. A whole system strategic framework for public health 2013-2023. Belfast: DHSSPS, 2014.

4.3. Evidence shows that obesity can:

- reduces life expectancy by up to nine years;
- increases the risk of NI's biggest killers, coronary heart disease and cancer;
- increases the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, an obese women is ten times more likely to become diabetic than one who is not overweight; and
- can impact on emotional/psychological well-being and self-esteem, especially among young people.

Inactivity

4.4. Inactivity costs the UK economy approximately £20 billion every year. The direct cost from physical inactivity leads to more money being spent to treat diabetes, cancer, and heart disease. Indirect costs include numerous lost working days through sickness and subsequent lower productivity levels. UK Active has estimated that a 1% reduction in inactivity could save £1.2bn over five years. In comparison to 1961 levels, we are now 24% less active. If this is not tackled it is forecast that the population will be 35% less active by 2030. Declining levels of physical activity have been highlighted by numerous recent reports such as Moving More, Living More and Turning the Tide of Inactivity.

4.5. Several environmental factors which are linked to urbanization can discourage people from becoming more active, such as:

- fear of violence and crime in outdoor areas
- high-density traffic
- air pollution
- lack of parks, greenways, and sports/recreation facilities.

4.6. The term "physical activity" should not be confused with "exercise", which is a subcategory of physical activity that is planned, structured, repetitive, and aims to improve or maintain one or more components of physical fitness. Regular moderate intensity physical activity such as walking, cycling or participating in sports has significant benefits for health.

4.7. In 2012 the UK Government's national ambition for physical activity, is **to have a year on year increase in the number of adults doing 150 minutes of exercise per week (in bouts of 10 minutes or more) and a year on year decrease in those who are inactive, defined as doing less than 30 minutes of exercise per week (in bouts of 10 minutes or more)**. In 2013, WHO Member States agreed to a target of reducing insufficient physical activity by 10% by 2025 and included strategies to achieve such in the "Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013-2020".

4.8. There is a drive to promote healthier, longer, happier lives: with the recognition that it is important to create attractive, accessible open spaces that allows people of all ages to easily incorporate physical activity and active transport in their everyday lives as a matter of routine.

Health Inequity

4.9. There is growing evidence suggesting that health inequalities between the most and the least deprived groups are reduced where there is improved access to greenspace. "Income related inequality in health is moderated by exposure to green space. Overall better health is related to access to green space regardless of socio-economic status". (Marmot Review, 2010)

- Associations between green space and stress relief are particularly strongly made by people living with deprivation and disadvantage.
- In deprived areas, lack of control over shared space can have a negative impact on mental health.
- The contribution by community gardens and allotments to improve access to inexpensive, healthy food is particularly important for those on lower incomes and limited access to other resources.
- Evidence shows that access to green space encourages physical activity and supports the wellbeing of children, particularly in disadvantaged areas.

4.10. In the Belfast almost half (79) of the 174 Super Output Areas are classified as being in the 20% most deprived areas in Northern Ireland (NI), while a fifth (35) of areas in the Belfast are classified as being among the 20% least deprived areas in NI.

- Health outcomes were worse in the most deprived areas than in the Belfast LGD as a whole across all 26 indicators. It was also worse than the NI average
- Males in the 20% most deprived LGD areas could expect to live 70.8 years, 4.5 years fewer than in Belfast LGD overall (75.4 years).
- Female life expectancy in the most deprived areas was 77.3 years, 3.4 years less than the LGD average (80.7 years).
- The life expectancy inequality gap narrowed by 0.9 years for males and 0.3 years for females between 2006-08 and 2010-12.
- The only notable increase was for suicide rates, which increased by a third from 63% to 83% between 2004-08 and 2008-12. This was due to a relatively higher increase in the rate in the most deprived LGD areas (which increased by almost a half) than in the Belfast LGD overall (rose by a third).

Sub-regional inequalities by local government district (LGD) Belfast 2015 Date published: 28 August 2015 - Department for Health NI.

Mitigating and Adapting to Environmental Change

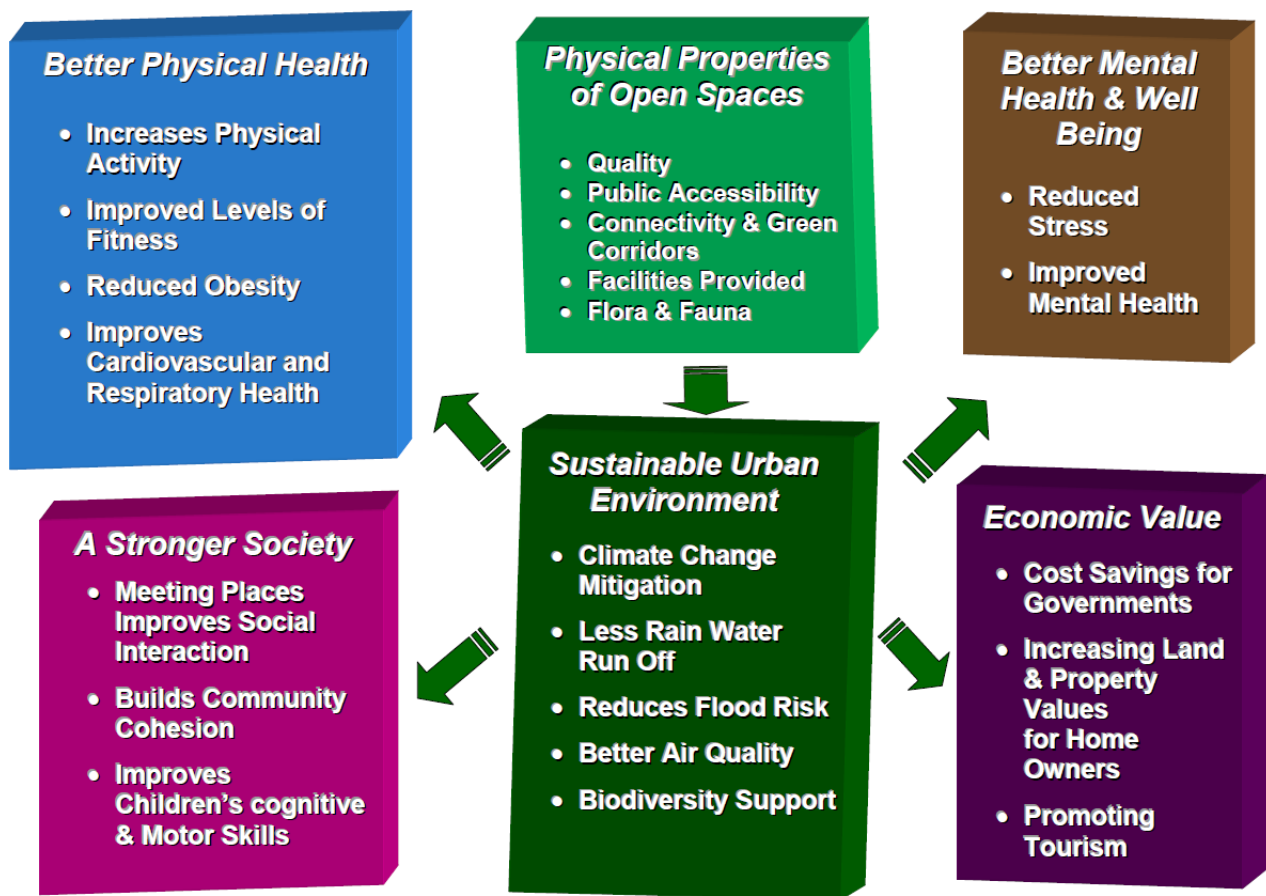
4.11. Environmental change predictions indicate that temperatures are increasing, and this will pose a particular problem for urban areas. Urban areas generate, absorb and store a lot of heat energy which could be a big problem for people living in the City. Local hot spots are generated when solar power absorbing plants (trees, grass, soil, lakes, etc.) are replaced by high thermal inertia concrete, asphalt and highly reflective glass. The situation is made worse when this is combined with an impermeable surface where water cannot trickle into the ground. Green spaces such as parks, green amenity spaces, living walls, green roofs, and street trees can be used to moderate the effect as can blue infrastructure such as ponds, streams and lakes. Cities struggle to cope with flash floods of the sort we are likely to see more of with climate change resulting in problematic runoff. Green spaces, green roofs, rain gardens and swales can help in the most basic fashion by holding onto large quantities of water. More engineered solutions within green spaces can also store water for subsequent reuse in a closed loop system.

4.12. Green house gas emission has increased the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other pollutants in the atmosphere. Plants extract CO₂ from the air for use in photosynthesis. There are also some species that can capture, degrade, or eliminate pollutants and heavy metals from the air, soil and water. Belfast has four air quality management areas where there are high levels of pollution. Green spaces and trees have a significant role to help in the reduction of pollution.

The Economic Value of Open Space and Recreation Facilities

- 4.13. A high-quality public environment can have a significant impact on the economic life of the City. Belfast as the economic driver of the region has to compete for inward investments with other cities in Europe. The presence of good parks, civic squares, and other public spaces becomes a vital business and marketing tool. Companies are attracted to locations that offer well-designed, well-managed public spaces and these in turn attract customers, employees and services.
- 4.14. There is a strong correlation that open spaces such as parks and recreational areas can have a positive effect on nearby residential property values. It is noted that enhanced property values were recorded on housing located within 600m of a high quality open space. Research by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in Aberdeen similarly found that location on the edge of a park had the potential to attract a premium of up to 19% on house prices. Larger parks with facilities were found to have a more significant impact. CABE Space also calculated an uplift of property values of around 3% to 5% of housing near good quality parks. Similar findings are also reported outside the UK: a report commissioned by CABE cites a Dutch study which concluded that having a park nearby could raise house prices by 6% and a view of a park by 8%. This can offer clear benefits of generating higher rates revenue for the Council. New developments with good access to high quality open space network can also provide economic benefits to developers through higher house sale prices, enhanced marketability and faster sales or leases than conventional development.

