



Mannachie Park Masterplan

November 2022



Consultation Summary

The draft plan is the result of considerable engagement with residents in Forres that included a number of pop up information stands in Tesco, Forres High Street and Mannachie Park play area, promotion of the survey in the local press, leafleting in the immediate area and focus group sessions. Hard copies of the online survey were also available from the Credit Union & Forres House Community Centre.

The plans presented on the following pages have taken cognisance of all the feedback recieved to date. Below is a summary of some of the key ideas collected from the online survey.

Online survey summary

102 respondents

91% of the respondents are already users of the park

of those
38% use the park several times a week
21% use the park once a week
17% use the park every week - month

77% use the park becasue of its playpark
43% for walking and exercise
32% for walking their dog
28% as a passing through location
24% to socialise

Existing Mannachie Park

Can you tell us one way in which Mannachie Park has been important to you during the last few years?

- as a play space
- for exercise
- as a green space

Can you tell us some things that you love about Mannachie Park?

- planting: trees, daffodils, orchard
- the location: easily accessible, close to residential areas
- the play park
- open space for play and exercise

Proposed Mannachie Park

What activities could happen in Mannachie Park that don’t happen currently?

- play: play park revamp, accessible equipment, informal play
- sports: formalised football pitch, basketball hoop, cricket, outdoor gym equipment
- events: space for classes (yoga etc.)
- groups: community garden, wellbeing sessions, bee keeping
- passive uses: seating, picnics, shelter, rubbish bins.

What changes would encourage you to visit the park more often?

- an updated play park
- allocated space to play sport, more equipment
- a safer boundary
- the grass cut more regularly
- more seating: benches and picnic benches
- separation between dogs/play park

Do you have any concerns that might affect the success of this project?

- vandalism/anti social behaviour
- funding
- a want for change
- lack of parking

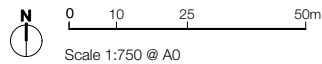
Do you have any ideas for the park that would help fight the negative effects of climate change such as biodiversity loss or extreme weather?

- growing space: community garden, extended orchard, space for learning about biodiversity (connection to school?)
- more planting: trees, wildflower meadows, willow arches for play
- furniture: recycling cut down trees, more recycling bins, smaller interventions bird/bat boxes, habitat houses etc.

- pond/water elements
- more informality: informal play, trails, more space for nature

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Mannachie Park?

- improve safety: road + children/dogs
- consideration of local people living beside the park
- enthusiasm for change and improvements
- opportunity to create a better entrance to the town



Tree Planting

Existing tree planting including the Jubilee Woodland, Orchard and the boundary planting along Grantown Road is retained and supplemented with further tree planting to include:

- Space for future expansion of the Orchard and options for underplanting or community gardening
- Avenue Tree Planting along the northern pathway connecting Mannachie Road with the park and enhancing the link through to Grantown Road. Creating a leafier, more attractive and comfortable space to use.
- Informal Tree Groups within longer grassland areas and areas of lower use improving the green structure of the park and adding layers of planting.

Species should be a mix of native and non native selected for their adaptability to climate change, such as:

drought tolerant species: *Corylus colurna*, *Gleditsia triacanthos*

waterlogging resilient species: *Acer rubrum*, *Alnus glutinosa*

The size of tree planting will determine the immediate impact they have on the space. As a recommendation choosing a minimum girth of around 14-16cm which is more resilient to vandalism and using, during their initial establishment, robust staking and mesh as an added level of protection.



example project: **linear tree planting** lining the pathway



example project: **informal tree groups** within longer grassland/meadow



Corylus colurna
Turkish Hazel



Gleditsia triacanthos
Honey Locust



Acer rubrum
Red Maple



14-16cm girth tree

Grassland/Meadow

An initial improvement in the park will be the reprioritisation of the mowing schedule so areas of higher use; beside pathways, where the informal pitch is indicated, near the play park and adjacent to residents boundaries are regularly mown whilst in other areas, the mowing regime will be relaxed to support increased biodiversity within the park.

Initially the relaxed areas of mowing will be allowed to grow longer. In future there are options to supplement longer grassland areas with more diverse flowering meadow and grassland seeding. Mixes such as:

Special General Purpose Meadow Mixture EM3 by Emorsgate,

or

Urban Pollinator Mix by Scotia Seed.

The informal pitch will intially be a regularly mown area with the option for it to be further formalised in the future. Using simple moves such as the installation of goalposts and painting of pitch markings on the grass will help to increase its useability.



areas of lower use allowed to grow into longer grassland



urban pollinator mix by Scotia Seed



example project: **mown edge beside pathways + in areas of higher use**



Special General Purpose Meadow Mixture EM3 by Emorsgate

Shrub + Hedge Planting + Fencing

A key concern coming out of the online public consultation was the safety of the boundary with Grantown Road. The proposals to enhance the current fence, reduce the permeability and improve safety within the park are outlined below.

To the north a mixed species hedge planted on the outside of the current fence using a variety of native species a selection of which are shown on the right.

To the south reducing the permeability of the fence will improve the safety with the road. Options include the addition of timber posts and cladding or woven willow fence panels inkeeping with the informality of the park and making use of the current fence structure. Windows into the park from the public footpath can be created to allow glimpsed views and maintain a level of visual permeability.

Along the grass verge of Grantown Road mixed species bulb planting is proposed to create an attractive outlook on approach to Forres; species such as crocus sp. narcissus sp. and camassia sp. will ensure successive flowering through the year.

In addition to a reduced mowing regime within the Jubilee woodland, supplementary perennial and shrub planting will help to create more varied habitats for nesting birds and insects and improve the diversity of the park. Species such as *Ilex aquifolium*, *Corylus avellana*, *Polystichum setiferum* and *Deschampsia cespitosa*.



mixed species hedging more informal in character



woven willow panels with windows allowing views through into the park



Euonymus europaeus
Spindle



Viburnum opulus
Guelder rose



Carpinus betulus
Hornbeam



Crocus sp.



Camassia sp.



Ilex aquifolium
Holly



Polystichum setiferum
Soft shield fern

Play + Furniture

Redevelopment of the existing play park is being covered by a separate dedicated project. Consultation for this project is ongoing.

Informal play elements within the jubilee woodland have been proposed taking advantage of the more informal character of the space and expanding the play provision currently within the park. Options include the addition of boulders for seating and play and willow tunnels,

Green gym equipment dotted around the park will create a trail for running/walking and using the equipment. Supporting provision for a wider range of users wanting to use the park more actively.

Bench seating located at regular intervals along the existing path network will ensure the park is a place to stop and enjoy rather than simply passing through. An intensity of seating, around the play park will ensure the play park is as useable and accessible as possible. Below and beside the benches an area of asphalt or concrete slabs will reduce maintenance and make space for a buggy or a wheelchair to stop beside the bench off of the pathway.

Cycle parking will be introduced promoting sustainable modes of travel to the park and encouraging users to stop and enjoy the park.



boulders for seating and informal play



living **willow structures** for informal play



green gym equipment



bench seating with hard landscape and space for wheelchairs or buggys

Phase One

the masterplan is a vision for the space the bringing together a range of ideas to ensure they sit cohesivley within the space.

Immediate improvements being taken forward include;

- 1. the revamp of the existing play park which is being consulted on as part of a separate project.
- 2. review of the grass maintenace to prioritise areas of higher use for ball games etc. and reduce mowing where grassland/meadow is proposed in the masterplan to improve the biodiversity of the park.
- 3. planting of understory shrubs within the jubille woodland

