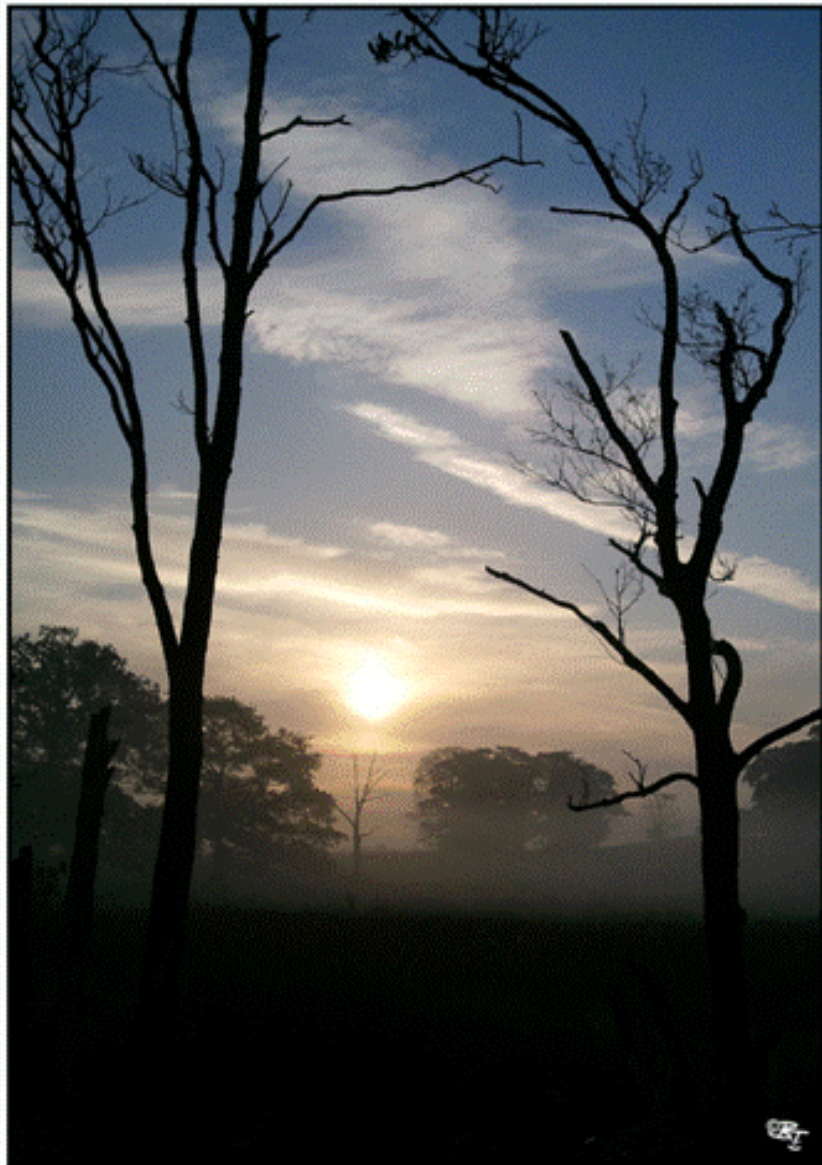


Annual Report 2010/11

Protecting and enhancing the unique landscape character and features of Lagan Valley Regional Park.

Conserving the area's biodiversity, historic buildings and cultural heritage.

Promoting the appreciation and quiet enjoyment of the Park for the benefit of the general public.



Brita Terpe's highly commended entry to the 2010 photo competition

At a glance our achievements



Responded to 36 planning applications

Giant 's Ring paths resurfaced

Canoe access steps at Lock Keeper 's site

800 trees were planted

Weekly butterfly surveys

User survey report

Towpath initiative

Featured on Countryfile

Events program with 52 events engaging with over 3000 people

Facilitated 21 additional events

Records of 34 other events

Involved with or facilitate 9 other groups

Ranger Operations

- 463 bags of litter collected
- 74 hours dealing with antisocial activities
- 4 information stands at fairs and shows
- 40 km of trails and Park paths patrolled
- 23 hours spent pruning back hedges
- 44 hours spent planting trees and shrubs
- Delivering first aid where required
- Monitoring water pollution
- Responded to 58 incidents

Hits on the website exceeded 26,000

Three editions of the newsletter published

Wildlife monitoring cards printed & distributed

Lock No.3 leaflet published

Bird conservation officer appointed and reports produced

Bird box installation program developed

Three red squirrel transects developed

Seven 1km bat surveys established

Planted 150 oaks and 325 mixed native trees

120 m of hedge laid in Lagan Lands East

Total of 1,083 volunteer days recorded

Engaged with 262 children through pond dips, minibeast hunts and nature trails

First art competition and photo competition

Name our kingfisher competition

Average of 50 heritage guides each month

Cottage open to visitors for 1057 hours

Chair's Report

Towpath user numbers indicate that the Park remains one of the most popular, free visitor attractions in Northern Ireland. Our events programme is as popular as ever and the Park team has delivered a range of interesting and creative events, many of which I have attended myself and thoroughly enjoyed.

