

Appendix 5: Accessibility

Asset Management Plan

Purpose

There are two models for how society extends opportunities to disabled people. The medical model recognises the needs of disabled people but views these as medical conditions which place limitations upon people. The Social Model, which the council follows, places the emphasis on society to improve opportunities for disabled people emphasising inclusive policies and practice. The Equality Act (1995) also sets out the council's responsibility to provide equal service in parks and greenspaces.

This document is intended to outline adjustments that could be made or procedures that could be implemented by the council and its partners to make the borough's parks and green spaces as accessible as it can to as many people as possible. The needs of disabled people and how to make the park more accessible should be considered in every stage of parks development and maintenance. Therefore, this document provides guidance on the measures that officers should consider when implementing scheme or advising contractors.

Introduction: Scope (what does it include), how it is intended to be used

Everyone should have the opportunity to enjoy natural spaces but things such as poorly maintained paths, over complicated and poorly written signs and inaccessible equipment place barriers for disabled people.

The document lists key areas where modifications may need to be made, or it is recommended should be made, to make the experience of visiting a park more comfortable and convenient for people with a range of physical, sensory, learning and cognitive impairments. The guideline and advice contained in this document aims to remove or limit any barriers to access by looking at all aspects of parks such as pathways, play areas, buildings in parks and facilities to see what can be done better.

Facilities and design

Recommendation	Purpose of Recommendation	Potential beneficiaries
Create walking tunnels free of overhanging branches and trip hazards	Safe walking routes	People with visual impairments
Resting points, benches or leaning posts, should be at 100m intervals or more frequently on steep gradients	to aid people to explore more of the park	People with mobility difficulties or respiratory conditions.
Tactile pavements could be used across paths at points of interest/significant areas or where there is seating.	Highlight facilities or	People with visual impairments
Inclusive apparatus in playgrounds And outdoor gyms should be considered from the design point.	increase opportunities for disabled people	People with physical and sensory disabilities

onwards. Review current apparatus to see if accessible alternatives can be introduced.

Accessible toilets should be available Changing Places toilets are desirable	Allow people to spend longer in parks	People with severe disabilities and their Families
Optimum viewing height should be considered for all signage	make signage visible to all	People with visual impairments or in wheelchairs or mobility scooters
access to facilities such as sport courts should be a level ground and wide enough for mobility scooters and wheelchairs to pass through	enable entrance to sports courts and facilities	people in wheelchairs and with mobility disabilities
There should be blue badge/ accessible parking spaces. Ideally within 50m of amenities such as formal crossing, cafes and toilets	Easier access to parks for disabled people	Many people with a range of disabilities
All buildings should have level access. Ramp access and steps would be best practice as would power assisted doors.	Easier access to buildings	People with mobility disabilities

Management and operations

Recommendation	Purpose of Recommendation	Potential beneficiaries
Create walking tunnels free Of overhanging branches and trip hazards	Safe walking routes	People with visual impairments
Colour contrast on step edges and handrails on steps	Safe accessible steps	People with visual impairments
Sensory planting	Enhance experience of visitors and aid orientation	People with visual impairments
Tactile pavements could be used across paths at points of interest or where there is seating.	Highlight facilities or significant areas	People with visual impairment
There should be blue badge/ accessible parking spaces. Ideally within 50m of amenities such as formal crossing, cafes and toilets	Easier access to parks for disabled people	Many people with a range of disabilities

Activities and behaviour

Recommendation	Purpose of Recommendation	Potential beneficiaries
Run taster days and events people with disabilities and sign language interpretation	engage disabled people	Various groups but for especially those with include hearing impairments
access to facilities such as sport courts should be a level ground and wide enough for mobility scooters and wheelchairs to pass through	enable entrance to sports courts and facilities	people in wheelchairs and with mobility disabilities

Marketing and communications

Recommendation	Purpose of Recommendation	Potential beneficiaries
Highlight level, accessible routes on Site plans and finger posts	show accessible routes	People with limited mobility or physical disabilities
Information and way making signs should be clear, concise and consistent	easy to understand and accessible to a range of people	Deaf people, people with learning difficulties including dyslexia
Information should be available in a range of formats including easy read braille and audio	Making information accessible to as many visitors as possible	People with hearing or visual impairments
Disabled people should be actively involved in consultations with co-ordinated outreach to work with the disabled community.	Allow disabled people to have an input into parks development	All people with disabilities
Tactile site plans or maps (which could be posted to people who are visually impaired) to highlight accessible routes and points of interest	show accessible routes and allow independence	People with visual impairments
It should be made clear that guide/ assistant dogs are allowed inside park building. Signage should be used to show this.	Access support	People with guide/ assistant dogs.