



Welcome to the Queen's Park & Recreation Ground Development Plan consultation

In 2023 Queen's Park Working Group, a community and Council partnership, secured funding to develop ideas to improve the park and recreation ground. Ironside Farrar was appointed to undertake a public consultation, a survey of the park's features and analysis of how it is used. These boards summarise the findings of the questionnaire survey and present the initial ideas for the park.

The next stage will be more detailed exploration of priorities for the park and the preparation of a layout plan and development report for the park. This plan will help shape the future of the park, including the identification of funding opportunities. **Queen's Park Working Group are keen to receive your views on the initial ideas for the park**

Some of the many comments from the 2023 survey:

"I love the balance of more formal grounds facing Victoria Road and more wild woodland on the other side. It's a wonderful variety which you don't get in many other city parks"

"Please add lights to feel safer at night walking through. Add some bike lanes just for commuters."

"The Rec really needs children's play equipment. It is a huge wasted opportunity."

"I love Queen's Park. Living in a flat nearby, it is effectively my garden. I love to walk here most days and my favorite thing is the diversity of trees and watching them change throughout the seasons."



Producing a considered and well supported design requires a balance of site-specific knowledge / analysis, consideration of national and local policy, together with on-going public and stakeholder consultation.

Your input to the design process is welcome



Thank You!

Thank you to those who completed the questionnaire in October 2023, also to those who promoted it within the community. **Over 1,040 people participated**, which may be the largest number of responses received for a comparable park consultation in the UK. The positive response demonstrates the popularity of Queen's Park and its importance to the local community.

- 1040 surveys completed – vast majority were regular park users
- Good representation from all neighbourhoods adjacent to park
- Little variation in response from different neighbourhoods or demographic groups
- Women were more likely to highlight lighting and safety as issues
- The flagpole area, and the views, is the place within park that most people consider of highest value
- Responses have informed an outline project list and an initial zonal plan



Some of the many comments from the 2023 survey:

