



# Urban Nature: Connecting It All Together

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# Green Infrastructure Strategy

## BCP Green Net Strategic Plan

We want our parks and greenspaces across BCP to encourage healthy living and wellbeing in our communities, strengthen resilience to climate change, support nature recovery and biodiversity, and support economic recovery and prosperity

**Vision:** Our ambition is to secure investment in the delivery of a multi-functional green infrastructure network, weaving together and enriching green and blue spaces throughout the city region. We call this our Green Net.



# GI Evidence Base



## Evidence base:

- Public survey, 803 responses
- Site audits of over 400 open spaces
- Range of case studies
- Policy context
- GIS datasets and extensive mapping
- National standards
- Natural capital assessment

## Value of Parks and Green Spaces

93% of residents use **parks** at least **once** in the last year<sup>3</sup>



BCP Council allocates **£5.4m** per annum on **green space management**<sup>3</sup>

Green spaces generate c. **£4.5m** **revenue** per annum<sup>3</sup>



**Benefits** of BCP's **parks** estimated at **£231m** per annum (30-40% higher if including beaches)<sup>4</sup>

85% Public satisfaction in BCP Open spaces

## ➤ Natural Capital report:

BCP parks receive an estimated **9.7m recreational visits per year**

Resulting in **£231m pa in gross benefits** to local communities

**£209m** pa of which are health benefits

**Average value of £20 per individual visit to a green space**

# The Emerging Big Picture

## Environment Act:

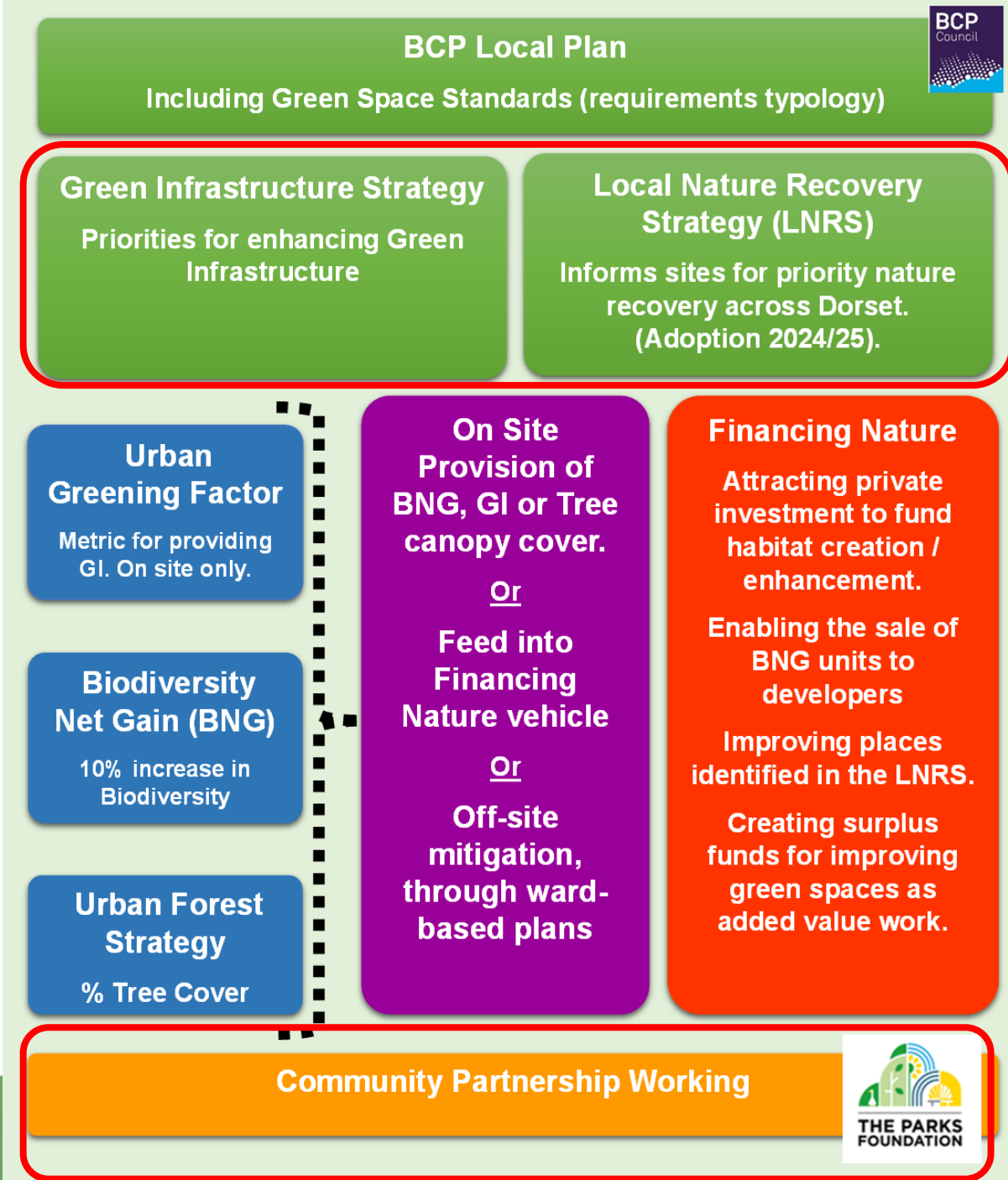
- BNG
- LNRS

## BCP Local Plan – 2025

- Policy wording
- GI Strategy
- Urban Greening Guide
- Urban Forest Strategy

## Opportunity

- Financing Nature
- Ward based action
- Investment Pipeline
- Strategic Partnerships



## Scale:

### Landscape Scale:

- Stour Valley

### Wider Community and Connections:

- Littledown Greenway

### Local Community:

- Parks

# Nature Pledge

The Nature Pledge is a list of principles that help nature thrive in our gardens and greenspaces. Putting these principles into action, whether you have **a window box, a small area at your workplace or a large private garden**, can improve habitat for wildlife and insects, as well as mitigating the impact of climate change and improving your physical and mental wellbeing.

