

The Structure of Green Environmental Management Initiated by Greenspace Scotland

Kinoshita, Takeshi* · Ye, Kyung-Rock**

*Department of Landscape Architecture, Chiba University, Japan ·

**Freelance Landscape Planner, Korea

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to report background, organism and activities of Greenspace Scotland, which was established for creation and management of green environment in urban Scotland, UK, and to help discussing an efficient structure for green environmental management in future Japan. As a result, it was confirmed that Greenspace Scotland plays a key role to develop and offer the framework - structure of partnership - for creating, regenerating and managing green environment from a large-scale point of view. Rich varieties of projects, which are difficult to manage by individual organization, have been brought to realization through circulating national funds and policies among local communities in partnership with existing charities and voluntary sector keeping their identity and independence. Greenspace Scotland also put stress on the aspects of social, cultural and economic regeneration in urban communities, and emphasizes a partnership development for above purposes.

Key Words : Greenspace Scotland, Management, Partnership, Social Justice And Environmental Justice

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, much kind of citizen's action for park and open space management has been brisk in Japan, and their future development can be expected, but these actions are still accidental and independent. The efficient system for green space management on a large scale may be needed in the future, in partnership with citizens, governments, enterprises and voluntary sector. When we consider about such subject, the UK's structure for green space management are of much help to us. The cases of green space management by National Trust, Ground-work Trust (Utsunomiya, 1995, 1996) or the British

Trust for Conservation Volunteer (BTCV) (Shigematsu, 1992) have been already introduced in Japan, but these actions have been targeting mainly for countryside or urban-fringe areas. On the other hand, in urban areas, the Civic Trust or some kind of local amenity societies activity for conservation and management of listed buildings or built heritages were very popular, but the activities on green space management have not been almost tackled systematically until now.

In such situations, it is worthy of notice that Greenspace Scotland was established in 2002 for the purpose of systematic creation, improvement and management of 'greenspace' within and around urban settlement in Scotland. Besides it is an epoch-making

that this activity is trying to cover whole territory of urban Scotland. This paper was written for the aims of reporting background, organism and activities of Greenspace Scotland, and of considering efficient future system of greenspace management in Japan.

1. Scottish Natural Heritage and Green Space for Communities Initiative

1) Aims and Resources of Greenspace for Communities Initiative

Greenspace Scotland is a company limited by guarantee in August 2002 and is recognized by the Inland Revenue as a Scottish Charity, which was established to implement a major project called 'Greenspace for Communities (GfC)' proposed by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). Here before considering Greenspace Scotland in full, we explain about the GfC based on GfC Initiative (GfCI) that was proposed by SNH. First, SNH is a non-departmental public body (NDPB) that has broad responsibilities to protect and manage natural environment, green spaces (including designated areas) and bio-diversity, etc. in Scotland (except England, Wales and Northern Ireland). Their resources for activities mainly depend on funding from Scottish Executive (Scotland's central government), and they have statutory obligation to advise the government on the above. The GfC and its initiative plan (GfCI) were prepared by SNH to promote providing a rich variety of accessible greenspace in and around towns and cities under funding from New Opportunities Fund (NOF).

The GfCI aims to achieve a step change in the quantity and quality of Scotland's greenspace. Through the GfCI, SNH will coordinate its work on the natural heritage, including promoting attractiveness of living and working place: enhancing efficient partnership and information exchange:

involving community: enjoying various benefits (health, environmental and social justice, sustainable development, neighborhood regeneration, economic development, biodiversity and recreation). The purpose of the plan is to: examine links between the GfCI and a range of national policies and programmes: set out the role and actions of SNH in relation to the GfCI: confirm key partners in delivering the GfCI vision (SNH, 2004a, p.6). To attain the above, the SNH acknowledges the need for 'national support for local action' (in this case 'national' means Scottish). The establishment of Greenspace Scotland was proposed to promote a local partnership structure based on this way of thinking. The purpose of Greenspace Scotland is to develop new partnerships: stimulate community involvement: win new resources: share good practices: and coordinate monitoring and evaluation. Furthermore Greenspace Scotland builds on the work already started by existing Trusts and Projects, and aims to extend them to other parts of urban Scotland (SNH, 2004a, p. 7).

2) Contents and Implementation of GfCI

Remarkable characteristics of GfCI are that it is a cross-cutting initiative and it stresses the need for an integrated approach to social, environmental and economic issues. In GfCI plan, not only governments

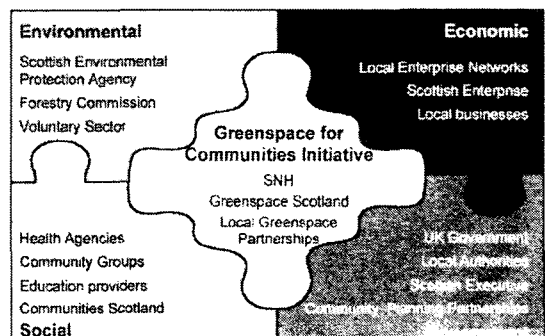


Fig. 1. The GfCI Jigsaw (SNH, 2004a, p.9)

and environmental sectors but also economic and social sector are recognized as stakeholders (Fig. 1), and it shows how the relationship between GfCI and the stakeholders should be (Fig. 2). GfCI plan will also help develop and extend their commitment by: creating resources: bringing together expertise across the range of fields: linking those working 'on the ground' in partnership with communities with those developing and implementing strategies to coordinate and support local action: combining resources, both financial and in-kind at a national level with those committed at a local level (SNH, 2004a, p.16).

