

# LOCAL PARKS

DEC 2016



LIVING

STREETS

LET'S  
WALK TO  
SCHOOL

## AIM

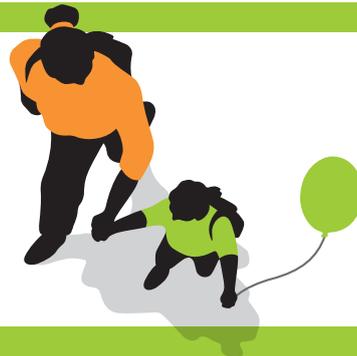
To learn about the importance of parks and how they are used by members of the local community.

## OBJECTIVES

- To observe the features of the local area and take notes on how it is used.
- To consider how people use their local park and how this could be improved.
- To consider how local planners and councils use community spaces.

## RESOURCES

- Cameras/tablets
- Clipboards
- Large sheets of paper
- Writing materials



## CURRICULUM LINKS

England	GEOGRAPHY	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
Wales	GEOGRAPHY	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
Scotland	SOCIAL STUDIES	

Did you know?



The UK's first public park, the Derby Arboretum, was created in 1840.

We are Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking. These learning resources support participation in WOW, our year-round walk to school challenge.

For further information on WOW and the full set of learning resources, visit [www.livingstreets.org.uk/walktoschool](http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walktoschool)

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# LOCAL PARKS

## LESSON PLAN



### MAIN LESSON (60 MINUTES)

#### INTRODUCTION

Talk about local parks that the children may be familiar with. What can they tell you about layout, equipment and what visitors might do there? If possible, visit the local park with the children to take photographs and make notes on a clipboard. Put the children in small groups and ask them to walk around seeing the park through the eyes of different park visitors. Ask them to take photos and make notes about how the park works for that person. Visitors could include:

- A parent with a toddler or small child
- A school-age child
- A teenager
- A dog-walker
- A fitness fan
- An older person
- A family with a wide range of age groups
- Somebody who likes to read.

Ask them to bring their findings back to school.

#### DEVELOPMENT

Ask each group to report back on what they found out. Which visitors are best catered for in the park? Which visitors are least catered for? Still in small groups, ask the children to design the perfect park for their chosen visitor. Ask them to brainstorm the items and activities in the park for their visitor and to think creatively. How might a fitness fan access water or a healthy snack? How could an older person who might not be able to walk far still enjoy the flowers? What activities would encourage school-age children to play in all weathers? After a discussion the groups can plan, draw and annotate their new park design on large sheets of paper. Encourage them to write clear notes and to add colour or photos where needed.

#### PLENARY

Share the finished designs. Discuss the main similarities and differences between the various designs. Are some ideas easily implemented? How can all park users look out for one another while using the space together? Ask the children how they felt when pretending to use the park as a different visitor? Was it easier or harder? How do we need to treat each other in the park?

### EXTENSION (30 MINUTES)

Ask the children to write a letter to the local council to talk about what they found out about the park. They could also enquire what the future plans are for the park and make simple suggestions for the council to take into consideration e.g. placing bins for dog waste nearer the path; installing a water fountain; having a graffiti wall to encourage people not to graffiti the equipment. Perhaps invite a council representative to visit the class to talk about their work and what they do behind the scenes.