



# Redcatch Community Garden

## 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, Mona-Lisa Chaka.

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### **Note on bolded words**

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

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## Introduction

This plan is a list of changes to make to Redcatch Community Garden to make it more accessible for Disabled people and carers. Redcatch Community Garden are committed to making the space more accessible and inclusive for Disabled people and carers. They have supported this work and will work to introduce the changes listed.

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 impairments including **neurodivergence**, 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.

An Access Plan was also made for Redcatch Park, the park that the Community Garden is in. Many of the priorities identified in the Redcatch Park Access Plan will be needed for Redcatch Community Garden to be as accessible as possible.

The actions in the plan will be used by Redcatch Community Garden to develop the space.

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.

# Accessibility changes

## High Priorities

### 1. Accessible paths

The current paths need to be wider, kept clear from **obstructions** and more clearly defined. They need to connect the important areas in the garden, like the canopy and play area.

The areas with woodchip need to have matting to make a smooth surface for wheelchair users. The matting used should not create extra trip hazards for people using walking sticks. Concrete paths need to be fixed so that they are flat, level and without cracks.

The paths will be **designed** using advice from the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) document on Tactile Paving and 'Paths for All Outdoor **Accessibility** Guidance'.

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** High.

### 2. Accessible toilets

The accessible toilet in the Community Garden is a **Portaloo**. There is an accessible toilet in the park, but it isn't always open, and it is used by non-Disabled people.

The Portaloo is small, with a difficult entrance and has no lights inside.

The Community Garden needs its own accessible toilet, and the park needs a better accessible toilet. This recommendation is in the Redcatch Park Access Plan.

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** High.

### **3. Better play equipment for Disabled children**

The play area in the Community Garden needs to be more inclusive. The sand flooring is not accessible for wheelchair users. The area should have wheelchair friendly flooring, accessible seating for Disabled parents and specific play equipment for Disabled children.

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

### **4. Disability Awareness training for all staff and volunteers**

All staff and volunteers who work at the Community Garden should be given **Disability Equality** or Awareness training. The training will help them understand how they can help Disabled people and carers enjoy the garden.

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** High.

## 5. Planning events with disability awareness in mind

Redcatch Community Garden run a lot of events, but Disabled people and carers don't always know about them. Sometimes it is not clear which events are suitable for different people.

There should be more events for Disabled people and carers, including quieter activities for **neurodivergent** people. All the events need to be advertised to Disabled people and carers, and it needs to be clear who the activities are for.

Some Disabled people and carers do not like using the Community Garden during events because it is busy and overwhelming. It needs to be clear when there are quieter times available, for people that want quieter time and lower stimulation.

**Who:** Redcatch Community Garden,

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## 6. Stop sensory overload at the entrance

The queue for the café reaches across the main entrance to the Community Garden. This makes a physical and **sensory** barrier at the

entrance and can stop people from entering the Garden as it is overwhelming and intimidating.

The café queue should be moved. Arrival makes a big difference to how people feel about a visit, so work will be done on how to make the entrance less busy and more welcoming.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## Medium Priorities

### 1. Wheelchair accessible café hatch

The café is in a trailer that is at eye level for someone standing. This does not work for people who use wheelchairs or mobility scooters.

The café should have a new hatch at the right level for wheelchair users.

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

### 2. Improve the online information about accessibility

Changes will be made to the website so 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. The website 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.

The website says that the pathways and toilets are wheelchair **accessible**, but they are not **accessible** for everyone.

The events should say whether Disabled people and carers are welcome and will be catered for. Information about **accessibility** needs to include photos, show the reality of what is in the park, good and bad, and be kept up to date so that Disabled people and carers can decide whether a visit will work for them. Information should also be available on phone apps such as 'Snowball' which show information about accessibility.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

### 3. Better signage of accessible routes

**Accessible** signs will be put at the entrances to the park, meeting the communication needs of **visually impaired** people (large font), people who need **BSL** and **audio descriptions**. The signs will include information about the size of the park, the different areas of the park that



are accessible, pathways, wildlife and how people can use things in the park, such as the canopy.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

#### 4. Canopy to be more accessible

The canopy where most of the events are held needs a wider ramp that means scooters can turn around. There needs to be space for wheelchair users to turn in the canopy and the sides need to be unzipped so wheelchair users can enter easily. If the sides need to be zipped due to weather, there should be a doorbell so Disabled people can be let in easily.