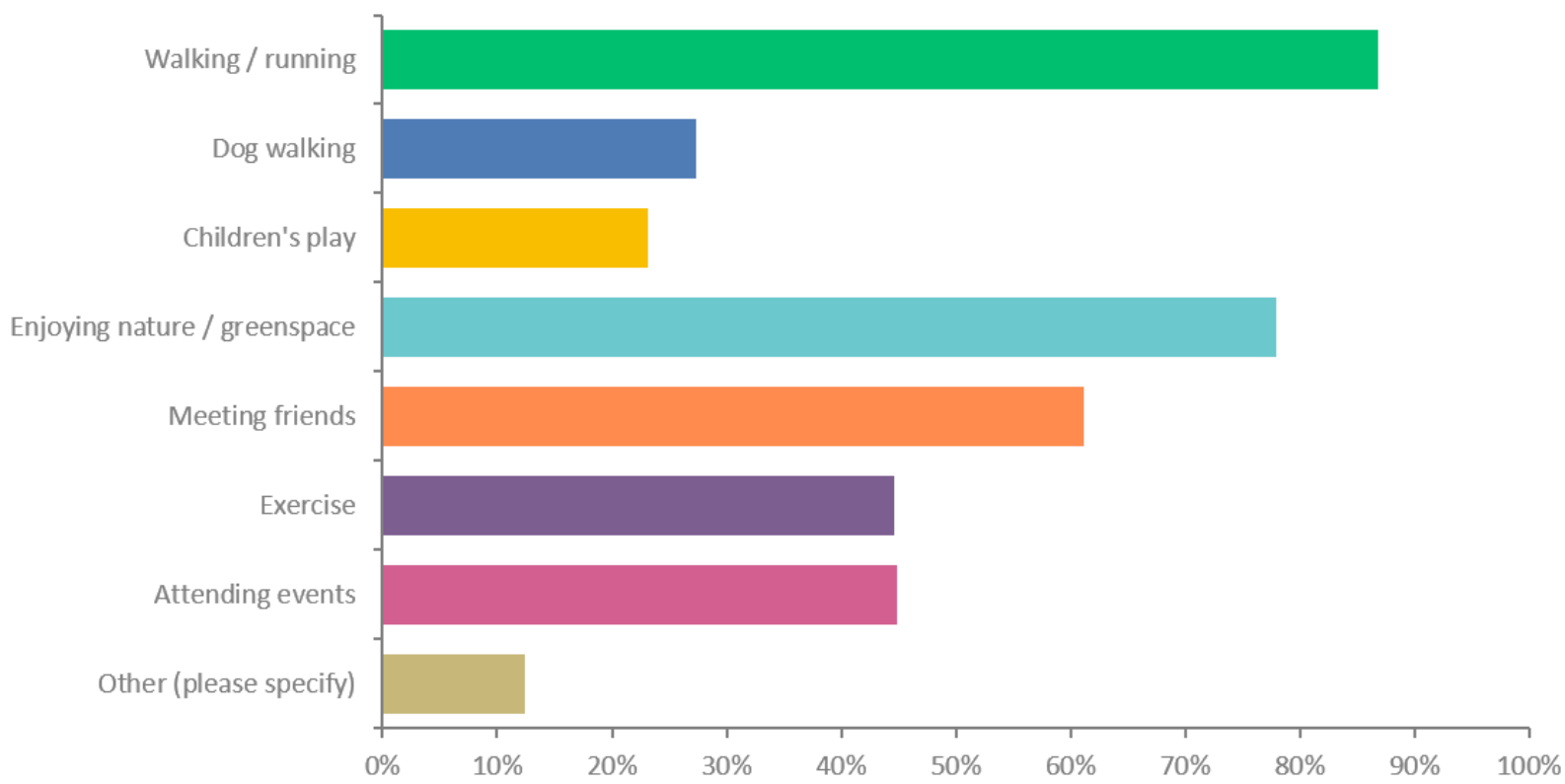
"This park means a lot to me; I go there almost every day and it has saved my mental health many times. Particularly the wild spots near the allotments. I do not know what I would do without it."

"A big group of basketball players use the basketball court. We would really love it if we could have a concrete floor instead of a sand turf one"

