

Action Plan

Bilston Analysis Area

Civic Space

There is important civic space within Bilston Town Centre and linking it to Bilston Urban Village via Bert Turner Boulevard. Proposals exist to improve this space using Levelling Up Funds and the Long Term Plan for Bilston.

New Actions 2024 - 2029

Project (Indicative Timing)	Reasons why this is a priority
Bilston Town Centre (2024-2029)	
Various improvements to the public realm in Bilston Town Centre, including The Orchard (either redevelopment, with compensatory provision elsewhere, or improvement in association with refurbishment of Pipe Hall), Bert Turner Boulevard/ High Street Link and open space adjacent to Stafford Street. Further proposals to be developed through the Long Term Plan for Bilston.	It is important that greenspace and public realm in and around Bilston Town Centre are improved as part of its regeneration.

Parks

In recent years a new neighbourhood park has been created at Ward Street and Prouds Lane Playing Field has been upgraded to a doorstep park. This has contributed to good access to parks in the centre and north of Bilston Analysis Area, the majority of which have been assessed as of higher quality and higher value. East Park is the analysis area’s district park and Hickman Park its town park. While both were assessed as of higher value and quality, they require investment to maintain and improve on the range of facilities which they offer.

Bilston Analysis Area does not, however, meet the standards for access to parks in the south and east. Some of these areas with no access are commercial, with little housing, although residential areas which do not meet the standard are around Springvale Park, Ladymoor/ Bilston Urban Village, parts of Bradley and in Loxdale and The Lunt. Areas assessed as having the highest level of combined open space need are: to the west of East Park, towards the city centre and Heath Town; from Priestfield through Bilston Town Centre to Loxdale and The Lunt; and in an area around Bunkers Hill.

In The Lunt there remains the potential to improve Alexander Metals Open Space, which was designated a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) in April 2023, to provide a neighbourhood park. The only park in the Analysis Area to be assessed as of both poor quality and value is Cedar Grove, a pocket park in Bunkers Hill area. Pembroke Avenue Open Space which is assessed to be of lower quality but higher value is in the Priestfield area.

Natural Green Space

There is a large quantity of natural green space in the Bilston Analysis Area, some of which is of nature conservation value. Most of the Analysis Area meets the standards for access, however, the quality and value of these spaces is sometimes poor. In recent years there have been major improvements to the former Priestfield Railway Cutting at Ward Street East. Several areas of natural green space have been provided at Bilston Urban Village, providing links between the new housing and schools, Bilston Town Centre to the north and the Bradley Arm Canal and Bradley to the south. Poor access to natural green space remains in the Spring Vale area, although primarily affecting commercial rather than residential area, and to the north and east of the town centre, affecting the Bunkers Hill area.

The Wolverhampton Local Plan Issues and Proposed Options Consultation, February 2024, proposes allocating 6.7 hectares of Neachells Lane (Tip) Open Space for employment use for which a planning application was submitted in December 2023. If this development goes ahead then the amount of such greenspace in the Bilston Analysis Area would be 2.01ha of natural greenspace per 1,000 population. The analysis area would still meet the quantity standard for natural greenspace and open space overall.

Amenity Green Space

Amenity green space provides a less formal green space experience than parks, with fewer amenities and with less biodiversity value than natural green space. Sites are smaller in size, with all but two in the Bilston Analysis Area of doorstep category which are only likely to be used by nearby residents. There are significant parts of the analysis area, without access to amenity green space although reference to the Access to Nature Close to Home standard indicates that these areas largely have access to other green space. The majority of amenity green spaces in the analysis area are identified in the audit as of higher quality and value although the two of neighbourhood category, at Tank Farm and Turtons Croft are identified as of lower quality and higher value.

Provision for Children plus Provision for Young People and Other Recreation

Access to provision for children is limited across the city, although the north of the Bilston Analysis Area is one of the largest areas of deficiency city-wide. The quality of many of the sites is good, including the new provision at Ward Street Neighbourhood Park and East Park. The analysis area has high levels of assessed play needs, particularly: to the north of Willenhall Road around Eastfield Park; around Priestfield and Ettingshall; and in The Lunt and Bunkers Hill areas. Improvement of existing poor quality play facilities at Eastfield Park, Hickman Park would serve areas of high identified play needs. Provision of new facilities to address gaps would also ensure that residents are able to access facilities. Opportunities have been identified at Batmans Hill in Bradley and at Neachells Lane (Tip) Open Space as part of the reconfiguration of the site in association with the proposed commercial development.

There is a similar pattern of distribution of provision for young people across the analysis area, with facilities generally being of high quality and value. Due to the wider access catchments, the analysis area is generally assessed as having good access to facilities for young people. The main deficiency is in the northern part of Stowlawn and Portobello.