Benefits Provided by Open Spaces



Designating and Allocating Open Space Sites

Issues

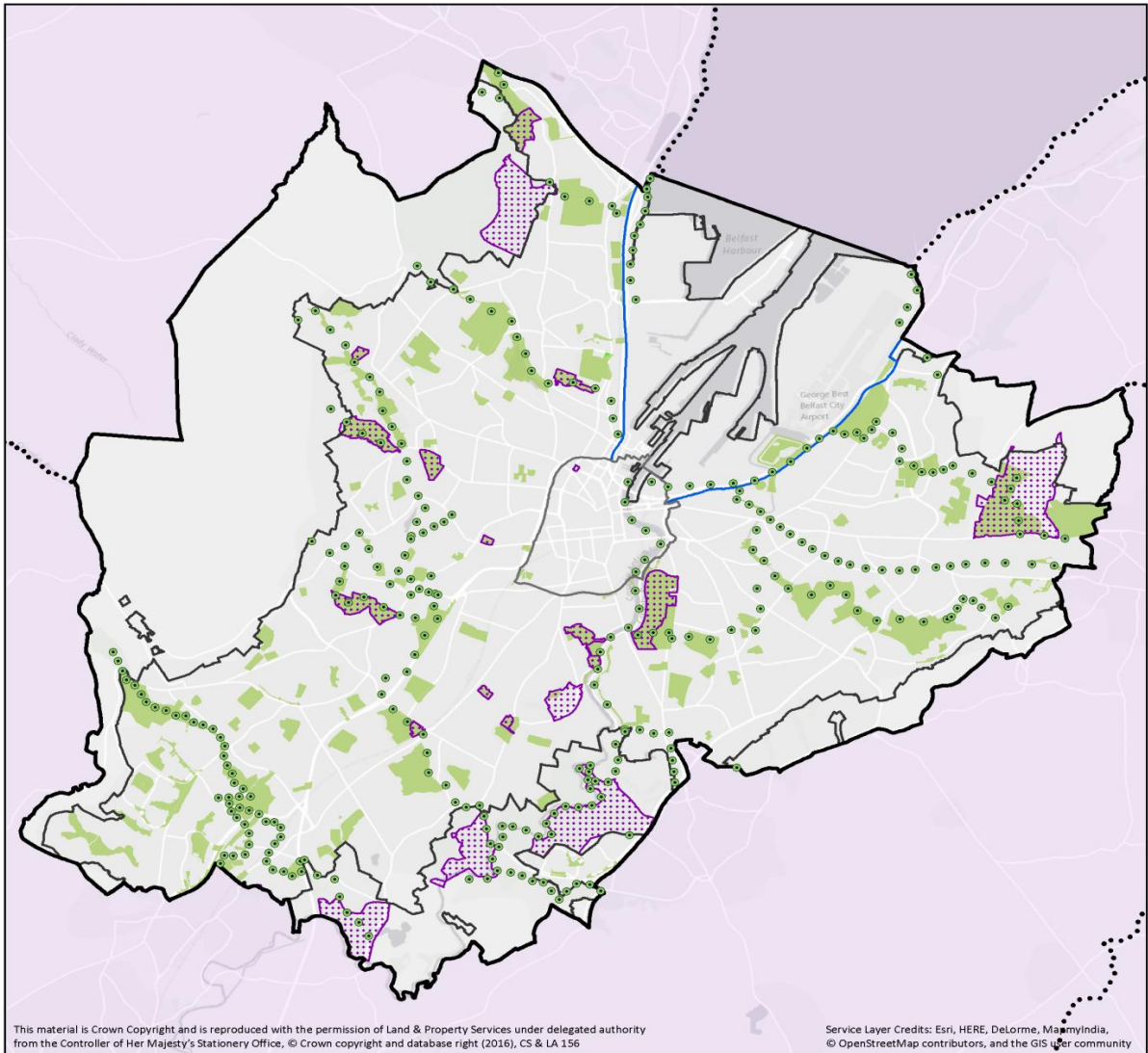
- 4.15. The Council's inventory of open space sites is published in the **Belfast City Council's 'Your City, Your Space' Strategy 2005-2020**. However the Local Development Plan will also have to include the additional sites from Castlereagh and Lisburn that were transferred as part of the Reform of Public Administration as well as all private open spaces and sport playing fields. The Strategy recognises there is a lack of green open space in the city and potential solutions are required to soften the harsh concrete and tarmac appearance of the urban area. New green spaces and tree-lined streets can provide relief in the most densely developed part of the city.
- 4.16. In 2009, Sport NI published a report 'Bridging the Gap' which identified unmet demand and shortfalls for sports facilities. The publication encouraged the need for a strategic development of sports facilities, and Sports NI is currently working with local authorities to develop a sports strategy to identify sport facility needs within the Council areas. The Council prepared its **Playing Pitches Strategy 2011-2021** due to the development of new residential areas, population groups and the changing expectations of leisure facilities users, to identify the number of existing sports pitches and the need for additional pitches in the City. The Playing Pitches Strategy provides a framework for:
- making informed planning decisions (particularly PPS8) and measuring impact
 - targeting financial support and investment in facilities, and
 - planning the delivery of sports development programmes.
- 4.17. Belfast has 216 grass pitches and 51 artificial pitches. The Council manages 105 Children's playgrounds across the city. Belfast has 42 Parks of which 15 have been awarded Green flags. Belfast has 11 designated greenways and linkages. It has recently completed the Connswater Greenway which links a number of parks in East Belfast. There are around 20 formal community gardens in Belfast and 12 allotment locations. The Belfast Hills provides an array of outdoor recreational facilities alongside Colin Glen Forest Park and Cavehill Country Park. Other types of countryside recreation include Belvoir Forest Park, Community Woodlands at Knockmount Gardens, Ligoniel Wood, Old Throne Wood and Mill Dam Wood. Lagan Valley Regional Park covers 2116ha and stretches along the Lagan from Belfast to Lisburn.
- 4.18. **The Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) 2015** recognises the significant role open spaces play in the life of communities within the Plan area. The BMAP Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation Strategy comprises of the following elements:
- Facilitating the development of a network of Community Greenways and Green Wedges
 - Facilitating the provision of new open space
- 4.19. BMAP refers to the extensive range of open space provision within the Urban area, from countryside recreational facilities at the edge of the urban fringes, to formal recreational provision such as our golf courses and pitches, to our urban parks throughout the City. The suite of outdoor open spaces, indoor leisure and recreation centres play a key role in enhance the recreational offer to communities. Particularly within areas of high urban density, the role of indoor recreational and leisure centres are significant as the availability of outdoor space for recreational activity can be limited.

Map – Existing Open Space, Sport and Recreation sites In Belfast



Belfast City Council

NATURAL HERITAGE



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Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Area of Existing Open Space | Council Area |
| Land identified for Open Space | Metropolitan/Settlement Development Limit |
| Historic Park, Garden and Demesne | Belfast City Centre |
| Community Greenway | Belfast Harbour Area |

Source: Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (Adopted September 2014)



- 4.20. Open spaces are classified depending on their types and proposed function. The typology table below describes the different types of open spaces designations. The descriptions are a guide because it can be argued that some sites fall into more than one category. In those cases they are put into the most appropriate category.

Summary of open space types in Belfast

OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGY		
Category	Type	Description
PARKS	Country Parks	They are of a significant size of open space, with large areas of natural or semi natural landscapes supporting a range of wildlife. They are publicly accessible by public transport and attract large numbers of visitors and tourist. They provide a range of facilities and heritage features offering recreational, ecological, landscape, cultural or green infrastructure benefits. E.g. Cavehill (91,000 visitors in 2014), Barnett Demesne, Lady Dixon (300,000 visitors in 2014 and was ranked no 5 in the top 10 visitor attraction for NI).
	City Parks	Formal open space of a significant size that offer a combination of facilities and heritage features at the subregional level. They are among the main visitor attractions in Belfast and are popular with Tourist and visitors to the City. They are readily accessible by public transport and have a superior quality of facilities. E.g. Botanic Gardens, Ormeau Park
	District Parks	Medium areas of open space that provide a landscape setting with a variety of natural features providing for a wide range of activities, including outdoor sports facilities and playing fields, children's play for different age groups and informal recreation pursuits. E.g. Falls Park, Victoria Park, Waterworks
	Local parks and open spaces	Serve the local neighbourhood for a safe open space for the local community. They contain provision for court games, children's play, sitting-out areas and nature conservation areas. They are usually accessible by foot and are mainly used by the local community. E.g. Dunville Park, Belmont Park, Loughside Park, Drumglass Park.
AMENITY SPACE	General amenity open spaces	Areas of landscaped green spaces that provide natural surfaces and shaded areas for informal play and passive recreation. They enhance residential and commercial areas.
GREENWAYS	Linear open spaces	Open spaces and towpaths along rivers, disused railways, nature conservation areas, and other routes that provide opportunities for informal

		recreation – walking, cycling. Provide a valuable green corridor for wildlife. Often characterised by features or attractive areas that contribute to the enjoyment of the space. Eg Lagan Pathway, Lagan Valley Regional Park (1,347,000 visitors in 2014, and is in the top 10 visitor attraction in NI – an 19% increase from 2013), Connswater Greenway, Comber Greenway.
CIVIC SPACE	Civic Spaces	High quality hard landscaped areas that have public value, and used for events. Generally located within or near to the city centre. Valuable for public events. Eg Custom House Square, Writers Square.
PLAYING FIELDS	Public Playing Fields	Natural or artificial surfaces publicly owned used for sport and recreation. They include: Outdoor sports facilities pitches / playing fields
	Private Playing Fields	Natural or artificial surfaces privately owned used for sport and recreation. They include: Outdoor sports facilities pitches / playing fields
	School Playing Fields	Land belonging to a school or college. Generally consist of areas for formal sport, informal play, landscaping and nature conservation. For safety Educational grounds and security reasons they are usually locked up and made inaccessible to the general public. Often schools allow community use of the sports facilities for a fee but this cannot be guaranteed.
	Other Outdoor Sports Provision	Natural or artificial surfaces either publicly or privately owned used for sport and recreation. They include: tennis courts and bowls greens athletics tracks
	Golf Courses	Natural landscaped spaces either publicly or privately owned to be used for golf.
PLAY AREAS	Play Grounds	Usually described as playgrounds or play parks. Areas designed with equipment primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people. This would include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • teenage shelters • skateboard parks • BMX tracks • Play equipment • Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA).
ALLOTMENTS	Allotments & Community Gardens	Sites providing plots which offer opportunities for residents to grow their own produce. Important for health and community involvement /cohesion. The development of community gardening is a means of addressing wider food supply issues in areas of

		urban deprivation.
CEMETERIES	Cemeteries	Quiet areas that provide opportunities for wildlife.
WOODLANDS	Woodlands	Includes publicly accessible woodlands, and Forest.
INDOOR FACILITIES	Public Indoor Sport & Recreation Facilities	Public Leisure Centres or Indoor Activity Centres.

4.21. The Local Plan will need to include all the sites identified in the latest Belfast City Council survey of open space sites. As explained above, the Council is updating the inventory of open space sites, with the latest audit to be undertaken to provide updated information for the Local Development Plan. Sites would be protected by a criteria-based policy, which would take into account their past and present use. Also open space sites identified and designated in the BMAP 2015 should be protected. Therefore all open spaces identified in the Open Space Audit and the BMAP 2015 will be listed within the Local Development Plan and designated in the Policies Map to be protected for open space and recreational and sports use.

Justification

- 4.22. Belfast is a densely built urban area with a limited amount of open space. Some sites are under pressure to be built on by developers but need to be protected wherever possible because open space sites are difficult to replace. In designating the sites in the Local Development Plan and on a map should provide a higher degree of certainty to developers and residents that the open space is protected from alternative development zoning.
- 4.23. In protecting existing and allocating new open spaces, recreational and sports facilities, this will enable the Council to ensure that there is a variety of open spaces and sufficient capacity to help increase participation in sport and physical activity to improve community well being and health.
- 4.24. The protection of existing open spaces and allocating new open spaces will have the benefit of enhancing the built environment, as well as mitigating the effects of climate change, by absorbing surface water, air-borne pollutants and noise, and provide visual amenity and urban cooling.

Open Space Standards

Issues

- 4.25. The Local Development Plan should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision are required.
- 4.26. The Council's 'Your City, Your Space' Strategy 2005-2020 defined the following park catchment areas:

Park Catchment Areas		
Type	Approx Size	Catchment
Country Parks		Regional and National
City Parks	10 or more Hectares	City wide
District Parks	8 or more hectares	1200 meters
Local Park	c0.5 hectares	400 meters

4.27. The Planning Policy Statement 8 adopts the National Playing Fields Association (NPFA) '6 Acre Standard' and recommends a minimum standard for 'outdoor playing space' of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population. 'Outdoor playing space' is made up of two main components. The first of these is land provided for outdoor sport, principally for adults and youths. The second is playing space for children. The NPFA does not regard 'outdoor playing space' to be the same as public open space, rather it is space that is safely accessible and available to the general public, and of a suitable size and nature, for sport, active recreation or children's play. Accordingly it is a significant component, but not the only form, of open space. Furthermore it confirms that these are minimum standards and advises that they should be exceeded whenever possible.

NPFA Standard Outdoor Sport: 1.6 hectares per 1000 people

- Facilities such as pitches, greens, courts, athletic tracks and miscellaneous sites such as training areas in the ownership of councils;
- Facilities as described in (i) above within the educational sector which are available for public use by written agreement; and
- Facilities as described in (i) above within the voluntary, private, industrial and commercial sectors, which serve the leisure time needs for outdoor recreation of their members, or the public.

Note: - Included within the standard for outdoor sport is a specific allocation of 1.2 hectares per 1000 people for pitch sports.

NPFA Standard Children's Playing Space: 0.8 hectares per 1000 people

Designated areas for children and young people containing a range of facilities and an environment that has been designed to provide focussed opportunities for outdoor play; and

Casual or informal playing space within housing areas.

4.28. The adopted Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) 2015 used the National Playing Fields Association's Six Acre Standard to measure outdoor sports provision at ward level across the plan area. The BMAP assessment identified that the majority of wards across the city do not have enough areas for outdoor sport. In 2004 the BMAP recorded 274.42 hectares of outdoor sport provision within the city boundary.

- 4.29. An Open Space Audit provides information of the existing open space and how it is used in the city. The main aim of an updated study is to provide an evidence base for the Local Development Plan. An Open Space Audit compares the existing levels of provision against the recommended quantity and accessibility standards to produce a series of tables/maps. These tables/maps highlight areas of surplus and deficit for different types of open space based on where people live. The quantity standards are based on average levels of open space provision across the city. They therefore provide a benchmark to identify areas of the city that have levels of provision above these standards and others where open space provision is below the prescribed standard.
- 4.30. However, simple analysis using the citywide the open space standards has its limitations. The levels of demand may vary across the city; particularly in densely built residential areas with no gardens, are likely to have greater demand for public open space and allotments. Despite these limitations, the standards can still be a useful guide, as it can indicate how much open space should be provided to support new residential development and population growth.
- 4.31. Open Space Standards can help justify improvements (either in terms of quantity or quality) in areas that appear to have a deficit. And in areas that appear to have a surplus, further consideration needs to be given to whether the open space sites are underused, and if so, why. Ultimately, if open space sites are deemed to be surplus to need, and there is no prospect of them being required to provide for latent demand, then it may be appropriate to allocate them for an alternative use.
- 4.32. The latest information on open space sites, collected as part of the evidence gathering for the Local Plan, can be compared to the recommended open space standards in PPS 8 and the previous Local Plan, the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015. The quantity standards are expressed in terms of hectares per 1000 people, which are to be used to estimate how much open space would be required for different growth scenarios.

