



Play and Leisure

WREN is a not for profit business that awards grants to community and environmental projects across the UK. Funds are donated to WREN by Waste Recycling Group (WRG) as part of a Government scheme called the Landfill Communities Fund. Since 1998, WREN has granted over £141m to more than 5,300 projects which benefit people living within 10 miles of a WRG landfill site.

What WREN looks for – Play Facilities for Children and Young People

WREN receives over 600 applications each year and over a quarter of these request funding towards facilities for children and young people, such as play areas and skate parks. The size, scope and location of these facilities may vary but we look for the same things when reviewing applications:

1. How have you identified the need for the project, have you involved the children and/or young adults who will use the facility along with the wider community. How have these views been incorporated into the project?
2. How have you chosen the location of the facility and have you spoken to the local police and local residents? Is it easy to access and away from hazards? Is it visible enough to deter vandals and antisocial behaviour?
3. How will you address the long term management and insurance of the facility? Do you have a programme of regular inspections and maintenance planned? How will this be funded?
4. How was the equipment chosen? Is it for a specific age range; if so are there provisions for other age groups in the area? Does the design include fences and landscaping and include seating and shelter areas for parents and/or older children? Will the facility be accessible to all, regardless of ability?
5. Does the project offer value for money and have you considered how to get the maximum out of the funding available. Is any of the work being carried out by volunteers?
6. How much funding have you raised? Does this include own fundraising? Has the project received financial support from a local authority or parish council? How much has been confirmed and is there a shortfall still to find?
7. And finally, is it clear what difference the project will make both to the children and young adults and the community.

WREN can fund play facilities located in public parks, open spaces and recreation areas as long as they are available for use by the general public and not operated for profit. We can help with improvements to an existing facility or the creation of a new facility. Play projects can include play areas, adventure playgrounds, skate parks and multi-use games areas. WREN's Grant Team is happy to discuss your project with you or you can find more information including our funding policy and application forms on our website.

View project online >>



Barony Play Garden, Edinburgh

For over a hundred years, this site had been a valuable open space in a busy, densely populated urban environment, but had become run down and was no longer a useful asset to the local community, with ageing play equipment and a setting devoid of any greenery.

The Broughton Project Group was set up and sought to involve the community at an early stage, to generate a strong sense of community ownership. Initial public consultation identified desires for improved access to encourage people of all abilities to use the garden, new play equipment, raised beds, new seating and planting. The project was then developed as a partnership between themselves, the City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT), with the overall aim of completely transforming the space into a wonderful playground and green open space.

As the project progressed, members of the community came forward to offer specific skills. The partnership set about fundraising, and in 2008 WREN was approached to fund the new play equipment. The project was completed in 2009 and the result is a welcoming open space with multi-user appeal that has helped to bring residents of all ages together, both through active involvement in the project and simply by providing a meeting space.

This positive, creative project has drawn the local community together in pursuit of a shared goal, as demonstrated by the initial public consultation process and the work of the local group, supported by project partners CEC and ELGT.

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Waste Recycling Group Limited, a leading UK waste management and energy recovery company, is part of FCC, the international environmental services, infrastructure and energy group. Focused on delivering integrated waste management and energy recovery solutions to meet national, regional and local needs, WRG operates facilities for the reception, recycling, recovery and disposal of waste, including a network of waste transfer and recycling centres and regional network of landfill sites.
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