



Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 071576
Date 16 July 2015

Open Green Spaces

Request:

What do you or your department understand as open green spaces?

We use the standard definition from land use planning; urban open space is 'open space areas for "parks", "green spaces", and other open areas. The landscape of urban open spaces can range from playing fields to highly maintained environments to relatively natural landscapes'.

How many open green spaces does your department supervise?

- 99 open spaces
- 31 allotment sites
- 30 neighbourhood parks
- 8 district parks
- 1 city park

We also enjoy an urban farm at Northcote Farm and Country Park; a linear park at Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve and a site of environmental interest and unique beauty at Pendeford Mill Nature Reserve.

Around the city to encourage a fitter and healthier lifestyle we have 26 outdoor fitness pads or trails.

There are tennis courts at:

- West Park
- East Park
- Claregate Park
- Bradmore Recreation Ground

There is a boating lake at:

- West Park

We have paddling pools operating throughout the school summer holidays at:

- East Park
- Tettenhall Green

There is a pitch and putt course at:

- Bantock Park

There are five skate parks.

There are 23 natural play areas.

There are 49 traditional play areas.

There are 25 MUGA's (Multi Use Games Areas).

There are 34 football pitches for hire.

There are also two cricket wickets for hire.

When combining all those open green spaces, what would be their total size in hectare?

We have just over 600 hectares which equates to 6 square kilometres of green/open space.

How many public enquiries concerning open green spaces do you usually receive in one year?

The information you have requested above has been withheld from disclosure. The exemption engaged is Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI).

Section 12 of the FOI exempts Public Authorities from providing information where the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Any estimate must be undertaken in accordance with the limits set in fees regulations made under Section 12 (5) of the FOI.

These Fees Regulations (SI 2004/3244 Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations) allow for a refusal where the cost of compliance, for local authorities such as the Council, would exceed £450. As a guide, staff time to identify and extract this information is charged at a rate of £25 per hour.

In summary to supply you with this information would mean we would have to manually count the enquiries received as we do not log this information in a central place which would take us many days to complete.

How many of those enquiries do you answer in one day, three days one week or after more than one week? (You can use other measurements if it's more convenient for you)

See above.

How many Staff Members concerned with open green spaces does your department currently have?

The teams/supervision and management carry out maintenance/spend a proportion of their time dealing with carrying out maintenance to highways, city and town centres as well.

What was the annual net expenditure regarding open green spaces in 2014, 2013 and 2010? (Including for example external contracts, purchases, maintenance etc. – you can skip certain dates if you don't have the information)

2010/11 £6,981,070

2013/14 £6,660,336

2014/15 £6,817,347

Thinking about the past; How far back can you trace the net expenditure for open green spaces without searching for more than 30 minutes?

We have financial data going back to 2004/05 but this cost would take more than 30 minutes to calculate.

Does your department frequently publish information like your budget, current developments and number of staff members?

Yes

Where do you publish this information? (Please provide a link if you publish information online)

The information you requested is being withheld as it falls under Regulation 6 (1) (a) of the Regulations, which relate to Information reasonably accessible to the applicant by other means/Information already publicly available and easily accessible in another form or format.

The exception applies as the information is published and publicly available to view by accessing

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/budgetsavings>

When do you usually publish or update published content?

Annually

Who is your target audience when publishing material?

The information published is for any interested party

What is probably the best way to contact your department to receive said info?

Council's website

Do you share information (like number of staff members and current developments) regularly with other departments and/or local authorities? (Please name any project or special initiative that is concerned with sharing material between those departments and LAs)

Yes. An example would be the Open Space Strategy and Action Plan.

How often do you usually share this information?

We collaborate on the work involved in shared publications.

Is your Information automatically shared with others through pc assisted means? (For example content management software)

Strategies and action plans can be easily found on-line, published through our city of

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

[Wolverhampton website.](#)

What is in your opinion the greatest challenge in providing information?

[The above is not a question but an opinion and therefore we cannot provide an answer.](#)

How can this situation possibly be improved?

[See above](#)