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Completed Actions	
Completed Project (When Completed)	Reasons why this is a priority
Ward Street Neighbourhood Park West (2018-2020)	
A new park has been provided as part of the Ward Street Masterplan development including children's play facilities, a multi-use games area (MUGA), a Cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) practice facility with support from England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and outdoor gym equipment. Transfer to council ownership has been completed.	Required to serve the needs of new and existing residents including demand for cricket facilities. Secured through completed housing development.
Ward Street Park East (2021-2023)	
Filling and re-landscaping of Dudley – Priestfield Disused Railway (North) SLINC and Greenway has taken place as part of the Ward Street Masterplan development to provide a neighbourhood natural greenspace. Transfer to council ownership has been completed.	Part of overall open space improvements delivered through Ward Street development. Secured through completed housing development.
Moseley Road Open Space (2021-2022)	
Tiny Forest woodland planting and volunteer tree planting.	To increase biodiversity and improve amenity.
East Park (2018-2023)	
Woodland planting including by volunteers.	To increase biodiversity and improve amenity.
Install splash pad and new children's play facilities as part of improvements to the park.	To replace former paddling pool and support development of one of the city's key district parks.
Cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) provided in 2018 with support from England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB).	To help address future shortfall in cricket facilities.
Bilston Urban Village Natural Areas (2018)	
Improvements and transfer of management to Land Trust ownership completed.	Good quality / high value.
Stow Heath Lane Open Space (2021-2022)	
Woodland planting.	To support biodiversity and improve amenity.
Prouds Lane Playing Field (2022-2023)	
Playing fields upgraded to doorstep park to provide improvements to two football pitches (one adult and one junior), replacement ball stop fencing, perimeter path, benches, rubbish bins, fitness centre and children's play area.	To meet local community aspirations for an improved facility.
New Actions 2024-2029	
Project	Reasons why this is a priority
East Park	

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Provide replacement of condemned changing facilities plus public toilets, café and community meeting space. Part mitigation for loss of part of Neachells Lane (Tip) Open Space.	To allow continued use of playing fields and enhance park facilities to complement recent investment in play facilities.
Hickman Park	
Following public consultation, tree planting, improvements to pond, improved play facilities and other park furniture. Looking to carry out investment in replacement theatre stage for events.	Hickman Park is the town park serving Bilston and is well used with demand for improved facilities.
Cedar Grove Open Space	
Improve both quality and value (range of facilities) of this doorstep park including security improvements and play facilities. Scheme to be developed through public consultation following identification of funding.	Cedar Grove Open Space is the only park in the Bilston Analysis Area to be assessed as of both poor quality and value (range of facilities) in the audit. It is an area identified in the analysis as having a high level of combined needs for both open space and play.
Pembroke Avenue Open Space	
Improve quality of this doorstep park including provision for children. Scheme to be developed through public consultation following identification of funding.	Pembroke Avenue Open Space is assessed, both overall and for provision for children, as of poor quality but high value (range of facilities) in the audit. It is an area identified in the analysis as having a high level of combined needs for both open space and play.
Bilston Urban Village Nettlefolds Park	
Review function of existing natural green space and consider need to upgrade to doorstep park, including new play provision, in consultation with the Land Trust.	To provide a doorstep park for the residents of Bilston Urban Village, including new play provision.
Brook Terrace Open Space	
Improvements to this doorstep natural greenspace, forming part of a Greenway.	To improve quality of this higher value piece of open space.
Alexander Metals Open Space	
Improvements to the privately-owned natural green space, located in The Lunt area, and the adjoining Greenway alongside the Black Country Route to provide a neighbourhood park, subject to protection of its value as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). Funding and long term maintenance of the site to be secured.	The Lunt has poor access to parks facilities and Alexander Metals Open Space is the only site with potential to create a neighbourhood park in the area.
Rocket Pool Open Space	

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Improving access to neighbourhood park including improving fishing points, addressing erosion around pool and installing fencing to improve security.	Locally important natural space and angling opportunity. This is assessed as a neighbourhood park of high quality but limited value (range of facilities) in the audit.
Neachells Lane (Tip) Open Space	
Reconfigure and carry out environmental improvements to the retained neighbourhood natural green space to compensate for loss of trees and habitat after development of part of the site. Mitigation off-site in the form of new children's play facilities in Stowlawn area and improvements at East Park.	To compensate for loss of part of site for development for employment use, as proposed in draft Wolverhampton Local Plan.
Stowlawn area	
Provide children's play facilities at site to be identified in Stowlawn area as part mitigation for loss of part of Neachells Lane (Tip) Open Space.	The northern part of the Bilston Analysis Area is identified in the audit as having no children's play facilities and a high level of combined play needs.
Batmans Hill Open Space	
New children's play equipment at this doorstep amenity green space.	Poor access to play provision identified in the south of the Bilston Analysis Area.
Eastfield Park	
Improve provision for children at this neighbourhood park.	Provision for children was assessed as of poor quality but high value (range of facilities) in the audit. It is an area identified in the analysis as having a high level of combined needs for play.
Ladymoor Pool Open Space	
Look at potential to improve the Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, part-owned by the Canal & River Trust, to serve existing and new residents and as part of an ecological network which includes sites at Bilston Urban Village to the north. To include investment in Ladymoor Pool. Identified as a potential site for investment through offsite Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).	Key canal side natural greenspace, adjoining Bilston Urban Village, with potential for improvement.
Former Bradley Canal	
Protect the line of the former Bradley Canal (Great Bridge Open Space and Stirling Road Open Space), which currently acts as a Greenway, in support of the reinstating the canal itself, as a link between the Birmingham Mainline and Walsall Canals, in the next Action Plan period.	Poor quality open space with potential to promote regeneration through creation of new environmental infrastructure.

Central and South Analysis Area

Civic Space

There has been a pedestrian zone in Wolverhampton City Centre, centred on Dudley Street and Queen Square, since the mid-1970s. This was extended in 2022-2023 to include Victoria Street along with public realm improvements around North Street. Further proposals exist for city centre pedestrianisation and public realm improvements.

Completed Actions

Project (When Completed)	Reasons why this was a priority
City Centre Public Realm Phases 1 and 3 (2021-2023)	
Public realm improvements including pedestrianisation of Victoria Street and works to North Street and surrounding area.	To support regeneration of the city centre.

