

# **Green Spaces Strategy**

**2025 - 2035**

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# 1. Purpose

Stevenage was designated Britain's first New Town on 11th November 1946. The Town was designed with a great deal of emphasis on green space and its importance in helping to create a thriving community. The Town continues to benefit from the foresight of the original architects who retained and protected many of the existing landscape features, such as hedgerows and lanes, ponds, woodlands and veteran trees, to create the open spaces, wildlife corridors and sense of identity that residents and visitors enjoy today.

Good quality green space significantly contributes to the health, wellbeing, environmental resilience, image and identity of a town.

This strategy sets out objectives for the way in which green spaces in Stevenage are maintained, managed and improved to ensure that they are safe, accessible and sustainable, meeting the needs of our communities and the environment today and in the future.

For the purpose of this document green spaces focusses on:

Allotments	We manage 16 sites across the town, providing around 900 plots, for residents to grow their own fruit, vegetables and flowers. We are supported by a number of Volunteer Site Agents and work closely with the Stevenage Gardens & Allotments Association.
Cemeteries and churchyards	Cemeteries at Almonds Lane and Weston Road are managed and maintained by the council, and we also maintain the grounds at St Nicholas Church and St Mary's Church.
Commons	Common land is protected under several acts of Parliament. We manage five common land sites across the town - Fishers Green Common, Letchmore Common, Norton Green Common, Six Hills Common and Symonds Green Common.
Open spaces	In addition to the principal parks in the town residents also benefit from small open spaces within residential areas and larger, local, open spaces such as those at York Road, Campshill Park, Donkey Park and Blenheim Way.
Parks & public gardens	There are eleven principal parks and gardens throughout Stevenage. Many provide a range of opportunities including, sports pitches, outdoor gym / fitness equipment, spaces for quiet contemplation, children's equipped play areas, access to nature, whilst some also provide tennis courts, multi-use games areas, wheeled sports facilities, parkour, community events, lakes / ponds etc.

	The largest park in Stevenage is Fairlands Valley Park at 120 acres. This site is unique in Stevenage also providing a splash park, aqua park, water sports, model boating, and cycle hub.
Play areas	We currently manage and maintain over 50 equipped play spaces. Those in the principal parks provide equipment suitable for toddlers through to teenagers, while smaller, more local sites focus more on younger children. However, we also recognise the benefits that informal, imaginative play can provide to child development so will continue to provide open spaces in residential areas for all ages, 8 – 108 years, to enjoy.
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	LWS are identified and selected locally using robust, scientifically determined criteria and detailed ecological surveys managed by The Wildlife Trusts. Most of the designated LWS in Stevenage are managed by the Council. They largely comprise of woodlands, but there are also grassland and wetland sites. We work closely with the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust in the management and improvement of LWS and other habitat sites for wildlife.
Woodlands	There are approximately 240 acres of woodland managed by the council throughout Stevenage. Many of these woodland areas are designated as ancient woodland sites, which is a nationally agreed designation and means that the land that they occupy has been wooded since at least 1600 AD.

See Appendix A for a list of strategic public green spaces in Stevenage.

## 2. Introduction

This strategy sets out a vision for Stevenage Borough Council's green spaces, and the actions that we will undertake to deliver that vision over the next 10 years. It focusses on how local public green spaces such as parks, woodlands, cemeteries, wildlife sites, sports facilities will be managed going forward.

Stevenage residents have long valued the green spaces within the town.

A parliamentary inquiry into public parks in 2017 concluded that: 'Parks and green spaces are treasured assets and are often central to the lives of their communities. They provide opportunities for leisure, relaxation and exercise, but are also fundamental to community cohesion, physical and mental health and wellbeing, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and local economic growth'.

We want to ensure that public green spaces in Stevenage continue to deliver such benefits for our local communities and this strategy will help achieve that.

### 2.1 Importance of Green Spaces

Green open space is a vital component in creating and maintaining a balanced urban environment and is increasingly recognised as an essential 'quality of life' resource. A report<sup>1</sup> in 2020 showed that nearly two-thirds of people have appreciated local green spaces more due to Covid and that they want them to be a higher priority for the government.

Good quality green spaces mitigate the impact of air pollution and climate change, act as green corridors for wildlife, provide refuges for pollinators, provide an affordable and cost-effective way to get people active, reduce obesity, and boost mental wellbeing. They can support and improve the local quality of life for residents and visitors by providing social, recreational, environmental, educational and economic opportunities - Figure 1.

Figure 1: Summary of benefits provided by green spaces.

Social Cohesion	Climate	Health & Wellbeing	Economic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage people of all ages, cultural, ethnic and social backgrounds to come together.</li> <li>• Provide free / affordable access.</li> <li>• Provide a sense of local identity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce urban heat through provision of shade.</li> <li>• Capture, and store, carbon</li> <li>• Reduce pollution.</li> <li>• Store and filter water reducing the risk of flooding and improving water quality in streams and rivers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an attractive environment in which to exercise or play.</li> <li>• Promotes healthy behaviours.</li> <li>• Promote good mental health.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attract inward investment.</li> <li>• Increase property values.</li> <li>• Activate town centres.</li> <li>• Attractive to visitors, workers and businesses boosting the local economy and providing jobs<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>
Over two thirds of people think that parks are the most important public space in their community <sup>2</sup>	The value of carbon removal by trees in public parks in England is estimated at £9 million per year <sup>3</sup>	Activities in natural environments can be more beneficial to health than those undertaken in other locations <sup>4</sup>	Urban green spaces raise nearby house prices by an average of £2,500 <sup>5</sup>

  

Biodiversity	Education	Culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban parks are among the most species rich types of urban green spaces for all species types.</li> <li>• For many, spending time in urban green spaces is their only regular opportunity to be close to nature.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aid the promotion and understanding of the natural environment.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the virtues of sustainable development.</li> <li>• Stimulate and enhance child development through play</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflects the history of the local area.</li> <li>• Provides an attractive, accessible space for the arts and events</li> </ul>
The UK's 1,500 species of pollinators provide an estimated £680 million annual value to the UK economy <sup>6</sup>		

## 2.2 Challenges

Stevenage green spaces face challenges due to:

