



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

2024

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

CONTENTS

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION.....	1
North Warwickshire	1
Local Context	5
Typology and Local Standards	8
SECTION 2: KEY PRIORITIES.....	10
Our Vision	10
Our Objectives	10
Policy Priorities	11
Service Priorities	11
Borough-wide Priorities	14
Area Priorities	15
SECTION 3: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY	18
Resources.....	18
Monitoring.....	19
APPENDIX A: QUANTITY STANDARDS	20

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

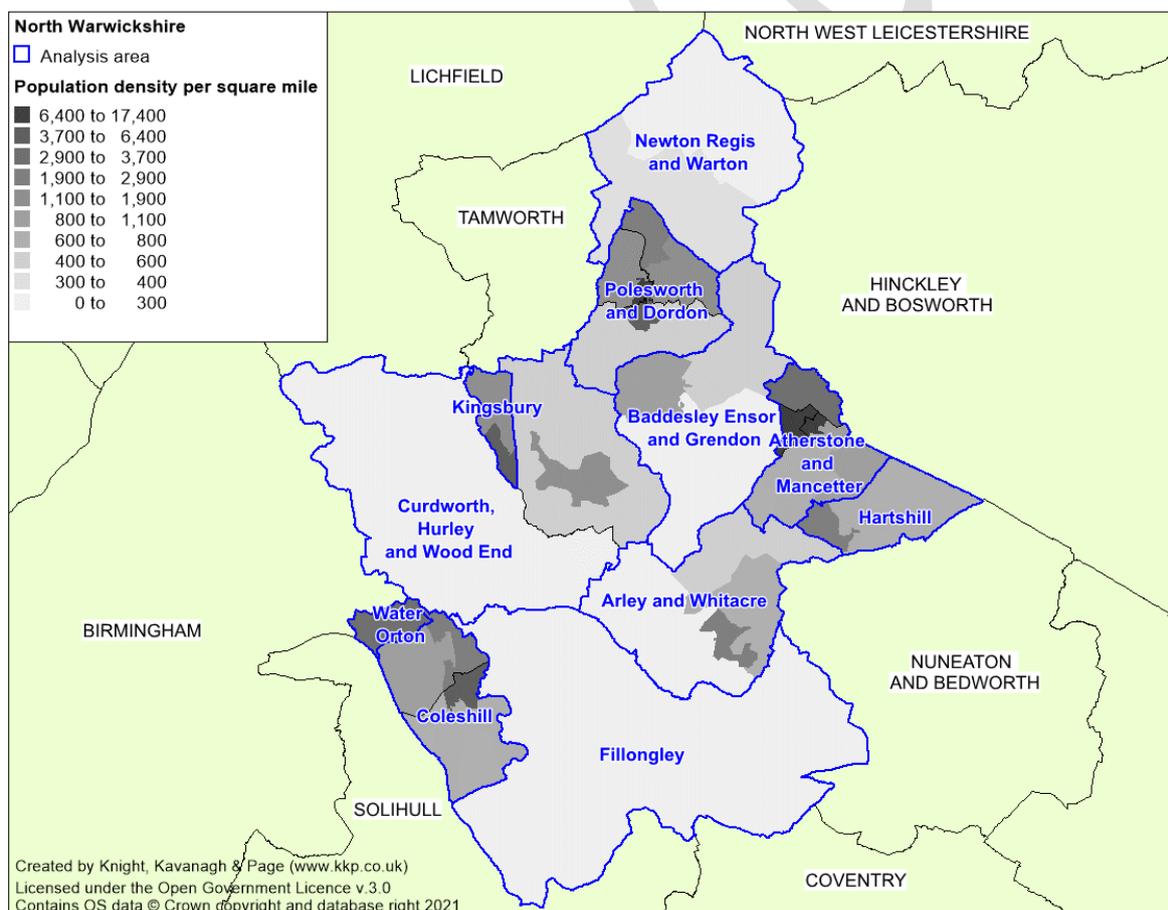
North Warwickshire

North Warwickshire is the northernmost district in the county of Warwickshire. It has several large urban settlements on its doorstep, including Tamworth, Nuneaton, Coventry, Sutton Coldfield and other settlements within the Birmingham conurbation.