New Actions 2024-2029

Project	Reason why this is a priority
City Centre Public Realm Phase 2	
Public realm works to Lichfield Street and Queen Square.	To support regeneration of the city centre.
Cleveland Boulevard	
Public realm improvements to Cleveland Road and across ring road to St George's Parade.	To link city centre to All Saints/ Royal Hospital development
Molineux Quarter	
Improvement of public realm between university campuses.	To support development of university and improve pedestrian connectivity between campuses.

Parks

Apart from small areas of Penn and Woodcross on the southern boundary, the Central and South Analysis Area meets the standard for access to parks, although this relies heavily on access to larger district and town parks with fewer neighbourhood or doorstep parks. Wolverhampton City Centre and surrounding areas within the analysis area do, however, have the highest level of combined open space need in the city.

West Park, the city's premier park, which is used regularly for events, falls within this high need part of the analysis area. Fowlers and Springvale Town Parks and Woodcross Neighbourhood Park, plus smaller doorstep open spaces at Bromley Street and Rough Hills, are, however, judged to be of lower quality.

Increasing the range of functions provided by larger neighbourhood natural green space at Taylor Road and Doorstep Amenity Green Space at Farndale Avenue can improve them to park standard. New doorstep parks in the city centre and Canalside Quarter, where a large amount of new housing is proposed, is required to meet both existing needs and those of new residents.

Natural Green Space

There is little natural green space in much of the Central and South Analysis Area, which covers the city centre and large parts of inner Wolverhampton. Whitmore Reans, Newbridge and adjoining areas do, however, benefit from access to the Smestow Valley. Whilst there are some smaller areas of natural green space in the south of the analysis area, most of which are of nature conservation value, there is a large swathe of high density housing from the city centre and Springfield through Blakenhall and Parkfield to Woodcross without access. The quality of the natural green space which do exist is generally poor.

There is potential to provide a limited amount of new open space through development in the city centre and Canalside Quarter, where opportunities to include natural habitat should be explored to meet both existing needs and those of new residents. There may also be opportunities to improve the nature conservation value of existing open spaces such as parks.

Taylor Road Open Space has potential to be improved both for nature conservation and as a neighbourhood park. The Gorge, currently closed to the public, also has potential to be improved and reopened, making the most of its value for biodiversity and as a Geopark site.

Amenity Green Space

The Central and South Analysis Area contains numerous smaller amenity green spaces, including around the city centre, but there are significant areas with no access including parts of Whitmore Reans, All Saints, Blakenhall and Spring Vale. There are limited opportunities to provide new areas of amenity green space and maintenance and improvement of those which do exist should be a priority to serve the existing and new population, given that the city centre and Canalside Quarter are the major areas of future housing growth in Wolverhampton.

The quality and value of the majority of amenity green spaces in the analysis area is high, although there are some opportunities for improvement. As the area is one of high Combined Open Space Needs, improvements to amenity green space in residential areas would prove valuable to residents.

Provision for Children plus Provision for Young People and Other Recreation

Access to provision for children is limited across the city, including large parts of the Central and South Analysis Area such as Newbridge, parts of Whitmore Reans, the city centre, Goldthorn Park and Ettingshall Park. Access is best around West Park, in parts of Blakenhall and in Heath Town. The quality of many of the sites is good, including those installed by Wolverhampton Homes in Heath Town. The analysis area has high levels of assessed play needs in the city centre and surrounding areas. Opportunities exist to improve facilities at West Park and elsewhere in Whitmore Reans and Spring Vale as well as to provide new facilities in city centre developments to serve the needs of existing residents and visitors to the city centre as well as any new resident children.

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Access to Provision for Young People is generally good across the Analysis Area apart from small areas in the south and west which have limited housing.

Completed Actions	
Project (When Completed)	Reasons why was is a priority
Fowlers Park (2016-2022)	
Improvements to pond, landscaping, tree planting and paths as part of ERDF Blue Network Project.	To improve biodiversity & amenity in town park.
Cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) provided in 2018 with support from England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB).	To develop training provision and relieve pressure on grass pitches.
Spring Vale Park (2021-2022)	
Woodland planting in town park.	To support biodiversity and improve amenity.
Woodcross Park (2021-2023)	
Woodland planting in neighbourhood park.	To support biodiversity and improve amenity.
Taylor Road Open Space (2021-2022)	
Woodland planting in neighbourhood natural green space.	To support biodiversity and improve amenity.
Broad Street Canal Open Space (2016-2019)	
Improvements to doorstep amenity green space as part of Managing Short Trips project to create better access to the City Centre canal network, including provision of canal tunnel lighting.	To support regeneration and provide a quality open space serving the City Centre as well as providing a focus for canal-based recreation as part of the wider Greenway network.
Coleman Street Open Space (2021-2022)	
Tiny Forest woodland planting in doorstep amenity green space.	To increase biodiversity and improve amenity.
Haggar Street Open Space (2021-2022)	
Tiny Forest woodland planting in doorstep amenity green space.	To increase biodiversity and improve amenity.
Heath Town Estate Masterplan (2018-2021)	
As part of the Masterplan, a range of open space and public realm improvements were carried out to Heath Town Estate including: improvements to an existing ball court and creation of a play hub (play area and outdoor gym) on adjoining land; creation of two further play areas; and creation of a new football pitch at Grosvenor Street Open Space (see below).	To improve the quality and accessibility of amenity space and play provision across Heath Town Estate.
Grosvenor Street Open Space (2018-2019)	

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Part of Heath Town Estate Masterplan (see above). New 7v7 football pitch created to mitigate for loss of playing field when housing built at Burton Crescent.	To support major regeneration project and new housing development at Heath Town Estate.
Peace Green (2017-2018)	
Provision of caged cricket lanes and small-sided basketball and netball court	To help address a future shortfall in cricket facilities.
Newbridge Playing Fields (2016-2018)	
Redevelopment of pavilion to provide cricket and football clubs with changing facilities and meeting space. Cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) provided in 2018 with support from England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB).	Identified as a key site which requires an increase in quality to accommodate more matches.

