

P&C update of issues in the park for FoMP Steering Group 15.5.12

Summary

Since the Steering Group Meeting on 17.4.12 ...

Leeds Parks Volunteers

- Horticultural and path work around the outside of the Rose Garden

The Middleton Park Estate Volunteers got involved with ...

- Horticultural work in the flower beds at the bowling greens & along the drive
- Trained on the use of strimmers and pedestrian mowers

Youth Offending Service (Reparation) got involved in ...

- Undertook a litter pick around the Drift and playground

Corporate Volunteers

- Pinsent Masons via Leeds Ahead brought volunteers to the park. Undertook work on flower beds and edged of grass encroaching on to paths.

School visits included

- Windmill Primary (30 pupils from Year 5) learnt about the Parks for People project and wildlife in the park and undertook some practical conservation – Himalayan Balsam control.
- The Countryside Rangers have made 13 visits to school assemblies to inform the children about the Parks for People project and what a great asset Middleton Park is.

Youth Inspire project

- Three work placements started in the park on 1/5/12. Seven week placement whereby they are at college Monday & Friday and working in the park Tuesday to Thursday.

Student Projects

- Two separate projects looking at marketing and auditing of the park.
- Two separate projects sampling the aquatic life in the lake and pond.

Bird survey on 5.5.12 recorded 24 species in the park.

Things of note for the near future include:

- opportunities to volunteer with the Estate Volunteers (every Thursday)
- Give & Gain Day on 18/5/12
- Middleton Park Schools History Project
- Butterfly Survey – Paul Brothers paulbrothers@hotmail.com
- Middleton Park Family Sports Day – partnership with JCCS

Other points the group may be interested about include:

- Burnt tree next to the lake has been felled for safety reasons
- Collapsing barrier on the drift has been removed for safety reasons

Parks For People Project

- Building work. Completion is programmed for 17/8/12
- Landscape Work. Completion is programmed for latter half of October 2012
- School involvement. A series of talks at schools in Middleton, Belle Isle,

Hunslet and Beeston have been organised to highlight the natural and cultural heritage of the park and what is happening as part of the Parks for People Project.

- Interpretation. The project involves the installation of a number of boards to interpret various features in the park. The knowledge and assistance of FoMP in this aspect of the project will help to ensure the interpretation is accurate and relevant.
- I have been working with Leeds College of Building on student involvement in the reconstruction of a horse gin. They will be helping us with the technical drawing aspect and also the creation of a smaller model that can go in the centre. They are considering constructing a 2nd model which could be entered in one of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters competitions.

Graeme Ashton,
Estate Officer, Middleton Park
tel. 0113 395 7400
Graeme.ashton@leeds.gov.uk