

Bristol Fair Play Pathfinder Project

In 2007 Bristol Parks and Bristol Youth and Play Services was successful in submitting a winning bid for £2.6 million of funding from the Department of Children, Schools and Families to invest in improving over 30 play areas and to deliver new play initiatives across Bristol.

Our original bid proposed a 3 year capital works delivery programme however DCSF were only able to grant 2 years for the capital investment programme, requiring us to build 12 sites and spend nearly £800,000 of DCSF funding by the end of year 1 and to build 20 sites and spend £1.5 million of DCSF funding by the end of year 2. It's a very challenging investment programme with a very compressed delivery period and tight government targets. Needless to say this has prevented the delivery process from being as smooth or as unhurried as we would have wished. However the opportunity to invest such a large sum of 'free' funding to significantly improve play opportunities for children and young people across Bristol has been too important an opportunity to miss.

Year 1: 2008-2009

By the time our grant was confirmed we only had 10 months left of year 1 adding to the challenge to deliver £582,000 of DCSF capital grant funding on improving 12 play sites by March 31st 2009 (or less the funding we didn't spend). Bristol Parks added another £338,000 of match funding to this to create a total of £920,000 to be invested in new play facilities in Bristol in year 1.

What did we achieve in year 1?

We invested £200,000 in improving play facilities and opportunities at Felix Road, Lockleaze, Southmead and Windmill Hill adventure playgrounds.
We invested £140,000 in creating a new play garden at Hengrove Play Park a key Bristol destination play park.
We invested £120,000 in increasing the range of play opportunities at the Blaise Castle Estate play area, another key Bristol destination park.
We invested £105,000 in creating a completely new local play area at Kings Head Lane Park in Blispheworth.
We also invested £425,000 in rebuilding 4 other local play areas at Canford Park, Cottle Road, St George's Park and Victory Park as well as improving play opportunities at Avonmouth.
We successfully spent all of our year 1 grant by the grant deadline!

Not a bad achievement for 10 months!



Year 2: 2009-2010

We are now half way through year 2 of the Pathfinder programme, in which we have to spend £1,547,000 of DCSF capital grant funding on improving play sites before March 31st. Bristol Parks has also added £362,000 of its own match funding to this as well as successfully attracting £280,000 of match funding from the Big Lottery and £161,000 of match funding from Community @ Heart, creating a total sum of £2.25 million to be invested in new play facilities in Bristol in year 2.

What have we already achieved in year 2?

We have already completed 4 sites investing:

- £131,000 creating a completely new play area in Gores Marsh Park including other improvements to the park.
- £85,000 extending and improving the existing play area at Hillfields Park.
- £70,000 creating a completely new local play area in Withywood Park.
- £35,000 creating new play facilities at Wilmott Park.

Troopers Hill (Yr 2)



What have we left to do in the remaining 6 months of year 2?

Quite a lot! We will be investing:

- £510,000 creating exciting new play facilities at St Agnes Park and St Paul's Adventure Playground including park improvements linked by a new communal public space.
- £391,000 building a new play area at Oldbury Court Estate a key destination park.
- £85,000 rebuilding Arnos Court Park play area.
- £35,000 improving play facilities at Begbrook Park.
- £35,000 improving existing play facilities on Brandon Hill.
- £85,000 creating a new play area at Gainsborough Square.
- £85,000 creating a new play area at Hartcliffe Millennium Green.
- £80,000 creating a new play area at Lamplighters Open Space.
- £211,000 creating a new play area at Netham Park and other general improvements to the park.
- £80,000 improving the existing play area at Owen Square Park.
- £130,000 rebuilding the existing play area at Rawnsley Park and other general improvements to the park.
- £108,000 improving the existing play facilities at St Andrew's Park.
- £10,000 adding to the play opportunities at Trooper's Hill Field.
- £70,000 providing new play facilities at Victoria Park.

What else is Pathfinder doing?

Pathfinder is also investing £100,000 of DCSF revenue grant to fund a YPS led Play Watch and Play Training programme to create a comprehensive play network of professional, voluntary and community sector involvement and support for the delivery of play across Bristol. The first 6 Play Watch pilot schemes facilitating local residents and volunteers to get involved with helping children and young people to make best use of their new play facilities are now running on Pathfinder sites.

Pathfinder has also funded the creation of a new website created by YPS called www.goplacestoplay where families and children can find details of Bristol's new pathfinder play sites.

If you would like further information on the Pathfinder Project please contact: Mark Gundry, Bristol Pathfinder Programme Manager, Bristol Parks - Tel 0117 9223502 / Email: mark.gundry@bristol.gov.uk



D:\ETL-Common\Play Pathfinders Project\header_bg.JPG



department for
children, schools
and families