GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARKS PLAN

LANDSCAPE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR JUBILEE PARK AND DIAMOND PARK

JULY 2026 - REV P03 - **DRAFT** FINAL REPORT

bca landscape

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GRAPPENHALL AND THELWALL PARISH COUNCIL

Document control and contents

Project
Grappenhall and Thelwall Parks Plan

Document title
Landscape Design and Management strategy for Jubilee Park and Diamond Park

Document number
25003GT-BCAL-RP-L-0001

Date
July 2026

Revision
Rev P03 - **Draft** Final report

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Introduction and site context

Jubilee Park and Diamond Park

Our role

In June 2025, BCA Landscape was appointed by Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council to prepare a landscape strategy for two urban parks: Jubilee Park and Diamond Park.
Although both sites are centrally located and well-maintained, they are not used by all members of the community. This report seeks to explore the reasons behind this limited use and to propose a strategy that will unlock their full potential, enhancing their appeal and value to the local community and setting up a framework that will anticipate further climate change.

The initial study, presented in the first part of this report and previously reviewed with the Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council, formed the basis of the consultation materials used to engage the local community and gather feedback during the public events held near the parks.
The second part of the report, prepared following the public consultation, reviews the community feedback, explains how it has been incorporated into the project, and sets out a phased delivery plan with an indicative budget to support future funding.

The sites

Jubilee Park (marked as number **1** in the aerial view) and Diamond Park (**2**) are compact urban parks, measuring 1.3 hectares and 0.2 hectares respectively.
Each is equipped with children's play facilities and is surrounded by one- to two-storey semi-detached houses with generous front and rear gardens.
While neither park falls within the green corridors identified in the Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Neighbourhood Plan, nor within the green belt to the south, both contribute significantly to local biodiversity, with their mature trees, hedgerows, and grassed areas.
These parks are the smallest public open spaces within an 800-metre (15-minute) walking radius, yet they are well connected to nearby schools (**5**, **6**, **7**, **8**, **9**) and the local library (**10**).
Positioned one kilometre (around a 20-minute walk) apart, Jubilee Park and Diamond Park could also form part of a wider landscape network, alongside Morris Brook Park (**3**) and Elizabeth Park (**4**).



Analysis

A landscape without a clear strategy?

Historic maps of the parish available via Google and Old Maps Online date back to 1929. The outline of Jubilee Park is visible at this time, although it is unclear whether the site was already functioning as a public park or simply reserved for future development. Due to the limitations of mapping technology of the period, finer details were not captured.
By contrast, the land now occupied by Diamond Park had a very different status in 1945. At that point, it remained undeveloped and formed part of the surrounding green belt.

The earliest map showing both parks in their present form is dated 2005. By then, the urban fabric around the sites appears largely similar to today, particularly in the immediate vicinity of the two parks. Both areas were already being used as public parks, with play equipment and some mature trees in place. However, there were no formal pathways or other design features to suggest that either site benefited from a clear landscape strategy.

The final map examined for this study is from 2013. In June 2012, the two sites were renamed to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, and the current layout likely took shape during that period. At this time, Jubilee Park gained a footpath crossing the site and linking the two entrances. Diamond Park, however, still lacked a defined circulation route to guide visitors to the play and seating areas.

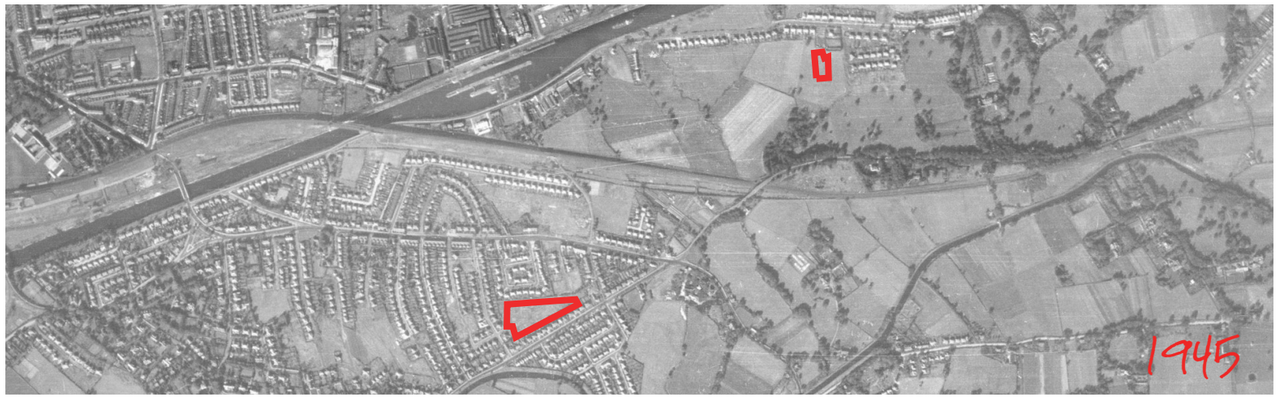
In 2013, Jubilee Park's central grassed area continued to serve as a football pitch, with the eastern corner designated for play facilities. The orchard and living willow dome had yet to be introduced, and the area now containing outdoor exercise equipment — installed a decade later — served an unidentified function. Diamond Park has changed little since 2013, aside from the replacement of some play equipment and the introduction of natural play features.

Findings

Analysis of the historic maps indicates that the current layouts of Jubilee Park and Diamond Park have evolved through a series of incremental additions, rather than through a unified strategy. While both parks appear well equipped, the arrangement of their different areas is fragmented, creating spaces that are not fully accessible or welcoming.

The spaces are precious resouces, forming part of a wider netwrok of open spaces and have the potential to be expanded in terms of amenity and content to appeal to a wider audience and to have a greater impact on combatting climate change.

What could the spaces be in 2030, 2040, 2050 and beyond?







Jubilee Park analysis

Overall, the layout does little to promote social interaction. Key amenities are concentrated along the park's main path (marked as number **1** in the aerial view), seating is provided only as isolated benches rather than in groups, and no dedicated spaces exist for community gatherings, such as an amphitheatre.

- Houses surround the park, and the two entrances from St Annes Avenue E and Chester Road are not well-signed, making the park largely unknown to many residents of the parish (**2**).

- The collection of existing trees adds considerably to the feel of the park as agreen space, but there is scope for a much wider range of species and habitat types.
  There is a limited range of trees and little shrub planting.
  All the grass is close-mown, short and as such represents a considerable outlay in revenue costs for the Parish Council to keep it that way (**3**).

