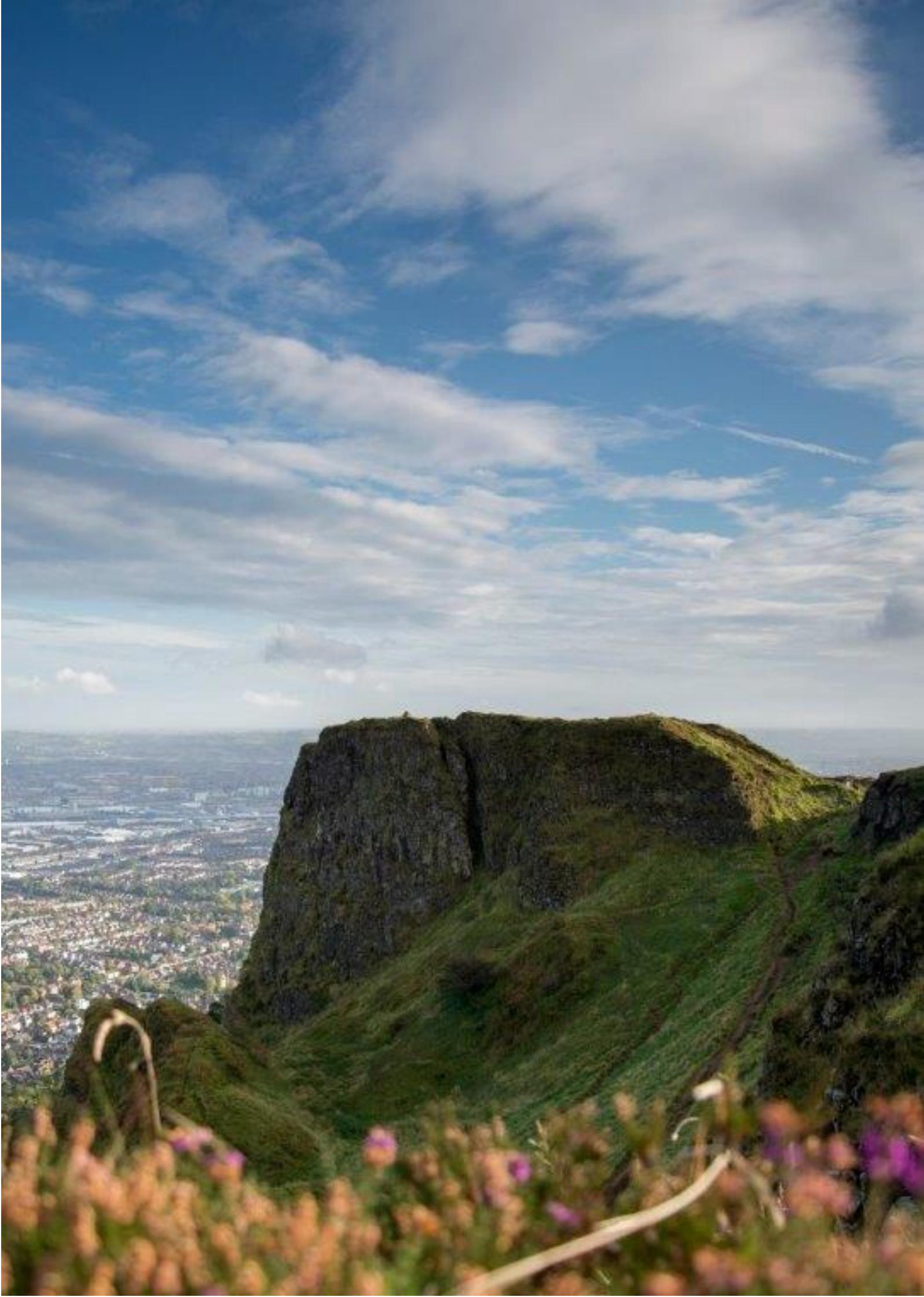




Belfast Local Development Plan

Technical Supplement 8
Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation
August 2018





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1.0 Introduction

Purpose of this document

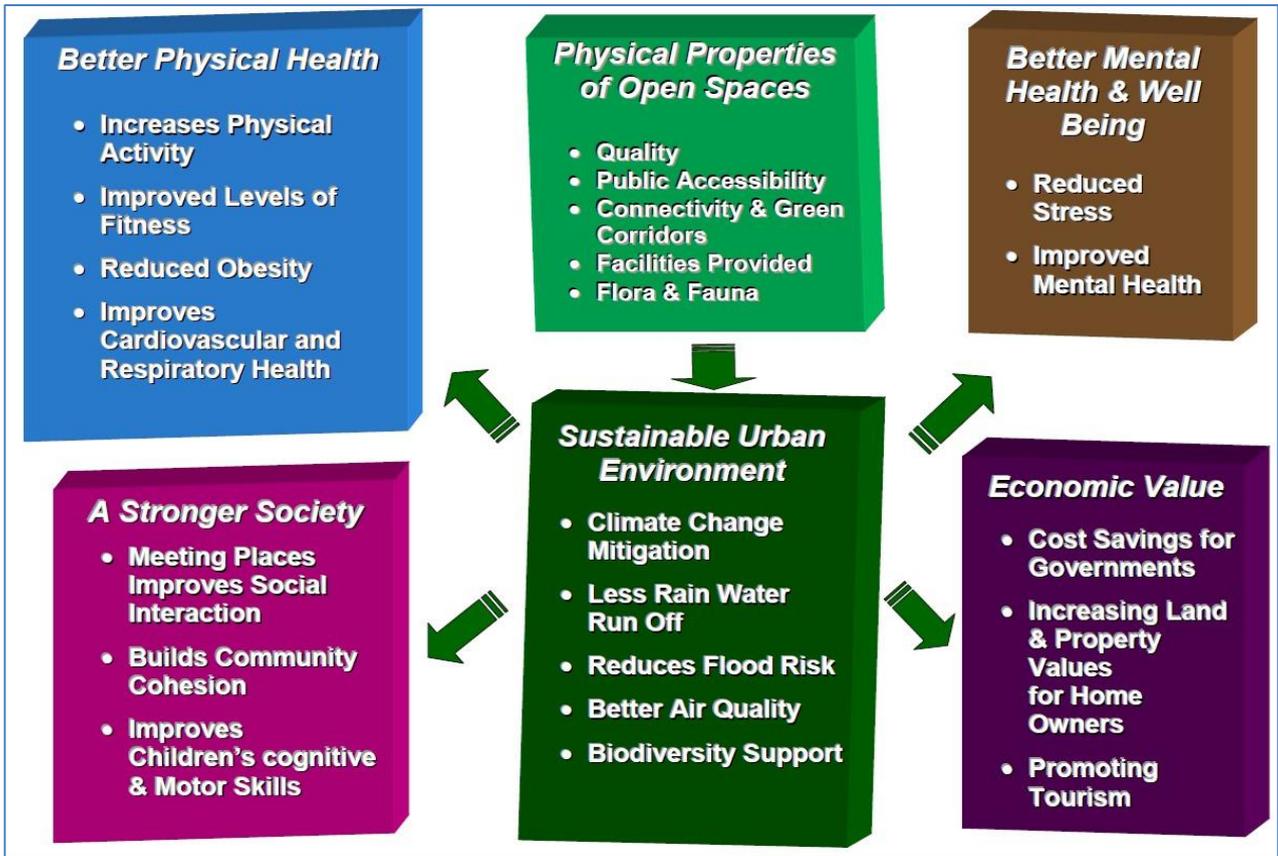
- 1.1 This technical document has been prepared to draw together the evidence base that has been used to inform the preparation of the Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) 2035. It is one of a suite of topic-based technical supplements that should be read alongside the LDP to understand the rationale and justification for the policies in the draft Plan Strategy.
- 1.2 The document builds upon the suite of 18 thematic topic papers published alongside the LDP Preferred Options Paper (POP), which established the baseline position at that time (January 2017) and identified the key issues to be addressed by the LDP. This technical document therefore updates this baseline position and, along with the previous topic paper, sets out the evidence base that has informed the relevant policies within the draft Plan Strategy.
- 1.3 Again, this document forms part of a series of thematic reports to accompany the draft Plan Strategy. Whilst each of the technical supplements can be read separately, there are inevitably important related matters and background evidence within other documents also.
- 1.4 It should be noted that the evidence base collected to inform the LDP also forms the basis for additional assessments and appraisals required as part of the plan preparation process, most notably the Sustainability Appraisal. By combining the evidence gathering stages for both the Sustainability Appraisal and LDP, 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 the Sustainability Appraisal is one of the main drivers informing the preparation of the LDP.