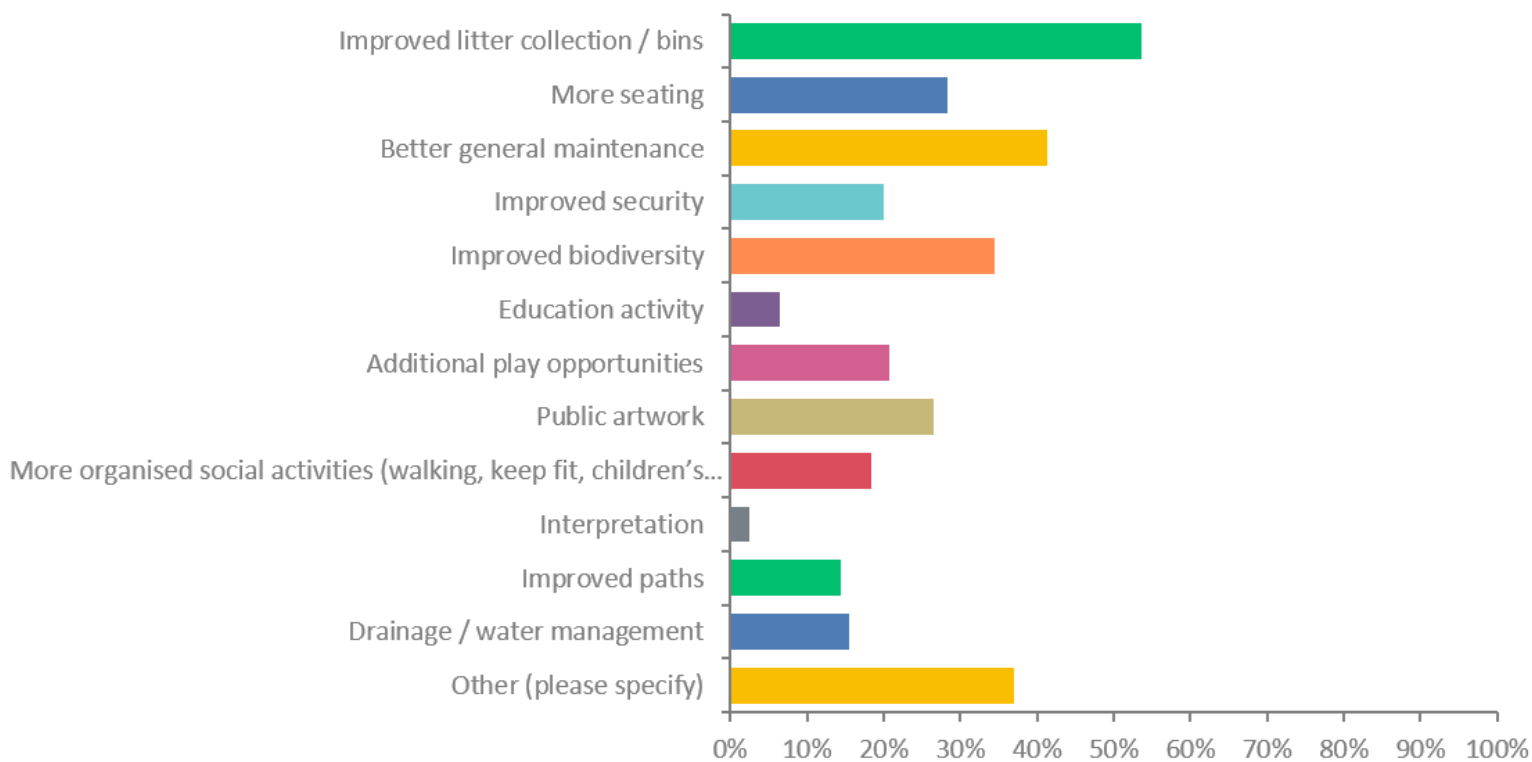
"I like the park as it is. Don't want it to slick. Playpark area is dilapidated. Pond needs maintenance. Love the contrast of the wide-open rec- don't want that filled with street furniture or landscaping."

"Love the park. It's really important to me that the skatepark area in the recs gets some attention ... Seating for families at the edges would be lovely too. When skateparks are built to a certain standard, the people who attend them will continue to take care of them for years to come..."

