

Sandwell Green Spaces Strategy
22/23 Progress Report
NOVEMBER 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Cabinet approved the Green Spaces Strategy (GSS) and Implementation Plan 22-25 in June 2022.

This included a set of objectives for the next three years, including a programme of planned works for 22/23 financial year (which runs from April 1st 2022 – March 31st 2023).

We committed to publishing the planned programme of annual works for Green Spaces and keeping Councillors and residents up to date with our progress.

This is the mid-year progress report for 22/23 (November 2022).

We will publish progress quarterly (next in Feb 23) and an Annual Report on our Green Spaces Strategy (May 23)

Page 2: Introduction

Page 3: Overview of 22/23 Programme of Works Progress

Page 4 & 5: Overview of our progress on what we said we would do in 22/23 in the Green Spaces Strategy

Page 6: Play Areas 22/23 Programme of Works

Page 7: Nature Reserves and Green Spaces 22/23 Programme of Works

Page 8: Outdoor Sports Facilities 22/23 Programme of Works Progress

Page 9 & 10: Funded Projects 22/23 Works Progress

All information published is correct at the time of publication. This does not include emergency works.

Other Useful Information

Information about our Green Spaces team, Green Spaces Strategy, and projects listed in this update:
https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200237/green_spaces_leisure_and_events/4941/green_spaces

Information about Friends Groups and supports:
https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200249/parks_in_sandwell/4939/friends_groups_in_sandwell

Information about Green Services, including mowing schedules and grounds maintenance work:
https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200237/green_spaces_leisure_and_events/4909/green_services

Information about trees in Sandwell:
https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200248/parks_and_green_spaces/4916/trees

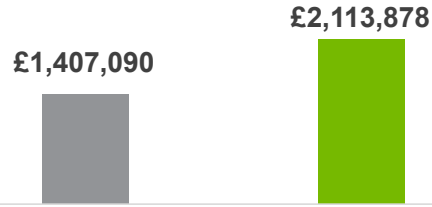
Information about how we look after our play areas and keep them safe:
https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200248/parks_and_green_spaces/4940/play_areas_in_sandwell

Information about football fixtures bookings and how to book a sports pitch:
https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200248/parks_and_green_spaces/795/outdoor_sports_facilities_in_parks

Information about how to apply to hold an event in a green space:
<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200242/events/4417/events>

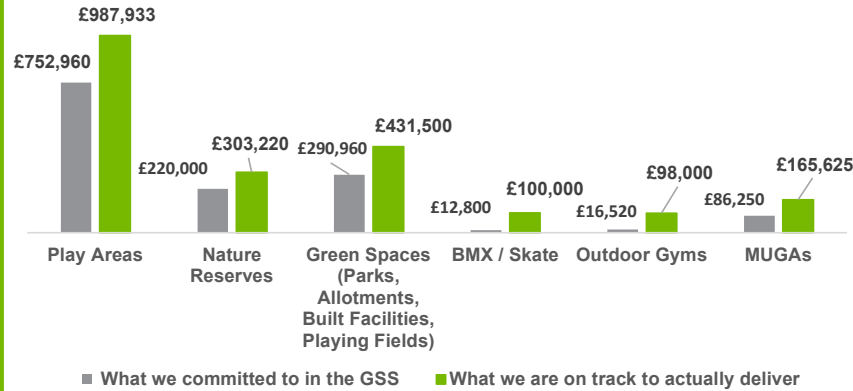
NOV GREEN SPACES STRATEGY 22/23 DELIVERY DASHBOARD

Total Green Spaces Programme of Works
22/23 (exc. Funded Projects)

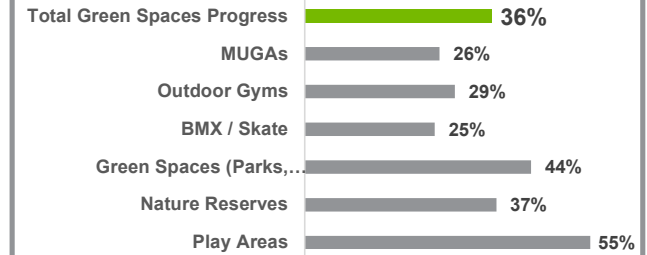


What we committed in the GSS What we are on track to achieve

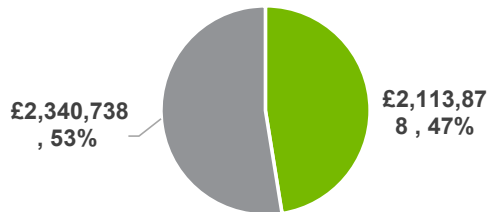
22/23 Spend Breakdown (Exc. Funded Projects)



Green Spaces 22/23 Programme of Works Progress



Total 22/23 Green Spaces Programme of Works (Inc. Funded Projects)