This past year has seen much hard work by all involved in the Park. The Lagscape project has undergone a change in management, as we wished Brendan O'Connor good luck for his endeavours in Florida and welcomed Cathy Burns, the new project manager whose background in the Lagan Canal Trust means she already has a good deal of familiarity with the towpath and the Regional Park. The Lagscape team have continued to roll out the various projects across the Park as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Scheme. It is testament to the level of local support and interest in the Regional Park and its rich heritage that the volunteer programme has exceeded all expectations, enabling the roll out of a wide variety of conservation projects and the Lock Keeper's Cottage to be open to

the public most weekdays.

Finally, many thanks to Park Manager Dr. Andy Bridge who has had the additional burden of having to cope with the first year of austerity measures. Special thanks to Anne Cleland for her administrative support and much more, Daniel Clarke our Senior Ranger, Andrew Orr our temporary Ranger, David Scott our Information Officer and Jo Boylan our Education and Volunteer Coordinator. We can feel proud of the progress the Park has made over the last year and I am confident further progress will be made in the future.



Manager's Report

With so much going on in the Regional Park it can be difficult to find time to stop and take stock of the year's achievements. Unfortunately this year started on a sad note with the sad death of Charlie Charlton, our long term chairman and a keen supporter of the Regional Park. The Park staff were privileged in being asked to plant one of the Belvoir oaks in memory of Charlie, and there will always be a spot in Mooreland's Meadow that will be looked upon fondly as we remember our time with him.

The year ended on a positive note as Northern Ireland was featured in BBC's Countryfile. Lagan Valley Regional Park featured prominently on the program with a great story linking the ancient oaks of Belvoir Park Forest with the planting of new woodland from whips grown from acorns from these majestic veterans. The episode also saw the filming of the magnificent Jutland ponies dragging timber out of Minnowburn as part of the National Trust's woodland management program. Not only did we promote the Regional Park on national television, but we also helped to showcase how beautiful Northern Ireland can be to the rest of the UK.

This year we have developed one of the most exciting events programmes to date and continue to provide a wide range of public services working with interest groups, schools and Scouts to name but a few.

Our Ranger Service continues to provide a valuable public service, dealing with enquiries about the region, providing assistance with a wide range of incidents from cows escaping along the towpath to offering first aid support at incidents in the park.



I would like to acknowledge our core funders, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Belfast City Council, Lisburn City Council, Castlereagh Borough Council and Department of Culture Arts and Leisure. I would also like to thank our numerous partners who support the Park in so many other ways. The success of the Park depends on this support and partnership.

Vision and Key Aims

Lagan Valley Regional Park

The River Lagan and its surrounding valley landscapes are renowned for their natural beauty. At the heart of the Lagan Valley are the River Lagan and canal systems that form the main access and wildlife corridor bridging two of Northern Ireland's population centres. This unique area typified by its rolling landscapes, ornamental parklands and farmland was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty under the first round of designations in 1965. Shortly thereafter, due largely to concerns of development pressure, the Lagan Valley Regional Park was established as one of three unique semi-urban designations in the UK at that time. The Lagan Valley Regional Park covers an area of 4,200 acres and extends 11 miles along both sides of the River Lagan between Stranmillis, Belfast and Union Locks, Lisburn. The designated area is rich in natural features and biodiversity as well as having a range of locally and nationally important historical sites. Most protected of these, the Giant's Ring, is an archaeological site of outstanding importance in Northern Ireland and in the UK as a whole. This site is a state care protected monument one of the highest levels of protection afforded for sites of archaeological importance. The area also boasts a local nature reserve at Lagan Meadows and 23 sites of local nature conservation importance.

Lagan Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

An AONB is a precious landscape where the distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard it (NAAONB, 2003). The Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order 1985 sets out the main purposes of an AONB:

To conserve or enhance the natural beauty or amenities of the area.

To conserve wildlife, historic objects or natural phenomena within the area

To promote enjoyment by the public

To provide or maintain public access to the area

These form the ethos of the Lagan Valley Regional Park's Mission, Vision and Values:

To protect and enhance the unique landscape, character and features of Lagan Valley Regional Park.

