

# More than just a park

**Choice,  
individualism and  
risk perception in  
two contrasting  
areas of Glasgow**



**Dr. Russell Jones**

# FAB Greenspace Study



- Glasgow Centre for Population Health
- NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
- MRC Social and Public Health Sciences Unit
- Glasgow City Council
- GCV Structure Plan Team

# Methods

- GIS Mapping
- Quality assessment (audit)
- Survey data analysis
- Discussion groups – PA
- In-depth interviews
- Photographs

Greater Glasgow NHS Board  
North West Locality  
by Postcode Sector



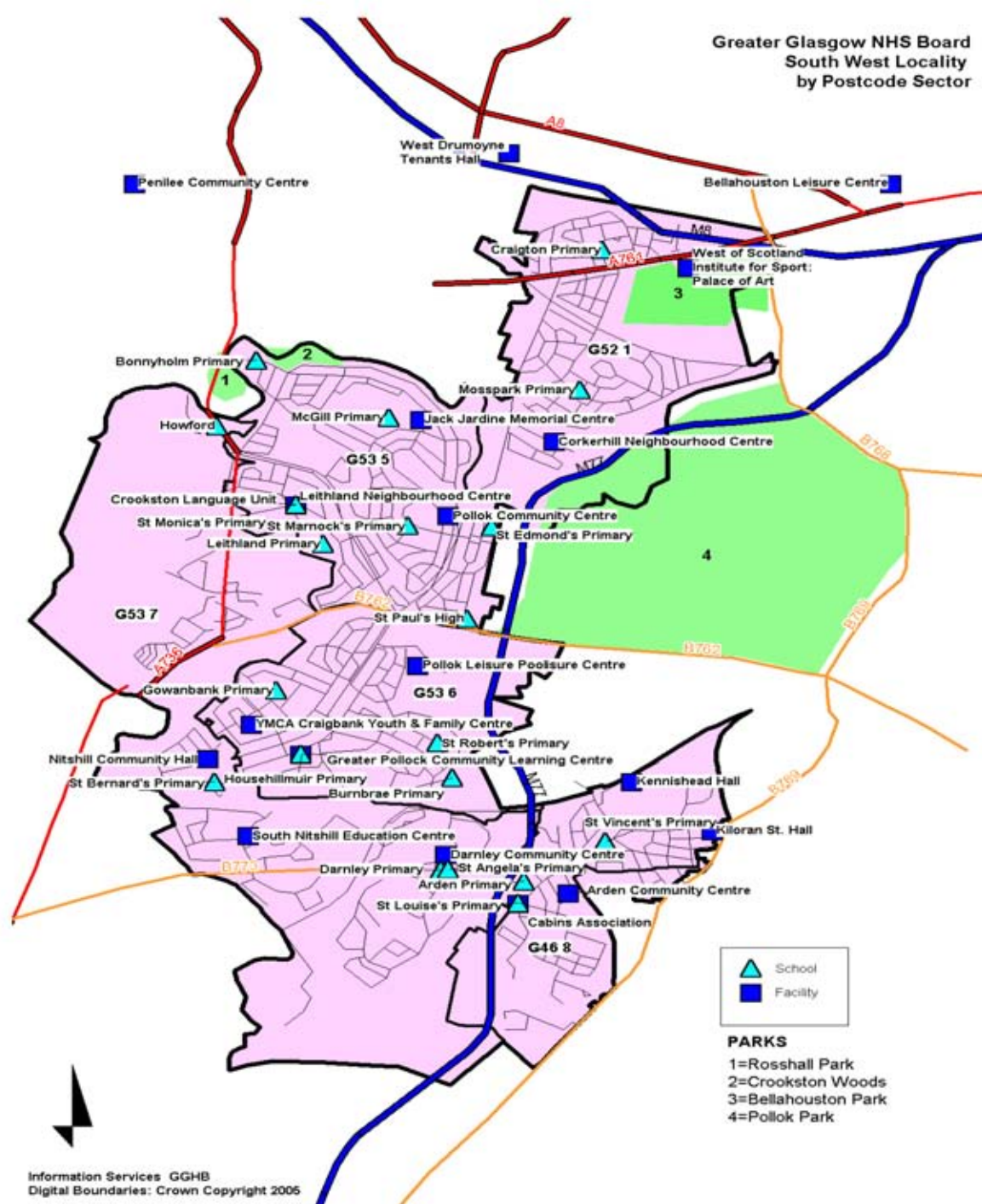
 School  
 Facility

**PARKS**

- 1=Knightwood Park
- 2=Dawsholm Park
- 3=Ruchill Park
- 4=Kelvingrove Park
- 5=Victoria Park

