

The Canch – Worksop Management Plan 2024



Contents

Executive Summary	3
Previous Plans	3
Visitor Experience Masterplan.....	4
Demographics	4
Consultation	5
Visitor Numbers and Dwell time.....	5
Visioning Ideas	5
Vision Statement for The Canch	6
Section 1 -The Current Situation	7
Local Area Profile	7
Site Introduction	9
Site Information	11
Facilities	12
History and Heritage.....	13
The Mill Wheelhouse	18
Section 2 - Assessment and Analysis	21
Assessment and Analysis.....	21
Service Assessment.....	22
Service Assessment Site Plan showing designated areas A-K.....	36
Site Ecology	40
Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage	41
SWOT Analysis	44
Environmental Performance Assessment.....	54
Marketing & Communication.....	68
Community Events	73
Section 3 - Delivery & Implementation	78
Aims and Objectives.....	78
Action Plans	79
Financial Resources	87
Staffing Resources	88
Operational Maintenance Schedules.....	89
Section 4 - Monitoring and Review.....	90
Monitoring and Review	90
Policy Context	92
Supporting documentation and information items	93

Executive Summary

Bassetlaw District Council is committed to providing high quality parks and open spaces throughout the district. This commitment has transformed the parks and open spaces after investments made into the facilities have often involved pioneering new developments and improvements across the service. The improvements have enabled the Council to apply for Green Flag Awards for its two main town centre parks.

The Canch Park in Worksop has been successful in achieving the Green Flag Award status since 2014.

The park is managed and maintained by Parks and Open Spaces within Leisure and Wellbeing Services led by the Environment & Energy Portfolio.

This management plan has been written as a working document to ensure the Park continues to develop and evolve with the needs and expectations of the public. It enables the Council and partners to keep focused on future strategic aims and aspirations, as identified within its 10-year Visitor Experience Masterplan for the park.

To ensure the plan retains its value as a current working document, it will be updated and amended annually to reflect developments and changing priorities.

This plan was updated in January 2024,

Previous Plans

This third management plan is built on the learning from the implementation of the previous two plans. Consultation with park users, groups, organisations and others with a vested interest in the park's future as a community asset, has consistently shaped development since the first Master Plan was produced in 2009.

Both presently and historically, consultation shows The Canch is valued on a grass roots level as a multi-use recreational green space and resource for all communities in and around the town of Worksop. By carrying on the legacy of continuous improvement, the park's role in the future regeneration of Worksop becomes steadily more real and visible.

Earlier phases of development saw successful funding bids secured from the Environment Agency, East Midlands Development Agency and the European Regional Development Fund. This has led to increased visitor numbers through the development of new and existing play/active recreational facilities.

The next phase of development and planning is about unifying all the park's assets at an equal level of quality and ensuring that further development brings the built heritage elements to a greater degree of prominence.



Visitor Experience Masterplan

A comprehensive Visitor Experience Master Plan was completed in November 2018, setting out a 10 year vision that reflects the need to bring built heritage into the same framework of quality and priority as seen with play/recreational facilities and the latest management plan will reference this document extensively.

The Master Plan recognises the challenges of working

within the constraints of funding for parks as a non-statutory provision. The plan describes what is currently done well and areas for improvement, through which important aspirations or visions have been identified to work towards. The result of these visions being fully realised would mean The Canch continues to grow in relevance, as the central 'Green Arena' recreational space for communities in Worksop and beyond.

Demographics

The Master Plan clearly identifies a strong social purpose for The Canch. This is shown by the higher proportion of lower income households and

above average youth unemployment levels within the catchment area for the park. Coupled with greater health inequalities, the provision of a good quality 'free to all' recreational facility becomes very important for health/well-being and development through play outcomes.

Consultation

Public consultation has been used extensively to inform the development of the Master Plan. The main consultation event in summer 2018 provided a comprehensive data set showing what park users valued and found to be negative aspects of their visitor experience. Through a combination of evaluating consultation feedback and expert condition assessments for infrastructure, a range of visions with a very wide spectrum of resource implications for ongoing improvements are included in the Master Plan. Further consultation is planned to inform the order of priority and final design of any visioning ideas proposed.

Visitor Numbers and Dwell time

The most recent visitor number data is included within the plan itself. The Visitor Experience Master Plan focuses on addressing issues affecting the quality of visitor experience and the challenge to increase dwell time in The Canch. The plan identifies how visitor experience challenges are broader than just the quality of infrastructure and must for example; include broad based partnership approaches to address anti-social behaviour.

Visioning Ideas

The Master Plan has to look beyond the current internal funding landscape and suggest visioning ideas that would usually require support from external funding sources.

Example visioning ideas included within the Management/Development Plan are as follows:

- New toilets accessible to disabled visitors and Changing Places provision.
- Events area on disused bowling green.
- Conservation and development of The Wheelhouse for green energy.
- Extensive restoration of numerous built heritage elements throughout The Canch.

The Master Plan includes a shift in focus towards including built heritage as a major theme within the visitor experience. This would bring this important element into the same priority and quality framework as the active recreation on offer at The Canch. The Management Plan will show how the groundwork necessary to achieve, what are likely to be long term visions, is being put in place.

Vision Statement for The Canch

To establish the Park as the green and living centre of Worksop through the promotion of its heritage, landscape and value as the flagship recreational resource of the town.



In support of Bassetlaw District Council's 2040 Vision and the aims for a Healthy District:

“Encouraging residents to be more active in green spaces through walking, cycling and physical activity in the Council's parks and open spaces”

Section 1 -The Current Situation

- Local Area Profile
- Site Introduction
- Site Information
- Maps and Plans
- Facilities
- History and Heritage
- The Mill Wheelhouse

Local Area Profile

Worksop is the largest town in the Bassetlaw district of Nottinghamshire, England, on the River Ryton at the northern edge of Sherwood Forest. It is about 15 miles south-east of the City of Sheffield and has a population of 44,439 (2021 census). Worksop is included in the Sheffield City region of England. It is also twinned with the German town Garbsen.

Worksop is known as the “Gateway to the Dukeries”, so called for the number of ducal residences in the area.

The building of the Chesterfield Canal in 1777, and the subsequent construction of Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway in 1849, both of which passed through the settlement, led to a degree of growth. Discovery of sizeable coal seams further increased interest in the area.

Coal mining provided thousands of jobs in and around Worksop for most the 19th and 20th centuries, but by the 1990’s the pits had closed, resulting in high unemployment.

Unemployment levels in the area are now lower than the national average, owing to large number of distribution and local manufacturing companies.

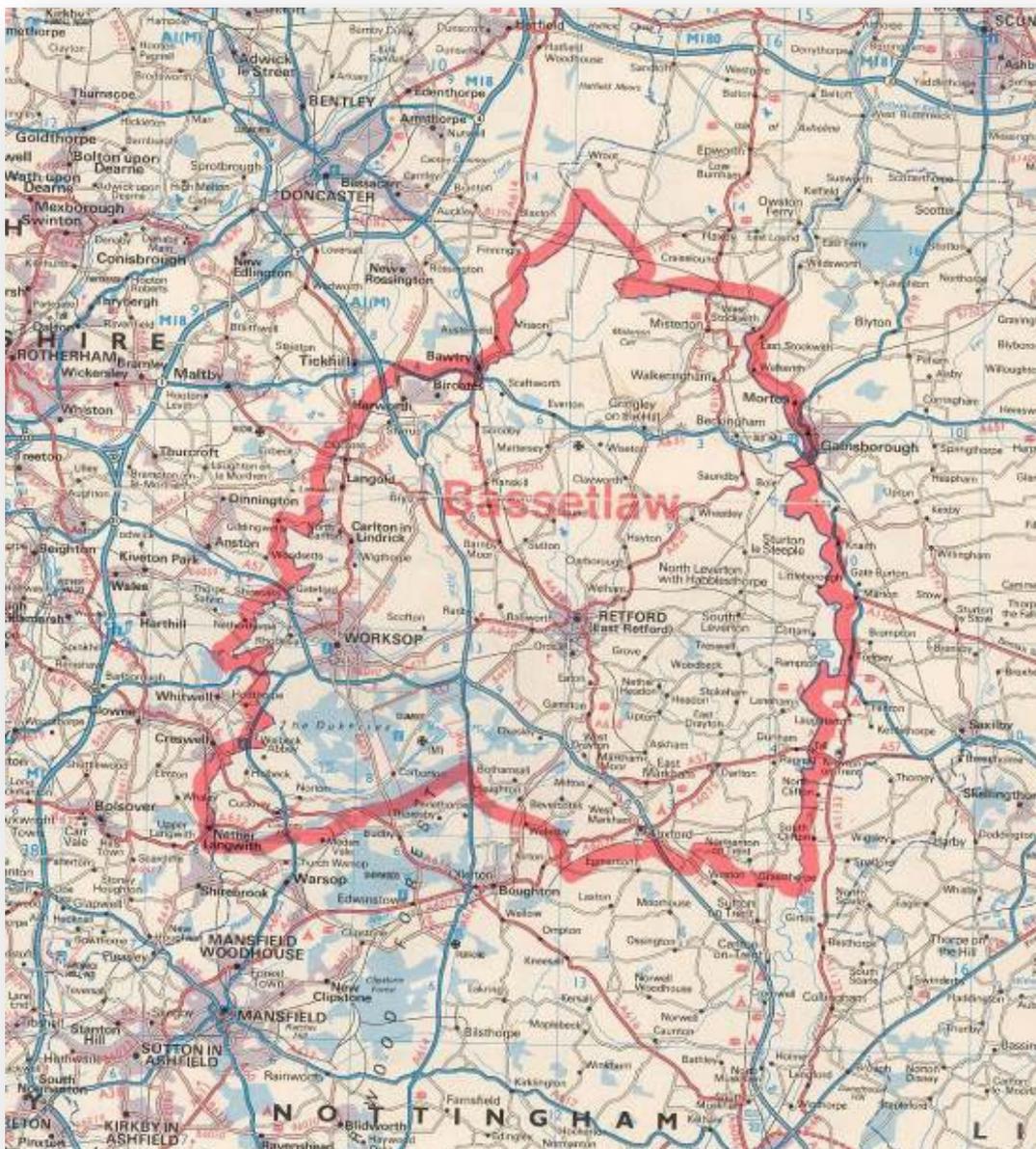


The area is becoming increasingly popular with commuters owing to its relative proximity to the nearby cities of Sheffield, Lincoln and Nottingham.

Worksop lies on the A57 with close connections to the A1 and the M1 as well as the A60, this allows goods to be easily transported into and out of the area, explaining why B&Q, Premier Foods and DHL have distribution centres in the area.

The rail links in the area are also good, Worksop lies on the Sheffield – Lincoln line, and this takes travellers to places such as Sheffield, Doncaster, Meadowhall, Lincoln and Retford.

Local Area Map



Site Introduction

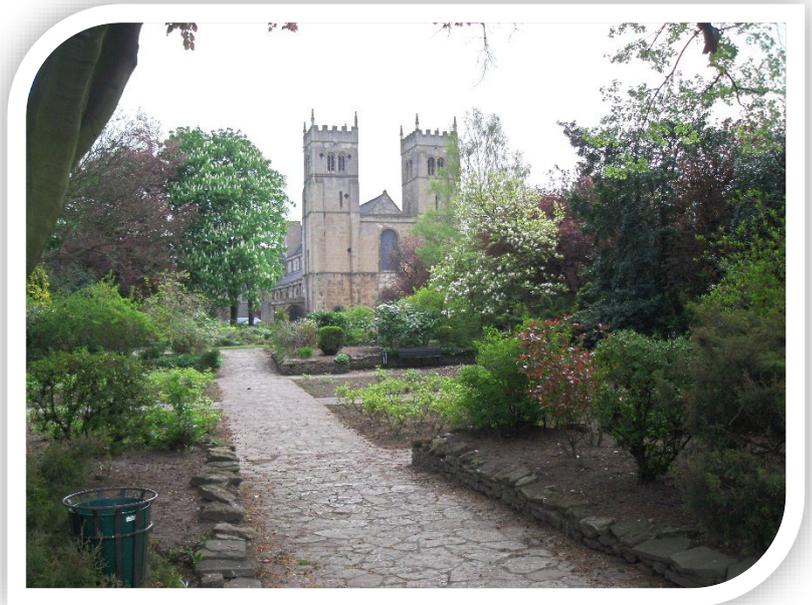
Located just to the east of Worksop Town Centre, The Canch Park is a five-minute walk from Bridge Street, the town's main shopping area.

The park, which covers an area of 4.8 hectares is known by two names and has two distinct parts.

Divided by a watercourse the area to the north known as 'The Canch' was provided for public recreational use in 1912. The area to the south originally named 'Memorial Avenue Gardens' was laid out in a more traditional formal parkland style at a later date to form an extension to 'The Canch' park.

Locally the park is more commonly referred to as 'The Canch' and therefore this document predominantly carries this reference.

The south side's formal landscape features include; a sunken rose garden, a sensory garden and impressive stretch of seasonal display beds, set in well maintained lawns. Shrub border plantings, punctuated by mature trees form prominent features around the southern edge of the garden. Lawns, specimen trees and an informal pond make up the rest of the south side landscape, which also accommodates the former Carnegie Library building.



Priory Entrance Garden (Source: Bassetlaw District Council)

In contrast, the park's northern side contains very few landscape features. The layout of this amenity land focuses very much on active recreation. It offers two children's play areas including; a seasonally opened water splash park, A plaza style skate park, a multi-use games court and an outdoor gym facility with a performance area offers opportunities for more vigorous pursuits.

An open grassed area edged with mature trees provides a location for the staging of community events and activities. The remainder of the north side landscape is occupied by lawns, mature trees and a semi-derelict bowling green area which awaits redevelopment.