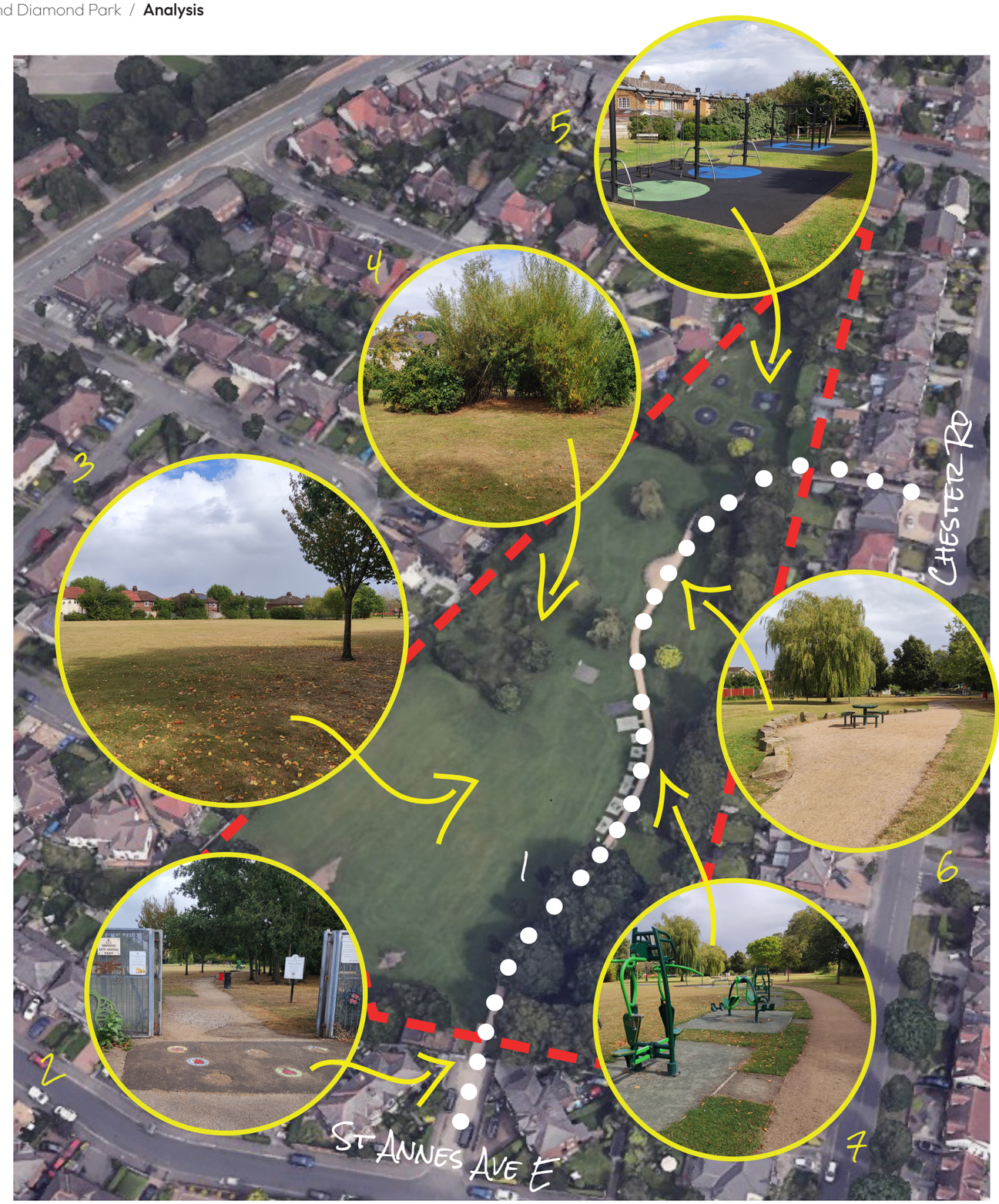
- Some amenities are not linked to a surfaced path, which makes them less accessible to all, but especially wheelchair users and parents with prams.
  As an example, there is no secondary route to connect the orchard and the living willow dome to the main path, making the area inaccessible when the ground is wet (**4**).

- The play area is separated from the rest of the park, and given that it is designed primarily for children aged 5-13, this segregation seems unnecessary.
  Most play equipment targets children aged 5-13, with only a few stone boulders scattered around for younger children (0-5 years).
  While the equipment itself is in excellent condition, the safety surfacing is limited to fall zones, is in poor condition, and the timber or concrete edging poses a hazard for running children (**5**).

- There are limited seating opportunities anywhere in the park.
  Most seating lacks armrests and is located within soft landscaping, making it difficult to access in all weather conditions.
  There are no seating options along the main pathway, apart from a small picnic table and a large coffee table (**6**).

- The exercise equipment is well-maintained but appears randomly positioned along the central footpath, which may deter some people from using it.
  Thanks to its location, the exercise equipment works as a focal point and may give the wrong impression that the whole park has been designed primarily around this element (**7**).

- The park is mostly flat, except for the eastern section, which contains some of the play equipment, and the southern corner near the entrance from St Annes Avenue E.
  In the latter area, residents have repeatedly reported flooding during heavy rainfall over the years, indicating unfavorable ground conditions and lower elevation.



Diamond Park analysis

Overall, the park is an excellent resource for residents with young children, but it offers little else to the rest of the community, and the range of amenities could be expanded.

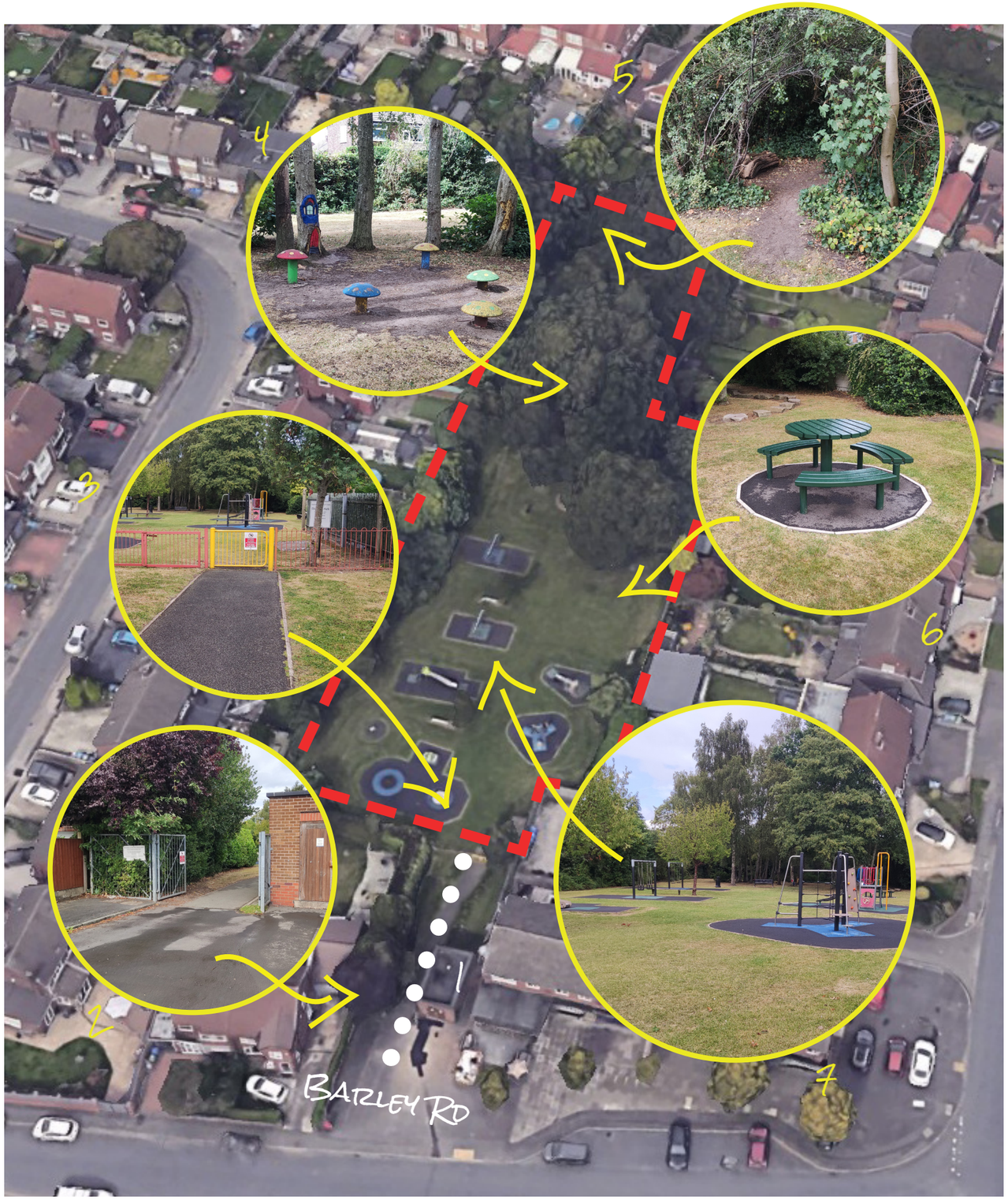
- Diamond Park is enclosed by private residential homes and its industrial-style entrance gates give little indication that a public park lies beyond (**1**).
  The park has only a single entrance and exit, set back from the street, which can raise safety concerns and discourage visitors from entering (**2**).
  In addition, no pathway continues through the park—the hard surface stops at the low gate before reaching the play equipment (**3**).