Justification

- 4.33. Open space, sport, recreation and play facilities are important to the attractiveness of place, and to people's overall quality of well being. They can improve the image of the City and help to attract economic investment and tourism. In particular quality open spaces provide relief from the built environment; provide a venue for exercise, play, events and the exploration of nature. They are important for the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change. For these reasons, they make an essential contribution towards sustainable development in the city.
- 4.34. The Plan will need to aim to deliver open space provision across the city that at a minimum meets the standards set by the latest assessment of local needs. This will be done by improving existing open space and the creation of new open space.
- 4.35. In order to mitigate the effects of population growth, new open space will be created or existing open space improved to serve new housing. These open space standards will ensure that there is an adequate provision of open space in new developments.
- 4.36. The Council is considering the potential to fund New Open Spaces through **Article 76 agreements** requiring contributions from Developers.

Protecting Open Space

Issues

- 4.37. Belfast is highly urbanised compact City, and development land is in short supply with many competing demands for it. New community facilities housing, and commercial employment developments can provide significant benefits to the city. Therefore it should be considered in what circumstances, if any, it might be justified to lose open space sites to new development. And when it is deemed acceptable to develop on an open space site, and what should be required in return? Should we always require replacement open space, or are there circumstances where improving existing open spaces is sufficient?
- 4.38. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement states there will be a policy presumption against the loss of open space to competing land uses in Local Development Plan irrespective of its physical condition and appearance. Any exception to this general approach should only be appropriate where it is demonstrated that redevelopment would bring substantial community benefit that outweighs the loss of the open space; or where it is demonstrated that the loss of open space will have no significant detrimental impact on the amenity, character or biodiversity of an area.
- 4.39. The Planning Policy Statement 8 also states an exception will also be permitted where it is demonstrated that the loss of open space will have no significant detrimental impact and where either of the following circumstances occur:
- 4.40. (i) in the case of an area of open space of 2 hectares or less, alternative provision is made by the developer which is at least as accessible to current users and at least equivalent in terms of size, usefulness, attractiveness, safety and quality; or
- 4.41. (ii) in the case of playing fields and sports pitches within settlement limits, it is demonstrated by the developer that the retention and enhancement of the facility can only be achieved by the development of a small part of the existing space - limited to a maximum of 10% of the overall area - and this will have no adverse effect on the sporting potential of the facility. This exception will be exercised only once.

Justification

- 4.42. The protection of open space is particularly important in urban areas where competing development pressures are greatest. Indeed, its retention and enhancement is now all the more important in support of the drive for urban renaissance. The aim of urban renaissance is to create a more sustainable form of development by encouraging compact urban forms and promoting more housing within existing urban areas without town cramming. This, however, should not lead to a loss of amenity and indeed places greater emphasis on the need to maintain a well-distributed, well-connected and accessible supply of open space.

Planning Positively for Green Infrastructure

- 4.43. **“Green infrastructure”** is describes as a network of multi-functional green space that is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental, biodiversity enhancement and quality of life benefits for local communities.

Issues

- 4.44. The Regional Development Strategy policy objective is to “Protect and encourage green and blue infrastructure within urban areas”. Green infrastructure such as natural heritage, parks, green spaces and street trees can be used to moderate the effect of climate change in the City. It also states that plans need to “Identify, establish, protect and manage

ecological networks” to help conserve and enhance biodiversity. A well established ecological network, including designated sites, should provide the habitats needed for ecosystems and species populations to survive in an increasingly human dominated landscape. Such networks could also be of amenity value if linked to the green infrastructure provided by walking and cycle routes to heritage and other recreational interest.

- 4.45. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement requires Local Development Plans to adopt a strategic approach to identify and promote the design of ecological networks to help reduce the fragmentation and isolation of open spaces within the city. In addition the Plan should seek to identify and promote green and blue infrastructure where this will add value to the provision, enhancement and connection of open space and habitats in and around the City.
- 4.46. The Local Development Plan will need to facilitate the development of an extensive network of natural heritage, open spaces, blue and green areas which combine to form a single green and blue infrastructure resource or ecosystem services capable of serving many functions and benefits. Green and Blue Infrastructure is important for many reasons including recreation, amenity, biodiversity, active transport, flood prevention, health and well-being. It is a fundamental component for the creation of sustainable communities to adapt the effects of climate change, protecting biodiversity, to respond to the healthy living agenda and the need to safeguard vital ecosystem services. It also provides business, employment, and educational opportunities; encouraging tourism; and promoting sustainable use of scarce land resources.
- 4.47. Green and Blue Infrastructure should be designed to be multi-functional. A single piece of land can offer opportunities for play and adventure, store water during heavy rainfall, provide habitat for wildlife, and improve residential amenity by offering high quality landscaping that complements the built environment.
- 4.48. The BMAP includes proposals for community greenways and green wedges. There is protection of open spaces and natural heritage that could form the basis of a green infrastructure network. The main aim of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Network is to provide a refuge for wildlife and to connect wildlife areas with the surrounding countryside. In addition, it is recognised that the Network had the potential to provide Tourist, pedestrian and cycle routes into and out of the city.
- 4.49. The creation of green continuous networks in the city will contribute to climate adaptation in cooling the city and the collection of storm water. A green and blue continuous network will consist of trees, green roofs and walls, sustainable urban drainage, rain gardens and green courtyards, green planting on roadsides. New green continuous networks would include green wedges i.e. Lagan Valley Regional Park, or corridors between the city’s parks and nature areas i.e. Connswater Greenway, or green continuous city spaces, where cyclists, pedestrians, rainwater and urban nature share the space.
- 4.50. Future predictions indicate that temperatures are increasing, and this will pose a particular problem for urban areas. Urban areas generate, absorb and store a lot of heat energy which could be a big problem for people living in the City. Local hot spots are generated when solar power absorbing plants (trees, grass, soil, lakes, etc.) are replaced by high thermal inertia concrete, asphalt and highly reflective glass. The situation is made worse when this is combined with an impermeable surface where water cannot trickle into the ground. Green infrastructure such as parks, green spaces and street trees can be used to moderate the effect as can blue infrastructure such as ponds, streams lakes and sustainable urban drainage systems.

- 4.51. In cities, concrete structures absorb solar radiation and retain heat during the day, slowly emitting it at night, starting the process again each day. It leads to the so-called 'urban heat island effect' where cities are often several degrees warmer than their surroundings. On top of climate change, it means some stifling conditions to come. Installations like tree lined streets, living walls and green roofs can mitigate this effect as they facilitate evaporative, endothermic cooling. That can also save on air conditioning costs for buildings.
- 4.52. Cities struggle to cope with flash floods of the sort we are likely to see more of with climate change resulting in problematic runoff. Effective planning of the green and blue infrastructure network will help reduce the flood risk to people and property. Green spaces next to rivers and streams create natural flood plains where water flows and can be stored when it floods. Trees and other plants process rainwater (through interception, evaporation and transpiration) to reduce flows. Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) can be integrated into green corridors and spaces; these can include rain gardens for "Bioretention" which are relatively small depressed areas designed to retain water for a short time in order to slow down and reduce storm runoff peaks, as well as reduce pollution. Swales, or bioswales, are shallow ditches with a slight gradient, designed to filter and absorb water as it flows slowly downhill. This downhill flow is what distinguishes them from rain gardens, or bioretention. Sustainable drainage can help reduce the risk from surface water flooding particularly in high risk areas; a 10% increase in green infrastructure on a site can see a 5% reduction in surface water run off. All new urban storm water drainage systems should incorporate measures to manage the flow of waters which exceed design standards (exceedance flows) in order to help protect vulnerable areas. Green roofs, rain gardens and swales can help in the most basic fashion by holding onto large quantities of water. More engineered solutions can also store water for subsequent reuse in a closed loop system.
- 4.53. Green house gas emission has increased the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other pollutants in the atmosphere. Plants extract CO₂ from the air for use in photosynthesis. There are also some species that can capture, degrade, or eliminate pollutants and heavy metals from the air, soil and water.
- 4.54. The UK imports approximately 60% of food annually. Cities are net importers of food, however with increasing competition for food from Developing Countries, this will mean higher food prices, and shortages, stormy weather will cause supply disruptions. Increasingly compact urban farming solutions such as allotments, hydroponics and aquaculture can help cities and communities to become more self-sufficient food producers.
- 4.55. Green and Blue infrastructure planning is a holistic approach that seeks to identify the functions that are being provided by the parks, trees, gardens, waterways and grassland across the whole of the city. In particular, how these functions, as public recreation, water management and reducing air pollution, provide benefits to address local needs and the key issues for the city. In planning for a Green and Blue infrastructure all areas of vegetation and water are assessed collectively, treating them as a system, that can provide a critical infrastructure to help the city adapt to climate change as well as creating an attractive environment that can deliver economic and social benefits.
- 4.56. Climate adaptation measures are closely linked to the long-term planning of urban development. It is a focused effort to plan a greener City that can be a preventive investment to climate-proof Belfast and to deliver a high level of quality of life, and better health outcomes for the city's population. The Local Development Plan presents an opportunity to outline climate adaptation policies and proposal to promote the integrated planning of the city to provide an integrated Green and Blue Infrastructure
- 4.57. There is an opportunity to identify and protect a citywide Green and Blue Infrastructure Network. The BUAP designated an extensive Green Network of community greenways and

green wedges, based around the main linear, semi-natural features that dissect the city. Sites in the Green and Blue Infrastructure Network will be protected from development seriously adversely affecting its continuity and value. This network will be reviewed and updated. There is potential for new development to incorporate Green and Blue Infrastructure features as part of the design, which includes green roofs and walls, roof gardens, sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS), tree and hedgerow planting, and creating safe accessible links with neighbouring green space.

Justification

- 4.58. The Plan could carry forward the BMAP policy of protecting a citywide Green Network of Community Greenways, Open Spaces, Natural Heritage and Green Wedges. These could be protected from development which adversely affects its continuity and value. This approach is a positive way to plan for an integrated Green and Blue Infrastructure in the city.
- 4.59. This enables development proposals to incorporate existing and/or new Green and Blue Infrastructure features within their design (such as green roofs, SuDS, trees, etc). It allows green infrastructure improvements to be considered at an early stage of the design process and considered to be a sensible route to securing green infrastructure and green network improvements across the city. Development proposals within, or in close proximity to, a Green Network corridor should enhance the functionality and connectivity of the corridor.
- 4.60. It recognises the huge contribution that a Green and Blue Infrastructure Network could make to the City, and supports the retention and enhancement of important parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments, community gardens, large tracts of countryside, landscape features of hills, and valleys, as well as many other areas that constitute green infrastructure. Areas of 'blue space', such as river corridors, wetlands and waterways are also intrinsic elements of green infrastructure. The provision of additional open space and green areas where appropriate will be required as part of new developments. However improved access to green spaces will not always be appropriate, for example to sensitive areas that could be damaged through disturbance. Limited releases of open space for development will only be considered in exceptional circumstances where the loss would not result in detriment to the overall green infrastructure provision and there is scope for improving the quality of provision elsewhere.

New Public Open Space Requirements

- 4.61. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement requires all new residential development to provide new "publicly accessible urban greenspace". The standards are described above in Preferred Option of Open Space Standards section.
- 4.62.
- 4.63. If the standards cannot be achieved on site, this could be where the size of the new development makes it impractical to provide greenspace then improving existing greenspace or creating new greenspace nearby will be required. Small developments (e.g. fewer than 50 dwellings) only require a small area of greenspace. Individually these small areas of greenspace are of little value and are costly to maintain. In such cases it is usually better to have a planning agreement to collect financial contributions from several developments and use them to create and/or improve larger areas of greenspace.
- 4.64.
- 4.65. Planning agreements are agreements between the local Council and applicants/developers and can be used to make unacceptable development, in planning terms, acceptable. They can be used to compensate for loss such as open space or mitigate the impact of the proposal through the increase in the provision of open space or improvements to existing spaces.