To conserve the area's biodiversity, historic buildings and cultural heritage.

To promote the appreciation and quiet enjoyment of the Park for the benefit of the general public.



Our Partnerships

Good partnerships are essential to the governance and management of the Regional Park. Working with our partners we have realized all of the goals laid out in the management plan for this year and given the spectrum of varying aims and visions of our partners it is thanks to the coordinated effort of our partners that we have achieved so much.

Core funding for the Lagan Valley Regional Park comes from:

NIEA

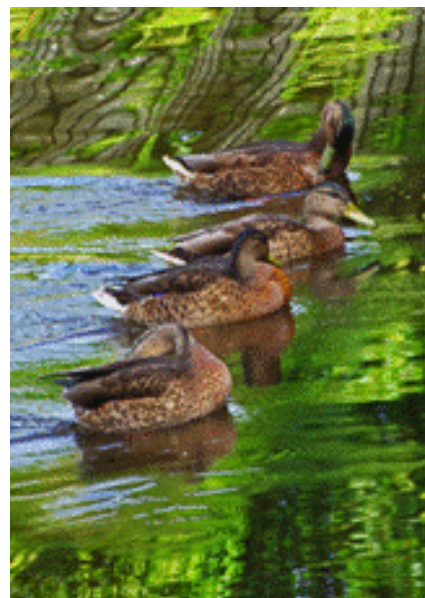
Belfast City Council

Castlereagh Borough Council

Lisburn City Council

DCAL

In addition to the funding partners there are a number of other bodies and organisations with which the Lagan Valley Regional Park works. The Rivers' Agency is responsible for work along the river system and they provide services such as grass cutting along the towpath in close association with DCAL. Forest Service manages Belvoir Park Forest, and the National Trust manages the Minnowburn and Terrace Hill sites as well as some of the Giant's Ring paths.



Partner Organisations

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)

Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL)

The National Trust

Countryside and Access Activities Network (CAAN)

Council for Nature Conservation and Countryside (CNCC)

Belfast City Council

Castlereagh Borough Council

Lisburn City Council

Belfast Activity Centre (BAC)

Forest Service

Ulster Wildlife Trust (UWT)

Rivers' Agency

The Forest of Belfast

Grass Roots Conservation Group

Volunteer Service Lisburn (VSL)

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

Roads Service



A future legacy

The next year sees the completion of the management plan 2007/2012. The second half of the year will see not only the development of a new management plan to guide our activities up to 2017, but the careful integration of the Lagan-scape's legacy into the future management of the Regional Park. Our vision and goal is to ensure the benefits that Lagan-scape has brought to the Regional Park and all its partners are not lost. Broadly the experience of other Landscape Partnership Schemes throughout the UK indicate that this very much depends on the partners embracing the benefits that the scheme has brought and going that extra mile to sustain all the hard work that has been put in over the five years of the scheme.





Landscape Partnership Scheme

Landscape Partnership Schemes are funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and are awarded to areas which have a distinguished landscape. The Regional Park's Scheme is called Laganscape and with match funding is valued at £2,279,529 over 5 years. There are currently 18 partner organisations involved in this scheme and at the end of March 2011 we will be 3.5 years into the project. The programmes delivered under Laganscape are grouped together under six schemes:

1. Interpretation Development

The goal of interpretation development is to ensure that adequate information is provided to all users of the Regional Park.

Website development

Training in the use of the website has enabled updates to be made by both the Regional Park and the Laganscape staff. To date the total number of hits on the website exceeds 26,000 with some 62% of visitors going on to the events page making it the most popular page visited after the homepage.

Printed material

Wildlife monitoring cards have been printed and distributed for winter and summer monitoring.

Display units have been placed in the visitors' centre displaying a model of a canal lighter along with Laganscape awards and relics from the canal.

Three editions of the newsletter have been completed with partner organisations contributing to articles and distribution.

A leaflet for the Lock No.3 and Lock Keeper's Cottage has been developed in partnership with DCAL, HLF, LVRP and CBC.

Display panels

Display panels in the lobby area have been duplicated for use as a mobile display and have been set up at appropriate sites throughout the local area.

2. Species survey and conservation

During the development phase a series of baseline surveys were undertaken to ascertain the species present in the Regional Park. These surveys aimed to facilitate more informed management decisions.

Bird conservation

20 days service has been provided by a conservation officer forging a partnership between the RSPB and the Regional Park. This has enabled a number of sites to be identified for erection of bird boxes, with some 22 boxes being erected by volunteers throughout the year including boxes for barn owls, swifts, house sparrows and spotted flycatchers.