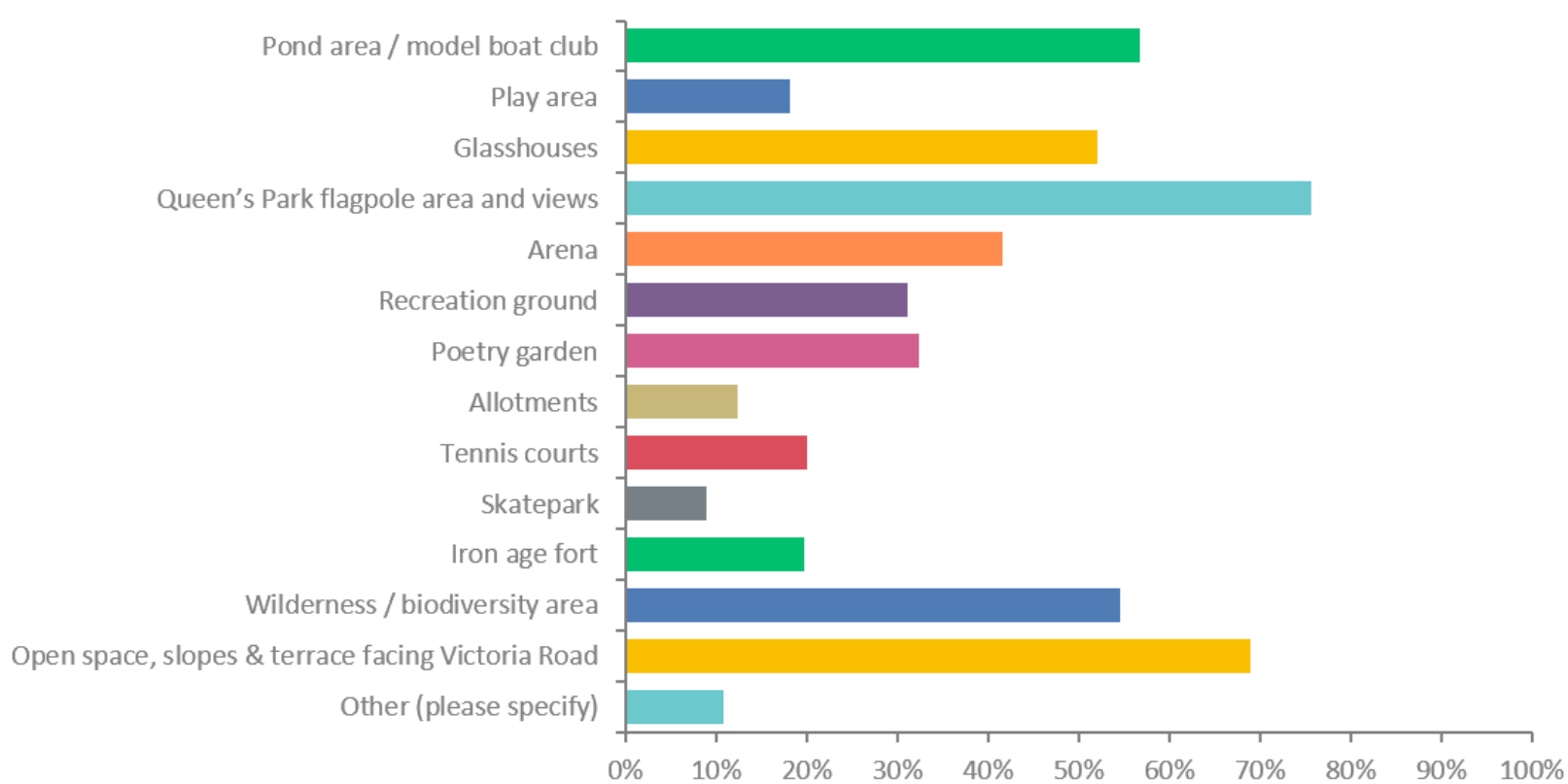
Q1: 1. How do you use Queen's Park? (select all that apply)