- 4.66. Planning Agreements must be directly relevant to the proposed development and should be used where a conditional approval could not deliver the necessary planning results. Failure to reach a satisfactory agreement will normally lead to a refusal of planning permission. The Council believes that planning agreements are a key tool in delivering future sustainable development for the City. They are widely used elsewhere as effective and valuable tools. The authority to make use of planning agreements is found in Section 76 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011.
- 4.67. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement states that Section 76 Agreements to secure Developer Contributions must be taken into account in preparing the Local Development Plan and is material to all planning decisions. The Strategic Planning Policy Statement also states that that a planning agreement may be considered appropriate where what is required cannot be adequately addressed by the imposition of conditions and is required to enable the development to go ahead. Planning agreements can be applicable where there is a loss of open space in the context of Planning Policy 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation.
- 4.68. The Council is considering the adoption of Section 76 Agreements to secure Developer Contributions charging schedule, and use the proceeds to improve public realm and open space provision across the city. This leaves the question whether we should still require on-site open space, and if so, in what circumstances and how much? A strategic approach will be required to determine where the the funding is required to fund the public realm. An overall master plan and guidance would provide a transparent framework for investment decisions and provide for a planned approach to develop an integrated green and blue infrastructure network. This would avoid the piece meal approach to the delivery of potential open spaces. It would also help to secure potential funds for other sources that would help to deliver new open spaces in the city.

Justification

- 4.69. It is important in a city which has a limited land supply, where there are deficits of open space in the inner city areas of disadvantage, to ensure that there is adequate access to open spaces. A planned approach to develop an integrated green and blue infrastructure network would help to focus investment in a transparent way to deliver open spaces and quality access within the city.
- 4.70. This would create certainty both for where new open space will be provided in order to meet assessed demand, and also provides developers with the implications of developing each site in an upfront and transparent manner.
- 4.71. This information contained within this topic paper has been used to inform the next stage of the LDP process, the Preferred Options Paper.

Table of Figures

Appendix A: TYPOLOGY OF OPEN SPACE

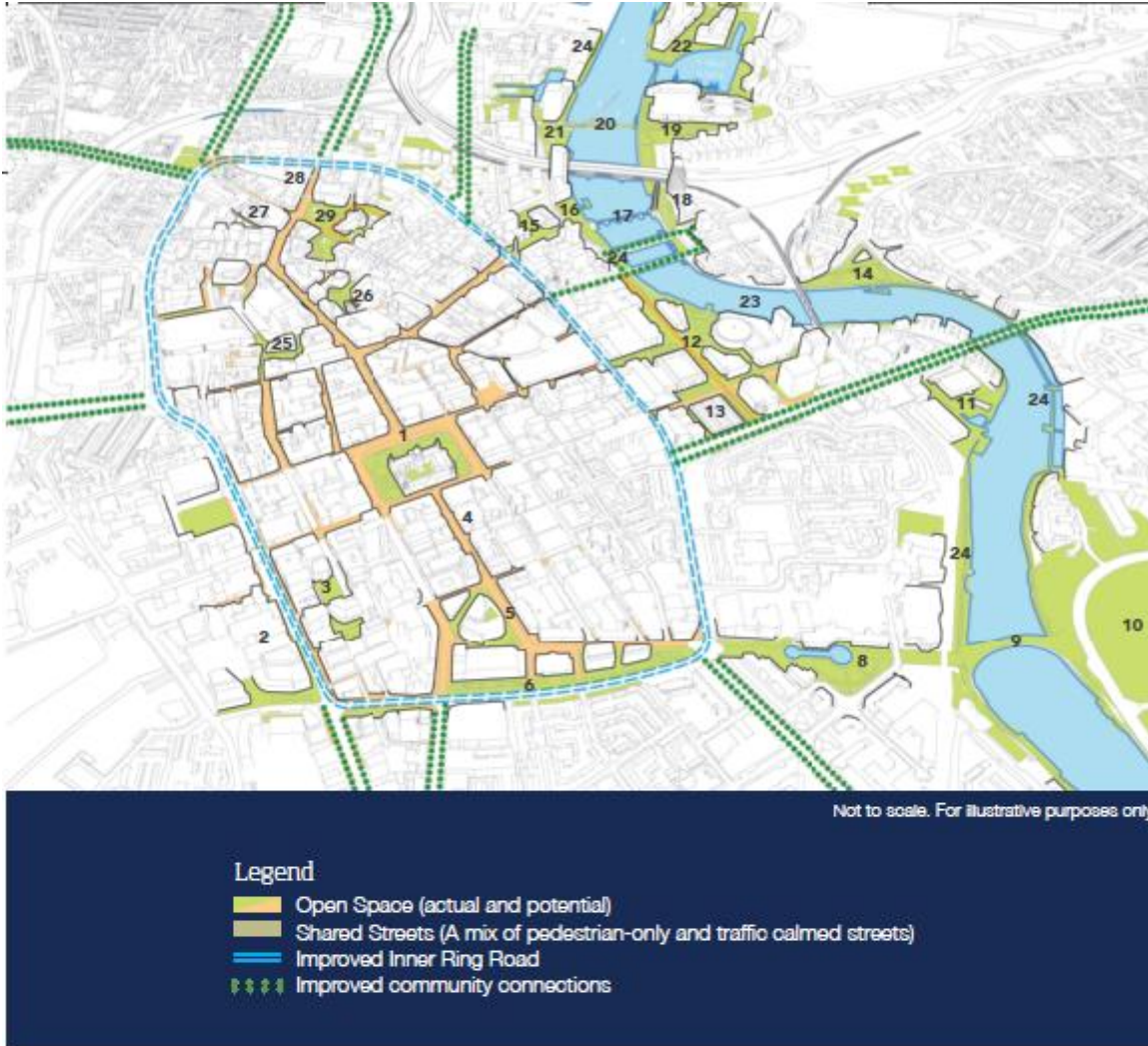
The typology of open space is defining in PPS 8 as:

The following typology illustrates the broad range of open spaces that are of public value:

1. parks and gardens – including urban parks, country parks, forest parks and formal gardens;
2. outdoor sports facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned) – including tennis courts, bowling greens, sport pitches, golf courses, athletic tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas;
3. amenity green space (most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas) – including informal recreation spaces, communal green spaces in and around housing, and village greens;
4. provision for children and teenagers – including play areas, kickabout areas, skateboard parks and outdoor basketball hoops;
5. green corridors – including river and canal banks, amenity footpaths and cycleways;
6. natural and semi-natural urban green spaces – including woodlands, urban forestry, grasslands (eg. meadows), wetlands, open and running water, and rock areas (eg. cliffs);
7. allotments and community gardens;
8. cemeteries and churchyards; and
9. civic spaces, including civic and market squares and other hard surface areas designed for pedestrians.

APPENDIX 2: ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL OPEN SPACE IN BELFAST.

Source: Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy 2015



Open Spaces

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Donegall Square | 18 Queen's Quay Open Space |
| 2 Great Victoria Street Transport Hub | 19 Odyssey Quays Open Space |
| 3 Blackstaff Square | 20 City Quays-Odyssey Pedestrian Bridge |
| 4 Linenhall Street - 'Streets Ahead South' | 21 City Quays Open Space |
| 5 'Linenhall Square' | 22 Titanic Quarter Open Space |
| 6 Newly Imagined 'South Link' | 23 River Lagan |
| 7 Shaftesbury Square | 24 Riverfront Promenade |
| 8 Gasworks Open Space | 25 Bank Square |
| 9 Proposed Ormeau Park Pedestrian Bridge | 26 New Open Space |
| 10 Ormeau Park | 27 Library Square |
| 11 Belfast Central Station Public Realm | 28 Streets Ahead North Expansion |
| 12 Oxford Street/Waterfront Hall Public Realm | 29 Cathedral Gardens |
| 13 St. Georges Market Open Space | |
| 14 Sirocco Open Space | |
| 15 Custom House Square | |
| 16 Donegall Quay | |
| 17 Lagan Weir | |

APPENDIX 3: LIST OF OPEN SPACE IN BELFAST (ABOVE ONE HECTARE)

Source: BMAP

Outer Belfast

Map No. 4/001 – Belfast City

- Cavehill Country Park and Belfast Zoo, Antrim Road - Country park, Belfast Castle and Belfast Zoo;
- Old Throne Wood, Antrim Road - Mature woodland;
- Fortwilliam Golf Course, Antrim Road - Golf Course;
- Ben Madigan Prep. School, Antrim Road - Private playing fields;
- Shore Road Playing Fields, Shore Road - BCC playing fields;
- Loughside Park, Shore Road - Small park;
- Loughside Recreation Centre, Shore Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Mountcoole Playing Fields, Mountcoole Park - Private playing fields;
- Carr's Glen Linear Park, Ballysillan Road - Linear park;
- Cliftonville Golf Course, Westland Road - Golf course;
- Belfast Girls' Model School, Dunkeld Gardens - Private playing fields;
- Waterworks, Antrim Road - Park, lakes and sports pitches;
- Cliftonville FC, Solitude, Cliftonville Street - Football ground;
- Seaview Allotments, Premier Drive - Former allotments;
- Northwood Linear Park, Premier Drive - Linear Park;
- Crusaders FC, Seaview, Shore Road - Football ground;
- Grove Playing Fields, North Queen Street - BCC sports pitches;
- Brantwood FC, Jellicoe Avenue - Football ground;
- Alexandra Park, Antrim Road - Urban park;
- Cliftonville Playing Fields, Cliftonville Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Marrowbone Park, Oldpark Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Ballysillan Leisure Centre, Ballysillan Road - BCC sports pitches;
- St. Gabriel's Secondary School, Crumlin Road - Private playing fields;
- Glenbank Park, Ligoniel Road - Small park;
- Ligoniel Park, Mountainhill Road – Park;
- Ligoniel Playground, Old Mill Road - BCC playground;
- Ligoniel River Glen, Mill Avenue - River glen;
- Forthriver Drive - Large grassed area;
- Michelle Baird Memorial Playground, Forthriver Road /Drive - Playground and sports pitch;
- Forth River Glen Linear Park, Forthriver Road - Linear park;
- Forthriver Crescent - Grassed area;
- Clarendon Park, Somerdale Park - BCC sports pitches;
- Glencairn Park, Glencairn Road - Large park;
- Woodvale Cricket Club and Forthriver Bowling and Tennis Club, Woodvale Road - Sports pitches;
- Woodvale Park, Woodvale Road - Park with sports pitches;
- Hammer Youth Resource Centre, Agnes Street - BCC sports pitches;
- Shankill Parade - Large grassed area;
- Paisley Park, West Circular Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Springhill Primary School, Ballygomartin Road - Private sports pitches.

Map No. 4/002 – Belfast City

- Glentoran FC, The Oval, Mersey Street - Football ground;
- King George V Playing Fields, Mersey Street - BCC sports pitches;
- Blanchflower Park, Hollywood Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Tommy Patton Memorial Park, Hollywood Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Aircraft Park, Hollywood Road - Private sports pitches;
- Harland & Wolff Welders FC, Hollywood Road - Football ground;
- Ashfield Boys and Girls High School, Hollywood Road - Private sports pitches;
- Knocknagoney Park, Hollywood Road – Park;
- Belmont Park, Circular Road - Large park;
- CIYMS Sports Ground, Circular Road - Private sports pitches;
- Strathearn School, Belmont Road - Private sports pitches;
- Campbell College, Belmont Road - Private sports pitches;
- Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road – Parkland;
- The Pavilion, Stormont Estate, Upper Newtownards Road - Private sports pitches;
- Knock Golf Course, Upper Newtownards Road - Golf course;
- Abbey Park - Large grassed area;
- Strandtown Primary School, North Road - Private playing fields;
- Ballymacarrett Walkway, Dee Street - Landscaped walkway.

Map No. 4/003 – Belfast City

- Blackmountain Grove - Large grassed area;
- Springhill Avenue - Landscaped walkway;
- Corpus Christi College, Beechmount Parade - Private playing fields;
- Corrigan Park, Whiterock Road - Private sports pitch;
- McCrory Park, Whiterock Road - Private sports pitch;
- Beechmount Leisure Centre, Falls Road - BCC sports pitches;
- St. Dominic's Grammar School & St. Rose's High School, Falls Road - Private playing fields;
- Dunville Park, Falls Road - Urban park;
- Gortnamona GAC Pitch, Springfield Road - Private sports pitch;
- Whiterock Leisure Centre, Whiterock Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Falls Park, Falls Road - Large urban park with sports pitches;
- Bog Meadows, St. Katherine Road - Local Nature Reserve;
- St. Gall's GAC Pitch, Milltown Row - Private sports pitch;
- Windsor Park Football Ground, Olympia Drive - Football ground;
- Midgely Park, Olympia Drive - Sports pitch;
- Olympia Leisure Centre, Boucher Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Drumglass Park, Lisburn Road - Urban park;
- Boucher Road Playing Fields, Boucher Road - BCC sports pitches;
- St. Teresa's GAC Pitch, Glen Road - Private sports pitch;
- St. Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Glen Road - Private playing fields;
- La Salle Junior School, Glen Road - Private playing fields;
- Colin Glen Forest Park, Glen Road - Forest park;
- Donegal Celtic FC, Suffolk Road - Football ground;
- Half Moon Lake, Suffolk Road - Small lake;
- Lenadoon Park, Lenadoon Avenue - BCC sports pitches;
- St. Paul's GAC Pitch, Stewartstown Avenue - Private sports pitch;

- Sarsfield's GAC Pitch, Shaws Road - Private sports pitch;
- Shaws Road - Grassed area;
- Slievegallion Playing Fields, Slievegallion Drive - BCC sports pitches;
- North Link Playing Fields, North Link - BCC sports pitches;
- St. Genevieve's High School, Andersonstown Road - Private playing fields;
- Andersonstown Leisure Centre, Andersonstown Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Casement Park, Andersonstown Road - GAA ground;
- Musgrave Park, Stockman's Lane - Large urban park with sports pitches;
- RBAI Playing Fields, Cranmore, Malone Road - Private playing fields;
- RBAI Playing Fields, Osborne, Malone Road - Private playing fields;
- Strangford Avenue Playing Fields, Strangford Avenue - BCC sports pitches;
- Balmoral Golf Course, Lisburn Road - Golf Course;
- Wedderburn Park & Playing Fields, Finaghy Road South - Park with sports pitches;
- Woodlands Playing Fields, Finaghy Road North - BCC sports pitches;
- Balmoral High School, Black's Road - Private playing fields;
- Suffolk Playing Fields, Carnamore Park - BCC sports pitches;
- Kells Avenue - Large grassed area.