Site Map



Key:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A – Priory Entrance Garden | F – Children’s Play Area |
| B – Floral Display Gardens | G – Sport & Recreation Zone |
| C – Memorial Garden Lawns | H – Central Green |
| D – Sensory Garden/Kiosk/Toilets | I – Former Bowling Green Area |
| E – Water Splash Park/Play Area | J - Mill Wheelhouse |

Site Information

Address Details

Name and location: The Canch (Memorial Gardens)
Priorswell Road/Memorial Avenue
Worksop
Nottinghamshire
S80 2BU

Grid Reference (o/s): SK 585795

Geo-code: ///admit.blocks.could

Owned by: Bassetlaw District Council
Queens Buildings
Potter Street
Worksop
Nottinghamshire
S80 2AH

Managed by: Bassetlaw District Council
Parks and Open Spaces
Carlton Forest Depot
Hundred Acre Lane
Worksop
Nott's
S81 0TS

Access Details

Main entrance: Memorial Avenue
Secondary entrance: Priorswell Road
Other entrances off: Beaver Place

Access Statement

Bassetlaw District Council continues to fulfil its obligations under The Equality Act 2010 by improving accessibility throughout The Canch.

Most footpaths and thoroughfares in the park have been made accessible with either hard or bonded surfacing.

Through a planned programme of refurbishment and ongoing improvements all reasonable adjustments will be made to increase access levels throughout the park and its facilities.

Where The Master Plan identifies that access to some facilities cannot be addressed through reasonable adjustments, Bassetlaw District Council will plan and seek funding for fully accessible replacements as these facilities approach the end of their serviceable life.

Facilities

- Refreshments Kiosk *
- Public Conveniences and Changing Places WC*
- Adizone Outdoor Gym Facility (with performance area)
- Multi-Use Games Area
- Skate Park
- Play Areas
- Water Splash Park*
- Formal Gardens
- Sensory Garden
- Aurora Wellbeing Centre and Café (former Library building)



The Adizone Outdoor Gym Facility

**Seasonal facility only*

Owned and managed by Bassetlaw District Council, the park is open to the public throughout the year.

The Splash Park facility is open to the public from May to September from 10:00am to 6:00pm daily.

History and Heritage

The 'Canch Park' has two distinct parts with different names, this reflects key development phases in the park's history. 'The Canch' was provided for public use in 1912 in response to growing demand for public recreational facilities in the town. The area to the south named as 'Memorial Gardens' was an addition to the park in 1938. This was laid out in a more traditional formal parkland design to accommodate the new Carnegie Library and museum building.

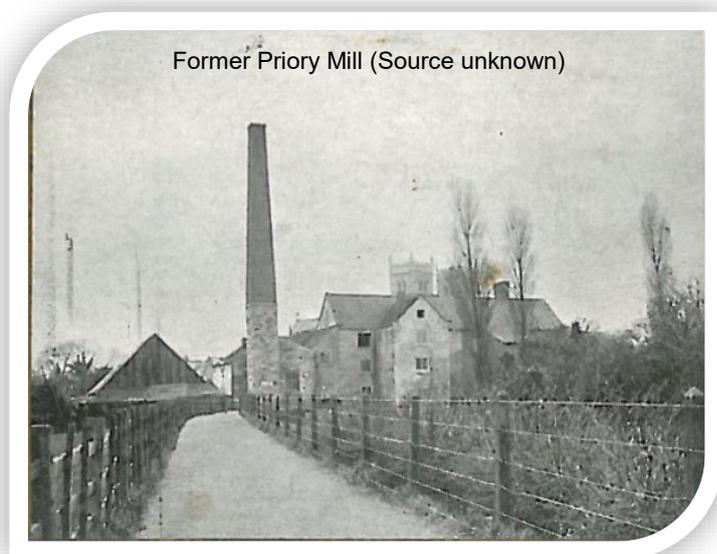
The word 'canch' was first referred to in Harrison's survey of 1636, who names two meadows in the area as "Backhouse Meadow" and "Little Canch". The term 'Canch' is often attributed to mining, surface excavation, quarrying, but primarily it referred to an excavated linear feature.

It therefore seems likely that 'Canch' refers to the mill race itself because it is a man-made long, narrow excavated feature probably dating from the 12th century. The mill dates from around the founding of the Priory because it is mentioned in its 12th century charter

This area of Worksop known as The Canch has a long history originally being associated with the former Augustinian Priory (founded c1100) to the east. A water mill and fish ponds are likely to have been constructed on the site with an operational corn mill present until 1876. When the mill was constructed the linear mill leat was mostly likely dug out to divert the

water from the River Ryton.

Many water features associated with the mill have remained relatively constant features of the site over the passing centuries. The linear mill leat and sluice watercourse returning water to the River Ryton remain to this day as prominent features central to the character of The Canch Park.



Former Priory Mill (Source unknown)

The mill was largely destroyed by fire in February 1907 and was later demolished. The Mill Wheelhouse remains, seen on site today comprising of surviving brickwork and stone features which probably date from the 18th Century.

In October 1907, the Duke of Newcastle offered to sell to the Worksop Urban District Council: *“the field to the north of the Canch, including the Priory Mill, such of the rights as the Duke possesses in those portions of the Canch, and over the Canch Walk”*. For the purposes of the creation of a recreation ground and an open-air swimming baths, The Council purchased the land soon after.

Swimming baths were located on the site of the former Priory mill buildings (now Sensory Garden area). The swimming baths referred to locally as the ‘Canch Lido’ was officially opened on 9th June 1910. The baths immediately proved popular with over 1000 visitors recorded on Saturday 11th June 1910.

By mid-1911 the former mill pond had been adapted for use as a boating

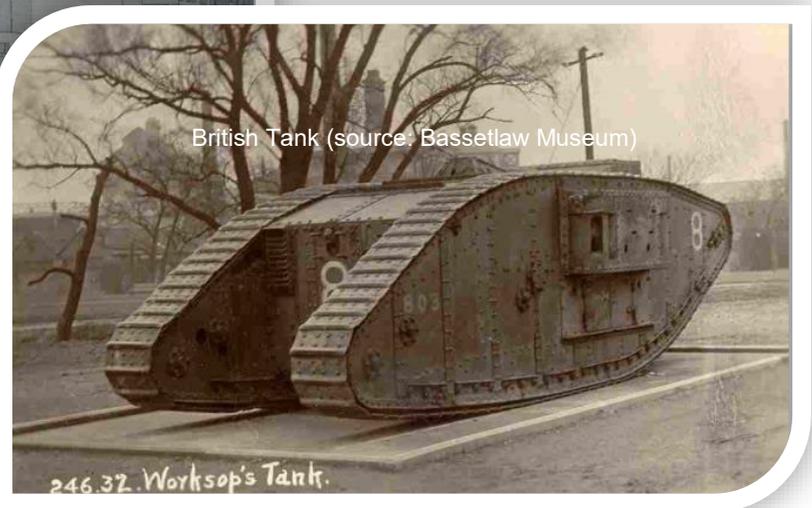
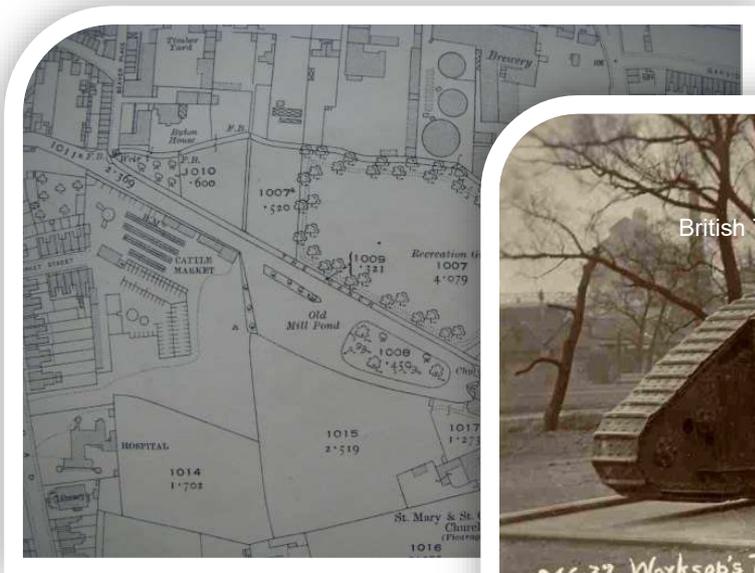
lake and also later used as a venue during 1950’s for special light shows on the water with bands playing.



In September 1911 at a meeting of the Worksop Urban District Council, it was requested that it’s Recreation Ground Committee

“take into consideration the desirability of completing the layout of the Recreation Ground at an early date”.

A full layout plan was presented by the Recreation Ground Committee in November 1911 to the Council which was subsequently approved. The approved plan included the purchasing of 100 lime trees and 20 poplar trees (many of these original lime trees survive today).



In January 1912 the Worksop Urban District Council requested that half of the recreation ground acquired from the Duke of Newcastle in 1907 be seeded with grass and this was carried out in May 1912, with the site being opened as a children's playground soon after.

In 1916 the Worksop Urban District Council agreed for the Recreation Ground to be used for the growing of potatoes as a result of the food shortage caused by World War One. This use ceased after the war ended. Shortly after in 1919 a British tank was presented to the town and was put on display at the eastern end of the Recreation Ground. The tank was scrapped in 1935.

1925 the War Memorial (the cenotaph, plus an extension to the Victoria Hospital) opened to the south of the Recreation Ground. This was accessed by a new road officially opened 3 years later in 1928 called Memorial Avenue. In 1933 the mill farm buildings were demolished to make way for the new 'Memorial Avenue Gardens'.

The new gardens would effectively double the size of the public park area. In February 1934, a motion was passed by Worksop Borough Council for the construction of a new library and museum to be located at the western end of the new gardens. In August 1937, a plan for the layout of the new gardens (designed by borough engineer C.O. Allsopp and assisted by the Council's Parks' Superintendent Mr Charles Haslehurst) was approved by the Parks, Burial Grounds and Baths Committee, with £113 being provided by the Council for the works. Of the budget £12.17.5 (£12.87) was allocated for 287 bush roses, £28.2.11 (£28.15) for trees and shrubs

from James Smith Nurseries (Scotland), £33.0.0 for wrought iron gates and fencing and 16.6d (0.88) for 6 'Please keep off the grass' metal plates.

A notable feature of the garden was the distinctive 'crazy paving' walkways typical of landscaping in the 1930's/40's period and also a raised flower bed for commemorative carpet bedding plant displays, again, common to public parks of this period.

The Carnegie Library was officially opened on the 24th March 1938 although the new gardens (not officially open) were still being finished in late 1938 including new benches being added, grass seeding and the planting of bulbs.

Following the completion of the Carnegie Library and adjacent gardens, plans were requested by the Council in December 1938, to redevelop the Canch Recreation Ground with new facilities to cater for the expanding town's population.

Those improvements including bowling greens, tennis courts and a pavilion were carried out shortly after WW2 ended between 1945 and 1950. The lake was also narrowed at the western end. The Canch Nursery School (which later became a private nursery) was erected to the south of the bowling greens in the late-1940s.

A foliage garden was laid out in 1977 to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in the south east corner. This was removed in 2010 to allow for the new entranceway into the park from The Priory.

In 1995 the lido was filled in and replaced with a sensory garden with the boundary wall around the lido being retained and railings added.

In 1998 the nearby Victoria Hospital was demolished and new supermarkets were constructed on the site. As the 1925 hospital extension was itself a war memorial, the dedication stone/foundation stones from that building were relocated onto the Memorial Avenue Gardens, set within a new brick wall.



A new library building was constructed adjacent to the park in 2010 on the former cattle market west of the 1938 Carnegie Library. The landscaping around the library included crazy-paving, linking the new library to the old library and Memorial Avenue Gardens.

The facilities within the 'Canch Park' were comprehensively refurbished between 2010 and 2011 with over two million pounds of funding provided by European Regional Development Fund, Environment Agency and Bassetlaw District Council. Works included the installation of a new water

1951 view of Memorial Avenue Gardens (source Bassetlaw Museum)



splash pool replacing the former paddling pool, new play equipment and surfacing to the children's play areas, a skate park and Adizone with outdoor gym equipment. The works also included infrastructure improvements to the park with new entrances, improved footpaths and waterways, landscaping, bridges and a piazza seating area behind the

former library building. A new entrance and railings added in the south east corner and a new pond created to the north of the former library and museum.

The former Carnegie Library building in the park is now occupied by the 'Aurora Wellbeing' charity organisation as the local Aurora Wellbeing Centre and Macmillan Hub in Worksop.

An important and distinguishing feature of the development of The Canch has been how each development phase acknowledges 'what went before it'. Despite very significant changes since the park was created in 1912, important elements of the park and Worksop's development history have been sensitively retained and incorporated into newly designed areas. This includes historic features long pre-dating the park itself and linking The Canch to its early origins in the 12th Century. The park's development spans two centuries including times of major upheaval for society. The park in the 21st Century will continue to evolve to meet the needs of present and upcoming generations while protecting and celebrating its rich history.

This information was provided by Bassetlaw's District Councils Planning Policy and Conservation Team as part of their review of historic parks and gardens in the district. Additional information was provided by Luczak Associates in November 2018 as part of research for The Canch Masterplan.

The Mill Wheelhouse

The surviving structure of the mill Wheelhouse is situated in the south-east corner of the site at the end of 'The Canch' linear watercourse from which the present Canch Park most likely takes its name. This is within the Sensory Garden and adjoins the BDC depot/compound on its south wall. The Wheelhouse is the only surviving part of the original much larger mill building which was demolished in stages as The Canch Park developed.

The Wheelhouse building which remains in the park straddles the 'mill race' which would have fed the mill with water to power machinery or for water used in generating steam to power machinery much later in the life of the mill. The Wheelhouse would have housed an undershot waterwheel, one where the water hit the lower part of the wheel. If an overshot waterwheel was used, the wheel would have been sunk much further down in a deeper pit so the water hit the upper part.



The surviving Wheelhouse in 2018 with 'sounding board' added roof structure

Local Historian Sarah Carter states that the earliest part of the remaining building is probably 18th century. This includes the west, south and east brick walls, which would have had a pantile roof. The foundations use earlier stone from the priory, as shown by their size and the same mason's marks as the priory. Stone was easily available for use after the dissolution of The Priory in 1539 and remained so until the restoration of the church in 1840.

