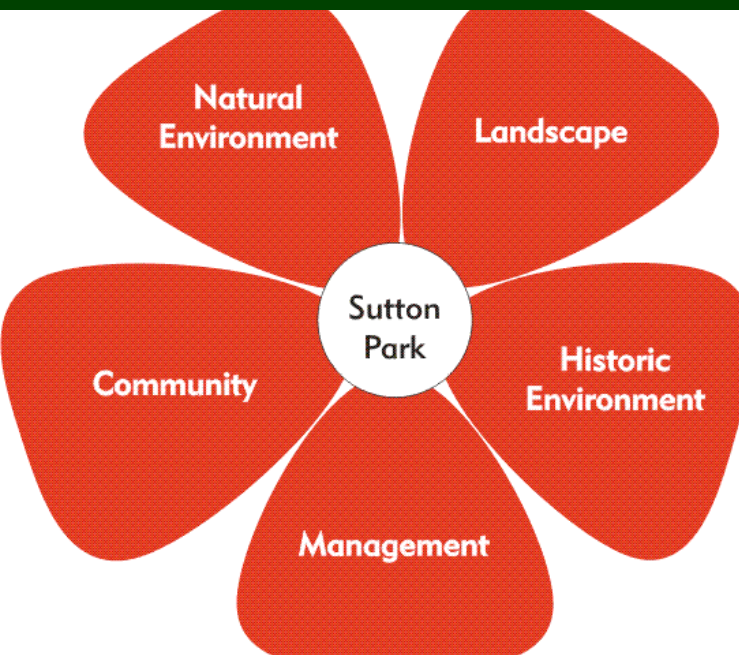


GROWING OUR FUTURE

WEST MIDLANDS
FORESTRY FRAMEWORK



Sutton Park's 50 year vision



Birmingham City Council undertook an involved consultation on a 50 Year Vision for Sutton Park that will form the basic justification for a new and more sustainable Management Plan for the Park.

This important document is required by Natural England, Defra and other funding bodies in order to justify the continuation (and enhancement) of the financial support they provide to the Park. Woodland and Forest is a major component of this well cherished landscape of around 1000 hectares, but this is one aspect of many.

It is believed over two million visitors enjoy the site for many reasons. The site is a basically a remarkably intact mediaeval deer park with a fantastic legacy of natural and man made heritage. Its designations include being a Site of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserve, Registered Historic Park and extensive Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The Visioning exercise sought to find a means to satisfy competing demands to achieve an "everybody" wins outcome.

Objectives and outcomes

Headline objectives include

- Develop and implement a framework of effective management, monitoring and assessment of the biological, archaeological and cultural aspects of the Park to enable the development of informed long-term management policies, biological and archaeological aspects of the park.
- Maintain and where appropriate restore/ enhance the woodland and other habitats of Sutton Park to favourable condition
- Maintain the hard landscape and building features of the Park
- Maintain the cultural/historical heritage of the Park with its traditional medieval layout of ancient woods separated from open grassland, heathland and wetland habitat
- Protect and enhance archaeological remains
- Safeguard archaeological interests of Sutton Park
- To involve more people in making decisions
- To improve the visitor experience
- To encourage more people to visit and care for the Park

An almost immediate outcome is the initiative of a Heritage Partnership Agreement with English Heritage. Through a considered and agreed method statement approach, all vital activities such as forestry within the Park will be continued whilst the irreplaceable heritage is conserved and enhanced.

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Background:

Sutton Park is important to its users in so many different ways, from the athletes to the workers, the wildlife watchers, the wild pony watchers, the historians, the graziers, the teenagers on the swings ...and those who simply want to get away from city life for a while. Add to this mix various statutory designations, passionate Friends with vocal critics and achieving consensus looks like a daunting task. However agreement was reached as evidenced in the mission statement quote below.

Quotes:

In 2060 Sutton Park will be a unique, beautiful, a welcoming place where wildlife and archaeology are cared for and respected.

A living, working landscape for everybody...forever.

Partners:

Birmingham City Council Parks & Nature Conservation, English Nature, English Heritage, Forestry Commission, the Friends of Sutton Park Association, Sutton Coldfield Constituency, Sutton Coldfield Golf Club, Birmingham Outdoor Education Centre, Birmingham and the Black Country Wildlife Trust, Sutton Coldfield Natural History Society, Sutton Coldfield Civic Society, and many individuals!

WMRFF Objectives:

Main Theme & Others

Tree & Woodland Cover
Enhancing Biodiversity
Fostering Social Inclusion
Trees, Woods & Forestry Industry

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