Greenwood

news release

Greenwood Community Forest Team The Sawmill Rufford Country Park NG22 9DG

> Tel: 01623 827326 Fax: 01623 827321

 $www.greenwoodforest.org.uk\\ E.mail: \underline{gill.grievson@nottscc.gov.uk}$

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Enjoy Nottinghamshire's Green Estate

A new leaflet entitled Green Gateways is now available in time for July to give everyone the chance to explore Nottinghamshire County Council's "Green Estate" which includes green spaces slightly off the beaten track.

Green Gateways provides a list of events taking place from July right through to December and also gives information about joining your local Friends group, taking part in practical conservation or joining a health walk.

Focussing on Bestwood Country Park as the main site for events, Green Gateways also promotes smaller sites that have been developed on old pit tips, disused railway lines or quarries and are helping to create the Greenwood Community Forest.

As well as featuring Bestwood Country Park, smaller sites included in the leaflet are:

- Linby Trail
- Moor Pond Wood, Papplewick
- Tippings Wood, Blidworth
- Dob Park, Hucknall
- The Ranges, Hucknall
- Mill Lakes, Bestwood
- Teversal Trails and Silverhill Wood

There are many activities taking place at Bestwood Country Park including pond/river dipping, family den building and bug hunts which are just some of the special activities to keep children entertained. Hedgelaying, green woodworking courses and plenty of guided walks are available for adults. Feel free to participate in the tenth Big Draw event and get your creative juices flowing! There is also the chance to experience the healing qualities of nature amongst the quiet surroundings of the park in the popular sweat lodge weekend.

Gill Grievson, Community Liaison Officer for the Greenwood Community Forest, said: "This is the third Green Gateways leaflet we have produced and we are pleased to offer activities and events on some of the smaller sites. Bestwood Country Park is a fabulous place to explore and the activities that the rangers lead really bring the park to life. The programme allows people to come and see the many wildlife habitats in all four seasons. There are also opportunities to visit other sites which are a little off the beaten track and get involved in many activities as well as joining a local Friends group or walking group."

Over 3 million trees have been planted in the Greenwood Community Forest as a whole and many of the new parks have been created on disused land right in the middle of communities. Local people help to plant the forest and schools are encouraged to use these new outdoor classrooms. As well as walking, cycling and enjoying the outdoors, these sites usually have an abundance of wildflowers making them excellent habitats for wildlife and well worth a visit.

Copies of the free Green Gateway leaflet, with full details of the summer, autumn and winter events can be obtained from local libraries, leisure centres, community centres and tourist information centres, as well as the Bestwood Country Park rangers.

Alternatively, you can download a copy from www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/countryparks or request a copy through the post by calling Nottinghamshire County Council on 08449 80 80 80.

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Note to editors: For further information contact Gill Grievson on 01623 827326, e-mail: gill.grievson@nottscc.gov.uk. Photographers are welcome at any of the events listed.