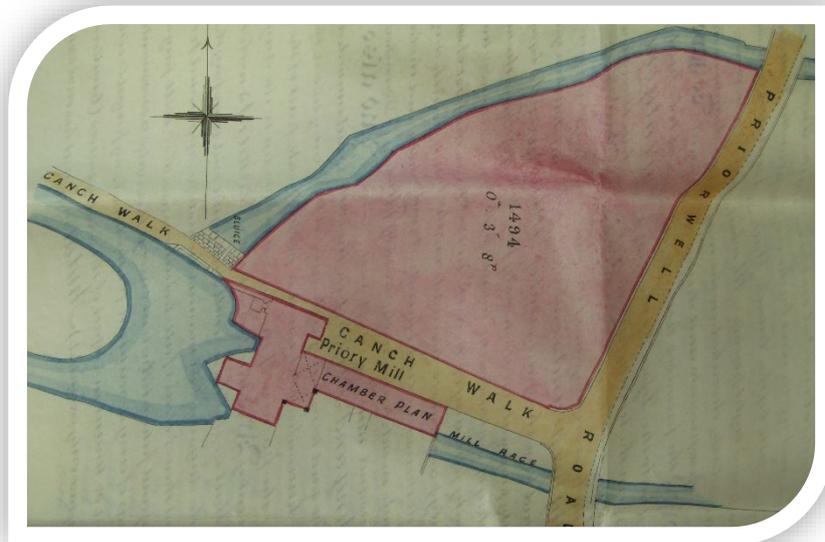
Carter links the construction of the Chesterfield Canal in 1777 to the creation of a large mill pond. The canal would have taken water out of the River Ryton, reducing the volume of water in the mill race and power to the waterwheel, so that the machinery could not operate. This was a common cause of complaint about canals.

In the 1830's, the mill was converted to steam power and another (the northern) channel was created off the race. This ran under a large engine room and chimney which housed the steam engine. From then on, the old wheelhouse was on the southern arm of the race. The waterwheel was probably removed at this time, necessitating removal of the northern wall. This was re-built using stone from the priory. Timber beams were inserted in the openings in the west and east walls which were bricked up; these areas of in-fill can still be seen. Rooms were inserted in the upper part of the wheelhouse; the positions of the joists are also visible. The two arms of the race are clearly shown on the 1890 lease plan. The race still clearly divides into two arms and these run under and around the Rose garden, re-

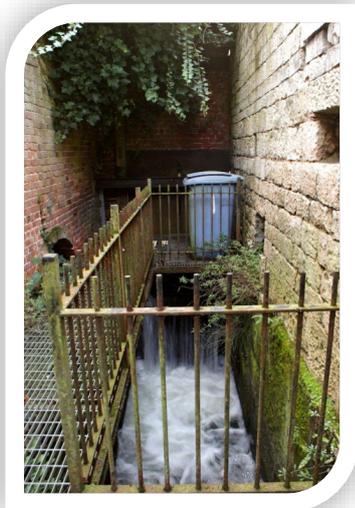
The Canch Management Plan 19 | Page

joining just before Priorswell Road to flow under a single bridge.

Plan from 1890 lease: courtesy of Bassetlaw District Council



Suspended steel walkway and railings for safe access inside The Wheelhouse



In 1994/5 a roof structure was added as a 'sounding board' to magnify the sound of the flowing water. This also functioned to deter climbing and prevent gaining access to carry out vandalism inside The Wheelhouse. Around this time, a steel walkway was constructed inside The Wheelhouse by The Canal and River Trust to allow safe access for controlling the water flow. This has ongoing importance because the water leaving the site via the mill race under the Rose Garden is used to feed the Chesterfield Canal.

Today the Wheelhouse provides a focal point for understanding the purpose of the artificially created, historic watercourses on the park. These could easily be interpreted as purely decorative landscape features rather than an integral part of the history of The Canch Park and Worksop itself. The remaining Wheelhouse structure represents a physical connection to over seven centuries of milling and industry on the site beginning with the 12th Century Priory Mill. The Wheelhouse will continue to be conserved as a heritage asset and key part of the story of The Canch Park.

Section 2 - Assessment and Analysis

- Assessment and Analysis
- Service Assessment
- Site Ecology
- Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage
- SWOT Analysis
- Environmental Performance Assessment
- Marketing and Communication
- Community Events

Assessment and Analysis

Section one of this Management Plan has provided factual background information about The Canch as an established green space amenity and its relevance in supporting Bassetlaw District Council's broader aims and objectives.

Section two of the plan will present general aspects relating to the current situation and incorporates the outline recommendations from the Visitor Experience Masterplan, delivering a clear direction for the management and development of The Canch over the coming years.

This second stage will be achieved through a process of assessment and analysis based on an evaluation of:

- Operational Services – in the form of a 'Service Assessment Report'
- The Visitor Experience Masterplan– in the form of outline recommendations and findings
- General recommendations – in the context of the park
- Areas for further Investigation – in terms of considerations

Service Assessment

Introduction

Having gained quality assurance recognition for The Canch, Bassetlaw District Council will continue to work with interested parties to retain the prestigious Green Flag Award, at the same time ensuring that the local community has access to a valuable green space asset.

A key element of this process will continue to involve input from the local community to ensure that ‘their park’ is managed and developed to serve ‘their needs’.

Development phases in recent years have focused on delivering improvements to the essential infrastructure within the park as well as providing new play and active recreation facilities/zones. The new Visitor Experience Masterplan has identified the next significant phase of improvements, which will aim to bring built heritage to the same level of prominence.

In order to action these commitments, the District Council’s Parks and Open Spaces Team have produced this Canch Service Assessment Report.

Area A – The Priory Entrance Garden

Present Condition Survey

Located in the south-east corner of the site, the Priory Entrance Garden consists of two clearly defined landscapes. The new entrance garden with a large circular paved area, seating surrounded by newly planted borders, offers impressive open views to the Worksop Priory and the former sunken rose garden surrounded by a walled shrub border and a mature beech hedge.

The appearance of the sunken garden has gradually deteriorated over a number of years partly due to shading from an established tree canopy cover and through lack of previous capital investment. As a consequence, there are no longer roses within the garden and the site’s perimeter shrub borders have become significantly depleted.

Previous improvements within this area of The Canch have included:

- The construction of a new realigned gated entrance.
- The removal of the ‘tired’ silver foliage plantings.
- The relaying and repointing of crazy paving paths and pedestrian thoroughfares.
- The selective felling and pruning of established trees to enhance views towards the Worksop Priory and reduce the effects of shading.
- A traditionally styled display cabinet to accommodate a site map and temporary/season information notices.

The most recent improvements consisted of a joint project with volunteers from the local Mental Health and Wellbeing Charity ‘Muddy Fork’ and members of the Worksop Rotary Club to enhance the entrance area. It involved the planting of over 1,400 new shrubs and herbaceous plants suitable for the growing conditions in that area.

Proposed Improvement Works 2019-29

Although benefitting from these stated improvement works, the Priory Entrance Gardens would be enhanced significantly by further investment to:

- Retain the original Haslehurst design and features especially the limestone paving and walling.
- Improve visibility to the Priory around the gateway; lower shrubs and crown lift trees.
- Re-build original limestone walls in sunken garden.
- Re-plant sunken garden with low-level planting e.g. herbaceous perennials, as a contrast to the bedding and groundcover shrubs used elsewhere in the park.
- Provide more seating and of a more appropriate design.
- Redesign and replant the perimeter shrub borders around the sunken garden area with more suitable shade tolerant plantings.

Area B – The Floral Display Gardens

Present Condition Assessment

Sited along the southern boundary and running parallel to Memorial Avenue, the floral display garden forms the park’s most recognisable and colourful landscape feature.

The visual impact of the seasonal display beds can be fully appreciated from both Memorial Avenue and the well-used crazy paved pedestrian thoroughfare, which adjoins the lawns along their northern edge.

This distinctive landscape feature consists of a series of symmetrical beds in a linear arrangement, set within well maintained, high-amenity lawns, reconnecting the park of today to the past and continuing to generate a source of civic pride and enjoyment for local people and visitors to the town.

This important landscape in this section of the park also benefits from mature specimen trees and shrub borders towards its south-west corner.

Prominent on the boundary with Memorial Avenue is the brick built Memorial Wall with its dedication and foundation stones from the nearby former Victoria Hospital site.

Previous improvements to this area have included;

- The re-cutting and realignment of the floral display beds.
- The relaying and repointing of the crazy paved pedestrian thoroughfare.
- The selective felling of a small number of mature trees which shaded the display beds and adversely affected the quality of the lawns through root encroachment.

More recent improvements have seen the planting of over 15,000 bulbs with the Worksop Rotary Club, with 5,000 purple crocus bulbs first planted in 2016 in support of the 'End Polio Now' campaign. A further 5,000 more bulbs were planted in the borders near the Aurora Centre again in November 2017 and 2018.

Proposed Improvement Works 2019-29

In view of these relatively recent improvements, the scope for further enhancement to the floral display garden feature is limited. However, the main entrance area would still benefit from similar restoration actions to those prescribed for the adjacent Priory Entrance Garden, this would therefore be as follows:

- Replanting of shrub beds along the southern boundary with Memorial Avenue, retaining mature shrubs/small trees.
- Replace dying Ornamental Hawthorn at main entrance to Aurora Centre with the same.

- Re-paint original 1930s railings either side of main entrance.
- Provide more seating and of a more appropriate design.

Area C – The Memorial Garden Lawns

Present Condition Assessment

This area continues to be the ornamental, ‘quieter’ part of the park.

As the name implies, the area adjoins the Floral Display Garden and is predominantly made up of closely mown lawn areas. These are informal in shape and variable in size and are dissected by a number of realigned footpaths which were resurfaced with resin bonded gravel.

Other landscape features within this site include:

- Borders containing mature shrubs.
- Naturalised bulb plantings.
- An informal pond.
- Rose beds.
- Commemorative memorial stones and benches including ceremonial tree plantings with plaques.
- Flag pole for Green Flag recognition.

This larger section of the park accommodates The Carnegie Library & Museum, this impressive Grade 2 Listed Building (1985, entry 1370103) was opened on the 24th March 1938, with the landscaping surrounding the building named as Memorial Gardens, which was completed in the same year. The building being set within the gardens created as part of an integrated scheme of civic improvement with the town’s war memorial. No longer used as a library and museum building it now provides a base for the town’s Aurora Wellbeing Charity Organisation. The Charity runs a small café within the building giving visitors to the park the opportunity to enjoy some light refreshments and hot/cold drinks.

Proposed Improvement Works 2019-29

In recognition of the significance and heritage value of this area of the park it is not recommended that any major improvements are necessary.

The following considerations should be taken into account;

- Do not further extend library overspill car parking around Aurora Centre; will reduce amount of green and degrade sense of a tranquil space.
- The redesign and replanting of 'tired' shrub border features.
- Provide more seats and of a more appropriate design.

Area D – The Sensory Garden/Kiosk and Facilities

Present Condition Assessment

This area of the park has seen the most significant amount of recent changes with the purpose built new refreshment kiosk building that also includes a Changing Places WC facility, a disabled toilet, a baby change and parent WC in addition to four unisex toilets. It also includes permanent outdoor seating/tables on the grassed area opposite for all to use. The seating area provides shade on hot sunny days under the large mature horse chestnut tree, whilst taking time to admire the views of the Priory Church across the road.

The main features of the original Sensory Garden can still to be found in this area. It was designed and constructed in 1995 and occupies the site of the former Canch Lido. As part of a major development project, the derelict outdoor pool was backfilled and landscaped to incorporate a range of sensory features which include:

- Tactile surfacing.
- Plants with textured barks, stems, foliage and flowers.
- Plants with scented flowers.
- Plants with aromatic foliage.
- Plants displaying bright floral and foliage colouration.
- Groups of plants specifically positioned to generate sound in windy conditions.
- A raised water feature with tactile and audible qualities (no longer in use).

The Sensory Gardens design retained certain heritage features including part of the lido's outer wall and a penstock, which formed part of the original Mill Wheelhouse building.

A central pergola feature with climbing roses, strategically positioned seating and two retained horse chestnut trees complete the new garden.

Unfortunately, the Sensory Garden was subjected to certain amount of abuse during its early years. As a consequence, most of the original plantings and seating provision were lost or modified. However, the misuse of the site has declined following a series of small scale reinstatement and improvement works over recent years to rejuvenate the garden area. These works have included;

- The replacement of the original timber pergolas and trellis frame works with green oak timber to make it more durable and longer lasting.
- The installation metal knee rail fencing to protect the rose beds.
- The replanting of the borders and beds with more sustainable plants.

Proposed Improvement Works 2019-29

The improvements for the Sensory Garden are very much focused on the conservation of the Mill Wheelhouse heritage feature that gives greater recognition of the site's history and its importance to the town. The planned actions will focus on:

- Mill Wheelhouse; assess the range of options for its presentation and access, including the previous proposal for the hydro-power scheme, and better presentation of the adjacent BDC depot.

As a minimum;

- Remove raised bed with soil banked against north side, re-model the adjacent area; remove litter bin; provide interpretation.
- Assess structural condition of the two mill race channels under the Rose Garden; take required action.
- Remove vegetation from walls, continue to cut down seedling trees and remove Himalayan Balsam from area near Priorswell Road.
- Conserve the original stone walling on the site.

Area E – Water Splash Play Area

Present Condition Assessment

Opened in 2010, this play facility has given a new dimension to the park's ability and potential to attract visitors, many from outside the district. The water splash park was upgraded in May 2023 with the installation of new equipment including a trio of water tipping buckets, an aqua dome, spray cannons and other features along with new surfacing laid.

Constructed on the site of the traditional style padding pool, the original water play feature had a series of intermittent water jets and showers that proved highly popular not only with children but with whole families.

Enclosed within a recently fenced safe area, the water play facility was further enhanced in 2011 with the installation of new play equipment for younger children. Designed to create a desert island theme, the equipment includes a ship styled multi-unit within a layout of colourful wet pour drifts depicting water, beaches and an island.

All equipment within the children's area, including the water play facility, is maintained and serviced to ROSPA recommended safety standards.

The area contains a small timber shelter structure which is often overlooked as a feature but, can provide a handy retreat for parents and children seeking shelter from a heavy downpour of rainfall. The shelter requires some attention to prolong its existence and maintain it as an interesting feature.