Budget Constraints:	Public services, including local government, have experienced, and continue to experience, financial challenges as a result of financial austerity which has resulted in Stevenage Borough Council experiencing a reduction of £3.74 million of funding between 2010/11 – 2024/25. This means that Councils have had to review what services can be funded, and at what level, with the reduced resources available. This has impacted all services including green spaces, but there is an opportunity to think more commercially about our parks as destinations, to help reduce the costs of operation, supported by external funding opportunities where possible.
Biosecurity:	The health of our plants, and therefore our wider landscape, is increasingly under threat from pests and diseases. In order to preserve the landscape within our green spaces and streetscape it is essential that we implement precautions aimed at preventing the introduction and spread of harmful organisms. Measures might include activity to control the spread of non-native species in our woods and water ways, designing out a monoculture of tree species, and procurement of trees, shrubs and other plants from bio-secure nurseries within the UK.
Climate Change:	The impact of climate change is increasingly evident, however green spaces can play a major role in mitigating these impacts as well as supporting our community's adaptation to climate change effects. There is a lot of emphasis placed on tree planting in response to climate change, but it is important that we retain open green spaces for people to enjoy and to provide a matrix of habitats to ensure protection of wildlife.
Population Growth:	The population of Stevenage has increased by around 7% since 2011 and is set to grow by a further 13% in the next 20 years. The greatest anticipated growth is in the number of people aged 60 years and above. This growth will place additional pressure on our existing green spaces in terms of greater numbers using these spaces.
Urban Development:	Increasing populations may place further pressure on land for providing both additional homes and spaces for parking.

## 2.3 New Green Spaces

There has not been a significant new green space in Stevenage since Chells Park during the 1980/90's, and yet with the growth of the town there is a need for additional green space to meet the needs of the increasing population.

In September 2022 the Council granted planning permission for a residential development to the North of Stevenage. Alongside the provision of homes and school etc this development will also deliver a new country park. The park will provide 38 hectares of informal open space available for use by everyone, including pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. It is anticipated that much of the park will be restored, and managed, as hay meadow, but will also include reinstatement of hedgerow field boundaries, tree and copse planting along with the creation of a community orchard.

The park will be created by the developers and adopted by Stevenage Borough Council for future management. The developers will also provide funds to support the management and maintenance of this significant new green infrastructure. An action plan for this park will be reviewed as part of this, and/or a future, Green Space Strategy depending on the timescales for adoption.

Planning permission for the West of Stevenage development was granted in autumn 2024. Alongside the provision of homes and a school etc this development is proposed to deliver a new playing field and associated sports facilities.



### 3. Context

The New Town pioneers of Stevenage had a clear vision of a town that would offer a better quality of life to people moving out of a London ravaged by war. Stevenage is regarded as one of the most outstanding achievements in town planning and development in the 20th century.

As Britain's first New Town, Stevenage was designed with a great deal of emphasis on green space and its importance in helping to create a thriving community. Existing features such as hedgerows and lanes, ponds, woodlands and veteran trees were retained and used to create open space, wildlife corridors and an immediate sense of place and many of these features still exist today.

The Town was originally designed around six similarly sized neighbourhoods. These neighbourhoods were designed to be relatively self-contained - each with its own schools, health facilities, local shops, community centres, places of worship and parks. The neighbourhood centres, community facilities and green spaces are all linked by wide roads and a network of pedestrian and cycle routes.

#### Local Strategic Context:

- Amenity Tree Management Policy
- Arts & Heritage (Cultural) Strategy
- Biodiversity Action Plan
- Cemetery Policy
- Climate Change Risk Assessment
- Climate Change Strategy
- Community Strategy
- Corporate Plan
- Future Town, Future Transport Strategy
- Health & Wellbeing Strategy
- Local Football Facility Plans
- Local Plan
- Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy
- Trees & Woodlands Strategy



### Stevenage Green Spaces Strategy



#### National & Regional Influence:

- Hertfordshire Climate Change & Sustainability Partnership Strategic Plan for Biodiversity
- National Planning Policy Framework  
Highlights the role of planning in promoting green spaces and protecting the natural environment.
- Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (formerly known as the 25 Year Environment Plan)  
Outlines the comprehensive plan to maintain and enhance England's Natural Environment.
- Make Space for Girls  
Campaign for parks and public spaces to be designed for girls and young women, not just boys and young men.
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Accessible Green Spaces  
Identifies the health and wellbeing impacts of using Accessible Green Spaces in Hertfordshire and sets out recommendations to improve health outcomes.
- The Green Infrastructure Framework (GIF)  
Developed by Natural England this is aimed at developers and planners, to provide a system to analyse where green spaces are needed the most in urban settings.
- The Safer Parks Guidance, 2023  
Developed in partnership between the Mayor of York, University of Leeds, Make Space for Girls and Keep Britain Tidy, it focuses on helping stakeholders understand gender-sensitive principles of safety and implement changes to make parks and public spaces safer and more accessible for women and girls.

## 4. Funding

As set out in section 2.2 local authorities like Stevenage Borough Council have experienced reduced funding and faces an annual challenge to bridge the gap between the increased cost of delivering services and the reduction in funding received to enable us to do so. We have worked hard to find ways to continue to deliver vital front-line services whilst maintaining financial security with minimal negative impact for our residents.

Regular funding for green spaces in Stevenage is achieved through a variety of methods including:

Revenue Expenditure:	The Councils' budget, to support over 100 services, is funded by government (5%), business rates (32%) and Council tax (63%).
External Grants:	<p>In the past we have had success in bidding for funding from third parties including Heritage Lottery Fund, Football Foundation, Environment Agency, Coronation Living Heritage Fund.</p> <p>These funding streams usually have very specific eligibility criteria and competition for the grants has increased significantly so securing funding is not always possible.</p>
Developer Contributions:	<p>Developers are usually required to provide funds to mitigate the impact of the new development. Depending on the size of the development, developers are required to provide or contribute to a wide range of community facilities including schools, GP surgeries, highway improvements, parks etc. Developers contribute to the maintenance and improvements of open spaces through Section 106 agreements, commuted sums, Community Infrastructure Levy or Biodiversity Net Gain.</p> <p>In terms of Stevenage green spaces funds have been received to enable delivery of outdoor gym equipment, provide new allotments, improvements to play areas, and creation of new / improved wildlife habitats.</p>
Fees & Charges:	The Council works hard to protect the services that it provides for the benefit of our residents. However, we have introduced charges for some discretionary services that we provide and have also reviewed existing charges.

