

Places to play



...in Bath and North East Somerset

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Places to play in Bath and North East Somerset

Visiting parks and outdoor spaces like woodlands is a great way to enjoy family time together. We're very lucky to have so many parks and green spaces in Bath and North East Somerset. This leaflet and map shows just some places that you can go and play that are completely free to use. There is almost certainly one near your home.

Getting out of the house and playing outside in the fresh air is a great way for us all to stay healthy, discover nature, develop a sense of adventure and make new friends.

Why not find out as a family what parks and places to play there are near you? Follow your public footpaths to see what's out there. Or you can ask around, put your postcode into the Council website (www.bathnes.gov.uk), or call the Family Information Service (contact details are on the back page). You might be surprised how many places there are that you can use to play in.





Play Rangers

Bath & North East Somerset Council funds Community Play Rangers to work in parks across the area.

They run fun activities that encourage children to make the most of parks and open spaces, and to enjoy playing in a safe environment.

Some parents feel happier letting their children out to play if they know there are supportive adults around.

You can find out more by contacting the Family Information Service (see back page).

Deta Gottschling from Shoscombe and his wife Libby have six children aged between 7 and 19 – five boys and one girl.

“My time with my family is precious – I always try to find the time to do as much as I can with my children on my days and evenings off.

We enjoy playing outdoors and we use the park in Radstock because we can walk there along the cycle path from Shoscombe.

We often go out for the day with a picnic and we also go fishing as a family, sometimes to Avoncliff.”

Olivia Bird and her husband Nick live in Larkhall, Bath, with their two children, Matthew, aged ten, and eight-year-old Leon.

"We're very lucky to live in the area that we do – there is such a wide variety of open places for the children to play and explore.

We're really lucky as our house backs on to a playing field and I love the fact that they can just go out and have unstructured play. They meet up with other children in the area and make up games, without adult intervention – something that is vital in developing their imaginations and inventiveness.

We use Alice Park a lot as it is just a five minute walk away for



"Apart from the known benefits of sunshine and fresh air, I feel it's important to encourage my children to just go outside and play."

us. It's a great family park with loads to do; it has a playground and a sandpit, which my boys loved when they were little. There's a café, tennis courts and best of all a pond – great for catching, studying (and then releasing!) tadpoles in the spring/summer. It's also the place where my boys like to play football and cricket.

We also use Victoria Park – my boys love the long enclosed silver slide and the zip wire – and Alexandra Park because I love the views!

Henrietta Park is very pretty and peaceful. Leon learnt to ride his bike here; sadly Matthew is yet to learn to ride a bike as he has special needs and can sometimes have problems with his balance and co-ordination, and so, although Bath has lots of lovely places to ride bikes, it's not something we do as a family yet."

Play is for everyone

Finding places outdoors to relax and play can be tricky for some families, especially if they have children with special needs. Bath and North East Somerset Council funds two Family Play Inclusion Workers to support school aged children who need help or even just a confidence boost to get out and play. James Beattie is the Family Play Inclusion Worker for Bath Area Play Project, based at Odd Down Community Centre in Bath.

“I work with children who aren't, for whatever reason, playing, or have little opportunity for different types of play. It may be that they have low self-confidence, a physical disability or additional needs. I help families to overcome these barriers and get families playing together.

Play is vital to the happiness and development of children, it is how they learn and without it there are fundamental gaps in their development.”

James is also a big fan of the Celebrating Fatherhood campaign, which is being run by the Council.

“Play is an area that dads are really good at and a way they can really help their children and have a lot of



fun. There are lots of regular opportunities for play and outdoor activities aimed specifically at fathers and their children – that means dads, uncles, step dads, brothers and grandfathers – across the area.”

The Council also runs a Wheels for All scheme which makes cycling accessible and available to children and adults who may not be able to ride a conventional cycle. A selection of tricycles, hand cycles and easy to balance scooters are available through the scheme. Contact the Family Information Service to find out more (see back page).

Sophie and Simon West live in Midsomer Norton and have three boys: George, ten; Henry, seven; and Jonti, aged three.

“Going outside to play as a family is so important. Our three boys really need open spaces to run and jump and have fun,” says Sophie.

