



## **GALWAY CITY COUNCIL PARKS/AMENITIES STRATEGY 2002-2006**

**The strategy was considered by the Strategic Policy Committee for Community, Social and Cultural Development over a number of meetings in 2001, and was approved by the City Council in January, 2002.**





## *WHY SPEND MONEY ON PARKS AND OPEN SPACES?*

- GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE - EXERCISE AND RECREATION
- GOOD FOR THE CITY – SOFTENING THE LANDSCAPE
- GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT – HABITATS,CLEAN AIR
- GOOD FOR THE ECONOMY – MY FAMILY COULD LIVE HERE

**PARKS AND AMENITIES MAKE FOR A HEALTHY CITY AND HEALTHY CITIZENS.**



# WHAT DO WE PROVIDE?

## Active recreation

- PLAYING PITCHES
- TENNIS AND BASKETBALL COURTS
- RUNNING FACILITIES
- BOXING GYM
- INDOOR SPORTS HALLS
- ATHLETIC TRACK
- DRESSING ROOM FACILITIES
- PLAYGROUNDS

## Passive recreation


- PUBLIC PARKS
- LOCAL GREEN AREAS
- WOODLANDS AND FORESTS
- BEACHES
- RIVER AND COASTAL WALKS
- COMMUNITY HALLS AND FACILITIES

## Indirect support to other providers

Not referred to here: Cemeteries, the Arts.




## *WHY A STRATEGY?*

- CITY CONTINUES TO EXPAND –WE NEED TO PLAN AHEAD
  - CHANGING NEEDS AND DEMANDS
  - MAKE THE BEST OF WHAT WE HAVE – MANAGEMENT
  - FRAMEWORK FOR ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES
  - WHAT KIND OF CITY DO WE WANT?
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## *WHAT IS IN THE STRATEGY?*

IT IS IN FIVE PARTS:

1. What is our vision? - **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**
  2. Timescale and priorities as basis for
  3. an **ACTION PLAN**
  4. Indicative policies for **MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**
  5. **ORGANISATIONAL REQUIREMENTS**
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## ***SOME OF THE KEY POINTS***

### CORPORATE AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES.

*The Corporate Objective is to ensure that the city's recreation and amenity facilities make the maximum contribution to the quality of life of Galway's citizens.*

#### *Strategic Objectives*

- *Parks*
  - *Coastal areas and waterways*
  - *Trees and woodlands*
  - *Heritage*
  - *Active recreation and play*
  - *Engaging the citizens*
  - *Management and information systems*
  - *Internal co-ordination*
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# *STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES*

## *Parks*

- To ensure the city's residents have access to parks and recreational open space within walking distance of their home.
- To establish and develop a hierarchy of Parks, Open Spaces and Amenity Areas comprising Borough Parks, Neighbourhood Parks, residential open spaces, and civic spaces: -

## *Coastal areas and waterways*

- To optimise the appropriate development and management of coastal amenity sites, including beaches, within the City.
  - To contribute to the appropriate development and management of the city's waterways, including the Corrib, Sandy and Barna Rivers and the canals.
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# *STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES*

## *Trees and woodlands*

- To secure the appropriate preservation of woodlands.
- To foster a culture of Tree Planting and management within the citizenry of Galway.
- To manage (and restore as appropriate) woodlands in the ownership of Galway City Council, and to acquire, develop and manage new woodlands as appropriate.

## *Active recreation and play*

- To promote the Parks, open spaces and amenity areas as a venue for the Arts, Culture and our Heritage.
- To secure the acquisition, development and management of active recreation lands in accordance with the standards specified in the Galway County Borough Development Plan.
- To effectively manage and upgrade existing play sites and secure the provision and establishment of new play sites at appropriate locations throughout the city.
- To develop, manage and maximise the utility of publicly-owned recreational centres and sports facilities in the city.
- To investigate future active recreational needs eg. Roller Blade, Indoor and Outdoor Bowls, Skateboarding, etc.