New Actions 2024-2029	
Project	Reasons why this is a priority
Fowlers Park	
Improvements to playing fields and changing rooms to increase use of town park. Works include improved pedestrian and cycling access, including links with the adjoining canal, plus general infrastructure, sports facilities, play equipment, CCTV and car parking.	To improve quality and meet the needs of residents including new developments in Canalside Quarter. Large pitch site with poor quality pitches and changing rooms. Identified for improvement in Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (2022).
Springvale Park	
Access and other improvements to quality of town park.	Assessed as lower quality and value in audit. space and play needs.
West Park	
Renovation of existing play area at town park.	Identified as of Lower quality, higher value in audit & in area identified as of high open space needs.
Woodcross Park	
Renovation of existing play area plus footpath and other improvements at neighbourhood park.	Children's play facility assessed as lower quality but higher value in audit. Serving area of high combined open space and combined play needs.
Graiseley Recreation Ground	
Produce masterplan for neighbourhood park following consultation with residents including potential play, recreation and access improvements.	To support regeneration and provide a quality neighbourhood park serving both an established residential area, with limited access to parks, and

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	residents of new city centre housing, in an area with high combined open space need.
All Saints Neighbourhood Park	
Further improvements to neighbourhood park, subject to consultation with residents.	To provide a quality neighbourhood park serving both an area which has undergone housing renewal and residents of new city centre housing at the Royal Hospital site.
St George's Quarter Doorstep Park	
Development of doorstep park as part of St George's Quarter development, linking to Cleveland Boulevard, including children's play facilities.	To serve needs of existing residents and visitors and of growing residential population in Wolverhampton City Centre.
City Centre West Doorstep Park	
Development of Market Square as doorstep park as part of City Centre West development, including children's play facilities.	To serve needs of existing residents and visitors and of growing residential population in Wolverhampton City Centre.
Canalside Quarter Doorstep Parks	
Development of two new doorstep parks, including children's play facilities, at Grimstone Street and Canalside South in Canalside Quarter to serve new residential developments.	To support regeneration and serve needs of both existing residents and of growing residential population in Canalside Quarter.
Cambridge Street Open Space	
Either improve doorstep amenity greenspace to park standard or develop, subject to provision of higher quality replacement elsewhere.	To support regeneration and serve needs of both existing residents and of growing residential population in Canalside Quarter.
Peace Green	
Renovation of existing play area and access improvements at neighbourhood park.	To maintain the quality of local play provision. Identified as of lower quality & higher value in audit.
Newbridge Playing Field	
Renovation of existing play facilities at neighbourhood park.	Children's play facility assessed as lower quality and lower value in audit. In area of high combined open space & play needs.
Bromley Street Open Space	

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Play, recreation and access improvements to doorstep park.	To support regeneration and serve an area with high combined open space need.
Rough Hills Open Space	
Look to improve quality of doorstep park.	Site was audited as of lower quality and lower value and is in an area of medium combined open space need.
Merridale Street Open Space	
Upgrade existing play facilities and look at potential for healthy lifestyle improvements at doorstep park.	Regeneration area with below standard quantity of open space and play facilities.
Leicester Street Open Space	
Renovation of existing play facilities at doorstep park.	Children's play facility assessed as lower quality and lower value in audit. In area of high combined open space & play needs.
Taylor Road Open Space	
Following public consultation, produce a masterplan to inform future development of neighbourhood natural green space and Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation, including possible improvements to both increase value for wildlife and create a neighbourhood park.	To improve nature conservation value and provide a quality neighbourhood park to serve the area east of Birmingham New Road.
The Gorge Nature Reserve	
Investigate the potential to reopen the neighbourhood natural green space site to the public, utilising its status as a Black Country UNESCO Global Geopark site and its nature conservation value.	This site is currently closed to the public but, subject to addressing concerns about public safety, has potential to be reopened with recreational, educational and tourism benefits.
Farndale Avenue Open Space	
Improvements to infrastructure and facilities at the doorstep amenity greenspace, informed by public consultation in 2021.	Lack of amenity green space in the area which is an area of combined open space need.
Haggar Street Open Space	
Improvements to doorstep amenity greenspace to increase amenity value and complement the planting of the Tiny Forest.	To improve the quality of this higher value amenity green space in the area which is an area of high combined open space need.
Hill Avenue Play Area	
Renovation of existing play area.	Identified as of lower quality, higher value in audit.

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Rooker Avenue Sports Ground (former Bilston United Sports Ground) / Lawn Road Open Space	
Improve and potentially extend Rooker Avenue Sports Ground, where there is one adult football pitch, through reinstatement of a pitch at the adjoining Lawn Road Open Space. Support club development on the site including investigation of feasibility of rebuilding changing rooms.	Potential site to accommodate a new football club. Identified for improvement in Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (2022).
Grosvenor Street Open Space	
Improvement of 7v7 football pitch to playable standard at outdoor sports facility.	To support major regeneration project and new housing development at Heath Town Estate.
Dixon Street Playing Field	
Improve pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime and provide replacement changing facilities for those lost at neighbourhood park.	To alleviate overplay, meet community demand and allow pitches' use for competitive matches. Identified for improvement in Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (2022).