“We use the Adventure Play Park in Midsomer Norton, which has plenty to entertain all three, despite the age range. There’s so much to do there.

“If we want to go somewhere quieter we go to the park in

Wellow – I think that’s my favourite park. I often meet friends there. We take a flask and can sit and chat, while the older boys use the playing fields and Jonti plays on the smaller play equipment. The way it’s designed is so child-friendly – it means the children can play independently and do their own thing, which I think is really important.

“We also use Alice Park on the London Road in Bath sometimes; again this is great because parents can sit and have a coffee whilst the children can run around and have fun with other children.”





Jim Phillips lives in Weston in Bath with his wife Rachel and two daughters, Mali, who's almost one, and Mair who is two.

“Spending time playing with my daughters is so important. We usually go to our local park off Broadmoor Lane but we also use the Royal Victoria Park in Bath. Mair and Mali both like the swings and Mair loves the slide.”



Things you could do with your family in the park:

Make a den

Have a picnic

Play hide and seek

Throw a frisbee

Collect leaves

Run your own Olympic games

Make new friends

Get muddy

Pretend you're a superhero and act out an adventure

Make a daisy chain

Fly a kite

Look for animal tracks

Play tag

Hold a treasure hunt

What else would you do?

We would love to hear what you think

There are hundreds of parks and green spaces in Bath and North East Somerset and we can't include them all, but we hope you find this leaflet useful and that it gives you some ideas for playing outside and places to go.

We'd like to know what you think of this leaflet. If you have any comments or suggestions to make it better please contact PlayOut_HangOut@bathnes.gov.uk or telephone **01225 396240**



Bath & North East Somerset Council looks after around 70 parks across the area; others are looked after by local parish councils, and some by Curo (formerly Somer Community Housing Trust). There are also areas looked after by the Woodland Trust, the National Trust, and many other organisations, that are free to use.

Hopefully most people will be able to walk or cycle to their local parks but most of the sites have street parking nearby.

Please keep your dog out of fenced play areas and away from play equipment. There are many other open spaces and parks where dogs can be exercised (please remember to clean up after them). Please also remember some people, especially children, can be scared of dogs, even friendly ones.



If you want to know more about play and parks in your area, please contact Bath & North East Somerset Council's Family Information Service on **0800 073 1214**, fis@bathnes.gov.uk or visit www.bathnes.gov.uk/fis

This leaflet about play and parks in Bath and North East Somerset can be made available in a range of community languages, large print, Braille, on tape, electronic and accessible formats from the Family Information Service.

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About this map

There are over 100 parks and green spaces across the area – this map shows just some of them, to give you an idea of what's out there.

Why not mark **your** favourite park on this map?



The parks marked with this little flag have been awarded The Green Flag Award. This is given by Keep Britain Tidy and recognises and rewards the best green spaces in the country.