Planning and open space

- 1.5 Good quality open space makes our city an attractive and healthier place to live. Planning Policy Statement 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."
- 1.6 Open space can include a wide variety of types of spaces. For the purposes of the LDP, 'open space' means all open space and ancillary facilities of recreational, amenity or environmental value, including land and water bodies, irrespective of ownership or access. This includes a wide range of types of open space, such as public parks and gardens, outdoor sports facilities, play areas, amenity open space, greenways, community pathways and rights of way, river corridors, ponds and reservoirs, natural and semi-natural spaces, woodlands, allotments and community gardens, cemeteries, designed landscapes and civic spaces. Where there is built development that is ancillary to the use of the open space, this is also included in the LDP definition of open space. This includes, for example, access pathways, car parks, changing facilities, shelters, pavilions and other associated structures

- 1.7 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. They can promote safe accessible pedestrian linkages, act as a buffer between different land uses, help to reduce flood risk and provide 'green lungs' that can help to improve air quality and reduce urban heating.
- 1.8 The variety of open spaces within and outside the urban area can have positive impacts on the landscape as well as providing good places to work, live and visit. High quality open spaces can support regeneration, improve quality of life for communities as well as promote health and wellbeing. Open space also has a strategic function by helping to define an area and create a sense of place. Ultimately, open space can make a valuable contribution to the health and quality of life for all.
- 1.9 Land use planning has an important role to ensure that there is adequate open space to meet current and future needs of the population. This includes protecting existing areas of open space and ensuring new development provides additional or enhanced open space to meet growing needs. In helping to deliver open space to meet the needs of individuals and communities, planning can also help to increase quality of life through encouraging health and wellbeing. Taking account of the environmental benefits of open space, through the ecosystem services that it can support, planning can help to protect and improve the quality of the wider environment and address issues around environmental and climate change. Therefore, planning can also facilitate the environmental functions of open space that are essential to sustain human life and address environmental resilience.

Figure 1: Benefits Provided by Open Spaces



2.0 Planning Context

National and Regional Policy

- 2.1 The regional planning policy context is provided by the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and regional Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) and guidance. A summary of these documents is provided in the following sections.

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 is the spatial strategy of the Northern Ireland Executive and sets the overarching planning framework for the region. The RDS offers two types of strategic guidance: Regional Guidance (RG) which applies to the entire region under the three themes of sustainable development (economy, society and environment); and Spatial Framework Guidance (SFG) that is shaped specifically to address the 5 elements of the Spatial Framework¹.
- 2.3 The RDS places importance in promoting recreational space within our towns and cities and it acknowledges that it is our responsibility to protect the environment as a sustainable asset for future generations. RG7 - Support urban and rural renaissance - promotes a joined up approach to support sensitive and sustainable development. It supports the improvement of environmental quality in urban areas is improved and maintained, including with adequate provision of green infrastructure. It also recognises the linkages with nature conservation.
- 2.4 RG 11 - Conserve, protect and, where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment - recognises the synergies between the environment, health and wellbeing and economic development. It notes the value of green and blue infrastructure and that the establishment of ecological networks can also be of amenity and recreational value.
- 2.5 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 environmental and natural assets and the protected areas of high scenic value with providing increased access for recreational use. SFG5 states the following:
- 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.

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.

- 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 enhanced network of pedestrian paths, cycle-ways and ecological corridors. These have the potential to support biodiversity by linking existing ecological corridors 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

- 2.6 The 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.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 The SPPS provides guidance on the preparation of LDPs and in determining of planning applications. This includes consideration of an open space strategy, including an assessment of existing open space provision and future needs. The assessment will

include other forms of open space including children's play areas and the availability of sports facilities. Consideration should also be given to the distribution and accessibility of such spaces and their amenity, environmental and linkages value. It states that, from this, councils can make local policies and proposals for the plan area.

2.10 The SPPS advises that councils, when preparing LDPs, should assess existing provision of open space 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').

2.11 The SPPS is quite specific in relation to open space policies, including the protection of existing open space, future zoning of land, open space standards for residential developments and key site requirements. It states that any loss of open space must demonstrate clear and substantial community benefit and 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.

2.12 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 infrastructure or facilities to meet increased needs. This can be used to provide new or improved open space facilities to save the needs of new development.

Planning Policy Statements

2.13 The RDS is complemented by a suite of Planning Policy Statements (PPSs) that generally remain in effect until replaced by the new LDPs. **PPS 8 - Open space, sport and outdoor recreation** – is of direct relevance to this technical supplement. 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.

2.14 PPS8 sets out planning policies for the protection of open space, the provision of new areas of open space in association with residential development and the use of land for sport and outdoor recreation. It also advises on the treatment of these issues in development plans. It is consistent with the commitment to sustainable development, to the promotion of a more active and healthy lifestyle and to the conservation of biodiversity.

