

Hetton Park - Interventions phase plan

Facilities Area

- To open up the southern entrance into the park, all overgrown shrubs should be removed. The small section of brick wall and metal fencing should also be removed and a new entrance sign should be installed.
- Southern end of the park to be looked at in future phases to increase park size.
- Slopes beneath existing mature trees would benefit from new low levels shrub planting and seasonal bulbs.
- The old bowling green provides a safe, enclosed environment for the creation of a new toddler play area and sensory bog garden.
- Fencing around the bowling green could enable the use of bark chippings or sand as safety surfacing.
- 3 new gates will need to be added to allow safe access to the areas.
- 2 new ponds will be incorporated into the bog garden to entice wildlife.
- Bridge decking across the first pond will give a safe but immersive experience to anyone. Mezzanine decking across the second pond will give another experience which could include information boards to educate visitors.
- The grass area between the tennis courts and bowling green to become a resting area for parents to oversee activity in both areas either side. New seating and picnic tables to be provided. Decked woodland viewing platform will extend the intimate experience of the bog garden out to the larger woodland.
- This tennis court could become a new play area for older children or could accommodate existing play equipment from site. New safety surfacing would be required.
- This tennis court could become a new MUGA. Existing surfacing would need to be cleaned and new football goals and/or basketball/netball hoops could be provided. Overhanging branches should be pruned and a new gate should be provided on the path side of the court. To facilitate football it may be necessary to provide rebound fencing.
- New planting beds to be created with native planting types.
- Consider relocating play area as noted above and/or replacing with natural play equipment. Additional locations for existing equipment to be considered.
- Old play area could become a large pond area as there is no large body of water and this sits within a low basin area. This could help with rising future flood possibilities within the area.

Meadow and Burn Area

- All overgrown shrubs next to the existing stream to be removed to reveal the stream.
- Marginal plants could be planted to improve the ecological value of the stream and provide visual interest.
- Invasive species will need to be taken out to stop native strangulation.
- Side pools and bog areas could be incorporated to increase water retention in the area. Future widening of the burn could aid with flood issues.
- Existing low benches to be replaced. Additional benches to be located to maximise views within this part of the site.
- Consider locating a focal point/feature at the end of the grassed area. This could be a large tree to give a natural feature.
- Grass edges to be grown tall. May benefit from wild-flower plug plants.
- Meadow area could be sectioned to create a small bog area next to the river. River edging would need excavating to allow run off into the bog area.

Woodland Area

- Woodland area will benefit from multiple interventions, but a stand off approach in the future will aid in a healthy forest.
- Dead wood management will aid in increasing wildlife numbers and future retention.
- Multiple bat boxes to be installed throughout the woodland area to increase local bat population and retention.
- Multiple bird boxes to be installed throughout the woodland area in a varied amount of sizes. Large boxes will help owl populations.
- Small to medium boxes will aid a range of smaller bird species.
- Paths throughout the woodland area need clearing of overgrown shrubs.
- Paths need a natural covering to aid public access.
- Wooden edges could help retain paths for an extended period.

Parkland Area

- Allow area to become naturally colonised or possibly create an orchard.
- Remove overgrown shrub planting to reveal stands of trees.
- Hilled areas to become naturally colonised, wild-flower seed or plug planting will increase aesthetics quicker
- Additional benches to be located to maximise views within the parkland area.
- North end of the park to have new sign-age to create a clear and informative entrance to that end of the park.

General and other areas

- Connection to Hetton bog to be looked at.
- Overall ecological environment and especially its water connection to be looked at holistically for future phases, as these are very important habitats for all Flora and Fauna and will aid in future environment shifts.
- Deterioration of the bog paths and access will affect whole park this will need to be looked at in future phase plans.
- Installation of VR/interactive sign-age, information boards and other features.