North Warwickshire is overwhelmingly rural in nature, with approximately two third of its area designated as Green Belt. The population of the Borough is 65,452 (Census 2021), most of which is centred in the three main towns: Atherstone, Coleshill and Polesworth. The rest of the population is dispersed throughout a number of smaller rural settlements. The dispersed nature of the Borough has particular implications for the provision of open space, sport and recreation facilities.

The map below shows the local authority spatially, illustrating the location of North Warwickshire and its borders with Lichfield and North West Leicestershire to the north and Hinckley and Bosworth and Nuneaton and Bedworth to the east. To the south of North Warwickshire are Coventry and Solihull, with Birmingham to the west.

Figure 1.1: Analysis Areas in North Warwickshire



NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

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What is Green Space?

Green Space refers to the range of green areas that are used by the public and includes parks, landscaped spaces in and around housing estates, sports pitches, children's play areas, wildlife and countryside areas, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards.

The Borough Council has produced and adopted a Playing Pitch Strategy, which covers pitches used for cricket, football, hockey and rugby. These formal pitches, therefore, will not be considered alongside other green space in this Strategy.

Why is Green Space Important?

"A network of well-designed and cared-for open spaces adds to the character of places where people want to live, work and visit. Open spaces also provide the vital green infrastructure that enables us to deal with floods or mitigate and adapt to climate change while providing wildlife habitats, sporting facilities or beautiful parks."

As identified in "The value of public space" (CABE Space, 2014), good quality green space has many benefits:

The Economic Value of Public Space: The presence of good parks, squares, gardens and other public spaces becomes a vital business and marketing tool; businesses are attracted to locations that offer well-designed, well-managed public places and these, in turn, attract customers, employees and services.

The Impact on Physical and Mental Health: Access to good-quality, well-maintained public spaces can help to improve physical and mental health by encouraging people to walk more, to play sport, or simply to enjoy a green and natural environment. In other words, open spaces are a powerful weapon in the fight against obesity and ill-health.

The Benefits to Children and Young People: Play is crucial for many aspects of child development, from the acquisition of social skills, experimentation and the confrontation and resolution of emotional crises, to moral understanding, cognitive skills, such as language and comprehension, and, of course, physical skills. Good-quality public spaces can help to fill this gap, providing children with opportunities for fun, exercise and learning.

Reducing Crime and the Fear of Crime: Fear of crime and, to a much lesser extent, crime itself, can deter people, not just vulnerable groups, from using even good-quality public spaces. Children and young people, for example, are often prevented from using parks, squares and streets because of their parents' fears about crime, whilst women often also face particular concerns. Physical changes to, and the better management of, public space can help to allay these fears. Such changes can help everyone to make the most of public spaces.

The Social Dimension: Public spaces are open to all, regardless of ethnic origin, age or gender, and as such they represent a democratic forum for citizens and society. When properly designed and cared for, they bring communities together, provide meeting places and foster social ties. These spaces shape the cultural identity of an area, they are part of its unique character and provide a sense of place for local communities.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

Movement In and Between Spaces: Well-designed streets and public spaces encourage walking and cycling and have the power to make the environment safer by reducing vehicle use and speeds. ‘Home Zones’ have begun to demonstrate the benefits of redesigning streets for shared use by residents and pedestrians, not just cars.

Biodiversity and Nature: The significant increase in hard surfacing and the reduction in green spaces lead to higher temperatures in towns and cities than in the surrounding countryside. This is known as the ‘heat island effect’. Vegetation – whether in public spaces or private gardens – can help to redress this imbalance. It brings many important environmental benefits, including the cooling of air and the absorption of atmospheric pollutants. More, bigger, better managed and well connected green space can assist in nature’s recovery supporting our wider wildlife in an ecological crisis and providing connectivity, space and resilience for populations.

Why Develop a Green Space Strategy?

The North Warwickshire Green Space Strategy is informed by a green space / open space assessment and audit. The audit set out an up-to-date assessment of the quality, quantity and accessibility of various forms of open space across North Warwickshire. The Green Space Strategy, therefore, is the opportunity to identify the priorities and actions required to meet the expressed “vision”.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Within Warwickshire, for some time, “biodiversity offsetting” has been used to quantify the impact that a development has on the natural environment and, where possible, to mitigate these impacts. Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), itself, is an approach to development and / or land management that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was before a development takes place.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that Local Plan policies should enhance the local and natural environment, amongst other things, by providing net gains for biodiversity, by promoting the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats and by supporting developments that integrate opportunities to improve biodiversity within their design.