■ 22/23 Spend ■ 22/23 Funded Projects



£4,454,616

41 Play Area Major Works

10 major green spaces projects

10 nature reserves projects

7 BMX/Skate Park Refurbs

9 Outdoor Gym Sites Refurbs

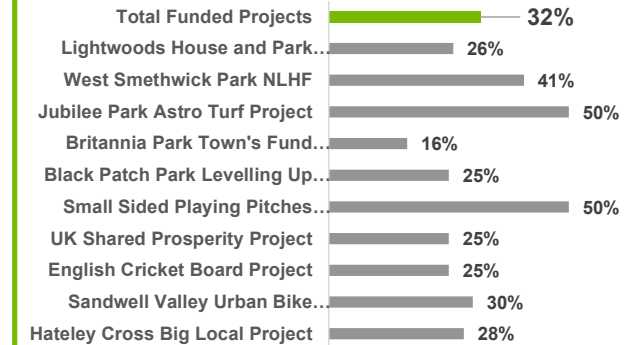
2 new MUGA refurbs

43 Play Area Easy Gates Refurbs

60 Bin Repairs / Refurbs

1 New Play Area

Green Spaces 22/23 Funded Projects Programme of Works Progress



Funding Stream	Total Grant	22/23	Committed	%
Lightwoods House NLHF Project	£ 120,000	£ 120,000	£ 120,000	100%
West Smethwick Park NLHF Project	£ 89,038	£ 89,038	£ 72,038	81%
Jubilee Park Astro Turf Project	£ 56,000	£ 56,000	£ 56,000	100%
Britannia Park Towns Fund Project	£ 2,478,000	£ 886,700	£ 886,700	100%
Black Patch Park Levelling Up Project	£ 85,000	£ 85,000	£ 40,000	47%
Small Sided Playing Pitches Project	£ 500,000	£ 160,000	£ 160,000	100%
UK Shared Prosperity Project	£ 1,370,000	£ 420,000	£ 40,000	10%
Covid - Play Areas	£ 220,000	£ 220,000	£ 220,000	100%
Covid - Nature Reserves	£ 200,000	£ 200,000	£ 200,000	100%
Covid - Grounds Maintenance / Green Spaces	£ 200,000	£ 200,000	£ 200,000	100%
Covid - Trees	£ 180,000	£ 180,000	£ 180,000	100%
Public Health Physical Activity in Parks	£ 56,000	£ 56,000	£ 56,000	100%
English Cricket Board	£ 140,000	£ 140,000	£ 140,000	100%
Snadwell Valley Urban Bike Track	£ 600,000	£ 600,000	£ 600,000	100%

Green Spaces Strategy Objectives 22/23 Progress Summary

These are the objectives set out in the Green Spaces Strategy Implementation and Business Plan 22 – 25



Improve accessibility and use of green spaces for sport and physical activity.

Small Sided Playing Pitches Project commissioned two new MUGA improvements for 22/23.

Urban Bike Track Tender Awarded.

English Cricket Board Funding Approved (£156k)

Lawn Tennis Association funding for Tennis Courts Refurbs 22/23 (Nov Cabinet Member)

Mapping of sports and physical activity and strategy for 23/24 onwards (Mar)

Jubilee Park Astro Turf Project Completed

Improve stakeholder engagement in the development, management, and maintenance of green spaces.

Friends Groups Consultation and new partnership agreement and ways of working approved.

Friends Groups information on ways of working and funding signposting online.

Stakeholder Analysis for Green Spaces completed for wider stakeholder engagement (Jan)

Friends Groups Training and Online Resources / Friends Groups Quarterly Meetings

Increase average quality score for green spaces by 10 points, with a clear strategy to achieve 'good' by 2030.

202 Green Space Improvement Plans Commissioned (for completion for 22/23)

Grounds improvements works completed on 5 low scoring parks, and 22 amenity spaces and green corridors

202 Green Space Improvement Plans Completed (Mar 22)

New interpretation and signage in all nature reserves and parks with average scores

Target score improvements for 23/24 for priority sites with low scores

Improve accessibility and use of green spaces to target health inequalities, loneliness, disability, dementia, and mental health.

Accessibility Audit commissioned for green spaces for users with disabilities.

Volunteer Development Officer advertised.

West Smethwick Park Engagement Coordinator in place with Community Engagement Plan for 22/23 – 23/24

Volunteer Engagement Strategy and Recruitment and Training Live (Feb)

Accessibility projects to target health inequalities, loneliness, disability, dementia, and mental health for 23/24 (Feb)

Continue to improve the security and safety of green spaces.

Environment Response Team over 140 sites to date cleared of waste / overgrowth

New solar lights at St Martins Way Open Space

Campaigns on litter and BBQs during summer, including increased security

Safer Green Spaces Strategy (Feb Cabinet)

BBQs and Fire Prevention Plan for summer 2023 (Feb Cabinet)

New anti-social behaviour and water safety signs in all parks and nature reserves

Increase funding for green spaces through income generation, fundraising and external grants, and efficiencies in processes, systems and ways of working.