Map No. 4/004 – Belfast City

- Grosvenor Recreation Centre, Genoa Street - BCC sports pitch;
- McClure Street - Grassed area;
- River Lagan Walkway, Lower Ormeau - Landscaped walkway;
- Ravenhill Reach, Ormeau Embankment - Landscape area and walkway;
- Ormeau Park and Playing Fields, Ormeau Embankment - Parkland with sports pitches;
- Ormeau Golf Course, Ravenhill Road - Golf course;
- Pirrie Park Playing Fields (Methodist College), Ardenlee Avenue - Private playing fields;
- Cregagh Memorial Recreational Gardens, Gibson Park Avenue - Sports pitch;
- Gibson Park, Gibson Park Gardens - Private sports pitches;
- Loopland Playing Fields, Ladas Way - BCC sports pitches;
- Avoniel Leisure Centre, Avoniel Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Flora Street Walkway, Beersbridge Road - Landscaped walkway;
- Dixon Playing Fields, Grand Parade - BCC sports pitches;
- Greenville Park, Grand Parade - Small park;
- Orangefield Park and Playing Fields, Grand Parade - Large park with sports pitches;
- Orangefield High School, Houston Park - Private playing fields;
- Grosvenor Grammar School, Marina Park - Private sports pitches;
- Laburnum Playing Fields, Prince Regent Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Clara Park Playing Fields, Knockwood Crescent - BCC sports pitches;
- Shandon Park Golf Course, Shandon Park - Golf course;
- Ravenhill Rugby Ground, Ravenhill Park - Ulster rugby ground;
- Cherryvale Sports Ground, Ravenhill Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Ormeau Playing Fields, Ormeau Road - BCC sports pitches;
- Botanic Gardens, Stranmillis Road - Large park;
- Queen's University Physical Education Centre, Botanic Gardens - Sports pitches;
- Annadale Embankment - Grassed areas;
- Annadale Allotments, Annadale Embankment - BCC allotments;
- Wellington College, Carolan Road - Private sports pitches;
- Cleaver Hockey Pitches, Cleaver Park - Private sports pitches;
- RBAI Playing Fields, Bladon, Bladon Park - Private sports pitches;
- PSNI Athletic Association Playing Fields, New Forge Lane - Private sports pitches.

ADDITIONAL AREAS CASTLEREAGH

- Old Milltown Road: sloping grassed area;
- Kirkistown Walk: maintained grass area;
- Archdale Drive: maintained grass area;
- Knockbeda Primary School: all-weather playground areas;
- Cregagh Primary School: playground and playing fields;
- Belfast Metropolitan College (Castlereagh Campus): playing fields;
- Roddens Crescent: grass area with mature trees and playground;
- Lower Braniel Road: sloping grassed area with mature trees;
- Woodview Drive: maintained grass area;
- Marfield Drive: maintained grass area;
- Gilnahirk Park: park with pathways and mature trees;
- Our Lady & St. Patricks College, Knock: school playing fields;
- Tullycarnet Park: park with bowling green and playground;
- Lowland walk: sloping grassed area;
- Melfort Drive: sloping grassed area;
- Vionville Rise: sloping grassed area;
- Old Dundonald Road: vacant grassland adjacent to Dundonald Ice Bowl;

ADDITIONAL AREAS LISBURN

- Playing fields, synthetic pitch and playground at Summerhill Road;
- Jubilee Park (formerly Fullerton Park) playing fields and playground at Glenburn Road;
- Grassed area at Glenbawn Crescent;
- Grassed area at Glasvey Rise;
- Grassed area to the west of Creighton's Road;
- Grassed area at Glasvey Drive;
- Grassed area at Oakvale Gardens containing two Scheduled Rathes;
- Grassed area around Rathmoyne and Coolmoyne Houses at Kingsway;
- Colin Valley Golf Club between Black's Road and Old Golf Course Road;
- Ashley Park Football Grounds – Dunmurry Rec. Football Club;
- Richardson Park – BT Social Club football grounds;
- St John's GAC ground at Brian's Well Road;
- John Mitchell GAC playing field, Colin Valley Football Club playing field and playing field associated with Colin Valley Youth Centre at Good Shepherd Road;
- McComb Park, Dunmurry Cricket Club at Ashley Park;
- Jubilee Park (walkways along Glen River) between Kingsway and Glenburn Road;
- Grassed and vegetated area at Pantridge Road;
- Grassed area with pathways and mature trees at Colin Road and Pembroke Loop Road;
- Colin Glen (mature trees and pathway along Colin River, maintained by Colin Glen Trust);
- Laurel Glen (grassed and wooded area) between Bell Steel Road and Stewartstown Road;
- Bogstown Glen (linear wooded area) adjacent to Lagmore development;
- Lagmore Glen (linear grassed and wooded area) at Lagmore development;
- Grassed and vegetated area to the east of Creighton Road;
- Derriaghy River Glen (linear park with walkways along Derriaghy River and mature trees);
Part of (3.50 of 10.69 ha (32.7%)
- Grassed area and trees at Summerhill Road/Creighton Road;
- Land at Sally Garden Lane, off Bell Steel Road.

Belfast City - Map 2/001

- Bentham Drive – Grassed area

Belfast Harbour - Map 3/001

- Victoria Park, Park Avenue (Park, lake and playing fields), and
- Tillysburn Urban Wildlife Reserve, Sydenham Bypass (Nature Reserve)

Table 2: Cemeteries in Belfast City Council Area

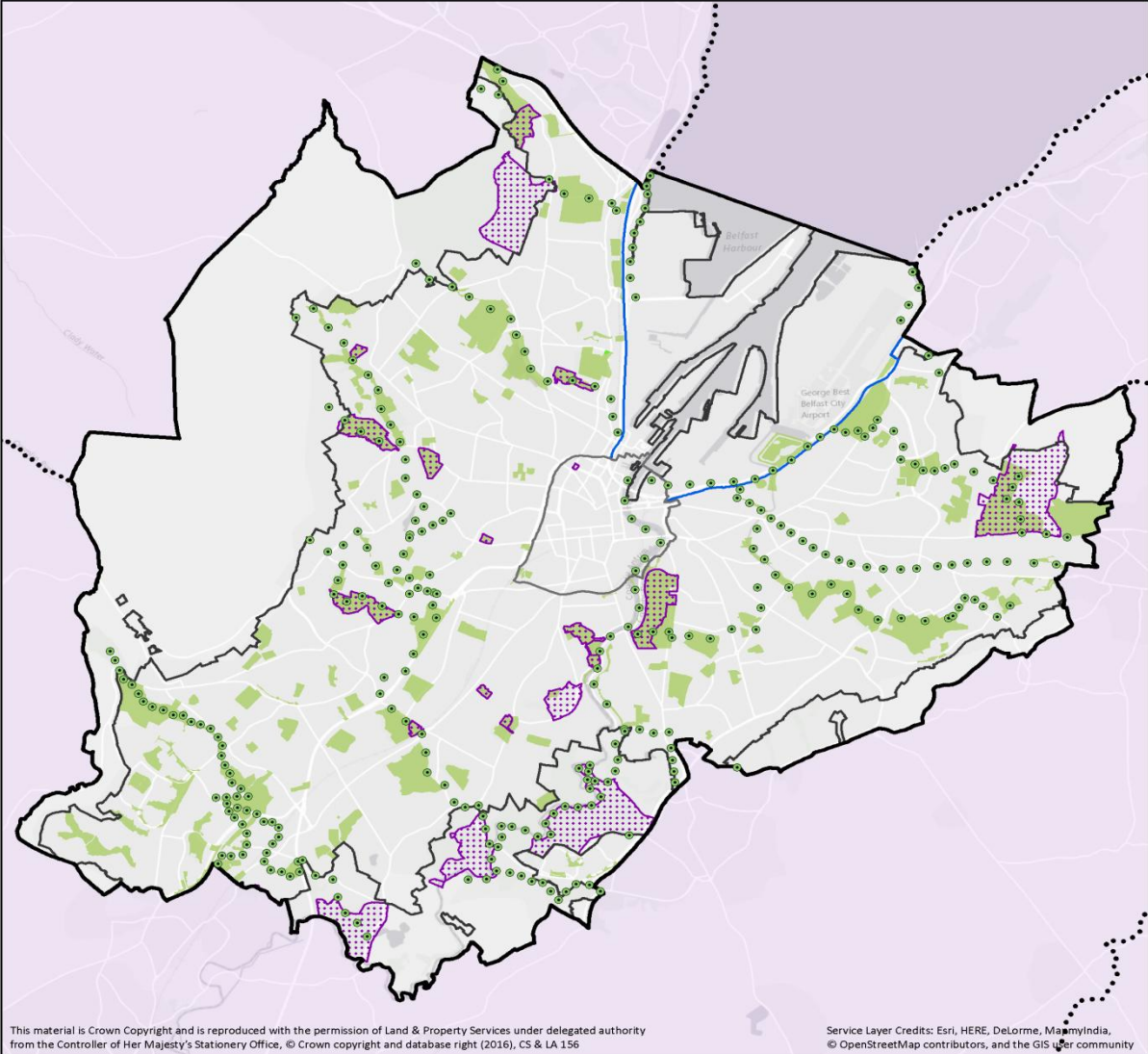
Cemetery	Location
Balmoral Cemetery	1a Stockmans Lane
City Cemetery	2 Whiterock Road
Clifton Street Graveyard	3a Henry Place
Dundonald Cemetery	743 Upper Newtownards Road
Knock Cemetery	17a Knockmount Park
Roselawn Cemetery	127 Ballygowan Road
Shankill Rest Garden	405 Shankill Road
Roselawn Crematorium	127 Ballygowan Road
Friar's Bush Graveyard	6 Stranmillis Road
Knockbreda Cemetery	19a Saintfield Road

APPENDIX 4: MAP 1 OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION IN BELFAST



Belfast City Council

NATURAL HERITAGE



Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

-  Area of Existing Open Space
-  Land identified for Open Space
-  Historic Park, Garden and Demesne
-  Community Greenway
-  Council Area
-  Metropolitan/Settlement Development Limit
-  Belfast City Centre
-  Belfast Harbour Area

Source: Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (Adopted September 2014)



APPENDIX 5: PITCHES IN BELFAST (AND MUGA)

The following information was obtained from Belfast City Council Property and Projects Department.

