

Our vision is to provide the best parks and green spaces in the UK

Priority 5: Child Friendly

Providing green spaces that children and teenagers love to visit so that they can gain the health, wellbeing and educational benefits of spending time in them.

| Goals | Actions | Timescale | Measuring success | Progress update, Jan 2024 |
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| To have child friendly parks and green spaces | Consult children and teenagers, as well as adults, ahead of making changes to our sites. | Short | Consultations involve children and teens. | We made considerable efforts to consult children and young people during the process of developing community park Plans on a Page for East End park, Burley park and Harehills park in 2023, though this age group (particularly teenagers) have proved quite hard to reach. The most successful approach for these sites was contacting local schools directly and then going in to meet and talk to the children there. |
| To have a wide range of good quality play facilities for children of all ages and abilities across the city | Develop a checklist to allow us to assess the quality and accessibility of our playful spaces. | Short | Checklist in place | All our playgrounds are independently inspected annually to ensure the equipment is safe to use. Our playground's team also check them weekly for this purpose. In addition, in 2022 our contracted playground supplier was commissioned for the first time to undertake an audit of the condition of our playground equipment too - this was completed in Feb 2023 so we now have up to date information about the condition of all our playgrounds. |
| | Audit quantity, location and quality of play facilities across the city so we can prioritise effectively. | Short | Audit complete | Playground quality and accessibility will be assessed in 2024, and, along with the information referred to in the row above, will feed into the development of a new Green Spaces Play Strategy. |
| | Seek external funding for the creation and improvement of green spaces and related facilities for children and teenagers | Ongoing | Number of play facilities on our sites judged to be of good quality | Approximately £1 million of external funding from S106 and match (e.g. CIL, Wellbeing and Veolia) was invested in play facilities this year at locations including Meanwood park, Chapel Allerton park, Woodhouse Moor, Gildersom park and Meadowfield. In addition, a flagship new playground was installed at The Arium and a decision to invest £850k capital funding in a new playground at Lotherton has been made on the basis of a spend to save business case. |
| | Top slice income from our chargeable family visitor attractions to improve access to play facilities in areas where external funding isn't available (often inner city). | Short | | The principle of top slicing has been established and has been included in all recent business cases. The first income to be generated will be from The Arium which opened in June 2023 and, from the 2024-25, financial year a budget will be set aside for providing opportunities for children who might otherwise be unable to do so (e.g. due to poverty), to visit our family attractions |
| To ensure there is suitable provision for teenagers in our parks and green spaces | Undertake consultation to find out what teenagers around the city want from green spaces. | Medium | Consultation complete | Consultations are undertaken locally for new developments and every effort is made to get feedback from teenagers (who are a hard-to-reach group) during these processes - for example, local schools and youth groups are contacted directly for feedback during Plan on a Page consultations. The Council's Voice and Influence team undertook a wide-reaching consultation (involving feedback from 80,000 children and young people) in 2022 on <i>The Children and Young Peoples' Plan</i> and the <i>12 Wishes</i> of children and young people in Leeds and have advised that we use the findings of that consultation to inform our work in future (so, for example, we can work to deliver the wish for <i>more action to protect the environment from climate change</i>). |
| For there to be clear information available on the internet about facilities for children and teenagers in our parks and green spaces. | Provide information about what's available for children and teenagers at green spaces across the city on the internet | Medium | Clear, up to date information provided. | Web content is regularly reviewed with the most popular web pages prioritised. Information about activities and facilities for children and young people at our sites is shared from our social media platforms as appropriate: @leedsparks @templenewsam @tropicalworldleeds @theariumleeds @lotherton. |

Timescales: Short = 1-3 years, Medium = 4-6 years, Long = 7-10 years.