3 New Café / Coffee Bars Opened

Agreement reached with Hateley Cross Big Local 22/23 Spend (£100k)

LUF Secured (£85k – Black Patch Park)
£1.37m UKSPF Secured for Green Spaces Improvements at Sandwell Valley / Railer

£100k additional funding from WMCA for community led green space projects

Transitioned to digital systems for venue hire (LIVE), digital project management (LIVE) and PSS Live (In Progress)

Funding scoping report completed
S106 3 Year Spend Plan

Income Generation Strategy for Green Spaces

Review of Green Spaces Built Facilities and Assets

Pilot two dog washing stations

PSS Live Full Implementation (Mar)

Improve the accessibility and use of green spaces buildings and facilities – achieving maximum utilisation of spaces.

West Smethwick Park Pavilion Open

WSP Sons of Rest Building Refurb

Online booking for facilities now LIVE

Utilisation model and targets for earned income use / community use

Complete review of all green spaces built facilities and assets (Jan)

Dartmouth Park Pavilion and Red House Park Pavilion programme of works 22/23

Green Spaces Built Facilities Operations Supervisor Recruited to increase usage

Improve the provision of allotments and community food production.

Allotments review commissioned.

Allotments review completed and Allotments Strategy (Feb Cabinet)

Increase educational activity for children and young people in green spaces, conservation, wildlife management, and access to nature.

Education and national curriculum linked programme for Forge Mill Farm and Animal Welfare LIVE

School Visits pilots bookings LIVE for Q3/Q4

Partnership with Sandwell College for work experience and internships

New classroom facilities for education at Sandwell Valley and Forge Mill Farm (Mar)

Education and Outreach Strategy for Green Spaces (Jan)

Partnership with Groundworks and Colleges for Green Space Careers (UKSPF)

Improve the management and development of nature reserves and wildlife.

One Nature Reserve Management Plan Completed (Sot's Hole)

Programme of Works 22/23 approved for 309k of immediate improvements

Trees Strategy in DRAFT

Trees Strategy, inc. planting (Jan Cabinet)

Re-wilding Strategy (Mar Cabinet)

Wildlife Management Policy and Approach (Mar Cabinet)

Achieve excellent governance, oversight, and management of green spaces.

Programme of works for 22/23 published.

Green Spaces Strategy Implementation and Business Plan approved.

Performance dashboards in place with Cabinet Member.

Green Spaces Strategy Advisory Group set up (two meetings before March)

Green Spaces Quarterly Progress Published (first update Nov)

Green Spaces 22/23 Annual Report (May 23)

£987k
22/23
Spend

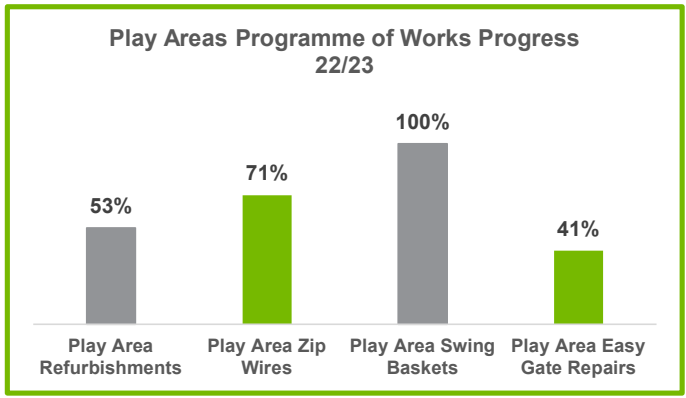
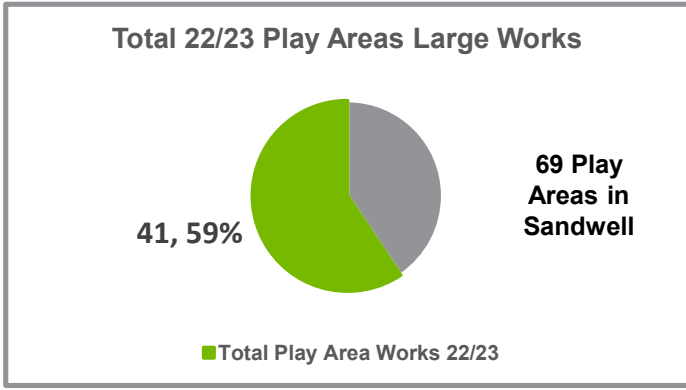
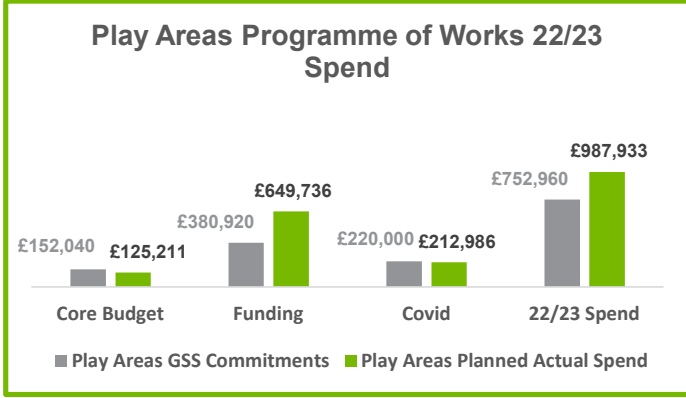
55%
Works
Progress

