

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000

Your request for information has now been considered and the Council's response to your questions is shown below.

### You asked:

Please provide all information held by the authority on:

- 1 the number of open space sites; and
- 2 the area (in m<sup>2</sup>) of open space

Of land that is or was last used for the following three categories (taken from paragraph 2 of the Annex to Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation")

*iv. outdoor sports facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned) - including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas;*

*v. amenity greenspace (most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas) - including informal recreation spaces, greenspaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens;*

*vi. provision for children and teenagers - including play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops, and other more informal areas (eg 'hanging out' areas, teenage shelters);*

that have either:

- i been built upon, or
- ii had their use changed

otherwise than for recreational purposes in the periods:

- a 2007 - 2011
- b 2002 - 2006, and
- c 1997 - 2001

(each such period running from 1 January to 31 December).

Also, please provide the information held by the authority on

- 1 The current (February 2012) total number of open space sites; and
- 2 The current (February 2012) area, (in m<sup>2</sup>) of open space.

Of land that is or was last used for the following three categories (taken from paragraph 2 of the Annex to Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation")

*iv. outdoor sports facilities (with natural or artificial surfaces and either publicly or privately owned) - including tennis courts, bowling greens, sports pitches, golf courses, athletics tracks, school and other institutional playing fields, and other outdoor sports areas;*

*v. amenity greenspace (most commonly, but not exclusively in housing areas) - including informal recreation spaces, greenspaces in and around housing, domestic gardens and village greens;*

*vi. provision for children and teenagers - including play areas, skateboard parks, outdoor basketball hoops, and other more informal areas (eg 'hanging out' areas, teenage shelters);*

### ANSWER

Unfortunately we are unable to provide the historic information in the format you have requested, as it isn't held. Therefore, this letter acts as a refusal notice under section 17.1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 because, in accordance with this section of the Act, this information is not held.

However, the City Council undertook its PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study in 2006, with the final report produced in 2007. This report can be viewed by following this link: <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/ep/planning/plansandguidance/ldf/ldfevidence-base/openspacestudy/>

The data from the study informed the Greenspace Strategy, and this document: <http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council-services/lc/parks-green-spaces/greenspace-strategy/> includes the m2 of the typologies you request, along with maps detailing level of provision and public access. The Strategy guides open space provision and management for the Authority. No open space land categorised under the PPG17 typology has been lost since 2006 and in fact the Authority is set to gain a 7.8 ha extension to Hamilton District Park in 2013.

Regarding your request for the number of open spaces it would be helpful if you provided a de minimus area; as there are numerous small areas of amenity public open space within the Authority boundary and to calculate the total number would involve someone printing off the detail and then manually counting the number of sites. Printed at 1:1250 scale, which is the smallest that is able to be read accurately, there will be approximately 2,500 A4 sheets to work through. Allowing for at least 5 minutes a sheet it would take one member of staff over 208 hours to work through all the documentation.

Section 12 of the Act makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit, which for Local Authorities is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 2.5 working days in determining whether the department holds the information, locating, retrieving and extracting the information.

We estimate that it will take us in excess of 2.5 working days to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract the information in reference to your request. Therefore, your request will not be processed further.

The legislation allows you to use the information supplied for your own personal use. Please be aware that any commercial or other use, for example publication, sale, or redistribution may be a breach of copyright under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 as amended unless you obtain the copyright holder's prior permission.

Not all the information that is supplied which is covered by copyright will be the Council's copyright, for example it may be the copyright of a government department or another Council. You should seek either the Council's consent or their consent as appropriate. The Council is willing to advise you of any such potential issues on request. In order to make a request to re-use the information please contact the Information Governance Manager using the details below.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request please write to:

**Information Governance Manager**  
**Information and Support**  
**Leicester City Council**  
**FREEPOST (LE985/33)**

**New Walk Centre**  
**LEICESTER LE1 6ZG**

e-mail: [FOIA@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:FOIA@leicester.gov.uk)

Your request for internal review should be submitted to the above address within 40 (forty) working days of receipt by you of this response. Any such request received after this time will only be considered at the Council's absolute discretion.

You can also complain to the Information Commissioner at:

**Information Commissioner's Office**

**Wycliffe House**

**Water Lane**

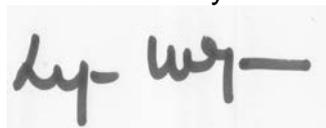
**Wilmslow SK9 5AF**

**Telephone: 01625 545 700**

[www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk)

Please be aware that the Information Commissioner does not normally consider appeals or complaints until the internal appeals and complaints processes of the public authority which is answering the request have been exhausted. You are therefore advised to complain or appeal to the Information Governance Manager before contacting the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Wyeth', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

**Lynn Wyeth**  
**Information Governance Manager**