In some cases, the increased charges help to protect those service areas from budget cuts. The allotment service in Stevenage was historically heavily subsidised by residents through their Council Tax. However, recent increases now mean that the allotments are cost neutral. Not all of these charges are aimed at Stevenage residents. For example, in recent years the Council has promoted Stevenage as a filming location and have charged companies wishing to use any of our sites. Whomerley Wood was used as a filming location by a Bollywood film production company in 2023.

We need to continue to be creative in finding ways of doing more with less. Examples of this may include:

- Environmental Volunteers:** Stevenage has a terrific network of environmental volunteers across the town who help to pick litter, manage woodlands, plant trees, maintain planting etc. These volunteers choose to give up their valuable time to help keep Stevenage looking clean and green and add value to what the Council is able to do rather than replace them.
- Advertising:** Advertising spaces are sold on the roundabouts, and other locations, throughout the town. The income that is generated from the advertising helps to support the costs of maintaining the landscape provided on and adjacent to the roundabouts.
- Concessions:** In some instances we already have contracts in place with third parties who provide facilities or activities that increase the service offer within our green spaces, but also benefits the Council through payment of an agreed sum that helps contribute to the running cost of the green space.
- Sponsorship:** At present, residents & community groups already have the opportunity to sponsor a memorial tree or bench. The sponsorship sum paid could help cover the cost of the initial provision and the ongoing future maintenance. The Council is already looking to extend the current offer, but also to develop a range of additional opportunities that are affordable for all sectors of our local community.

# 5. Consultation

The Council has a long-standing commitment to work with the local community to help shape their local areas and the services that they use.

Green spaces are a priority for our residents, with surveys undertaken between 2021-2023 identifying that across a range of Council services the top priority for residents was more / better parks and green spaces.

During winter 2023 we directly contacted 1,500 community groups and 36 schools and reached out to all residents to let us know what they thought about the trees and green spaces in Stevenage. Around 490 people responded, collectively providing nearly 700 comments. Headlines included:

- 81% felt that, overall, green spaces in Stevenage were good or excellent, but this dropped to 55% for young people.
- Provision of trees, cleanliness and provision of wildlife friendly areas were the top 3 features identified as important for green spaces.
- 32% of young people said their favourite outdoor space was a park, closely followed by 27% who voted for woodlands as their favourite.
- 63% felt safe when visiting a Stevenage green space.
- 70% would like to be involved in some form of environmental volunteering.

The priorities set out in this document have emerged from a combination of consultation with residents and staff, national and local research and other local plans and strategies. It aims to retain our green space to ensure that they meet the needs of the whole community now and in the future.

A series of focus groups were held during summer 2024 which provided local residents with an opportunity to have their say about their local green spaces and how they might be improved. The feedback from these sessions have informed the site-specific action plans included in the appendices of this strategy.

Whilst some feedback was site specific there were some common themes across most / all sites. The top ten requests for improvements were:

- Improvements / maintenance of equipped play areas
- Provision of toilets and changing facilities
- Provision of café facilities
- Additional benches and / or picnic benches
- Additional litter bins and / or litter picking activity
- Lighting
- Wheeled sports facilities
- Improved maintenance of grass / shrubs / hedges / trees
- Improvements to footpath networks, including cleansing and surfacing
- More for wildlife

These themes have helped shape the priorities and actions identified below.

Consultation on the draft strategy document was undertaken in early 2025.

## 6. Aims & Objectives

The principal aims and objectives of the Green Space Strategy are:

- To provide clear objectives, and priorities, for the provision and management of green space.
- To protect and enhance green space in Stevenage.
- To ensure the towns green spaces meet the needs of the whole community.
- To ensure green space enhances the quality of the local environment for residents, visitors and wildlife.
- To involve the community in future maintenance and development.

# 7. Priorities & Actions

Consultation has established a series of key issues for green spaces and green infrastructure in Stevenage, including:

- Concern about protecting our green spaces from development.
- Provision of safe, clean, attractive green spaces.
- Consultation and involvement in decision making.
- Opportunities for people to help look after green spaces.
- A need for improved provision for children and young people.
- Provision of a range of health & wellbeing opportunities
- Meeting demand for allotments.
- A desire to see more delivered to support local wildlife.
- Future burial provision
- Meeting the demands for green infrastructure created by new development.
- A need to preserve, and enhance, open spaces that contribute tackling the climate emergency.
- Improved information and communication about green spaces

These issues have formed the basis of this strategy within three main themes:

- Our Community
- Our Environment
- Our Spaces



# 9.1 Our Community

## Access & Provision

We aim to provide green spaces that are welcoming, easy to visit and with something for everyone.

## Communication

We aim to provide clear, concise and easy to access information to keep residents advised about green spaces, events, opportunities and activities.

## Engagement

We aim to work collaboratively with local communities to deliver a network of well-maintained and well used green spaces.

## Community Safety

We aim to provide green spaces that are safe for everyone within our community to use and enjoy.

## Our Community: What We Know

	What you told us	What wider research told us
<b>Access &amp; Provision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>83% of you visit a green space at least once a week and 30% of you visit a green space every day.</li> <li>63% of you walk to a green space.</li> <li>More wheelchair access for woodlands.</li> <li>Open access and free to enter.</li> <li>Leave large spaces open for activities like flying a kite.</li> <li>Lack of toilet provision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With a few exceptions a majority of households in Stevenage are within a 10-minute walking distance of a green space<sup>7</sup></li> <li>Studies have identified that a lack of information about accessibility, and physical constraints relating to paths, obstacles, parking and toilets, can all act as barriers to accessing green spaces<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over 60% didn't feel that the Council kept them well informed about local green spaces.</li> <li>Multiple ways of communicating should be used.</li> <li>Information in shops, GP surgeries, churches would be helpful</li> <li>More information needed about events.</li> <li>Not enough information on how accessible our sites are</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear wayfinding information helps visitors navigate their way.</li> <li>More information needed about how residents can get involved.</li> <li>Improved information about accessibility to and within green spaces is required</li> </ul>
<b>Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63% of respondents were interested in environmental volunteering opportunities.</li> <li>Not enough community managed spaces</li> <li>Too much red tape to get involved.</li> <li>Want to be able to look after trees or shrub beds near home</li> </ul>	
<b>Community Safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>64% of residents who responded to the consultation reported that they did feel safe when using green spaces in Stevenage.</li> <li>Concerns about personal safety at night was a common theme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the UK, 4 out of 5 women (82%) feel very or fairly unsafe walking alone after dark in parks or open spaces, compared with 2 out of 5 men (42%)<sup>9</sup></li> </ul>