Through the Environment Act 2021, the Borough Council is now under a duty to enhance biodiversity through the implementation of its policies and provisions. The duty requires the Authority to consider what it can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity, to agree policies and objectives based on these considerations and then to act to achieve these policy objectives. It will do so across the range of its service functions and through its adopted Local Plan and this Green Space Strategy. Within this context, the Borough Council will consider how land within its ownership can be managed to enhance biodiversity.

Starting from April 2nd 2024, most new developments within the North Warwickshire borough area must show a 10% increase in biodiversity through detailed plans focused on ecological sustainability. These plans should actively contribute to habitat protection and improvement.

Policy LP1 on Sustainable Development requires development proposals to:

- Provide, conserve, and enhance biodiversity.
- Create linkages between green spaces, wildlife sites, and corridors.
- Retain existing natural features (trees, hedgerows, water bodies) where possible, and protect them during construction.
- Replace or enhance natural features if they are lost due to development.
- Use native species and avoid invasive ones in new landscaping to benefit biodiversity.

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Local Context

North Warwickshire Local Plan (2021-2033)

The North Warwickshire Borough Council Local Plan (September 2021) sets out the vision and spatial planning strategy for North Warwickshire up to 2033.

The vision for the Local Plan is to develop:

“A place where people want to live, work and visit, now and in the future, which meets the diverse needs of existing and future residents, is sensitive to the local environment and contributes to a high quality of life. A place which is safe and inclusive, well planned, built and run and offers equality of opportunity and good services for all”.

To achieve this, the Plan lists the following aims:

- ◀ Promote sustainable construction practice in all new developments, including energy efficiency and the use of recycling.
- ◀ Manage development so as to reflect the local character and appearance of our towns and villages.
- ◀ Promote sustainable design, which mitigates and adapts to climate change and increased flood risk.
- ◀ Limit adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecology assets.
- ◀ Create and enhance habitats that support nature's recovery- making space for nature and aiming to achieve 30% of land in recovery for nature by 2030.
- ◀ Provide and enhance the provision of open and green spaces.
- ◀ Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and the perception of crime through the application of Secured by Design standards.
- ◀ Reduce adverse impacts on neighbourhood amenity.
- ◀ Promote sustainable water and drainage management.
- ◀ Reduce the impact of traffic on the environment.
- ◀ Reduce the impact of contaminated land.

To provide and enhance the provision of open and green spaces, the Local Plan will:

- ◀ Identify, maintain and enhance existing green infrastructure assets where possible.
- ◀ Optimise opportunities to create links between existing green infrastructure within the Borough and surrounding sub-regional networks.
- ◀ Help to deliver new green infrastructure assets where specific need has been identified.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

North Warwickshire Corporate Plan (2023-2027)

The Corporate Plan aims to protect the rurality of North Warwickshire, support its communities and promote the wellbeing of residents and business. To achieve this, the Plan sets out four key visions, which it aims to deliver (illustrated below).

Figure 1.2: North Warwickshire's Corporate Plan Key Visions.



North Warwickshire Playing Pitch Strategy (2024 to 2031)

The Playing Pitch Strategy is a strategic assessment in the context of national policy and local sports development needs that provides an up-to-date analysis of supply and demand for playing pitches (grass and artificial) in the Borough. The primary purpose of the Strategy is to ensure that the provision of playing pitches can meet the local and community needs of existing and future residents in North Warwickshire.

The assessment, for practical reasons, focuses upon football, rugby union, cricket and hockey. Key to the Green Space Strategy is the identification in the Playing Pitch Strategy of the future needs with regard to accessible, high quality green space, sports and recreation facilities.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2020 to 2025)

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is Warwickshire's high-level plan for reducing health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing for local residents. The Strategy is owned by Warwickshire's Health and Wellbeing Board. Its three long-term strategic aims are;



Healthy people



**Strong
communities**



Effective services

In order to deliver countywide ambitions, the Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed three priority areas to focus on over the timeframe of the Strategy.

- ◀ Help our children and young people have the best start in life.
- ◀ Help people improve their mental health and wellbeing, particularly around prevention and early intervention in our communities.
- ◀ Reduce inequalities in health outcomes and the wider determinants of health.

North Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Action Plan (2023 to 2027)

The North Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Action Plan (2023 to 2027) sets out actions to improve health and wellbeing across the Borough. These are assigned to the following divisions:

- ◀ Environmental Health
- ◀ Finance (including Revenues and Benefits)
- ◀ Housing
- ◀ Human Resources and Health and Safety
- ◀ Leisure and Community Development
- ◀ Planning
- ◀ Streetscape

In terms of Leisure and Community Development, the following key actions are identified:

- ◀ To update and improve the Authority-owned play areas through the Play Area Development Programme.
- ◀ Provide a programme of holiday provision for children and young people in the Borough Council's leisure facilities during each school holiday.
- ◀ Formulate an action plan from Poverty Proofing feedback and ensure that the related services continue to improve their accessibility.
- ◀ Monitor and review feedback through surveys, verbal customer and staff feedback, and adapt the service to meet customer needs.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

The Streetscape actions are also relevant to the Green Space Strategy. These set out aims to:

- ◀ Inspect and maintain play areas, including teen shelters, ball courts and play equipment in order to promote outdoor play for all children and a healthy outdoor area for the local community.
- ◀ Maintain green and open space areas, including parks, recreation grounds, estates and verges, to create a safe, clean and healthy environment for all residents and visitors.
- ◀ Carry out street cleaning, fly tip removal and work with volunteer litter picking groups to create and maintain a safe and clean, healthy Borough for all residents and visitors to enjoy.
- ◀ Maintain the Borough Council's leisure facilities and contribute to associated projects and undertakings.

Typology and Local Standards

The audit undertaken for the Green Space Strategy looked at the quality, quantity and accessibility of green spaces. Following on from this, research was undertaken to enable the Borough Council to adopt minimum local standards for the quality, quantity and accessibility of green spaces that are needed in North Warwickshire.

The audits provide an understanding of the current condition, amount and location of the following types of green spaces throughout North Warwickshire:

Green Space Typology

- ◀ **Parks and Public Gardens:** Accessible, high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
- ◀ **Natural and Semi-natural Green Space:** Woodland and other spaces that are managed in a way that promotes biodiversity and allows nature to develop. ([LNR's?](#))
- ◀ **Amenity Green Space:** Typically, green spaces in and around housing estates and village greens.
- ◀ **Provision for Children and Young People:** Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people.
- ◀ **Allotments:** Plots of land subdivided to provide opportunity for people to grow produce.
- ◀ **Cemeteries and Churchyards:** Burial grounds providing opportunities for quiet recreation, contemplation and biodiversity.
- ◀ **Green Corridors:** Routes used for walking, cycling and / or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, which also provide opportunities for wildlife migration.
- ◀ **Outdoor Sports Areas:** Addressed in the North Warwickshire Playing Pitch Strategy.

The latest audit identifies a total of over 200 open space sites, equating to over 700 hectares of open space across North Warwickshire.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

Local Green Space Standards

Local green space standards are key to planning for, and managing, green space in the future.

The North Warwickshire Local Standards are based on the results of local consultation, and are also informed by pragmatic considerations. They are intended to be achievable. The standards are for minimum levels of provision. It should be noted that just because geographical areas may enjoy levels of provision exceeding minimum standards, this does not mean that there is surplus provision, as all such provision may be well used.

In addition, the standards (as they relate to various forms of open space) reflect only the importance for given recreational activities. Open space may have intrinsic value for other reasons, including visual and ecological. The recreational utility of open space must, therefore, be viewed in the context of broader environmental and planning considerations.

The standards are split in to three categories – Quantity, Quality and Accessibility.

The 'Quantity' Local Green Space Standards are detailed in Appendix A and should be read in conjunction with the 2023 Open Space Assessment Report, which helps to inform and identify potential shortfalls in existing provision.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

SECTION 2: KEY PRIORITIES

The value of green spaces to local communities is well understood. It is critical that green space is protected and that green space development is also planned in a considered, strategic and sustainable manner.

The following themes, along with their associated policies, aim to protect and enhance the Authority's green space.

Our Vision

The Green Space Strategy is about land and about people. Our vision is:

North Warwickshire will have a well-planned, protected and managed network of sustainable, biodiverse green spaces that meets the needs of its communities and that maximises the opportunities presented by new development.

