

SYDNEY

GARDENS

Our Park

Sydney Garden is a unique park and is valued for its heritage, peaceful atmosphere and sports / play facilities.

Our Vision

We want to create a 21st century pleasure garden, drawing on inspiration from its landscape in the 17th century, providing events and activities for all ages. We will create an atmosphere of peacefulness, delight and playfulness and spaces for people to meet up, learn, keep fit, keep well and perform and display their art.

Our Ideas

The ideas you see on the boards have been developing over many years. Please indicate which of the ideas you like using the green sticker and which you dislike using the red sticker.

This is also the opportunity for you to add your ideas to the list. Just write them on a post-it note and stick to the relevant board. We will then revise the masterplan and come back to you on 16th July at the Bath Carnival to seek your approval.



**Please tell us
what you think!**

RESPECT RESTORE INTERPRET

Our History

There are many listed buildings and structures within the park that are in need of repair restoration and attention.

Some of the buildings and structures are in use. Many are underused or have fallen into disrepair.

Our Future

We would like to restore and interpret the historic buildings and structures within the park ensuring their survival for the next generation.

Your ideas



Canal Bridges (G & H on Plan)
Ornate metal railings to both canal bridges in need of repair.
Proposal: Restore and repaint

YES NO



Gardener's Lodge
Historic building situated at the main entrance to the park.
Proposal: Clean stonework

YES NO



Cast iron toilet - Gentlemen
Victorian toilet with ornate metal work and glass roof
Proposal: Restore structure

YES NO



Minerva's temple
Stonework, interior and seating in need of repair.
Proposal: Restore stonework and interior, provide new seating and interpretation

YES NO



Loggia
Stonework, interior and seating in need of repair.
Proposal: Restore stonework and interior, provide new seating and interpretation

YES NO



The 'Bothy'
Currently used as a store. Should this be used differently?

YES NO

FUN PLEASURE

Our Thoughts

The existing play area is located in one of the most isolated parts of the Gardens between the busy Beckford Road and the railway line, and first-time visitors to the Gardens often struggle to find it. Though there is a high wall along the roadside boundary, the play area still suffers from traffic noise and pollution. There is plenty space for informal ball games as well as shrubs to play hide and seek in, but relatively little play equipment, and what there is, offers quite narrow play opportunities.

Our Goal

We would like to relocate the play area closer to the main entrance, next to the Museum, where it would be easier to find and it would also be nearer to the museum café and toilets. We have suggested it might replace the lower tennis courts, with the bowling green next to it being replaced with a 'Labyrinth Garden' which could also include sand and water play next to a new family-friendly café.

We would like the new area to feel much more welcoming – nice enough to want to spend plenty time in - and to be of interest to a much wider range of ages and abilities.



Character

The new play area should feel much more part of the Sydney Gardens than the current area does, with tree and shrub planting and plenty of grassy space too.

YES

NO



Timber

We would recommend timber play equipment which is more tactile than steel and warmer to the touch; it also blends better with a landscape setting.

YES

NO



Creative

Sand and water combined provide for 'creative' play and will keep children of all ages and abilities engrossed for long periods of time.

YES

NO



Ball Play

An informal hard surfaced area with a single hoop to aim for can provide space for 'ball play' as well as a good social space for older boys and girls to meet up with their friends.

YES

NO



Play Area Layout

YES

NO

FUN PLEASURE

Our Thoughts

Sydney Gardens were originally laid out as 'Pleasure Gardens' where people of all ages were entertained in an atmosphere of frivolity and by quirky features such as the Labyrinth and the Supper Boxes. Sydney Gardens is still a popular and well-used open space but over the years has begun to look a little tired. Landscape elements such as planting, paths, and seating all now look in need of upgrading, and the atmosphere of fun and enjoyment has largely been lost.

Our Goal

We would like to restore the sense of fun and surprise to Sydney Gardens so that it feels like a 'Pleasure Gardens' once more. This could be done by including landscape features which have a playful aspect, such as a tree swing, or water spouts appearing as by magic from the ground. We could also improve the general environment- planting, paths etc – so that the Gardens become a more attractive place for a wider range of fun, enjoyable activities such as yoga; dance; performances; music, and so on.



Yoga

An improved Sydney Gardens would be better placed to accommodate activities such as yoga.

