



# Redcatch Park Accessibility Plan

## **Contributors:**

Rabia Gill, Oliver Woods, Jackie Hunter, Mandy Meek, Kendra

Lindegaard, Rachael Robbins, Kylie Manning, Kelly Meek, Lin Wade,

Paul, Malcolm Clarke, Susanna Giullari, Megan Belcher.

## **In partnership with:**

Bristol Disability Equality Forum, Carers Support Centre & Friends of

Redcatch Park.

Funded by Heritage Lottery Fund.

## **Note on bolded words**

Words in bold are explained in the Jargon Buster at the end of the document.

# Contents

<b>Redcatch Park Accessibility Plan .....</b>	1
<b>Note on bolded words .....</b>	1
<b>Introduction.....</b>	2
<b>Accessibility changes .....</b>	3
<b>Nature Priorities .....</b>	11
<b>Community Priorities.....</b>	13
<b>Health and Wellbeing.....</b>	15
<b>Jargon Buster.....</b>	17
<b>Appendix .....</b>	19
<b>Cost and time ranking .....</b>	19
<b>Other Ideas .....</b>	19

## Introduction

This plan is a list of changes to make to Redcatch Park to make it more accessible for Disabled people and carers. The ideas came from a group of local Disabled people and carers working with the charity Your Park Bristol & Bath. The Disabled people had a wide range of disabilities including **neurodiversity**, and **mobility** and **sensory impairments**.

This group came up with lots of changes they wanted to see, then decided together which were the most important **priorities** to go into this plan.

All **accessibility** changes noticed by the group have been added to the plan. The aim is to work on all the ideas in time but to start with the **high priority** ideas and move down the list from there.

Several other **priorities** based around 'community', 'nature' and 'health' are included. These are ideas that will make the park more interesting to visit and better looked after by the community.

The actions in the plan will be used by the Friends of Redcatch Park in their 'Park Vision'.

The learnings from the project are being used to make a **toolkit** that other communities can use to make their park better for Disabled people and carers. This work is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

## Accessibility changes

### High Priorities

#### 1. Better play equipment for Disabled children and younger children

Play equipment in the park is currently not good for some Disabled children and younger children. Different equipment will be added to

meet their needs. FoRP and Bristol City Council will always prioritise adding inclusive equipment whenever possible.

**Who:** Friends of Redcatch Park, Your Park Bristol & Bath & Bristol City Council,

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

## 2. Entrances and gateways

The park has 4 gates and currently many users can't get through most of them. The gates need to be changed to be made **accessible** to everyone. Railings behind the gates also don't give enough space to turn for wheelchair users.

Arrival makes a big difference to how people feel about a visit, so work will also be done to entrances to make them more welcoming and help people walking by notice that the park is there. This could include a sign and colourful plants.

**Who:** Friends of Redcatch Park and Bristol City Council,

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** Medium.

### 3. Accessible paths

The current paths need to be fixed so that they are flat, even, smooth and without cracks. The path around the sports field should be resurfaced and widened with passing points for larger mobility scooters in-between trees. When this path is resurfaced, new accessible seating should be added with extra hard standing for wheelchairs.

The pathways need to be kept clear from mud and water during winter as they become slippery and flooded.

Any new paths will be **accessible**. This includes adding texture to the paths for the **people with visual impairments**.

**Who:** Friends of Redcatch Park and Bristol City Council.

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** High.

### 4. Accessible toilet

It is positive that the park has some toilets, but the **accessible** toilet is not always open, and the toilet block is usually closed quite early, making it hard to use the park on summer evenings.

The toilets should be open later in the evening in summer and the accessible toilet should always be open for Disabled people. This could be with a **radar key** or another appropriate way to access the toilet as

advised by Disabled people's organisations. These changes should happen immediately.

When funding is secured, the existing toilet block should be refurbished to include a Changing Places toilet.

**Who:** Bristol City Council,

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** High.

## 5. Quiet sensory area

The area of the park behind the pavilion could be fenced and made dog free. This part of the park will become a quiet area where people can relax or have a picnic without fear of being bothered by dogs.

Over the time this area could be developed to include **sensory** plants, a water feature, or raised pond and more social seating.

**Who:** Friends of Redcatch Park, as part of their long-term Park Vision.

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

## 6. More Disabled parking bays

The car park is very busy and only has one Disabled parking bay. More Disabled parking bays will be marked out so that people with Blue

Badges can be confident they will get a parking space if they drive to the park. This will benefit Disabled people and carers visiting Redcatch Community Garden as well as the park.

