



**A POSITIVE FUTURE FOR BRISTOL'S PARKS AND GREEN SPACES**  
**BRISTOL PARKS FORUM'S DRAFT VISION FOR 2030 AND BEYOND**

Consultation version – 21<sup>st</sup> September 2018

**The background to the statements in the Vision, taken from discussions in the Forum for information (not part of the Vision):**

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Explanation/Discussions</b>
<b>General – can more detail about what should be happening with each space be provided – eg: Celebration means, protection means....</b>	We had set ourselves 2 sides of A4 to be the limit the text of the Vision statement. Because of the individual nature of each park and green space and the surroundings, general statements have been made to allow parties to explore what is meant by this in their situation.
<b>Outstanding in South West of England in terms of quantity and quality</b>	We are aiming high and positively.
<b>Available to everyone in all areas of the City</b>	Not all of Bristol has green spaces, and some areas have only a few spaces.
<b>Enhancing the physical and mental health and well-being of people</b>	Research increasingly shows that time spent in formal and informal parks and green spaces has this effect.
<b>Hubs of activity for local communities where people are empowered</b>	There is potential for spaces to expand their use by local communities. Spaces could be a place where local people can develop new skills.
<b>Free to access for everyone</b>	This is critical to all spaces if there are to be benefits for all users. Charging for specific activities within spaces, depends on the situation involved.
<b>Recognised for their value to the City</b>	Spaces are recognised by many parties for their value – but this recognition needs to be across more decisions. It is not just about money, or numbers of users, how a space looks, but the deep links between people and their space as well. With an increasing population, increasing housing densities; and changing weather – green spaces will be needed more than ever to let people get away from pressures.

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Explanation/Discussions</b>
<b>Places where wildlife thrives</b>	Spaces provide one of the best ways for people to experience wildlife – and our spaces can be the habitat for species which are rarer in Bristol or elsewhere. Spaces linked properly can become corridors for wildlife.
<b>Places where our heritage can be explored</b>	Spaces provide opportunities to explore historical and cultural features. They can provide opportunities to learn about the history of local communities.
<b>Listening and responding to the views of those with an interest in the parks and green spaces</b>	Over half a million people either do, or have the potential to use green spaces in Bristol – they live nearby, travel through, or rest and relax in them. We cannot represent those people but we can ask for their views and try and respond.
<b>Ensuring that parks and green spaces can be protected from inappropriate development or use</b>	Green spaces for the reasons above are critical. Changes in the extent and/or character of a site can be beneficial or conversely have a negative effect. Planning based protection needs to be strengthened in the way that spaces are considered as having the same status as other infrastructure.
<b>Ensuring that everyone can have access to a good quality green space</b>	Everyone should be able to access green spaces, although the characteristics of some areas may make accessing them more challenging.
<b>Collaborating with others</b>	Many initiatives from the Forum and others could provide mutual benefits to different parties. With decreases in funding from traditional sources new ways to win funding have to be devised.
<b>Campaigning for a legal duty to ensure spaces are managed to a good standard</b>	Without a legal requirement there is a risk that spaces become underfunded, maintenance changes, they become unloved; and then lost as people will not visit and use them.
<b>Encouraging and enabling more people and groups to get involved in their spaces</b>	We need to look for new ways to enable this to happen, for groups that are less associated with spaces. Initiatives with other organisations may be one way of achieving this.
<b>Ensuring that there are resources to maintain, manage and enhance spaces</b>	Without this the value to people and wildlife of our spaces will decline, leading to a lack of use and potentially their permanent loss. New ways of working together need to be found and refreshed over time (eg: Parkwork, Bristol Parks Foundation). If achieved this will help other initiatives – (eg: walking and cycling, healthy living and Bristol as the UK greenest city).

<b>Statement</b>	<b>Explanation/Discussions</b>
<b>Protecting and enhance wildlife and heritage</b>	As the explanations above for wildlife and heritage.
<b>Celebrating what we have, and are going to, achieve</b>	We don't celebrate what we do – or plan to do - enough. Each space will have their own story and ways of celebrating that.

**LINKS BETWEEN DESCRIPTION OF 2030 – and HOW WE WISH TO ACHIEVE 2030 (not part of the Vision).**

Numbers refer to these points:

- 1) **Listening and responding to the views of those with an interest in the parks and green spaces**
- 2) **Ensuring that parks and green spaces can be protected from inappropriate development or use**
- 3) **Ensuring that everyone can have access to a good quality green space**
- 4) **Collaborating with others**
- 5) **Campaigning for a legal duty to ensure spaces are managed to a good standard**
- 6) **Encouraging and enabling more people and groups to get involved in their spaces**
- 7) **Ensuring that there are resources to maintain, manage and enhance spaces**
- 8) **Protecting and enhancing wildlife and heritage**
- 9) **Celebrating what we have, and are going to, achieve**

Outstanding in South West of England in terms of quantity and quality	<b>All of the points</b>
Available to everyone in all areas of the City	<b>1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7</b>
Improve the physical and mental health and well-being of people	<b>3,4,5,6,7,8,9</b>
Hubs of activity for local communities where people are empowered	<b>1,3,4,6,9</b>
Free to access for everyone	<b>2,3,4,6,7</b>
Recognised for their value to the City	<b>1,4,7,9</b>
Places where wildlife thrives	<b>1,2,4,8,9</b>
Places where our heritage can be explored	<b>1,2,4,8,9</b>

For further information: [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/vision](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/vision)