41
Play
Areas
Large
Works*

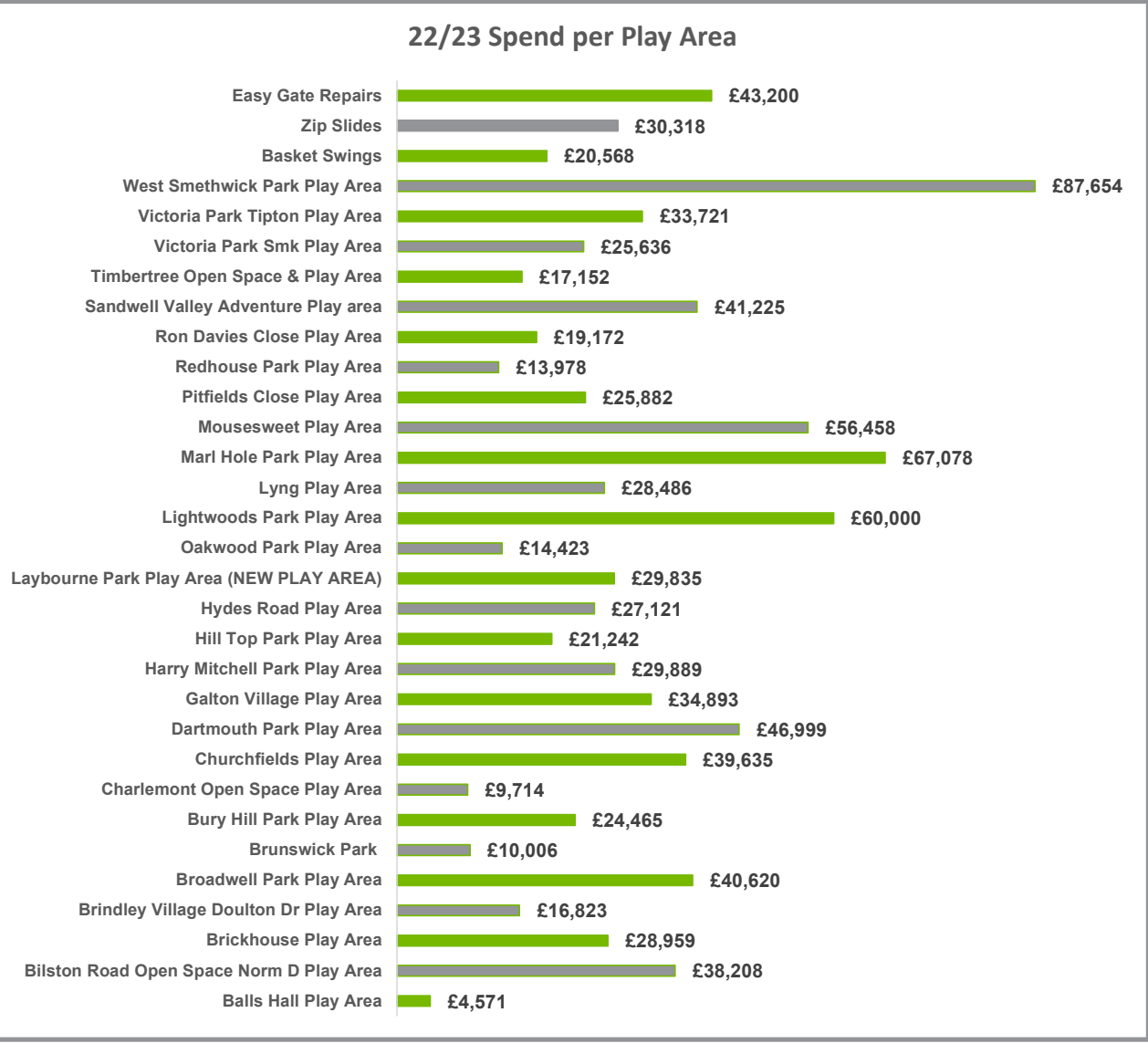
43
Play
Areas
Easy Gate
Refurbs

6
Swing
Basket
Replaced

7
Zip Slides
Replaced



PLAY AREAS PROGRAMME OF WORKS DASHBOARD