Our Objectives

The Green Space Strategy sets out a framework to fulfil the following objectives:

- ◀ **Protect, improve the management and maximise the benefits of green spaces:** Fields in Trust research identifies that parks and green spaces across the United Kingdom provide people with over £34 billion of health and wellbeing benefits. The report also states that parks provide a total economic value of just over £30 per year to each person in the United Kingdom. The value of parks and green spaces is higher for individuals from certain disadvantaged and under-represented communities. The loss of parks and green spaces, therefore, will disproportionately impact those people who value them the most.
- ◀ **Co-ordinate action and develop partnership working:** Many local groups, organisations and agencies are actively engaged in bringing forward a wide range of site improvement projects. There is a need to co-ordinate all of this activity to ensure that resources are used effectively and that the benefits are maximised.
- ◀ **Access funding opportunities:** There is a range of funding possibilities for green spaces. By providing a clear and co-ordinated set of policies and proposals, the Green Space Strategy will ensure that an effective case for investment is made when submitting bids for funding. Experience shows that in areas of the country where a strategy has been produced, access to funding sources has increased significantly.
- ◀ **Promote green space investment as a policy priority:** Having a Green Space Strategy will elevate the status of green space issues in the Borough during the consideration of public policy priorities.
- ◀ **Help to create sustainable communities:** Attractive green spaces play a vital role in creating sustainable, inclusive and cohesive communities, where people will choose to live and work, both now and in the future.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

- ◀ **Support the Borough Council's duty to enhance biodiversity:** Through the implementation of its priorities, and particularly in respect of the management of its own land, the Green Space Strategy will be used to advance a corporate commitment to conserve and enhance biodiversity. It will also be used as material support for the implementation of the policies of the North Warwickshire Local Plan.

Policy Priorities

Protection and Enhancement of Existing Green Space by:

- ◀ Informing the Planning process in the consideration of planning applications to protect against the loss or inappropriate development of green space.
- ◀ Informing any review of the Borough Council's land holdings and any proposals for disposal.
- ◀ Informing the development of a Green Space Strategy Action and Funding Plan.
- ◀ Promoting funding opportunities; including supporting the local community to apply for funding.
- ◀ Ensuring that in the consideration of potential new development and / or the management of land, opportunities are taken to enhance local biodiversity.

Seek New Green Space by:

- ◀ Informing the Planning process through the Local Plan and the consideration of strategic allocations and planning applications.
- ◀ Using the identified local Green Space Standards, along with the audit of green space, to identify and provide for green space needs in local communities.

Service Priorities

A number of common themes concerning green space provision are highlighted as part of the audit. From these, there is a need for the following:

- ◀ Prepare site improvement and management plans for all significant green space sites, noting the need for more seating and improved signage / welcoming entrances.
- ◀ Improve safety and security.
- ◀ Continue to tackle vandalism and graffiti.
- ◀ Continue to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- ◀ Ensure an even spread of good-quality facilities across the Borough.
- ◀ Ensure that facilities are accessible to people in rural areas.
- ◀ Improve partnership working between the Borough Council and other providers of green space.
- ◀ Target providers' combined resources more effectively.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

- ◀ Increase provision for children and young people.
- ◀ Increase provision of, and access to, bridleways and cycle paths.
- ◀ Encourage greater community engagement with local green spaces.
- ◀ Increase awareness of the availability of recreation facilities by improving publicity and promotion.

The Council will address these issues through the Service Priorities set out below:

Improvement, Maintenance and Cleanliness

The Borough Council recognises that effective, efficient and adequately resourced grounds maintenance is key to improving the quality of its green spaces and will:

- ◀ Review, when required, the current grounds maintenance arrangements to ensure coherent and appropriate work programming and adequate allocation of resources, in light of the potential for extensive new developments.
- ◀ Review grounds maintenance operations and seek to identify opportunities for less intensive management practices that are cost effective and deliver positive outcomes for biodiversity.
- ◀ Explore opportunities for alternative maintenance arrangements for some sites, such as partnership working with other providers or community management projects.
- ◀ Invest in basic service improvements, such as improving footpaths, site furniture and installing signage (including the use of Quick Response 'QR' codes, which will allow smart phone users access to additional information).
- ◀ Work in partnership with other providers and, where improvements to their green spaces have been identified, support them by offering advice and guidance.