- In the northern corner, mushroom-shaped seats and carved trees establish a whimsical woodland learning area that blends well with the park's character.
  However, the space feels somewhat unfinished and could be enhanced with additional features (**4**).

- Stepping stones, tunnels integrated into the existing vegetation, wooden sculptures, and other natural play elements line the park's boundaries, reflecting an intention to develop a nature-inspired play concept. However, the design feels incomplete. These features do not appear to form a cohesive experience, and none of them is accessible to wheelchair users (**5**).

- There are limited seating options available throughout the park.
  Most seating lacks armrests and is located within soft landscaping, making it difficult to access in all weather conditions (**6**).

- All the main play equipment is near the park entrance, blocking the view and making it less inviting to explore the rest of the park. Most of the equipment is for children aged 5–13, with only a few stone boulders and swings for younger kids (0–5 years).
  The equipment is in good condition, but the safety surfacing is limited and in poor shape.
  The timber and concrete edges can be dangerous for running children (**7**).



Landscape strategy and opportunities

A contemporary landscape for everybody

To revitalise Jubilee Park and Diamond Park and ensure they meet the needs of the 21st-century community, five key aspects should guide their development.

Character

The design and arrangement of elements within the parks — including materials, colours, textures, and the balance between hard and soft landscaping — should reflect the local context. Together, these choices should create a distinctive identity that celebrates and represents the Grappenhall and Thelwall community.

Sustainability

Sustainable landscape design involves minimising disruption to existing green infrastructure while maximising opportunities for biodiversity. This means protecting and enhancing established trees and shrubs, complemented by new native planting. It also includes using durable, responsibly sourced materials and reusing existing features, such as benches or play equipment, wherever possible.

Wellbeing

A thoughtfully designed landscape can significantly enhance both physical and mental health. Features that foster connection with nature — such as spaces that highlight seasonal change, or the introduction of water elements — create a restorative environment that supports wellbeing and encourages outdoor activity.

Community

The success of a park depends on how people experience and use it.
The new designs should strengthen cultural identity and heritage, promote social interaction, and foster shared experiences that build a sense of belonging. Involving local residents in planning and delivery ensures the parks meet real community needs, while also encouraging long-term stewardship and care.

Inclusion

The parks should be welcoming to everyone, regardless of race, gender, disability, medical condition, or other needs. True inclusion means providing equal access and opportunities, while eliminating barriers and promoting tolerance. Ultimately, the goal is to create places where everyone feels comfortable, valued, and inspired to spend more time outdoors.











A park, a plaza, a playground, a garden, where old and new generations can grow together, share experiences, learn from each other and encounter the living world.









Jubilee Park opportunities

Existing play area

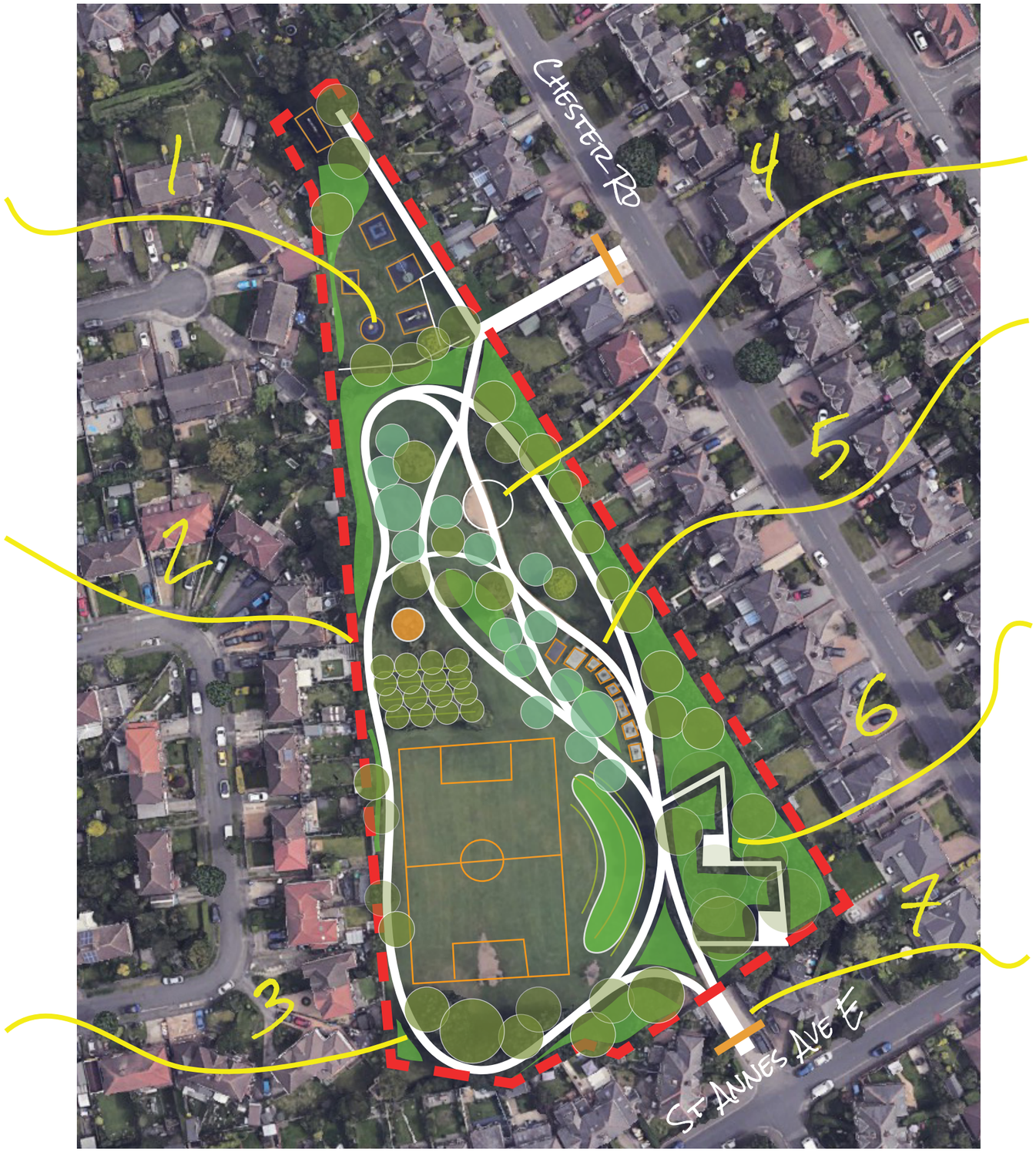
The existing play area could be upgraded to offer a wider range of equipment suitable for children of all ages and designed to be engaging and enjoyable for all genders.
A new footpath could be constructed from the park entrance, providing a clear and convenient connection between the existing footpath and the play area. This accessible route would make it easier for all visitors, including those with mobility challenges, to reach and enjoy the upgraded play facilities.