## Our Community: What We Have Already Done

Access & Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved signage and information provision at the entrances to our main parks</li> <li>• Delivered a cycle hire scheme with hubs in some parks.</li> <li>• Provided cycle parking provision to some parks</li> <li>• Extended the opening days of the Splash Park at Fairlands Valley Park.</li> </ul>
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided notice boards to the main parks.</li> <li>• Used social media and the Council's web pages to promote events and activities.</li> <li>• Promoted events and opportunities through Chronicle, social media and other local publications.</li> </ul>
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided and supported a varied programme of environmental volunteering activity.</li> <li>• Developed guidance and lend out equipment to support for community litter pick initiatives.</li> <li>• Developed a Licence to Occupy scheme to enable residents to maintain Council land adjacent to their homes.</li> <li>• Developed a package of guidance to support partner organisations in delivering events within green spaces and across the town.</li> <li>• Consulted with children and young people to inform the design of improvements to their local play area</li> </ul>
Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed the Stevenage Community Safety Strategy</li> <li>• Monitored of crime levels across Stevenage</li> <li>• Addressed perception of crime through the Community Safety Partnership</li> <li>• Improved access to water rescue equipment</li> <li>• Installed CCTV to key locations</li> </ul>

## Our Community: What We Will Do

Theme	Action	Timescale	Additional Resources Required
Access & Provision	• Liaise with partners to promote green travel opportunities, including the cycle hire scheme, to principal parks	Medium	No
	• Protect green space from inappropriate development.	Ongoing	No
	• Seek to ensure that green spaces are accessible to all and provide accessibility information for key sites	Medium	No
	• Review number of parking bays for people with disabilities	Short	No
	• Review the current provision of benches and picnic tables, and identify new opportunities	Short	No
	• Investigate opportunities for mobile refreshment franchises at key parks	Medium	No
	• Explore opportunities for toilet / changing facilities to key park locations	Medium	No
	• Review provision of footpaths within sites to support improved access	Long	Yes
	• Improve provision of accessible and inclusive equipped play spaces	Long	Yes
	• Consider suitable measures to protect key green spaces from unauthorised access	Medium	Yes
Communication	• Promote green spaces, and the facilities and opportunities that they provide for the whole community	Short	No
	• Provide clear signage and information within key green spaces.	Medium	Yes
	• Seek to work with other community providers to share information about green space opportunities.	Medium	No
	• Provide correct, up to date and easy to understand information about our green spaces online	Short	No
	• Provide clear information about facilities for families, children and teenagers within our green spaces.	Short	No
Engagement	• To increase environmental volunteer engagement opportunities.	Medium	Yes
	• Work with partners to develop a range of appropriate events and activities across our green spaces.	Ongoing	No
	• Promote the Licence to Occupy scheme.	Medium	No
	• Consult with local stakeholders on any significant developments and potential changes to green spaces.	Short	No
	• Regularly measure customer satisfaction with principle green spaces in Stevenage	Short	No

Community Safety	• Work with partners to develop a suite of measures that ensure that our green spaces remain safe.	Ongoing	No
	• Develop a programme to review the design, location and maintenance of vegetation to improve sight lines and remove discrete hiding places.	Short	No
	• Support and promote group activities within the parks to increase presence levels for longer periods.	Ongoing	No
	• Collaborate with partners to understand how safety and accessibility might be improved.	Ongoing	No
	• Implement a programme of regular technical inspection of green space infrastructure	Ongoing	No

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years

## 9.2 Our Environment

### Nature

We aim to provide a network of connected green spaces that collectively provide a matrix of wildlife habitats to support a wide range of wildlife.

### Sustainability

We aim to provide green spaces that will support wider mitigation measures to help reduce climate change and its impacts.

## Our Environment: What We Know

	What you told us	What wider research told us
<b>Nature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The most important function of green spaces identified by you was for nature and wildlife.</li> <li>There needs to be more education on the importance of the fauna and flora</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the last 50 years 76 species became extinct in Hertfordshire<sup>10</sup></li> <li>1,446 species are currently threatened with extinction in Hertfordshire<sup>11</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63% of people walk to their local green space.</li> <li>Great cycle path network throughout the town</li> <li>The five most popular things to make green spaces more environmentally friendly were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce more wildlife friendly planting.</li> <li>Plant more trees.</li> <li>Create more meadows.</li> <li>Rainwater harvesting</li> <li>Water refill points</li> </ul> </li> <li>More communication with partner wildlife organisations and to support education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stevenage has over 45km of cycleways, which are segregated from the town's roads.</li> <li>The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by more than 40% since humans began industrialising, resulting in a continuous gradual warming of the planet over the past century<sup>12</sup>.</li> <li>The proportion of impermeable surfacing in towns and cities has risen by 22% since 2001<sup>13</sup></li> <li>In urban areas, the impermeable materials used for roads and pavements mean that rain is not absorbed and remains on the surface<sup>14</sup>. During periods of heavy rainfall this water accumulates and when the drainage capacity of the area is exceeded, flooding will occur.</li> <li>High levels of surface water run-off mean that rainwater washes pollutants away from the surfaces it falls onto, transporting them into water courses<sup>15</sup>, which can be detrimental to water quality in streams, rivers and lakes.</li> <li>In the UK, climate change is likely to lead to wetter winters<sup>16</sup> which would exacerbate existing flooding and water quality issues.</li> </ul>