Safety and Security

Green spaces should be welcoming places where people can enjoy recreation and leisure activities in confidence and safety. The Borough Council will:

- ◀ Adopt a programme of measures to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in green spaces, ensuring that 'Secure by Design' principles are followed.
- ◀ Audit unauthorised access from neighbouring properties and land grab. Licence or remove access. Identify and pursue a legal resolution for land grab.
- ◀ Develop a policy on the use of drones across Borough Council sites.
- ◀ Develop a policy on the use of metal detectors across Borough Council sites.

Tree Management

A well-managed, sustainable and renewable tree stock provides long term benefits for the environment and is an essential element of attractive, good-quality green space. The Borough Council will:

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

- ◀ Prepare and adopt a Tree Management Policy to inform the management of the Borough Council's tree stock
- ◀ Consider opportunities to plant native trees on open space in accordance with the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines (Arden, 1993).
- ◀ In the interests of sustainability and increased biodiversity, aim to replant at least two trees in the same community for every tree that is removed.

Biodiversity and Climate Change

Well-managed, multi-functional green space benefits both people and wildlife and can contribute to the mitigation of the effects of climate change. The Borough Council will:

- ◀ Seek opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity through habitat creation and management when developing individual site management plans and grounds maintenance schedules.
- ◀ Seek opportunities to mitigate the effects of climate change, particularly increased flood risk, through appropriate planting and land management when developing individual site management plans and grounds maintenance schedules.
- ◀ Implement Biodiversity Net Gain requirements.
- ◀ Support partners to enhance and conserve biodiversity on publicly accessible sites, particularly noting the need to mitigate the impact of HS2.
- ◀ Continue to be a Board member of the Tame Valley Wetlands Landscape Partnership and support its work and vision "to create a wetland landscape, rich in wildlife and accessible to all".
- ◀ Work with partners to increase opportunities for community engagement in habitat creation and management projects.
- ◀ Support and encourage the development of 'green and blue corridors'.
- ◀ In partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, continue to manage and develop Local Nature Reserves (LNR).

Children and Young People

Green space plays a vital role in helping children and young people to develop skills through play and social interaction and to explore and learn in the wider environment. The Borough Council will:

- ◀ Review current play provision to ensure that all built play facilities continue to offer good play value, meet current safety standards, are accessible and are secured by design. Prepare an action plan for enhancements and refurbishments.
- ◀ Consider opportunities to provide more exciting and innovative play solutions for all ages, including, for example, BMX / pump tracks and iPlay opportunities.
- ◀ When developing green spaces and / or play areas, consider the inclusion of natural 'green' play using natural and renewable materials.
- ◀ Promote and encourage inclusive and accessible forms of provision.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

Community Engagement

Green space is for people. It is somewhere to relax, to enjoy sport and recreation and to enjoy the natural environment. Local spaces can provide a focus for family outings and for community activities. The Borough Council is keen to encourage people to use their local spaces and to take pride in their development. We will:

- ◀ Support existing, and develop new, “Friends Groups” to participate in the development and oversight of local green spaces.
- ◀ Continue to support and work in partnership with the North Warwickshire Allotment Federation to ensure that residents are able to access good-quality allotment sites.
- ◀ Support allotment associations to reduce the number of unused plots and to improve the quality of provision.
- ◀ Publicise and promote green spaces and play facilities through the internet and through the promotion of activities and events on sites.
- ◀ Develop guidance, procedures and pricing for the community and commercial use of green space for events.
- ◀ Work with partners, stakeholders and developers to protect, enhance and increase connectivity between green spaces throughout the Borough.
- ◀ Develop a method for measuring and monitoring the level of use of key parks and green spaces.

Borough-wide Priorities

The following priorities apply to the whole Borough

- ◀ Prepare site improvement and management plans for all parks and public gardens and relevant play areas / recreations grounds and natural / semi-natural sites.
- ◀ Support parish and town councils and other providers to prepare site improvement and management plans for all key parks and public gardens and relevant play areas / recreations grounds and natural / semi-natural sites in their ownership.
- ◀ Where appropriate, and in consultation with the local community, allow some informal open space to be developed for alternative green space uses, such as new play space or for management as natural green space.
- ◀ Where appropriate, permit the release of some informal open space only where this will secure funds to improve existing facilities and avoid the loss of all other types of publicly accessible open space across the area.
- ◀ Support the development of green “tree” and “cycle” corridors.
- ◀ As new housing sites are developed, ensure new green space sites have appropriate management plans.
- ◀ When considering new housing developments or sites identified for disposal, ensure a strategic balance of play provision in the locality.
- ◀ Ensure adequate provision for formal outdoor sports not identified through the Playing Pitch Strategy, e.g. bowls, BMX, skate, etc.
- ◀ Develop opportunities for the use personal technology to encourage greater use of green spaces and improve mental and physical health through increased activity.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

- ◀ Target resources, particularly developer contributions, to improve the quality of open spaces in the area.
- ◀ Only consider assuming the adoption and future management of newly created open spaces and / or play areas where these sites are of strategic significance and only where appropriate resources have been allocated.