New routes through the parks

The existing footpath could be upgraded by replacing the self-binding gravel with more accessible and durable materials, such as rubber crumb, to ensure safe and comfortable use for people of all ages and abilities, in all weather conditions.
New pathways could be introduced to divide the park into distinct zones, each with a different character or function, creating a more varied and engaging visitor experience. These zones could include flexible spaces suitable for both small and large community events, such music performances or outdoor educational activities organized by local schools.
Along the new routes, informative panels could offer insights into local plants, animals, and ecosystems, encouraging children and visitors to explore, learn, and engage with nature.

New wildlife border

Creating a more natural planting zone and adjusting the grass mowing regime around the park's perimeter would enhance biodiversity and provide seasonal interest, offering visitors a richer and more engaging environment throughout the year.
Key existing features, including the orchard and willow living dome, should be retained and made more accessible through the addition of hard-surface links, ensuring that these popular areas remain safe and usable for all visitors.



New seating

The existing seating area along the existing footpath could be enanched with seats featuring supportive armrests and backrests, with options available at a variety of heights to accommodate children of all ages.
Wheelchair-accessible tables should be included to promote inclusivity and provide comfortable spaces for all users.

Existing gym equipment

New planting could be introduced around the equipment to provide natural screening, enhancing privacy and creating a more comfortable and welcoming environment for all users.

Observation deck

A lightweight timber structure could be installed to improve accessibility during wet conditions while providing an elevated platform for relaxation and wildlife observation. This raised area would allow visitors to enjoy nature away from the main paths, offering a peaceful space to watch birds, small animals, and plant life, while maintaining minimal impact on the surrounding environment. The structure could also include subtle seating and handrails for comfort and safety, making it suitable for people of all ages and abilities.

Enhance the entrances

To improve accessibility and connectivity, the park could feature enhanced signage that not only guides visitors within the park but also makes the park more visible from the road, raising awareness of its presence across the community.
Upgraded pedestrian crossings could ensure safe and convenient access for all visitors, including children, older adults, and those with mobility challenges.
In addition, new cycle stands could be installed at key locations to encourage sustainable travel by bike, making the park more welcoming and accessible to cyclists.

Diamond Park opportunities

Existing planting and natural play elements

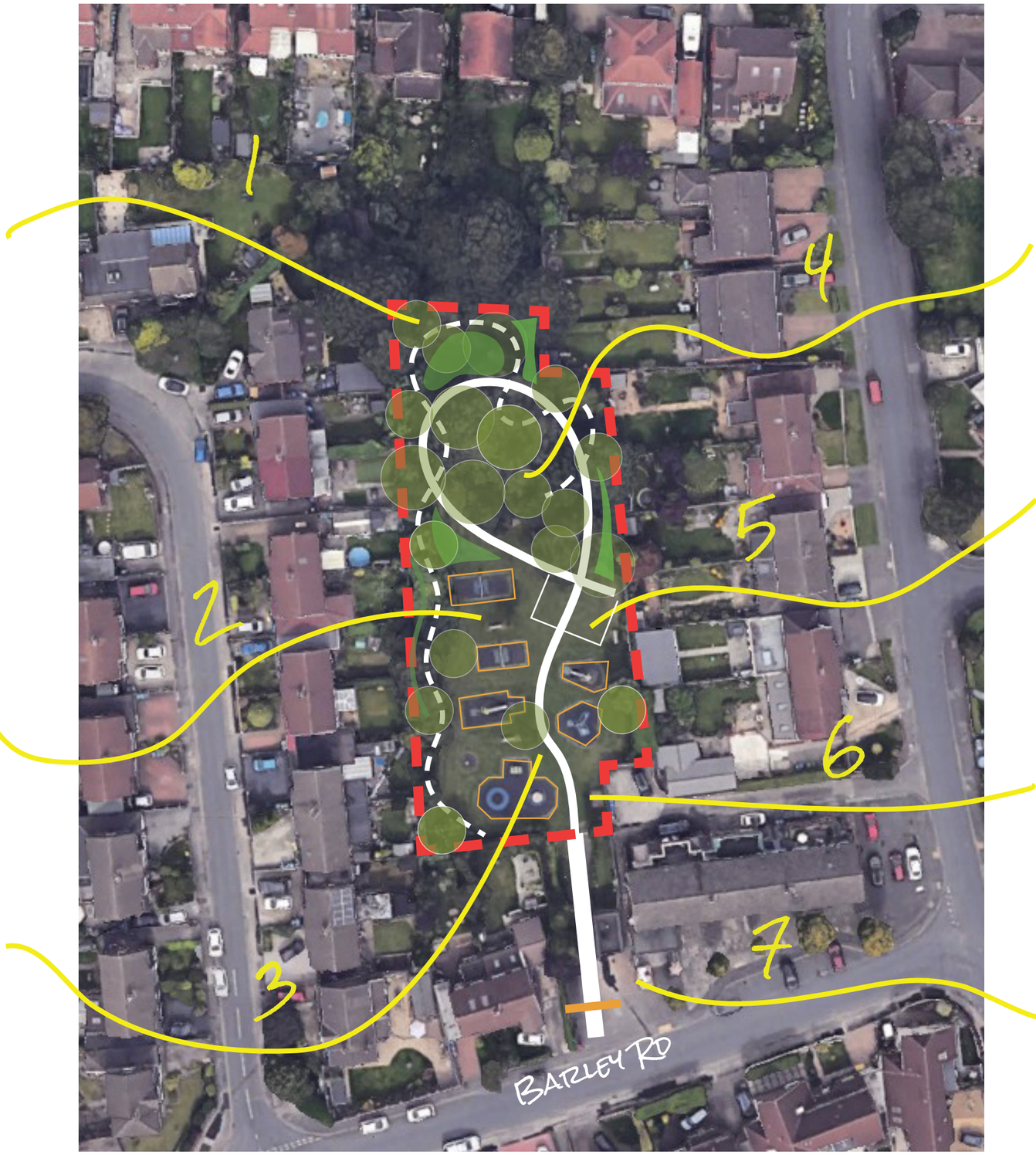
The existing natural play trail along the boundary could be developed to provide an even more engaging and educational outdoor experience. Enhancements could include timber edging, new plant species, and sensory-rich features such as textured bark and fragrant herbs.
Informative panels could be added to offer insights about local plants, wildlife, and ecosystems, encouraging children to explore and learn as they move along the trail.
Additional features may include climbing logs, balance beams, stepping stones, and mini wildlife habitats such as bug hotels or bird feeders.
Seasonal planting zones and interactive sensory elements like mud kitchens, wind chimes, and water channels would further enrich the play experience, promoting curiosity, creativity, and a strong connection with nature.
Key sections of the route should be wheelchair accessible, ensuring that children and visitors of all abilities can enjoy the natural surroundings.

