



# **Bishopbriggs Park**

RIBA Design Stage 3 – Park Masterplan

October 2023



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# 01 Introduction - Summary

## Design Summary RIBA Stage 1 – Appendix A

To ascertain the parks character and use, analysis and site visits were conducted to gain insight into the Bishopbriggs Park during this project stage. Key findings should understand and utilise the unique qualities of place and enhance the parks natural and existing characteristics to develop a place responsive design. Key issues were deduced as: lack of access and connectivity to town centre, gateways to the park are not accessible to all users, levels and barriers create issues with access for all and the park does not encourage increased time spend due to lack of facilities and features. These points were taken into the Stage 1 design for consultation and key interventions agreed at the preliminary design stages.

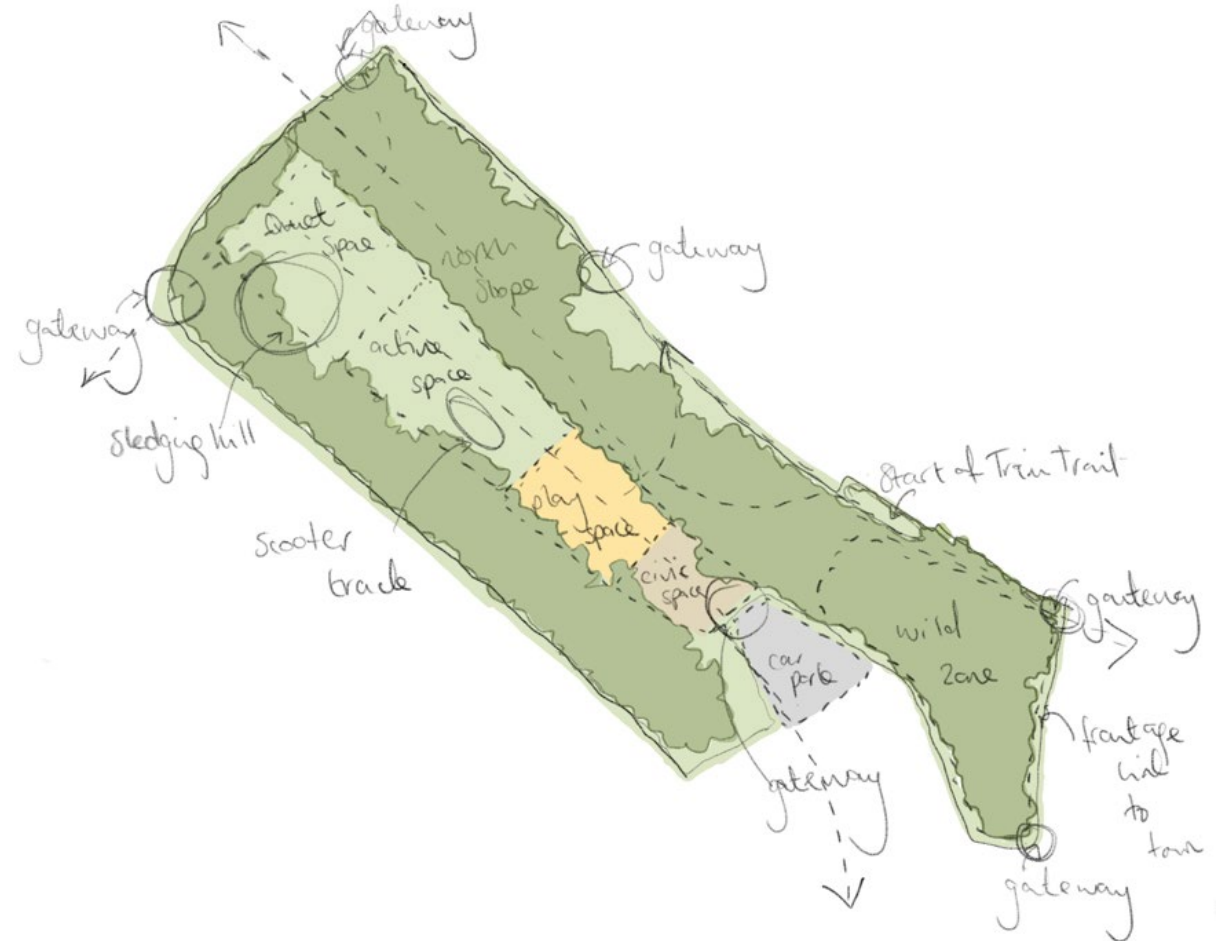
## Design Summary RIBA Stage 2 – Appendix B

The Stage 1 zoning plans were shared with internal and external/ statutory and non-statutory stakeholders and the team gained significant knowledge and feedback on the current uses of the park and the barriers to its current uses. At Stage 2 the team developed the park aims and design principals under the main themes of Connect, Explore and Adapt. These themes allow for a place responsive design to the issues Bishopbriggs Park is currently facing in a meaningful and creative manner. The Stage 2 zoning plan was agreed with the design team and allowed development of the Stage 3 plan.