Area Priorities

Arley and Whitacre

- ◀ Support improved access to the countryside through the promotion of footpaths and routeways through the area.
- ◀ Develop a management plan for Brett's Hall Recreation Ground in Ansley Common, in conjunction with an improvement plan for the adjacent Brett's Hall Allotments.
- ◀ Ansley Village Recreation Ground, Arley Recreation Ground, Brett's Hall Recreation Ground, and Gun Hill Playing Field provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Atherstone and Mancetter

- ◀ Prioritise the improvement and development of Mancetter Recreation Ground including its play equipment / offer.
- ◀ Support Atherstone Town Council in exploring options / opportunities to provide enhanced play provision; particularly at Westwood Road recreation ground.
- ◀ Develop Atherstone Riverside as a Local Nature Reserve.
- ◀ Support, where possible, the extension to Atherstone Cemetery.
- ◀ Mancetter Recreation Ground, Royal Meadow Drive Recreation Ground and Westwood Road Playing Field provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Baddesley and Grendon

- ◀ Seek the provision of more play facilities, particularly provision catering for older age ranges.
- ◀ Baddesley Common, Speedwell Lane Recreation Ground, Baxterley Playing Field, and Boot Hill Recreation Ground provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Coleshill

- ◀ Resolve the future of Brendon Close Play Area.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

- ◀ Support the Town Council in exploring options / opportunities to provide additional allotment provision.
- ◀ Work in partnership with Tame Valley Wetland Landscape Partnership and the Environment Agency to create and implement the Cole Valley Landscape Project.
- ◀ Cole End Park and its Nature Reserve, Ennerdale Green and Coleshill Memorial Park provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Curdworth, Hurley and Wood End

- ◀ Support the promotion of access to rights of way across the area.
- ◀ Support Parish Council in exploring options / opportunities to provide enhanced play provision, particularly at King George V Playing Fields.
- ◀ Hurley Recreation Ground and Wood End Recreation Ground provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Fillongley

- ◀ Support the Parish Council in exploring options / opportunities to provide an enhanced offer, particularly at Fillongley Park.
- ◀ Fillongley Park, Shustoke Playing Field and Butts Field provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Hartshill

- ◀ Ensure quality of play provision at Snowhill Recreation Ground as only forms of play facilities.
- ◀ Hartshill Hayes Country Park, Hartshill Recreation Ground, and Snowhill Recreation Ground provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Kingsbury

- ◀ Support the Parish Council in exploring options / opportunities to provide enhanced play provision, especially for older ages, particularly at Kingsbury Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Kingsbury Playing Field and Kingsbury Recreation Ground provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

Newton Regis and Warton

- ◀ Support the Parish Council in any mitigation linked to HS2.
- ◀ Austrey Playing Fields, Newton Regis Playing Field, Shuttington Recreation ground, and Warton Playing Field provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Polesworth and Dordon

- ◀ Support the development of green “tree” and “cycle” corridors in regard to Hoo Hill, Hollies Ancient Woodland, Dordon Common, the Hills at Polesworth Common, Dordon Hall Lan, Holloway and Drovers Lane in St Helena.
- ◀ As new economic sites are developed, support the provision of new / relocation of existing allotments and playing pitches in Dordon.
- ◀ Abbey Green Park, Birchmoor Recreation Ground, Long Street Recreation Ground, Kitwood Avenue Recreation Ground, North Warwickshire Recreation Ground and Pooley Country Park provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.