New and existing play elements

The play area could be updated to include equipment for a wider age range and designed to be fun and engaging for all genders. Some existing equipment may be removed to make space for new wheelchair-accessible play equipment, ensuring that children of all abilities can join in and enjoy the play area.

New routes

A newly constructed footpath could extend from the entrance, creating a clear and convenient link between both existing and new equipment.
Designed with durability and accessibility in mind, the pathway would ensure safe, all-weather access for everyone, including individuals with mobility needs.



Enhance themes that are working well

The fairy tale theme could be enriched by introducing a variety of engaging features. A storybook chair could serve as a central spot for shared reading and storytelling sessions, while a creative craft zone could inspire children to design their own magical elements such as wands, crowns, or enchanted props. Adding miniature castles, figurines, trees, and animals would create opportunities for imaginative play, encouraging children to retell familiar tales or invent new adventures within their own enchanted worlds.

New seating

New seating could be installed, featuring supportive armrests and backrests, with options available at a variety of heights to accommodate children of all ages. The hard surface should be extended and seamlessly connected to the newly developed footpath, ensuring smooth and safe access. In addition, wheelchair-accessible tables should be included to promote inclusivity and provide comfortable spaces for all users.

New and existing artworks

Possible new community-created artworks, such as vibrant murals or interactive installations, designed by the community for the community. These creative expressions would celebrate local culture, strengthen identity, and foster a sense of pride and belonging. In addition, efforts could be made to restore and revitalize existing artworks, preserving their value while ensuring they continue to inspire and engage future generations.

Enhance the entrances

To enhance accessibility and connectivity, the park could feature improved signage and upgraded pedestrian crossings, ensuring safe and convenient entry for all visitors.
In addition, new cycle stands could be installed to support those arriving by bike, promoting sustainable transport.

Case studies

Grønningen-Bispeparken, Copenhagen, Denmark

This project is a perfect example of how simple and relatively low-key interventions can significantly extend the range of habitats, with some parts simply having a change of mowing regime to create a wilder, more biodiverse look and feel.

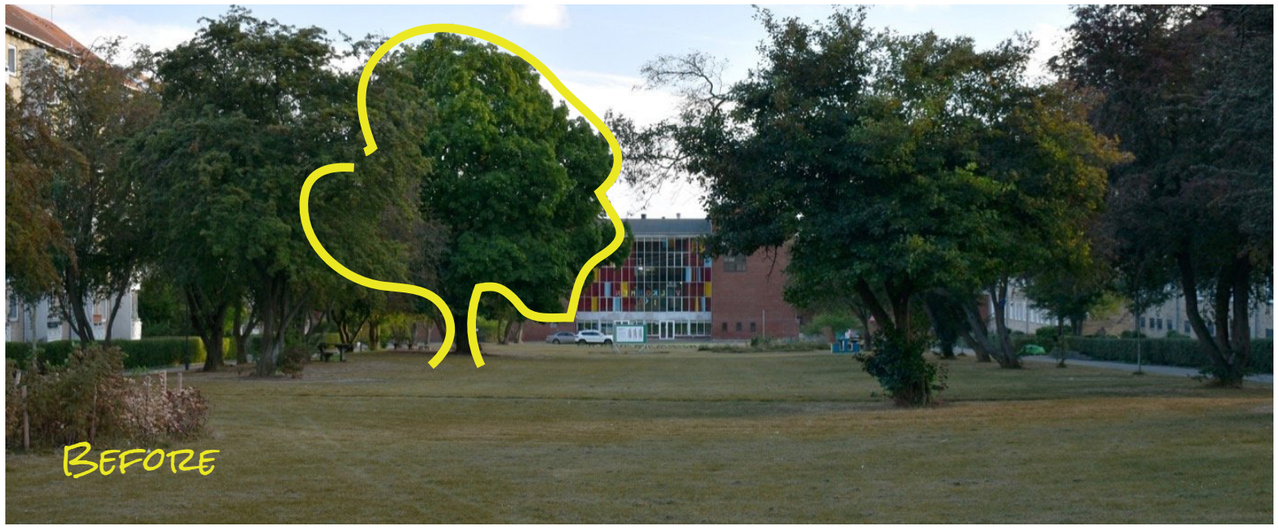
Located in Copenhagen's Nordvest neighbourhood, Grønningen-Bispeparken transformed the outdoor areas of a housing estate from derelict, unsafe, and barren lawns into a vibrant climate park. The project addresses both environmental and social needs, protecting the area against flooding and thunderstorms while adding ecological, cultural, and community value.

The original green areas had fallen into disrepair, offering no activities, play areas, or social spaces for local residents. The existing grass lawns were unable to manage rainfall, creating 'rainwater motorways' during storms, and supported very little biodiversity, with limited plant variation and wildlife.

By letting the park's form follow natural processes, the landscape architects introduced 18 interconnected bioswales across the sloping green spaces. These swales are designed to collect, contain, and infiltrate more than 3,000 m³ of rainwater from the park and surrounding courtyards and streets. The park incorporates five primary nature typologies, each designed to respond to specific climate and social functions.
The bioswales serve dual purposes as both climate infrastructure and social spaces. Termed "social swales," they provide playful, safe, and nature-rich meeting points that encourage community interaction. To further enhance biodiversity and create an inviting environment year-round, 149 trees from 23 native species were planted, alongside more than 4 million seeds from specially crafted seed mixtures. These new plantings complement preserved historic buckthorn trees, creating a resilient, diverse, and ecologically rich landscape. A dynamic maintenance plan ensures a balance between "wild" and "orderly" areas, supporting optimal conditions for both humans and wildlife.

Community involvement was central to the project's success.
Landscape architects worked alongside artists, anthropologists, sociologists, and local residents to ensure the park is relevant, meaningful, and engaging.
Central to this are the wooden artworks by Kerstin Bergendal and the landscape studio Efterland. Inspired by Danish nature playgrounds of the 1970s, these artworks are seamlessly integrated into the park, offering children and adults opportunities for play, exercise, and social interaction.

Today, Grønningen-Bispeparken spans 20,000 m² and has been transformed into a lush, playful, biodiverse, and art-filled urban nature park. It is not a traditional promenade park but represents a transformative paradigm in urban development, where form follows nature and the primary goal of design is to create spaces that sustain all life.











Šmartinski Park, Ljublijna, Slovenia

Šmartinski Park, as we know it today, was once a sprawling area of informal, individual allotment gardens. Although municipal spatial plans had designated the land as green space and an infrastructural corridor, the reality was quite different: the area was covered with garden beds and sheds, intersected by a traffic road, and crossed by several main power lines.