Three key themes: **Connect**  , **Explore**  and **Adapt**  .

## Design Summary RIBA Stage 3

In order to develop the Stage 3 plan, the design team utilised the key project aims and design principals agreed at Stage 2 to develop a nature-based play destination park for all, details are described in the following report.



# 02 Summary - Key Aims and Objectives

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## Design Aims – General

In order to deliver the park design and development, working with the principals the following aims have been developed.

## Design Principal Themes

Three key themes: **Connect** , **Explore**  and **Adapt**  .

## Design Aims

- LA1** Link into open and urban space network to integrate the park into the urban fabric
- LA2** Deliver a 'destination' park for all ages and abilities
- LA3** Outdoor space for multiple uses/ events
- LA4** Increase accessibility to support mental health and well-being by developing a park which encourages people to walk and interact while functioning as a social meeting space
- LA5** Deliver an ecologically responsive design increasing biodiversity and creating wildlife habitat
- LA6** In addition to destination play, provide alternative 'play' opportunities throughout to provide inclusive and sensory 'play'
- LA7** Establish functional yet aesthetically pleasing external perimeter and internal boundaries
- LA8** Reducing anti-social behaviour or perceived anti-social behaviours through increasing the number of people utilising the park by walking or cycling in the public realm
- LA9** Improve rainwater management to increase biodiversity
- LA10** Deliver a design which can serve a number of functions, adapting to different uses while promoting a range of benefits such as biodiversity, flood control or environmental education.
- LA11** Minimise carbon footprint and maximise sustainability within the park

# 03 Masterplan Zoning

## Stage 3 Park Masterplan

Initial park layouts and features are located as discussed with East Dunbartonshire Council - March 2023, the plan highlights where these features are on the plan as developed from the RIBA Stage 2 plan issued May 2023.

## Areas

The plan zones can be quantified in areas below and rounded up to nearest meter.

Civic Space: 34x15m (510m<sup>2</sup>)

Destination Play: 116x30m (3480m<sup>2</sup>)

Active Play: 105x45m (4725m<sup>2</sup>)

Climate resistant rain gardens and Bishopbriggs Burn SuDS Garden: 229x11(2350m<sup>2</sup>)