Red Squirrels

Three red squirrel transects have been set up and volunteers have been undertaking regular surveys culminating in the counting of 752 grey squirrels and 23 reds during the course of the year. One of the volunteers carried out a public opinion survey of management methods of grey squirrels. RPS has been appointed to produce a conservation management plan for Belvoir Park Forest.

Bats

Seven 1km bat survey routes have been set up in the Regional Park with 20 volunteers trained in survey techniques and ID for the All Ireland Daubenton Bat Survey.



3. Habitat management and enhancement

Two volunteer task days were completed, planting 150 oaks and a total of 325 mixed native trees including Silver Birch, Cherry, Crab apple, Hazel, Scots Pine and Spindle.

Volunteer training has been completed by the Butterfly Conservation Trust and tree transects are being undertaken by volunteers in partnership with the ranger service during the summer months.

A hedge laying training day took place in partnership with CVNI in Lagan Lands East attended by 15 volunteers. 120 meters of hedge was laid in Lagan Lands East during the winter.



4. Volunteer and community participation

In an effort to ensure the long term sustainability of the Park, as well as an attempt to encourage ownership of the Park by its users, the LVRP has developed partnerships with a range of organisations to create opportunities for involvement. Through Laganscape we have generated an increase in community engagement through our volunteering programme.

A total of 1083 volunteer days have been recorded for this financial year across several projects including

- Woodland management
- Bird box construction and erection
- Bat surveys
- Seed collection and sowing
- Hedge laying
- Control of invasive species
- Path work
- Wilderness day
- Red squirrel transects
- Butterfly transects
- Bulb planting
- Christmas wreathes
- Scrub clearance

The volunteers have included our Saturday, Casual volunteers, New Horizons, Drumbeg Residents' Association and Soroptomist Ladies and wildlife volunteers.

Education Resource Pack

The pack has been developed with the help of a placement student over the year and work is still underway to integrate it into a new part of our website. Some 34 teachers have attended a CASS focus group, held on two separate occasions to train teachers in the use of the education pack and to seek recommendations from them on the final stages of development. We have subsequently engaged with 262 children through pond dips, minibeast hunts and nature trails.



5. Built heritage restoration

The Lock Keeper's Cottage has been open from 10am to 4pm throughout most weekdays. With the support of an average of 50 volunteers each month, enabling the cottage to be open to visitors for 1,057 hours throughout the year. This level of support has meant that the Lock Keeper's Cottage has been able to celebrate its 10,000th visitor.

Working in partnership with DCAL, work was completed on the restoration of lock 3. The project saw the restoration of and importance built heritage feature of the Lagan Canal and along with lock 12 in Lisburn, is one of only 2 locks currently restored.

6. Urban Improvements

Lagan Valley Regional Park in consultation with Lisburn City Council has identified the need to improve access to the riverside at two key locations in the Lisburn area, namely Millbrook and Huguenot.

Much work has been done in preparing the tender documents this year and we look forward to the contract being awarded next year and the start of work.

Competitions

The first photo and art competitions have taken place and been judged, with prizes awarded to the winning categories and exhibitions produced to showcase the entries. Laganscape was also showcased at the national LPS conference held in Northern Ireland.

Awards

Laganscape got through to the National Lottery awards finals, and was runner up as the National Lottery good causes awards.

Investing In Volunteers award (IIV)

The Laganscape's volunteering program is of such a high standard that we have began preparation towards securing an IIV award and the Volunteer and Education Co-ordinator secured the prestigious Effective Management Of Volunteers certificate from Queens University.



Programme of Management

A review of our management targets for 2010/11

1. Governance

Our Board of Directors met on five occasions and the Lagscape Sub-committee met on four occasions throughout the year. Our Management Committee met on 10 occasions throughout the year and we held a workshop with the wider membership of the Park and members of the general public interested in the Park's governance. From this workshop and other meetings it is intended that the Regional Park will develop a Friends Group.

The Regional Park also supports a number of other groups and has been able to support two Giant's Ring Stakeholder Group meetings and a Recreation Group meeting during the year.