## Our Environment: What We Have Already Done

Nature & Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivered a Biodiversity Action Plan for Stevenage</li> <li>• The Stevenage Borough Local Plan includes policies to protect, enhance and manage green infrastructure, natural environment and landscape of the town.</li> <li>• Secured Biodiversity Net Gain funding.</li> <li>• Worked in partnership with local wildlife groups to help inform future management of our wildlife sites</li> </ul>
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed the Stevenage Cycling Strategy</li> <li>• Promoted the towns cycle network as an opportunity to travel to green spaces.</li> <li>• Provided secure facilities for temporary storage of bicycles within some parks and green spaces.</li> <li>• Developed a Climate Change Strategy</li> <li>• The Stevenage Borough Local Plan includes policies to limit, mitigate and adapt to the negative impacts of climate change, flood risk and all forms of pollution.</li> <li>• Members of the Hertfordshire Climate Change &amp; Sustainability Partnership, helping to develop a county-wide Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity</li> <li>• Eliminated seasonal planting displays from roundabouts and replaced it with more sustainable planting.</li> <li>• Investigated effective alternatives to the use of chemical weed control.</li> <li>• Re-used and/or recycled green waste generated within the parks and green spaces.</li> <li>• Required sustainable drainage solutions to reduce the risk of flooding in new developments. Required allotment plot holders with sheds to collect rainwater from their structure.</li> <li>• Work with partners to support measures which can increase water flow and quality in the River Beane and its tributaries</li> </ul>



## Our Environment: What We Will Do

Theme	Action	Timescale	Additional Resources Required
Nature & Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase biodiversity in line with the Stevenage Biodiversity Action Plan and the emerging Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hertfordshire</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Yes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access to wildlife sites whilst affording protection to habitats and species</li> </ul>	Long	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruit to a new post of Nature Recovery Officer</li> </ul>	Short	Yes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek Biodiversity Net Gain solutions for delivery within the Stevenage boundary</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require new buildings to include appropriate provision to support wildlife.</li> </ul>	Long	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve existing, and create new, green corridors for people and wildlife</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Yes
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Climate Change policies within the Local Plan to ensure sustainability is at the heart of development</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a Full Review of the Local Plan, with an opportunity to embed sustainability into future development through parks and green spaces</li> </ul>	Medium	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote 'active travel' to get to and from our green spaces.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion of the towns cycle network as an opportunity to travel to green spaces</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide secure facilities for temporary storage of bicycles with the main parks and green spaces</li> </ul>	Medium	Yes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to develop environmentally sustainable practices</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to improve local water ways for wildlife and for people</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Yes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with local partners to develop and promote a network of water refill points around the town</li> </ul>	Long	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to explore sustainable alternatives to chemical weed control</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect existing flood storage reservoirs from inappropriate development</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to understand opportunities to improve water flow and water quality within Stevenage Brook</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years		

## 9.3 Our Spaces

### Health & Wellbeing

We aim to provide good quality parks and green spaces that incorporate a wide range of opportunities for people to be active and spend time outdoors.

### Maintenance

We aim to provide high quality parks and green spaces.

### Development

We aim for our parks and green spaces to provide great places for people to come together, and that meet the needs of those communities, and the environment, today and in the future.

### Management

We aim to deliver the actions within this strategy, ensuring that our green spaces are protected and sustainable for future generations to enjoy.

## Our Spaces: What We Know

	What you told us	What wider research told us
Health & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough variety of sports activities in parks</li> <li>• Charging for sports facilities makes them hard to access.</li> <li>• Need better promotion of local sports clubs.</li> <li>• Provision of adapted/supported cycles to allow access for elderly or disabled visitors.</li> <li>• More / better basketball courts.</li> <li>• Residents enjoy the peace and tranquillity that parks provide.</li> <li>• More / better wheeled sport provision is required.</li> </ul>	<p>Green spaces are estimated to save the NHS around £111 million per year in GP visits alone<sup>17</sup>.</p> <p>Urban green spaces provide pleasant areas to relax and socialise, promoting greater levels of social activity and stronger neighbourhood relationships<sup>18</sup>.</p>
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 81% said that their overall impression of green spaces was good or excellent.</li> <li>• More regular litter picking in the woods.</li> <li>• Needs to be enforcement for littering.</li> <li>• Maintenance of playgrounds could be better.</li> <li>• Play equipment is out of use for too long.</li> <li>• More management of the woodland to keep them healthy</li> </ul>	<p>It is estimated over £190 million pounds was lost from local authority parks budgets between 2016-2021, and that local authorities are now receiving increased complaints about the quality of local parks<sup>19</sup>.</p>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop selling off / building on the small green spaces in residential areas</li> </ul>	
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More investment is required to make play spaces more inclusive.</li> <li>• Toilet facilities are required to enable people to spend longer in our parks.</li> </ul>	<p>Local authorities have a statutory duty imposed by the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 to provide allotments to its residents when there is a demand</p>

## Our Spaces: What We Have Already Done

Health & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked with Sports England to encourage Active Design within new developments.</li> <li>• Focussed on health improvement, protection, promotion and tackling health inequalities through the Healthy Stevenage Partnership.</li> <li>• Worked closely with our leisure provider Everyone Active to provide a dynamic and vibrant programme of activities within our community settings.</li> <li>• Developed a partnership with the National Tennis Association in the management and operation of Shephalbury Park tennis courts.</li> <li>• Supported a programme of health walks within Stevenage.</li> <li>• Bid for funding for the provision of a PlayZone (multi-sports, all-weather floodlit games area) facility to King George V Playing Fields.</li> </ul>
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implemented a programme scheduled of maintenance to all green spaces.</li> <li>• Implemented annual independent play inspections of all equipped play spaces.</li> <li>• Regularly reviewed working practices to ensure that we comply with new legislation and industry guidelines.</li> <li>• Increased staff levels to support increased woodland maintenance.</li> <li>• Procured machinery to enable increased delivery standard and frequency for grass cutting.</li> </ul>
Development	<p>Have policies to protect sites important to wildlife.</p> <p>Secure new green space facilities to meet the needs of the growing population.</p>
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed an Amenity Tree Management Policy.</li> <li>• Developed a Cemetery Policy.</li> <li>• Involved children in the design regeneration of existing play areas.</li> <li>• Delivered a £1.5million programme of improvements to equipped spaces for children and young people, making provision for inclusive play.</li> <li>• Require all new play spaces to have a RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) standard post-installation inspection.</li> </ul>

