

# KEY CONTACTS FOR BRISTOL PARK VOLUNTEERS



2024

Edition 1.0



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## Introduction:

**What is this document “Key Contacts For Park Volunteers”:** There are 13 contacts featured in this directory that offer guidance and support to volunteers working to improve Bristol's parks and green spaces. Each contact has a separate page giving details about the overall team or project; how they work with park and green space and parks volunteers; how to contact them and what support they offer.

**Who is this directory for?** This directory was developed for park volunteer leads who have completed the Bristol City Council Parks Health and Safety Training. Other parks and green space volunteers and active citizens working to improve green spaces should also find the document useful.

**What is the purpose of this directory?** Parks Friends of Groups fed back (September 2023 Parks Forum) that it is not clear who to go to for support and information. Many organisations, teams and projects offer similar, sometimes overlapping support for park groups. ParkWork; Your Park; Park Rangers – what's the difference? The aim is for this key contacts directory to help clarify what support is offered by whom so Bristol Parks, active citizens and parks volunteers can work together better.

### **Ways of working with Volunteers: Support and collaboration:**

Contacts in this directory work with residents in a variety of ways to maintain and improve Bristol's parks and green spaces. Ways of collaborative working and support are listed in the table below. Support offered by each team is at the bottom of each contact page.

# Bristol City Council

## Parks Volunteering Team



### What does the Parks Volunteering Team do?

Bristol Parks Volunteer Team aim to improve the volunteering experience of citizens involved with parks and green spaces. We work closely with the operations teams and with other colleagues in this directory. The team develop and communicate volunteer recruitment processes and offer training support and guidance for park volunteers and park friend groups.

### How do Bristol Parks Volunteering Team work with Volunteers?

The Parks Volunteer team are your first point of contact for any questions regarding volunteering in Bristol parks and green spaces. The team provide monthly Parks Health and Safety training for group leaders and access to other training opportunities such as first aid and mental health awareness. They share news, success and learning through regular e-newsletters.

Volunteer Contact	Work area / project	How to contact:
Ella Hogg: Volunteer Coordinator, Tues, Wed, Thurs.	Health and Safety Trainer; Communication; Support for North and South based park groups	<a href="mailto:parksvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk">parksvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk</a>
Nic Ferris: Volunteer Coordinator, Tues & Thurs	Health and Safety Trainer; Communication; Support East and Central park groups	<a href="mailto:parksvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk">parksvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk</a>
Nu Tran: Park Volunteers Support Officer, Tues & Thurs	Enquiries; communication and marketing; training records and admin	<a href="mailto:parksvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk">parksvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk</a>

### Useful links for more information:

Bristol City Council website: [Get involved in your local park or green space \(bristol.gov.uk\)](http://bristol.gov.uk)

Better Impact Parks Volunteer Database: [MyImpactPage - Bristol Parks \(betterimpact.com\)](http://betterimpact.com)

<b>Main support offered:</b>	Networking; Advice and Guidance; Site Visits
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# Bristol City Council

## Park Operational Coordinators

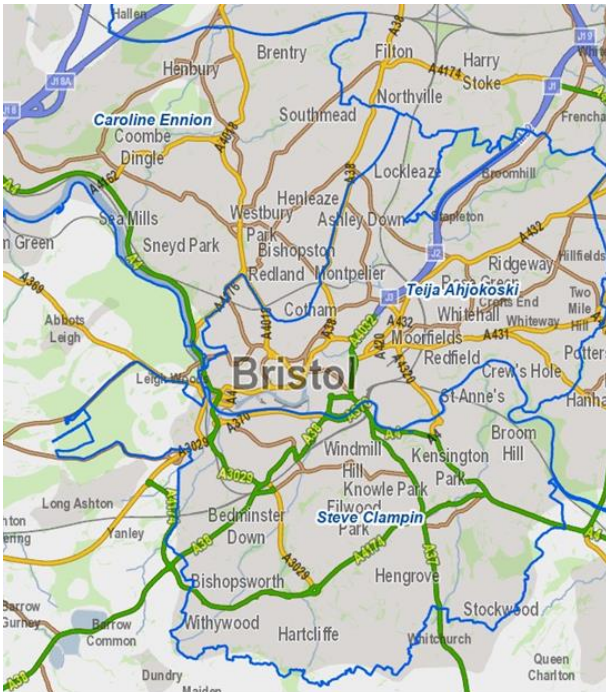


### Bristol Park Operations (Ops):

There are three area-based Parks Operations teams based in Bristol depots:

- North – Sea Mills depot: Ops Coordinator, Mary O'Connell. Covering Caroline Ennion until March 2025
- East and Central – Eastville depot: Ops Coordinator, Teija Ahjokoski
- South – Cater Road, Bishopsworth depot: Ops Coordinator, Steve Clampin

Operational Coordinators manage day-to-day operations for over 600 parks and green spaces in Bristol. This includes managing Fix It teams that respond to maintenance issues, working with the parks volunteer team and park volunteer group leaders.



### How do Park Operational Coordinators work with Volunteers?

Park operations (ops) coordinators work with lead volunteers to discuss and agree improvement plans and practical work sessions.

Volunteer group leaders (1 or 2 per group) must send activity health and safety plans and risk assessments to Park Ops Coordinators in good time for activities to be signed off.

Parks Ops leads also work with BCC Site Permissions team who offer guidance in running events in our parks and green spaces.

Lead volunteers: Not sure who your operations coordinator is? Contact [parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk)

#### More online information:

Report issues; make enquiries; get involved, find a play park or café:  
[BCC Parks and open spaces](#)

#### Main support offered:

Sign off / Permission; Advice and guidance; Site Visits

# Bristol City Council

## Nature Conservation Officers



### What do the nature conservation officers do?

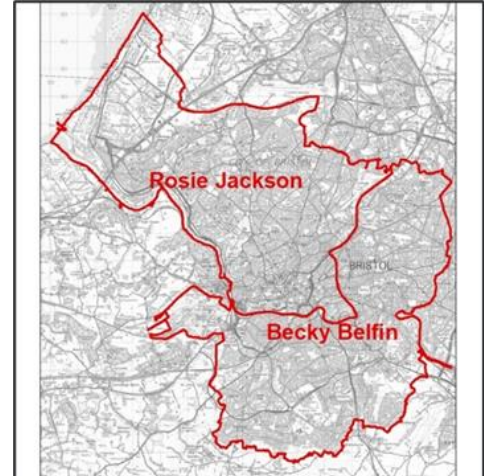
The Nature Conservation Team work in parks and green spaces across the city to ensure that space is being managed for nature. They work closely with the operational teams and volunteer friends of groups to improve habitats and identify opportunities for increasing biodiversity.

Rosie Jackson is the Nature Conservation officer for North and West Bristol.

Becky Belfin is the Nature Conservation officer for South and East Bristol

### How do the nature conservation officers work with Volunteers?

Becky and Rosie can offer advice to your group regarding how best to improve your park and green space for nature. Becky and Rosie can also help you set up wildlife monitoring surveys in your park or green space.



Volunteer Contact	Work area / project	How to contact:
Becky Belfin – Nature Conservation Officer	Nature conservation support for South and East groups	<a href="mailto:nature.parks@bristol.gov.uk">nature.parks@bristol.gov.uk</a>
Rosie Jackson – Nature Conservation Officer	Nature Conservation support for North and West groups	<a href="mailto:nature.parks@bristol.gov.uk">nature.parks@bristol.gov.uk</a>

### More online information:

Managing green spaces for nature: [Managing green spaces for nature \(bristol.gov.uk\)](http://bristol.gov.uk)

Monitor Wildlife in parks: [Monitor wildlife in our parks \(bristol.gov.uk\)](http://bristol.gov.uk)

<b>Main support offered:</b>	Site Visits; Advice and Guidance
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# Bristol City Council

## Park Rangers



### What do Park Rangers do?

Rangers ensure Estates are a safe, welcoming and a well-presented environment for visitors. They deliver site management plan aims and objectives, including carrying out practical improvement work, habitat and conservation management, woodland management and grounds maintenance tasks. They encourage and promote the use of Estates and green spaces by coordinating and delivering events, activities and volunteering opportunities.