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

#### 5. Seating

The seating and tables in the café area will be rearranged and more ordered so that wheelchair and mobility chair users can easily move between them. There will be **accessible** tables with wheelchair spaces added and more shaded seating for hot weather. **Accessible** benches

will be added to the allotment area so that people can sit away from the busy area of the garden.

The benches must be **accessible** for people who may struggle to lower themselves or push themselves up.

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** High.

## 6. Handrails for path

Handrails will be added to the paths in the allotment area and near the café to help **people with visual impairments** and **mobility impairments**.

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

## 7. Charging points for mobility scooters

Plug in points for mobility scooters will be introduced so that people travelling longer distances can charge their scooters before going home. This will mean people living further away can confidently visit the garden.

The charging point needs to be a three-pin socket.

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

## 8. Accessible planters

The accessible planters are behind the allotment and canopy.

Some people have said that they thought the space was quiet and would work well for quiet and mindful activities. Some said that the planters were 'hidden' and that you would not feel part of the garden community.

There should be **accessible** planters in the allotment area. There could be **accessible** planters on wheels so that they can be moved around the garden.

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

## Low Priorities

### 1. Entrance gateways

Both gates to the allotment entrance should be opened, to provide a quieter entrance.

Signage should be introduced to let people know there is an extra entrance.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## 2. Larger cafe

The café should be made larger to cater for a wider range of people. A Wheelchair accessible hatch to be included.

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** High.

## 3. Calm and quiet days

There will be advertised times when there are no events in the Garden and people are asked to be quiet.

For **neurodivergent** people or people with **sensory impairments** this will provide quieter time.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## 4. Clearly defined zones or areas

There will be clearly defined areas so that people can get away from crowds and noise when there are events on.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## 5. Signage about event programme

The event programme should be clearly advertised in the Community Garden with colour coding or clear headings for which activities are for who.

The programme will meet the communication needs of people who need **BSL** and **audio descriptions**. It will be clear when activities are suitable for Disabled people and carers.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## 6. Water re-fills

There should be an **accessible** opportunity to refill water bottles and for this to be advertised.

**Cost:** Medium,

**Time:** Medium.

# Nature Priorities

## 1. Nature connection activities

Quiet **nature connection** activities will be introduced. These will be made **accessible** for all Disabled people and carers and will be run when the Community Garden is quietest.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## 2. Food growing activities for children

Activities for Disabled children and young carers will be introduced. This will include improving the **accessibility** of the planters already in the garden and adding others if needed. Vegetables and fruit will be shared with local people.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

# Community Priorities

## 1. Supported play sessions

There will be play sessions with support for parent carers and for children with **Special Educational Needs**. A play worker or staff member will help parents supervise children using the play area in the garden. This will help parent carers build new relationships with other parent carers.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## 2. Workshops and activities for teenagers

There will be events and activities for Disabled teenagers.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## 3. Partner with the Friends of Group to run more activities in the park

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

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

# Health and Wellbeing

## 1. Sensory area

**Sensory planting** will give people different types of experience. If a certain smell or sound makes someone uncomfortable, they will be able to move away from it and still experience something interesting.

[Information from the Sensory Trust](#) will be used to help choose plants that survive well and make a good experience.

Screens will be added to the sensory area to block out noise from the café. There could be signs to ask people to be quiet when using the space and more planting will dampen sounds.

To accommodate for more people to use the sensory area, seating and tables will be moved to make it easier to get around.

**Cost:** Low,

**Time:** Low.

## 2. Mindful and wellbeing sessions for adults

There will be regular mindfulness and wellbeing sessions for Disabled adults and carers.

**Cost:** High,

**Time:** High.

## 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.

**Disability Equality:** when someone is disabled and protected from discrimination.

**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.

**Nature Connection:** activities for disabled people and carers such as guided walks, nature volunteering, and sensory walks.

**Neurodivergence:** the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many ways.

**Obstructions:** anything that blocks the way and stops the area being accessed.

**Portaloo:** A portable or mobile toilet.

**Priorities:** the order to do something, with the most important first.

**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.

**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 **VIs**.

**Sensory planting:** a range of plants and flowers with different smells and textures.

**Special Educational Needs:** a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special education provision to be made for the person

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

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

**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

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