## Northern Woodland Trails from Town Centre through Park

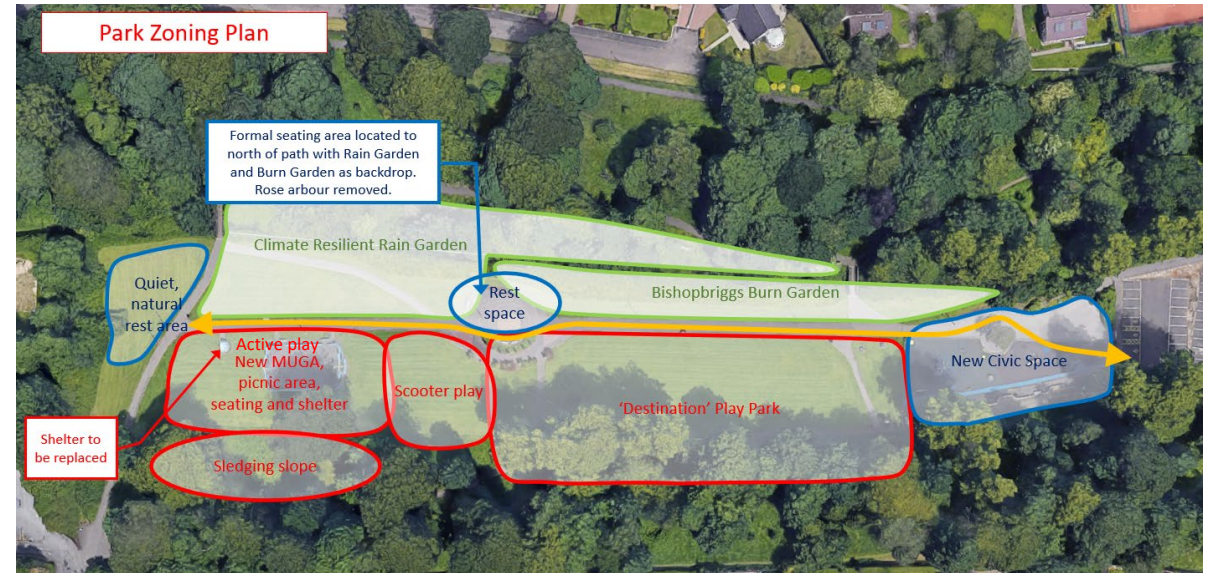
Fairy Trail: 265m

North Trail: 700m

Exercise Trail: 1000m

## Southern Woodland Trail through Park to Town Centre

Woodland Rough Terrain Trail: 1400m





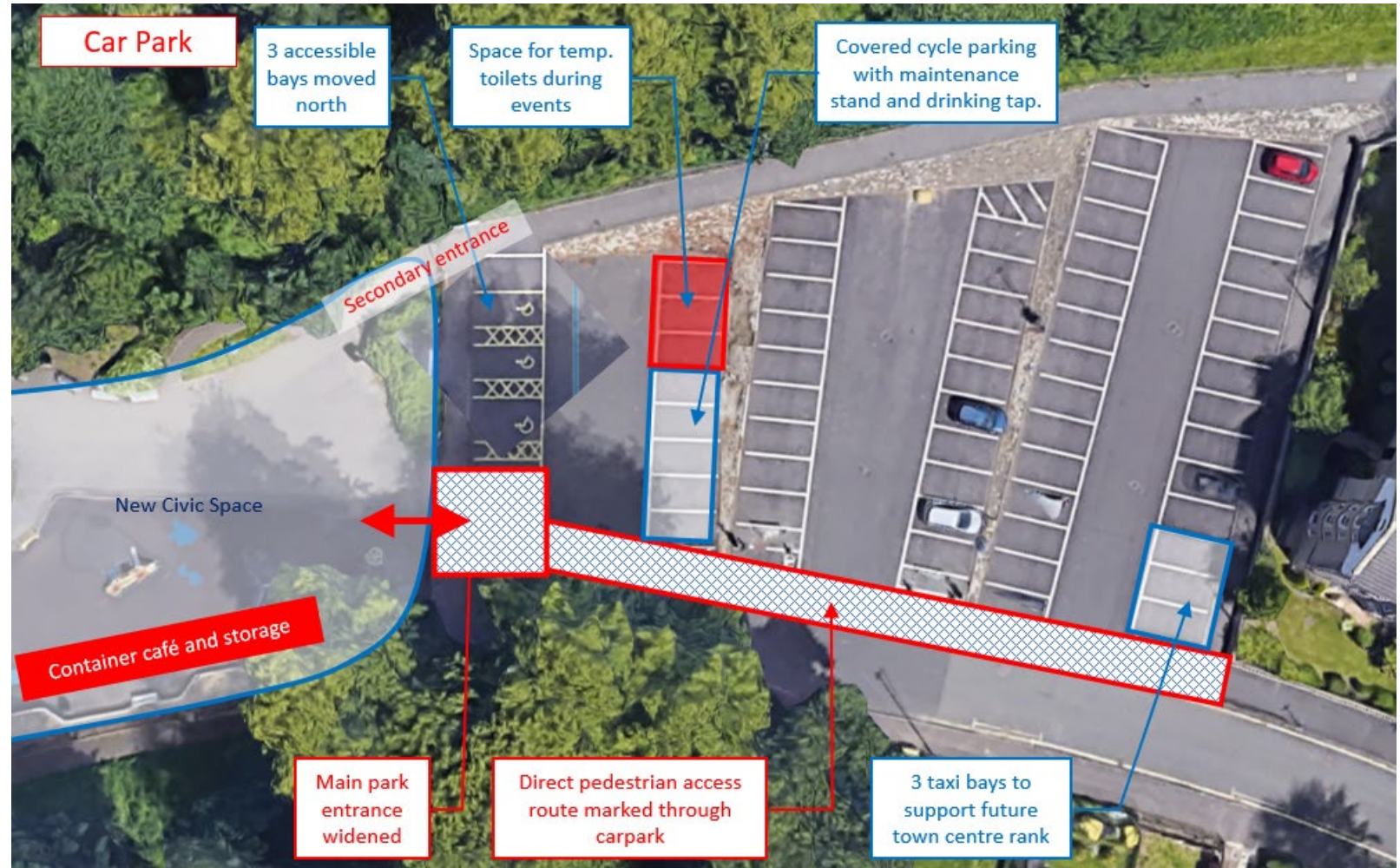
# 04 Car Park

## Stage 3 Park Masterplan – Car Park

Initial park layouts and features are located as discussed with East Dunbartonshire Council - March 2023, the zoning plan highlights where these features could be located as issued September 2023.

Additions could include:

- Toilets for events
- Covered cycle-hub/ parking with maintenance station
- Entrance hierarchy to suit walking, cycling and scooting etc with direct access through car park
- Entrance widened
- Secondary entrance



Stage 3 Zoning Plans



# 05 Civic Space

## Civic Space - Initial Design

In order to deliver the flexible and functionable civic space, the space utilises existing hard landscaping and is located next to the park entrance at the car park area. This space will require a temporary solution for an interim period after the play park is relocated to the north, and before funding becomes available for detailed design proposals and subsequently construction funds. The temporary use of the space can be observed and tested and could subsequently inform the next stage of design work. The civic space could provide a gather space to allow for community activities to take place such as farmers markets and summer fetes. Scottish Water 'Top-up Tap' for drinking water.