NATURE RESERVES & GREEN SPACES PROGRAMME OF WORKS DASHBOARD

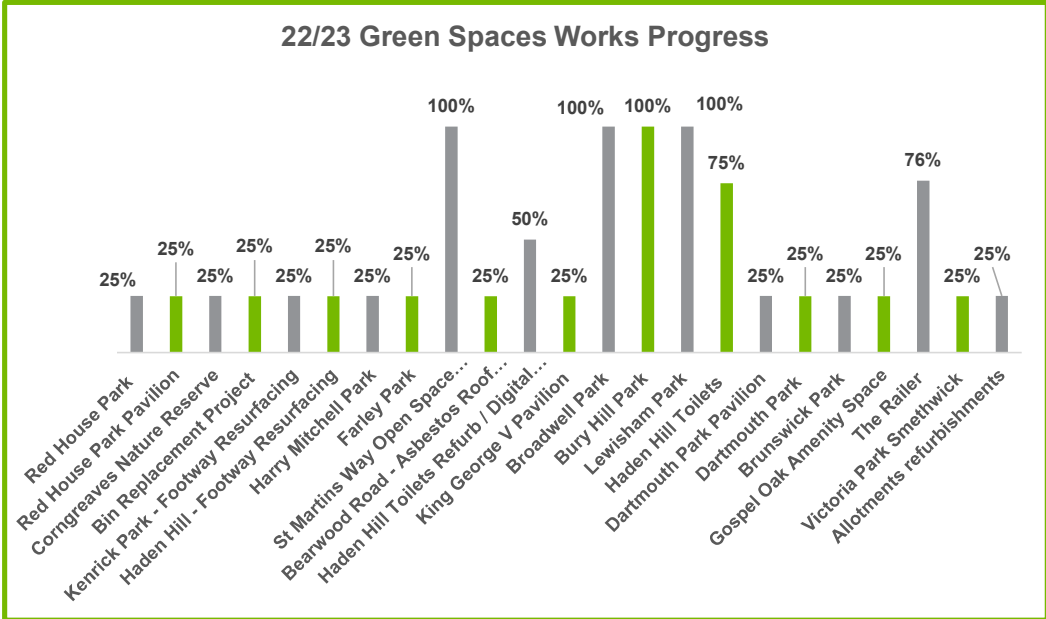
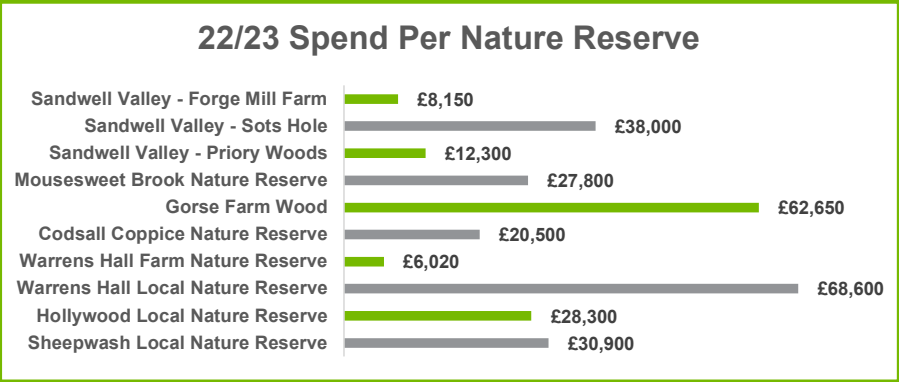
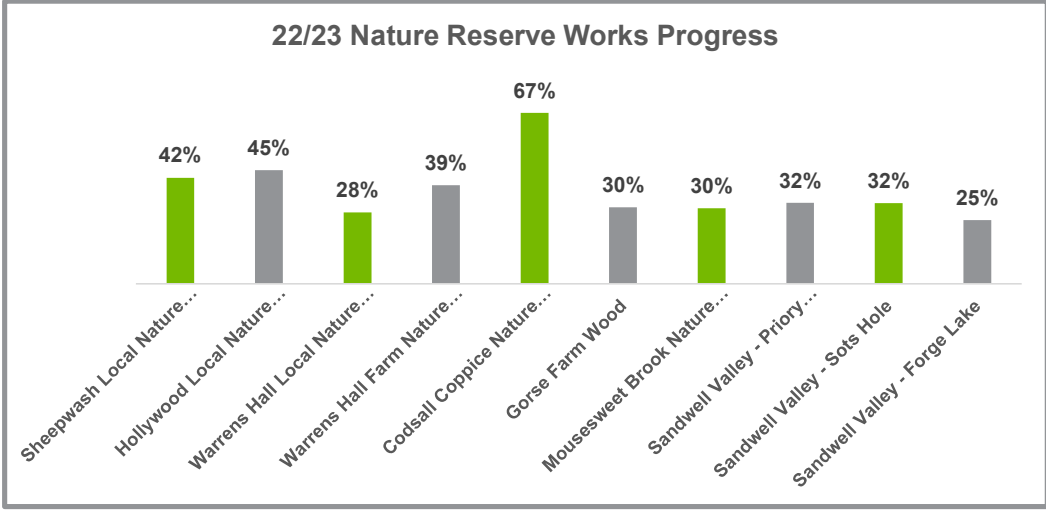
£303k
22/23
Nature
Reserves
Spend