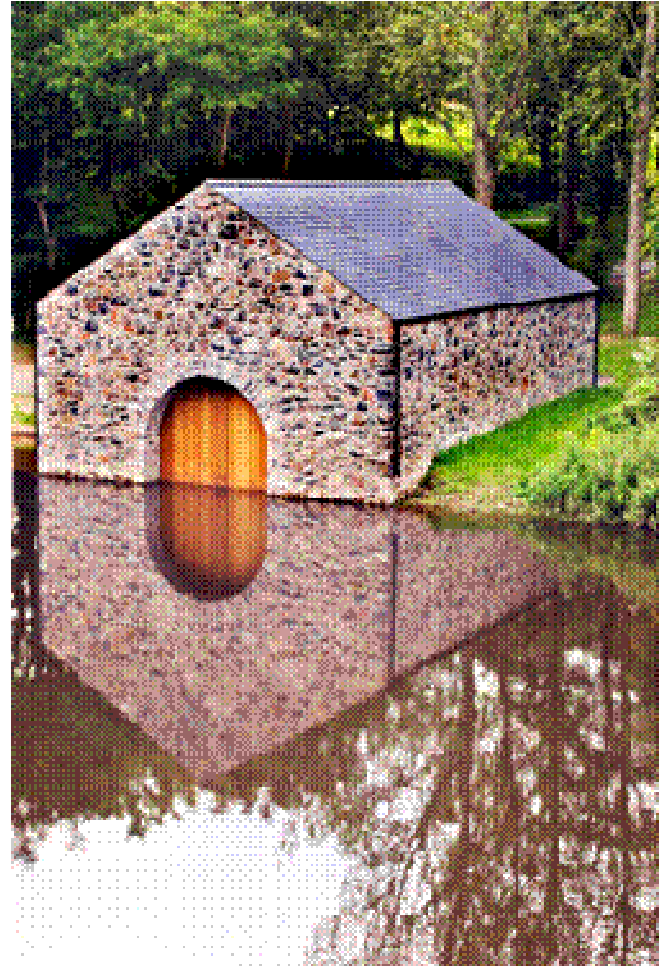
2. Planning

Recreational Planning

Our outdoor pursuit map having been developed last year with Ordnance Survey was launched this year and made available from the Park office and several other outlets.

Built Planning

The Regional Park as a consultant in the planning process has an important role in highlighting policy as it relates to the protected landscapes of the Regional Park and the designated AONB. Not only does this have an important impact on protection of the Regional Park but also we play an important role in monitoring development in the area and raising concerns over breaches with planning enforcement. The Regional Park responded to 36 planning applications this year.



3. Development

New trails and paths

The Giant's Ring paths have been cleared and resurfaced making a vast improvement to walkers accessing the Giant's Ring monument. This was achieved by funding from the Rural Development Program matched with funding from the National Trust and DCAL.

The canoe access steps at Lock Keeper's Cottage were completed at the start of the year, enabling access from water based recreation to the site.

Green links

The potential of linkage routes are being investigated both within the boundary of the Regional Park and possible linkages to other areas. Routes will be identified in liaison with other organisations, perhaps the most significant being the link path between the Belfast Hills and the Lagan Valley which was launched last year.

Enhancement

The paths around Minnowburn have been improved with new paths developed along the field boundaries, providing a variety of options for the journey to the top of terrace hill, where the park can be seen in all its panoramic splendour.

4. Conservation Management

Conserving habitats and species

An annual programme of ongoing practical works has been carried out this year, aimed at conservation of rare species and habitats whilst improving the aesthetic enjoyment of the Park for visitors. The original open character of the river meadows is to be maintained and restored at key points. The developing woodland at the motorway plots continues to be managed with some thinning and aftercare. The woodland throughout the Regional Park is being managed by thinning and replanting where appropriate. This year some 800 trees were planted in the Regional Park.

Developing Biodiversity

There are a number of species that are of great importance in the Regional Park. Some have been highlighted through recent survey work carried out in the development stage of the Landscape



Partnership Scheme such as several red-listed bird species.

The emblem of the Regional Park, the kingfisher, continues to flourish, its flash of electric blue bringing a thrill to

so many visitors to the Park. Other interesting birds found in the survey included Buzzard, Sparrow hawk, Kestrel, Long eared owls, Goshawk and Greylag geese.

This year saw the introduction of the

Red Kite to Northern Ireland and several sightings have been reported in the Regional Park.

Our key small mammals are still very much present, with regular sightings of Badgers, Otters and Stoats. This year saw the completion of a baseline survey of badgers by the ranger service and we now have good records of all sets. Not only does this information provide invaluable information on biodiversity, but it also helps us in keeping a check on sets as part of the ranger patrols. Surprisingly the red squirrel still holds a presence, though sightings this year have been restricted to Belvoir Park Forest. Sadly the population of grey squirrels has continued to grow considerably.

Priority bird species
Bullfinch
House sparrow
Lapwing
Linnet
Reed bunting
Skylark
Starling
Tree sparrow
Song thrush

A number of grassland sites in the Lagan Valley Regional Park continue to be managed as wildflower meadows through cutting/mowing and removal of hay and grazing. Areas of woodland at Belvoir and Minnowburn, Clement Wilson, Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park and Barnett's Demesne have been selectively thinned to allow a more diverse woodland flora to develop. Also, a number of ongoing small site specific projects continue throughout the Regional Park largely through volunteer projects and ranger work.