YES

NO



Oak

This giant leaf-shaped swing is as much an artwork and seat as it is a swing. Something unexpected and surprising; fun for all ages.

YES

NO

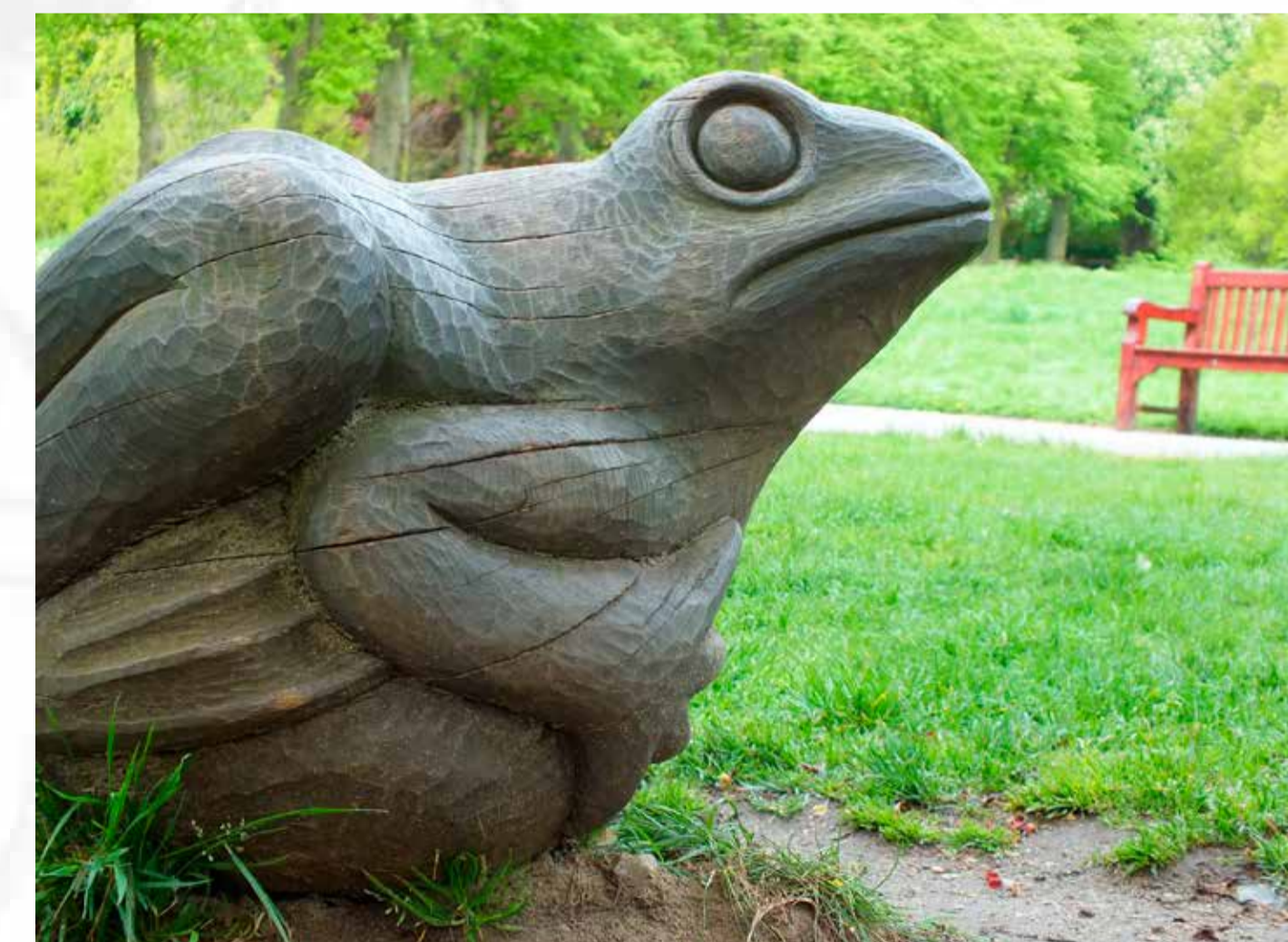


Folly

Some features such as this 'folly' could reference historic features which have been lost over time, such as the Sham Castle.