10
Nature
Reserves
Large
Works*

37%
Nature
Reserve
Works
Progress

£431k
22/23
Green
Spaces
Spend

44%
Works
Progress



£234k
22/23
Spend

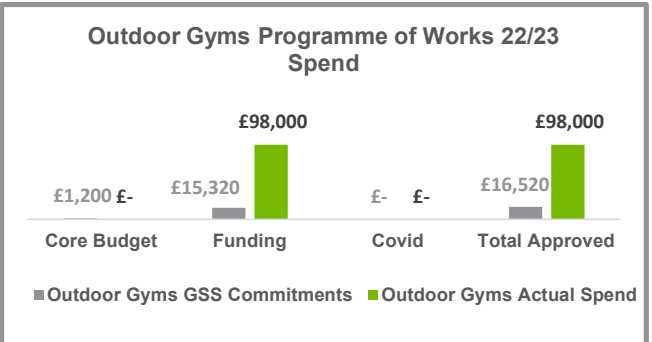
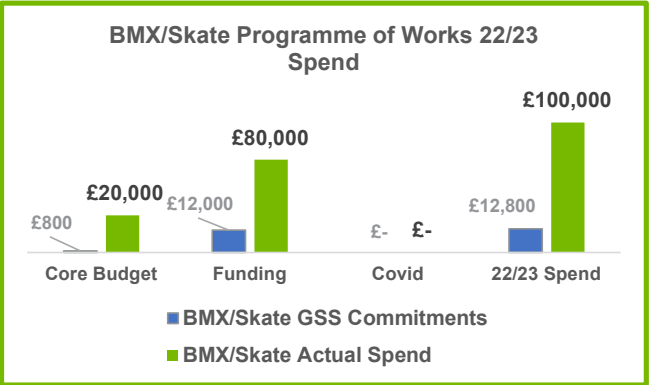
42
Site
Works