2.15 The policies contained in PPS8 are as follows:

- OS1 Protection of open space;
- OS2 Public open space in new residential development;
- OS3 Outdoor recreation in the countryside;
- OS4 Intensive sports facilities;
- OS6 Development of facilities ancillary to water sports; and
- OS7 The floodlighting of sports and outdoor recreational facilities.

Other Reference Policies, Strategies and Documents

2.16 There is a wide range of other strategies and documents that are relevant to open space, including those produced by government departments and agencies, as well as other council documents. These are included in the Topic Paper published at the LDP POP stage and have not been repeated in this technical supplement.

Local Policy Context

2.17 The current planning policy context at a local level is complex as a result of a successful legal challenge to the adoption of the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (BMAP) 2015. There are therefore five existing development plans that relate to parts of the Belfast district, alongside draft BMAP. All of these documents will be superseded at the adoption of the new Belfast LDP 2035.

Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) 2001

2.18 The current development plan for the majority of the Belfast district is the Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) 2001, which was adopted in December 1989. The area covered by the plan included the whole of the administrative area of the former Belfast City Council area, together with the urban parts of the former district council areas of Castlereagh, Lisburn and Newtownabbey as well as Greenisland and Holywood.

- 2.19 The purpose of the BUAP was to establish physical development policies for this broad urban area up to 2001, clarifying the extent and location of development and providing a framework for public and private agencies in their investment decisions relating to land use. Although alterations were made in 1996, the BUAP is now largely out-of-date and was formally superseded by the BMAP in September 2014. However, BMAP was quashed as a result of a judgement in the court of appeal delivered on 18 May 2017, meaning that the BUAP 2001 remains the statutory development plan for most of the council's area.

The Lisburn Area Plan 2001

- 2.20 The change in council boundary as a result of the local government reform on 1 April 2015, and the subsequent quashing of BMAP, means that the Lisburn Area Plan 2001 remains the statutory development plan for a small portion of Belfast's district around Dunmurry. Adopted on 4 July 2001, the Lisburn Area Plan sought to establish physical development policies for Lisburn and its surroundings up to 2001. However, as work on the development of BMAP had commenced at the time of adoption, an element of provision had been incorporated so that the area's reasonable housing development needs could continue to be met with some certainty until such time as the successor BMAP was in place.

Lagan Valley Regional Park Local Plan 2005

- 2.21 The quashing of BMAP also means that the Lagan Valley Regional Park Local Plan (adopted in 1993) was re-instated as the statutory development plan for the Lagan Valley Regional Park (LVRP). It sets out the strategy and policies associated with the protection and enhancement of the natural and man-made heritage of the LVRP. Its main objectives are to conserve the landscape quality and features of the Lagan Valley and to enhance recreational use by the public.

Belfast Harbour Local Area Plan 1990-2005

- 2.22 The quashing of BMAP also means that the Belfast Harbour Area Local Plan (adopted in 1991) was also re-instated as the statutory development plan for Belfast Lough and its foreshores, encompassing land east of the Belfast to Larne railway line and west of the Sydenham By-Pass and the Belfast to Bangor road. It was prepared within the strategy set out in the Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001 and underlines the importance of the harbour area to Belfast and to the Northern Ireland economy.

North Down and Ards Area Plan 1984-1995

- 2.23 A small section of the Belfast District at Knocknagoney was subsumed into Belfast as part of local government reform in 2015. The quashing of BMAP means that this area reverts back to the original North Down and Ards Area Plan 1984-1995 (adopted 1989).

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015

- 2.24 Although formally adopted in 2014, this process of final BMAP adoption was declared unlawful as a result of a judgement in the court of appeal delivered on 18 May 2017. This means the Belfast Urban Area Plan (BUAP) 2001 and the other Development Plans provides the statutory plan context for the area. However, BUAP was published in 1990, nearly 30 years ago. The Belfast City Council Plan Area has undergone massive

transformation since then, particularly in the city centre. The formal development plans which apply are dated and silent on many of the planning issues pertinent to needs of current planning decision making. In recognition of this unique circumstance and taking account of the short term transitional period in advance of the adoption of the Local Policies Plan it is important to provide clarity in relation to the application of planning policy.

- 2.25 Draft BMAP, in its most recent, post-examination form remains a significant material consideration in future planning decisions. It was at the most advanced stage possible prior to formal adoption. Draft BMAP referred to throughout the LDP Draft Plan Strategy documentation therefore refers to that version. However, the council has also had regard to the provisions of the draft BMAP which was published in 2004, the objections which were raised as part of the plan process and the Planning Appeals Commission Inquiry report.
- 2.26 The SPSS's transitional arrangements provide for continuity until such times as a new LDP for the whole of their council area is adopted to ensure continuity in planning policy for taking planning decisions.
- 2.27 BUAP contains fewer zonings or designations than draft BMAP and delineates a city centre boundary which has expanded significantly since then by virtue of the application of Draft BMAP. The council therefore intends to use a number of the existing designations contained in the draft BMAP, insofar as it relates to the Belfast City Council Plan Area, to form the basis of decision making until the LDP is adopted in its entirety. A list of the existing draft boundaries and designations is contained in Appendix A of the LDP Draft Plan Strategy.
- 2.28 Draft 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 the following elements:
- Facilitating the development of a network of community greenways; and
 - Facilitating the provision of new open space.
- 2.29 Draft 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.
- 2.30 Draft BMAP Policy OS 1 (Community greenways) protects designated greenways from development that would prejudice their use or enhancement and also encourages proposed developments to include linkages to greenways. The DfI published a clarification booklet on greenways to be read in conjunction with Policy OS 1. This provides supplementary information and guidance, including a descriptive narrative for each route, whether existing, proposed or potential. See Technical Supplement 17 – Transitional Plan

Period Designations for more details on Community Greenways.

- 2.31 Policy OS 2 (New open space provision) seeks to ensure that development for open space is of a good design and takes place in appropriate locations. Stipulates planning permission will be granted for the development of open space where certain criteria are met, including landscaping, amenity, heritage and access.

The Belfast Agenda

- 2.32 The council assumed responsibility for community planning in 2015. This is a process whereby councils, statutory bodies and communities work together in partnership to develop and implement a shared vision for their area, to make sure that public services work together with communities to deliver real improvements for local people. The Belfast Agenda, which is the adopted community plan, sets out a joint vision and ambitions for Belfast's future, as well as outlining priorities for action over the next four years.
- 2.33 The vision for Belfast in 2035 set out in the Belfast Agenda is:
"Belfast will be a city re-imagined and resurgent. A great place to live and work for everyone. Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, it will be a sustainable city shared and loved by all its citizens, free from the legacy of conflict. A compassionate city offering opportunities for everyone. A confident and successful city energising a dynamic and prosperous city region. A magnet for talent and business and admired around the world. A city people dream to visit."
- 2.34 Delivery of this vision is based on a number of strategic outcomes, together with ambitions to be achieved by 2035, including an additional 66,000 residents living in the city. The LDP is recognised within the Belfast Agenda as one of the key tools available to shape the physical future of Belfast in a sustainable way. Its development is described as one of several immediate priorities, under the theme of City Development, where it explains that the LDP will be vital to the delivery of the outcomes in the Belfast Agenda. Councils must take account of their current Community Plan when preparing a LDP. The LDP provides a spatial expression of the community plan, linking investment and delivery to the land use planning system.

Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy

- 2.35 This Strategy sets out Belfast City Council's ambition for continued growth and regeneration of the city core to 2030 and contains policies to guide decision making and key projects to drive economic growth and deliver social benefits. The principles of this strategy include: increasing the employment and residential population; managing retail; maximising tourism; creating a learning and innovation centre and a green centre; city connectivity and shared space and social impact.
- 2.36 The Strategy also identifies five special action areas within the city centre to include social and cultural activities and public realm. The City Centre Investment Fund of approx. £19m has been established to kick-start projects in conjunction with the private sector that demonstrate an economic return. A further £4m fund has been established for projects that can demonstrate a social return.

3.0 Open Space, Sports and Outdoor Recreation Profile

- 3.1 The open space Topic Paper, published alongside the LDP Preferred Options Paper (POP), detailed open space provision in Belfast, including details of different types of facilities and activities available to residents of, and visitors to, the city. It also provided a summary of a number of previous studies and strategies that remain of relevance to the issue of open space.
- 3.2 The DPS is promoting significant growth of the city, with an estimated 66,000 additional residents living in Belfast by 2035. In addition, the growth strategy also sees an extra 46,000 jobs over the plan period. This growth will place additional demands on existing open space and it is likely that additional areas of open space will also be necessary. It is recognised that developing new open space in an existing urban area is difficult and, in some cases, it may be more advantageous to enhance existing open space and create attractive linkages between such areas, through approaches such as greenways.
- 3.3 In considering the current and future needs of the city, in terms of open space, the council has undertaken an exercise to identify and quantify the existing provision of a variety of types of open space across the city. This audit has also been considered against quantitative standards. These standards are 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') and the more recent Fields in Trust guidance for outdoor sport and play. The council is finalising the Belfast Open Space Strategy (BOSS) and, once formally adopted by the council, this will also inform the LDP. In particular, where there are identified spatial deficiencies in types of open space facilities, this will help to inform land use zonings, designations and key site requirements in the future Local Policies Plan.
- 3.4 The audit of existing open space facilities in Belfast that has been undertaken as part of the BOSS and the preliminary results are summarised in Table 1 (over). A full list of pitches, multi use games Areas (MUGA) and BMX/skate parks, playgrounds, parks and community gardens identified in the audit for the Belfast area are included in appendices 3, 4, 5 and 7.

Table 1: Audit of Open Space in Belfast – Preliminary Results (2018)

Type	Sub-type	Number of sites (co-located)	Area (ha)
Parks*	Country Park	5	447.2
	City Park	2	44.9
	District Park	9	132.9
	Local Park	49	273.6
Total Parks		65	898.6*
Playing fields	Public	101 (78)	171.2
	Private	40	120.4
	School/university	33	151.6
Total Playing Fields		174 (78)	443.2
	Golf courses	11	442.6
	Other outdoor sports	36 (19)	25.0

*There are 78 playing field sites totalling 61.6ha and 81 play areas (LEAPs, NEAPs and MUGAs) co-located within parks. For the purpose of this study, these areas have been excluded from the total parks area. An average area for each, has been applied to the relevant typology.

‡ There are 98 LEAP/NEAP sites owned by BCC, two by other public bodies and three that are on private ground.

Type	Sub-type	Number of sites (co-located)	Area (ha)
Play areas‡	LEAPs	48 (16)	14.9
	NEAPs	55 (36)	33.4
	MUGAs	79 (29)	9.9
Total Play Areas		159 (81)	55.0
	Other‡	2 (2)	1.0
Amenity space	Amenity space	1,460	293.7
Civic Space	Civic Space	13	17.7
Growing Spaces	Allotments	8 (4)	6.0
	Community gardens	30 (12)‡	1.8
Growing Spaces Total		38 (22)	7.8
Cemeteries		11	155.8
TOTAL		1969 (196)	2340.4

‡ Includes a skate park and BMX track

‡ Note that area data is not available for all community gardens.

4.0 Draft Plan Strategy Policy Approach

- 4.1 The LDP Preferred Options Paper (POP), which set out the proposed vision, key aims and objectives for the new Belfast LDP, and the public consultation has indicated wide general support for the proposed approach. The overall structure of the draft Plan Strategy (DPS) generally retains the thematic approach used in the POP, set under an overall vision and development strategy.
- 4.2 Sustainable and inclusive development is at the heart of the LDP and the LDP is required to strike a balance in meeting the economic, social and environmental needs of the current population, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This includes a presumption in favour of sustainable development to improve and enhance the balance between economic, social and environmental conditions to deliver economic success, and a better quality of life for people living in Belfast.
- 4.3 The POP identified a series of objectives to help deliver sustainable growth for Belfast. Whilst many of the objectives ultimately affect open Space, sport and outdoor recreation, insofar as the LDP can facilitate such provisions, the following objective is of particular relevance to this document:
- To support healthy lifestyles through ensuring sufficient land available for accessible play.
- 4.4 In the POP, we proposed to include strategic policies to ensure a protected, enhanced and attractive natural setting reinforcing uniqueness and accessibility to all who live, work and enjoy the city. The council recognises that the city's open spaces and green areas are vitally important to the function and environmental quality of the city and the amenity and wellbeing of its population, visitors and nature. Opportunities exist through this policy to support healthy and active lifestyles, such as supporting active travel options and improving accessibility to local service centres and recreation facilities. We also proposed to enhance and provide development opportunities for new open space, sport and outdoor recreation facilities based on local need and in line with the projected population growth over the plan period, including by contributions towards new community infrastructure requirements arising as a result of development. Our preferred approach received significant public support in the POP consultation.
- 4.5 Following on from the POP stage, the DPS includes a number of strategic policies that over-arch the entire plan. These also relate to the overall vision and provide a link to the more detailed operational policies. They seek to improve health and wellbeing, improved environments and inclusion, whilst also creating better places and more sustainable neighbourhoods.
- 4.6 Taking the above into account, the DPS has addressed the issues around open space provision generally through a policy on the retention and enhancement of important open spaces. There are also clear linkages to other policies, including those relating to , healthy communities, improving environmental quality, preserving amenity, complementing

sustainable design principles, and protection of natural heritage and landscapes. The DPS acknowledges that adequate open space provision is essential, particularly planning for a growing population and, in addition, in the protection of natural heritage and ecosystem services. It seeks to support the provision of new and improved open space, sport and outdoor recreation facilities at appropriate locations throughout the district to serve current and future needs. The DPS also seeks to ensure good accessibility to existing and new facilities for current and future residents and tourists.

