

Aim of the project: Develop a directory of nature-based activities and green spaces which could be used by professionals when referring people to services.

Area: Nottingham City.

Learning area: Evolving a resource using user feedback.

Project leads: Laura Armitage and Kate Lisle, Social Prescribing Community Development Co-ordinators.

Contents:

- The evolution of the project.
- Learning from the experiences of others.



A 6 minute read.

Background

Developed as part of the GreenSpace Green Social Prescribing Project, the Nottingham City Big Green Book is a directory of nature-based activities and green spaces. It was developed as a resource for social prescribers, healthcare workers and individuals seeking local outdoor activities to support and improve wellbeing.

Two years on, and we caught up with Laura and Kate to chat about the evolution of the project and reflect on any lessons learnt.

Read the original [Green Social Prescribing](#) case study on the Co-production page of the Integrated Care Board's website.

Evolution of the Big Green Book...

First published online in November 2022, the Nottingham City Big Green Book has been updated twelve times, with the latest and final edition published in April 2026.

The Big Green Book evolved in response to user feedback, with new editions published bi-annually to ensure content is relevant and useful for practitioners and the community.

The value of the Big Green Book has been recognised, with partner organisations developing local variations, including Gedling Borough Council, who recently published the Gedling Green Book.

Some areas have developed project specific variations of the Big Green Book, including a Little Green Book in North Broxtowe, a Mini Green Book (a specific edition for the project extension period) and Travel Well Books, as part of the active travel social prescribing project in Nottingham City East, Nottingham City North and Nottingham City West.



The Travel Well Books connect the reader with community-based teams and activities promoting walking, cycling, and wheeling.

How feedback was collected and used to improve the Big Green Book...

- The Book was hosted on the Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service (NCVS) website and feedback was welcomed via an online form and email.
- Feedback was also received organically through conversations with colleagues, and in response to promotional updates at meetings.

The ongoing collation of user feedback has been essential for ensuring that the content of the directories remains relevant and continues to meet the needs of the end user.

User feedback led to:

- The Mental health levels being updated during the GreenSpace Extension to ensure they met current practice.
- The inclusion of the local parks list in the Travelwell book, providing local knowledge of green spaces to those less familiar with the area.



Impact & Profile...

Alongside the social prescribers it was aimed at, the Big Green Book has been used by other health teams, and community groups that don't have a 'green' focus, demonstrating its value and adaptability.

It has also been shared across national networks and whilst the team isn't sighted on its uptake elsewhere, the interest from other regions has been notable.

Next Steps...

The next step is to explore integrating the Big Green Book into a new digital directory which will allow greater variation in content, including the inclusion of broader community infrastructure, and organisations having greater ownership of their own updates.

Explore the resource:

Paper copies of the Big Green Book are available at Nottingham City libraries and at the Nottingham Community Voluntary Service.

For online versions of the books, visit the links below:

- [Big Green Book Nottingham City](#)
- [Big Green Book Rushcliffe](#)
- [Little Green Book North Broxtowe](#)
- [Travel Well Big Green Books](#)
- [Gedling Green Book](#)

To find out more about developing your own Big Green Book email greenspace@nottinghamcvs.co.uk.