The civic space should function as:

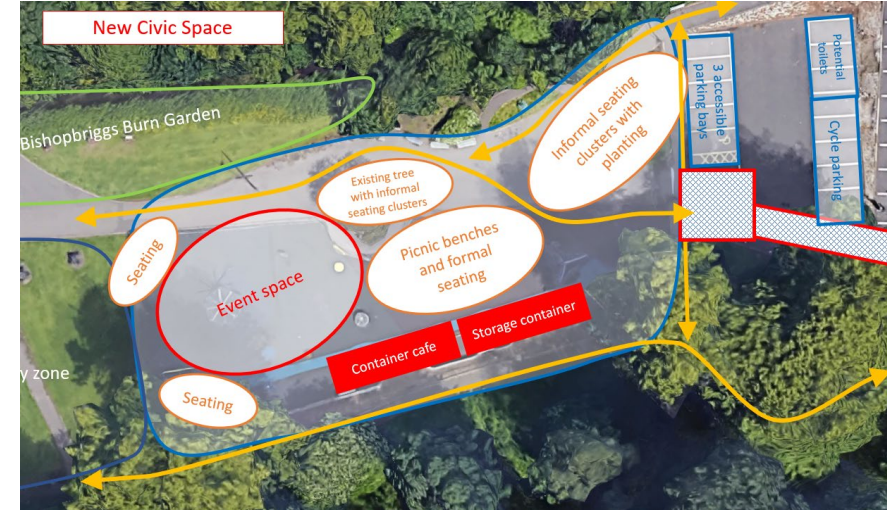
- Key arrival/ orientation space
- Flexible zone
- Gathering area
- Future container café/ toilets
- Performance area
- Community event space
- Seating and rest spaces

## Paving, Kerbs and Edges

- High quality paving treatment to the area with buff and grey colours to shared surface areas for the rest space associated with the café and flexible space to the south.
- Small setts size to encourage the feeling of rest and define spaces to slow down, not to act as a throughfare or movement corridor.

## Planters and Lighting

- Raised planters to provide protection for existing and proposed trees in the space. Proposed trees to be small/ medium specimen trees to catch the eye and lead the visitor into/ through the space and provide informal additional 'perch' seating during events.
- Uplighting provided in the form of solar or wired in options, to add dimension and height to the park and activate the vertical green backdrop.



Provide sense of arrival and departure  
Increases time spent in the park  
Incorporate high quality materials and design  
Provide outdoor public space for community use

# 05 Civic Space Landscape Palette

## Hard Landscape Civic Area Palette

The hard landscaping palette should provide future-proof, hard wearing materials and where possible, should be porous and low maintenance. The materials below suggest the quality expected within the park civic space. The use of neutral tones allows the hard landscaping to become the backdrop for events and general life within the park.

## Principals

Materials should be robust and cohesive and provide a hierarchy of hard materials which serve function and aesthetics. Materials should be high quality and resist moss and mildew build up in wetter areas.



Granite Setts (75x75mm)



Buff Concrete Setts (200x100mm)



Grey Concrete Setts (200x100mm)



Seating with back and armrests



Solar Lights



Porous Resin Bound Gravel



Recycled Concrete Upstand Kerb



Concrete Pin Kerb



# 05 Planting Palette – Civic Soft Landscape

## Planting Palettes

The planting palettes for the project outline key species to be considered for the different planting types across the parks. The soft landscape combined shall deliver multi-functional areas of planting and green spaces across the sites that will provide visual amenity, create a green and resilient environment, provide unique character to the public realm, and enhance wildlife and improve local biodiversity.

## Shrub Planting Palette

The herbaceous shrub planting palette can be utilised as a low maintenance alternative to traditional ground cover in the public realm. The mix acts as a structural backdrop to civic spaces throughout the park.



*Betula utilis jacquemontii*



*Prunus avium*

Ornamental Herbaceous Shrub Mix			
Species (Latin)	Common Name	Application	Specification
<i>Festuca glauca</i> 'Elijah Blue'	Blue Fescue	Front of Bed	3L Full Pot, Containerised, 3 per meter sq
<i>Oenothera sinuosa</i>	Wavy Leaf Evening Primrose	Back of Bed	5L Full Pot, Containerised, 2 per meter sq
<i>Festuca glauca</i> 'Blaufuchs'	Blue Fox	Middle of Bed	3L Full Pot, Containerised, 3 per meter sq
<i>Rudbeckia</i> var.	Cone Flower	Middle of Bed	3L Full Pot, Containerised, 3 per meter sq
<i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i>	Fountain Grass	Back of Bed	5L Full Pot, Containerised, 2 per meter sq
<i>Verbascum bombyciferum</i>	Giant Mullein	Back of Bed	5L Full Pot, Containerised, 2 per meter sq
<i>Verbascum olympicum</i>	Olympian Mullein	Middle of Bed	3L Full Pot, Containerised, 3 per meter sq
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Hair Grass	Middle of Bed	3L Full Pot, Containerised, 3 per meter sq
<i>Stipa calamagrostis</i>	Feather Grass	Middle of Bed	5L Full Pot, Containerised, 2 per meter sq
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp Agrimony	Middle of Bed	5L Full Pot, Containerised, 2 per meter sq
<i>Cephalaria alpina</i>	Yellow Cephalaria	Middle of Bed	3L Full Pot, Containerised, 3 per meter sq
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's Bit Scabious	Front of Bed	3L Full Pot, Containerised, 3 per meter sq
<i>Verbena macdougallii</i> 'Lavender Spires'	Mountain Blue Vervain	Front of Bed	3L Full Pot, Containerised, 3 per meter sq