Habitat Creation and Aesthetic Enhancement

The vista over the valley and meadows from Belvoir Park Forest has been maintained through routine forest operations and the willows on top of the levees along the riverside walk have been cut back and grey alder thinned, opening up views of the river. The views from Terrace Hill Garden, opened up last year, continue to be maintained by routine thinning and introduction of coppice rotation of trees along with continued woodland management of hillside beneath. Along with the new path, the National Trust has opened up much of the woodland adjacent to the road at Minnowburn, helping to develop a more diverse understory. Work still needs to be done thinning the Beech surrounding the high ground next to the meadow area in Lagan Meadows to gradually retain the views and vistas of the traditional landscape. The opening up of woodland around paths in parks will make them more inviting to visitors. The whole length of the towpath is maintained through DCAL by Rivers' Agency with some additional measures in the form of cutting back vegetation and twice weekly litter collections by the ranger service.

5. Monitoring and Research

Butterflies

Work program established in 2010 with transects from which volunteers could survey the butterflies in key locations. Volunteers working with the Ranger Service have carried out weekly butterfly surveys during the summer months with data forwarded annually to NI Butterfly Conservation officer.

Common butterflies
Small tortoiseshell
Meadow brown
Ringlet
Speckled wood
Peacock
Orange tip
White (large, small and green veined)

User focus

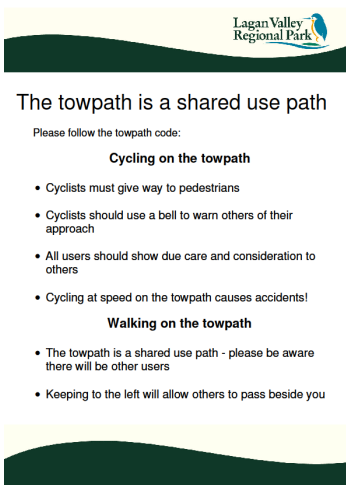
Visitor surveys have proved to be a valuable tool in supporting park management. Park wide user surveys are carried out every three years; the last of these took place in 2009. The data gathered in the survey was analysed and a report of the findings presented this year. The use of the Park by visitors is monitored on a weekly basis from counters at five locations and the data reviewed annually with the possibility of new sites considered where appropriate. The counters have proved problematic, but enable us to estimate similar user numbers to those of last year in the region of 590,000 users.



Towpath Initiative

A towpath initiative to reduce the potential for conflict between different user groups on the towpath was developed this year, its aim was to promote considerate use by all users.

Three events were held on Wednesday 4th August 7am to 10am again on Wednesday 4th August 2pm to 4pm and Saturday 7th August 10am to 2pm. Our partner organisations for the event included the PSNI, Sustrans, local authorities, cycle groups, walking groups and Bikedock supported the event by printing a copy of the towpath code for distribution on the day and by offering a free safety check for bikes. Five temporary towpath code signs were placed between Shaw's Bridge and Stranmillis and the PSNI stopped any speeding cyclists and made them aware of the hazard they cause. The target audience were commuters, young and recreational users and family users. The event was covered by the Belfast Telegraph and Good Morning Ulster.



Consultation via forum

Further involvement of local people and users in volunteer projects and forums such as Grass Roots Conservation Group and the Water Quality Forum are to be encouraged and supported. The interests of the Regional Park have been represented both by the Ranger Service, and at board level, at the Belfast Lough and Lagan Catchment Group. The Ranger Service has also presented LVRP in the South Belfast Cleansing Forum.

Wildlife

The Regional Park has an ongoing aim to review sites of local nature conservation interest and identify new sites for designation including potential local nature reserves. Baseline surveys have been carried out for key mammal species and databases set up so they can be updated with future recordings. Transects are carried out during the summer months at two locations for butterflies as part of the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, with the possibility of more transects throughout the Park considered. It is envisaged that future survey work can then be used in conjunction with these and other baseline surveys to assess the effectiveness of the different management approaches. 86 Records forwarded to CEDaR



Biodiversity

Surveys of squirrels are continuing with the volunteers associated with the Laganlandscape project. The Ranger Service continues to make checks on badger setts and monitors other wildlife throughout the park. Thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of the volunteers, the Ranger Service has been able to expand the UK wide Butterfly Monitoring scheme (a very important indicator species) and now has trained several volunteers with skills required to undertake the six transects now in place.