- 4.7 The DPS open space, sport and outdoor recreation policies aim to protect existing open space infrastructure to meet the future needs of the city and the wider region. It also aims to ensure adequate provision for new and improved open space seeks to improve and extend the green and blue infrastructure network which will be of benefit to occupiers and new developments as well as the city as a whole. Therefore, the policy framework is to generally resist the loss of open space that meets current local needs, save in exceptional circumstances where the land or facility is not needed and another use can be justified. This is in accordance with the SPPS and the established planning policy approach.
- 4.8 As referred to before, the Belfast Open Spaces Strategy will help to inform the next stage of the LDP, the Local Policies Plan, in the event that there are site-specific land use implications. In the meantime, any development proposals will be assessed against the relevant policy framework set out in the DPS.

Appendix 1: 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.

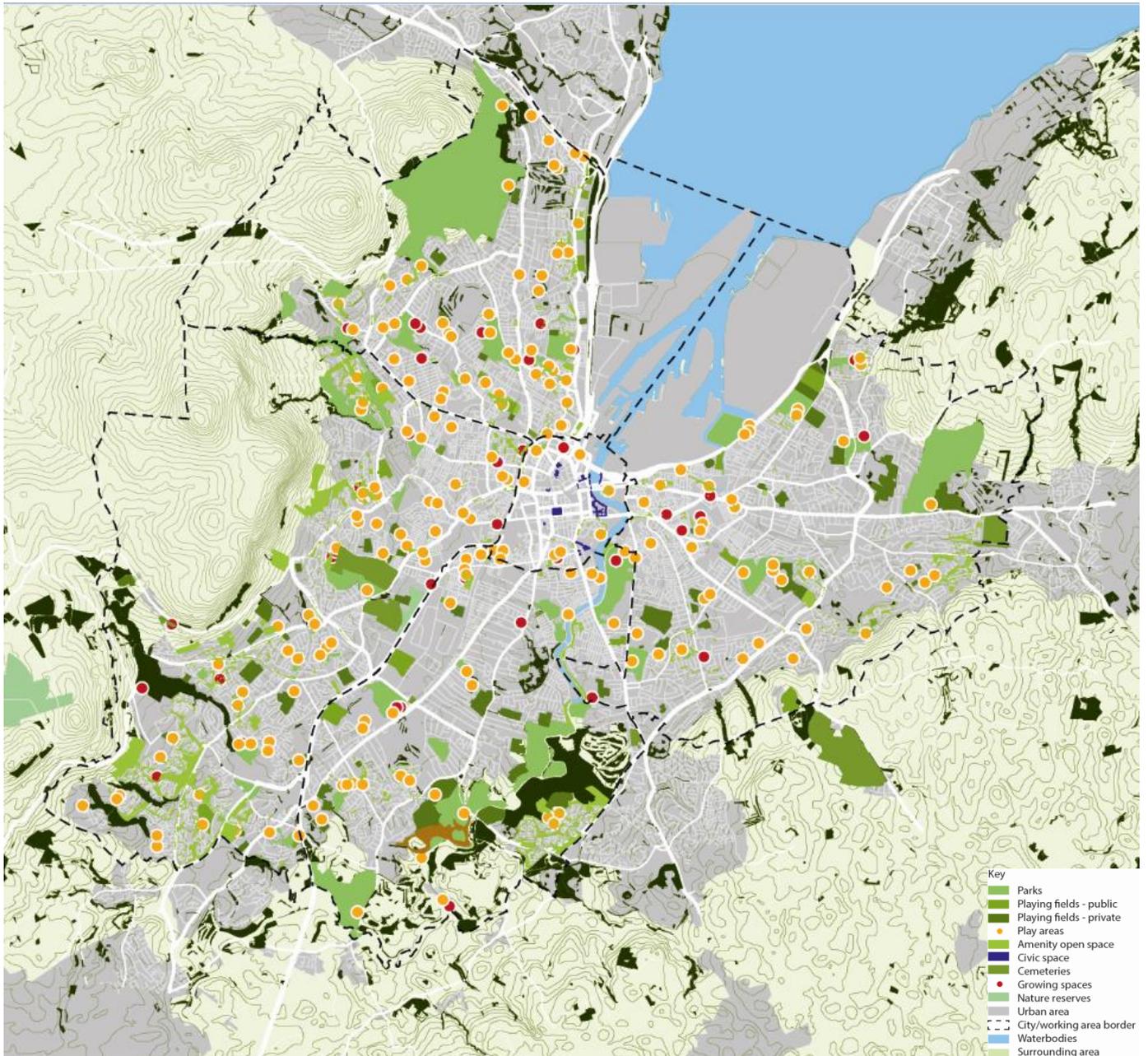
Technical Supplement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

2.

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.

Appendix 2: Open Space, Sport, Recreation, Playgrounds and Parks in Belfast

Source: Preliminary Belfast Open Spaces Strategy 2018



Appendix 3: Pitches, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA) and BMX/Skate Parks in Belfast

The following information was obtained from Belfast City Council Property and Projects Department and Preliminary Belfast Open Spaces Strategy 2018.

Pitches

Name	Grass Pitch	Synthetic 3G Pitch	All Weather Pitch	Tennis Court	Bowling Green	Cricket Pitch	Electoral Area DEA
Aircraft Park	4				1		Titanic
Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School		1					Lisnasharragh
Ashfield Boys and Girls High School	1	2	1	5			Ormiston
Ashley Park Football Ground	1						Collin
Avoneil Leisure Centre		1					Titanic
Avoniel Primary School	1						Titanic
Belfast Boat Club				5			Botanic
Belfast Girls' Model School		2		3			Oldpark
Belfast Harlequins Club	3	1			1		Botanic
Belfast Metropolitan College (Castlereagh)	1						Lisnasharragh
Belmont Bowling Club					2		Ormiston
Belvoir Drive Bowling Green					1		Balmoral
Ben Madigan Preparatory School	3					1	Castle
Blanchflower Park	6					1	Titanic
Bloomfield Collegiate				3			Ormiston
Boucher Road	5		1				Botanic