Proposed Improvement Works 2019-29

Besides the shelter this area was only recently developed, the aims and objectives in this case will focus solely on the on-going management and maintenance of the facilities. Other than, the repairs to the shelter there are no further planned improvements for this area.



- Repair original timber shelter where necessary. Replace roofing felt with appropriate materials, possibly small terracotta tiles or timber shingles; old photograph/memory days/further research may help to establish choice of roofing material.

Area F – Children’s Play Area

Present Condition Assessment

In March 2015 the site underwent a radical transformation and a range of dynamic and challenging equipment was installed, along with replacement safety surfacing. This included:

- The removal of the currently sited out-dated equipment.
- The removal of the existing loose fill bark surfacing.
- The removal of raised log shrub bed features.
- The installation of new stimulating and challenging play equipment for children between the ages of 8 and 16.
- The installation of complementary wet pour and/or grass mat safety surfacing.
- The installation of complementary furnishings.
- The realignment of fences and gates.
- Complementary landscaping works.

In February 2023, the play area was further enhanced with the addition of new inclusive play equipment to encourage children with a range of abilities to play together.

The new inclusive items, located amongst the existing play equipment include:

- Ability Swing with Enclosure - Wheelchair Swing
- Ability Space Whirl - 1.9 m Inclusive Roundabout
- Tubular Ally Glockenspiel Inclusive Free Standing Music Panel



Press release photo of Cllr Julie Leigh, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods taken next to the new ability swing equipment (21.02.23)

The installation follows on from the results of a survey carried out by the Council in 2022 that asked residents to have their say on the proposals, with 89% of respondents 'strongly agreeing' that the Canch should feature the inclusive play items. The additions to the park were also influenced by the successful installation and reception of inclusive play equipment at Kings' Park in Retford.

Proposed Improvement Works 2019-29

Recent development works dictates that future aims and objectives in this area of The Canch will focus mainly on its on-going management.

No historic elements.

Area G – Sport and Recreation Zone

Present Condition Survey

The Canch's sport and recreation facilities have been significantly modified in recent years.

Occupying the former site of a four court tennis facility, this active recreation zone was initially developed in 2004, to provide a skate park and single and doubled sized Multi-Use Games Areas (the latter retaining two tennis courts).

The site underwent an even more radical transformation in 2011 through the delivery of a major construction project which involved:

- The dismantling of the original pre-cast concrete skate park.
- The removal and off site relocation of a unit containing kiosk, toilet and meeting room facilities.
- The dismantling and removal of the double sized Multi-Use Games Area.
- The removal of an old crazy golf feature.
- The on-site relocation of the single Multi-Use Games Area.
- The installation of an Adizone Outdoor Gym facility.
- The construction of a new 'plaza style' skate park.
- The siting of a new toilet block unit.
- Extensions and modifications to footpaths and hard surface areas.

Since the official opening of the Adizone and the new skate park, the revamped sport and recreation zone has proved highly popular with users of all ages and variable abilities.

Each feature within the zone is checked and litter picked daily and inspected for defects or damage on a weekly basis, in accordance with ROSPA recommendations.

Proposed Improvement Works 2019-29

As with the Water Fountain Play Area, the recent development work dictates that future aims and objectives in this area of The Canch will focus mainly on its on-going management. However, this area would benefit from:

- The installation of additional seating (if appropriate and space allows).
- (longer term) the upgrading of toilet facilities – New Canch kiosk and toilet facilities built and opened in February 2022 .

Area H – The Central Green

Present Condition Assessment

This flat grass central area adjacent to the Sport and Recreation Zone once contained a number of rose and floral display beds. These were removed as part of the previous development works in this area of the park. It also included the removal of a mature Beech hedge from the Green's east side boundary to improve views and create a strong visual link into other areas of the park. A fully monitored CCTV camera unit linked to the Town Centre Control System has been sited along the previous hedge boundary, which is now demarcated with bow top fence.

A line of mature lime trees forms a backdrop to the Central Green on its southern boundary, which borders the main Canch walkway and watercourse.

The Central Green has been retained as a valuable open space resource, providing the ideal location for the staging of community based events and activities within the park.

Proposed Improvement Works 2019-29

To improve its amenity value for staging of community based events and activities, the following works have been identified;

- Remodel old hard surface and shrub area as part of the new visitor provision to integrate with rest of area; e.g. convert to reinforced grass so can be used as hard-standing for temporary events equipment.
- Refurbish old metal railings along The Canch footpath.

Area I – The Bowling Green Area

Present Condition Assessment

This now semi-derelict area once operated as a seasonal recreational facility up to mid-1990's and consisted of two bowling greens and an adjacent grassed area.

The partly enclosed site is bordered by shrub plantings and mature hedges on three sides. The site's outer areas contain a range of mature trees either side of two pedestrian access routes.

Although requiring significant remedial works to restore it for purpose, one of the greens has been retained to a certain extent. Due to a lack of demand, both now and in the foreseeable future, the second green has been sacrificed.

The most recent development in this area was the demolition of the former children's nursery building which has now been included back into the park as additional green space.

Proposed Improvement Works 2019-29

The former bowling green is a significant heritage element within The Canch. It will be necessary to carry out further consultation on the plans to develop the area for future use that retains the shape and character of this area but allows it to become a useable asset within the park.

Possible options for consideration:

- Provide a purpose built performance area for the staging of events.
- Retaining the screen of mature shrubs on its boundaries that separate from the Sport and Recreation zone by the shrub borders on the north and east.
- Refurbish old metal railings along The Canch footpath.
- Repair old stone wall on western boundary.
- Relax mowing regimes to enhance amenity and wildlife values where appropriate.

Area J – The Canch Watercourse

Present Condition Assessment

It is important to fully recognise and appreciate the main body of water that runs through the park.

It is most likely to be the origins of the name for the park referring to the linear mill race itself.

Artificially constructed, it has been designed to divert and control the flow of water in order to alleviate the risk of flooding along this local stretch of the River Ryton. Until recently, The Canch (as with most public parks) has suffered from a lack of investment and therefore inevitably community value of its watercourse has declined.

As a clean-flowing central water feature, it once provided a valuable urban wildlife habitat as well as a model boating pond. Through gradual decline and a build-up of silt, The Canch watercourse became difficult to manage safely for recreational use.

Significant works have been undertaken since the floods of 2007 to restore the watercourse. Working in partnership with the Environment Agency, Bassetlaw District Council delivered a scheme which has now improved the water quality and assisted with broader aims of reducing flood risk within the town.

The planting of new reed beds along the main stretch of the watercourse has enhanced its appearance and provided new wildlife habitats, while acting as a natural filter to control silt accumulation.

In connection with those improvements, two pedestrian footbridges now cross The Canch watercourse linking the two parts of the park at key locations. The improved access has been further enhanced by a major construction/installation project which has seen the realignment and surfacing of several pedestrian footpaths and thoroughfares.

Proposed Improvement Works 2019-29

Already benefitting from the major investment works to the watercourse, the area would be further enhanced by:

- Ensuring its features and character are retained.
- Refurbish Victorian/Edwardian railings on western footbridge to Beaver Place including replacement of modern end-post with replica to match original.

- Refurbish old metal bow-top railings along The Canch on either side of the footbridge and paint the modern galvanised railings.

Maintenance operations to include:

- Clear debris in mill pond adjacent to west wall and Mill Wheelhouse.
- Continue to work with the Environment Agency on de-silting and planting to improve the water quality and habitat value of the sluice/by-pass channel through the play areas, whilst retaining the character and features of this 1950s phase such as the crazy paving and stepping stones.
- Continue to remove Himalayan Balsam.

Area K – The River Ryton

Present Condition Assessment

The Canch watercourse forms the dominant feature within the park, yet the River Ryton that serves the flow for the watercourse almost insignificantly runs unnoticed along the northern boundary of the park, to the rear of the former Bowling Green Area and the Sport and Recreation Zone.

Mature trees and established shrub vegetation can be found along most of the riverside boundary, creating a wildlife corridor and a natural barrier to the water's edge. #

Proposed Improvement Works 2019-29

Recognising the potential wildlife value of this area of the park it is not recommended that any major improvements are needed.

Minimal intervention to maintain and enhance the riverside landscape:

- Continue to remove Himalayan Balsam and work with the Environment Agency on de-silting.
- Install nesting and bug boxes along the edges of the river to improve wildlife habitats and biodiversity within the park.

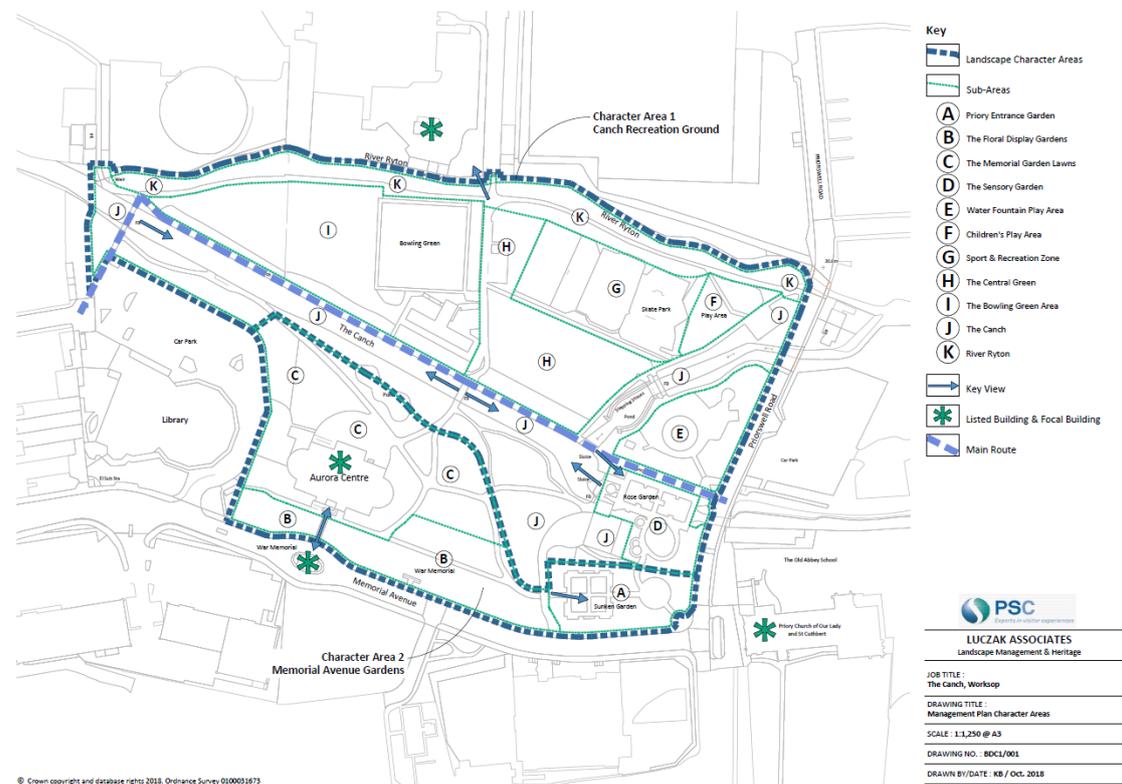
All Areas

The Canch Masterplan identified concerns raised by residents' regarding safety within the park. In March 2019 the Council received a share of

Government funding as part of the Parks Improvement Funding for local authorities. The funding was allocated to improving areas within the park that were known to attract antisocial behaviour, graffiti or present other community safety concerns. New town centre cameras were installed in various locations throughout the park that was not previously covered by cameras. Those additional cameras now provide the park with full CCTV coverage with each camera linked into the Town Centre CCTV control room for monitoring purposes.

The park has also benefited from additional targeted investment from Safer Streets Funding allocation for Worksop, which has seen further improvement works being undertaken in the park throughout 2022 and 2023. This funding was used to improve public safety in Worksop, this has helped to drive significant reductions in neighbourhood crime, antisocial behaviour and violence against women and girls. The works included new street lighting columns being put up in the Memorial Gardens, along the pathway behind the Aurora Centre that links Worksop Library with The Canch, together with the upgrading of the existing street lights to LED's on the main pedestrian walkway.

Service Assessment Site Plan showing designated areas A-K



General recommendations taken from the Visitor Experience Masterplan

Throughout the park

- Mature trees: continue arboricultural good practice in maintaining healthy trees. Develop a tree management plan to guide future replacement species and locations. When the trees fail and have to be removed, their replacements should be carefully considered, and where possible the same species should be used in similar locations to retain the character of those areas. The main exception may be the Poplar on safety grounds. The increase in tree pests, diseases and climate change should also be taken into account. The plan would be a drawing to guide future replacements, showing what species would replace the existing trees when they fail. It would aim to manage the mature trees as an integral part of the historic design of the park, not as individuals or as a 'forest'.
- Views: continue to retain key views by reviewing vegetation growth at least once every 5 years.
- Seating: review provision to ensure there is enough seating e.g. more required in Sunken Garden; and that the style is appropriate to an historic site.
- Bins: review provision e.g. remove one from Sunken Garden; decide on a 'house-style' such as the dual recycling/bin and do not over-provide e.g. entrances and play areas only.
- Interpretation strategy: increase provision in a range of media to better explain the history of the park to different audiences.
- Welcome and way-finding signage: review provision to ensure adequate e.g. hang small 'Welcome to The Canch' signs on the subsidiary entrance railings at Priorswell Road, Beaver Place and north from the library car park.

Areas of further investigation

The following areas are likely to require work by other disciplines outside the scope of this project to better understand the risks, and therefore costs, of conservation. They are outlined below and could be delivered by BDC in-house or external resources as required. Activity and interpretation plans are often required as part of funding bids.

Archaeological DBA

Although much of the park was agricultural prior to the creation of the park, and therefore less likely to be of interest, the mill and associated buildings occupied the south east quadrant. The swimming baths are likely to have destroyed some below-ground remains, but for example, the two arms of the mill race still run under the Rose Garden. Given the possibility of below-ground remains, it would be good practice to explore if there is a requirement for an archaeological desk-based assessment, firstly with BDC Conservation and then NCC's archaeology team.