## Our Spaces: What We Will Do

Theme	Action	Timescale	Additional Resources Required
Health & Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase awareness of the benefits of spending time in green spaces for health and encourage people to use them for that purpose.</li> </ul>	Short	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a range of opportunities for people to be physically active in green spaces, so everyone can enjoy being active outdoors, regardless of their interests or level of ability.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek funding opportunities for the provision of artificial all-weather pitch facilities within Council spaces</li> </ul>	Short	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities to fund and develop a combined (non-motorised) wheeled sport facility</li> </ul>	Medium	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and review arrangements for outdoor fitness classes</li> </ul>	Short	No
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review maintenance regimes to ensure the highest possible standards and best practice are achieved</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek to increase the diversity of the workforce within the environmental operations team at every level of the service.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify developments within machinery advancements to ensure appropriate, efficient and green machinery is procured to deliver maintenance programmes</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a programme to respond to issues of vermin</li> </ul>	Short	Yes
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure provision of new, good quality green spaces to meet the needs of the growing population</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider ways to improve the design of existing parks to make them more welcoming to all</li> </ul>	Medium	Yes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a range of good quality play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Yes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and revise our park byelaws</li> </ul>	Short	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop partnership arrangements to extend the range of facilities available, increase capacity, share resources and secure external funding.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a Tree &amp; Woodland Strategy for Stevenage</li> </ul>	Short	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure green spaces, including new green space, are connected in line with Active Travel principles and connectivity</li> </ul>	Ongoing	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a policy to inform future sponsorship, memorial and dedication opportunities</li> </ul>	Medium	No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a suite of seats, bins and signage for use in all green spaces</li> </ul>	Medium	Yes

	• Engage with local communities to develop action plans to support the development of community parks	Medium	No
	• Require sustainable solutions to reduce the risk of flooding in new developments	Ongoing	No
Management	• Develop a local quality standard for green spaces in Stevenage	Long	No
	• Secure external funding to enable capital and revenue improvements to our green spaces.	Ongoing	No
	• Seek to increase inclusive provision within parks and green spaces	Ongoing	Yes
	• Develop a strategy for outdoor, unsupervised play spaces in Stevenage	Medium	No
	• Manage all woodlands in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard	Long	No
	• Develop an Allotments Policy / Strategy following consultation with plot holders and Stevenage Gardens & Allotments Association	Medium	No
	• Ensure future burial provision	Long	Yes
	• Develop partnership arrangements to extend the range of facilities available, increase capacity, share resources and secure external funding.	Ongoing	No
	• Preserve, promote and provide information about features of cultural interest within our green spaces	Medium	No
	• Balance our budget whilst achieving the aims of the strategy over the next 10 years	Ongoing	No
	• Develop action plans for new parks following adoption by the Council	Ongoing	No

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years

## 10. Monitoring & Review

We will focus on the actions set out above over the next 10 years. These will be considered alongside the action plans for each of our principal parks.

There will be an annual review on progress of the strategy, and this will be reported to the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee and published on the Councils web pages.

A more detailed review, to check the priorities and actions are still relevant, will be undertaken in 5 years' time.

# 11. References

1	Levelling up and building back better through urban green infrastructure: An investment options appraisal	Vivid Economics and Barton Willmore, 2020
2	Endangered Spaces Report	Co-Op, 2019
3	Making Parks Count	The Parks Alliance,
4	Health and the natural environment: A review of evidence, policy, practice and opportunities for the future.	European Centre for Environment and Human Health University of Exeter Medical School, 2018
5	Making Parks Count	The Parks Alliance,
6	Spring statement 2019, Philip Hammond Speech	Office for National Statistics
7	Green Spaces Index 2023	Fields in Trust
8	Out of Bounds Equity in Access to Urban Nature	Holland, F, 2021
9	Perceptions of personal safety and experiences of harassment, Great Britain: 16 February to 13 March 2022	Office for National Statistics
10	Presentation to Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee	Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, 2024
11	Presentation to Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee	Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust, 2024
12	Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2013
13	Making Parks Count	The Parks Alliance,
14	Assessing the environmental performance of land cover types for urban planning	Pauleit, S and Duhme, 2000
15	Urban runoff quality in the UK: problems, prospects and procedures	Ellis, B 1991
16	UK Climate Projections: Briefing Report	Jenkins, G.J, 2009
17	Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces	Fields in Trust, 2018
18	Environment & Behaviour	Sullivan, W.C, et al, 2004
19	State of UK Public Parks 2021	Association of Public Service Excellence



## 12. Appendices

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## Appendix A: Key Green Spaces in Stevenage as identified in the Stevenage Local Plan

1	18-hole Golf Course: also including a 9-hole course, putting green, driving range, clubhouse and other ancillary facilities.			
4	Cemeteries / Churchyards			
	Almonds Lane Cemetery	St Mary's Churchyard	St Nicholas Churchyard	Weston Road Cemetery
5	Commons			
	Fishers Green Common	Letchmore Green Common	Norton Green Common	Six Hills Common
	Symonds Green Common			
11	Principal Parks: These are destination parks and may include play facilities for toddlers, juniors and teenagers, car parking, sports facilities, outdoor fitness equipment			
	Canterbury Way Playing Fields	Chells Park	Fairlands Valley Park	Hampson Park
	King George V Playing Fields	Meadway Park	Peartree Park	Ridlins End Playing Fields
	Shephalbury Park	St Nicholas Park	Town Centre Gardens	
16	Allotments			
	Almond Hill	Ashdown Road	Bandley Hill	Broxdell
	Colestrete	Edmonds Drive	Eliot Road	Fairview Road
	Greydells	Hertford Road	Lawrence Avenue	Martins Wood
	Monks Wood	Oaks Cross	The Muntings	Walkern Road
17	Community Parks: these serve the wider community and generally have play facilities for toddlers and juniors			
	Archer Road Open Space	Bedwell Park	Blenheim Way Open Space	Campshill Park