**Could you, or your workplace pledge to support nature in the BCP area?**



# The Pledge

Help our nature thrive. Whether you have a window box, small balcony, a large private garden or a small greenspace at your place of work; join us in pledging to do things better for nature, to help bring wildlife to your home, school or workplace.

- ♥ plant **native/wildlife-friendly** tree and plant species
- ♥ collect **rainwater** for watering
- ♥ stop or **reduce chemical use** to control weeds
- ♥ only use **peat-free compost** - or make your own if you can
- ♥ allow areas to **grow naturally** without interference and leave space for wildlife
- ♥ use **natural ground cover** and not artificial/plastic products
- ♥ install **bird and bat boxes**
- ♥ **reduce mowing** to allow more nature in your garden
- ♥ manage **trees for wildlife** value, leaving deadwood and ivy where possible
- ♥ install **ponds** or encourage **wetland areas** if safe to do so
- ♥ consider **nature-friendly material** choices
- ♥ create more **food growing** spaces
- ♥ **volunteer** some time to improve nature locally



# Nature Recovery - Green Heart Parks

- 8 to 14 BCP Parks – TPF funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund, UKSPF and Public Health Dorset
- Designs and nature recovery plans drawn for each
- Varying levels of intervention
- Local consultation, Councillor and stakeholder engagement, volunteering & practical work to improve spaces for nature and people.



Pelhams Park was selected as one of the parks for our Nature Recovery project, delivered in 2022 – 2023, and we'll continue our work here as a Green Heart Park.

Find out how to get involved and provide feedback on these ideas at:  
<https://parksfoundation.org.uk/green-heart-parks/>



# Which Parks?

- Urban Community Park: densely populated area and/or area of deprivation
- Minimum 3 hectares, playground and building
- Nature based activities
- Biodiversity improvements
- Community Engagement
  - Community growing
  - Community cafés

**44%  
reduction  
in ASB  
since café  
opened.**





# Urban Greening – Beyond Parks

- £375k project continuation from Future Parks funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund
  - Nov 2022 – Sept 2024

## BCP Council:

- have been deliver Green Infrastructure Strategy priorities through:
  - Urban Greening Design Guide
    - Enforcement instrument
    - Strategic projects linked to GI
  - Further work on Green Finance
  - Environmental Justice - inequity of access to urban green spaces and nature
  - Website and corporate comms work