Biodiversity surveys

In accordance with good practice for any development, ecological surveys should be carried out to assess the potential for, or presence of, protected species; to avoid harming them. Whilst we are not ecologists, the park would seem favourable for some protected species such as bats; since they are often associated with mature trees, old buildings and watercourses. The surveys would also determine the ecological significance of the park. When the extent of proposals are firmed-up, this should be discussed with BDC Development Control in the first instance.

Conservation engineering assessment of the priory mill wheelhouse and underground channels

If not available already, this should be required to determine the structural integrity and safety of the 18th century mill wheelhouse and associated structures, especially if public access is considered by BDC. Two arms of the mill race run underneath the Rose Garden and more information about their age and condition would be prudent. The building had work fairly recently (2009-10), when the roof feature was added, so it may be possible to update any survey carried out then. BDC Engineers is the place to begin.

Conservation architecture assessment of the priory mill wheelhouse

Advice is required on the best way to present the heritage of the most historic building in the park, especially since it is a remnant rather than complete. Should it be presented as a stabilised ruin (without the roof feature); with the roof feature; or a more complete roof? What would be most secure; look best in the views from the park; and what would present the building most legibly so that people understand its history better?

Activity plan

Planning how people will engage with the heritage is essential to funding applications to the HLF for example. Usually a programme of volunteering, regular activities and one-off events are developed by the applicant, in partnership with other local groups. The Canch is ideally suited to this. NCC's Library and Young People's Centre is on the west of the park, BCVS on the east, and the Aurora Centre for the recovering and elderly is within it. From our work in the park we know many of the parks users are from Eastern Europe. We understand they form the biggest community in Bassetlaw, many live locally to the park and they have a culture of using outdoor space. The parks industry has plenty of information on the benefits of and ideas for engagement with green space in terms of promoting wellbeing, physical fitness, mental health and community integration.

Interpretation plan

Multi-media interpretation of the heritage will attract different parts of the local community. Traditional panels and paper leaflets, website, audio, video and QR codes should all be considered and linked to how the park will be used. Each one can tell different aspects of the story of the park. Local schools could be involved in the creation of some of the interpretation material e.g. video.

Possible further historic research

As part of putting together this document, the following lines of research were identified but not followed up due to the scope of the current project. If the project is expanded and a full Conservation Plan is required, they could be investigated. Most would be suitable for volunteers trained as part of a HLF project.

- Oral history and old photographs: To record memories of users of the park. The Oral History Society has a network of trainers, see <http://www.ohs.org.uk/> and <https://www.hlf.org.uk/oral-history>.
- Local groups and institutions: Contact the council officers, past gardeners, priory church, care home and any other groups who have used/known the park for many years e.g. the current librarians, to gather their oral histories and any photographs.
- Worksop Urban District Council and Worksop Borough Council: Reports and minutes from the Council and its committees. These have already been researched by BDC Conservation Officers but

volunteers with more time may be able to find more references to The Canch?

- Worksop Guardian and Sheffield Independent: Local newspapers were often very detailed recorders of life in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Volunteers to review as above?

Site Ecology

The Canch is a very important green corridor adjacent to the eastern side of Worksop town centre. Given the context of the location it holds a particularly diverse assemblage of habitat types. The combined habitats define The Canch as a central 'green hub' within an urban environment that is largely hostile to wildlife. With the exception of landscapes specifically managed for wildlife, some parts of The Canch may well contain higher biodiversity values than many areas of Worksop's intensively farmed surrounding countryside.

The range of habitat types and features on site includes:

- Many mature Lime trees and other tree species producing nectar, pollen and feeding opportunities for invertebrates and birds.
- Diverse flower and berry producing shrubbery with long season of availability.
- A wide range of nectar sources from planted bulbs and flowers.
- Aquatic habitats encouraging waterfowl to the site.
- The River Ryton running through the site with marginal vegetation undergoing continuing enhancement.
- The Canch, human created running water body with marginal vegetation.
- Medium sized pond with naturalised mature vegetation.
- Large expanses of short mown grassland (some less disturbed areas) as foraging opportunities for ground feeding birds.
- Areas of longer grass with native wildflowers.
- Maturing purpose built wildlife and sensory gardens.

The Canch has become a place where built heritage, human history, culturally important planting schemes and wildlife can and do coexist. Greater public acceptance for accommodating and improving biodiversity outcomes, provides increasing opportunities to combine the needs of

wildlife and people without conflict. These opportunities will be exploited through an ongoing programme of adjustments to the overall management of The Canch and will be detailed within the management plan.

Biodiversity Landscape and Heritage

Biodiversity:

Through sensitive and creative management, the biodiversity value of The Canch can be maximised. It is important that this is achieved by enhancing both human created and semi natural landscape features as outlined in the Site Ecology section 2.3. Both mature and seasonal planting of cultivated species can add huge value to more natural elements, therefore, management focuses on keeping these elements in harmony while adding diversity to the overall landscape.

Aims to improve the overall landscape value for biodiversity include:

- Increase the extent and quality of long grass/wildflower meadow areas.
- Maximise value of ornamental planting for wildlife.
- Collect baseline biodiversity data for The Canch.
- Increase the number of nesting boxes for birds, bats and insects.
- Improve aquatic habitats and control invasive species.

Many of the biodiversity aims can be achieved with wider community involvement. Some tasks could easily be adapted as community events. This includes long grass/wildflower management where raking up arisings and hay strewing to spread seeds could be carried out as a community event with other suitable seasonal tasks.

The long term objective of setting up a Friends of Group highlighted in the Master Plan remains if this is built on real, naturally occurring demand. The current strategy is to follow what has worked in King's Park, Retford and formalise volunteering opportunities. This is achieving many of the same physical and community involvement outcomes, albeit without the typical 'friends group' structure.

As with other elements of management on The Canch, biodiversity outcomes present opportunities that could be better exploited with a Development Worker in a volunteer coordinator role steering community involvement and raising their capacity to take ownership of many tasks. This includes botanical and fauna survey work, where the community could be involved in the very positive process of recording species diversity as it increases.

Heritage Landscape Planting Schemes and Wider Landscapes:

Locally important heritage planting and strongly designed landscapes are predominantly on the south side of The Canch watercourse. These mainly comprise:

- Floral Display Gardens along Memorial Avenue.
- Priory Entrance Garden with commanding views of the Grade 1 listed Priory.
- Memorial Garden lawns.

On the north side of The Canch two other important elements of the heritage landscape are adjacent to play and sports areas, these consist:

- The former bowling green (now maintained as open grassed area).
- Drainage swale with 1950's crazy paved revetments returning water to River Ryton from The Canch.

Aims to Improve Heritage Planting Schemes and Landscapes:

- Manage trees and shrubs to improve growth and reduce negative impacts on other planting from shade.
- Develop site specific Tree Management Plan.
- Achieve a unified traditional style for signage, seating and litter bins.
- Carry out further planting of shrubs to enhance amenity and wildlife values.
- Maximise value of all existing and new planting to retain the heritage character in all distinct areas of The Canch.

Built Heritage:

Previous development phases have concentrated on the play and active recreation on offer at The Canch and the implementation of heritage planting schemes key to the site's identity. The next development phase has to put the building blocks in place for bringing built heritage to the same level of prominence. For the purposes of clarity in planning and funding of improvement works it has been necessary to clearly identify elements within the overall landscape that can be defined as 'built heritage'. This definition refers mainly to fixed, permanent features linked to key phases of the park's development and some pre-dating it.

The main built heritage elements of The Canch are as follows:

- The Canch watercourse with retaining walls, period railings and footbridge to Beaver Place.
- The 18th Century Mill Wheelhouse structure and associated underground Mill Race features.
- Sluice Channel with 1950's style crazy paved revetments.
- Early 20th Century timber shelter.
- Original random Magnesian limestone retaining walls for raised beds and crazy paving in Priory entrance area and beyond.
- Former bowling green area.

With the exception of limestone crazy paving in the formal garden area which has been relayed and re-pointed in recent years, all built heritage elements require restoration and in some cases innovative redevelopment.

The very high capital cost of restoration and potential to turn this into a much wider regeneration project with far reaching community development and social inclusion outcomes, justifies developing the venture into a funded project. This could be a series of smaller projects or a major project supported by a funder such as the Big Lottery Fund.

Scoping Exercise:

In August 2018, Bassetlaw District Council commissioned a scoping exercise to identify the potential training and development opportunities within restoration projects in four major parks, including The Canch. The result of the exercise identified a very wide range of opportunities linked to reintegration and employability that could engage disadvantaged and

marginalised community members. For The Canch, this could potentially involve people engaged by the Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

Aims to Restore and Develop Built Heritage:

- Monitor Mill Wheelhouse condition for practical duty of care maintenance to prevent further deterioration.
- Manage vegetation on and around masonry throughout The Canch to prevent long term damage to built heritage.
- Carry out public consultation on a range of 'visioning' development options for Wheelhouse and former bowling green.
- Cost separate heritage works into a series of 'projects' after consultation; also to include smaller scale works e.g. restoring timber shelter.
- Design heritage interpretation materials required to follow restoration or development options identified through consultation.
- Complete all pre- funding work to support later funding bids.

SWOT Analysis

Following a detailed assessment of the maintenance and management of The Canch and a review of current practices in respect of community engagement, the identified objectives can be evaluated through a SWOT analysis to establish a way forward.

'S' Strengths

'W' Weaknesses

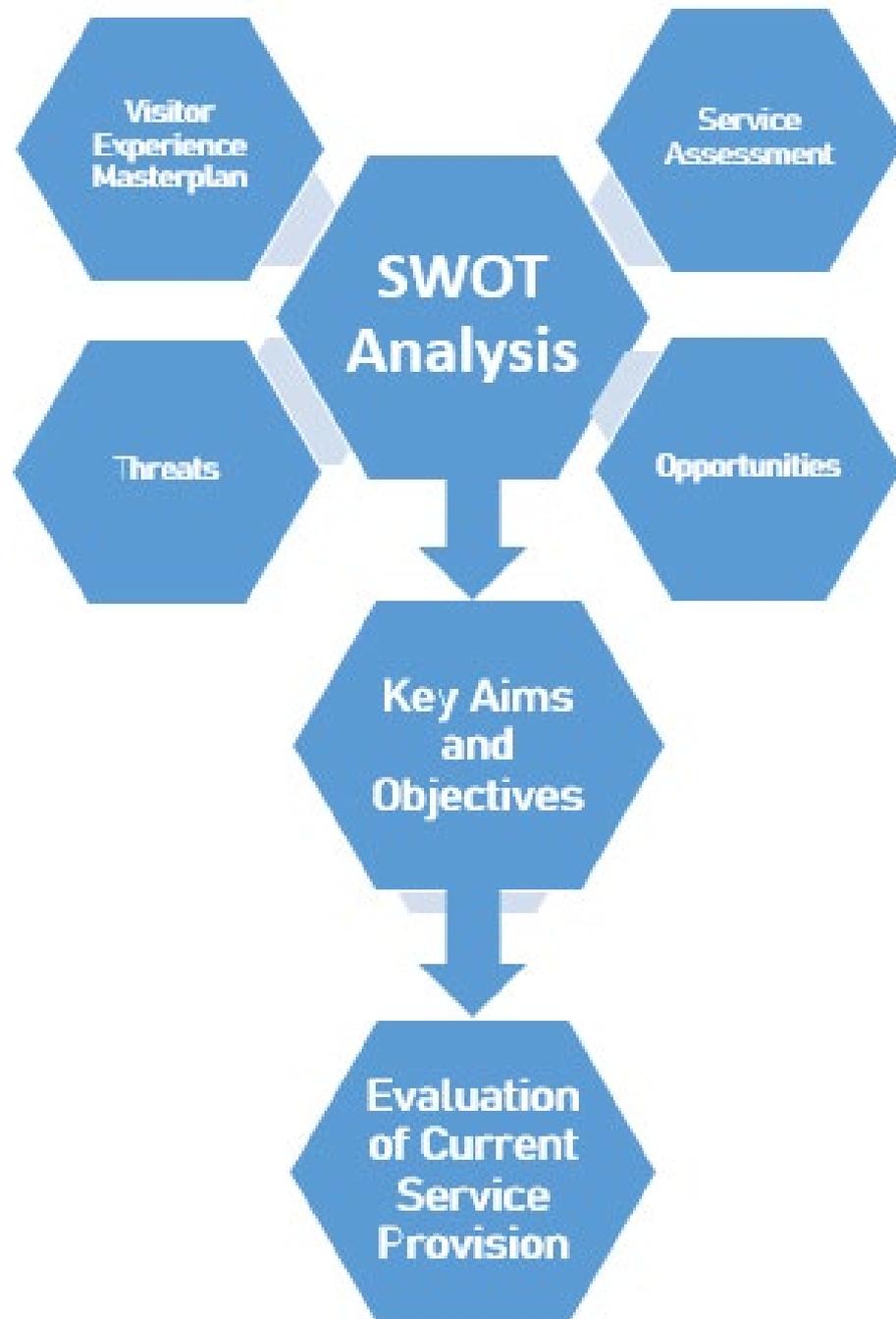
'O' Opportunities

'T' Threats

Through its application, this process will establish the following:

- Current and future working practices in respect of maintenance operations.
- Current and future management practices in respect of the site's role as a community asset.
- Current and future opportunities to develop the site and improve services.

- Current aims and aspirations from the Visitor Experience Masterplan.



SWOT Analysis – A Welcoming Place

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popular and well-known park close to town centre. • Accessible to all, young and old, individuals and groups. • New refreshments kiosk/cafe and toilet facilities including Changing Places WC. • On site café and wellbeing hub within Aurora Centre (former library building) . • Several key main entrances with open aspects; • Good offsite parking provision (some free). • Upgraded children’s play area including water play. • Informative and directional signage. • New themed seating/litterbin provision • New in-situ picnic tables provided next to refreshment zones. • Green Flag award winning site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some occasional issues of anti-social behaviour. • Similar to other parks there is poor wet weather resilience. • Lack of interpretation for visitors. 	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism, environmental crime. • A reduction of staff skill levels (in line with national trends). • Reduced maintenance standards, resulting from budget savings. • Cuts to funding impacts on visitor experience.