Specimen Trees			
Species (Latin)	Common Name	Application	Specification
<b>Multi-Stem</b>			
<i>Betula utilis jacquemontii</i>	White-barked Himalayan Birch	Specimen Planting	14-16cm girth; 425-600cm high; rootballed 3x; extra heavy standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 4 breaks
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Bird Cherry	Specimen Planting	14-16cm girth; 425-600cm high; rootballed 3x; extra heavy standard; clear stem 175-200cm; 4 breaks

# 06 Destination Play Area

## Civic Space - Initial Design

In order to deliver a place-based play solution for the park, the proposed designs should provide nature based, natural play solutions for Bishopbriggs Park located in the centre of the park close to all amenities.

The play space should increase time spent in the park significantly and allow for a sense of exploration and discovery. The spaces should be suitable for children and young people of all ages and abilities/ sensory requirements with spaces suitable for adventure, imagination and exploration.

Play spaces provide spaces for all to enjoy:

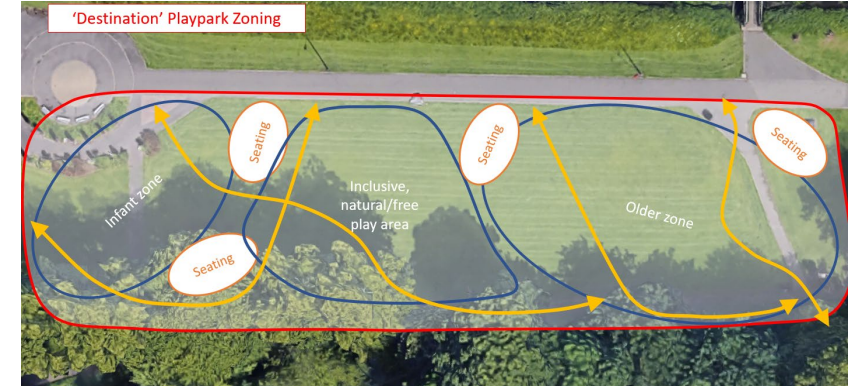
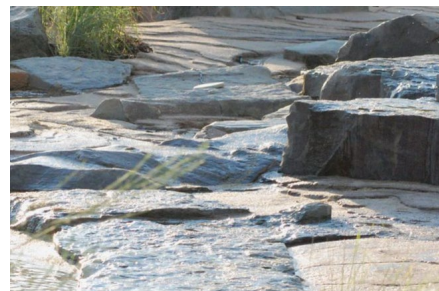
- Infant play spaces, with age-appropriate natural play
- Inclusive and sensory play for all, inclusive play allows young people and their carers/ friends/ siblings the ability to interact with park play features such as the interactive boards, accessible park furniture, play equipment and designing with barrier free access and play for climbing and digging etc, dependant on sensory requirements of the individual
- Formal play area to be provided with a sense of enclosure by using kerbs, mounds, planting and materials without the use of fencing
- Area to maintain free-draining abilities and drainage to soak away as necessary to counteract slips, trips and falls by algae or mildew on surfacing
- Informal play features such as the 'ravine' using natural stone and landform, should utilise the sites assets to provide natural play in an informal way

## Lighting

Lighting proposals for the parks are to designated pedestrian routes and car parking areas and these should comply with lighting standards in BS5489:2013.

## Planting

To be robust and naturalistic using herbaceous shrubs and structural grasses for 12-month ground cover and interest.

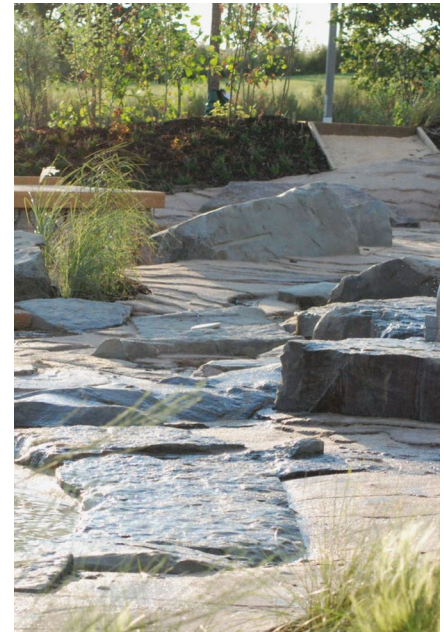
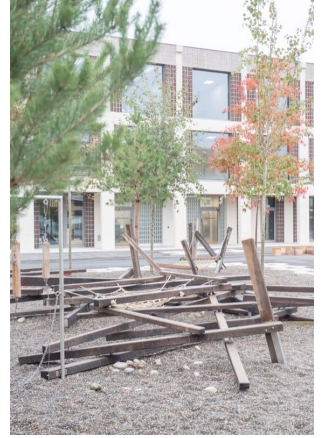
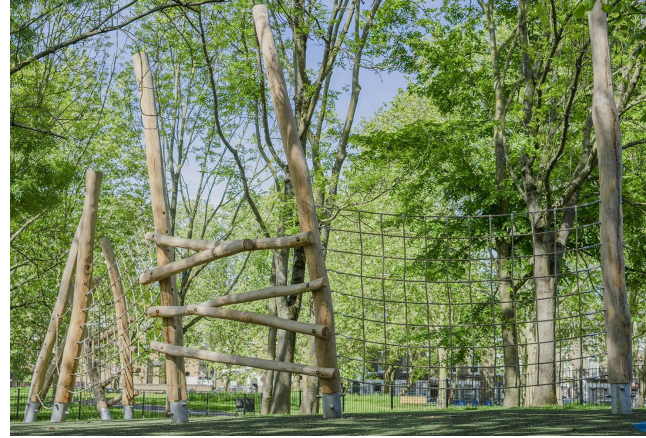