North Analysis Area

Parks

Most of the North Analysis Area meets the standard for access to parks, apart from a small area on the north, which is predominantly commercial and part of Old Fallings/ The Scotlands. Also there remains a small gap in access at the southern end of the Goodyear Estate, away from the recently completed Goodyear Neighbourhood Park which has improved provision in the area. Overall quality is lower, however, with the majority of the larger parks, including Pendeford Park and Northwood Park, being of lower quality.

Low Hill, the southern part of Bushbury and Old Fallings/ The Scotlands, including the area which does not meet the standard for access, have been identified as having high levels of combined open space need.

Reopening St Christopher's Community Park, with managed access to mitigate against problems of antisocial behaviour, plus improvements to Tennyson Road Neighbourhood Park and further improvements to Bushbury Recreation Ground would help address some of these gaps in access and quality in an area of highest need.

Natural Green Space

Access to natural green space meets the Strategy's standards across all of the North Analysis Area, apart from a small area of Low Hill. This is due to the presence of Smestow Valley, Pendeford Woodland Canalside Area and Pendeford Mill Nature Reserve just outside the analysis area boundary to the west and of Northcote Farm Country Park on the eastern side of the analysis area. The majority of the larger sites are of higher quality and value although Pendeford Woodland Canalside Area is of lower quality and value. Pendeford Mill Nature Reserve and Pendeford Woodland and Canalside Natural Area lie in South Staffordshire, to the north of the city boundary, but are owned and managed by the city council and so are included in the North Analysis Area for the purposes of the Action Plan. Pendeford Mill Nature Reserve and the city's only Country Park, Northcote Farm Country Park, both draw visitors from outside the Analysis Area and the city. There is potential to develop further the main areas of natural green space, improve some (plus Pendeford Park) through Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and open up sites at Rakegate Wood and Jones Road to public access.

Amenity Green Space

The North Analysis Area contains numerous smaller amenity green spaces, but there are significant areas with no access including parts of Low Hill, Oxley and Bushbury. The quality and value of the majority of amenity green spaces in the analysis area is high. There are no identified opportunities to provide new areas of amenity green space and maintenance and improvement of those which do exist should be the priority.

Provision for Children plus Provision for Young People and Other Recreation

Access to provision for children is limited across the city. The North Analysis Area performs better than other analysis areas but there are significant gaps in parts of Low Hill/ The Scotlands and Bushbury, Oxley and Pendeford. The quality and value of some of the sites are good but there are others of lower quality or value. The analysis area has high levels of assessed play needs in the south of Bushbury and Low Hill/ The Scotlands.

Access to Provision for Young People is good across the Analysis Area apart from small areas in the south and west which have limited housing except for small areas on the northern boundary which are predominantly non-residential. The quality of these facilities is generally high.

Completed Actions	
Project (When Completed)	Reasons why this was a priority
Goodyear Neighbourhood Park (2018-2020)	
Provided a new neighbourhood park as part of the Goodyear housing development, including a play area, multi-use games area, tennis court, football pitch, changing rooms and sustainable drainage features. Complete but not yet transferred to the City Council for management.	To address a gap in parks provision in the Oxley area and to meet the needs of new residents.
Cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) provided in 2018 with support from England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB).	To help address shortfall in cricket facilities.
Bushbury Recreation Ground (2020-2023)	
New paths and play area at neighbourhood park.	To address poor quality of park and address a gap in children's play provision.
Northwood Park (2021-2022)	
Woodland planting in town park.	To support biodiversity and improve amenity.
Bee Lane Playing Fields (2021-2022)	
Woodland planting in neighbourhood park.	To support biodiversity and improve amenity.
Improvements to quality of two football pitches complete (one adult football pitch and one youth 9v9) complete.	To compensate for the pitches lost at Northcote High School. Improve amenity of site and improve poor quality pitches unused by the local community.
Pendeford Park (2021-2022)	
Woodland planting in district park.	To support biodiversity and improve amenity.
Pendeford Mill Nature Reserve (2021-2022)	
Woodland planting in town natural green space.	To support biodiversity and improve amenity.
Renton Road Open Space (2018)	
Improvements to Renton Road Open Space and play facilities and rationalisation of remaining play provision in the area.	To address a gap in children's play provision.
Claregate Park (2018)	

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Cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) provided in 2018 with support from England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB).	To help address shortfall in cricket facilities.
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New Actions 2025-2029	
Project	Reasons why this is a priority
Northwood Park	
Subject to priorities identified in public consultation in autumn 2023 and to available funding, play equipment, infrastructure and sports facility improvements to town park. In addition, investigate opportunities to install changing rooms to enable adult match play at two adult football pitches.	Park identified as of lower quality and value in the open space audit and serves an area with significant new housing. Spare capacity in adult pitches and potential to fully utilise and allow adult match play identified in Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (2022).
St Christopher's Community Park	
Reopen this doorstep amenity green space to managed community use.	Previously closed because of antisocial behaviour. It serves, however, an area of high combined open space need and lies on the edge of a residential area which does not meet the Strategy's standards for access.
Ruskin Road / Tennyson Road Neighbourhood Park	
Improvements to facilities in Tennyson Road Neighbourhood Park. Seek funding to carry out improvements to Ruskin Road informal play area.	Open space identified as of lower quality and value and play area of lower quality but higher value. Serves an area of higher combined open space and combined play need and with limited play facilities. Is close to a residential area which does not meet the Strategy's standards for access to parks.
Bushbury Recreation Ground	
Further improvements to facilities in this neighbourhood park.	Identified as of lower quality and value, serves an area of high combined open space need and is close to a residential area which does not meet the Strategy's standards for access.
Pendeford Park	
Improve quality and facilities in this district park, including possible improvements to increase value for nature. Identified as a potential site for investment through offsite Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).	The largest park in the city and serves some areas of high Multiple Deprivation. It was assessed as of lower quality and value and has potential for improvement.
Northcote Farm Country Park	