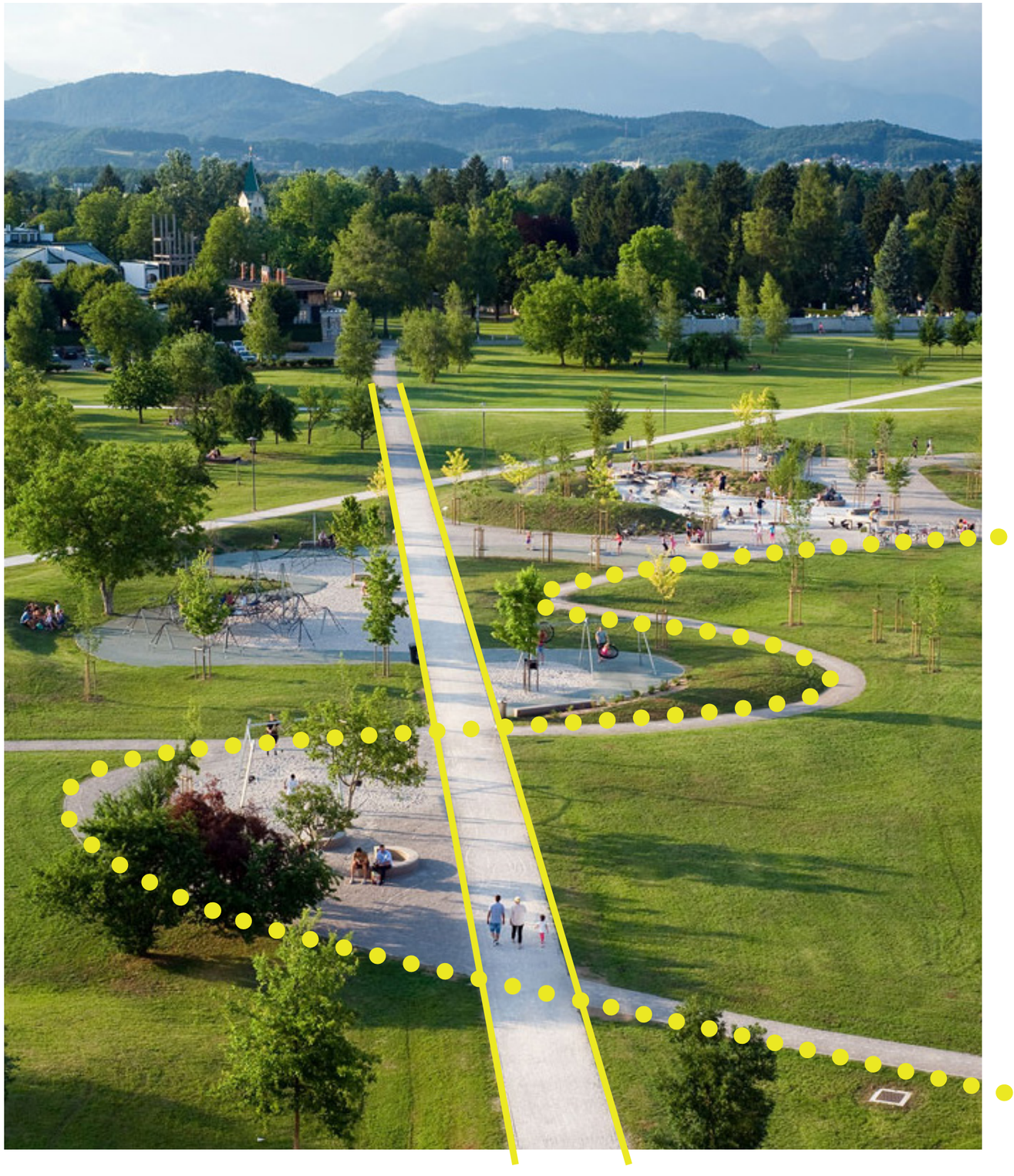
In 2007, the Municipality of Ljubljana initiated a project to clear this area of illegal allotments, marking a new approach to urban development and land management. The removal of gardening beds and sheds was carefully planned and executed in close collaboration with the mayor's office, municipal officials, and public companies. Special attention was given to ensure sensitivity toward the gardeners and the future of urban gardening, as well as the long-term development of the site.

Local communities were consulted, and their input confirmed a strong demand for a public park and playground. According to the new master plan, the road bisecting the area was removed, and the site was designated to become Šmartinski Park, named after a nearby street.

During the first phase of development, two main walking paths were installed, the terrain was reshaped, and new large trees were planted while retaining some existing fruit trees. The playground, designed later in response to community requests, was envisioned as an inclusive space for children of all ages and abilities. Its location was carefully selected—set behind a gas station, away from the main road and power lines, and thoughtfully positioned in relation to the nearby cemetery.

The playground design emphasized spaciousness and diverse play opportunities, incorporating a playful terrain, water features combined with sand, abundant vegetation, and multifunctional play equipment, including a high climbing net with panoramic views. Meandering pathways coexist with strong desire-lines through the park, while earth formations not only enhance play experiences but also help define distinct areas.

Additional features, such as amphitheaters, offer spaces for outdoor learning, performances, and community gatherings, further enriching the park's role as a public space.





Frederick Adventure Playground, London, UK

Landscape and architecture practice Root And Erect has transformed a former adventure playground in Southwark, south London, into a more accessible and inclusive space.

Previously enclosed by tall timber fencing with limited access points, the site felt unwelcoming and poorly connected. The redesign removes these barriers, opening the playground to the community while improving play equipment and landscaping.

Guided by research from Make Space for Girls, the scheme introduces a series of interconnected zones that support diverse, simultaneous use and promote gender equality in outdoor play. New routes through the site encourage movement, social interaction, and better visibility, with improved sightlines enhancing safety.

Soft boundaries such as railings and planting define the space while giving it a distinct identity, using orange tones that complement the surrounding terracotta architecture. Planting also creates a buffer between the playground and street, with low-maintenance species in a coordinated colour palette.

The project was shaped through extensive consultation with local children, parents, and community groups.



Public consultation

Engagement methods and participation summary

Two dedicated public consultation events were organised by Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council in collaboration with BCAL to engage the community, gather feedback, introduce the design team, and help shape the next stages of the project.

The first event was held on 25 April at Thelwall Parish Hall, followed by a second event on 16 May at Grappenhall Community Centre.

To encourage participation from all age groups, BCAL prepared a range of consultation materials and interactive activities, including:

- Six display boards presenting the initial site analysis and findings outlined in the first part of this document.
- A Wishing Tree, allowing residents to record and display their ideas and aspirations for the parks.
- A two-page questionnaire designed to collect demographic information and capture residents' views, priorities, concerns, and suggestions.
- Drawing sheets featuring outline plans of the parks, enabling children to communicate their ideas through illustrations.
- A LEGO modelling activity, encouraging children and their families to explore and express design ideas in an interactive way.

An electronic version of the questionnaire, together with PDF copies of the consultation boards, was also made available online and shared with the wider community to maximise participation.

A total of seven questionnaires were completed online, with the remaining responses collected during the two spring consultation events and subsequent engagement at the Thelwall Rose Queen and Grappenhall Walking Day community events.
In addition to the questionnaire responses, six residents contributed ideas by adding tags to the Wishing Tree, while twelve children shared their aspirations for the parks through drawings.

