

# “Wildflower planting schemes and Alternative Grass Maintenance”



# Something New or Common Sense



*"Looks like he's had a green idea."*





# Wilkinson's Brighthouse



# Wildflower SWOT

Strengths	Weakness
<p>Look Good</p> <p>Well received and liked by public</p> <p>Benefits to health and safety – Banking assessments</p> <p>Reduce HAVS exposure</p> <p>Increased Biodiversity</p> <p>Decreased CO 2 footprint</p> <p>Wildlife corridors</p> <p>Cool zones in urban environment</p> <p>Save time and fuel not mowing</p> <p>Extend machinery life and reduce servicing and maintenance costs</p>	<p>Looks Bad</p> <p>Poor knowledge and reception by staff</p> <p>Poor at recording changes</p> <p>Annuals have a short flowering period</p> <p>Reactive rather than proactive media handling</p> <p>Depend on good dry summers</p> <p>Something new and different</p> <p>Lack of Positive site management and empowerment by staff</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Community days</p> <p>Positive media Coverage</p> <p>Scholl involvement</p> <p>Remove sterile areas of grassland</p> <p>Income opportunity – farmers leasing land and or haymaking</p>	<p>Poorly managed sites have poor visual appearance</p> <p>Culture – why change</p> <p>Negative media coverage</p> <p>Public expectations of manicured amenity grassland management</p> <p>Not in back yard syndrome</p>

# Drivers for Changing Grass Cutting Regimes

- Resource availability
- Manpower
- Time
- Cost of fuel
- Machinery costs
- Health and Safety implications (HAVS, Risk Assessments, Chapter 8 Regulations)
- Biodiversity actually enhances



# “But that’s what we have always done!”

- ▶ How can maintenance/safety be improved and costs reduced in one go?
- ▶ It is not going to work everywhere.
- ▶ Careful site selection is important





# “New Ways are a challenge - But that’s always done!”

- ▶ Residents have a vested interest in their neighbourhoods.
- ▶ How to change perception of maintenance standards
- ▶ The benefits to the Community - vigilance increases, ensuring areas are not misused or damaged.
- ▶ The better maintained a public space is the safer it will be.
- Health benefits and an improved sense of well being and belonging to a local space



# Long or Short – Which is Best?





# Different Seasons Affect Grass Growth



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# Proposed Wildflower areas 2015 Total 12000 at a rate of 5gm /m2 2.4 Kg

Lower	Central	Halifax North and East	Upper
Clayhouse	St Pauls	<b>Northowram Memorial</b>	Rose Street Todmorden
War Memorials	Vickerman Streert	<b>Shelf Hall</b>	Centre vale
Wellholme	King Cross Lane	<b>St Josephs Grass banking</b>	Calder Holmes
Wilkinsons	Copley Recreation Ground	<b>Godley Banking Below Iron Bridge</b>	
Lane head		Cousin Lane	
Kwik Fit		Ovenden Way	
Figure of 8			

# “What Risk Assessment?”

- “I have always done it like that.”
  - Ask why?
- What can be done to change attitudes towards alternative methods and maintenance regimes.
- Is there a more sustainable way?
- How to set and change standards but still maintain quality.





# Wildflowers and the Public

- The lack of urban space is one of the main reasons for leaving a city area.
- Open space is to be most valued when in its natural state [within an urban setting].
- Creating new wildlife areas in an urban space can help make that local environment more appealing, more hospitable.
- This could indirectly improve the general health of the local population and possibly release resources for health care.



# Biodiversity

- Is it 'Maintenance' or are we just walking away from it?
- it is a really smart way to save money Time and resources
- Improving things at the same time.