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Consultation is planned on future proposals for this district natural green space including possible improvements to increase value for nature. Identified as a potential site for investment through offsite Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).	To improve access to good quality natural green space.
Rakegate Wood	
Seek to use carry out for improvement work to this natural green space, owned by Wolverhampton Homes, and allow public access as part of redevelopment of adjacent Oxley Day Centre/ Oxley Lodge.	Opportunity through development proposal to increase access to good quality natural green space.
Abbeyfield Park	
Possible improvements to increase value for nature. Identified as a potential site for investment through offsite Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG).	To improve biodiversity.
Land at Jones Road	
Add to the existing natural green space in Smestow Valley by opening up access to the remaining area of land alongside the Birmingham Mainline Canal.	To extend protection and provide public access.
Pendeford Mill Nature Reserve	
Incorporation and development of the Old Tree Nursery, which was previously leased out and became rundown and the area contaminated with fly tipping. Project to re-establish the nursery, create natural habitat and develop a café.	To improve biodiversity, visitor experience and sustainability at town natural green space.
Dovecotes Open Space	
Seek funding to carry out improvements to informal play area at doorstep amenity green space.	Identified as a facility of lower quality but higher value in an area of high combined play need with limited play facilities.
Goodyear Neighbourhood Park	
Improve adult football pitch quality through enhanced maintenance regime.	To better serve community demand. Identified for improvement in Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (2022).

Tettenhall Analysis Area

Parks

The Tettenhall Analysis Area largely meets the Strategy's standards for access to parks, except for parts of Penn, Wightwick, Wergs/ Castlecroft and a smaller area of Aldersley. This is largely due, however, to the presence of Bantock Park and proximity of West Park (outside the analysis area), with few smaller neighbourhood or doorstep parks. The analysis area does, however, benefit from the presence of an extensive area of natural green space in Smestow Valley. Tettenhall Upper Green, Martham Drive Open Space and Windsor Avenue Playing Fields were all audited as of higher quality and lower value while Oak Street Open Space was audited as of lower quality but higher value. There are few opportunities to provide new open space in the area, however opportunities should be taken where they exist to improve existing natural green space and amenity green space to provide park levels of facilities.

The analysis area contains the most affluent part of the city and has largely low combined open space need except for Finchfield and Merry Hill Estates and the part of Graiseley which it contains.

Natural Green Space

The Tettenhall Analysis Area largely benefits from good access to natural green space, through Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve (LNR), which acts as a green lung extending throughout the area. A small part of Wergs, plus parts of Penn and Penn Fields do not meet the Strategy's standards for access. Improvements are being carried out to the LNR, funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund and a full Heritage Lottery Fund proposal is in development. Smestow Valley was audited as of higher quality and value while lower quality natural green spaces were assessed at Langley Road Open Space (just outside the city boundary but included here) and Warstones Road.

Amenity Green Space

The Tettenhall Analysis Area has good access to amenity green space in the southwest, around Warstones and Merry Hill estates, and meets the standard in the Strategy in several other areas. Parts of Wightwick, Tettenhall, Aldersley, Bradmore, Penn and Graiseley do not however meet the standard, although some of these areas have good access to parks and natural green space.

Provision for Children plus Provision for Young People and Other Recreation

Access to provision for children is limited across the city and there are significant gaps in provision across the Tettenhall Analysis Area. The quality and value of most of the sites are good but there are others of lower quality or value. The analysis area has the lowest level of assessed play needs in the city due to its relative affluence. There are, however, pockets of high need on Finchfield and Merry Hill estates and in Graiseley.

Access to Provision for Young People is the poorest of any analysis area in the city with the eastern half meeting the standard but the west, from Wergs through Tettenhall and Wightwick to Castlecroft, Finchfield and Spring Hill, not meeting the standard. The quality of these facilities is mostly high, although rated as poor on two sites in Aldersley.

Completed Actions	
Project (When Completed)	Reasons why this was a priority
Penk Rise (2019-2021)	
Improvements to the neighbourhood park for different age groups, including refurbishment of formal play area and fitness facilities. Renovation of bridge across River Penk.	To provide a quality park to serve the Tettenhall Wood area.
Oak Street Open Space (2020-2021)	
Tiny Forest woodland planting in doorstep park.	To support biodiversity and improve amenity.
Windsor Avenue Open Space (2019-2022)	
Improvements to the town park, by modernising play facilities.	To provide a quality park.
Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve - ERDF Blue Network Project (2018-2019)	
Improvements to quality and value for wildlife and visitors, including access routes / pathways, stiles and fencing. Access and nature conservation improvements to open part of former Wolverhampton Environment Centre (WEC) site to create additional 4 ha of Local Nature Reserve, including potential to expand self-managed community allotment provision.	In line Management Plan and Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan. The site also functions as part of the Greenway network and as amenity open space for local residents.
Warstones Green	
Tiny Forest woodland planting on neighbourhood amenity green space.	To support biodiversity and improve amenity.
Hamble Road/ Kingsclere Walk (2022-2023)	
Replaced play area equipment at neighbourhood amenity green space with funding from development of poor quality open space at Reedham Gardens.	To maintain quality of play provision. Assessed as of poor quality before work undertaken.
Claregate Park (2018-2021)	
Improved quality of cricket square and cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) provided in 2018 at neighbourhood park, with support from England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB).	To enable site to be brought into use as poor quality cricket square.