6. Promotion and Marketing

Promotional Events

We have been actively promoting the Regional Park throughout the year with information stands at shows and fairs such as the BCC, Spring Fair, the Belfast Zoo's Native species Week and Queen's University Environmental Careers Fair.

Promotional Literature

Promotional material is constantly being reviewed with the possibility of promoting the Park in our interpretive programme. The potential of promoting the Park through recreational activities is also being considered. The towpath leaflet has been redesigned this year and is scheduled for reprint next year. The Regional Park was featured in the October 2010 issue of the Geographic Magazine and the Lagan Clean Up and many of the Laganscape projects have featured in local newspapers.

Television and Radio Promotion

Lagan Valley Regional Park featured prominently on the edition of Countryfile that was aired on Sunday 13th February with a great story linking the ancient oaks of Belvoir Park Forest with the planting of new woodland, from whips grown from acorns, from these majestic veterans.

The episode also saw the filming of the magnificent Jutland ponies dragging timber out of Minnowburn as part of the National Trust's woodland management program. Not only did we promote the Regional Park on national television, but we also helped to showcase how beautiful Northern Ireland can be to the rest of the UK. The Park also appeared in the series Wild About Ulster on UTV, an episode in which Brian Black presented a feature on badgers. Your Place and Mine and Radio Ulster also covered specific events in the Regional Park with a special article on the Spider Safari.

The Lagan Clean Up initiative saw the Park and its partners attend the Brighter Belfast Environmental Awards as finalists.



Promotion through links with others

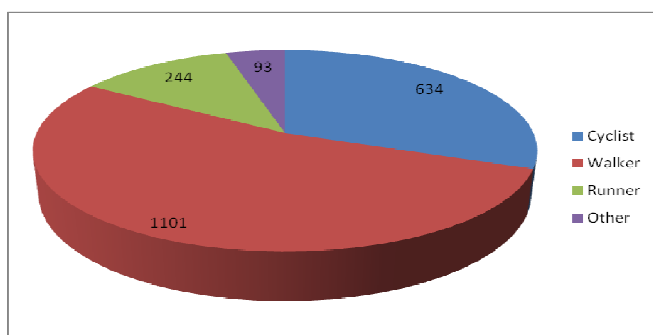
Mobile display units have been used to promote the Regional Park in various interpretation centres, tourist information centres as well as at key points throughout the Park. Events have been publicised and promoted through publications and underrepresented groups targeted with promotional material. The towpath is now being marketed as a high quality medium distance walking route and as a section of the Ulster Way. We display and distribute leaflets through many of our partners and we in turn facilitate the distribution of partner's leaflets from the Visitors' Centre.

7. Information and Education

LVRP Events

Throughout the year the staff at the Regional Park work hard with dwindling resources to keep our events programme alive and fresh with new ideas. This is a great opportunity for us to engage with as broad a cross section of the community as possible. The Regional Park provided 52 public events throughout the 2010/11 financial year with engagement of over 3000 adults and children.

The towpath, the main corridor for activity in the Park, remains one of the highest used and most tranquil routes in Northern Ireland. Usage for this year was a little under 590, 000, and the towpath remains one of the most used walking routes in Northern Ireland. By far the greatest use is at Shaw's Bridge.



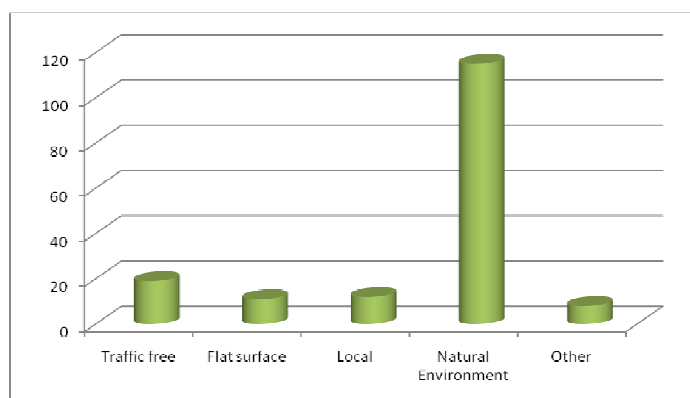
Proportion of main user groups
User survey 2009



October's edition of National Geographic magazine features the Lagan Valley

Additional events; walks, talks, clean up days

Developing partnerships and helping to facilitate a wide range of events and organisations not only helps the Regional Park realise its full potential of users, but also maximises the potential to engage with a broader range of people and provide education and information about the area. We have been able to provide 22 additional events including walks talks, bushcraft days and river clean ups engaging with over 1000 people.