**Who:** Bristol City Council,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Medium.

## 7. Accessible information in the park

**Accessible** signs will be put in the park, meeting the access needs of visually impaired people and people who need **BSL** and **audio descriptions**. This will include information about the size of the park, a map of the different areas of the park, pathways, wildlife and how people can use things in the park, such as Redcatch Community Garden and the play area. This will include a link to an online audio/visual guide to help **d/Deaf people** and **VI**s find their way around the park. This can connect with information on existing free apps, e.g. 'Be My Eyes' and 'Google Lookout'.

**Who:** Friends of Redcatch Park & Your Park Bristol & Bath,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## 8. Park operatives to stop blocking pathways

Parks team staff members meet in the park at lunch and block pathways with their vehicles. This can be intimidating for people using the park and they block accessible pathways.

**Who:** Bristol City Council,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## Medium Priorities

### 1. Accessible benches & picnic benches

**Accessible** seating will be added along the path around the sports fields. New benches must be **accessible** for people who may struggle to lower themselves or pull themselves up. The type of bench chosen and where to put them will be decided through **research** on the type of person who uses the path.

Accessible picnic benches will be added at different places around the park where possible the benches will be in shady areas where people can shelter from the heat.

**Who:** Friends of Redcatch Park and Your Park Bristol & Bath.

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

## 2. Lighting

There is currently little lighting in the park. More lights will be added to help people feel safe. These lights will be placed in a sensible way, thinking about the areas people might still want to use when it gets darker and making sure that they don't disturb people in the flats nearby. This could include looking at motion sensors and lighting only the paths instead of using spotlights.

**Who:** Bristol City Council,

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** High.

## 3. Better drainage on pathways

In winter or times of heavy rain, there are sections of the paths around the park that flood. Work to prevent flooding will make sure that these paths are **accessible** all year. If the path around the sports field is resurfaced, drainage will need to be considered.

**Who:** Bristol City Council,

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** High.

## 4. Easy to access information about the park online

Changes will be made to sites so that it will be easy to find information about the park online, including **accessibility**, location, address, features, images, description, noisy areas and things that people might be interested in. These sites will be made **accessible**. This will use the [Sensory Trust's idea of the 'Access Chain'](#) to make an inclusive experience for people using the park.

**Who:** Your Park and the local community, with council support,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## 5. Drop curbs painted yellow

The drop curbs on roads surrounding the park will be painted yellow to make it clear to wheelchair users where they can safely cross the road.

**Who:** Bristol City Council,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Medium.

## Low Priorities

### 1. More shelter

There will be more shelter in the park to shelter from weather conditions.

This could be a new structure or temporary options for events or

community activities. FoRP can provide temporary structures that can be used for to provide shelter for events in the park.

**Who:** Friends of Redcatch Park,

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

## Nature Priorities

### 1. Educational and sensory nature trail area

An educational and sensory nature trail will be introduced for children with Special Educational Needs. Children will help design it. It will include interesting sensory planting and a water feature and have an insect hotel. The sensory area will be fenced off and will not allow dogs.

**Who:** Your Park Bristol & Bath and local community organisations.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

### 2. Regular nature activities

The nature and sensory area will host regular nature focused activities like volunteering. The activities will be available for Disabled children and adults and could be done in collaboration with Redcatch Community Garden.

**Who:** Your Park Bristol & Bath and Redcatch Community Garden.,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

### 3. Planting

Planting of flowers will be carried out to add interest and colour to the park and help encourage wildlife. The planting will follow the paths to make a **sensory trail**. Some bat and bird boxes will also be added.

**Who:** Your Park and the local community with council support,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

### 4. Larger pond

A larger pond could be explored to support more nature..

**Who:** Your Park Bristol & Bath.

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

### 5. Interactive recycling bins

Install interactive recycling bins so that children learn about recycling and will use them more. This should only be done if the bins are fun and enjoyable.

**Who:** Bristol City Council,

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

## Community Priorities

### 1. Supported play sessions in the playground

When there is more inclusive play equipment there will be regular supported play sessions at the playground. Parent carers will be asked what times and days' work best for them. This will mean parent carers can take their children with support and help them build connections with other parent carers locally.

**Who:** Community organisations,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

### 2. Youth outreach and activities

There will be regular activities available engaging young people. This will help to stop anti-social behaviour and complement the community rounders and community cricket run by FoRP.