SWOT Analysis – Healthy, Safe and Secure

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCTV in operation across all areas with live monitoring. • New and upgraded LED lighting in the park. • ‘Park Watch’ scheme providing all year round response call out. • Patrols by community support officers. • Park officially designated as an alcohol-free site with smoke-free children’s play areas. • Open aspects across most areas of the park. • Strong links with the Council’s Community Safety Team and local police. • All play equipment and safer surfacing compliant with European safety standards. • Key risk assessment procedures in place; • Staff fully trained in respect of water play safety and hygiene routines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site not staffed at all times (e.g. weekends and during winter months). 	<p>Not applicable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-social behaviour. • Reduced staff presence.

SWOT Analysis – Well-maintained and Clean

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular grounds maintenance operations carried out to a high standard. • Litter collections carried out on a regular basis. • Implementation of Dog Control Orders. • Dedicated revenue budgets. • Well trained, motivated and experienced staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses not always on the same day unless safety implications arise. • No full time dedicated member of staff assigned to the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional ad hoc help from local groups and volunteers. • Encourage park users to report damage and littering. • Encourage park visitors to take litter away with them. • Educate children and young people to respect the park through established links with local schools. • Improved seasonal bedding displays through the use of an automatic irrigation system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future cuts in revenue budgets resulting in reduced maintenance standards. • Lack of capacity within the workforce. • Limited resources.

SWOT Analysis – Environmental Management

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recycling of all green waste arising from site based operations. • Regular maintenance and replacement programme for plant and machinery including new electric powered vehicles. • Use of pesticides and herbicides kept to a minimum; • The use of recycled materials in furnishings. • Commitment to no peat use. • Recycling bins on site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited recycling facilities on site. • Lack of community engagement in respect of onsite environmental issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the huge educational and interpretive possibilities in respect of the environment. • Potential to engage the community on 'green' projects. • Provide park users with more on-site recycling facilities close to refreshment areas. • Potential to introduce an automatic irrigation system. • Restore penstock feature to generate own electric power for onsite use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abuse of the fabric of the park. • Destruction of wildlife habitats through ignorance and vandalism. • Lack of dedicated officer time in this specialised service area.

SWOT Analysis – Biodiversity, Landscape and Heritage

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site has a rich heritage and historical links to the Priory Church dating back 12th century. • Original landscape features of the park retained and partially restored. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of on-site interpretive information relating to heritage features. • Local and District importance of the park for biodiversity, landscape and heritage not fully appreciated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration of key landscape heritage features. • Potential to develop the fabric of the park in all areas. • Develop the potential of designated conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism. • Reduced resources. • Loss of commitment.

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park sited within a designated conservation area. • Existing natural areas providing wildlife habitat. • Mature tree collection identified and recorded, enhancing topography of the whole site. • Bird and bat nesting boxes installed. • Rich heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage remains 'hidden' – former historic water millhouse structure. 	<p>areas to support native flora and fauna.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the diversity of the tree and shrub cover within the whole park. • Utilise the full potential of the former nursery and bowling green site i.e. for organised activities and events. • Uncover and present the heritage of The Canch. 	

SWOT Analysis – Community Involvement

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public consultation and community involvement/input led to the Visitor Experience Masterplan 2018 setting out the future management and development of the park. Park accessible to all of the community groups and organisations. Established community events and activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No regular input from park users/visitors. Links to groups and organisations that may use the park on a regular or ad-hoc basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction of educational walks, talks and projects in partnership with others. Establish a volunteer group, to focus on new themes and initiatives. Development of education programmes linked to heritage and the environment. Partnership working with other organisations to deliver some services e.g. creation of new habitats. Establish closer links with Bassetlaw Community Voluntary Service (BCVS) and Probation Services who are based locally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited officer time and direct communication.

SWOT Analysis – Marketing and Communication

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site is very well known locally. • Local marketing of specific activities carried out in-house or by event organisers. • Information items for park noticeboards. • Use of strong social media platforms to promote events and activities. • Strong links with Council's Communications Team. • Positive press releases to publicise achievements, activities and events in the park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information leaflet specifically for the park. • Lack of data on visitor numbers and characteristics of visitors. • Updating the park's webpage on regular basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve links with community groups and organisations to target funding opportunities. • Collection of visitor data to identify annual visitor numbers and motivations for visiting. • Enhance the marketing offer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited financial resources. • Withdrawal of corporate support.

SWOT Analysis – Management

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular input from an experienced, motivated management team. • Good standards of grounds maintenance specified and monitored. • Management Team motivated by achieving Green Flag status at The Canch since 2014. • Partnership working. • Horticulture Apprenticeship Scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving the aims of the present refurbishment and plan within the timescales. • Limited community input. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop regular school and other group use of the site; • Establish on-site staffing rotas. • Adjust maintenance to support the planned improvements to the landscape and facilities. • To promote and market the site through Public Relations Team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuts in revenue budget affecting management staffing. • Decreased numbers of dedicated staff. • Change in the political will and priorities.

Environmental Performance Assessment

Grounds Maintenance

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
Grass Mowing (low amenity areas)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried out once a week during growing season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grass kept short to reduce invasion of weeds. Clippings/arising from mowing operations left on areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where frequency of mowing can be reduced i.e. areas around groups of trees/creation of wildflower margins on perimeters. Introduce native bulbs such as bluebells and snowdrops into those areas to increase biodiversity and interest.
Grass Mowing (Ornamental lawns)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By pedestrian cylinder mower with box collection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain high standard of maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recycling of all arisings through green waste

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
			composting skips on site.
Strimming works around trees, bins and obstructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried out on a weekly basis during growing season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternative to weed killer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure bins and obstructions are located off grassed areas wherever possible or provide a concrete pad beneath.
Hedge cutting (low amenity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried out once a year using tractor and side arm flail cutter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain perimeter boundary hedges to provide an attractive and effective barrier. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish uncut margin, 2 metres wide against hedgerows to provide wildlife refuge - cut every 3 years at end of February to prevent scrub development
Hedge cutting (high amenity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carried out twice a year using hand held hedge trimmer. Works not carried out until July after bird nesting season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain high standard and provide effective barrier between boundaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce number of cuts to once a year where appropriate i.e. beech hedges. Recycle all arisings through green waste

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
			composting skips on site.
Use of pesticides and herbicides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicide use is a 'last resort' option after consideration of more appropriate and alternative methods of weed control such as cutting and manual weeding. • Pesticides are only used subject to stringent control measures i.e. vermin control or as recommended by Natural England/Wildlife Trusts. • Apply mulches around plants to suppress weed growth. • Use of nematodes for the control of chafer grub 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the risk and environmental impact. • Use of control droplet applicators for targeted use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of manual traps and encourage natural predators to manage invasive pests. • Planting of beneficial plants i.e. companion planting for natural control methods. • Use of natural organic products/treatments.

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
	pests within high amenity lawn areas (where necessary). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of jet washing to clean algae from sensitive areas such as children’s play areas. 		
Selective weed spraying of lawns and application of fertiliser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carried out once per year or as and when required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kept to a minimum by high standard of turf renovation and maintenance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave grass clippings on less sensitive lawn areas to reduce the need for weed spraying and fertiliser use.
Watering of seasonal bedding displays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigate (when necessary) during the first four weeks after planting particularly during drought conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aid the establishment of newly planted seasonal bedding plants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install an automatic watering system to apply at appropriate times to reduce evaporation and increase plant take up.
Herbaceous borders, rose and shrub plantings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply mulches around plants to suppress weed growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances environment increasing food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore opportunities for own green waste composting for reuse.

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
		<p>availability of insects, birds and mammals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces use of herbicides and fertilisers. • Reduces need for watering and improves the soil structure and fertility. 	
Tree works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All arisings to be chipped and left on site, where appropriate and practicable. Where possible large timber to be left on ground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce waste/ transportation. • To provide habitat. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other options for use of surplus arisings and timber.

Landscape Works (hard & soft)

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
Tree planting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose tree species appropriate to location and setting. • Wherever possible all tree planting will use bare-rooted field grown nursery stock. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhances environment and provides habitat for wildlife. • Provides shade, shelter and educational resource. • Reduces effects of climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an information tree trail walk leaflet.
Landscaping and tree planting including seasonal bedding displays	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate humus material to improve soil structure and moisture content at time of planting. • Use mulch mats and mulching materials (from own recycled wood chippings) in tree planting schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High organic content and fertility status, therefore no need to add compost or fertiliser throughout the growing season. • Good water holding capacity and drought resistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider use of sustainably sourced topsoil, where topsoil needs to be imported.

Machinery and Equipment

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
Vehicles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the use and impact of vehicles. • Commitment to reducing carbon footprint and convert to electric vehicles (where appropriate and alternative is available). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce pollution/CO2 emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Servicing intervals/hours of use between servicing is strictly adhered to for extended machinery life and reduction of emissions. • Maintain/replace catalytic converters/particulate traps in line with the manufacturers recommendations. • When purchasing or leasing new vehicles consider fuel efficiency and greener alternatives. • Consider alternative technologies e.g.

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
			vehicles able to run on compressed natural gas, bio diesel, liquid petroleum gas and electric.
Mowers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve efficiency in day to day operational works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowers replaced every 5 years to ensure reliability and thus, reduce pollution/C02 emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Servicing intervals/hours of use between servicing is strictly adhered to for extended machinery life and reduction of emissions. • Maintain/replace catalytic converters/particulate traps in line with the manufacturers recommendations.
Hand held machines i.e. strimmer's,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve efficiency in day to day operational works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce operational costs. 	

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
blowers, hedgecutters etc.,		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Machines replaced every 3 years to ensure reliability and thus, reduce pollution/C02 emissions. 	

Miscellaneous

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
Use of detergents/cleaning products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used in grounds maintenance compound. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply COSHH assessment before buying new products. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase products that are biodegradable where possible try to ensure they are 100% biodegradable. • Purchase phosphate free detergents. • Purchase HCFC/CFC free aerosols.

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid aerosols – use pump action recycled plastic containers.
Energy consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce CO2 emissions in buildings through more energy efficient heating and lighting systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce emissions and costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider more energy efficient applicants and applications i.e. LED lighting. • Consider the options of generating on site electricity i.e. solar, wind. • Source greener energy suppliers. • Consider options for re-using rainwater/grey water recycling systems.
Recycling (bins)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of recycling bins next to entrances and on- 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recycling of paper, plastics and cans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage visitors to segregate waste arising from

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
	site catering/kiosk facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bins installed as part of 'on street' recycling initiative scheme 2012. • Re-use of existing resources. • Reduce impact on the environment. 	their visits into the recycling bins.
Furniture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use recycled plastic timber substitutes where possible including benches, fencing, signs and posts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support sustainable market for recycled products. • Low maintenance and extended lifetime of product. 	
Composting – green waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of green waste skips for off-site composting i.e. grass clippings, shrub pruning's etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve recycling and reduce costs of waste sent to landfill. • Reduce impact on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider further options for on-site recycling of materials.

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of green waste is recycled. • On average 67% of <u>all</u> skip waste produced by the parks service is composted annually. 	
Dog fouling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of dog bins next to entrances. Enforcement action, including high profile days and well publicised prosecutions. • Dogs are banned from within enclosed children's play areas as part of the Council's Public Spaces Protection (Dog Control) Order 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better environment, encourages greater use of green spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide dog bags available for use. • Encourage reporting of offenders.
Provision of wildlife boxes (bat, bird and insect)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide boxes in suitable locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases and retains a greater diversity of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage local schools/friends group

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
		wildlife – reduce numbers of plant pests.	in monitoring of the boxes.
Peat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat free compost used. • Supplies of plants etc. must supply stock raised in peat free compost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevents destruction of low land peat bogs and their wildlife. • Use of peat-free compost avoids the need to send green waste to landfill sites and thus, reduce impact on the environment. 	
Painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use lead free, low Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) water-based paints, without harmful solvents. • Use high quality paints needing less frequent painting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce emissions. • Avoid contamination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choose water based or paints based on plant oils such as linseed oil with minimal environmental hazards identified in COSHH sheets.

Service Area	Operational Activities	Aims and Objectives	Options and Opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispose of paint tins, containers and brushes appropriately. 		
Timber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select timber from sustainable sources, such as FSC products or equivalent. • Use durable preserved timber that conforms to BS 8417 code of practice and will not soil hands or clothing and is harmless to human, animals and plant life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not buy products made from tropical hardwood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider buying reclaimed timber and products from reclaimed timber merchants i.e. used railway sleepers. • Use timber from native sustainable certified sources in Europe.
Plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use biodegradable alternatives to plastics (tree guards etc.,). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce impact on the environment. • Reduce costs of waste sent to landfill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-use or recycle plastics. • Request pot-less tray systems from growers for the annual bedding plant supplies.

Marketing & Communication

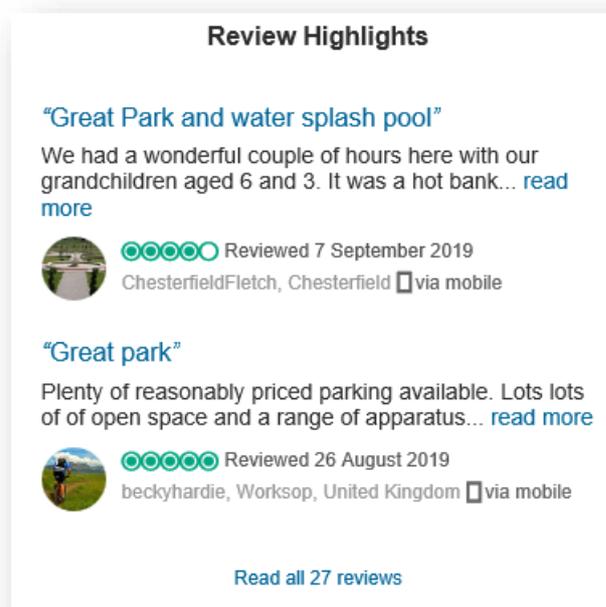
The Parks and Open Spaces Management Team continue to follow its outline Marketing Plan. By maintaining strong links with the local community, through regular consultation and public involvement, the park provides a valuable venue and facility for a diverse variety of events and activities throughout the year.