Provide sense of arrival and departure  
Increases time spent in the park  
Incorporate high quality materials and design  
Respond to the surrounding mature woodland  
Deliver nature based play



# 06 Natural Play Character

## Play Space and Informal Play Features





# 06 Play Hard Landscape Palette

## Hard Landscape Play Area Palettes

The hard landscaping palette is fundamental to the overall design and feel of the park and forms an essential part of the park. The hard landscaping should be simple and robust in structure with minimal maintenance required. Surfaces should be even and accessible for those with accessibility difficulties. A palette of common material below are proposed which should prompt design cohesion and reinforce the public realm character.

## Principals

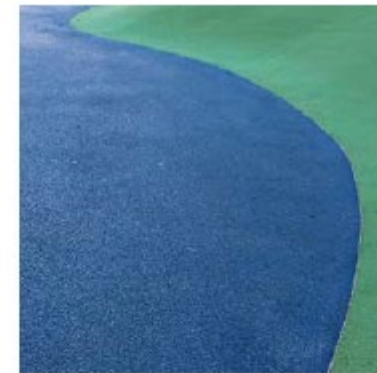
The playground and nature garden material need to be high quality, safe, practical and durable materials. A number of different surfacing types are shown adjacent to suit different needs and locations within the parks.



Materials can be used to reinforce and highlight features such as the play space informal ravine or boulders as edging and additional seating/ play.



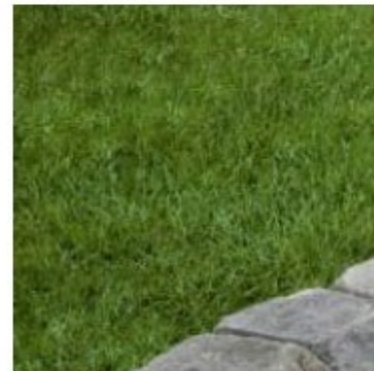
Rubber crumb



Porous coloured asphalt



Sand



Amenity grass



Buff self-binding gravel



Timber edging



# 07 Biodiversity

## Park Biodiversity

The Green Infrastructure and Green Network SPG (EDC, 2022) details green network requirements and outline the fundamentals used within the Park design as part of the Green/Blue Network to increase biodiversity.

- **Green Network and Placemaking:** Green infrastructure should respond to local characteristics and landscape, the local ecology and seek to integrate well with the layout and design of the development.
- **Green Network and Biodiversity:** Retain, protect, enhance and expand the existing green network, in particular connections between nature networks, with a buffer zone appropriate to the habitat type.
- **Green Network and Sustainable Drainage:** Ensure a network of green infrastructure is able to contribute to future changes and expansion for climate change adaptation. Integrate areas with potential for natural flood alleviation into the landscape framework.

The proposed strategy will celebrate and maximise biodiversity, retaining and enhancing habitats including existing TPO mature specimen trees and groups of trees, existing diverse grassland. Habitat retention and sympathetic design around them will ensure they continue to support species diversity and the policy outlined above.

The key greening and biodiversity enhancements should include the following:

- **Habitat Retention:** To retain and supplement all habitats of ecological value including trees, woodland and hedgerows.
- **Habitat Enhancement:** To provide enhancements combined with the retention of habitats to achieve a quantifiable net gain to ensure memorable interventions to become a destination for placemaking.
- **Habitat Creation:** To create multiple multi-functional areas of green space to maximise their benefit to biodiversity, to include woodlands, allotments, orchards, ponds, meadows and SuDS where possible to provide conditions suitable for a range of wildlife to colonise.

## Habitat Creation

The following general measures should be integrated into the landscape design proposals where possible and require appropriate design development and coordination to ensure they are successfully implemented.

## Trees and Woodland

- Retain, protect and enhance all existing trees and woodland in good condition.
- Existing Avenue trees should create as close to a continuous canopy & corridor as possible to promote use by bats, birds and invertebrates.
- Proposed trees should follow the principals outlined in the UK Forestry Standard (2017) to decide on the right tree for the right place.