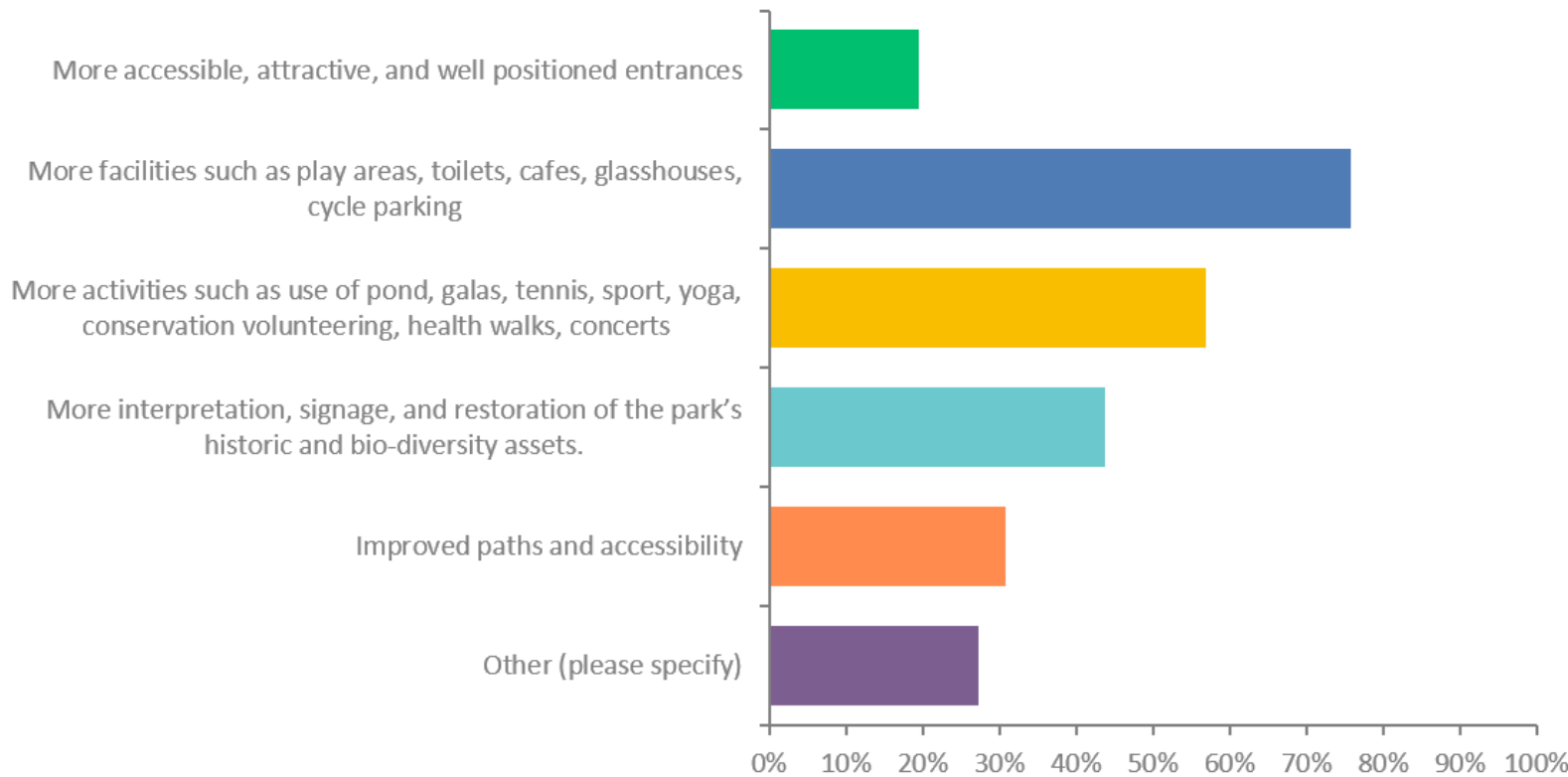
Q4: 4. What 3 improvements to Queen's Park would you particularly like to see? (select your top 3 priorities from the list)



Q3: 3. What features of Queen's Park do you particularly like? (select all that apply)



Q5: 5. What 3 things would encourage you to use Queen's Park more often? (select your top 3 priorities from the list)



Themes for the park emerged through the analysis and consultation process, helping to articulate the development of the park. They provide a framework to ensure that any future proposals meet the needs of the surrounding community.

The themes are tied together by an overarching vision and each theme includes five strands of potential interventions.

Please tell us
what you think.
Is there
anything else
to include?

Vision for the park:

“Queen's Park and Recreation Ground shall be an exceptional, world class, much used and well-loved public park that respects and celebrates its heritage, whilst also meeting the aspirations of existing and future generations.”