The Plan was produced to formulate a strategic approach towards the marketing of The Canch, Worksop. Its main aims are:

- To secure return visits from existing users and encourage new visitors to The Canch.
- To encourage visitors to stay longer when they visit.
- To actively encourage all sectors of the community to play a positive role in the use and development of The Canch.
- To encourage the use of The Canch based on equal opportunity principles.

The Parks and Open Spaces Management Team have further developed and formally adopted this approach to facilitate its application to other key green space sites under their jurisdiction.

The Council's Public Relations Team work closely with local and regional press to successfully raise The Canch's profile and promote its value as a destination site at the heart of its community. Social media marketing also provides an extremely useful way of them engaging with visitors, the local community and encourage footfall to the park.



(Source: Trip Advisor)

There are multiple information boards placed around the entrances to the park which display current events and activities.

Improvements to the Council’s website have led to a more user-friendly platform for mobile devices and has a strong emphasis on self-service. Visitors to the site can submit general enquiries relating to its services, report incidents and book events and activities in the Council’s parks and open spaces.

Understanding the needs of visitors



Over the summer period in 2018 a module of visitor research was carried out to provide further information on the people who currently visit The Canch. The results are set out into Visitor Experience Master Plan.

Over a period of time these exercises will be repeated at regular intervals. Fundamentally, the customer research will continue to identify:

- What the public like about The Canch
- What the public dislike about The Canch
- What would encourage the public to make better use of The Canch

Consultation continues to be undertaken at a number of community events staged in The Canch. As well as delivering feedback on the particular event, it also provides a profile from park users based on age, gender, where they live and to some extent, their economic profile.

In addition, further consultation exercises will be undertaken by a combination of the following:

- Random user surveys throughout the year.
- On-line surveys using the Bassetlaw District Council and the Parks and Open Spaces websites.
- Collecting feedback on specific proposals (e.g. The Service Assessment Report) at organised public meetings and drop-in sessions.

Aim One - To encourage existing users and new visitors to The Canch

Two key actions have been identified to assist with the delivery of this particular aim.

- Raise the profile of The Canch by:
- Improving The Canch's webpage and presence.
- Continuing to use Bassetlaw District Council's social media channels to engage with existing and new visitors. This will include partnership working.
- Continuing to produce information items for park noticeboards.
- Utilising the quality images submitted from park users.
- Encouraging local media to attend events in The Canch.
- Actively encourage local community groups and organisations to focus on new themes and initiatives.
- Creation of a Development Worker role to deliver specific initiatives and projects.

(1) To better inform users and potential users about The Canch by:

- Working with other local groups to inform members about the park and its activities for Bassetlaw, e.g. voluntary services, local community groups, health and wellbeing charities, schools and young people's services.
- Working actively with other agencies such as the Police and the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit to address any specific problems if and when they arise, e.g. vandalism and abuse. This has been identified as a key action within the Visitor Experience Masterplan.

- By continuing to prepare press releases to publicise achievements, activities and events in The Canch.
- By continuing to build on the positive publicity achieved through press coverage of park based activities and the installation and opening of new facilities.
- Continuing to use Bassetlaw District Council's social media channels to promote events and activities and the Council's future plans for The Canch. This will include partnership working.

Aim Two - To encourage visitors to stay longer in their visit



Five key actions will have a collective role to play in helping to achieve this aim:

1. By staging a programme of events and activities in The Canch. The Parks and Open Spaces Management Team have developed this initiative in recent years and now lead on the administration and management of a number of community events. They also act as an agent in approving and supporting other agencies to stage their own events, a practice which is actively encouraged.
2. By developing the work undertaken by schools to promote the park as an educational asset.
3. By continuing to work with the Council's Active Communities Team to promote The Canch as an accessible green space for sporting activities and games.
4. By working with hospitals and care organisations to help establish The Canch as a venue to contribute towards public health and wellbeing.

5. By promoting an overall positive image for the park by combining and managing all of the aforementioned actions.

Aim Three - To actively encourage all sectors of the community to play a positive role in the use and development of The Canch

The key actions for the successful delivery of this aim will be achieved as follows:

- By establishing and supporting an active Friends of The Canch Group, encouraging as wider representation from the community as possible to reflect local views and opinions.
- By developing social media sites to encourage a greater input for children and young people who have historically have been difficult to involve with the park and its development.
- By running consultation sessions to seek public views in the next stage of ongoing park improvements (consultation at a public event in 2010 influenced the final design of the new Canch skate park).
- By contacting local schools, community organisations, voluntary groups, government agencies and the Bassetlaw Council for Voluntary Services to make them aware of The Canch as a high-profile venue for staging events and educational activities.

Aim Four - To encourage the use of The Canch based on equal opportunity principles

In order to achieve this aim, it will be essential for the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team to offer opportunities and stage events which reflect and represent the social, economic and cultural profile of the community.

The consultation exercises previously outlined will help establish needs to address and therefore, how best these equal opportunities could be delivered.

Community Events

Over recent years, the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team have organised and staged a number of community events in The Canch. These highly successful activities have supplemented those run by other organisations and groups.

Bassetlaw District Council remain committed to promoting The Canch as a valuable venue for community events and will therefore:

- Continue to support and promote establishment of annual events.
- Support and assist newcomers in establishing and developing regular events and activities.
- Stage successful District Council led events and activities aimed at raising public awareness of the park's value.



The Parks and Open Spaces Management Team will use its new Marketing Strategy to advertise The Canch as a 'Green Arena' for educational establishment, community organisations and local businesses to stage events and showcase their services and skills.

Community Involvement

As part of a public engagement process, the District Council has contacted local schools and a number of community organisations to make them aware of the Park as a high-profile venue for staging events, activities and educational assignments. Ongoing engagement with local groups and organisations including those listed below will continue.

Schools:

- Gateford Park Primary
- Holy Family RC Primary
- Norbridge Academy

- North Nott's College of Further Education
- Outwood Academy Portland
- Outwood Academy Valley
- Prospect Hill Junior
- Prospect Infant and Nursery
- Redlands Primary Ryton Park Primary Sir Edmund Hillary Primary
- St Anne's C of E Primary
- St Augustine's Infant
- St Johns C of E Primary
- Worksop College
- Worksop Priory C of E Primary

Nurseries:

- Westbourne House
- Cherubs Ryton Park
- Treetops
- Alphabet House
- Claremont House

Community Groups and Clubs:

- Acorn Theatre Group
- Dojo Martial Arts
- The Muddy Fork
- Worksop and District Photographic Society
- Worksop Rotary Club

SureStart Centres

- Prospect
- St Augustine's
- Raymoth Lane
- Shrewsbury Road

Churches:

- St John's
- St Anne's
- St Joseph's R C

- Christchurch Centre
- The Crossing

Organisations:

- Aurora Wellbeing Charity
- BCVS
- FoYPIB
- Hope for the Homeless
- NCC Library Services
- NCC Youth Services
- Outreach

Medical Practices:

- Newgate Medical Group
- Larwood Health Centre
- Bassetlaw General Hospital

Evaluation of Events

Events and activities held at The Canch are evaluated around the following five key areas:

1. Pre-event social engagement
2. Actual day attendance
3. Attendee satisfaction
4. Press and media coverage
5. Post-event brief

Pre-event social engagement

Through the Council's PR Team using social media channels to drive attendance, hype and engagement to the event. Levels of interaction are monitored for tweets, likes, shares and comments in addition to audience demographics and clicks per post. Anticipated attendance figures are then generated.

Actual day attendance

Achieved through on-site engagement and interaction with attendees, conversation platforms, social media mentions and questionnaires.

By estimating actual attendance as well as audience profile and type.

Through feedback from event participants on public interaction and trade levels.

Attendee satisfaction

Attained through surveys, verbal conversation, social media and data acquired.

Press and media coverage

Level of coverage and presence in local press and media post-event. Measuring positive and negative feedback.

Post Event Brief

Through event de-briefing sessions; to evaluate success and improve future planning, setup and delivery.



Bassetlaw's Safety Advisory Group

In 2015, Bassetlaw joined the Nottinghamshire Safety Advisory Group. The Group ensures that all events delivered on Council-owned sites are well organised, safely delivered and in accordance with legal responsibilities as landowners. By working in partnership with the group all agencies (i.e. Police, EMAS, Fire Service and Nottinghamshire County Council) are aware of public events taking place in the local area.

The groups aim to:

- Ensure the highest attainable standard of public safety at events in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.
- Encourage a culture of event safety and promote good practice in safety and welfare planning for events.
- Provide a multi-agency forum for the coordination of advice to event organisers.
- Provide professional advice on the suitability of event management plans and associated documents provided by the event organiser.

As part of this process the Parks Management Team have produced its own well-structured Event Management Plans and also offer advice and support to others planning to hold events within its open spaces to encourage public involvement and participation.

Section 3 - Delivery & Implementation

- Aims and Objectives
- Action Plans
- Financial Resources
- Staffing Resources
- Operational Maintenance

Aims and Objectives

The future direction and development of The Canch has been set out through the written Visitor Experience Masterplan, which was produced after extensive consultation was undertaken with its users, visitors and residents throughout the summer of 2018. Wider consultation included Members, stakeholders, organisations and groups with an interest in the park.

The focus of the development works over the next 10-year period (2019 – 2029) will be on built heritage and conservation, to bring it to the same level of prominence as seen with the past developments on the infrastructure and new play/recreation facilities within the park.

It will be essential to ensure that any future plans for the Creative Village and former Worksop Library building take into the account the masterplan and this management plan to ensure that, along with the now Aurora Wellbeing Centre, all initiatives complement each other.

The works as identified through the assessment and analysis process have been formatted into actions plans.

All development works will be delivered in line with the Green Flag judging criteria as follows:

- Aim One – Create a welcoming place.
- Aim Two – Ensure that the Park is healthy, safe and secure.
- Aim Three – Ensure that the Park facilities are well maintained and clean.
- Aim Four – Ensure environment management and resources.
- Aim Five – Ensure management of biodiversity, landscape and heritage.

- Aim Six – Encourage and sustain community involvement.
- Aim Seven – Ensure effective marketing and communications.
- Aim Eight – Ensure future viability of the Park through effective management.

Action Plans

The action plan relates to the identified works associated with each specific character area within the park. These key actions are seen as being achievable and deliverable within the timescale where the necessary funding resources can be secured.

It is also important to take into account the aspirations and visions detailed separately in the Visitor Experience Masterplan.

Reference:

- 6.3.2 - Visitor infrastructure
- 6.3.3 - Play and fitness
- 6.3.4 - Accessibility and inclusivity
- 6.3.5 - Interpretation and the sense of welcome
- 6.3.6 - Education and learning
- 6.3.7 - Environmental and biodiversity programme
- 6.3.8 - Volunteering and community
- 6.3.9 - Marketing

The intention will be to continue to regularly review these aspirations and visions with the aim to bring them into the Management Plan as appropriate.

Key Actions – Proposed / recommended improvement works across the character areas identified through service assessment and public consultation.

Indicative Costs – Estimated costs related to funding the improvement:

- M – Minimal
- £ - <£5,000
- ££ - £5,001 - £25,000
- £££ - £25,001 - £50,000
- ££££ - £50,001 - £100,000
- £££££ - £100,001 >

Timescale:

- I – Immediate (up to 3 years)
- M – Medium (between 3-6 years)
- LT – Long-Term (over 7 years)

Staff Resources:

- L – Low
- M – Medium
- H – High

Potential Sources of Funding:

- HLF – Heritage Lottery Funding
- RC – Reaching Communities
- BDC – Capital Resources
- CIL - Community Infrastructure Levy
- S106 – New Housing Developments
- Other – Grants / Funding opportunities / Initiatives
- Revenue – Maintenance Budgets

Key Actions For Character Area (A-K)	Indicative Cost	Timescale	Potential Funding Source	Staff Resource
Priory Entrance Garden and Sunken Garden (A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration of the sunken garden respecting the original Haslehurst design. Improve visibility to priory around the main gateway. Re-build the original limestone walls in sunken garden. Re-plant sunken garden with herbaceous perennials, as a contrast to the bedding and groundcover shrubs elsewhere in the park. Planting event with volunteers. Provide more seats and of a more appropriate design. Replant the perimeter shrub borders around the sunken garden area with more suitable shade tolerant plantings. 	££	M	BDC	H
	Action completed in 2023			
	££	M	BDC	H
	£	I	BDC	M
	M	I	Revenue	M
	£	I	BDC	L
	£	I	BDC	M
	£	I	BDC	M
Floral Display Garden (B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replant the shrub beds along southern boundary with Memorial Avenue with lower shrubs and 	£	I	BDC	M

Key Actions For Character Area (A-K)	Indicative Cost	Timescale	Potential Funding Source	Staff Resource
herbaceous, retaining the existing mature shrubs/small trees.	M	I	Revenue	L
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace dying Ornamental Hawthorn at the main entrance to the Aurora Centre with the same. 	£	M	Revenue	M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repaint original 1930's railings either side of the main entrance. 	£	I	BDC	L
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more seating and of a more appropriate design. 	M	I	Revenue	M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting event with volunteers. 				
The Memorial Garden Lawns (C)	£	I	BDC	M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The redesign and replanting of 'tired' shrub border features. 	Completed April 2023			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more seating and of a more appropriate design. 				
The Sensory Garden (D)	££	M	HLF	H
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mill Wheelhouse – Assess the range of options for its presentation and access. 	£££££	LT	BDC	H
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal for the Hydro Power Scheme. 	££	M	BDC	M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better presentation of the adjacent BDC depot. 	££	M	BDC	L
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess structural condition of the two mill race channels under the Rose Garden. 	££	M	BDC	L

Key Actions For Character Area (A-K)	Indicative Cost	Timescale	Potential Funding Source	Staff Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove vegetation from walls, continue to cut down seedling trees and remove Himalayan Balsam. Conserve the original stone walling. 	M	I	Revenue	L
	££	M	HLF	M
Water Fountain Play Area (E) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restore the original timber shelter in keeping with its age and character. 	££	M	HLF	M
Sport and Recreation Zone (G) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The installation of picnic seating and picnic table. Upgrading of toilet facilities. 	££	M	BDC	L
	Completed February 2021 with opening of new facilities			
The Central Green (H) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remodel old hard surface and shrub area as part of the new visitor provision to integrate with rest of the area, e.g. covert to reinforced grass so can be used as hard-standing for temporary event equipment. 	££	M	BDC	M
The Bowling Green (I) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a purpose built performance area for staging events on. 	££££	LT	BDC	H
	M	I	Revenue	L