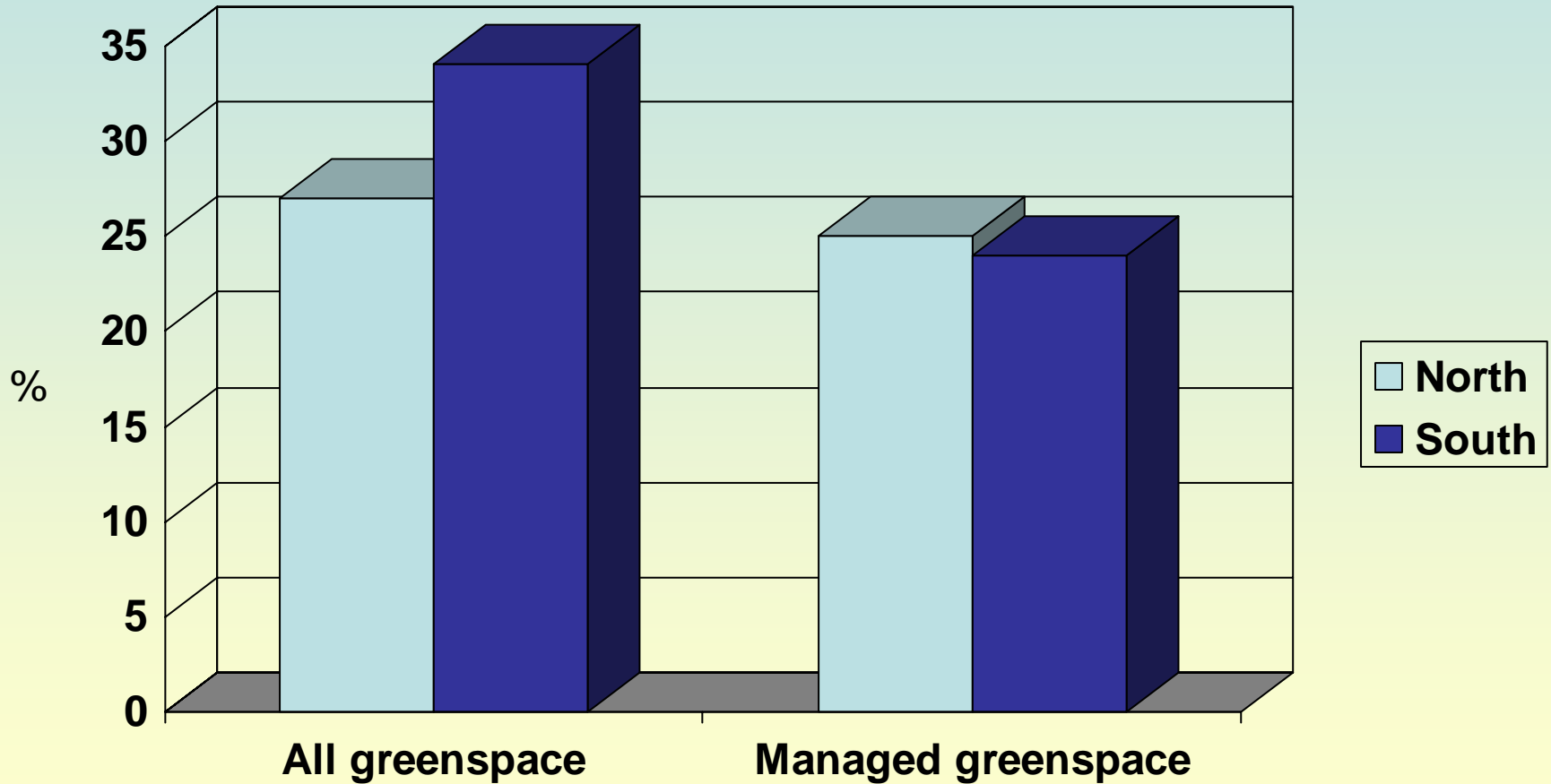


Greater Glasgow NHS Board  
South West Locality  
by Postcode Sector



# Access to Greenspace

(300 metres from greenspace > 2 hectares)



# Assessing Spaces

- Photos
- Audit
  - Use/Activities
  - Access/Linkages
  - Sociability
  - Comfort/Aesthetics