### How do Park Rangers work with volunteers?

Park Rangers and gardeners lead Conservation, Gardening and Estate Management work groups with volunteers in Bristol's three larger estates: Ashton Court; Blaise Estate and Stoke Park. You do not have to be a trained volunteer lead to get involved in ranger led sessions:

**1. Ashton Court ranger led sessions:**

10am to 12noon, Thursday, February to October

**Ashton Court gardening groups:**

10.30am – 12.30pm, Tuesday and Thursdays

**2. Blaise Estate ranger led sessions:**

10.30 – 12.30pm Weekly during term time. Every fourth Saturday.

**3. Stoke Park ranger led sessions:**

10 – 12.30pm Thursday weekly, 10am to 12.30pm monthly on Saturdays

### Contacts:

Rangers / Gardeners	Role	Contact:
Julian Smart and Mark Cox	Ashton Court rangers	parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk
Tom Thorn	Ashton Court gardener	parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk
Nic Brownlie and Ian Brown	Blaise Estate rangers	parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk
Ash Kent	Stoke Park ranger	parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk

### More online information:

Volunteering on our Estates: [Get involved in your local park or green space \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/get-involved-in-your-local-park-or-green-space)

<b>Main offer:</b>	Practical work sessions
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# Blaise Nursery and Plant Donation Scheme



## Blaise Nursery:

Blaise Nursery is located on a 10-acre site just down the road from Blaise Estate, Kingsweston Road, BS11 0XF. 1.5 million plants are grown in glasshouses and polytunnels every year. The nursery supplies Bristol City Council and other local authorities with plants and have a shop which sells plants and gardening products to the public. There is an onsite café open 9.30am to 4:30pm on weekdays and 10am to 3.30pm on weekends.

## Blaise Nursery Plant Donation scheme:

The Blaise plant donation scheme started during the covid-19 lockdown. In Spring 2020 - 2024, community groups and organisations were given the opportunity to order a range of free veg bulbs, seeds and plug plants to support growing initiatives across the city. The 2 rounds of delivery were in March and May of each year and can provide groups with a significant resource boost for their growing projects. If funding is agreed for 2025 plant scheme members will be contacted in early 2025.

Main contact:	Project:	Contact email:
Parks Volunteer Team	Blaise Nursery Plant Scheme	parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk

More online information:
Blaise Nursery Website: <a href="#">Blaise Plant Nursery</a>

Main support offered:	Plants and seeds



# Bristol City Council

## ParkWork



### What does ParkWork do?

ParkWork is a BCC service run by Joe McKenna that offers training and skills development for people who need additional support to secure permanent employment, while improving the maintenance and management of Bristol's parks.

### How does ParkWork work with Volunteers?

Joe and his ParkWork volunteers visit parks in Bristol to support volunteer groups with their activities. If you need help with a project in your park or green space, contact Joe on the phone number below and he will arrange a time for ParkWork to come to your site.

Joe can offer practical support for fledgling groups to gain confidence and grow – including leading work sessions, creating work plans and lending tools. Joe is available to support Friends of Groups on Mondays to Fridays and the occasional Saturday.

Volunteer Contact	Work area / project	How to contact:
Joe McKenna	ParkWork	<a href="mailto:joe.mckenna@bristol.gov.uk">joe.mckenna@bristol.gov.uk</a> 07469400689

More online information:
ParkWork Facebook: <a href="#">Facebook</a>

Main support offered:
Practical work sessions; tools and kit; site visits; training; guidance and advice

# Bristol City Council

## One Tree Per Child



### What does One Tree Per Child do?

One Tree Per Child is a Bristol City Council volunteer programme focused on tree planting and tree maintenance in Bristol parks and green spaces.

### How does One Tree Per Child work with Volunteers?

The One Tree per Child volunteer group meets every Wednesday throughout the year – increasing to two or three days a week during the planting season, between December and March. All training and tools are provided. Experience is not necessary as our experienced leaders guide volunteers through each weekly task.

As well as tree planting and tree maintenance, the team also delivers tree themed assemblies and workshops to primary schools in Bristol.

Volunteer Contact	Work area / project	How to contact:
Holly Paton	One Tree Per Child project	<a href="mailto:onetreeperchild@bristol.gov.uk">onetreeperchild@bristol.gov.uk</a>

More online information
BCC Webpages: <a href="http://bristol.gov.uk">One Tree Per Child (bristol.gov.uk)</a>
One Tree Per Child Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/OneTreePerChildBristol">https://www.facebook.com/OneTreePerChildBristol</a>

<b>Main support offered:</b>	Practical work sessions; tools and kit; site visits; training; site visits; guidance and advice; trees; networking
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# BCC Community Development



## What do the Community Development team do?

Bristol City Council Community Development team work alongside people to support them to take action on things they care about. The community development team work in key areas across the city and have a dedicated webpage [here](#).

