

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

Priority 3: Access for All

Ensuring that parks and green spaces are accessible for everyone who wants to use them.

Goals	Actions	Timescale	Measuring success	Progress update, Jan 2024
Access to our visitor attractions will remain affordable	Discounts on entry to be offered at our visitor attractions for those least able to pay e.g through LeedsCard Extra.	Ongoing	Concessions available	Concessions are available for Leeds Card, Breeze Card and Leeds Card Extra.
All parks and cemeteries & crematoria to be judged as 'good' (score 7) or higher in 'equal access for all' LQP criteria	To develop a process for auditing the accessibility of our sites.	Short	Access audit available to use	In 2023, 53 out of 64 community parks (83%) and 18 out of 25 cemeteries/crematoria (72%) achieved 7 or above for Equal Access for All.
	To undertake an access audit of all city and community parks every 5 years	Long	Record of access audits.	Following the recruitment of an intern for 10 weeks in the summer, the access audit process was developed, researched and consulted on, and audits commenced on the ground. Consultees included the Council's Disability Officer, Disability Champion and EDI Officer along with the Leeds Disability Hub, the Parks & Green Spaces Forum and individual volunteers with an interest in accessible parks. Access audits were undertaken at 20 community parks in 2023 and the outcomes of these are fed into park plans.
	Feed findings from access audits into 'Plan on a Page' for each site.	Long	Access included in all 'Plans on a Page'	Accessibility is considered as part of the process of developing the plans on an ongoing basis.
	Seek and use external funding for access improvements in parks, cemeteries and crematoria.	Ongoing		Access improvements are ongoing, externally funded through S106 and grants such as wellbeing and WBI. For example, in 2023 several externally funded benches were installed, including some Jubilee benches at Calverly, Farnley and Pudsey parks. Other access improvements in 2023 included the installation of handrails, path improvements and the removal of entrance barriers.
	Provide training for relevant Parks and Countryside staff on what makes a green space truly accessible.	Medium	Record of training provided	This is included in the LQP training process and more details will be added to the training in 2024 following further research having been undertaken for the access audits. Anyone undertaking access audits will receive more detailed guidance before commencing work on them.
	Design all new developments to be fully accessible by applying the guidance set out in BS8300 2018 where possible.	Short		This is included in all plans, proposals and briefs e.g. it's in the specification for the Lotherton playground that is currently out for tender.
To ensure our parks and green spaces are welcoming and accessible for older people.	Increase number of disabled parking bays in parks and review bench numbers and locations when putting together plans on a page.	Long	Number of disabled parking bays and park benches.	This has been part of the process of developing the Plans on a Page in 2023 with a need for more accessible benches being included in many of the new plans. Disabled parking bays have been designed in to plans to upgrade golf club car park at Temple Newsam (as part of the proposed new developments there). A representative of the Green Spaces service sits of the <i>Age Friendly Leeds</i> Board.
To continue to provide well maintained, accessible public toilets in all our city parks and the Arium.	Install a Changing Places toilet as part of new developments at Tropical World	Medium	Accessible toilets in all city parks	We have a Changing Places toilet at Temple Newsam and Lotherton and one planned as part of the Home Farm play barn development. A Changing Places toilet is also planned to be included as part of any future developments at Tropical World.
	New city centre park (Aire park) will include accessible public toilets	Short		These are included in the plans for the park which is still under development (by private developers).

To provide correct, up to date and easy to understand information about our sites online.	Get correct, up to date information about all our city parks and the Arium on <i>Euan's Guide</i> website	Short	Information on website	This task has been completed for the Arium, Tropical World, Temple Newsam and Kirkstall Abbey - updates and edits made as necessary. To be entered in 2024 are Golden Acre Park, Lotherton Hall, Otley Chevin and Middleton Park
	Ensure there is good quality information about all our community and city parks, cemeteries and crematoria and local nature reserves available on the internet	Medium	Information on internet	Web content relating to Green Space's services takes place on an ongoing basis with the most popular sites being prioritised for web content.
For our parks and green spaces to feel safe and welcoming for girls and women.	Collaborate on research to find out how safe women and girls feel in our green spaces and how safety might best be improved.	Complete	Research complete	This research is complete and guidance based on it was produced for Green Spaces managers. This was shared widely across the service including through external workshops and conferences and in-house presentations. The findings of the research are now used to inform design and management of green spaces, for example, the guidance is used to inform the Plans on a Page. Related to this, in 2023 funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was allocated to providing facilities for teenage girls (based on the guidance) at Lewisham park with further investment at other sites to come. ACTION COMPLETE
For our parks and green spaces to provide something for all Leeds residents.	Continue to undertake thorough Equality, Diversity and Cohesion Impact Assessments for new developments and major decisions.	Ongoing		The process of undertaking EDCIs for new developments has continued through 2023 with support and oversight from the newly established CEG service EDCI steering group.
To increase the diversity of the workforce in the Parks and Countryside team at every level in the service.	Work with HR to produce and implement a plan for diversifying our workforce through the recruitment process.	Long	Equality characteristics of workforce	A CEG EDCI steering group was established in 2023 to lead on improving Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Inclusion in the service and they have put together, and are working on delivering, an EDCI action plan - this includes actions to achieve the goal of diversifying our workforce.

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