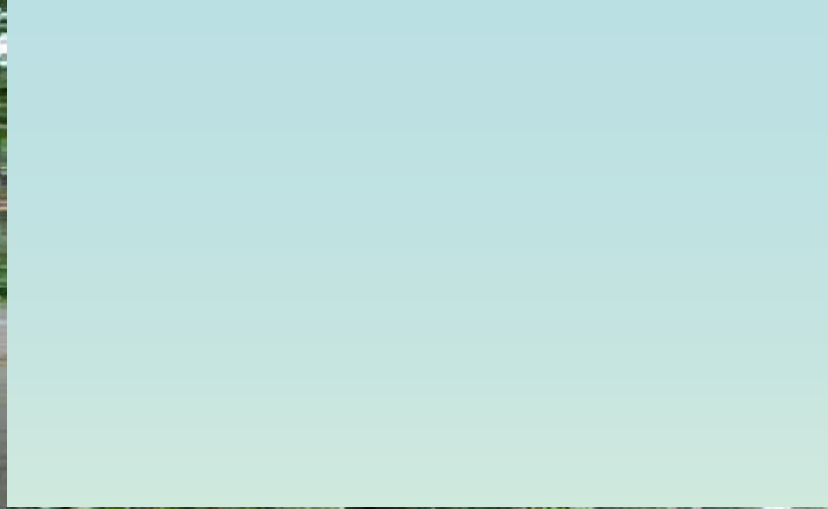


















# Assessing Space (audit)

- Wide variation in quality in both areas
- Most would benefit from lighting, seating and increased maintenance
- Often difference in quality inside and outside leisure facilities and community halls
- Many not friendly, welcoming or sociable

# Survey data analysis

- Underway
- Some preliminary findings are
  - More male obesity in North than South, but pattern reversed for females
  - People in North more likely to be physically active outside
  - Outside physical activity associated with perceived burglary levels



# Qualitative Work





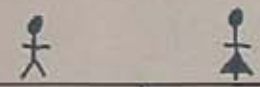
where you live

Please place a sticky spot show us where you stay.

When did you last use council owned facilities eg. Leisure centre, community hall? Please tick ✓

Last fortnight	✓✓✓✓
Last month	✓
Last 3 months	✓
Last 6 months	
Longer	✓✓✓✓

Please tick ✓



0 - 16		
17 - 25		
26 - 40		↓
41 - 65	✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓
65 +	✓✓	✓✓✓

When did you last use some local greenspace?

Please tick ✓

Last fortnight	✓✓
last month	✓
last 3 months	✓✓✓✓
last 6 months	✓✓✓✓
Longer	





ST BRENDAN'S  
PRIMARY

GARSCADDEN  
PRIMARY

BANKHEAD  
PRIMARY

COMMUNITY CENTRE  
LIBRARY  
SWIMMING POOL

KIRKWOOD  
FLATS

DENTAL

SHOPPING  
CENTRE

POST OFFICE

YORK  
CLUB  
CENTRE

LIDL

YORK  
SPORTS

CYCLE PATH

COMMUNITY  
FORUM

40  
KINGSWAY  
COURT

STATION

ROYAL  
MAIL  
OFFICE

DOCTOR  
SURGERY

REINFORCED  
FLOOR

RIVER CLYDE

DOCTOR  
SURGERY

SCOTSTOWN  
LEISURE  
CENTRE

VICTORIA  
PARK



WHITEHORN LIBRARY - VERY GOOD FACILITY.

KNIGHTS ROAD CO. Very Good Area

"GOOD AT THE BK THINGS, TERRIBLE AT THE LITTLE THINGS"

Scotstoun  
The Caddy

MONUMENT. (C)  
LITTLEFINCH X  
VANDBLISES.  
BABLY HANTING

KNIGHTS ROAD LIBRARY. - GOOD FACILITY.

CHILDREN. TREE SWIMMING

SCOTSTOWN DAISY PARK - A COMPLETE MESS IN A FAMILY HOUSING AREA.

AS OVERTW CAR PARK + SOMETIMES AS STORAGE FOR COMPOST

YOKER SPORTS CENTRE GOOD FACILITY PRICES OK.

NO BUS ROUTE TO SCOTSTOWN LEISURE CENTRE

YOKER SPORTS CENTRE  
WORKS USED  
VERY GOOD FACILITY  
FOR ACTIVITIES

VICTORIA PARK RED BLAES FOOTBALL PITCHES - A MESS NEEDS UPGRADED OR REPLACED WITH A DIFFERENT FACILITY

EARL ST. RESOLAN SWING P. DAY PRICE PERMAN. - 0.00 £2.45 FOR INFANTS

1 2 3 4 5 (6) 7 8 9 10

CAR CAN GET VANDALISED

Country  
VERY WELL EQUIPPED FOR WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES

CAFE IN BIGGER PARKS.

GET RID OF RED BLAES FOOTBALL PITCHES - REPLACE IN GRASS.

SCO. LEISURE CENTRE VERY EXPENSIVE FOR JUDO, FOOTBALL, KARATE, + GYM. ESPECIALLY FOR FAMILIES.

Victoria Park  
WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES

SPEND MORE ON MAINTENANCE OF PARKS + OPEN SPACES.