Queen's Park and Recreation Ground shall be a **welcoming, friendly and safe place** that invites regular use and provides enriching experiences

- Ensure secure and inviting entrances to the park from nearby communities.
- Promote the use of active transportation along designated routes within the park.
- Install appropriate lighting to enhance safety and encourage positive park use.
- Create diverse spaces within the park to foster social interaction.
- Support the inclusion of facilities offering freely accessible shelter and toilet amenities.

Queen's Park and Recreation Ground shall be a **“dear green place”** that celebrates the rich and diverse heritage of the park and its people

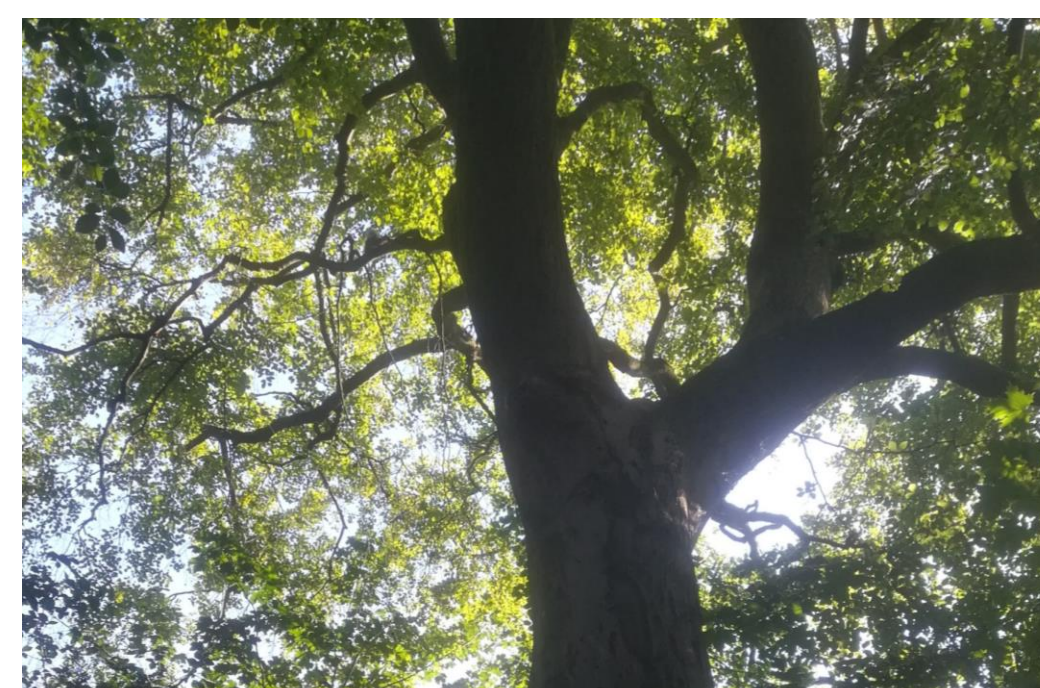
- Preserve and restore all significant elements of the designed landscape.
- Safeguard and improve key perspectives both within and outside the park.
- Provide opportunities for acknowledging and interpreting the park's heritage significance.
- Support the continued flourishing of well-established and popular events and activities.
- Foster the expression of cultural heritage through various means such as planting, play areas, interpretation, events and artistic initiatives.

Queen's Park and Recreation Ground shall be a **resilient, sustainable and biodiverse place** to be enjoyed by future generations

- Eliminate encroaching invasive plants and prioritise planting of climate-resilient species, giving preference to native species where suitable.
- Create opportunities for environmental education and involve the community in planting and park management.
- Implement Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) to reduce flood risks and create habitats.
- Ensure construction materials used are sustainable, durable, and easily repairable.
- Promote sustainable and best-practice management methods to enhance the biodiversity of the park.

Queen's Park and Recreation Ground shall be a **wellbeing place** for all providing space and opportunity for recreation and participation

- Provide opportunities for children's play and education in the widest possible context.
- Provide opportunities for young people to socialise and be physically active in the park.
- Provide spaces that are as multi-functional as possible to maximise recreational use throughout the year.
- Ensure quiet, enclosed spaces that provide opportunities for contemplation are protected / enhanced.
- Ensure that the park provides opportunities for volunteering, training, lifelong learning and helps tackle social exclusion.