YES

NO



Frog

Sculptures partly hidden in the shrubs would be fun to discover.

YES

NO



Feature

Plan showing the potential location of playful features.

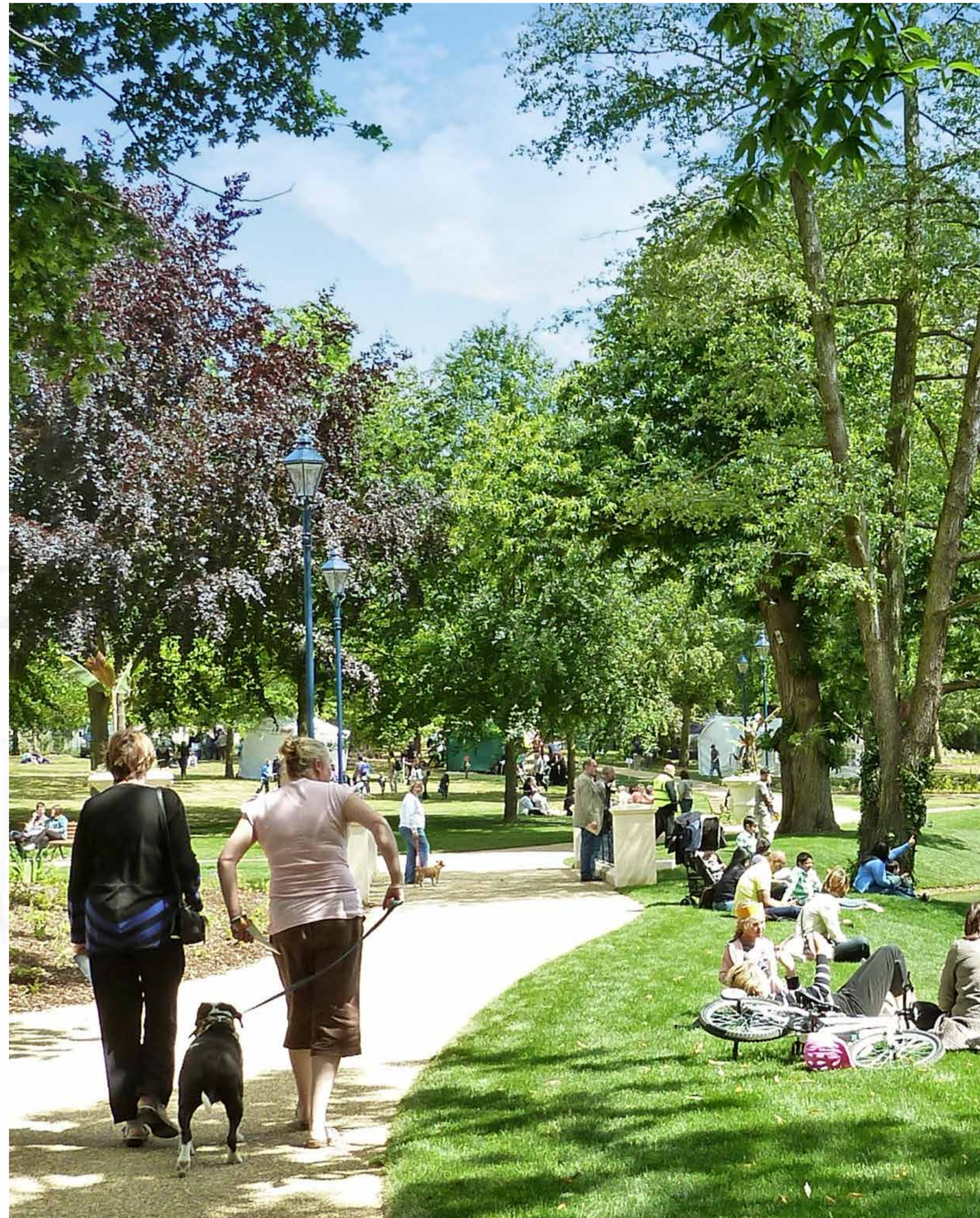
YES

NO

PLAYFUL

ENGAGE GROWTH

Your ideas...



Activities

- Illuminations
- Outdoor art exhibitions
- Tai chi
- Yoga
- Concerts, gigs and jamming sessions
- Performances
- Sunday afternoon proms
- Picnics in the Park
- Activities for older people
- What else?