	Chepstow Close Open Space	Clovelly Way Open Space	Donkey Park	Emperors Gate Open Space
	Holly Leys Open Space	Parishes Mead Open Space	Paul Mallaghan Playing Fields	Raleigh Crescent Open Space
	Riccat Lane Open Space	The Avenue Open Space	The Noke Open Space	Whitesmead Rec.
	York Road Open Space			
<b>26</b>	<b>Green Corridors</b>			
	Aston Lane	Botany Bay Lane	Bragbury Lane	Broadwater Lane
	Broadhall Way	Chells Lane	Dene Lane	Fairlands Way
	Fishers Green Lane	Grace Way	Gresley Way	Gunnels Wood Road
	Lanterns Lane	Martins Way	Meadway	Monkswood Way
	Narrowbox Lane	Old Walkern Road	Sheafgreen Lane	Shephall Lane
	Shephall Green Lane	Shephards Lane	Six Hills Way	The Avenue
	Watton Lane	Weston Lane		
<b>41</b>	<b>Woodlands</b>			
	Abbotts Grove	Almond Spring	Ashtree Woods	Bandley Hill
	Blacknells Spring	Broadwater Arboretum	Chells Wood	Collensleg Wood
	Cuckoo Wood	Duckdell Plantation	Elm Green Wood	
	Fairlane Wood	Fishers Green Wood	Great Collenswood	Gresley Way Plantation
	Gunnels Wood	Hanginghill Wood	Hertford Road Woodland	Lady's Wood
	Lantern Lane Wood	Loves Wood	Martin's Wood	Marymead Spring
	Millennium Wood	Mobbsbury Wood	Monks Wood	Peartree Spring

	Pestcotts Spring	Ridlins Wood	Roebuck Woods	Shackleton Springs
	Shephalbury Woodland	Siansean	Sinks Spring	Sishes Wood
	Six Acre Wood	Wellfield Wood	Whitney Wood	Whomerley Wood
	Wiltshire Spring			

#### 46 **Equipped Play Spaces**

Archer Road	Balmoral Close	Bedwell Park	Blenheim Way
Burymead	Campshill Park	Canterbury Way	Canterbury Way Playing Fields
Chancellors Road	Chells District Park	Chepstow Close	Clovelly Way
Cook Road	Donkey Park	Emperors Gate	Fairlands Valley Park - cafe
Fairlands Valley Park - main	Fleetwood Crescent	Glanville Road	Hampson Park
Holly Leys	Kessingland Avenue	King George V Playing Fields	Leaves Spring
Market Place	Martins Wood	Meadway Playing Fields	Parishes Mead
Peartree Park	Queensway	Riccatt Lane	Ridlins End Playing Fields
Rockingham Way	Scarborough Avenue	Shearwater Close	Shephalbury Park
Skegness Road	Southgate	St Margarets	St Nicholas Park
The Noke	The Oval	Torquay Crescent	Town Centre Gardens
Whitesmead Rec	York Road		

## Appendix B: Canterbury Way Playing Fields Action Plan

Ref.	Action	Timeframe	Additional Resources Required
CW1	Review the current provision of benches and picnic tables, and identify new opportunities	Medium	No
CW2	Play area improvements for children & young people of all ages and abilities	Long	Yes
CW3	Explore opportunities for toilet / changing facilities	Long	No
CW4	Review provision of footpaths within sites to support improved access	Long	No
CW5	Identify suitable opportunities for additional tree planting	Medium	No
CW6	Protect and enhance the Biodiversity Net Gain provision	Ongoing	No
CW7	Identify suitable locations for spring bulb displays	Short	No
CW8	Review access points to ensure they are safe and welcoming	Long	No
CW9	Improve signage	Medium	Yes

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years

## Appendix C: Chells Park Action Plan

Ref.	Action	Timeframe	Additional Resources Required
CP1	Review the current provision of benches, picnic tables and bins, and identify new opportunities	Medium	No
CP2	Explore opportunities for resilient toilet / changing facilities	Long	No
CP3	Consider opportunities for café provision	Medium	No
CP4	Review provision of footpaths within sites to support improved access	Long	No
CP5	Review access points to ensure they are safe and welcoming	Short	No
CP6	Identify suitable opportunities for additional tree planting	Medium	No
CP7	Protect and enhance the Biodiversity Net Gain provision	Ongoing	No
CP8	Identify suitable locations for spring bulb displays	Short	No
CP9	Play area improvements for children & young people of all ages and abilities	Long	Yes
CP10	Improve signage	Medium	Yes

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years

## Appendix D: Fairlands Valley Park Action Plan

Ref.	Action	Timeframe	Additional Resources Required
FV1	Explore options to provide lighting along key footpaths and cycle routes	Long	Yes
FV2	Consider opportunities for improving the existing Activity Centre, Café and associated areas	Medium	No
FV3	Explore opportunities for improved toilet / changing facilities	Medium	No
FV4	Review maintenance regimes within the park	Short	No
FV5	Review the current provision of benches, picnic tables and bins, and identify new opportunities	Medium	No
FV6	Develop supervised and self-led activities within the park	Medium	Yes
FV7	Review frequency of footpath cleansing in response to goose poo build up	Short	Yes
FV8	Play area improvements for children & young people of all ages and abilities	Long	Yes
FV9	Improve signage and interpretation provision	Medium	Yes
FV10	Identify extended opportunities for wildlife habitat creation	Medium	No
FV11	Increase usage of existing band stand	Medium	No
FV12	Consider options for future use of Fairlands Farmhouse	Long	No
FV13	Promote the Cycle Hub within park publicity	Short	No
FV14	Consider development of dog exercise park	Long	No
FV15	Proactively secure additional on water sport and leisure activities	Ongoing	No

FV16	Review provision of outdoor fitness equipment	Medium	No
FV17	Consider opportunities to improve the existing maze	Medium	No
FV18	Apply for Local Nature Reserve status to Shackledell Grassland	Short	No
FV19	Restoration of the Environment Lake for wildlife and people	Long	Yes
FV20	Investigate appropriate methods to enhance water quality throughout the lake system	Medium	No
FV21	Promote all opportunities available within the park	Short	No
FV22	Develop an enhanced programme of events	Short	No
FV23	Consider opportunities for provision of a wheeled sports facility	Long	No

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years



## Appendix E: Hampson Park Action Plan

Ref.	Action	Timeframe	Additional Resources Required
H1	Play area improvements for children & young people of all ages and abilities	Long	Yes
H2	Review access points to ensure they are safe and welcoming	Short	No
H3	Review provision of footpaths within site to support improved access	Long	No
H4	Seek funding to enable improvements to the skate park	Long	No
H5	Consider opportunities for provision of a wheeled sports facility	Medium	No
H6	Review the current provision of benches, picnic tables and bins, and identify new opportunities	Medium	No
H7	Improve signage and interpretation provision	Medium	Yes
H8	Work with partners to monitor and respond to anti-social behaviour incidents	Short	No
H9	Continue to support the Friends of Hampson Park	Ongoing	No
H10	Continue to manage the ancient hedgerow	Ongoing	No