Just some of the places to play in Bath & North East Somerset

- Bath, Alice Park**
Gloucester Road, Bath BA1 7BL
Large, historic park with parking, toilets and refreshments. Fenced play area with sandpit. Tennis courts for hire. Open flat grass areas and flower beds. Ideal for a family picnic.
- Bath, Bath City Farm**
Kelston View, Bath BA2 1NW
Community-run farm with animals, pond, woodland and lots of play space. Café and toilets. Innex Park is next to the farm and Brickfields and Roseworn park nearby. www.bathcityfarm.org.uk
- Bath, Kensington Meadows**
Ringswell Gardens, Bath BA1 6BN
Large flat open meadow bordering nature reserve, next to River Avon (no barrier or fence). Some play equipment and goal posts. Great for picnics and dog walking.
- Bath, Moorfields Sandpits**
Monksdale Road, Bath BA2 2JD
Popular park with a stream running through it with fun, challenging crossings. Sand play, plus kick-about area and shelter. Toilets and disabled parking.
- Bath, Pennyquick Park and Carrs Woodland**
Newton Road, Bath BA2 1RW
Pennyquick is a large flat green space with bike track and basketball hoop, plus fenced play area. Next to Carrs Woodland, which has uneven paths to walk.
- Bath, Royal Victoria Park**
Upper Bristol Road, Bath BA1 2NQ
Large, beautiful park with botanical gardens, ponds, and lots of flat open space. Large fenced play area with equipment for all ages and skate park. Toilets and refreshments.
- Bath, Springfield Park, Foxhill**
Meare Road, Foxhill, Bath BA2 5PX
Large hillside park bordered by small woodland area. Gravel paths to play areas. Play equipment includes 5-a-side goals and basketball hoop. One play area fenced and gated. Bike track.
- Bath, The Tumps/Odd Down Playing Fields**
Chelwood Drive, Odd Down, Bath BA2 2NX
Large site with a number of sports pitches. Next to large competition-level BMX track. Woodland area with uneven informal paths.
- Bath, Weston Recreation Ground**
Southlands, Bath BA1 4DY
Large, mostly flat, open space with fenced play area with a variety of equipment and football goals.
- Bishop Sutton, Cappards Road Play Area**
Cappards Road, Bishop Sutton BS39 5PS
Small fenced local play area with good path access and play unit with slide and springers/rockers.
- Chew Magna, Norton Lane**
Norton Lane, Chew Magna BS40 8RX
Small fenced local play area with 5-a-side goals on neighbouring grass area and basketball hoop.
- Clutton, Burchill Close**
Burchill Close, Clutton BS39 5PR
Small fenced local play area tucked behind the houses. Play unit for juniors with different ways to climb and play.
- East Harptree, Coley Road**
Coley Road, East Harptree BS40 6BQ
Small fenced local play area with parking. Variety of equipment including aerial runway and sandpit.
- Farmborough Church Lane**
Church Lane, Farmborough BA2 0AN
Small play area in field beyond the church. Play unit for juniors plus some trim-trail type agility items and swings.
- Hinton Charterhouse**
High Street, Hinton Charterhouse BA2 7SN
Small local park next to the pavilion with green space and fenced play area. Equipment includes play house and basketball hoop.
- Keynsham, Kelston Road**
Kelston Road, Keynsham BS31 2NW
Large, flat open space with football goals, bike track, basketball hoop and climbing frame. Fenced play area with a variety of equipment, with easy access paths.
- Keynsham, Keynsham Memorial Park**
Bath Hill, Keynsham BS31 1HL
Lovely town park on the hillside next to the river. Fenced play area and small skate park all easily reached via good paths. Café.
- Keynsham, Manor Road Community Wood**
Manor Road, Keynsham BS31 1JT
Woodland and meadow. Mostly level ground with clearly-marked, though uneven, paths.
- Midsomer Norton, Silver Street Nature Reserve**
Silver Street, Midsomer Norton BA3 2EY
Small nature reserve on a hillside below the restored railway station. Lovely walks through trees and around a pond. Good gravel path with some steep steps.
- Midsomer Norton, Somer Valley Adventure Play & Skate Park**
Gullock Tynning, Midsomer Norton BA3 2UG
Large adventure play and skate park. Sand and water play, double-width slide, basket swing and trampolines. Next to one of the top skate parks in the country. Toilets.
- Paulton, Paulton Memorial Park**
Farrington Road, Paulton BS39 7LW
Lovely green space with play area next to the village hall. Good variety of equipment and easily accessed by paths.
- Peasedown St John, Beacon Field**
French Close, Peasedown St John BA2 8SN
Large play area next to community hall and car park. One fenced play area plus large grass area with basketball hoop and other play equipment.
- Pensford, Publow Lane Recreation Ground**
Publow Lane, Pensford BS39 4HW
Small fenced play area with a variety of equipment. Small bike track nearby, plus parking.
- Radstock, Tom Huyton Play Area**
Somervale Road, Radstock BA3 3TX
Popular play area with car park, toilets and refreshments. Good variety of equipment including a swing for wheelchair-users. Next to Norton-Radstock Greenway cycle path.
- Saltford, Claverton Road**
Manor Road, Saltford BS31 3AB
Large green space with a fenced play area with a good variety of equipment. Football goals and basketball hoop.
- Timsbury, Timsbury Recreation Ground**
North Road, Timsbury BA2 0JQ
Fenced play area with variety of equipment by Conygre Hall car park. Next to recreation ground with football goals.