# *STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES*

## *Engaging the citizens*

- To develop sustainable partnerships with residents and community associations for the management and improvement of local residential open spaces through pilot schemes aimed at encouraging community ownership of public open spaces.

## *HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES?*

### TIMESCALE AND PRIORITIES

The following is a list of the key priorities that are achievable in the period 2002 to 2006: -

- The development of Terryland Forest Park.
- Design and timescale for the development of Barna/Lough Rusheen park & Merlin/Roscam Park.
- Design & Timescale for the development of a network of Neighbourhood Parks.
- Upgrade facilities for passive amenity at Lough Atalia.
- Survey and prepare an inventory of all public open space and parklands.
- Establish at least 5 Community Open Space Development Pilot Schemes.
- Advertise annually for specific public requests for tree planting, bulbs and bedding flowers.
- Conduct a planned annual tree maintenance programme.
- Establish a city Tree Register and GIS system.
- Establish an information/interactive page on the City Council's website.
- Produce an information pamphlet on all available facilities.
- Establish a reorganised pitch-letting scheme.
- Inspect all development sites that have landscape/tree protection conditions at least once/year.
- Produce information guidelines for developers & interested parties regarding obligations for Landscape Plan submissions, tree preservation and children's play.

## *HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES? (Cont.)*


- Review current Bye-Laws.
- Complete current city amenity programme for all major approaches to the city.
- Review current staff resources and make recommendations to match resources with targets.
- Review current budgets and prospective sources of income to match targets.
- Investigate and report on potential for use of bio-fuels and lubricants.
- Coordinate cleansing programmes with Environment Section.
- Coordinate recycling programmes with Environment Section.
- Establish a query response system and database.
- Establish prioritised works programme system.
- Design and install at least one new playground per annum.
- Develop a policy on Wildlife Conservation and habitat protection and creation.
- Review current grass management systems and produce specific action plans for: -
  - (1) Open Spaces
  - (2) City Areas
  - (3) Parks
  - (4) Roads
- Produce action plan for active recreation requirements



## *HOW DO WE BEST UTILISE WHAT WE HAVE?*

### **MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE.**

A range of policies/Action Plans will be established to address matters such as:

- Access to and use of outdoor amenity areas
  - Appropriate rules, byelaws, and enforcement mechanisms regarding behaviour in public amenity areas
  - Structured input by the Parks/Recreation Department on major public and private development proposals in the city, and on reviews of the City Development Plan,
  - The range of supports to be provided to residents and community associations, and the terms on which these supports will be provided,
  - The need to balance the achievement of adequate revenues with the need to promote access to and utilisation of amenities by all sections of society,
  - The development of reasonable, sustainable and achievable systems for the maintenance of public open spaces,
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## *HOW DO WE BEST UTILISE WHAT WE HAVE?*

- The establishment of appropriate inspection and monitoring regimes for public amenities (including an effective response system).
- The establishment of indicators to monitor achievement of the objectives,(e.g. frequency of maintenance, numbers using facilities, response times, etc)

# ***ARE WE ORGANISED TO DELIVER ON OUR STRATEGY?***

## ORGANISATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The delivery of this strategy is contingent on a number of requirements relating to Galway City Council and other local organisations. These include:

[a] The allocation of adequate financial and personnel resources to the Parks and Recreation Department to deliver effective management and maintenance and service to/liaison with the public,

*Opportunities to source external funding (including state grants, development levies and local contributions) will be fully pursued.*

[b] The development of effective liaison between Parks and other personnel within the City Council, including Planning, Environment, and Housing staff and Conservation and Heritage personnel,

[c] The active support and participation of the public and local community-based organisations in terms of the maintenance, protection and development of public amenities.

*Experience to date has clearly shown that local communities have the capacity and the willingness to make an active contribution, and that where this has happened, the results in terms of greater benefit to the community have been evident.*



## *WHAT CAN YOU OFFER?*

*[d] Ideas and assistance will be gratefully accepted.*