Technical Supplement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Name	Grass Pitch	Synthetic 3G Pitch	All Weather Pitch	Tennis Court	Bowling Green	Cricket Pitch	Electoral Area DEA
Boys' Brigade Recreation Centre	7	1	1				Balmoral
Braniel Community Centre		1					Ormiston
Brantwood FC Football Ground	1						Castle
Brook Activity Centre	3	1					Collin
Bunscoil an tSláibhe Dhuibh		1					Black Mountain
Campbell College School	6	2	1			1	Ormiston
Campbell College Tennis Courts	1			4			Ormiston
Casement Park County Antrim GAA Ground	1						Black Mountain
Cavehill Bowling & Lawn Tennis Club				9	1		Castle
Cavehill Primary School	1						Castle
Christian Brothers School			1				Black Mountain
City of Belfast Playing Fields	24					1	Airport
CIYMS Sports Ground	2	1		6		1	Ormiston
Clarendon Park	3						Court
Cleaver Park (Hockey Pitches)			1				Botanic
Cliftonville		1					Oldpark
Cliftonville Bowling Club					1		Oldpark
Colaiste Feirste Gaelic Football		2					Black Mountain

Technical Supplement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Name	Grass Pitch	Synthetic 3G Pitch	All Weather Pitch	Tennis Court	Bowling Green	Cricket Pitch	Electoral Area DEA
Colin Park Multisport		4					Collin
Corpus Christi College School			1				Black Mountain
Corrigan Park GAA Ground	1						Black Mountain
Cregagh Memorial Recreational Ground	1					1	Lisnasharragh
Cregagh Youth & Community Centre		1		1			Lisnasharragh
Dixon Park	2						Titanic
Donegall Celtic FC	1						Black Mountain
Ewart's Bowling Club					1		Court
Falls Bowling Club					1		Black Mountain
Finaghy Primary School		1					Balmoral
Forthriver Bowling & Tennis Club				5	1		Court
Gallaher Bowling Club					1		Titanic
Gibson Park (Malone Rugby Football Club)	3				1		Lisnasharragh
Gilnahirk Primary School	1						Ormiston
Girdwood Community Hub		1					Oldpark
Gortnamona GAC Pitch	1						Black Mountain
Grosvenor Community Centre		1					Court
Grosvenor Grammar School	2	2	1	5		1	Lisnasharragh
Hanwood Trust (Phase 2)		1					Ormiston
Harland & Wolff Welders FC	1						Titanic

Technical Supplement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Name	Grass Pitch	Synthetic 3G Pitch	All Weather Pitch	Tennis Court	Bowling Green	Cricket Pitch	Electoral Area DEA
Hawarden Lawn Tennis Club				3			Titanic
Hazelwood Integrated College			1				Castle
Henry Jones	4		3				Lisnasharragh
Hunterhouse College			1	8			Balmoral
Inchmarlo Preparatory School (RBAI)	2					1	Balmoral
John Mitchell GAC & Colin Valley FC	1	1					Collin
King George V	3						Titanic
Kingspan Stadium (Ulster Rugby Football Ground)	1						Lisnasharragh
Knockbreda Primary School			2				Lisnasharragh
Lamh Dhearg GAC	1	1					Black Mountain
Loughside	2						Castle
Malone Golf Course					1		Balmoral
McCorry Park (Cardinal O'Donnell's GAC)	1						Black Mountain
Mercy College Belfast			1				Oldpark
Mountcoole	1	2					Castle
Napier Park	1						Collin
Nettlefield Multi-Sports Arena		1					Titanic
North Belfast Working Men's Bowling Club					1		Court
Olympia Leisure Centre		1					Botanic
Orangefield High School			3				Lisnasharragh

Technical Supplement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Name	Grass Pitch	Synthetic 3G Pitch	All Weather Pitch	Tennis Court	Bowling Green	Cricket Pitch	Electoral Area DEA
Our Lady & St. Patrick's College	1	1		4			Ormiston
Paisley Park	1	1			1		Court
Pirrie Park (Methodist College)	8		2	12		1	Lisnasharragh
PSNI Athletic Association (New Forge Club)	3				1	1	Balmoral
Queen's Sport Upper Malone	9	6					Balmoral
Rathmore Grammar School	2	1	1	8			Balmoral
RBAI (Bladon Park)	3		1			1	Botanic
RBAI (Cranmore Park)	3					1	Balmoral
RBAI (Osborne Park)	1			3		1	Balmoral
Richardson Park (BT Social Club)	1						Collin
Salisbury Bowling Club					1		Castle
Sarsfield's GAC	1	1					Black Mountain
Seaview Park (Crusaders FC Football Ground)		1					Castle
Seaview Primary School	1						Castle
Shaftesbury Bowling Club					1		Balmoral
Shaftesbury Recreation Centre		1					Botanic
Shaw's Bridge Sports Association (Instonians Pitches)	4	1				1	Balmoral
Shore Road	2						Castle

Technical Supplement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Name	Grass Pitch	Synthetic 3G Pitch	All Weather Pitch	Tennis Court	Bowling Green	Cricket Pitch	Electoral Area DEA
Solitude Park (Cliftonville FC Football Ground)		1					Oldpark
Sport & Leisure Football Club (Swifts FC)	1						Black Mountain
Springhill Primary School	1		1				Court
St. Dominic's & St. Rose's Dominican College		1		3			Black Mountain
St. Gall's GAC	2						Black Mountain
St. Genevieve's High School	4			5			Collin
St. Gerard's School	1	1		4			Collin
St. Louise's Comprehensive College Tennis Courts				3			Black Mountain
St. Malachy's College		1					Oldpark
St. Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School	1		1				Black Mountain
St. Paul's GAC	2						Black Mountain
St. Teresa's GAC	2						Black Mountain
Strandtown Primary School	5						Ormiston
Strathearn School		1	1	6			Ormiston
The Oval (Glentoran FC Football Ground)	1						Titanic
The Pavilion (NI Civil Service Playing Fields at Stormont)	3	10		4	1	1	Ormiston
Ulidia	2						Botanic

Technical Supplement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Name	Grass Pitch	Synthetic 3G Pitch	All Weather Pitch	Tennis Court	Bowling Green	Cricket Pitch	Electoral Area DEA
Victoria College		1		4			Botanic
Wellington College	2	1	1	5			Lisnasharragh
Whiterock Leisure Centre		1					Black Mountain
Wilgar Park (Dundela FC football ground)	1						Titanic
Windsor Lawn Tennis Club				5			Botanic
Windsor Park National Football Stadium	1						Botanic
Woodlands	4	1					Balmoral
Woodvale Cricket Club						1	Court
YMCA Belfast	2						Botanic