27%
Works
Progress

7
BMX /
Skate
Repairs

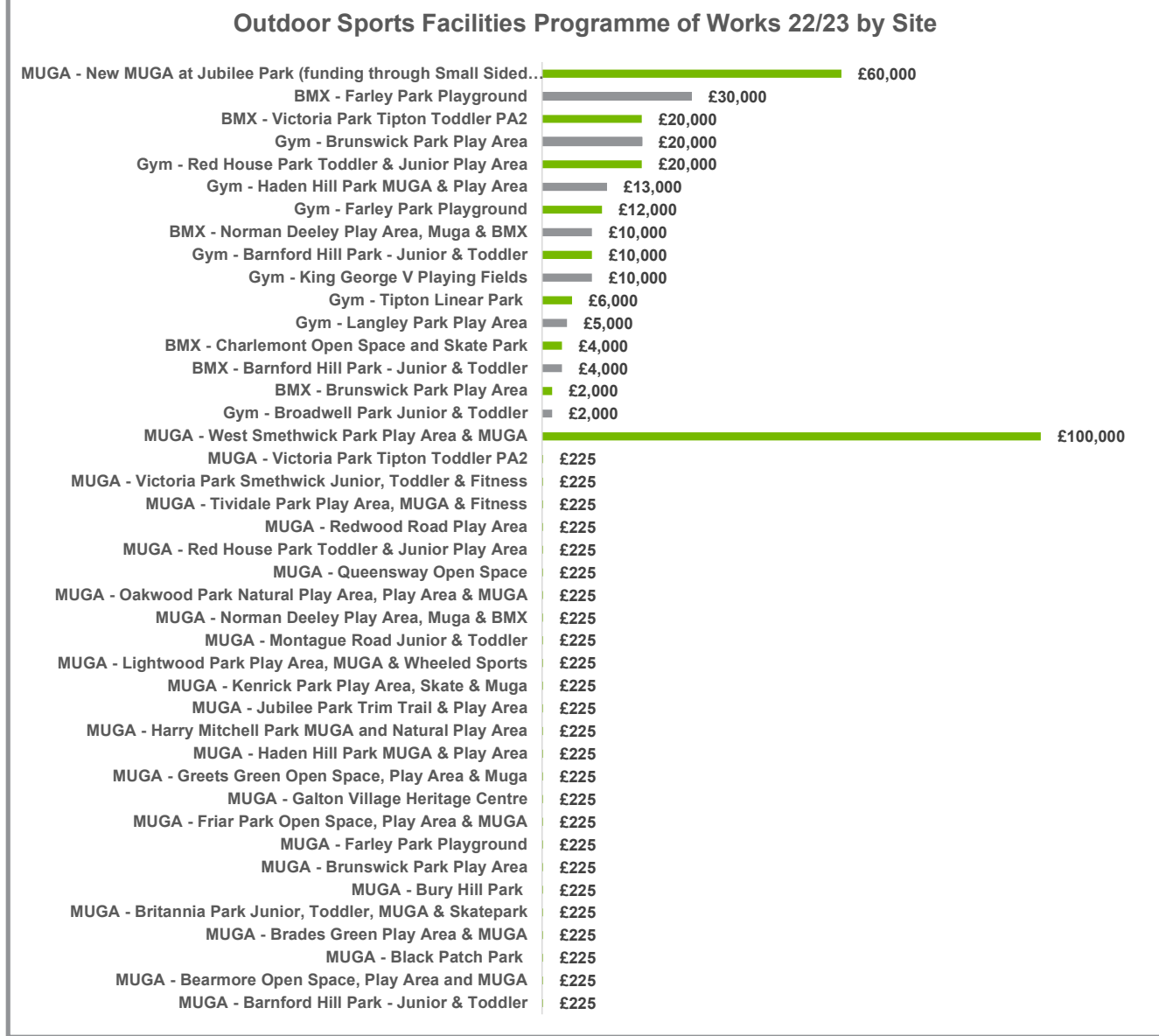
9
Outdoor
Gym
Sites
Refurb

26
MUGA 10-
year line
marking



2 NEW MUGA

OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES PROGRAMME OF WORKS DASHBOARD