YES	NO

ACTIVITY

ENJOY SHARE

Your ideas...



EXISTING
Bowl's Pavilion
Existing facility limited to use by Bowl's Club.



EXISTING
Lower tennis courts
There are two sets of tennis courts within the park. Use of these areas is limited dependent upon weather and season.



EXISTING
Bowling Green
Bowling is becoming less popular. The Bowl's club is struggling to finance the green.



POTENTIAL
Community hub and cafe?
Extension and improvements to existing Bowl's pavilion to include a family friendly cafe and welfare facilities for maintenance staff.

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



POTENTIAL
Possible play area?
To be relocated towards the entrance of the park with improved play equipment and 'natural' play features.

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



POTENTIAL
Alternative use - Play space with labyrinth?
Creation of a Labyrinth Garden with playable features and seating terrace to cafe.

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ENJOY SHARE

Your ideas...



Area surrounding the Gardener's Lodge
Entrance area around Gardener's Lodge lacks seasonal interest, horticultural variety and welcoming character.



New planting and seating around Gardener's Lodge?
Create a welcoming garden including colourful sensory planting and additional seating.

YES	NO
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Depot Area
Unightly area in the heart of the park. Relocate necessary depo area to the back of the existing Bowl's pavilion.



Potential Amphitheatre?
Create a quiet space within the park making use of existing sloping ground.

YES	NO
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Play Area
Currently poorly located away from existing facilities. Play value is very limited.



Community Orchard?
Create a community orchard containing a variety of fruit trees.

YES	NO
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ACCESS CIRCULATION



Main Entrance
Historic entrance to the park, gates are missing.
Proposal: Restore framework including fittings, replace gate

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Gated access to Beckford Road
Entrance is currently locked. No access to Beckford Road along this park boundary.
Proposal: Reopen gate and provide a footpath connection into the park

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Gated access to Beckford Road
Reopen gate and provide a footpath connection into the park

New access into current allotment area
Improve accessibility and connection for pedestrians and cyclists.

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Access to towpath
Only access to the towpath within the park creating a bottle neck.
Proposal: Improvements to entrance and increase accessibility

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Stepped entrance from Sydney Road
Access is very steep and narrow.
Proposal: Widen entrance

YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



New entrance created from Sydney Place
Create permanent entrance following works by Network Rail. Access to be used for electrification works of the railway line.



YES	NO
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

LANDSCAPE



- LEGEND**
- ① Main entrance - Restore and replace gate
 - ② Improvements to setting of Gardener's Lodge - New planting and seating
 - ③ Seating area with entrance to new play area
 - ④ Play area
 - ⑤ Improved entrance to museum area - Resurfacing and additional seating
 - ⑥ Realigned path and vegetation clearance improving view along axis
 - ⑦ Amphitheatre
 - ⑧ New entrance off Sydney Road
 - ⑨ Train viewing area with seating and improved footpath access
 - ⑩ Path realignment and seating area
 - ⑪ Labyrinth garden
 - ⑫ New terrace to improved pavilion
 - ⑬ Community orchard
 - ⑭ Restore entrance
 - ⑮ New access into park from Beckford Road with associated crossing
 - ⑯ Woodland garden with viewing and seating areas
 - ⑰ Improved access to canal tow path
 - ⑱ Viewing area with seating
 - ⑲ Refurbished tennis courts
 - ⑳ Widened access into park

- LEGEND-STRUCTURES**
- Ⓐ Holburne Museum
 - Ⓑ Gardener's Lodge - Clean stone work
 - Ⓒ Victorian toilets - Ladies - Removed
 - Ⓓ Toilets - Redecorate doors
 - Ⓔ Victorian toilets - Gentlemen - Restored
 - Ⓕ Bowls Pavilion - Improved facilities including cafe
 - Ⓖ Minerva's Temple - Restored
 - Ⓗ Footbridge - Restored
 - Ⓘ Footbridge - Restored
 - Ⓝ Bothy - Refurbish
 - Ⓚ Loggia - Restored
 - Ⓛ Community hub/ facilities for maintenance staff including yard

-  Existing entrance
-  New / reopened entrance



Please tell us what you think!

Bath & North East Somerset Council