MUGA

Name	Ownership	MUGA	MUGA Classification	Electoral Area DEA
Belfast Boys' Model School	Private	2	Unknown	Oldpark
Belvoir Activity Centre	BCC	1	Type 3	Balmoral
Canmore Street Sports Area	BCC	1	Type 3	Court
Carrick Hill	BCC	1	Type 3	Oldpark
Cedar Lodge Special School	Private	1	Unknown	Castle
Cedar Lodge Special School	Private	1	Unknown	Castle
Christ The Redeemer Primary School	Private	1	Unknown	Collin
Cliftonville Community Centre	DfC	1	Unknown	Oldpark
Colaiste Feirste	Private	3	Unknown	Black Mountain
De La Salle College	Private	1	Unknown	Black Mountain
Deanby Youth Centre Basketball Court	Private	1	Unknown	Oldpark
Deanby Youth Centre	Private	1	Unknown	Oldpark
Dominican College	Private	1	Unknown	Castle
Dominican College	Private	1	Unknown	Castle
Donegall Road Primary School	Private	1	Unknown	Botanic
Finaghy Youth Club	Private	1	Unknown	Balmoral
Flora Street	BCC	1	Type 2	Titanic
Hazelwood Integrated College	Private	1	Unknown	Castle
Hazelwood Integrated College	Private	1	Unknown	Castle
Holy Cross Boys' Primary School	Private	1	Unknown	Oldpark

Technical Supplement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Name	Ownership	MUGA	MUGA Classification	Electoral Area DEA
Holy Cross Girls' Primary School	Private	1	Unknown	Oldpark
Holy Evangelists' Primary School	Private	1	Unknown	Collin
Holy Family Youth Centre	Private	1	Unknown	Castle
Inchmarlo Preparatory School (RBAI)	Private	1	Unknown	Balmoral
Lead Hill Primary School	Private	1	Unknown	Lisnasharragh
Lisnasharragh Primary School	Private	2	Type 3	Lisnasharragh
Lowwood Primary School	Private	1	Unknown	Castle
Malone Integrated College	Private	2	Unknown	Balmoral
Malone Integrated College	Private	1	Unknown	Balmoral
Mercy College Belfast	Private	1	Unknown	Oldpark
Orangefield Primary School	Private	1	Unknown	Lisnasharragh
Sacred Heart Primary School	Private	1	Type 3	Oldpark
Sliabh Dubh	BCC	1	Type 2	Black Mountain
St. Agnes Youth Club	Private	1	Unknown	Black Mountain
St. Anne's Primary School	Private	1	Unknown	Balmoral
St. Michael's Primary School	Private	1	Unknown	Lisnasharragh
St. Oliver Plunkett Primary School	Private	1	Unknown	Black Mountain
St. Patrick's College	Private	1	Unknown	Castle
St. Teresa's Primary School	Private	1	Unknown	Black Mountain
St. Teresa's Youth Centre	Private	1	Unknown	Black Mountain
Taughmonagh Youth Club	BELB	1	Unknown	Balmoral
The Mount Sports Zone	BCC	1	Type 2	Castle
The Norman Whiteside Sports Facility	Private	1	Unknown	Court

BMX/Skate Parks

Name	Ownership	Sub Category	BMX Track	Electoral Area DEA
Bridges Urban Skate Park	BCC	Skatepark		Castle
Belvoir Drive BMX Track	BCC	BMX Track	1	Balmoral
Blythefield Park	BCC	Local Parks	1	Botanic
Glencairn Park	BCC	Local Parks	1	Court
Mary Peters Track	BCC	Other Outdoor Sports Provision	1	Balmoral
Ormeau Park	BCC	City Parks	1	Botanic
Victoria Park	BCC	District Parks	1	Titanic

Appendix 4: Belfast City Council Playground Provision Categorised by District Electoral Area (DEA)

The following information was obtained from Belfast City Council Property and Projects Department and Preliminary Belfast Open Spaces Strategy 2018.

Number	Playground Name	Playground Classification	Electoral Area DEA
1	Belvoir Drive BMX Track	N/A	Balmoral
2	Ardoyne Community Centre Playground	LEAP	Oldpark
3	Ardoyne Pitch & Mitch Playground	LEAP	Oldpark
4	Areema Play Area	LEAP	Collin
5	Balfour Avenue Playground	NEAP	Botanic
6	Ballymacarrett Playground	NEAP	Titanic
7	Belvoir Drive Playground	NEAP	Balmoral
8	Benview & Ballysillan Playcentre	Unknown	Oldpark
9	Blackmountain Playground	LEAP	Court
10	Bloomfield Walkway Playground & MUGA	NEAP	Titanic
11	Bridge End Playground	LEAP	Titanic
12	Brown's Square Playground	NEAP	Court
13	Caffrey Avenue Play Area & Open Space		Black Mountain
14	Carema Allen Memorial Park	LEAP	Ormiston
15	Carnanmore Park	LEAP	Collin
16	Castleton Playground	LEAP	Castle
17	Christ The Redeemer Parish Pre-School Centre Playground	Unknown	Collin
18	Clara Street Playground	NEAP	Titanic
19	Clonduff Drive Playground	LEAP	Lisnasharragh
20	Duncairn Playground	NEAP	Castle
21	Edenderry Play Area	LEAP	Balmoral
22	Eversleigh Street Playground	LEAP	Titanic
23	Flora Street Playground	NEAP	Titanic
24	Geeragh Playground (Finaghy Community Centre)	LEAP	Balmoral
25	Grampian Avenue Playground	LEAP	Titanic
26	Hammer Development Playground	NEAP	Court
27	Hannahstown Village Playground	LEAP	Black Mountain
28	Hazelwood Integrated Primary School Play Area	LEAP	Castle
29	Highfield Playground	LEAP	Court
30	Lagmore Activity Park (White Rise)	NEAP	Collin
31	Lemberg Street Playground	LEAP	Botanic
32	Loop River Play Area	NEAP	Lisnasharragh
33	McClure Street Open Space	NEAP	Botanic
34	Michelle Baird Memorial Park	LEAP	Court
35	Mount Eagles Open Spaces	NEAP	Collin
36	Mountforde Road Playground	LEAP	Titanic

Technical Supplement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Number	Playground Name	Playground Classification	Electoral Area DEA
37	Navarra Playground	LEAP	Castle
38	New Lodge Playground	LEAP	Oldpark
39	North Queen Street Playground	LEAP	Oldpark
40	Nubia Street Playground & MUGA	LEAP	Botanic
41	Ohio Street Playground	LEAP	Court
42	Olympia Playground	NEAP	Botanic
43	Pat O'Hare Park	NEAP	Black Mountain
44	Poleglass Playground (Colin Valley FC site)	LEAP	Collin
45	Roddens Crescent Playground	LEAP	Lisnasharragh
46	Sally Gardens Play Area	NEAP	Collin
47	Skipper's Playground	NEAP	Titanic
48	Springfield Avenue Playground	LEAP	Court
49	Taughmonagh Playground	NEAP	Balmoral
50	Tir Na Nog Playground	NEAP	Oldpark
51	Tullycarnet Community Centre Playground (Hanwood)	LEAP	Ormiston
52	Tullycarnet Primary School Play Area	LEAP	Ormiston
53	Tyndale Playground	LEAP	Oldpark
54	Whiterock Leisure Centre Hub Playground & MUGA	NEAP	Black Mountain
55	Willowbank Playground	LEAP	Black Mountain
56	Bridges Urban Skate Park	N/A	Castle