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years

## Appendix F: King George V Playing Fields Action Plan

Ref.	Action	Timeframe	Additional Resources Required
KG1	Play area improvements for children & young people of all ages and abilities	Long	Yes
KG2	Work with partners to monitor and respond to anti-social behaviour incidents	Short	No
KG3	Explore opportunities for toilet / changing facilities	Long	No
KG4	Progress PlayZone on the site of the former tennis courts	Short	No
KG5	Identify suitable opportunities for additional tree planting	Medium	No
KG6	Review provision of footpaths within sites to support improved access	Long	No
KG7	Review access points to ensure they are safe and welcoming	Short	No
KG8	Explore opportunities to create better links between the town centre and Old Town via the Park	Medium	No
KG9	Review the current provision of benches, picnic tables and bins, and identify new opportunities	Medium	No
KG10	Refresh planting within the Millennium Garden	Long	Yes
KG11	Consider opportunities for improved wildlife provision within the park	Short	No
KG12	Develop scheme to improve parking provision for park users	Long	Yes

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years

## Appendix G: Meadway Playing Fields Action Plan

Ref.	Action	Timeframe	Additional Resources Required
M1	Play area improvements for children & young people of all ages and abilities	Long	Yes
M2	Review the current provision of bins and identify new opportunities	Medium	No
M3	Seek to deliver site enhancements in conjunction with access improvements associated with West of Stevenage.	Medium	Yes
M4	Identify suitable locations for spring bulb displays	Short	No

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years

## Appendix H: Peartree Park Action Plan

Ref.	Action	Timeframe	Additional Resources Required
P1	Seek funding to support restoration of skate park for beginners	Short	Yes
P2	Review the current provision of benches, picnic tables and bins, and identify new opportunities	Medium	No
P3	Explore opportunities for toilet / changing facilities	Medium	No
P4	Review provision of footpaths within sites to support improved access	Long	No
P5	Review access points to ensure they are safe and welcoming	Short	No
P6	Play area improvements for children & young people of all ages and abilities	Long	Yes
P7	Seek funding for provision of outdoor gym equipment	Medium	No
P8	Work with partners to develop a community programme of summer events	Short	No
P9	Consider opportunities for café provision	Medium	No
P10	Consider opportunities for further tree planting	Medium	No

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years

## Appendix I: Ridlins End Playing Fields Action Plan

Ref.	Action	Timeframe	Additional Resources Required
R1	Play area improvements for children & young people of all ages and abilities	Long	Yes
R2	Consider opportunity for provision of wheeled sport facility	Long	No
R3	Explore opportunities for toilet / changing facilities	Long	No
R4	Consider opportunities for café provision	Medium	No
R5	Review the current provision of benches, picnic tables and bins, and identify new opportunities	Medium	No
R6	Consider opportunities for improved wildlife provision within the park	Short	No
R7	Review provision of footpaths within sites to support improved access	Long	No
R8	Review access points to ensure they are safe and welcoming	Short	No
R9	Consider opportunities for additional tree planting	Medium	No
R10	Improve signage	Medium	Yes
R11	Support options appraisal for funding on-site sustainable sports provision	Medium	No
R12	Consider opportunities for further tree planting	Medium	No

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years

## Appendix J: Shephalbury Park Action Plan

Ref.	Action	Timeframe	Additional Resources Required
SH1	Explore opportunities for provision of toilet / changing facilities	Long	No
SH2	Play area improvements for children & young people of all ages and abilities	Long	Yes
SH3	Consider opportunities for café provision	Medium	No
SH4	Review the current provision of benches, picnic tables and bins, and identify new opportunities	Medium	No
SH5	Work with partners to monitor and respond to anti-social behaviour incidents	Short	No
SH6	Explore options to provide floodlighting to the tennis courts	Long	Yes
SH7	Consider opportunities for sport and activity provision	Medium	No
SH8	Provide cycle racks in suitable locations	Medium	Yes
SH9	Review provision of footpaths within sites to support improved access	Long	No
SH10	Review access points to ensure they are safe and welcoming	Short	No
SH11	Undertake additional tree planting	Medium	Yes
SH12	Remove old pavilion base and reinstate space within the park	Medium	Yes
SH13	Consider opportunities for improved wildlife provision within the park	Short	No

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years

## Appendix K: St Nicholas Park Action Plan

Ref.	Action	Timeframe	Additional Resources Required
SN1	Play area improvements for children & young people of all ages and abilities	Long	Yes
SN2	Consider future options for previous play centre land / facilities	Long	No
SN3	Consider opportunities for café provision	Medium	No
SN4	Explore opportunities for provision of multi-use games area (MUGA)	Long	No
SN5	Review provision of footpaths within site to support improved access	Long	No
SN6	Review access points to ensure they are safe and welcoming	Short	No
SN7	Explore opportunities for provision of toilet / changing facilities	Long	No
SN8	Improve provision of outdoor gym equipment	Medium	Yes
SN9	Review the current provision of benches, picnic tables and bins, and identify new opportunities	Medium	No
SN10	Deliver improvements to dog exercise park	Long	Yes
SN11	Explore options to provide lighting along the path from St Nicholas to Great Ashby	Long	No

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years

## Appendix L: Town Centre Gardens Action Plan

Ref.	Action	Timeframe	Additional Resources Required
T1	Play area improvements for children & young people of all ages and abilities	Long	Yes
T2	Develop a programme to respond to issues of vermin	Short	No
T3	Work with partners to monitor and respond to anti-social behaviour incidents	Short	No
T4	Seek funding to clear silt build-up from within the pond	Medium	Yes
T5	Consider opportunities for café provision	Medium	No
T6	Improved maintenance to Garden Rooms	Medium	Yes
T7	Review access points to ensure they are safe and welcoming	Short	No
T8	Consider opportunities for composting facilities to support Green Space Volunteer activities	Medium	No
T9	Review and improve the existing tree trail	Short	Yes
T10	Review existing lighting within the Gardens	Medium	No
T11	Restore planting as required to ensure year-round interest	Ongoing	Yes

Timescales – Short: 1-3 years    Medium: 3-7 years    Long: 8-10 years