The park and recreation grounds have developed as a series of linked spaces, each with distinctive characteristics and opportunities for improvement. These spaces are identified on a zonal plan. The analysis and consultation highlighted the following potential projects for each of the zones. Your views will help shape the development plan for Queen's Park and the recreation ground.

Which projects
do you most
support?
Have we
missed any?



Victoria Road Area

Access Improvements

Improve access to Balvicar Street entrance

Pony Track Pond

Create a SUDS pond feature

Entrance Improvement

Upgrade Victoria Road entrance to park

Permanent Infrastructure around the Arena

Replace temporary units with building



Terrace / Designed Landscape

Reimagine / redesign the terrace

Contemporary planting design along the top of terrace, including restoration of steps.

Restore and reimagine designed landscape

Restore pathways, planting, rockeries etc. Include artworks to help provide a loop that encourages movement southwards



Ponds and Play

Lit promenade – a “window” into park

Atmospheric lighting of pond and associated areas to encourage evening use

Hidden path restoration

Restore paths within designed landscape - restore bridge, icehouse and bog garden

New Boathouse

Create a building that includes boathouse together with other facilities – such as café

Balvicar Street themed play area

Redesign a a high-quality play experience



Langside Avenue Landscape

Langside Hall Entrance

Transform entrance to emphasise importance

Bothy building

New use for bothy, emphasising importance of entrance adjacent to Langside Halls

Play landscape

Create opportunities for informal play

Horticultural improvements

Enhance the remaining elements of the walled garden and designed landscape



Wilderness

Bluebell woods

Manage beech woods, remove rhododendron and plant native bluebells

Wetland creation

Create wetland pockets on hillside to manage water run-off and enhance bio-diversity

Viewpoint restoration

Manage woodland to ensure key views are retained / enhanced

Path – steps towards earthworks

Improve access along original alignment

Habitat improvements

Remove non-native and plant native plants

Allotments

Path south allotments connectivity

Create path between rear of glasshouse complex and allotments



Meadow

Play improvements

Reappraise play area and location

Localised habitat improvements

Targeted enhancement of wildflower grassland following ecological assessment



Courts and Games

Reimaging bowling greens

Provide new sporting activity based on demand

Provide additional balls court

Ensure demand for both informal football and basketball are addressed appropriately

Pitch and putt connections

Retain as open space, remove fencing and improve connection with farm



Flagpole and Encampment

Landmark reimagination

Refurbishment of flagpole area, possibly including sculptural element as a park landmark

Path improvements and interpretation

Improve circuit around earthworks



Recreation Ground

Centrepiece event space

Create an attractive event space for new uses, whilst also providing recreational amenity

New skatepark

Create new skate facility – closer to New Victoria

Environmental play area

Provide an exciting natural play area – potentially incorporating existing woodland / embankment

High quality path network

Formalise existing paths from Mount Florida/ New Victoria, adjusting levels to improve accessibility

Feature entrance

Create strong feature entrance to the east

Park Connection Landside Avenue

Provide a design feature that links and integrates the park and recreation ground

Pond and wetland creation

Create pond and wetland close to skatepark



Glasshouse

New grand entrance from Battlefield Monument

Steps and ramps to provide dramatic and accessible access to Glasshouse

Refurbish and reimagine Glasshouse

Provide high quality daytime visitor experience and flexible space to host functions / events etc.

Repurpose yard space

Building expansion - exhibition/ education space/ community growing space. Form second access to glasshouse for evening use / better access.



Pathhead Farm

Repurpose farm buildings to provide park facility

Potential for public or other use of some element of farm buildings and adjacent yard space

Create public face to eastern pathway

Improve setting / views across pitch and putt