New Actions 2025-2029	
Project	Reasons why this is a priority
Oak Street Open Space	
Infrastructure improvements to doorstep park.	Audited as of lower quality and higher value and lies within an area of high combined open space need.
Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve / Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal	

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Through Shared Prosperity Fund / Heritage Lottery Fund project. To: improve visitor experience; repair, improve and refurbish entrances, paths and bridges; improve nature habitats; increase community involvement; and promote the natural and industrial heritage of the site, including its UNESCO status.	To improve biodiversity, maintain the infrastructure and improve visitor experience in this district natural green space and Greenway.
Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve	
Implement security improvements with access barriers.	To improve security.
De-culverting of Graiseley Brook in Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve	
De-culverting of Graiseley Brook where it passes in a culvert beneath Smestow Valley LNR, to include some re-profiling of the open space, in order to promote biodiversity. Project potentially to be funded and managed by the Environment Agency, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and Severn Trent.	To improve sustainable drainage and biodiversity in this district natural green space and Greenway.
Smestow Brook Natural Green Space	
Add to the existing natural green space of Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve by opening up access to the area of natural green space west of Compton local centre which lies between Smestow Brook and the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal.	To extend protection and provide public access.
Further De-culverting of River Penk in Penk Rise Neighbourhood Park	
Project to open up the River Penk where it currently passes in a culvert beneath Penk Rise Neighbourhood Park, to include some re-profiling of the open space. This will assist natural drainage and promote biodiversity. Project potentially to be funded and managed by the Environment Agency, Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust and Severn Trent.	To improve sustainable drainage and biodiversity.
Henwood Road Open Space	
Develop a doorstep park at current amenity green space, including provision of a replacement play area for that at Martham Drive and multi-use games area. Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan proposal.	To address the lack of a park / play facilities to serve the Compton / Wightwick area.
Laburnum Street Open Space	
Maintenance and improvement of this doorstep amenity green space which was sold to adjacent Tayyaba Masjid Mosque in 2015 as a community asset transfer, subject to it being retained as public open space.	The site requires maintenance and improvement and is in an area of high open space needs.
Finchfield/ Merry Hill/ Warstones	
Carry out community consultation and survey work to identify demand and possible location of a facility for young people. If demand and a possible location are identified, seek funding.	The area does not meet the Strategy's standard for provision for young people and has been identified as having a high level of combined play needs.
Whiteoak Drive Library Play Area	

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Replace play equipment, subject to availability of funding.	Existing play equipment has been audited as of lower value and quality and the play area serves an area identified as having high combined play needs.
Windsor Avenue Playing Fields	
Improve changing provision for six adult football pitches.	Large site with poor quality changing rooms.
Claregate Park	
Seek to resurface existing tennis courts. Improvements to play facilities in this neighbourhood park.	To better serve community demand. Identified for improvement in Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (2022). Funding secured and identified by local community as in need of improvement.
Bradmore Recreation Ground	
Seek the possibility of re-surfacing existing tennis courts.	To better service curricular demand. Identified for improvement in Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (2022).

Wednesfield Analysis Area

Civic Space

Wednesfield Village Centre has potential for further public realm improvements.

New Actions 2024 - 2029

Project	Reasons why this is a priority
Wednesfield Towns Fund Project	
Improvements to open space adjoining canal at end of High Street Wider circulation space on High Street	To support the regeneration of the district centre

Parks

The Wednesfield Analysis Area largely meets the Strategy's standards for access to parks, except for parts in the northwest, adjoining Cannock Road, and around Broad Lane South. This is mostly due to the presence of town parks at Ashmore Park, Colman Avenue and Wednesfield Park in the analysis area and the draw of East Park as a district park. Heath Town Park and Long Knowle Open Space neighbourhood parks are the only other parks in the analysis area. Wednesfield and Heath Town Parks were audited as being of higher quality and value while the remainder were of lower quality and/ or value.

The analysis area has high levels of combined open space need in: the west, around Heath Town and Fallings Park; around Wednesfield Village; and in Ashmore Park. An area of high identified need in the south is around Neachells Lane industrial area.

Natural Green Space

The Wednesfield Analysis Area has relatively poor access to natural green space, with the north of the area having access to Northycote Farm Country Park. Smaller spaces provide some access elsewhere in the analysis area. These include those alongside the Wyrley and Essington Canal, which is now a Local Nature Reserve and has experienced significant investment. The Neachells Lane commercial area has access to Neachells Lane (Tip) site in the Bilston Analysis Area. Most sites are of higher quality and value while the doorstep Station Road Nature Reserve in Heath Town is of lower quality and value.

Amenity Green Space

The Wednesfield Analysis Area has many small amenity green spaces across the analysis area with relatively good access, although there are many parts which do not meet the standard, although some of these areas have good access to parks and natural green space. Most sites were assessed as of higher quality and value. An opportunity exists, subject to available funding, to improve Grassy Lane Open Space to provide a neighbourhood park.

Provision for Children plus Provision for Young People and Other Recreation

Access to provision for children is limited across the city and is poor across the Wednesfield Analysis Area with a limited number of sites. The quality most of the sites is high but some are of lower value. Heath Town, Fallings Park and areas of Wednesfield Village and Ashmore Park are identified as having higher combined play needs.

Access to Provision for Young People and Other Recreation meets standards across the analysis area apart from two small areas in the north and Neachells Lane commercial area. Provision is particularly good in Ashmore Park estate due to the number of facilities in Ashmore Park itself. The quality of some of the facilities, in particular at Ashmore Park, is however low.