Pitches

Site Name	Pitch Number	Sport	Season	Ward
Ballysillan Playing Fields	4	Soccer	Winter	CLIFTONVILLE
Ballysillan Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	CLIFTONVILLE
Ballysillan Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	CLIFTONVILLE
Ballysillan Playing Fields	3	Soccer	Winter	CLIFTONVILLE
Ballysillan Playing Fields	5	Soccer	Winter	CLIFTONVILLE
City of Belfast Playing Fields	8	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	5	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	Gaelic 1	Gaelic	Winter/Summer	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	2	Soccer/Cricket	Winter/Summer	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	1	Soccer/Cricket	Winter/Summer	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	3	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	4	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	6	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	Gaelic 2	Gaelic	Winter/Summer	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	10	Soccer	Summer	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	24	Soccer	Summer	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	22	Soccer	Summer	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	20	Soccer	Summer	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	13	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	11	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	14	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	15	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	12	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	16	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	23	Soccer	Summer	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	21	Soccer	Summer	MALLUSK
Cliftonville Playing Fields	1	Gaelic	Winter/Summer	W' WORKS
Grove Playing Fields	4	Soccer	Winter	DUNCAIRN
Grove Playing Fields	3	Soccer	Winter	DUNCAIRN
Grove Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	DUNCAIRN
Grove Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	DUNCAIRN
Grove Playing Fields	5	Soccer	Winter	DUNCAIRN
Grove Playing Fields	6	Soccer	Winter	DUNCAIRN
Grove Playing Fields	7	Soccer	Winter	DUNCAIRN
Grove Playing Fields	8	Soccer	Winter	DUNCAIRN
Ormeau Park	6	Soccer	Winter	ORMEAU
Ormeau Park	5	Soccer	Winter	ORMEAU
Ormeau Park	4	Soccer	Winter	ORMEAU
Ormeau Park	3	Soccer	Winter	ORMEAU

Ormeau Park	2	Soccer	Winter	ORMEAU
Ormeau Park	1	Soccer	Winter	ORMEAU
Victoria Park	2	Soccer	Summer	SYDENHAM
Victoria Park	3	Soccer	Summer	SYDENHAM
Victoria Park	4	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Victoria Park	1	Soccer	Summer	SYDENHAM
Victoria Park	5	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Victoria Park	6	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Victoria Park	7	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Blanchflower Park	Stadium	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Blanchflower Park	1	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Blanchflower Park	2	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Blanchflower Park	4	Soccer/Cricket	Winter/Summer	SYDENHAM
Blanchflower Park	5	Soccer/Cricket	Winter/Summer	SYDENHAM
Wedderburn Park	4	Soccer	Winter	FINAGHY
Wedderburn Park	3	Soccer	Winter	FINAGHY
Wedderburn Park	1	Soccer	Winter	FINAGHY
Wedderburn Park	2	Soccer	Winter	FINAGHY
Wedderburn Park	5	Soccer	Winter	FINAGHY
Boucher Road Playing Fields	3	Soccer	Winter	BLACKSTAFF
Boucher Road Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	BLACKSTAFF
Boucher Road Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	BLACKSTAFF
Boucher Road Playing Fields	Gaelic 1	Gaelic	Winter/Summer	BLACKSTAFF
Boucher Road Playing Fields	Gaelic 2	Gaelic	Winter/Summer	BLACKSTAFF
Ulidia Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	ORMEAU
Ulidia Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	ORMEAU
King George V Playing Fields	3	Soccer	Winter	CONNSWATER
King George V Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	CONNSWATER
King George V Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	CONNSWATER
Ald Thomas Patton Memorial Park	1	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Ald Thomas Patton Memorial Park	2	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Ald Thomas Patton Memorial Park	3	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Ald Thomas Patton Memorial Park	4	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Dixon Park Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	BEERSBRIDGE
Dixon Park Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	BEERSBRIDGE
Orangefield Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	ORANGEFIELD
Orangefield Playing Fields	3	Soccer	Winter	ORANGEFIELD
Orangefield Playing Fields	4	Soccer	Winter	ORANGEFIELD
Orangefield Playing Fields	5	Soccer	Winter	ORANGEFIELD
Strangford Avenue Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	MALONE
Strangford Avenue Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	MALONE
Strangford Avenue Playing Fields	4	Soccer	Winter	MALONE
Woodlands Playing Fields	1	Gaelic	Summer/Winter	MUSGRAVE
Woodlands Playing Fields	3	Gaelic	Summer/Winter	MUSGRAVE
Woodlands Playing Fields	2	Gaelic	Summer/Winter	MUSGRAVE
Woodlands Playing Fields	4	Gaelic	Summer/Winter	MUSGRAVE
Woodlands Playing Fields	5	Gaelic	Summer/Winter	MUSGRAVE
Suffolk Playing Fields	5	Soccer	Winter	LADYBROOK

Suffolk Playing Fields	4	Soccer	Winter	LADYBROOK
Suffolk Playing Fields	3	Soccer	Winter	LADYBROOK
Suffolk Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	LADYBROOK
Suffolk Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	LADYBROOK
Lenadoon Millennium Park	1	Soccer	Winter	STEWARTSTO WN
Shore Road Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	BELLEVUE
Shore Road Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	BELLEVUE
Loughside Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	INNISFAYLE
Loughside Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	INNISFAYLE
Waterworks	1	Soccer/Gaelic	Winter/Summer	W'WORKS
Clarendon Park Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	FORTH RIVER
Clarendon Park Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	FORTH RIVER
Clarendon Park Playing Fields	3	Soccer (Training)	Winter	FORTH RIVER
Clarendon Park Playing Fields	4	Multisport (floodlit	Summer/Winter	FORTH RIVER
Woodvale Park	1	Soccer	Winter	WOODVALE
Hammer Development Playground	1	Soccer	Winter	SHANKILL
Cherryvale Playing Fields	Gaelic 2	Gaelic	Summer/Winter	ROSETTA
Cherryvale Playing Fields	4	Rugby/Soccer	Winter/Summer	ROSETTA
Cherryvale Playing Fields	3	Soccer	Winter	ROSETTA
Cherryvale Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	ROSETTA
Cherryvale Playing Fields	Gaelic 3	Gaelic	Summer/Winter	ROSETTA
Cherryvale Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	ROSETTA
Cherryvale Playing Fields	Gaelic 1	Gaelic	Summer/Winter	ROSETTA
Falls Park	Gaelic 2	Gaelic	Summer	FALLS PARK
Falls Park	Camogie1	Camogie	Summer	FALLS PARK
Falls Park	Gaelic 1	Gaelic	Summer	FALLS PARK
Falls Park	2	Soccer	Winter	FALLS PARK
Falls Park	1	Soccer	Winter	FALLS PARK
Woodvale Park	2	Soccer	Winter	WOODVALE
Strangford Avenue Playing Fields	3	Soccer	Winter	MALONE
City of Belfast Playing Fields	17	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	18	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	19	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
City of Belfast Playing Fields	Cricket 1	Cricket		MALLUSK
Blanchflower Park	3	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Orangefield Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	ORANGEFIELD
Marrowbone Millennium Park	1	Soccer		ARDOYNE
Falls Park	Camogie2	Camogie	Summer	FALLS PARK
Musgrave Park	Gaelic 1	Gaelic		MUSGRAVE
Musgrave Park	Gaelic 2	Gaelic		MUSGRAVE
Blanchflower Park		Cricket		SYDENHAM
Clara Street Playground				BEERSBRIDGE
Stewart Street Playground				CENTRAL
Victoria Park				SYDENHAM
Victoria Park				SYDENHAM
Victoria Park				SYDENHAM
Victoria Park				SYDENHAM

Victoria Park				SYDENHAM
Ballysillan Playing Fields				CLIFTONVILLE
Ballysillan Playing Fields				CLIFTONVILLE
Reverend Robert Bradford Memorial Park				CENTRAL
Ballysillan Playing Fields				CLIFTONVILLE
Moyard Playground				TURF LODGE
Michelle Baird Memorial Park				FORTH RIVER
Wedderburn Park				FINAGHY
Wedderburn Park				FINAGHY
Wedderburn Park				FINAGHY
Wedderburn Park				FINAGHY
Taughmonagh Playground				UPPER MALONE
Olympia Leisure Centre				BLACKSTAFF
John Hewitt Park				WATER WORKS
Ardoyne Pitch & Mitch Playground				ARDOYNE
Ardoyne Pitch & Mitch Playground				ARDOYNE
Avoniel Leisure Centre				BEERSBRIDGE
City of Belfast Playing Fields	17	Soccer	Winter	MALLUSK
Blanchflower Park	3	Soccer	Winter	SYDENHAM
Falls Park	2	Soccer	Winter	FALLS PARK
Falls Park	1	Soccer	Winter	FALLS PARK
Clarendon Park Playing Fields	2	Soccer	Winter	FORTH RIVER
Clarendon Park Playing Fields	1	Soccer	Winter	FORTH RIVER
Hammer Open Space				SHANKILL

Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA)

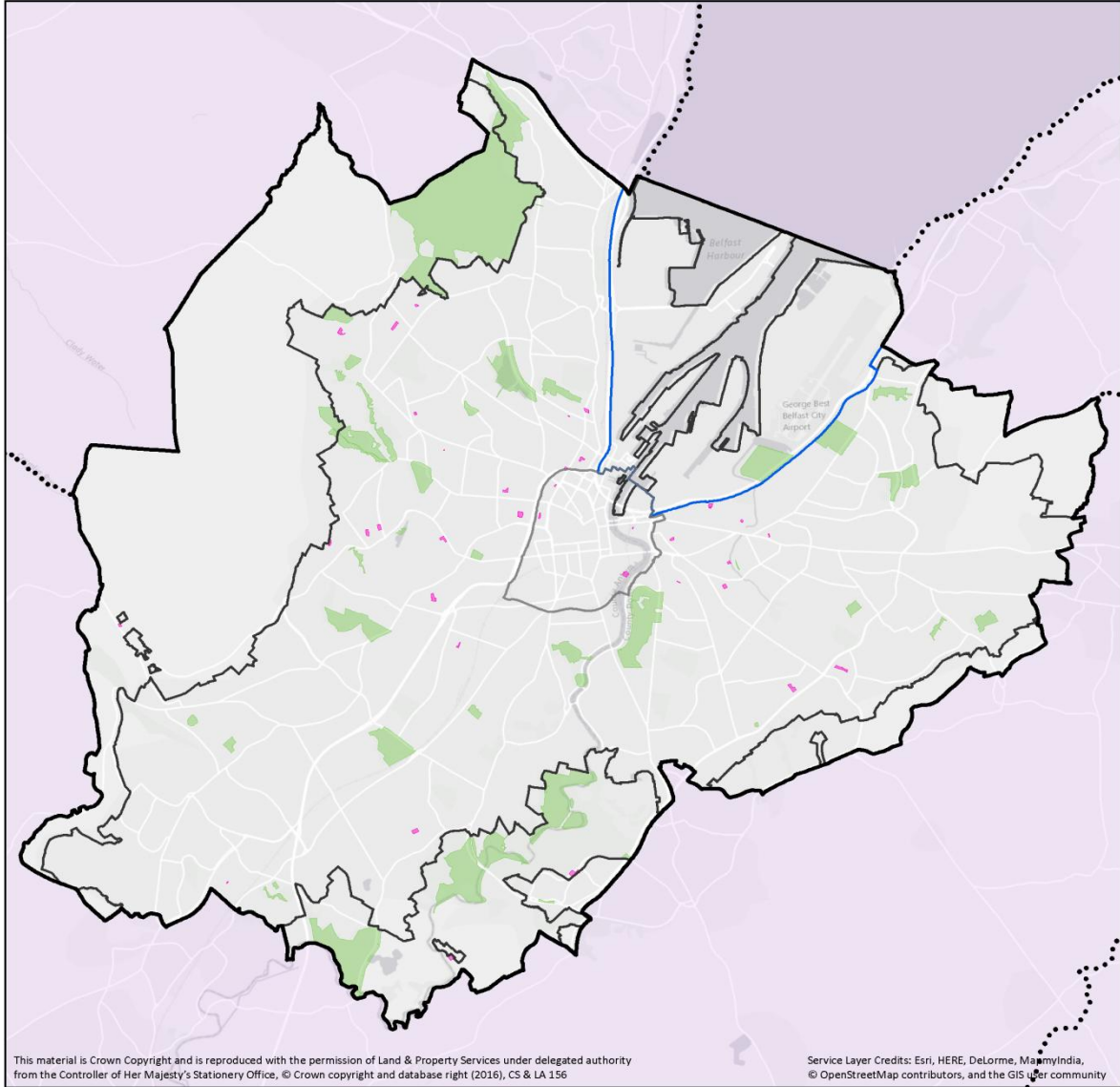
Muga Name	Classification	Surface	Bookable	Floodlights	Changing
Alexandra Lower	Type 1	Grass			
Ardoyne Pitch & Mitch	Type 2	Bitmac		Yes	
Avoniel	Type 1	Bitmac			Yes ??
Blythefield MUGA	Type 3	Polymeric	Yes		
Canmore Street MUGA	Type 3	Polymeric		Yes	
Carrick Hill MUGA	Type 3	Polymeric	Yes	Yes	
Clara Street Kickabout	Type 2	Bitmac			
Dover Street MUGA	Type 2	Bitmac			
Finlay MUGA	Type 2	Bitmac		Yes	
Highfield MUGA	Type 2	Bitmac			
Horn Drive Lenadoon MUGA	Type 2	Bitmac		Yes	Yes ??
Moyard Parade MUGA	Type 2	Bitmac			
New Lodge MUGA	Type 2	Bitmac			
North Queen Street MUGA	Type 2	Bitmac		Yes	
Nubia MUGA	Type 2	Bitmac			
Olympia MUGA	Type 1	Bitmac			
Reverend Robert Bradford MUGA	Type 1	Bitmac			
Springfield Avenue MUGA	Type 1	Bitmac			
Springhill MUGA	Type 1	Bitmac			
Stewart Street MUGA	Type 1	Bitmac			
Taughmonagh MUGA	Type 2	Bitmac			
The Mount MUGA	Type 2	Bitmac		Yes	
Tommy Patton MUGA	Type 1	Bitmac			
Willowbank MUGA	Type 3	3G	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clarendon MUGA	Type 3	Polymeric	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wedderburn Kickabout	Type 1	Bitmac			
Dr. Pitt Kickabout	Type 1	Bitmac			
Finlay Basketball Area	Type 1	Bitmac			
Knocknagoney MUGA	Type 1	Bitmac			
Annadale Embankment MUGA					
Glencairn Basketball Area		Bitmac			
Woodvale Park MUGA	Type 3	Polymeric	Yes	Yes	???
Orangefield MUGA	Type 2	Bitmac			
Queen Mary's Gardens MUGA	Type 3	3G	Yes	Yes	???
Ballysillan MUGA	Type 2	Bitmac			
Dunville MUGA	Type 3	3G	Yes	Yes	Yes
Blackmountain MUGA	Type 3	3G	Yes	Yes	No
Suffolk MUGA	Type 1	Bitmac			
North Link MUGA	Type 1	Shale			
Westlands MUGA	Type 3	Polymeric	No	Yes	No
Tyndale MUGA	Type 1	Grass			

