

# Planning and designing healthy public outdoor spaces for young people in the 21st century

5-7 July 2006, Bristol, UK

First International Conference • First International Conference • First International Conference

## Call for papers

In recent years, new public health challenges have brought the issue of the decline of young people's physical activities to the forefront. It has been highlighted that one of the biggest epidemics facing the World in the 21st century, is the growing obesity in children. The epidemic of childhood obesity has been attributed largely to a decline in total energy expenditure. This has often been associated with growing sedentary lifestyles amongst children and adolescents. Indeed, many aspects of social life have changed to encourage a more sedentary lifestyle. Sedentary pursuits that can lure children away from physical activities are becoming more available.

Consequently, every effort should be made to help young people to develop healthy lifestyles, including increasing physical activity. The virtues of outdoor playing have been widely endorsed. In addition, emerging evidence suggests that the design of the built environment can have an important impact on play and increase the level of physical activities.

In order to promote young people's outdoor play, it is important to reflect on the opportunities offered by creative design of outdoor spaces to stimulate outdoor physical activities. It is also critical to identify the barriers and potential effective strategies for surmounting the problems that hinder outdoor play.

The aim of the conference is to determine what should be expected from public outdoor spaces in the 21st century to encourage outdoor play and promote regular physical activities. It seeks to explore the role of inclusive design of outdoor spaces as a vehicle to promote play and to overcome some barriers that inhibit outdoor physical activities.

This conference will provide the ideal forum where the relationship between the planning and design of outdoor public spaces, and the complex and interrelated pattern of factors contributing to obesity in children and adolescents are examined, shared, exchanged and debated.

It builds on work carried out by a multidisciplinary and inter-professional forum, funded by a joint 'Designing for 21st Century' initiative between the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), which sought to identify critical research issues and priority actions, through the exchange of knowledge, experiences and case studies.



## Conference Themes

This conference invites papers and poster presentations, based on innovative studies from diverse investigative authors and teams. The sessions will include oral presentations and posters selected through a competitive call for abstracts, poster and video presentations.

### Areas of interest include, but are not restricted to:

- Planning policy and outdoor play
- Designing innovative outdoor environments
- Healthy environments for young people
- Safety and the use of outdoor environments by young people
- Informal supervision and outdoor play
- Theoretical and methodological issues in young people's play and physical activities
- Transport, traffic and outdoor physical activities
- Role of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in safety and outdoor play
- Use of technologies to promote outdoor play



## Confirmed keynote speakers

**Professor Robin Moore** is an international authority on the design of children's play and learning environments, user needs, and participatory design programming of urban environments. He is a member of the Growing Up in Cities UNESCO-sponsored, international participatory action research team.

**Ken Worpole** is one of Britain's most influential writers on architecture, landscape and urban social policy, and the author of many seminal reports and books. He served as a member of the UK government's Urban Green Spaces Task Force.

**Professor Helen Woolley** is Director of Green Space and Director of the Centre for the Study of Childhood and Youth at The University of Sheffield. Helen is a strategic advisor for CABE Space and sits on steering groups (including one about young people and open space).

**Professor Catharine Ward Thompson** is Director of the OPENspace; the research centre for inclusive access to outdoor environments. Catherine has managed research contracts and grants worth over £1.2million in total, and directed major research projects for various clients.

**Steve Palframan** is Strategic Director in Newark, Notts, and takes responsibility for environmental, housing, leisure, cultural, and technical issues. He is a passionate advocate for healthy lifestyles. He is one of the six international judges of the International Awards for Liveable Communities, a global Awards Programme endorsed by the United Nations Environment Programme.

**Dr Richard J Jackson** is Professor of Environmental Health at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health. His strongest public health interest is in developing the next generation of leaders in Public Health. For nine years he was director of the Center of Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Environmental Health in Atlanta. In June 2005, Dr Richard J Jackson received the Presidential Distinguished Executive Award from President Bush for his outstanding leadership and extraordinary achievement in service to the nation, and in particular to improving environmental public health. Dick Jackson has published widely on the impact of the built environment on health, and is co-author of the book Urban Sprawl and Public Health. He has served on many medical and health boards, and in September 2005 he was selected to serve on the Board of Directors of the national American Institute of Architects (AIA).

## Organising committee

Professor Lamine Mahdjoubi (Chair),  
Professor Elizabeth Towner, Morris Williams,  
Barry Percy-Smith, Henry Shaftoe, Nada Brkljac

## Paper Submission Timeline

Abstract (200 words max.): **17 March 2006**  
Submission of full paper: 28 April 2006  
Final acceptance: 09 June 2006

<http://environment.uwe.ac.uk/publicspaces/conference/>

## Submissions

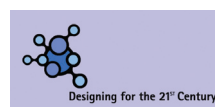
Submit abstracts, expressions of interest to:

[publicspaces@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:publicspaces@uwe.ac.uk) or  
facsimile: + 44 (0) 117 328 3899

Conference web site:

[http://environment.uwe.ac.uk/  
publicspaces/conference/](http://environment.uwe.ac.uk/publicspaces/conference/)

## Sponsors



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