

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



- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| | Highly accessible from adjacent community | | Highly accessible entrance | | Visually strong entrance |
| | Reasonably accessible from adjacent community | | Generally accessible entrance | | Partially Strong Entrance |
| | Poorly accessible from adjacent community | | Poorly accessible entrance | | Visually Weak Entrance |
| | Desire line entrances | | | | |



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:

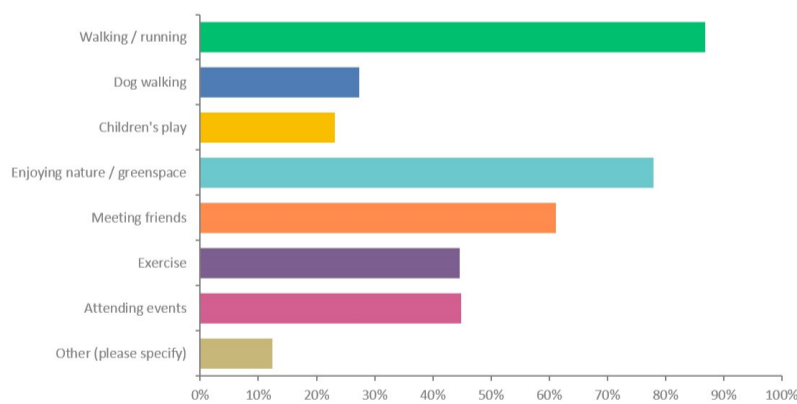
"This park means a lot to me; I go there almost every day and it has saved my mental health many times. Particularly the wild spots near the allotments. I do not know what I would do without it."

"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"

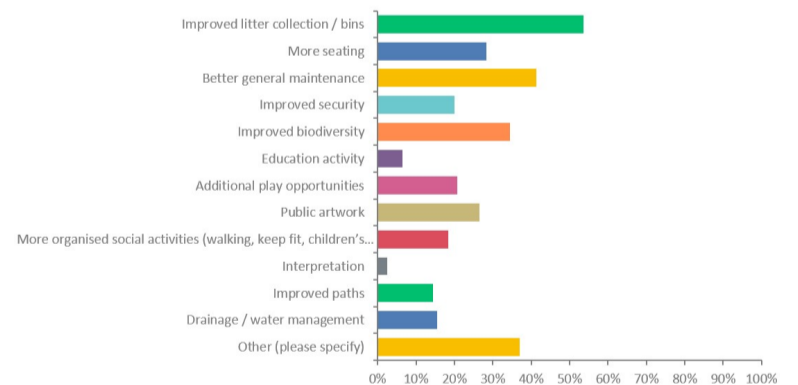
"I like the park as it is. Don't want it to slick. Playpark area is dilapidated. Pond needs maintenance. Love the contrast of the wide-open rec- don't want that filled with street furniture or landscaping."

"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..."

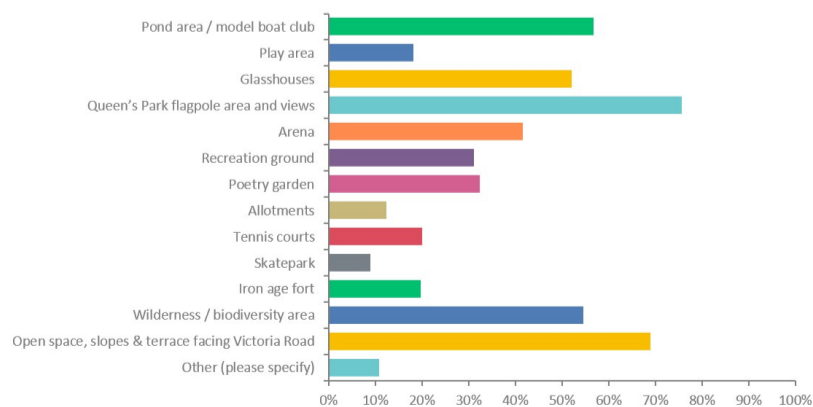
Q1: 1. How do you use Queen's Park? (select all that apply)



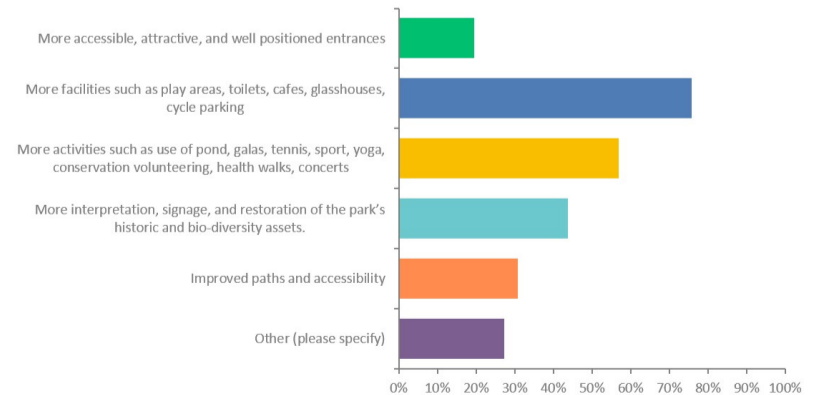
Q4: 4. What 3 improvements to Queen's Park would you particularly like to see? (select your top 3 priorities from the list)



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

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

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

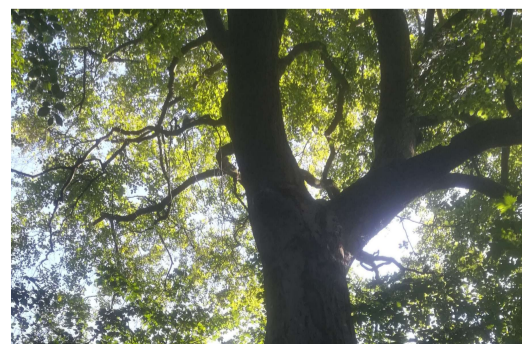
Queen’s Park and Recreation Ground shall be a **wellbeing place** for all providing space and opportunity for recreation and participation

- 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.

- 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.

- 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.

- 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 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