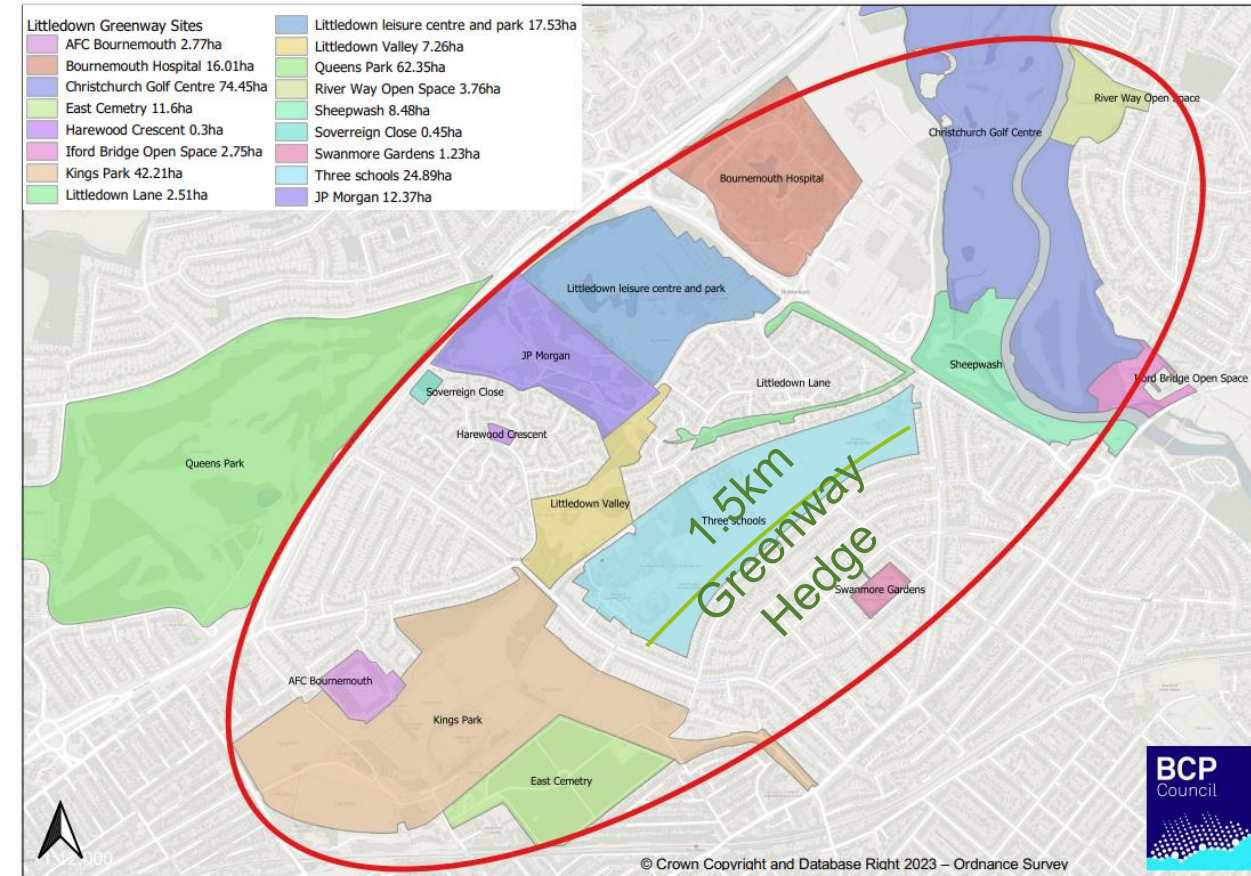
Working together



# Urban Greening – The great greenway hedge

The Parks Foundation:

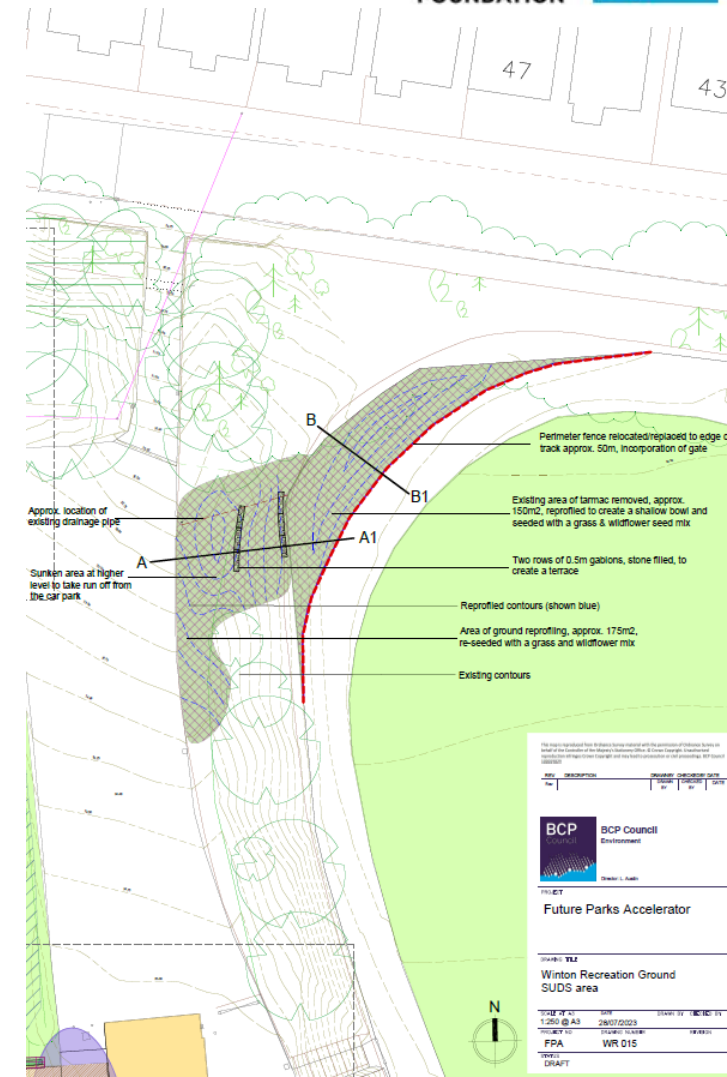
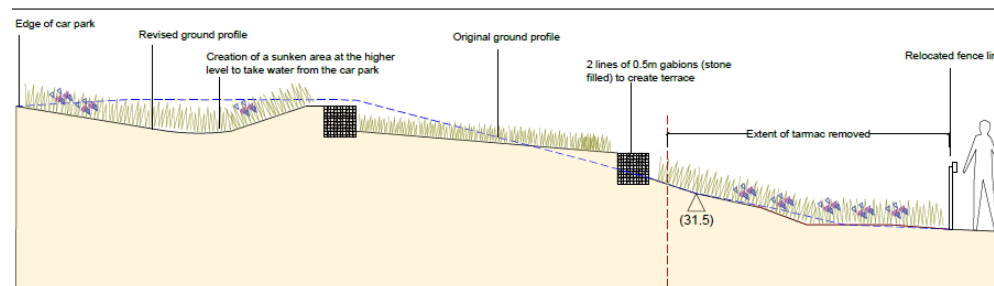
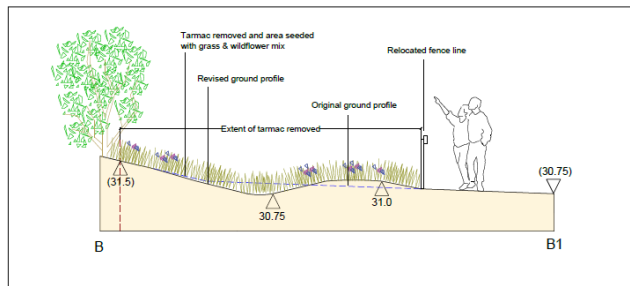
- deliver projects and pilots that enable communities to take practical action.
- Work with Park Activators to deliver workshops ensuring urban greening practices are carried out.
- Connecting communities with nature
  - working with landowner
  - Planting 1.5km of hedgerow over the next year
  - **We start planting over February Half Term in 3 schools!!**



# Urban Greening – Swifts and Flood Prevention

Best practice examples:-

- Swift boxes
  - Swift Street, Christchurch
  - Screaming party
- Green roofs
- House Martin tower and pond
  - Hoburne, Christchurch
- Traffic calming planters
- Sustainable drainage system SUDS
  - Great example in the planning at Winton Rec
  - Collecting water for growing
  - Water capture
  - Flood prevention to Maxwell Road



BCP Council  
Environment  
Druid L. Hall

PROJECT  
Future Parks Accelerator

PROJECT TITLE  
Winton Recreation Ground  
SUDS area

DATE OF ISSUE  
1:250 @ A3  
28/07/2023

ISSUED FOR  
FPA  
WR 015

SCALE  
DRAFT