**Who:** Friends of Redcatch Park and local youth services e.g. Early Youth,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

### 3. Partner with the Community Garden to run more activities in the park

Collaborate with the Redcatch Community Garden to take more events into the park. This will help to reduce crowds at the Community Garden and to help the park feel livelier and safer

**Who:** Redcatch Community Garden,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

### 4. Community pavilion

The pavilion should be re-opened and used for community sports. It could also be available for small community group meetings, activities, and overspill workshops from Redcatch Community Garden.

**Who:** Friends of Redcatch Park, Park Knowle Football Club and Bristol City Council,

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** High.

## 5. BBQ area

There potential for a BBQ area with suitable benches and bins will be explored so that people can easily meet to barbecue together in the park.

**Who:** TBC,

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

## 6. More social seating

There will be more social seating areas introduced so that people can meet and spend time together comfortably.

**Who:** Friends of Redcatch Park,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

# Health and Wellbeing

## 1. Re-do the walking route

There is a walking route in the park, but it is not well advertised, and the markers are broken. Make a bigger map and re-do the distance markers.

**Who:** Friends of Redcatch Park,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## 2. Install a drinking fountain

Put in a water fountain for people and dogs to be able to drink when Redcatch Community Garden, and the toilets, are closed.

**Who:** Your Park with community and council support,

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** High.

## 3. Accessible gym equipment

More gym equipment will be added in the centre of the park. The new equipment will work for a range of Disabled people.

**Who:** Your Park Bristol & Bath.

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

## 4. Accessible games and activities

A range of accessible activities will be introduced like cricket, table tennis, crazy golf. These could be through pop up activities or permanent equipment. There will be more accessible sessions on the tennis courts owned by WESPORT and Everyone Active.

**Who:** Friends of Redcatch Park, WESPORT, other community organisations,

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

## Jargon Buster

**Accessible:** When something meets the needs of Disabled people so that they can use it without problems.

**Audio descriptions:** When something is described with spoken words so that the **visually impaired community** can access it.

**British Sign Language (BSL):** This is a language that uses hand gestures. It is used by many **d/Deaf** people in the UK.

**CCTV:** Cameras that film an area so that it is easier to tell who carried out any **vandalism** that happens.

**Costs** – Low (£0-£5,000), Medium (£5,000 - £50,000) and High (£50,000 +)

**Contributors:** People who were part of making something.

**d/Deaf:** People who don't have any hearing. The capital 'D' is used when someone is part of the community of Deaf people. **BSL** is often their first language.

**Deafblind:** People who don't have much hearing and sight so taking or **BSL** might not be **accessible** for them.

**Designed:** Planning how something will be made.

**Dropped kerb:** When part of the pavement slopes down so that people can get up and down from it easily.

**Mobility impairments:** When someone finds it harder to move around.

**Sensory impairments:** When someone is **d/Deaf, visually impaired, or deafblind.**

**Sensory trail:** A walk that has lots of experiences that are good for people who have **sensory impairments**. For example, there might be lots of flowers that smell nice for **VI**s.

**Tapping rails:** A small, raised edge to the side of a path so that **VI**s can find it with their canes.

**Toolkit:** A guide people can use to help them do a piece of work.

**Raised kerb:** When pavement is raised up so that it easy for wheelchair users to get from it into a bus or other type of transport.

**Research:** When people look into something to understand it better.

**Unmonitored:** When something isn't watched over by a real person all the time.

**Vandalism:** When something is damaged or broken or made to feel unsafe.

**Visually impaired community (VIs):** The community of people who are blind or who find it hard to see.

## Appendix

### Cost and time ranking

Each change has been ranked low, medium or high for cost and time.

This has been done to give an idea of how much money and time it would take to make them happen.

The rankings are based on these categories:

	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>Low</b>	£0 - £5,000	0-6 months
<b>Medium</b>	£5,000 - £50,000	6 months – 1 year
<b>High</b>	More than £50,000	More than 1 year

### Other Ideas

More ideas were put forward during the park visit than could go into the plan. These ideas are included below so that they can be worked on if another group of people would like to do more work after this project.

### Health and wellbeing

1. Bowls green,
2. Skate Park.

## **Community Changes**

1. Games and puzzle area,
2. Monthly community market,
3. Car boot sale,
4. Events to develop new skills,
5. More natural log seating,
6. Amphitheatre for music.