## Additional Habitat Features

Including additional biodiverse habitat features such as:

- Wildlife Corridors
- Wildlife Planting
- Wildflower and Species Rich Grassland
- Native Hedgerows
- SuDS and Aquatic Plants
- Habitat Provision of Invertebrates
- Bird Nesting and Bat Roosting Opportunities



# 07 Biodiversity Planting Plan

## Planting Plan and Biodiversity

In order to deliver the increase in species diversity and sensory and visual aspects of Bishopbriggs Park the planting mixes have been carefully compiled to:

- Seasonal interest and colour, landscape and planting as a performance to activate the park
- Enhance the parks climate change response
- Provide additional habitat for pollinators and highlight its importance as a green corridor for connecting routes such as bats and owl
- Mature woodland habitat incredibly rich habitat, plan to aid the establishment of a more diverse and robust understory through shrub and wildflower/ herb-rich grass implementation

See Appendix D for further details.





# 08 Paths and Boundaries

## Boundaries

The Existing park has a range of different boundaries many of them in poor condition .

The park is ungated and not secure so the boundaries purpose is to guide users to entrances. The Southern boundary is formed of a linear patchwork of timber garden fences which whilst not ideal, is appropriate to this park edge. The northern boundary is mostly rusted chain link fencing with concrete posts, this is unsightly and should be replaced with a safe but notional delineation eg knee high trip rail.

There are sections of boundary with old cast iron railings - - these should be retained and refurbished.

The low stainless steel railing and entrance overthrow adjacent to the carpark should be replaced over time It has a dated appearance and was part of a town centre furniture themed branding design which has been superceded.

The entrances should be emphasised with gateway features.

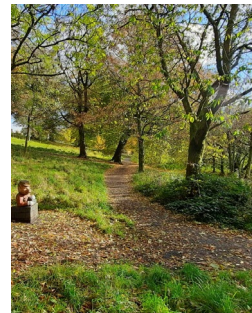
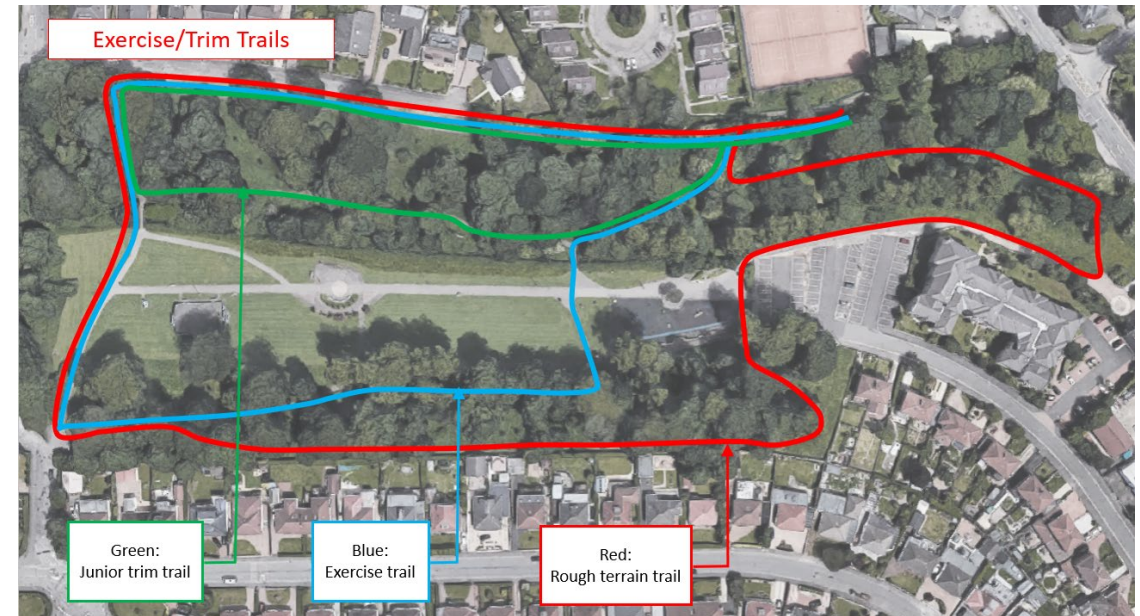
## Paths

The existing path network has evolved to accommodate design lines and the required access needs. The masterplan incorporates the existing path network with the addition of a new "wild" path from the entrance next to the post office. The existing programme to repair and resurface the existing paths should continue.

The linkage of the path network in the park to the Forth and Clyde Canal is an aspiration welcomed by the community. The Path would wind through the Rookery Plantation adjacent to the golf course. The path would connect with the canal side path.

## Trails

An opportunity exists to create a series of waymarked exercise trails of differing lengths and challenge. These can be linked to locations for outdoor gym equipment





# 09 Park Furniture Palette

## Furniture and Lighting Palette

Street furniture is an important part of the development. The standalone elements play a key role in contributing to the character of places and are an important in creating quality public spaces that maximise use and value of the public realm. The external lighting shall provide a safe and attractive setting for the new parks. The operational lighting refers to the lighting that is required to ensure the parks are lit to latest safety and functionality standards.

