



The Architecture Centre

## St Paul's Park Bristol

### Notable design features

- Performance space for local Circomedia performance artists
- Banked slope used to create a seating step feature
- Defined spaces for children's play, teenage activity and relaxation spaces



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With support from a 'Places for People' Lottery grant this run-down and under-used inner city park in Bristol has been given a new lease of life. The local community fed into the design of this park and they were involved from the outset in a series of community events, outreach activities and workshops.

### Project description

Laid out in the 1930s, St Paul's Park was in a poor state by the early 21st century. Local residents felt that the original layout of the park prevented clear visibility across the site and the existing play equipment and park features were run down and outdated. These elements led to a perception of St Paul's Park being unsafe and it was largely used as a cut through rather than a space for relaxation and recreation.

behaviour through partnership working, designing out poor visibility across the park and increasing community use through the provision of good quality park features and events.

Existing site features such as mature trees, level changes, perimeter walls and gravestones informed the design prior to redevelopment.

This project combined capital investment with community outreach, partnership working and a return to dedicated park staff to deliver a well designed and sustainable space. The project was steered through a parks sub group of St Paul's Unlimited Community Partnership.

The design brief sought to draw upon the significant potential inherent in the park's natural environment, character, local setting and enclosure, creating features relevant to the needs of all sections of the community.

The project has worked to combat community safety problems such as drug use, prostitution and anti-social



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## St Paul's Park, Bristol

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### Comments

"The park looks fantastic and I'm delighted with its opening. This is a first class example of the council is working with its partners to create better, more attractive, safer neighbourhoods - and taking every opportunity to encourage people to get out into their local park."

Councillor Rosalie Walker, Executive Member for Culture and Leisure, Bristol City Council

### Essential data

Location  
St Paul's, Bristol

Construction period  
Completed April 2008

Project team  
Design: Bristol City Council Landscape Team  
Designers: Lucy Empson and Don Ward

Client  
Bristol City Council (Bristol Parks)

Cost  
£343,000

Awards  
Green Flag Award winner  
LGN Street Design Award 2008: Urban  
Green Space winner

BREEAM rating  
Unknown

### Further information

[Bristol City Council](#)  
[www.bristol.gov.uk](http://www.bristol.gov.uk)

[Green Flag Award](#)  
[www.keepbritaintidy.org/GreenFlag](http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/GreenFlag)



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