£887k

Britannia
Park 22/23
Spend

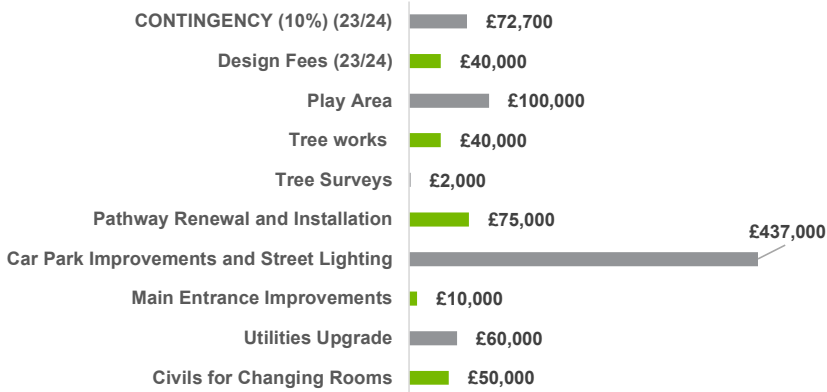
£92k

Hateley
Cross 22/23
Spend

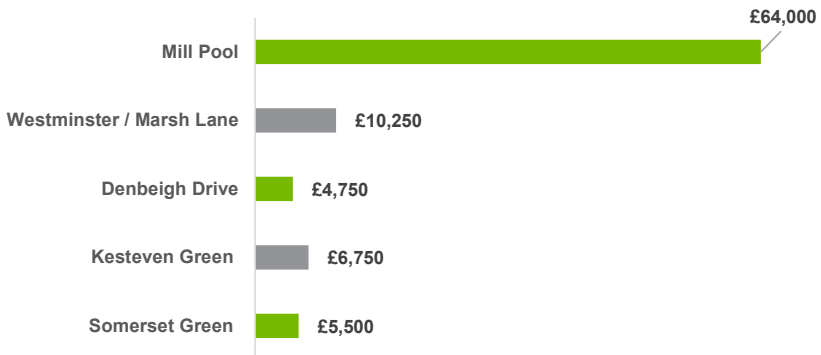
£190k

Lightwoods
House 22/23
Spend

22/23 Britannia Park Town's Fund Spend

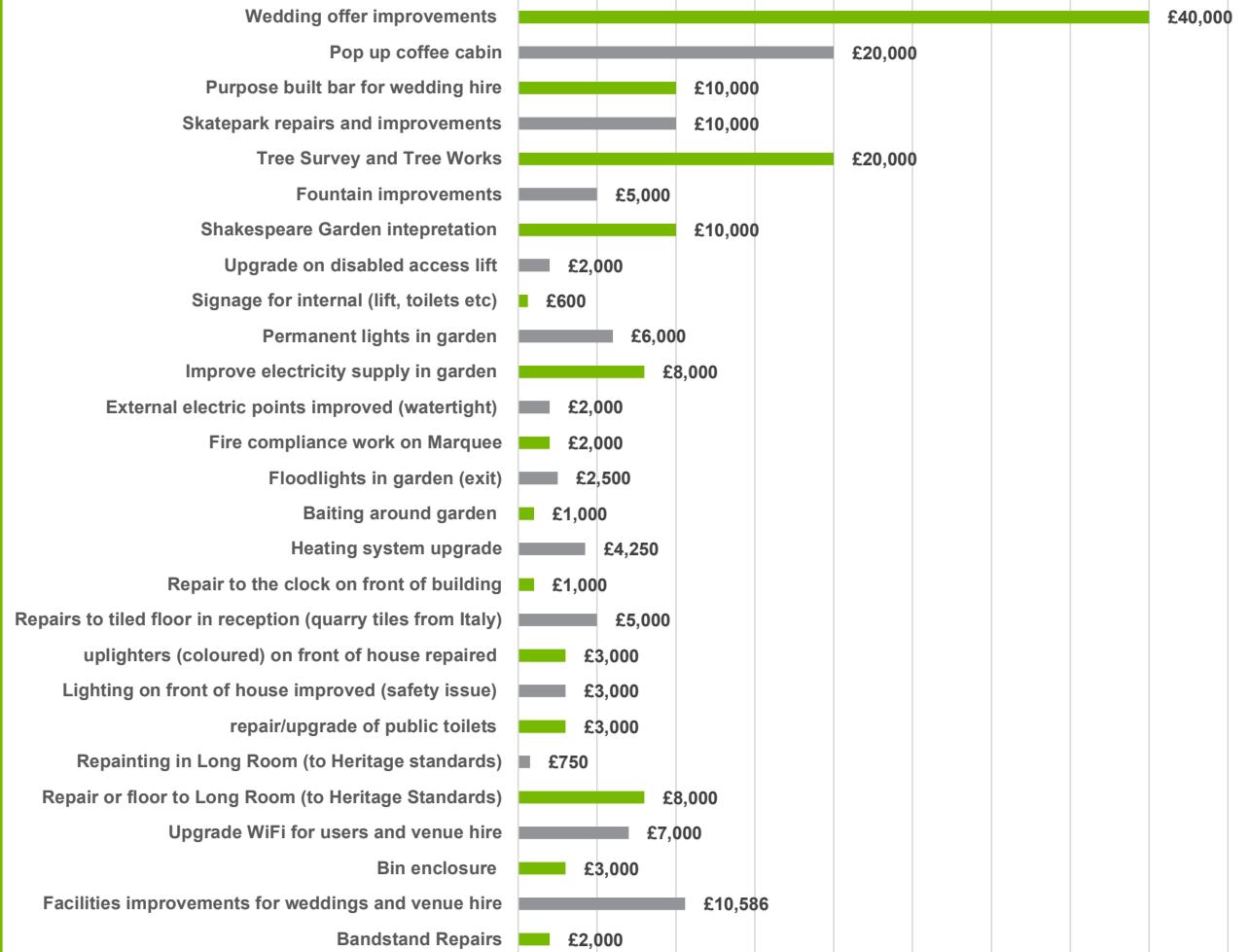


22/23 Hateley Cross Big Local Spend

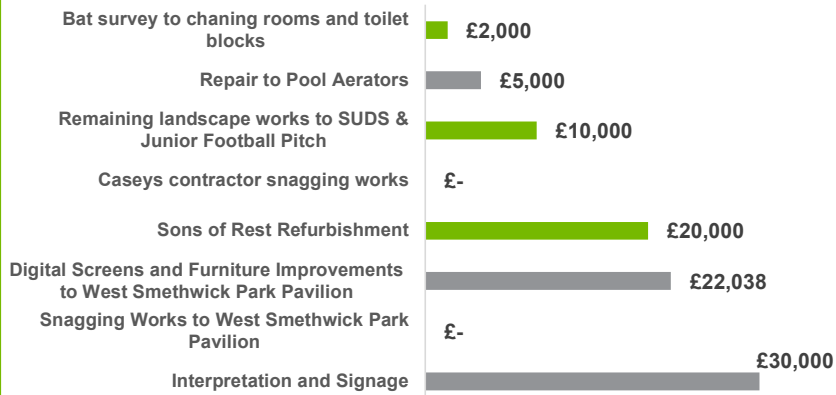


SPECIFIC FUNDED PROGRAMME OF WORKS DASHBOARD

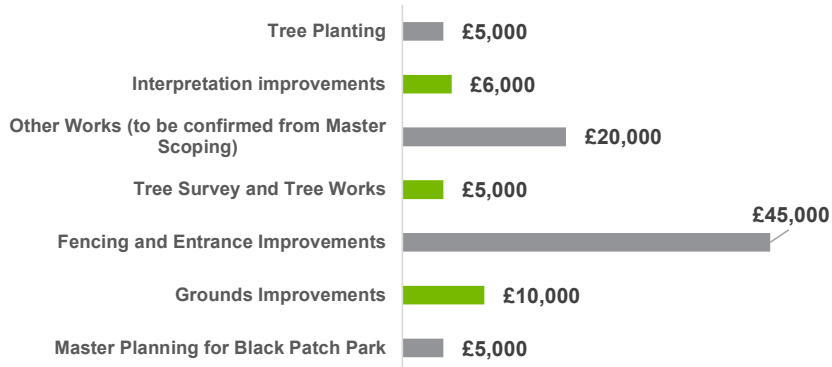
22/23 Lightwoods House Spend (Funded)



West Smethwick Park NLHF Project 22/23 Spend



Black Patch Park Levelling Up Project 22/23 Spend



Funding spend plans for:

UKSPF
 SANDWELL URBAN BIKE TRACK
 ENGLISH CRICKET BOARD
 OTHER FUNDING (S106)

To be published in January dashboard.