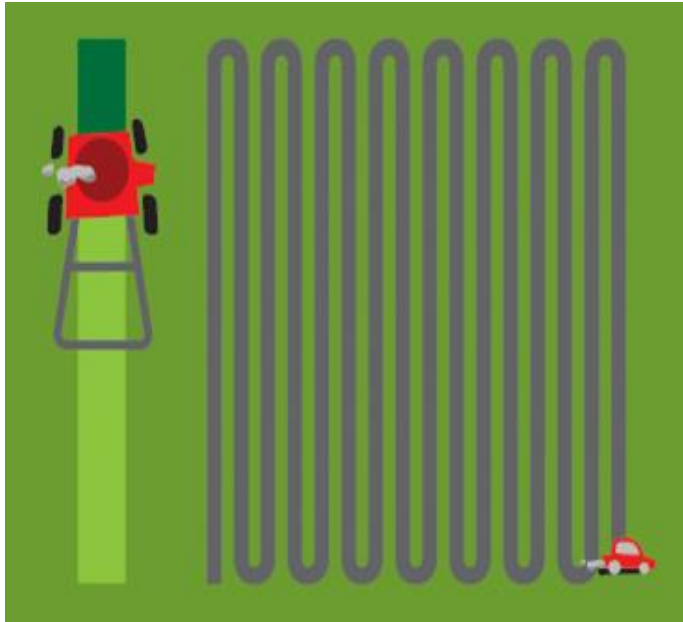


# Site Selection

- Not the right thing to do everywhere.
- Apply common sense.
- Don't be afraid to push the boundaries



# One Hour of Mowing Equates to 50 or More Miles Driving





# Fuel Consumption

Fuel Consumption	Fuel Used per Hour	Average Usage Hours	Fuel Cost per Litre	Fuel Used per Year	Fuel Cost per Year	Reduce by 20%
Tractor Ford 5610	1.75 litres	800 per year	£1.31	3140 litres	£1834	£366.80
John Deere F1545	1 litre	300 per year	£1.31	300 litres	£393	£78.60

# Benefits of Leaving Grass Longer

- Less downtime
- Less wear and tear
- Easy to mow
- Less debris
- Saves fuel
- Long grass cut short grows back quicker
- Cutting grass short creates stress to the sward



# Changing Behavior

- What is usually most influential in changing behaviour is the economic advantage that a new course of action will achieve.
- Saving the world does appeal to a small number of people.
- Therefore, we have to tailor our message to fit the majority of the people who we hope to influence.
- And that means looking afresh at our parks and ways we can look after them



# Long or Short – Which is Best ?





# How Can We As Managers Change Things?

- No magic solutions or quick fixes.
- However it is not 'rocket science'.
- Little and often.
- Broken record effect.
- CATCH PHRASES stick.
  - Let the grass grow
  - Cut less
  - Leave margins



# How to do It?

- Set the scene and benefits of change
- Identify sites based on risk and cost
- High profile gateway sites
- Site visits with managers and staff, so they buy into the process
- Achieve 'quick wins'/positive results
- Go with the flow of trends



# Managing the Process

- Site profiles
- Quick wins
- Positive results
- Get people to buy into it as a process



# The process

- Techniques used depend on individual sites and situations
- No one size fits all
- Spray off with glyphosphate
- Rotavate/dig over
- Draize, scarify and seed
- Leave the area uncut and see what happens
- Identify small micro pockets
- Urban areas may even be the best sites



# wildflowers @ Liverpool

**Everton Park  
Islington Road**



**Our vision is to deliver a unique cultural landmark project in the northwest of England to:**

- redefine wildflower best practice**
- turn people's heads and hearts**
- inspire new Grow Wild communities**



# Everton Park



# Everton Park





# Everton Park



# About a Tale of Two Cities

- A Tale of Two Cities Liverpool and Manchester is the winning Grow Wild England Landmark Project.
- Grow Wild is creating four high profile flagship sites, one in each UK country, and voted for by the public.
- A Tale of Two Cities won the public vote in England in November 2014 against very strong and excellent competition.

# About a Tale of Two Cities

We will sow bold landscapes in both Liverpool and Manchester on a grand scale – about 10 hectares (equivalent to 20 football pitches!), and into the spaces between where we can.

We will unite the people and communities in both cities to experience, celebrate and create Grow Wild adventures.

We will ignite a new generation of wildflower lovers.

A Tale of Two Cities has won £120,000 to achieve this. Liverpool and Manchester will be forging new pathways between environment and culture, using music and arts practice, to bring the beauty of wildflowers to people in intriguing and imaginative ways.

Our project will run until 2017.



# Redefining Wildflower Practice

Our plan is to deliver great landscapes along Manchester's Princess Park Road, along Liverpool's transport corridors, as well as in key parks and greenspaces such as Everton in Liverpool, Hulme and Alexandra in Manchester.

Landlife has been pioneering Creative Conservation for 40 years since 1975, set up the National Wildflower centre on Merseyside in 2000 and has three Unesco Man and Biosphere awards for Excellence in Urban Ecology.

Now Big Lottery and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew are bringing new energy to this work through their Grow Wild programme and these Flagship Landmark projects.

In the current financial climate and with parks and local authority budgets under severe pressure, A Tale of Two Cities can provide inspiration, practical delivery and new partnerships for communities and nature.