Water Orton

- ◀ Hidden Park and Water Orton Playing Field provide important access to recreational space; ensuring their quality will be encouraged.
- ◀ To develop green spaces within the village of Water Orton in line with aims and objectives of the neighbourhood plan. Ensure that the development of green spaces will be sympathetic to the aesthetic of the village.
- ◀ Explore the opportunity to open and develop Parish council land on plank Lane.
- ◀ To enhance and improve the play/leisure equipment on the green and play field.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

SECTION 3: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

Resources

Clearly, there are financial implications attached to the implementation of this Green Space Strategy. In providing and managing green space within the public realm, the Borough Council does not, and cannot, work in isolation. In particular:

- ◀ It is essential to secure the support and co-operation of local parish and town councils, associated trusts and committees responsible for the management and maintenance of much of the Borough's stock of accessible green space.
- ◀ Nature conservation trusts, agencies and the County Council have responsibility for much of the accessible natural green space found in rural areas, in particular wildlife sites, country parks and designated habitats with public access.
- ◀ Agencies, such as the Canals and Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency, have the ability to control and influence the management and maintenance of green space associated with the Borough's considerable network of water corridors and bodies.
- ◀ Institutional landowners, such as the Coal Authority and the Church, control substantial tracts of land with great potential for development and use as accessible green space for the public good.
- ◀ Developers will be responsible for directly or indirectly providing new green space in relation to planned growth.
- ◀ The County Council and local schools control large amounts of educational land with areas of unexploited potential in terms of contributing to green space strategic goals.
- ◀ The County Council, with responsibility for highways and rights of way, can also help to influence and promote the creation of green corridors and routes.
- ◀ Other local and national agencies, such as health authorities, the police, Natural England and Sustrans, can help to achieve many projects that increase positive community interaction with green space.

The following policies will help the Borough Council to secure, co-ordinate and target resources effectively.

Resources

The study underpinning the Strategy clearly identified the value attached to green spaces by the community for many forms of recreation, both informal and organised. The evidence, both locally and nationally, points to the primacy of the outdoor environment in providing most people's physical recreational needs. To ensure, as far as possible, that investment priorities reflect this, the Borough Council will:

- ◀ Prepare a rolling Action Plan and Funding Plan that identifies how and when the Borough Council and other stakeholders will achieve key priorities.
- ◀ Review its investment of time and resources into the management and maintenance of local green space.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

Resources

- ◀ Maximise developer contributions through the Open Space Supplementary Planning document and through contributions, including S106 Agreements and / or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- ◀ Seek opportunities to diversify funding streams for green spaces, including greater income from partnerships, commercial activity, fees and charges, developer contributions, sponsorship, grant funding and fundraising (such as crowd sourcing).
- ◀ Consider assuming the adoption and future management of newly created open spaces and / or play areas only where these are of strategic significance and only where appropriate resources (staffing / finance) have been allocated, for example through the provision of a commuted sum.

Monitoring

The Green Space Strategy must be kept up-to-date and must continue to meet its priorities whilst fulfilling the Borough Council's corporate objectives, local planning policies and the objectives of the Sustainable Community Strategy. This means that monitoring and review are essential. The following policies will help to ensure the currency and legitimacy of the Strategy.

Monitoring

To be effective the Green Space Strategy must be a living document, kept under constant review and revision. The Borough Council will:

- ◀ Review and update the Action and Funding Plan annually.
- ◀ Set out in the Action and Funding Plan performance targets against which delivery of the Green Space Strategy and the Action and Funding Plan will be monitored and, if necessary, revised.
- ◀ Report, as a minimum, annually to Borough Councillors on progress in delivering the Green Space Strategy and its Action and Funding Plan.
- ◀ Ensure that the Green Space Strategy continues to relate to the Borough Council's corporate objectives and is embedded therein.
- ◀ Review and refresh the Open Spaces, Sport and Recreation Study and the Green Space Strategy on a five-year cycle.

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL GREEN SPACE STRATEGY

APPENDIX A: QUANTITY STANDARDS

Table A1: Summary of Quantity Standards (hectares per 1,000 Population)

Typology	National Standard ¹	North Warwickshire (2019)	Open Space Report (2023) Quantity Levels
Parks and Gardens	0.80	0.50	3.96
Natural and Semi-Natural Green Space	1.80	0.50	7.15
Amenity Green Space	0.60	0.50	1.43
Provision for Children and Young People	0.25	No minimum space specified	0.08
Allotments	0.25	0.40	0.38

¹ As suggested by Fields In Trust. For allotments, the National Society of Allotments and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) is used.