Greenspace Scotland that plays a key role to implement GfCI was established with founder members: existing three related Trusts, newly established Glasgow and Clyde Valley Greenspace Trust, SNH and others. Greenspace Scotland Board is to in-

clude nominees from each of the founder members to develop and extend efficient partnership (SNH, 2004a, p.17). Since 2002 when Greenspace Scotland was established, another three trusts have joined to the members. At local level, Greenspace Scotland challenges to win additional resources and produce promotional information in partnership with several enterprises, local authorities and other departmental bodies, health sector, local communities, voluntary sector and educational organizations (SNH, 2004a, p.18).

By the way SNH secured approved from the Scottish Executive, the Scotland's national government, to invest £2.40 million in the establishment and development of the GfCI - over 21% of the total cost for the first 5 years of operation. And further £1.04 million has been made available by the NOF for 2002~2005. Funding from Local Authorities, government agencies and others (European, charitable trusts, private) is expected to bring the total funding package to more than £11.3 million over the first 5 years (Table 1). There are a number of key benefits to being member of Greenspace Scotland network: because of the national umbrella body a member trust access to resources (both in terms of support and financial) not normally available to individual organizations: with representation on the Greenspace Scotland board, member organizations have direct influence into shaping greenspace policy on a national level (GS's official website, 2004).

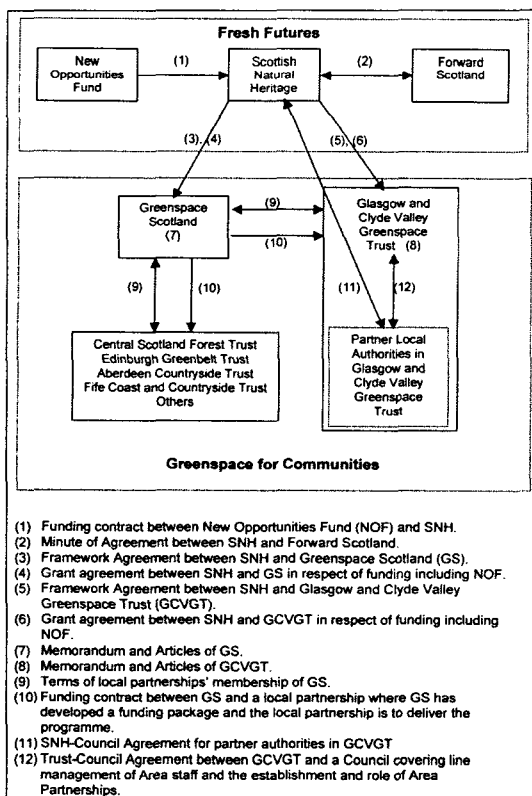


Fig. 2. GfCI partnership agreements (SNH, 2004b, p.31)

2. Structure and Activities of Greenspace Scotland

1) Definition of 'Greenspace' and Key Programmes
Greenspace Scotland Strategy 2002~2005, which was prepared by Greenspace Scotland to show their action strategy for the first 3 years, defines 'greenspace' as follows. Greenspace is any vegetated

Table 1. CfCI funding summary, 2002-2007 (SNH, 2004b, p.29-30)

Funding (£000s)	Start-up	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Total
SNH	350	354	387	414	445	450	2,400
NOF		323	338	374	0	0	1,036
Local authorities		347	382	420	471	506	2,126
Other government		285	324	363	372	383	1,727
Other		526	596	684	1,074	1,137	4,017
Total	350	1,835	2,027	2,255	2,362	2,476	11,305

Notes:

1. Estimates include expenditure/income for Greenspace Scotland, Glasgow and Clyde Valley Greenspace Trust and the development of new partnerships.
2. Estimates exclude income/expenditure for other members of Greenspace Scotland or other greenspace action.

land or water within or adjoining an urban area. It includes: derelict, vacant and contaminated land which has the potential to be transformed, natural or semi-natural habitats, green corridor - paths, disused railway lines, river and canals, amenity grassland, parks and gardens, outdoor sports facilities, playing fields and children's play area, other functioned greenspaces (e.g. cemeteries and allotments), countryside immediately adjoining a town which people can access from their homes. They pointed out any kind of benefits of greenspace as the reasons why they stresses these greenspace, but the remarkable things are that they acknowledges through greenspace creation and management, an urban regeneration, social and environmental justice and economic impact (e.g. investment and employment) are brought to urban communities (GS, 2002, p.11-12).