Completed Actions	
Project (When Completed)	Reasons why this was a priority
Colman Avenue Park (2021-2022)	
Woodland planting, including volunteer planting, in town park.	To increase biodiversity and improve amenity.
Play area improvements	To improve the quality of play provision.
Heath Town Park (2021-2022)	
Tiny Forest volunteer woodland planting at neighbourhood park.	To increase biodiversity and improve amenity.
Ashmore Park (2021-2023)	
Volunteer woodland planting, including a Tiny Forest, at town park.	To increase biodiversity and improve amenity.
Black Country Wyrley and Essington Canal Local Nature Reserve (2017-2021)	
Local Nature Reserve designated in 2017/18, in partnership with Canal & River Trust and Walsall MBC. Signage, access and landscaping improvements (£119,000) were delivered in 2018-19 through Phase 1 of the ERDF Blue Network Project.	To address significant access / quality shortfalls in natural green space.
King George V Playing Fields (2018)	
Cricket Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) provided in 2018 with support from England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB).	To develop training provision and relieve pressure on grass pitches.
New Actions 2025-2029	
Project	Reasons why this is a priority
Ashmore Park	
Increase quality of town park through improving facilities on site, including play provision.	Assessed as of lower quality but higher value and in an area with poor access to natural green space. To improve

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	provision in an area of high combined open space and play needs.
Heath Town Park	
Improvements to infrastructure, including paths, and play facilities at neighbourhood park.	To improve provision in an area high combined open space and play needs.
Wednesfield Park	
Improvement to play provision at town park.	To improve provision in an area of high combined open space and play needs.
Long Knowle Open Space	
Improve quality and facilities, including play provision, at neighbourhood park	Assessed as of lower quality and value and adjoins are of high combined open space need.
Station Road Nature Reserve	
Seek funding to improve, increase biodiversity and amenity value of doorstep natural green space.	Assessed as of lower quality and value and in an area of higher combined open space need.
Grassy Lane Open Space	
Improve quality and value of neighbourhood amenity green space to provide neighbourhood park.	To provide access to parks close to an area of higher combined open space need both in Wednesfield and North Analysis Areas.
New Park Village (including Shawbury Road and Longford Road Open Spaces and Ellerton Walk Play Area)	
Improve provision of open spaces, including children's play facilities, as part of estate regeneration.	To improve quality and value of provision in an area of high combined open space need.

City Wide

Inclusive and Active Design

The public consultation and analysis of equalities carried out for the Open Space Strategy and Action Plan demonstrated the wide range of experiences and of needs among Wolverhampton’s diverse population. While there were many issues in common between different social groups, there is a need for the design of new open spaces, and of improvements to existing ones, to consider the needs of all in order to reduce health inequalities and social exclusion and to meet the council’s legal duties under equalities legislation. The report also outlines the importance of open space to health and wellbeing which will be supported by the inclusion of active design principles in the development of new and existing open spaces.

Natural Green Space and Amenity Green Space

There are areas of Natural Green Space and Amenity Green Space across the city of lower or unknown quality for nature conservation and public amenity.

Greenways

Greenways are multi-functional corridors which provide: traffic-free routes for active travel; wildlife habitat and corridors; recreational routes; and climate change adaption through urban cooling. They include the city’s canal corridors. Many are relatively short but others are, by their nature, longer distance and extend across more than one Analysis Area. The main objective is to protect and enhance the Greenways and individual opportunities to extend Greenways and improve access are identified in the Action Plan.

Policy R6: The Greenway Network of the Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan (UDP), 2006, states the council will work to extend and increase access to the Greenway network.

New Actions 2024-2029 (ongoing)

Project	Reasons why this is a priority
Inclusive Consultation	
Carry out public consultations on all development projects in new and existing open spaces, aiming to include all social groups, including those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, and to consider the needs of all users in project designs.	To promote equal opportunities and to reduce both health inequalities and social exclusion.
Inclusive Facilities	
Aim to provide toilets, cafes and inclusive play facilities in all district and town parks.	To promote equal opportunities and to reduce both health inequalities and social exclusion. Identified as key issues in public consultation.

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New Actions 2024-2029 (ongoing)	
Project	Reasons why this is a priority
Active Design	
To consider the principles of active design in all development projects in new and existing open spaces.	To promote physical activity and support health and wellbeing.
Inclusive Play Facilities	
Consider the needs of all children and young people, including those with disabilities and who are not neurotypical, in the design of new children’s play facilities.	To promote social inclusion and meet the needs of all social groups.
Playing Out	
Support Playing Out initiatives on residential streets in areas of identified need.	To provide play opportunities in areas with high levels of need, including combined play needs and needs identified in consultation with local communities.
Ecological Surveys	
Programme of surveys to recognise nature conservation value of some Natural and Amenity Green Spaces and amend management accordingly.	Appropriate management to increase quality and value for nature conservation and amenity.
Quality Improvements	
Carry out improvements to Natural and Amenity Green Spaces of lower quality for nature conservation and of public amenity where funding opportunities allow.	To improve biodiversity and increase public amenity.
Review provision of Allotments	
Review provision of council-run allotments and the case for new allotments in areas of shortage, in particular in the Bilston Analysis Area.	To meet demand and address wider concerns about health and wellbeing and cost of living crisis.
Community Gardening Initiatives	
Offer support for community gardening initiatives, including food growing and social prescribing initiatives, where funding opportunities and suitable sites, including council owned sites, are identified.	To support the population’s health and wellbeing.
Greenways	
Protect and, through individual projects in the Action Plan, increase access to the Greenway network.	To improve connections between and access to open spaces in the city, in line with policy R6: The Greenway Network of the Wolverhampton UDP.

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