

Our long-term vision is that:

“Every community should have access to a well-designed and maintained public park with opportunities for enjoyment and recreation for all.”

3 Year UK programme. In England funded by partnership between Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Big Lottery Fund (BIG), elsewhere in UK by HLF

- Whole park projects.
- Two stage application process, competitive at stage one (S1)
- Two closing dates for S1 applications 31 March and 30 September
- 6 months assessment at S1. Development funding to S2
- Maximum 5 years revenue funding, 3 years capital funding
- Project Planning Grants (PPG) up to £50K available

General criteria

- your project is concerned with a public park, as defined by HLF;
- you are a not-for-profit organisation;
- you need a grant of **not less than £250,000 and not more than £5 million** (including development grant);
- you can **raise at least 25% of your project costs from other sources**, either as cash or as non-cash contributions (this is your partnership funding); and
- at least **5%** of partnership funding is cash from your own resources.

Priorities

For us to consider your park for funding you must show us that:

- **the community values the park as part of their heritage;** and
(we want to fund more parks of local or community heritage value);
- **the park meets local social, economic and environmental needs;** and
(we want to fund parks that contribute in a wide range of ways, to the needs of urban and rural regeneration);
- **the park actively involves local people.**
(we want to fund parks which can show a strong working partnership between the local authority and the community).

Project outcomes

Work and activities proposed for the park (your project) must meet all five of the following outcomes.

- **Increasing the range of audiences**
(project to increase the number and range of different people enjoying the park, by providing activities and facilities tailored to their needs.)
- **Conserving and improving the heritage value**
(Project conserves and improves heritage value through a range of capital works, interpretation and activities)
- **Increasing the range of volunteers involved**
(create opportunities for more people from a broad cross-section of society to volunteer, and for volunteers to carry out a wide range of activities)
- **Improving skills and knowledge through training**
(project to support a wide range of work-based skills development directly related to the park or the park project)
- **Improving management and maintenance**
(Through a costed park Management Plan achieve Green Flag standards of management and maintenance, and maintain these standards over the whole period of grant contract - 10 years).

Project management

We will also consider how effectively you can:

- plan, manage and deliver the project, including,
 - identifying and managing risks,
 - measuring success; and
- the financial viability and value for money of your project.

Read the application pack and guidance carefully and note all the extra items required in Section G.

Complete the pre-application form and send to relevant regional/ country HLF Office. They will contact you to discuss your project.

Other useful information when planning your project:

Definition of a public park

The term 'public park' for this programme means:

“.. an existing designed urban or rural green space, the main purpose of which is for informal recreation and enjoyment. It includes parks, gardens, squares, walks and promenades.”

Equivalent to Planning Policy Note 17 type I. If you are not certain whether your park meets our definition, please contact us for advice by filling in the pre-application form.

Definition of heritage value

“ everything tangible and intangible that we have inherited from the past, and value enough to want to share and sustain for the future.”

Capital work we will fund

Within this programme we can support a wide range of capital work that meets the needs of your park and community. This capital work must be completed within three years from the date you start the work. Capital work includes:

- repairing and restoring landscape of all types;
- removing unsightly structures or planting which have a negative effect on the heritage value;
- conserving built features or associated groups of features;
- improving biodiversity (wildlife and habitats);
- improving access for all;
- providing extra features to increase enjoyment for disabled people;
- buying land to reunite the historic landscape or improve facilities;
- buying original decorative features that were previously lost;
- creating replica or replacement features based on accurate research information;
- repairing things like boundaries, drainage and services;
- community facilities which respond to needs, such as cafés, toilets, education spaces and meeting rooms;
- park furniture, lighting and signs;
- new landscape design if it improves and adds to the heritage;
- recreation and play facilities;
- exhibition space, interpretation displays or publications;
- security work;
- repairing and improving essential services, particularly where they reduce emissions or increase energy efficiency;
- management and maintenance facilities, including recycling, composting and grazing;
- increased links to public transport; and
- professional fees associated with designing and delivering capital work.

You must give priority to repairing and reusing existing buildings in or next to the park, rather than providing new buildings or facilities. All facilities must directly benefit the park and the people who use it.

Revenue activities we will fund

Within this programme we also expect to support projects which offer a wide range of activities that increase learning and enjoyment, and provide volunteering and training opportunities. We expect these activities to be based on community consultation and to meet the community's needs and interests.

We may support the costs of new staff for up to five years to develop and deliver these activities. We may also help with extra costs for materials or equipment, or facilities to deliver activities. Examples of activities in parks include:

- horticultural demonstrations and workshops;
- creating a community history of the park and the local area using archive materials such as maps, text or illustrations, or a spoken history record;
- activities designed with young people;
- activities for schools or colleges;
- day courses and workshops for adults;
- community drama and music related to the park;
- re-enactments of local events and historic celebrations;
- measuring and recording biodiversity (wildlife and habitats);
- trails, walks and talks for adults, children or families;
- recreational activities; and
- structured play activities or after-school activities.

What we will not fund

We do not give funding under this programme if your park is:

- not a 'public park' under the definition given for this programme;
- mainly used for organised sport;
- used for burials;
- owned or managed commercially for profit;
- charging people to use it, other than for parking, special facilities, events or activities; or
- regularly closed for more than five days each year.

We will also not provide funding for:

- existing routine maintenance;
- core organisational or park running costs;
- existing staff costs;
- legislative responsibilities;
- interactive displays, if these do not form part of a wider information or interpretation strategy and lead to clear improvements to public access;
- highways maintenance, signs or traffic control;
- sports, arts or other facilities, where other lottery funding or other funding is available;
- financial gain, other than that used directly to support the park; and
- car-parking facilities, unless they directly benefit the use of the park.