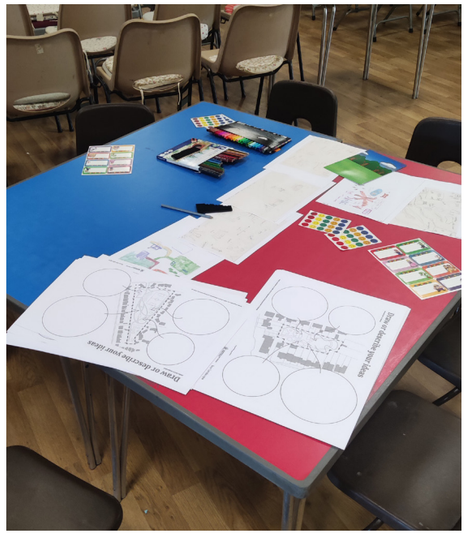
The level of community engagement extended beyond the completed questionnaires. Many attendees participated in discussions with the project team without completing a questionnaire, while others attended on behalf of family members or neighbours and communicated wider community views.

Overall, the consultation programme successfully engaged a broad cross-section of the local community and generated valuable qualitative and quantitative feedback. The information collected has has helped ensure that the design responds to local community aspirations and priorities.









Community priorities: needs and concerns

The questionnaire captured information on respondents' age, gender, proximity to the parks and frequency of use. Most participants were regular park users living within walking distance of the sites, indicating that the consultation successfully engaged local residents with a strong understanding of the existing parks and their role within the community.
Residents regularly use them for walking, informal recreation, children's play, spending time outdoors with family and friends, exercising, and enjoying nature and wildlife.

A number of consistent themes emerged across all forms of engagement, as illustrated in the adjancet diagram 1. The strongest message was the desire to retain the parks' natural character while investing in carefully considered improvements that enhance accessibility, recreation, biodiversity and opportunities for community interaction.

Play provision was the most frequently discussed topic. Residents expressed a clear desire for a wider range of inclusive play opportunities, particularly for girls and children aged between 0 and 11 years. Suggestions included more adventurous equipment such as monkey bars, climbing walls, trampolines, accessible play equipment, sand and water play, as well as natural play features. There was also strong support for facilities that encourage teenagers and adults to be more active, including bike tracks and table tennis.

Accessibility was another recurring priority throughout the consultation. Residents requested improved path surfaces, better connections between different areas of the parks, easier access for wheelchair users, additional seating along walking routes, and improved usability during wet weather. These comments closely support the project's objective of creating parks that are accessible and welcoming to users of all ages and abilities.

The consultation also revealed strong support for enhancing biodiversity and strengthening the parks' relationship with nature. Participants suggested additional tree planting, wildflower meadows, native planting, rain gardens, bird boxes, bird feeders and habitats that encourage wildlife. Several residents proposed introducing fruit trees that could be harvested by the community, with some suggesting a sponsorship scheme allowing local families to dedicate individual trees, fostering a stronger sense of ownership and stewardship.

Creating spaces that support community life was another important aspiration. Respondents highlighted the need for more seating, picnic areas, informal gathering spaces and flexible areas capable of hosting community events and small performances.

Improved signage and wayfinding were also widely supported to help visitors navigate the parks more easily and increase their visibility within the wider neighbourhood.

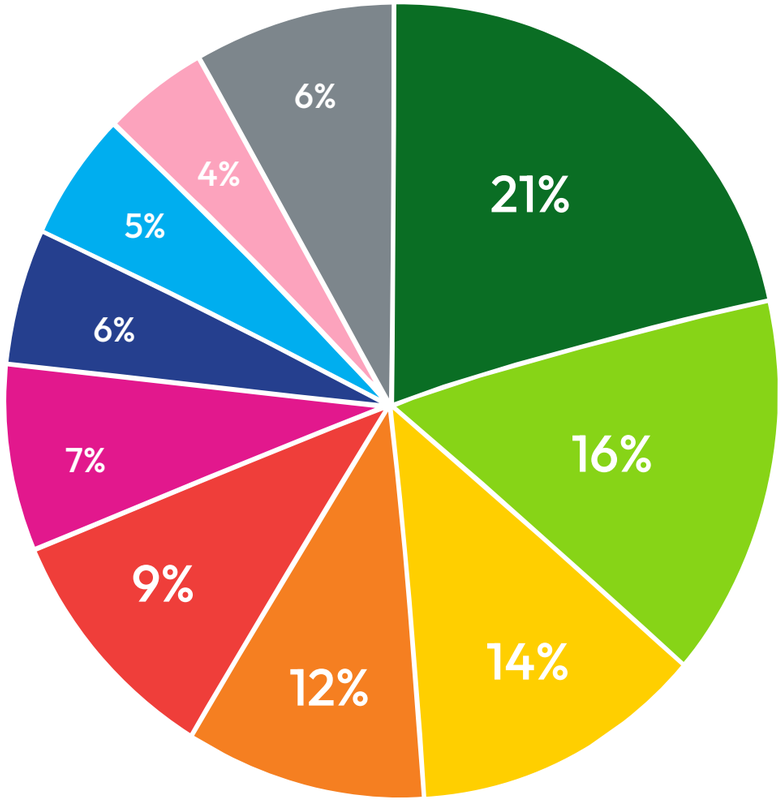
Children's contributions closely reflected these priorities while also demonstrating considerable creativity and enthusiasm. Their drawings illustrated aspirations for adventurous play, cycling facilities, wildlife-friendly landscapes, ponds and water features, additional planting and places to gather with friends and family. Many also emphasised the importance of retaining valued existing features, including the football pitch. Although some ideas, such as houses, hospitals, sweet shops and car parks, fall outside the scope of the project, they nevertheless highlight children's desire for the parks to become vibrant destinations that play a central role in community life.

Residents wish to see parks that remain green and natural while becoming more inclusive, accessible and engaging. The feedback provides strong support for investment in improved play, better connectivity, enhanced biodiversity, additional seating and community spaces, all of which align closely with the project's objectives and have directly informed the development of the proposed landscape strategy.

Diagram 1 - Most mentioned themes in the engagement process

Combined results from: Questionnaires (22 responses), Wishing Tree Tags, Children's Drawings and Additional Commnets.

The percentages are approximate and represent the proportion of mentions for each theme relative to the total number of themed responses received across all engagement activities.



Play & Adventures 21%
Play equipment for kids 0-5 years old, trampolines, climbing walls, monkey bars, sand play, tree den building

Nature and Biodeiversity 16%
More trees, wildflower meadows, native planting, fruit trees, bird boxes

Sports and Active Recreation 14%
Bike track, table tennis, football pitch, gym equipment, basketball

Seating & Social Spaces 12%
More seating areas, picnic tables, community gathering spaces

Inclusive & Accessible 9%
Accessible equipment, suitable for all ages and abilities, improved access routes and surfaces

Water Features 7%
Ponds, water play, water features, big lake with plating and animals, rain gardens

Facility & Infrastructure 6%
Better signage, bike path, facilities to support park use

Food & Growing 5%
Fruit trees for harvesting, sponsorship of fruit trees

Community & Events 4%
Community events, encouraging people of all ages to use the parks

Other 6%
Other unique or less frequent suggestions

These themes reflect the combined insights from residents of all ages and highlight the community's aspirations for parks that are playful, inclusive, sustainable, and welcoming for everyone.

Incorporation of feedback into the project

Jubilee Park and Diamond Park design

The public consultation confirmed many of the opportunities identified during the initial site analysis, demonstrating that the emerging proposals respond to genuine community needs.