The biggest attraction for visitors is the natural environment
User survey 2009

Public Contact

Effectively whilst out patrolling in the Park the ranger is essentially a mobile interpretation point for members of the community and visitors alike. The Ranger Service will continue to inform and educate visitors through direct public contact and through promotion at public events and country fairs. As volunteering opportunities are developed within the Regional Park a volunteer ranger service will be promoted providing a much wider public interface and invaluable experience for those who engage in the scheme.

The rangers have worked closely with authorities such as the Police and the Environment Agency on issues such as wildlife incidents and disturbances in the Park, for example, interference with badger setts, water pollution incidents, and pollution. Wildlife is monitored closely and illicit motorcycle activity is monitored and recorded. This year has seen some 180 ranger hours devoted to cutting back hedges along the towpath and clearing some of the smaller fallen trees.

8. Community Development

Volunteering

A number of sites have been identified where projects and tasks are being carried out to increase the participation of the community in the development and management of the Regional Park, both in terms of conservation and recreation. Local community involvement not only helps define a greater sense of ownership in Lagan Valley Regional Park, by the local community, but it also reduces the likelihood of antisocial behaviour. This year has seen some of the benefits of the Laganlandscape projects, working with LVRP to develop a range of volunteering opportunities, within the Regional Park. We have started work on developing and planning for volunteer rangers and supporting and training some of the work on surveying and transects carried out through Laganlandscape.

Our events Programme—attendance

Event	Numbers
Easter Egg Roll	25
BCC Spring Fair	
Wildflower Wander	19
Dawn Chorus	25
Discovery Morning	12
Minnowburn Dander	28
Of Mottes and Men	7
Butterfly and Moth walk	19
Discovery Morning	11
Return to Source	18
Town to Country Pedalling Picnic	Cancelled
A Midsummer Nights Drum	260
Discovery Morning	19
Teddy Bear's Picnic	56
Secret Garden	39
Towpath challenge sponsored walk	48
Damsels and Dragons	39
Discovery Morning	12
Landscapes of STLD	12
Wilderness day	1400
Going Batty in Belvoir	20
Going Batty in Belvoir	22
The Broadwater Aghalee	5
Discovery Morning	10
Spider Safari	21
European Heritage Open Days	251
European Heritage Open Days	247
Tree trek	2
Discovery Morning	10
Fungal Foray	Cancelled
Secrets of the Stone Age	23
Ghastly Ghostly Goings-on	60
Discovery Morning	10
A Treasured Landscape	9
Remarkable Trees of Minnowburn	26
Discovery Morning	8
Christmas Crafts	26
Yule Logs and Legends	21
Roost Ramble	30
Birds for Beginners	1
Winter wonderland	12
Discovery morning	6
Broadwater bird watch	12
Story of the Lagan Navigation	10
Discovery moring	11
A Treasured Landscape	9

Ranger Operations

- Over 463 bags of litter collected
- 74 hours dealing with antisocial activities
- 4 public information stands
- 40 km of paths and trails and patrolled
- 23 hours spent pruning back hedges
- 44 hours spent planting trees and shrubs
- Delivering first aid where required
- Monitoring water pollution
- Responded to 58 incidents



Big river clean up

This has become a successful project involving many partners; this year's clean up took place on Sunday 8th May and was based at Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn and involved Lisburn City Council, LVRP, Scouts, Mobile Team Adventure and members of the public. All worked hard and had a rewarding day. 75 Bags of litter retrieved from the river and bank, four bicycles, one tricycle, scooter, toboggan, mattress, shopping trolley, car wheel, footballs, Venetian blinds and a window box. Special find was a message in a bottle written by a six year old.

Development and Partnership

Groups facilitated or supported:

Giant's Ring Stakeholder group - facilitators
 Laganscape Sub-committee - represented
 Lagan Valley Recreation Group - facilitators
 Belfast Lough and Lagan - staff represented
 Lagan Canal Trust - staff represented
 South Belfast Cleansing - staff represented
 NIPAN - member
 Northern Ireland Badger group – member
 NICVA - member

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cllr Sara Duncan (Chair)	Castlereagh Borough Council
Cllr Ann-Marie Beattie	Castlereagh Borough Council
Cllr Robin Newton	Belfast City Council
Cllr Bob Stoker	Belfast City Council
Cllr William Leathem	Lisburn City Council
Cllr James Tinsley	Lisburn City Council
Mr Dermot Hughes	CNCC
Mr Jim Jackson	CNCC
Mr Mike Dobson	National Trust
Mr Stephen Dickson	BAC (Nominated By CAAN)
Mr Peter Galloway (Vicechair)	Natural Heritage
Dr Fred Hamond	Built Heritage
Mrs Elvira Tulip	Community
Mr John Adgey	Rural Enterprise and Business

