

Access & Community Lead



Job Description

Your Park Bristol & Bath is a young charity working to help everyone experience the health and wellbeing benefits of Bristol and Bath's parks. We address inequalities and support under-served communities to use parks more regularly through a range of projects across health, nature and access.

We published research into the experience of Disabled people and unpaid carers when trying to use Bristol and Bath's parks. [Not just a check box](#) uncovered extensive and complex barriers to parks and makes recommendations for how to improve park accessibility for these interconnected communities.

By working in partnership with Disabled people and carers organisations we will action these recommendations. We have been working with local Disabled people and carers over the last two years to further develop solutions and now, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund we are ready to substantially progress this work over the next two years.

This role will lead the 'Parks 4 All' project to create safe, inclusive, welcoming and enjoyable parks that Disabled people and unpaid carers can use for their free and transformative health and wellbeing benefits.

Parks 4 All has three key areas, all of which will be actioned in partnership with Disabled people and carers:

1. Test and publish a Community Park Access Assessment Toolkit to be used by any group of Disabled people and carers to make their park more accessible;
2. Oversee a programme of accessible park activities including volunteering and wellbeing;
3. Support Friends of Groups and park volunteers to make their activities more inclusive.

We're particularly interested in receiving applications from people who have lived experience of the barriers facing Disabled people and unpaid carers when trying to use parks.

Role Profile

Responsible to: Head of Programmes

Line management responsibility: Access & Community Officer.

Hours: 30 hours per week, worked flexibility as per your needs. We are open to applications from job shares.

Contract: Salaried fixed term contract to August 2026.

Salary: circa £28,000 FTE pro rata (£22,400 for 4 days/week)

Location: Home-based contract with access to shared office space at Engine Shed. There will be regular travel for meetings and site visits across Bristol and Bath.

Benefits: Nest pension after probation period, Employee Assistance Programme, Disabled Committed Employer, flexible working with access to shared office space, 25 days annual leave pro rata with additional leave for your Birthday and office 'closure' between Christmas and New Year.



Application timeline:

- **Applications open:** Tuesday 17th September 2024
- **Deadline for applications:** Midnight Sunday 13th October 2024
- **First interview (30 mins online):** Thursday 17th October 2024
- **Second interview (60 mins in person):** Wednesday 23rd October 2024

What you will do

You will lead all aspects of the Parks 4 All project with the support from the CEO and Head of Programmes including the line-management of our Access & Community Officer.

You will be responsible for building and managing the partnership of Disabled people, carers and community organisations to deliver the project goals. You will work with the CEO and Project Steering Group to ensure good project governance and reporting.

By working with our partners to recruit Disabled people and carers to steer and engage with all aspects of the project, you will ensure the project meets the principles set out by 'Nothing About Us, Without Us' and achieves the best results for DP&Cs.

Community Park Access Assessments (CPAA) will be your responsibility to deliver. You will work with the existing partnership to test and further develop the process, produce supporting resources and publish it to be shared nationwide.

You will use the learning from the PAAs to pilot a user-led digital platform that enables accurate and up-to-date access information about parks to be shared.

You will oversee the delivery of a programme of accessible opportunities to connect DP&Cs to park heritage through sensory walks, accessible volunteering and by developing new opportunities to meet DP&Cs needs.

As an innovative project, you will represent the project and our charity externally, going to events and conferences to present our work and build networks as required and especially in the final year of the project.

Key responsibilities

Across all of your responsibilities you will champion the needs of Disabled people and carers and adhere to the principles of Nothing About Us Without Us and the social model of disability through the following areas.

Project management and delivery:

- Create and deliver workplans, identify resources required and assign roles and responsibilities to deliver results;
- Review and stay on top of the latest research on inequities in parks and green spaces including our own;
- Organise and lead the partnership, establishing working groups and frameworks to ensure good project governance;
- Work with our Finance Officer and Head of Programmes to manage the project budget;
- Lead and implement work to test and review PPAs in parks;
- Develop and test PPA Toolkit and work with the CEO to develop plans and market nationally;
- Procure and work with external contractor to establish the monitoring, evaluation framework and implement throughout the project;
- Manage the project risks in an informed and considered manner;

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- Ensure local communities are informed and engaged with the project, using the Asset Based Community Development approach.

Team leadership and supervision:

- Line manage the Community & Access Officer, creating a supportive and inclusive culture, prioritising personal development;
- Work across the project team to improve accessibility of all Your Park Bristol & Bath activities.

Stakeholder management and communication:

- Represent the project and charity at external events, including giving presentations;
- Work with the Councils to make recommendations that ensure social equity is at the forefront of policy and practice and embedded in community consultation;
- Work with the Head of Programmes to maintain relationship with and report to our funders, Heritage Lottery Fund;
- Build relationships with local Councillors and other stakeholders to ensure the success of the project.

Ideally you will use your lived experience of barriers to parks to inform your work.

Knowledge, Skills & Experience Needed

	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge	<p>Good knowledge of the Bristol and Bath context and local Disabled people’s and carers organisations and networks.</p> <p>Awareness of the barriers and challenges faced by under-served communities in accessing parks and services.</p> <p>A good understanding of the Disabled people’s movement and social model of disability.</p> <p>Good understanding of models and techniques to support community and stakeholder engagement, co-development, and participatory approaches.</p> <p>Knowledge of current policies and developments relevant to the work area.</p>	<p>Knowledge of Asset Based Community Development approach.</p> <p>Knowledge of accessibility standards.</p>
Skills	<p>Good partnership working skills with the ability to work collaboratively with a range of internal and external stakeholders.</p> <p>Good communication and presentation skills.</p> <p>Creative thinker and problem solver.</p> <p>Inclusive and empathetic mindset, able to understand the needs of others and seeing</p>	

	differences in how others think and behave as an advantage.	
Experience	<p>Solid experience of successfully managing projects from inception to completion, within agreed timescales and budget.</p> <p>Experience organising inclusive activities working with volunteers and community members and removing barriers to access.</p> <p>Line management experience.</p> <p>Highly organised with a strong attention to detail.</p> <p>Successful development of new approaches to delivering inclusive activities.</p>	<p>Lived experience of the barriers experienced by Disabled people and unpaid carers.</p> <p>Experience managing project budgets.</p>
Other requirements	<p>Passionate about the importance of parks and improving access for under-served communities.</p> <p>Aligned with the charity's values.</p> <p>Must hold or be willing to undergo an Enhanced DBS check.</p>	

Diversity and inclusion

Our beneficiaries come from all walks of life and hire great people from a variety of backgrounds because it makes us stronger. If you share our values and enthusiasm for health, nature and accessibility, you will find a home here.

All applicants will be treated equally but we want to build our level of lived experience of barriers to parks. Therefore, we are particularly interested in receiving applications from people who are from ethnically diverse backgrounds, Disabled people, people who are caring for a loved one, and/or from low-income households. We are also interested in receiving applications from men as our workforce is predominantly women.

Please state in your cover letter whether you would like to be considered under our guaranteed interview scheme for Disabled or ethnic minority candidates. This scheme guarantees these groups an interview if they meet the essential skills, experience and qualities.

How to apply

Please send your application to jobs@yourpark.org.uk. Your application should include:

- Your CV

- A covering letter of no more than two pages setting out how your skills and experience meet the person specification



If you need any adjustments to the application process to help you apply, please get in touch at jobs@yourpark.org.uk or by calling 07742 881566.

Application deadline: midnight Sunday 13th October.