The following five programmes are being proposed to advance their mission over the next three years: 1) profile and promotion, 2) coordination and partnership - strengthening and growing the network, 3) funding and resourcing, 4) developing and sharing good practice, 5) monitoring and evaluation - making the difference (GS, 2002, p.15-20). Among the above, what has to be noticed are the followings: lobbying local and national politicians and key decision-makers:

assisting member trusts with their marketing and promotion programmes (belonging to above 1)); developing joint projects and working arrangement with appropriate national organizations, agencies, networks and private sector; supporting the formation and development of new local greenspace partnerships in targeted areas; encouraging local authorities to develop Open Space Strategies to provide a strategic context for local greenspace activities (belonging to 2)); researching potential funding sources and mechanisms; exploring the potential for non-financial support; developing sponsorship proposals and cultivating partnership arrangements with the private sector (belonging to 3)); facilitating regular networking sessions to bring together local partnerships; developing mechanisms for information exchange; providing a forum for discussion and debate on greenspace issues; providing training seminars, courses and workshops (belonging to 4)); and building framework for strict monitoring and evaluation (belonging to 5)). It follows from what has been said that Greenspace Scotland plays a key role not to implement projects 'on the ground' by themselves, but to develop a framework - structure of partnership - for supporting and exploring efficient projects expansion.

2) Project Examples

Next, we would like to focus attention on project examples that Greenspace Scotland makes to the Partnership Programmes for Government (GS, 2004). Fallside Community Nature Park project (Glasgow, Cost - £124,100) stressed community involvement in creating and regenerating greenspace. This park was created from land previously used as a destructor site, to use for the purposes of environmental education, arts projects and other recreation in partnership with a private action group and local school. Curriehill Green Corridor project (Edinburgh, Cost - £23,518) was also initiated by the school who use the area for environmental education or access, along with the local community who use it for recreational purposes.

Ravenscraig - Green Link (Ravenscraig, Cost - £4 million) forms a part of the Ravenscraig regeneration project that is the Scotland's largest regeneration project. Through creating the Green Link, which is a little cycle/footway to allow residents to access the employment, retail and leisure opportunities, a safe and accessible environment will be set out. Through this project full time equivalent jobs and job-training places will be provided. Beardmore Park project is aiming to promote environmental regeneration and economic development of one of the worst areas of social deprivation in Europe.

Besides the above there are events-oriented programme that provide opportunities for walking, seminar and arts events to children, people with mental health problems (e.g. drug and alcohol) in partnership with related schemes, initiatives and projects. Many greenspace projects are carried out in conjunction with long term unemployed, offering on-the-job training towards a qualification, and they also actively involve disability groups and people with mental health in learning new skills and offer opportunities in out door skills such as planting, garden management, herbs. There is also a pro-

gramme to use greenspace as a place for supporting every kind of arts and cultural activities. One may say that each project is positioned as a process to develop and challenge the possibilities of broad involvement and partnership.

II. CONCLUSION

All these things make it clear that Greenspace Scotland plays a key role to develop and offer the framework - structure of partnership - for creating, regenerating and managing green environment from a large-scale point of view. Rich varieties of projects, which are difficult to manage by individual organization, have been brought to realization through circulating national funds and policies among local communities in partnership with existing charities and voluntary sector keeping their identity and independence (rather promote them). The significant deference between Greenspace Scotland and existing BTCV or Groundwork Trusts is that Greenspace Scotland put stress on the aspects of social, cultural and economic regeneration in urban communities, and emphasizes a partnership development for above purposes. When we consider a future structure for green environmental management in highly urbanized Japan, our reason for dealing with Greenspace Scotland is in the points mentioned above. By the way, if we realize a trial like GS in Japan, local authorities need to have better understanding of the partnership and the way to support to charity activities. The role of supporting information exchange and partnership among similar voluntary sectors may be entrusted to local authorities for the present in Japan to realize large scale and efficient management of green environment. On the other hand, an inclusive point of view that social and economic regeneration is provided through green space management may indispensable to a great variety of partnership.

REFERENCES

1. Greenspace Scotland (2002) Greenspace Scotland Strategy 2002-2005.
2. Greenspace Scotland (2004) Greenspace Scotland - contributing to the Partnership Programme for Government, 9-22.
3. Greenspace Scotland's official website, <http://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/default.asp-page=31>, (July 30th 2004).
4. Scottish Natural Heritage (2004a) GfC Initiative Plan.
5. Scottish Natural Heritage (2004b) GfC Initiative Action Plan Final Draft. 20th Jan 2004.
6. Shigematsu, T. (1992) BTCV's Conservation Activities for Countryside and Woodland Wildlife Habitats, *Journal of the Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture*, 55(5), 325-330. (in Japanese).
7. Utsunomiya, F. (1995) *Studies on Environmental Policy and Management*, Tokai University Press. (in Japanese).
8. Utsunomiya, F. (1996) *Environmental Creation and Public Involvement*, Sanrei Shobou. (in Japanese).