Victoria Park  
INADEQUATE TREE FACILITIES TOOK THEM AWAY

EARL ST SWING PARK  
WELL USED + WELL MAINTAINED

DAISY PARK  
+ AREA  
MORE PLAY FOR CHILDREN.  
(ACCESSIBILITY)

DANES DRIVE  
GRASS AREA.  
FLOODED IN AUTUMN + WINTER - USELESS FOR FOOTBALL.



# Findings: Parks, diversity and lifestyle

- Facilitators and barriers – not experienced universally
- “Fixing the park” approach may not attract everybody
- At individual level a complex interplay of lifestyle factors, opportunities and values

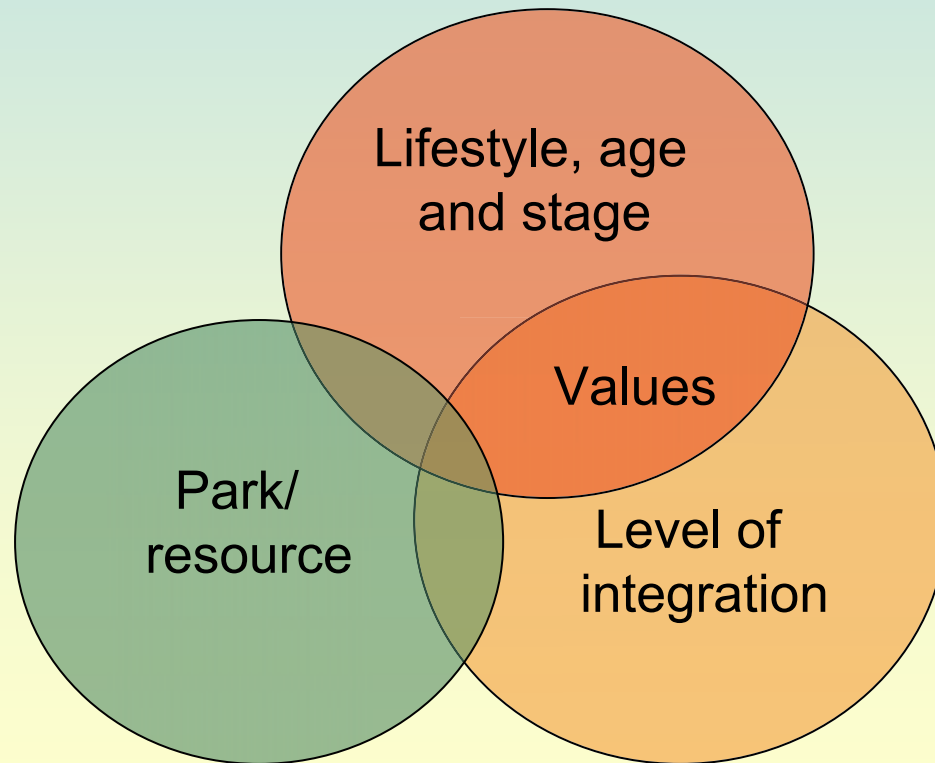
# Coding frame

- Parks themselves
  - Quality
  - Safety
  - Things to do
  - Litter/cleanliness
  - Litter/graffiti linked with safety
  
- Lifestyle
  - structures opportunity and access
  - combination of choice and constraints

# Coding frame continued

- Values- outdoor leisure versus shopping
- Integration- antisocial behaviour (ASB)  
stoicism vs. fear

# The intersection of influential factors in determining park usage





# Case Studies

## **Migrant mother with young family, South**

Parks provide a valuable resource for her children

Poor access to all but the most local green spaces  
(low quality)

Values- seeks opportunities to talk to other parents

Integration- low and fearful of ASB/racism

Facilitators and barriers conspire against park usage

Alternatives- community café

# Male Old Age Pensioner (OAP), North

Seeks opportunities to socialise and exercise with people his own age

Feels vulnerable as OAP who has been a victim of crime

Values: feels at odds with society around him-lack of respect

Facilitators and barriers conspire for him to use local private bowling club over local council facilities

# Father, North

Valued variety and diversity in his community-  
happy for parks to reflect this

Values -child-centred and community minded  
but like to get away from the crowd

Lifestyle- time poor and conscious their tastes  
are not mainstream e.g. yoga

Stoical of ASB- looking at underlying reasons

Uses park individually and as a family



# Summary

- Not just about quality of green space, it's about lifestyle, values, access and level of integration
- Quality green space is necessary, but not sufficient to encourage use
- People choose ways they want to spend their free time within constraints- see if parks fit in
- Creative activities can encourage use
- Parks need to be integrated and well connected with community (not just spatially)

# Next Steps

- Writing report in next couple of months – combining data from all sources
- Traditional dissemination
  - Report, Executive summary, Seminar, Website
- Creative dissemination
  - Glasgow School of Art
  - Engage planners, park officials, community