## Principals

Materials should be robust and cohesive and provide a hierarchy of hard materials which serve function and aesthetics. Materials should be high quality and resist moss and mildew build up in wetter areas.

The street furniture shall be attractive, ergonomic, simple and inclusive design and be seen as a co-ordinated 'family'.

This approach will provide overall continuity, while allowing some local variations if require to respond to the different functions across the spaces.

**Street furniture should be well designed and appropriate for the locality and positioned thoughtfully.**

Street lighting will reinforce the character of the parks and the location and spacing of lighting as well as the materials and colours which should relate well to the overall pallet of materials. Lighting proposals for the parks are to designated pedestrian routes and car parking areas and these should comply with lighting standards in BS5489:2013.



Composite Bins (Recycled Plastic)



Timber Bin (treated wood)



Riva Seat



Recycled Plastic Picnic Bench



Accent 'Distinctive' Lighting



Footways with Embedded Lighting



Recycled Plastic Bench



Sheffield Cycle Stand



# 10 Phasing Next Steps

## Phasing

This RIBA Stage 3 report and appendices provides the framework plan for Bishopbriggs Park improvements and phases of work. The indicative phasing of the park improvements is set out below.

### Phase 1. Destination Play Park

This phase is likely to be delivered 2023/24 & 2024/25 through the Councils Capital Funding Programme. Greenspace will lead the design and build of the play park and undertake local community and accessibility engagement.

### Phase 2. Hard Landscape Phase

This includes the new civic space at the eastern park entrance, and any upgrades to path network, entrances, and boundaries. This phase is subject to future funding and then further design and consultation (including local community and accessibility groups; schools and other stakeholders) through RIBA Stage 4 Detailed Design.

### Phase 3. Sub-projects

There are several sub-projects that can be taken forward through other public funding streams and it is anticipated that, in coordination with the Council, funding applications could be developed by local community groups with a vested interest in the park and an understanding of its significance as a public asset within Bishopbriggs and East Dunbartonshire.

Sub-projects have been listed, in no particular order, and suggestions have been made for delivery lead and potential funding streams. With the exception of the Destination Play Park, sub-projects will progress only if additional internal funding or new external funding becomes available. This list is not exhaustive and is not prescriptive. If EDC or local groups decide to champion an alternative sub-project this can be discussed and agreed between all parties.

## Table of Subprojects

Sub-project	Delivery Lead	Funding
Destination play park	EDC	Capital
Entrance features/gateways, boundary treatments	EDC	Capital
Upgraded lighting throughout the park	EDC	Capital
Civic zone: design and construction, container café, garden shed store, toilets, inclusive changing facilities	Joint: EDC and Community Groups	Capital and public funding
General path upgrades	EDC	Capital
New path through wild area to north of burn	EDC	Capital
Planting and SuDS improvements	Joint: EDC and Community Groups	Capital and public funding
Incidental play equipment/inclusive play environments	Community groups	Public funding
Scooter Park	Community groups	Public funding
Embankment slide	Community groups	Public funding
MUGA pitch	Joint: EDC and Community Groups	Capital and public funding
Covered shelter structure	Joint: EDC and Community Groups	Capital and public funding
Park furniture: picnic benches, park seating, bins, etc.	Joint: EDC and Community Groups	Capital and public funding
Fitness (adult) and trim (children) trails	Community groups	Public funding
Cycle provision: maintenance station, covered shelter, cycle stands (funding: Sustrans?)	Joint: EDC and Community Groups	Capital and public funding
Water bottle filling stations (funding: Scottish Water)	Joint: EDC and Community Groups	Capital and public funding

# 10 Phasing Next Steps

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## Phasing

As noted above, the Councils Greenspace team will deliver the play park with capital funding. It is intended that this investment will act as a stimulus for Bishopbriggs Park regeneration and will also contribute to the regeneration of Bishopbriggs Town Centre.

The park can be seen as vital to positioning the town as an attractive destination to live, work and play. It is critical that the park and Bishopbriggs Town Centre (BTC) are considered safe, secure, and comfortable to use, in turn encouraging people to walk, cycle and access local amenities within the public domain.

Providing good quality, varied outdoor spaces can encourage people to be individually more active, and collectively participate in more communal activities and events. Encouraging more people to spend longer in the public realm will also provide more 'eyes on the street' improving safety and security and encouraging even more people to use the public spaces to travel locally and socialise.

It is anticipated that improving the local environment of the park will act as a catalyst to attract investment and reduce vacancy rates within the town centre in support of the wider BTC regeneration. The resulting impact being an increase in businesses value with proximity to safe and attractive public spaces, therefore attracting customers and tenants. Investing in high quality public realm will ultimately improve perceptions and investor confidence in an area, building a positive image and reputation, and ultimately enhancing civic pride and providing a basis for economic growth.