APPENDIX 6: MAP 2 PLAYGROUNDS AND PARKS IN BELFAST



Belfast
City Council

NATURAL HERITAGE



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Belfast City Council-owned Parks and Playgrounds

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Park | Council Area |
| Playground/Play Area | Metropolitan/Settlement Development Limit |
| | Belfast City Centre |
| | Belfast Harbour Area |

Source: Estates Management Unit, Property & Projects Department, BCC (09/03/16)



APPENDIX 7: BELFAST CITY COUNCIL PLAYGROUND PROVISION CATEGORISED PER DEA AND ELECTORAL WARD

The following information was obtained from Belfast City Council Parks and Leisure Department April 2016

No	Playground Name	Street Name	Postcode	District Electoral Area (DEA)	Electoral Ward	Playground Classification
1	Alexandra Lower	Mountcollyer Street	BT15 3AZ	Castle	Duncairn	LEAP
2	Alexandra Upper	Castleton Gardens	BT15 3BY	Castle	Duncairn	LEAP
3	Alloa Street	Alloa Street	BT14 6EZ	Oldpark	Water Works	NEAP
4	Ardoyne Comm Centre (Playground?)	Herbert Street	BT14 7EX	Oldpark	Ardoyne	LEAP
5	Ardoyne Community Centre	Herbert Street	BT14 7FE	Oldpark	Ardoyne	Community Centre
6	Ardoyne Pitch & Mitch (Play Area?)	Ardoyne Road	BT14 7GB	Oldpark	Ardoyne	LEAP
7	Areema Playground	Areema Drive	BT17 0QH	Collin	Dunmurry	UNKNOWN
8	Avoniel	Avoniel Road	BT5 4SJ	Titanic	Beersbridge	NEAP
9	Balfour Avenue	Balfour Avenue	BT7 2FD	Botanic	Central	NEAP
10	Ballymacarrett	Severn Street	BT4 1HS	Titanic	Connswater	NEAP
11	Ballysillan	Ballysillan Road	BT14 7QB	Oldpark	Cliftonville	NEAP
12	Barnetts	Malone Road	BT9 5PB	Balmoral	Upper Malone	NEAP
13	Belmont	Cairnburn Road	BT4 2GD	Ormiston	Belmont	NEAP
14	Belvoir Drive Playground	Belvoir Drive	BT8 7DT	Balmoral	Belvoir	UNKNOWN
15	Blackmountain	Blackmountain Park	BT13 3SE	Court	Ballygomartin	LEAP
16	Blythefield	Donegall Road	BT12 5NS	Botanic	Blackstaff	NEAP
17	Botanic	Stranmillis Road	BT7 1NG	Botanic	Central	NEAP
18	Bridge End	Bridge End	BT5 4AA	Titanic	Ballymacarrett	LEAP
19	Britannia Drive	Britannia Drive	BT12 5BN	Botanic	Blackstaff	UNKNOWN
20	Brook Activity Centre Playground	Summerhill Road	BT17 0RL	Collin	Twinbrook	UNKNOWN
21	Brown's Square	Melbourne Street	BT13 2GA	Court	Shankill	NEAP
22	Canmore St Playground	Canmore Street	BT13 2NX	Court	Shankill	UNKNOWN
23	Carema Allen Memorial Park	Ravenswood Crescent	BT5 7QA	Ormiston	Shandon	UNKNOWN
24	Carnamore	Carnamore Park - CHECK	BT11 9LY	Collin	Ladybrook	LEAP
25	Carrick Hill	Regent Street	BT13 1EX	Oldpark	New Lodge	UNKNOWN
26	Castleton	North Queen Street	BT15 3DQ	Castle	Duncairn	LEAP
27	Cavehill Adventure	Cavehill	BT15 5GQ	Castle	Bellevue	NEAP
28	Cherryvale	Ravenhill Road	BT6 0BT	Lisnasharragh	Rosetta	NEAP
29	Clara Street	Clara Street	BT5 5FE	Titanic	Beersbridge	NEAP

30	Clarawood	Clarawood Park	BT5 6FS	Ormiston	Sandown	NEAP
31	Clonduff Drive	Clonduff Drive	BT6 9NT	Lisnasharragh	Merok	UNKNOWN
32	Colby Park Playground	Colby Park	BT8 6NP			UNKNOWN
33	Cregagh Playground	Dennet End	BT6 0EA	Lisnasharragh	Cregagh	UNKNOWN
34	Donegal Pass Community Centre	Apsley Street	BT7 1BL	Botanic	Central	Community Centre
35	Dover Street	Dover Street	BT13 2EX	Court	Shankill	NEAP
36	Dr Pitt	Newtownards Road	BT4 1AB	Titanic	Ballymacarrett	NEAP
37	Drumglass	Lisburn Road	BT9 6JH	Botanic	Windsor	NEAP
38	Duncairn	Mervue Street	BT15 2LU	Castle	Duncairn	NEAP
39	Duncairn Community Centre	Edlingham Street	BT15 2JZ	Castle	Duncairn	Community Centre
40	Dunville Park	Grosvenor Road/Falls Road	BT12 4PH	Court	Falls	LEAP
41	Edenderry Playground	Edenderry Road	BT8 8LG	Balmoral	Belvoir	UNKNOWN
42	Eversleigh Street	Eversleigh Street	BT6 8DX	Titanic	Woodstock	UNKNOWN
43	Falls Park	Falls Road	BT12 7PJ	Black Mountain	Falls Park	NEAP
44	Finlay	Whitewell Road	BT36 7ER	Castle	Bellevue	NEAP
45	Fullerton Park Playground	Glenburn Road	BT17 9RP	Collin	Dunmurry	UNKNOWN
46	Geeragh	Geeragh Place	BT10 0ER	Balmoral	Musgrave	LEAP
47	Glassmullin	Slievegallion Drive	BT11 8JP	Black Mountain	Andersonstown	NEAP
48	Glenbank	Ligoniel Road	BT14 8BX	Oldpark	Legoniel	NEAP
49	Glencairn	Forthriver Road	BT13 3SE	Court	Forth River	LEAP
50	Grampian Avenue	Grampian Avenue	BT4 3AB	Titanic	Connswater	LEAP
51	Grove	York Road	BT15 3DJ	Castle	Duncairn	NEAP
52	Hammer	Agnes Street	BT13 1FD	Court	Shankill	NEAP
53	Hannahstown Playground	Upper Springfiled Road	BT17 0LZ	Black Mountain	Collin Glen	UNKNOWN
54	Highfield	Highfield Drive	BT13 3RL	Court	Ballygomartin	UNKNOWN
55	Horn Drive Lenadoon	Lenadoon Avenue/Horn Walk	BT11 9GQ	Collin	Stewartstown	NEAP
56	Jubilee Park Playground	Kingsway	BT17 9AD	Collin	Dunmurry	UNKNOWN
57	Knocknagoney	Knocknagoney Way	BT4 2WE	Ormiston	Garnerville	LEAP
58	Lemberg Street	Lemberg Street	BT12 6GA	Botanic	Blackstaff	LEAP
59	Loop River	Ladas Way	BT6 9DD	Lisnasharragh	Orangefield	UNKNOWN
60	Loughshore	Shore Road	BT15 4HE	Castle	Innisfayle	NEAP
61	Marrowbone	Oldpark Road	BT14 7DR	Oldpark	Ardoyne	LEAP
62	McClure Street	McClure Street	BT7 1LF	Botanic	Central	NEAP
63	McCrary Park	Brittons Parade/Whiterock Road	BT12 7PJ	Black Mountain	Ballymurphy	UNKNOWN
64	Michelle Baird	Forthriver Road	BT13 3SG	Court	Forth River	LEAP
65	Morton Community	Lorne Street	BT9 7DU	Botanic	Windsor	Community Centre

	Centre					
66	Mount Eagles Playground	Mount Eagles Avenue	BT17 0GT	Collin	Lagmore	UNKNOWN
67	Mountforde	Mountforde Road	BT5 4LN	Titanic	Ballymacarrett	LEAP
68	Moyard	Moyard Parade	BT12 7HG	Black Mountain	Turf Lodge	NEAP
69	Musgrave Therapy Garden	Stockmans Lane	BT7 JE	Balmoral	Musgrave	UNKNOWN
70	Navarra Place	Navarra Place	BT36 7EZ	Castle	Bellevue	LEAP
71	New Lodge	Victoria Parade	BT15 2EQ	Oldpark	New Lodge	LEAP
72	North Link	North Link	BT11 8HW	Black Mountain	Andersonstown	LEAP
73	North Queen Street	North Queen Street	BT15 2EX	Oldpark	New Lodge	LEAP
74	Northwood	Seapark Drive	BT15 3QS	Castle	Fortwilliam	UNKNOWN
75	Nubia Street	Nubia Street	BT12 6FX	Botanic	Blackstaff	LEAP
76	Ohio Street	Ohio Street	BT13 3HU	Court	Woodvale	LEAP
77	Olympia	Olympia Drive	BT12 6LZ	Botanic	Blackstaff	NEAP
78	Orangefield Park	Grand Parade	BT5 6AT	Lisnasharragh	Orangefield	NEAP
79	Ormeau 2000	Ravenhill Road	BT6 8GH	Botanic	Ormeau	NEAP
80	Ormeau Park	Park Road	BT7 2GJ	Botanic	Ormeau	NEAP
81	Queen Marys Waterworks	Cavehill Road	BT15 5AF	Oldpark	Water Works	NEAP
82	Rev Robert Bradford	Lindsay Street	BT7 1AF	Botanic	Central	NEAP
83	Roddens Playground	Roddens Crescent	BT5 7JP	Lisnasharragh	Hillfoot	UNKNOWN
84	Sally Gardens Playground	Sally Gardens Lane	BT17 0JU	Collin	Poleglass	UNKNOWN
85	Sandy Row Community Centre	Sandy Row	BT12 5ER	Botanic	Blackstaff	UNKNOWN
86	Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon	Upper Malone Road	BT17 9LD	Balmoral	Finaghy	NEAP
87	Skippers	Medway Street	BT4 1DH	Titanic	Ballymacarrett	NEAP
88	Sliabh Dubh	Slieve Dubh	BT12 7QN	Black Mountain	Ballymurphy	UNKNOWN
89	Springfield Site A	Cavendish Court	BT12 7LF	Court	Clonard	UNKNOWN
90	Springhill	Springhill Avenue	BT12 7JE	Black Mountain	Ballymurphy	LEAP
91	Stewart Street	Stewart Street	BT7 2BT	Botanic	Central	NEAP
92	Suffolk Community Centre	Carnamore Park – CHECK	BT11 9LY	Collin	Ladybrook	Community Centre
93	Taughmonagh	Malwood Park	BT9 6QR	Balmoral	Upper Malone	NEAP
94	Tir Na Nog/Ligoniel	Old Mill Road	BT14 8PR	Oldpark	Legoniel	NEAP
95	Tommy Patton	Hollywood Road	BT4 1RN	Titanic	Sydenham	NEAP
96	Tullycarnet Park	Kingswood Park	BT5 7EZ	Ormiston	Gilnahirk	UNKNOWN
97	Tullycarnet Resource Centre	Kinross Avenue	BT5 7GF	Ormiston	Gilnahirk	UNKNOWN
98	Tyndale	Tyndale Drive	BT14 8HN	Oldpark	Ballysillan	LEAP
99	Victoria	Sydenham Bypass	BT3 9EF	Titanic	Sydenham	LEAP
100	Wedderburn	Orpen Drive	BT10 0BT	Balmoral	Finaghy	NEAP
101	Westlands	Cavehill Road	BT14 6NF	Oldpark	Water Works	NEAP

102	White Rise	Hazel View	BT17 0WQ	Collin	Lagmore	UNKNOWN
103	Willowbank	La Salle Drive	BT12 6DB	Black Mountain	Beechmount	UNKNOWN
104	Woodvale	Woodvale Ave/Bally'martin Road	BT13 3EX	Court	Woodvale	NEAP
105	Zoo	Antrim Road	BT36 7PE	Castle	Bellevue	NEAP

APPENDIX 8: PARKS IN BELFAST

The following information was obtained from Belfast City Council Property and Projects Department.