Appendix 5: Parks in Belfast

The following information was obtained from Preliminary Belfast Open Spaces Strategy 2018

Park	Location
Alderman Thomas Patton Memorial Park	99 Inverary Avenue
Alexandra Park	19 Castleton Gardens
Ballysillan Playing Fields	Ballysillan Road
Barnett Demesne	300 Malone Road
Belmont Park	310 Belmont Road
Black's Road Park	Black's Road
Blythefield Park	Blythe Street
Botanic Gardens	2 Stranmillis road
Cavehill Country Park	698b Antrim road
Cherryvale Playing Fields	Ravenhill Road
Clarawood Millennium Park	Knockwood Crescent
John Luke Bridge (Formerly Clement Wilson Park)	59 New Forge Lane
Cregagh Green & Playground	Adjacent to Cregagh Primary School
Cregagh Open Space	Adjacent to Cregagh Primary School
Dover Street Millennium Playground	Dover Street
Dr. Pitt Memorial Park	100 Newtownards road
Drumglass Park	352b Lisburn road
Dunmurry Park (Sir Milne Barbour Park)	Warren Gardens, Lisburn
Dunville Park	174 Falls Road
Falls Park	513 Falls road
Finlay Park	Whitwell road
Forthriver Linear Park	Ballygomartin road
Fullerton Park	Glenburn Road
Gilnahirk Park	Gilnahirk Park
Glenbank Park	66 Ligoniel road
Glencairn Park	11 Glencairn road
Greenville Park	Dunraven park
Grove Playing Fields	York Road
Half Moon Lake	Suffolk Road
Hammer Open Space	Agnes Street
John Hewitt Park	Alloa Street
Jubilee Park	Glenburn Road
Knocknagoney Linear Park	Dunraven park
Lagan Lands East	Annadale Embankment
Lagan Meadows	60 Knightsbridge Park
Lenadoon Millennium Park	Lenadoon Avenue
Ligoniel Dams and Park	Ligoniel Road, opposite Mill Avenue
Ligoniel Park	60 Knightsbridge Park
Loughside Park	733 Shore Road
Marrowbone Millennium Park	Oldpark Road
Musgrave Park	22 Stockman's Lane
North Link Playing Fields	Andersonstown Road
Northwood Linear Park	17 Seapark Drive
Old Golf Course Road	Upper Dunmurry Lane
Orangefield Playing Fields	Orangefield Lane
Ormeau Park	212 - 214 Ormeau Road
Queen Mary's Gardens	Antrim Road
Reverend Robert Bradford Memorial Park	Lindsay Street
Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park	235 Upper Malone Road
Slievegallion Drive Open Space	Slievegallion Drive
Springfield Dam	Springfield Road
Springfield Park	460 Springfield Road

Technical Supplement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Park	Location
Springhill Millennium Park	Springhill Avenue
St. Michael's Park	
Stewart Street Playground	Stewart Street
Stormont Estate	Upper Newtownards Road
Strangford Avenue Playing Fields	Malone Hill Park
Suffolk Playing Fields	Black's Road
Thornhill Parade Open Space	Thornhill Parade
Tullycarnet Park	Kingsland Park
Twinbrook Wildlife Park	Creighton Road
Victoria Park	86 Park Avenue
Waterworks Park	260 - 264 Antrim Road
Wedderburn Park	Wedderburn Gardens
Woodvale Park	66 Woodvale Road

Appendix 6: 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 Lagside development as far down as the Queens Bridge.
Bowls	There are many clubs in Belfast offering indoor and outdoor bowling facilities including: 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. Indoor: Belfast Indoor Bowls Club, Shaws Bridge, Falls Park
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	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 Lagan Tow Path is a 10 mile long route.
Cricket	There are 6 Cricket Clubs in Belfast: <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.

Technical Supplement 8: Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

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 Halequins, 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, Ballynafeigh, 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 7: Community Gardens in Belfast

Source – Preliminary Belfast Open Spaces Strategy 2018.

Community gardens	Location	Details
Avoniel	Avoniel Road, Beside Avoniel Leisure Centre	The Garden is part of the Connswater Community Greenway and is situated along the Greenway by the Avoniel Leisure Centre, Belfast.
Black Mountain Primary School	Black Mountain Grove (adjacent to primary school)	Land owned by NIHE.
Bridge	Albertbridge Road (in front of the Business in the Community offices)	Land owned by BT, garden developed by Business in the Community
Camberwell Court (Grow NI)	171 Limestone Road	Managed by Camberwell Court Fold
Clandeboyne Street (Groundwork NI)	Clandeboyne Street	Meanwhile Garden managed by Groundwork NI who work with the landowners, DfC and Public Health Agency in partnership with local communities
Connswater Street (Groundwork NI)	Connswater Street	Meanwhile Garden managed by Groundwork NI who work with the landowners, DfC and Public Health Agency in partnership with local communities
Divis	Divis Street (beside Divis tower block)	Land owned by NIHE. Garden managed by local residents.
Donegal Pass	Donegal Pass/Conduit Street	Managed by local community
Edenderry	Edenderry	Managed by Edenderry residents
Eglantine	Malone Road	Managed by Eglantine Community Garden Group
Glenbrynn (Groundwork NI)	Alliance Road (behind the Jolly Rodger Complex)	Managed by Groundwork NI who work with the landowners, DfC and Public Health Agency in partnership with local communities
Mid Shankill (Groundwork NI)	Between Bellevue Street and Sugarfield Street	Community Garden managed by Groundwork NI who work with the landowners, DfC and Public Health Agency in partnership with local communities
New Lodge (Grow Wild Project)	Dawson Street	Managed by local residents. Grow Wild is the national outreach initiative of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and is supported by the Big Lottery Fund.
Peas Park	Skegoneill Avenue	Managed by local residents
St. James' Garden of Hope (Grow Wild)	47 Rodney Parade	Managed by local residents. Grow Wild is the national outreach initiative of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and is supported by the Big Lottery Fund.
The Growing Garden, Denmark Street	Opposite the Denmark Street community centre	Garden managed by Groundwork NI who work with the landowners, DfC and Public Health Agency in partnership with local communities
Whiterock	Beside Whiterock Leisure Centre	This garden was developed as part of our Investment Programme.
Windsor Womens Centre	Beside Womens Centre, Broadway	Privately managed community garden.

Please note: this is not an exhaustive list

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