

About OPFA

OPFA, a registered charity, works to ensure that everyone in all communities across Oxfordshire has access to good quality local facilities for outdoor sport, play and recreation.

The major part of our day-to-day work is devoted to assisting community organisations to provide, preserve, improve and adequately maintain local facilities for outdoor play and recreation. We do this through information and advice, training and helping to identify relevant sources of financial help.

We are the only organisation in the county dedicated specifically to providing a comprehensive independent playing field and children's outdoor play space advice service. We help local community groups, including parish councils, voluntary playing field management committees and community playground committees.

Nicole O'Donnell works as our Community Development Officer, providing our advice service. Nicole, a graduate of the University of Exeter, has worked for OPFA since 2010. She brings valuable experience to the role, working previously as a project manager and currently also as a volunteer in her own community.

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Charity Number 304398



OPFA

Helping communities make
good space for sport and play

Is your community facing new housing development?

Would you benefit from professional support to help you achieve the outdoor recreation facilities that you need for the future?

Many of our communities across Oxfordshire are facing increased housing development. Communities and town and parish councils are having to get to grips with what this means for them. Increased population puts pressure on existing facilities and infrastructure, including outdoor recreation spaces. However, new housing developments can also bring with them opportunities to improve existing recreation facilities, using developer contributions; it is important to factor this in at an early stage.

For a modest charge, OPFA can help with all aspects of outdoor recreation space provision; planning for new provision, assessing needs and current facilities, facilitating the consultation within the community for what needs to be done, helping to analyse results and then putting a plan in place. We can also act as the project manager on new projects. Our cost effective service can also help you to unlock other sources of funding.

This consultancy service complements the free information and advice already available to OPFA members by offering more in depth and hands-on support not covered by our membership fees. This service is available to OPFA members and non-members.



Why you should choose OPFA as your consultant

Over many years we have built up professional expertise on outdoor recreation space provision and management and have access to respected national guidance from Fields in Trust, (the former National Playing Fields Association) and other national agencies.

We understand how communities and community organisations work and the kind of help and support that they need.

We have working relationships with relevant contacts in the District Councils, who are the local planning authorities.

We have already provided a consultancy service to a number of Oxfordshire parishes and have obtained positive feedback from them.



Our chargeable services include:

Research and professional advice leading to a written report on the recreational needs of your community that may include but is not limited to:

- A review of the outdoor recreational needs of your community for future use in developing local provision.
- Ideas for new and/or improved recreation provision for your community.
- Ensuring that you are able to make the most of developer contributions and that they are allocated to the facilities that are needed by the community.

Professional advice on good quality play provision in new housing developments, that may include but is not limited to:

- Ensuring that the size of the proposed new play space is adequate for the size of the population.
- Ensuring that the play space is on the correct site and that it meets the correct safety and design standards
- Ensuring that the play equipment to be provided meets identified local needs and is exciting and challenging for the children.

Help with any funding applications for improvements to outdoor recreation space:

- Review of an application before it is submitted to funders
- Supporting report looking at the needs within the community to give evidence to back up your funding application.

Project management of recreation space improvement projects.