Park	Location
Alderman T.Patton Memorial Park	99 Inverary Avenue
Alexandra Park	19 Castleton Gardens
Springhill Millenium Park	698a Springfield Road
Barnett Demesne	300 Malone Road
Belfast Castle	698 Antrim Road
Belmont Park	310 Belmont Road
Blanchflower Park	358 Holywood Road
Botanic Gardens	2 Stranmillis road
Cavehill Country Park	698b Antrim road
John Luke Bridge (Formerly Clement Wilson Park)	59 New Forge Lane
Dr Pitt Memorial Park	100 Newtownards road
Drumglass Park	352b Lisburn road
Dunville Park	174 Falls Road
Falls Park	513 falls road
Finlay Park	Whitwell road
Forthriver Linear Park	Ballygomartin road
Glenbank Park	66 Ligoniel road
Glencairn Park	11 Glencairn road
Greenville Park	Dunraven park
King William Park	Lisburn road
Knocknagoney Linear Park	10 Knocknagoney Way
Lagan Meadows	60 Knightsbridge Park
Ligoniel Park	309 Ligoniel Road
Loughside Park	733 Shore Road
Lyons Park	Ballysillan Park
Malone House	300 Malone Road
Mary Peters Track - Sports Facilities	Old Coach Road
Mary Peter's Park	Old Coach Road
Musgrave Park	22 Stockman's Lane
Northwood Linear Park	17 Seapark Drive
Ormeau Park	212 - 214 Ormeau Road
Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park	235 Upper Malone Road
Springfield Park	460 Springfield Road
Victoria Park	86 Park Avenue
Waterworks	260 - 264 Antrim Road
Wedderburn Park	Wedderburn Gardens
Woodvale Park	66 Woodvale Road
Ormeau Park - Ormeau Golf Club	50 Park Road
City of Belfast Zoological Gardens	52 - 76 Antrim Road
Lenadoon Millennium Park	Lenadoon Avenue
Marrowbone Millennium Park	234 Oldpark Road
Belmont Park - CIYMS Car Park	Circular Road

APPENDIX 9: MAIN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN BELFAST

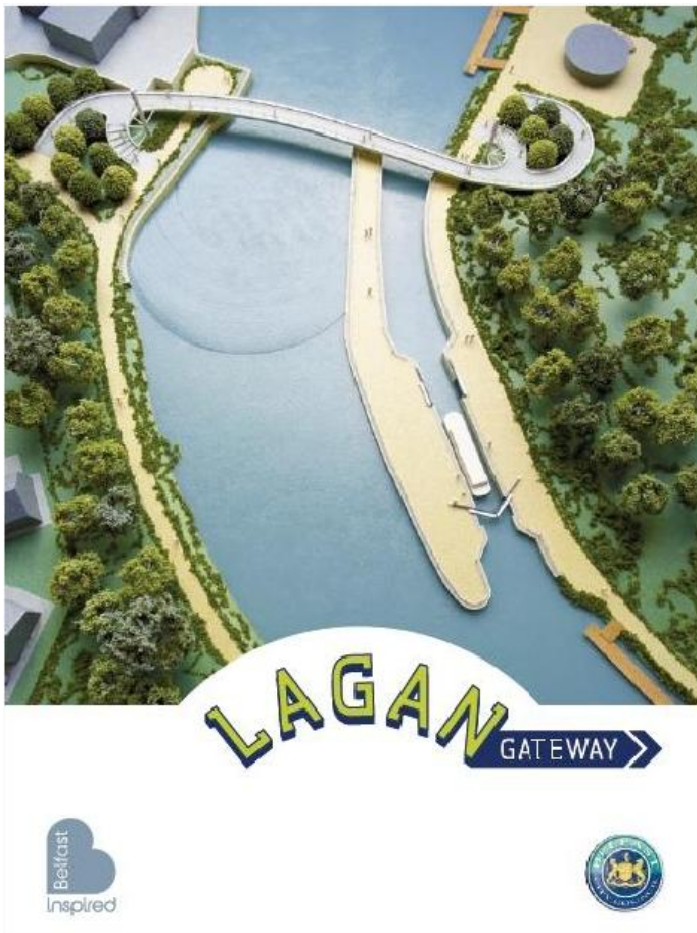
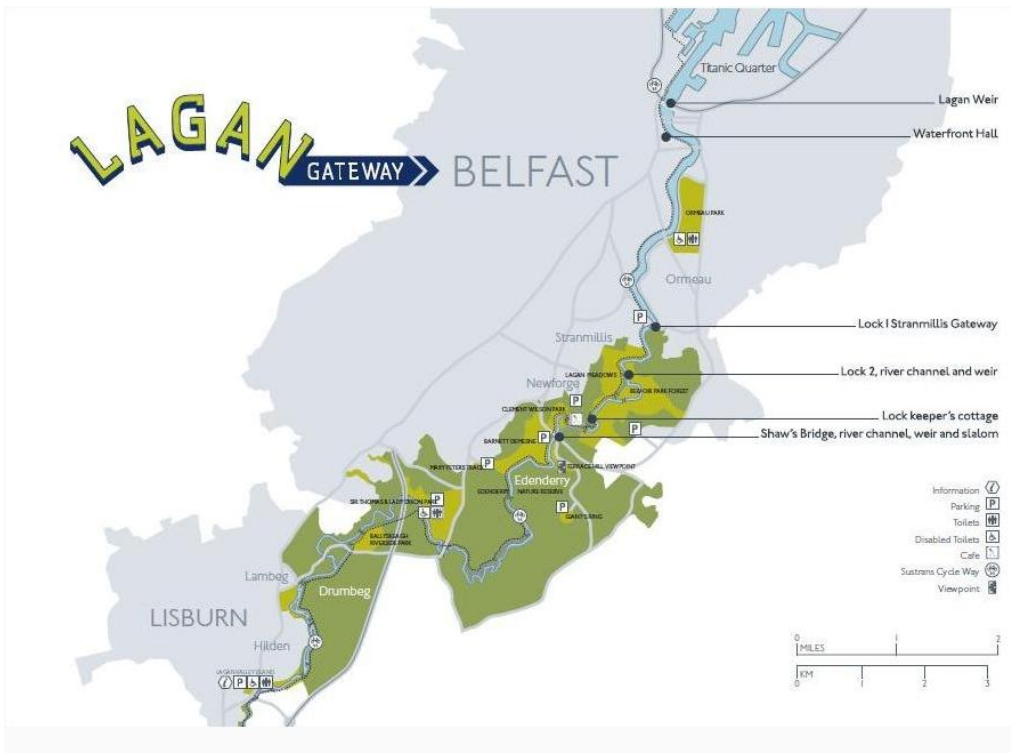
Activity	Facilities
Angling	The fishery stretches for approximately 1km from Shaw's Bridge to below Red Bridge. There are a number of good fly fishery stretches along this stretch. The river below Red Bridge is deep and slow flowing with fishing points available all along the old tow-path on the West bank from Red Bridge downstream to Stranmillis weir and beyond. It has good spinning water at certain places. Access has been improved by the Lagan side development as far down as the Queens Bridge.
Bowls	<p>There are many clubs in Belfast offering indoor and outdoor bowling facilities including:</p> <p>Outdoor: Ormeau Park, Belvoir Park, Braniel Community Centre, Tullycarnet Park, Falls Park, Malone Golf Club, Grove Park, Botanic Gardens, Woodvale Park, Tommy Patterson Memorial Park, Victoria Park, Musgrave Park.</p> <p>Indoor: Belfast Indoor Bowls Club, Shaws Bridge, Falls Park</p>
Boat Trips	Operated by The Lagan Boat Company along the River Lagan
Canoeing	Whilst there are no formal canoe trails in Belfast, informal canoeing on the river Lagan is frequent.
Caving	The Belfast Adventure Learning Park is comprised of over 200 meters of realistic man-made cave, extensive climbing surface and a range of 'high-up' challenges, from a ropes course to a vertical assault course.
Cycling	<p>Comber Greenway is a 7 mile traffic free section of the National Cycle Network being developed by Sustrans along the old Belfast to Comber railway line</p> <p>Lagan Tow Path is a 10 mile long route.</p>
Cricket	<p>There are 6 Cricket Clubs in Belfast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast International Sports Club • Cliftonville Cricket Club • Cooke Collegians Cricket Club • Cregagh Cricket Club • Woodvale Cricket Club • PSNI Cricket Club
Gaelic Football and Associated Sports	There are 17 Gaelic Athletic Clubs in Belfast including; Ardoyne Kickhams, Colin Gaels, Gort na Mona, John Mitchels, Lamh Dhearg, Michael Davitts, O'Donnells, O'Donovan Rossa, Patrick Pearse's, Partick Sarsfield's, St Agnes', St Bridgid's, St Gall's, St John's, St Malachy's, St Paul's, St Teresa's.
Golf	There are many golf clubs in the city including, Balmoral, Royal Belfast, Belvoir, Malone, Shandon Park, Fortwilliam, Rockmount, City of Belfast, Ormeau and Cliftonville.

High Ropes Course	Colin Glen Forest Park and Belfast Activity Centre offer various agility levels to high ropes course
Hockey	There are several hockey clubs in Belfast including Belfast Harlequins, Cooke, Grosvenor, Instonians, Malone, NICS, Owls, Pegasus, PSNI, QUB, Victorians
Mountain Biking	Barnett Demesne includes 12km of bike trails for all levels, a dirt jump area and associated infrastructure.
Rugby	Malone, Belfast Harlequins and Instonians offer Rugby at all levels.
Soccer	There are several soccer clubs within Belfast, Cliftonville, Crusaders, Glentoran, Linfield, Donegal Celtic, Harland and Wolff Welders, Knockbreda, Newington, PSNI and QUB.
Skate boarding	Bridges Urban Park
Tennis	There are many tennis clubs in Belfast including, Windsor, Belfast Boat Club, Ballynaveigh, Cavehill, NICS, CIYMS, Hawarden, Malone and Spokes in Motion (wheelchair tennis)

The above list is not exhaustive but it does indicate the main activities available

APPENDIX 10: LAGAN CANAL TRUST

Source: <http://www.lagancanaltrust.org>



APPENDIX 11: BELFAST HILLS ACTIVITIES

Source: Belfast Hills Partnership



APPENDIX 12: COMMUNITY GARDENS IN BELFAST

Community gardens	Location	Details
Glenbank Park	Glenbank Park	Conservation Volunteers NI offer weekly advise and skills training
Suffolk	Beside Suffolk Community Centre	Won a Special Award for outstanding presentation at the Translink Ulster in Bloom competition.
Lenadoon	Beside Glen Road Community Centre	
Ballysillan	Beside Ballysillan Allotments	This garden is in partnership with Conservation Volunteers NI and the Salvation Army.
Waterworks	Waterworks Park	This community garden is managed by Grow.
Musgrave Park	Musgrave Park	This community garden has been funded by the Public Health Agency (PHA).
Grove Playing Fields	Grove Wellbeing Centre	
Shankill	Shankill Leisure Centre	This garden was created as part of our Growing Respect Programme.
Ormeau	Beside Indoor Tennis Centre and Ozone Complex	
Finlay Park	Finlay Park	This garden was developed as part of our Investment Programme
Knocknagoney	Knocknagoney Linear Park	This garden was developed as part of our Investment Programme
Whiterock	Beside Whiterock Leisure Centre	This garden was developed as part of our Investment Programme
Avoniel	Beside Avoniel Leisure Centre	
Grosvenor Recreation Centre	Grosvenor Road	The garden was developed by Renewing the Routes Programme as part of the Investment Programme and is managed by the Grosvenor Recreation Centre
Camberwell Court	171 Limestone Road	Managed by Camberwell Court Fold
Newington Day Centre	31-35 Atlantic Avenue	Managed by Newington Day Centre Fold
Peas Park	Skegoneill Avenue	Managed by local residents
Eglantine Community Garden	Malone Road	Managed by Eglantine Community Garden Group
Edenderry Garden	Edenderry	Managed by Edenderry residents

Please note: this is not an exhaustive list