Although Jubilee Park and Diamond Park differ considerably in scale and character, the engagement process identified several shared priorities, leading to a consistent design approach tailored to each park's individual identity. Site-specific themes have also been incorporated where appropriate, such as the fairy-tale-inspired play experience already visible in Diamond Park, to be enhanced during community activities.

A recurring request throughout the consultation was for more diverse, inclusive, and engaging play opportunities, particularly for girls and children aged 0–11. The proposals therefore seek to enrich the existing play offer by combining traditional equipment with natural play elements, creating a more varied landscape that encourages exploration, imagination, and interaction with nature.

Improving accessibility and connectivity across both parks emerged as another fundamental objective. At Jubilee Park, replacing the existing self-binding gravel paths with wet-pour rubber or similar accessible surfacing, together with introducing new path connections, will improve movement throughout the site and strengthen links between key destinations. At Diamond Park, a new network of accessible footpaths is proposed to establish clear circulation routes and ensure the park is accessible to users of all ages and abilities.

To increase year-round usability, a raised timber deck with observation platforms is proposed in the southern corner of Jubilee Park, providing access during wet conditions and opportunities to appreciate the tree canopies and local wildlife.

Both parks will benefit from additional seating, including benches and picnic tables, creating spaces for rest, informal meetings and community activities. Existing seating areas will remain as focal points, complemented by new seating distributed throughout the parks.

Ecological enhancement forms a central component of the landscape strategy and designs. New native trees, shrubs, grasses and flower-rich planting beds will strengthen biodiversity, improve habitat connectivity and enrich the visual character of the parks throughout the year.

New signage is proposed at the park entrances and throughout the sites to improve wayfinding, welcome visitors and promote the parks' natural features with their intrinsic play opportunities.

The consultation also highlighted a desire for water play features and tree sponsorship. These elements will be explored during the next stages of design development, subject to technical feasibility, available funding and ongoing discussions with the Parish Council.

Overall, the consultation has demonstrated strong support for a landscape-led approach that enhances accessibility, play, biodiversity and community use while respecting the distinctive character, ecological value and long-term resilience of both parks.





Project delivery

Jubilee Park construction phases and cost summary

The proposed improvements to Jubilee Park have been divided into four construction phases, which can be adjusted to reflect the priorities, available funding, and programme requirements of Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council.

All products, materials and play equipment referenced in the following sections are indicative only. They have been selected at this stage solely to provide an estimated project budget and to illustrate the proposed location and type of play equipment within the park. All costs are subject to tender process, net and subject to VAT.

1

New safety surfacing to enhance existing gym area. 40mm depth wet pour rubber. 200 sq m.	£14,268	New planting. Herbaceous plants with shrubs. 500 sq m.	£30,000
New wet pour rubber surface to enhance existing footpaths. 385 sq m.	£27,466	New planting. Wildflower seed mix with bulbs. 500 sq m.	£7,500
		New trees. Large. 9 no.	£13,500
New timber edging to existing footpaths. 360 m.	£4,680	New natural play equipement for kids 0-11 years old. Various items.	£15,179
New footpaths throughout the site. 40 mm depth wet pou rubber. 255 sq m.	£18,192	New benches. 7 no.	£8,365
		New picnic tables. 4 no. 2 no standard + 2 no accessible.	£3,596
New timber edging to new footpaths. 350 m.	£4,550		
New site entrances. 2 no.	£10,000	New cycle stands. 6 no.	£3,000
		SUBTOTAL:	£160,007

2

New safety surfacing to enhance existing play area. 500 sq m.	£35,670	New picnic tables. 2 no. 1 no standard + 1 no accessible.	£1,654
New timber edging to new safety surfacing 250 m.	£3,250	New standard play equipement for kids 0-11 years old. Various items with accessories.	£53,028
		SUBTOTAL:	£93,602



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3

New footpaths throughout the site. 40 mm depth wet pou rubber. 580 sq m.	£41,377
New timber edging to new footpaths. 760 m.	£9,880
New planting. Herbaceous plants with shrubs. 1500 sq m.	£90,000
New planting. Wildflower seed mix with bulbs. 1500 sq m.	£22,500
New trees. Large. 15 no.	£22,500
New grass mound to existing footbal pitch. Approx 45 x 15 m in plan view. 675 sq m. 2 m high to centre.	£33,750
New natural play equipement for kids 0-11 years old. Various items.	£12,605
New benches. 9 no.	£10,755
New picnic tables. 2 no. 2 no standard.	£1,672
New signage throughout the site. 4 no.	£2000
SUBTOTAL:	£247,039

4

New raised timber decking wiht observation platforms. 180 sq m.	£54,000
New planting. Herbaceous plants with shrubs. 1000 sq m.	£60,000
New benches. 4 no.	£4,780
New signage to observation platforms. 2 no.	£1000
SUBTOTAL:	£119,780

Ancillary items for all phases.	£32,875
Delivery & Installation for all items.	£125,000
TOTAL:	**£778,305**



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Diamond Park construction phases and cost summary

The proposed improvements to Diamond Park have been divided into three construction phases. As outlined for Jubilee Park, these phases can be adjusted to reflect the priorities, available funding and programme requirements of Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council.

Similarly, all products, materials and play equipment illustrated in the following sections are indicative only. They have been selected solely to provide an estimated project budget and to demonstrate the proposed type and location of the interventions. All costs are subject to tender process, net and subject to VAT.

1

New footpaths throughout the site. 40 mm depth wet pou rubber. 300 sq m.	£18,750	New picnic tables. 2 no. 1 no standard + 1 no accessible.	£1,654
New timber edging to new footpaths. 250 m.	£3,250	New trees. Large. 5 no.	£7,500
New site entrance. 1 no.	£5,000	New planting. Herbaceous plants with shrubs. 150 sq m.	£9,000
		SUBTOTAL:	£45,154

2

New safety surfacing to enhance existing play area. 160 sq m.	£10,000	New standard play equipement for kids 0-11 years old. Various items with accessories.	£9,016
New timber edging to new safety surfacing 80 m.	£1,040	SUBTOTAL:	£20,056

3

New footpaths to the natural play trail. 40 mm depth wet pou rubber. 80 sq m.	£5,000	New natural play equipement for kids 0-11 years old. Various items.	£16,445
New timber edging to new natural play trail. 280 m.	£3,640	New signage throughout the site.	£1000
New planting. Herbaceous plants with shrubs. 300 sq m.	£18,000	SUBTOTAL:	£44,085

Ancillary items for all phases.	£11,514
Delivery & Installation for all items.	£18,246
TOTAL:	**£139,056**



Next steps for Grappenhall and Thelwall Parish Council

- Review and confirm the concept design (RIBA Stage 2)
- Agree the delivery strategy
- Identify and pursue funding opportunities
- Develop the design for planning application (RIBA Stage 3) if necessary
- Obtain planning approval
- Develop the detailed design for the tender process and costruction (RIBA Stage 4)
- Review and confirm the detailed design including any phasing
- Procurement
- Review and refine the detailed design to align with secured funding (RIBA Stage 4+)
- Public consultation
- Manufacturing and construction (RIBA Stage 5)
- Handover, monitoring and future reviw (RIBA Stage 6 & 7)

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