Key Actions For Character Area (A-K)	Indicative Cost	Timescale	Potential Funding Source	Staff Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retaining the screen of mature shrubs on its boundaries that separate from the Sport and Recreation zone by the shrub borders on the north and east. Integrate site of former nursery building with rest of area to ensure harmonious space. Refurbish old metal railings along The Canch footpath. Repair old stone wall on western boundary. Relax mowing regimes to enhance amenity and wildlife values where appropriate. 	Completed April 2019			
	££	M	HLF	M
	££	M	HLF	M
	M	I	Revenue	L
The Canch Watercourse (J)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refurbish Victorian/Edwardian railings on western footbridge to Beaver Place including replacement of modern end-post with replica to match original. 	£	M	HLF	M
	£	M	Revenue	M
	M	I	Revenue	L

Key Actions For Character Area (A-K)	Indicative Cost	Timescale	Potential Funding Source	Staff Resource
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbish old metal bow-top railings along The Canch on either side of the footbridge and paint the modern galvanised railings. • Clear debris in mill pond adjacent to west wall and wheelhouse. • Continue to work with the Environment Agency on de-silting and planting to improve the water quality and habitat value of the sluice/bypass channel through the play areas, whilst retaining the character and features of this 1950s phase such as the crazy paving and stepping stones. • Continue to remove Himalayan Balsam. 	M	M	Other	M
	Ongoing			
The River Ryton (K) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to remove Himalayan Balsam and work with the Environment Agency on de-silting. • Install nesting and bug boxes along the edges of the river to improve wildlife habitats and biodiversity within the park. 	M	I	Revenue	L
	I	M	Other	M

Key Actions For Character Area (A-K)	Indicative Cost	Timescale	Potential Funding Source	Staff Resource
Throughout the Park				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a tree management plan to guide future replacement species and locations. 	M	I	Revenue	H
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to retain key views by reviewing vegetation growth at least once every 5 years. 	M	M	Revenue	M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review seating provision. 	M	M	Revenue	M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review litter bin provision. 	M	M	Revenue	M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and improve interpretational signage. 	M	M	Revenue	M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and improve 'welcome and wayfinding' signage. 	M	M	Revenue	M

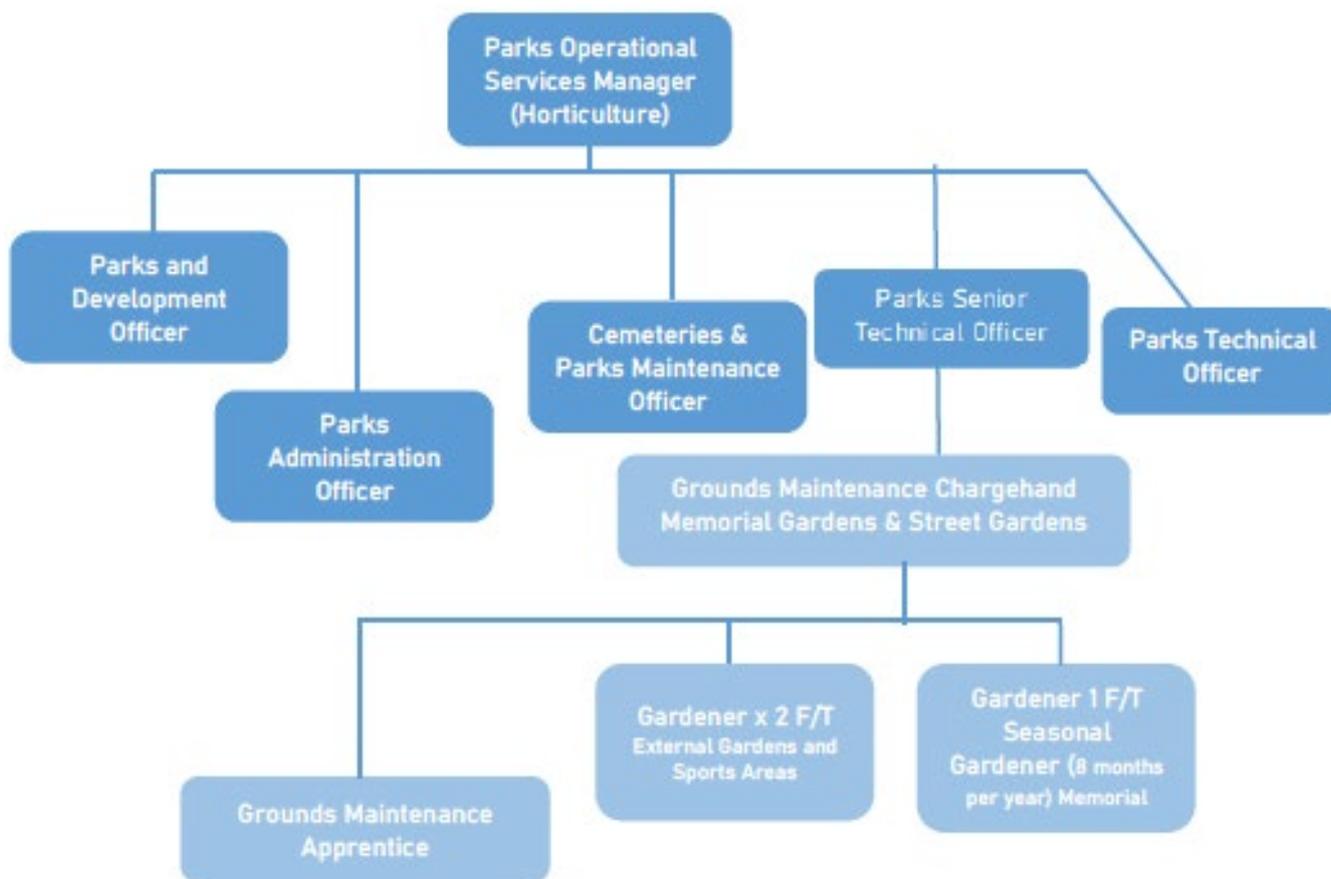
Financial Resources

Set out below is the annual maintenance budget associated with The Canch.

		Annual Cost
Annual Bedding Management	Maintenance	4,688.56
	Plants, bulbs and fertilisers	4,889.46
	Total	9,578.02
Border Management	Ornamental shrub border	1,863.48
	Roses	933.46
	Total	2,796.94
Grassland Management	Ornamental lawns	8,506.41
	Amenity lawns	1,954.97
	Total	10,461.38
Hedgerow Management	Ornamental	117.45
	Amenity	Nil
	Total	117.45
Play Areas and Skate Park Management	Inspections	1,108.84
	Maintenance/repairs	786.27
	Total	1,895.11
Waste & Litter Management		19,354.83
Security	Park Watch Patrols/Call Outs	1,305.33
Pool Management	Maintenance	21,840.50
Tree Management	Maintenance/repairs	1,169.63
Building Management	Maintenance/repairs	1,694.96
Total		£70,214.15

Staffing Resources

Structure



The above structure chart relates to Bassetlaw District Council’s overall Parks and Open Spaces Management and Grounds Maintenance staff that covers The Canch.

The dark blue colour illustrates the officers involved in the management of The Canch whereas the lighter-blue colour illustrates the staff who are directly involved with the grounds maintenance operations within the park.

The park has two full-time staff with additional staff brought in at specific times as appropriate. The park also benefits from seasonal staff and volunteers to assist when necessary, particularly when planting and removing seasonal bedding displays.

The unit has particular expertise in fine turf maintenance and arboriculture work.

Plant and tools available for the park are funded from the Grounds Maintenance budgets, held within the Parks and Open Spaces Unit.

The manpower, resources and management being employed at the park are subject to an annual review to ensure the needs and standards are being met.

Operational Maintenance Schedules

Task / Frequency	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Grass Cut Amenity	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	0	0	14
Splash Park Maintenance	0	0	0	1 0	3 1	3 0	3 1	3 1	3 0	0	0	0	16 3
Winter Plant Maintenance	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	5
Summer Plant Maintenance	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	5
Playground Inspection	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	48
Tree Inspections	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Litter Collection	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	96
Sweeping Paths	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
Footpath Inspection	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rose Bed Maintenance	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
Shrub Pruning	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
Tree Works			As Needed										A R
Leaf Clearance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Clean Toilets	0	0	0	3 0	3 1	3 0	3 1	3 1	3 0	0	0	0	18 3
Legionella Control	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12

Section 4 - Monitoring and Review

- Working Practices
- Conservation and Heritage
- Marketing and Communications
- Management Plan
- Supporting Documentation and Information Items
- Contact Details

Monitoring and Review

Having established a range of aims and objectives through the documented analysis process, it is essential that measures are in place to monitor progress and delivering and reviewing actions accordingly.

This Management Plan will be used to focus on this monitoring process as follows:

Working Practices

Having achieved and retained Green Flag status, Bassetlaw District Council will ensure that a raft of recognised good working practices is applied to maintain the high standards already achieved in The Canch.

Taking a proactive approach, the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team will regularly review and revise, where necessary, its risk assessment procedures and response mechanisms.

Meeting quarterly with the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team, we will monitor and review the following:

- Grounds maintenance procedures
- Risk assessment procedures
- Remedial works
- Inspection routines
- Improvement works

Conservation and Heritage

Having recognised the many heritage features of The Canch, the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team will ensure that all such assets are regularly monitored for fair wear and tear and the adverse effects of possible abuse. This includes planting schemes, infrastructure, natural and built heritage.

Any such outcomes will be acted upon through appropriate practices to avoid further deterioration or long term dilapidation. This is especially important for historic structures awaiting funding for full restoration.

In order to ascertain the success of conservation projects, the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team will continue to work in partnership with the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and volunteers, site maintenance staff and others as necessary to complete surveys of the following:

- Habitat provision and management works
- Nest box surveys
- Flora and fauna studies and reports

Marketing and Communication

In recent years The Canch has attracted a reasonable amount of positive media interest. It has featured regularly in the local press and received occasional coverage on regional radio stations. It has also been used, on more than one occasion, as a venue for the filming TV programmes which have been broadcast nationally.

The Park and Open Spaces Management Team will monitor on an annual basis the amount and type of coverage The Canch receives. The Team will continue to work closely with the Council's own Public Relations Unit to develop ideas which will create media interest and promote the park further.

The feedback from a major public consultation exercise during summer 2018 is being used to follow the outline marketing plan. This is a working document that is assessed and monitored on a regular basis, to include further public feedback to inform the direction required to meet the needs of service users.

Management Plan

This third version of The Canch Management Plan continues to be used as a working document to deliver a number of identified improvement and restoration projects. It will also enable the Parks and Open Spaces

Management Team to focus on the maintenance and development of the site as a whole, in so doing, consolidate the positive work undertaken in recent years.

The Management Plan has set delivery targets that are, in theory, measured and achievable. In order to ensure that as many, if not all, targets are reached, the Parks and Open Spaces Management Team will meet at regular intervals to monitor and review progress.

It is inevitable that the delivery process will meet with challenges and constraints, which could impact negatively on the development and use of the facility.

However, through the support of partnership working and from a strong commitment from its staff, Bassetlaw District Council are confident that its aims and objectives will be delivered and that its vision for The Canch can be achieved.

Policy Context

In developing this plan, it is important to recognise how the park and its role links into the strategic aims and objectives within the context of policies at all levels. This plan complies with the very broad and current policy framework from a national to a local level.



The breadth of individual policies within this framework is far too great to include fully in the management plan. This simplified diagram encapsulates the key themes into which the overall policies relate to The Canch Park.

The full suite of the policy framework, including relevant guidance, can be accessed via the descriptions and links contained within the Appendices.

Supporting documentation and information items

The following supporting documentation and information items can be found within the separate appendices to this plan:

Section 1: The Visitor Experience Masterplan 2018

Section 2: Maintenance/Inspection

- Risk Assessments
- Play Area Inspections
- Risk Control Sheets
- Water Play Park Maintenance
- Grounds Maintenance Specifications (examples)
- Bills of Quantity (examples)
- Tree Management and Inspections

Section 3: Policy Documents/Strategies

National:

- State of UK Public Parks by the Heritage Lottery Fund (Published 2016)
- The Parks Action Group
- The Charter for Parks
- The National Planning Policy Framework
- Sport England
- Trees for Cities
- The Design Council

Regional:

- Nottinghamshire County Council

Local:

- Bassetlaw District Council:
- Vision 2040 – Bassetlaw
- Planning – The Core Strategy
- The New Bassetlaw Local Plan 2019
- Conservation and Heritage Appraisal
- Parks and Play Area Policy 2017
- Renewal of Public Open Spaces Protection (Dog Control) Order 2021
- Control of Alcohol Consumption in Public Places 2010
- Graffiti Removal Policy 2006
- Registration of Parks and Gardens 2018

Section 4: Supplementary Items

- Park Watch Scheme
- Sustainability (Hydro Power Project)

This Management Plan is underpinned by supporting documentation contained in the following supplementary manuals:

- The Canch Maintenance Operators Manual*
- The Canch Health and Safety Manual*
- The Canch Community Events Manual*
- The Canch Development Manual*

*Documents will be available as requested to support the Green Flag Award desk assessment.

Contact Us



01909 533 533



www.bassetlaw.gov.uk



customer.services@bassetlaw.gov.uk



Text us on 07797 800 573



Find us on Facebook - BassetlawDC



Twitter @BassetlawDC



Visit us at:

Retford One Stop Shop
17B The Square, Retford DN22 6DB

Worksop One Stop Shop
Queen's Buildings, Potter Street, Worksop S80 2AH

All offices are open: Monday to Friday 8:40am to 5:00pm

If you need any help communicating with us or understanding any of our documents, please contact us on **01909 533 533**.

We can arrange for a copy of this document in large print, audiotape, Braille or for a Language Line interpreter to help you.



Bassetlaw
DISTRICT COUNCIL
— North Nottinghamshire —