Hayley Swift works in the Community Development team and leads on parks and green spaces. Hayley's work focuses on Hartcliffe, Withywood and Lockleaze but she has an interest in city wide parks and green space community involvement. Hayley works closely with the Parks Service and can help you to navigate council processes.



## How does the Community Development Team work with residents?

Our role is to support you to build the confidence, community connections and resources that will enable you to bring your ideas to life. We do this by linking you with organisations and other people within your community who might have similar interests. We can support you to connect with and communicate with decision makers in the council.

Resident contact	Work area/Project	Contact Details
Hayley Swift	Community Development for Parks and Green Spaces	<a href="mailto:hayley.swift2@bristol.gov.uk">hayley.swift2@bristol.gov.uk</a>

More online information:
Community Development Facebook Page: <a href="#">(20+) Facebook</a>
Community development webpage: <a href="http://bristol.gov.uk">Get involved in your community (bristol.gov.uk)</a>

Main support offered:
Guidance and advice; networking; training; site visits

# Bristol Waste



## What does Bristol Waste do?

Bristol Waste are a recycling, waste collection and street cleansing company and run the 3 recycling centres in the city. Bristol Waste Company work in partnership with the people of Bristol and the Council to help residents and business recycle more and throw away less.

## How do Bristol Waste work with Volunteers?

Bristol Waste's community engagement team work with schools and community groups. The team offer guidance and lend litter picking kit. Bristol Waste can supply your group with litter pickers and waste bags and would like to hear back about how you get on.

## Litter Collection:

- 1) **On public land or highways:** Please use Bristol Waste Bags. If you need more than 30 bags, you can collect from St Philips Reuse and Recycling Centre on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Under 30 bags can be posted.
- 2) **On Housing land:** Get in touch with your housing officer:  
<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/housing/council-tenants/housing-officers-for-council-tenants>
- 3) **In Parks:** Please note, if a litter pick takes place on Bristol Parks managed land then volunteers should follow Bristol Parks litter pick risk assessment and process, arranging collection with Bristol Parks operations team.

Volunteer Contact	Work area / project	How to contact:
Nohelia Fernandez – Community Engagement	<a href="#">Bristol Waste Company</a> <a href="#">Community Engagement</a>	<a href="mailto:Hello@bristolwastecompany.co.uk">Hello@bristolwastecompany.co.uk</a>

More online information
Request litter Collection: <a href="#">Litter collection – Bristol Waste Company</a>
Borrow litter picking kits: <a href="#">Litter picking kits - Bristol Waste Company</a>
Request litter bags <a href="#">Request extra bags for your litter pick – Bristol Waste Company</a>
Report litter picking results: <a href="#">Litter picking results form – Bristol Waste Company</a>

<b>Main support offered</b>	Guidance and advice; site visits; tools and kit
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# Your Park

## What does Your Park do?

Your Park Bristol and Bath (Your Park) is an independent charity working to improve access to parks so more Bath and Bristol residents experience the transformative health and wellbeing benefits of green spaces. Your Park have 3 key areas of work:

- Increasing access
- Health and Wellbeing
- Creating and enhancing spaces for nature

## How does Your Park work with Volunteers?

- ✓ Wild and Well networks connect people to parks and green spaces for health and wellbeing benefits. W&W operates in Hartcliffe, Withywood, Stockwood, Newtown and Barton Hill, with a new network planned soon.
- ✓ Roots to Wellbeing groups support people experiencing mental health difficulties, or are lonely or isolated, to connect to nature in parks. Volunteers support programme leaders to deliver 18-week programmes of craft and nature-based activities.
- ✓ South Bristol groups: Rachel and Judy work closely with park groups and volunteers to improve 9 parks in South Bristol: Cottle Road Green Space; Dundry Slopes; Hartcliffe Millennium Green; Hawkfield Meadow; Hengrove Mounds; Northern Slopes; Stockwood Open Space; Withywood Park; Willmott Park
- ✓ Corporate Volunteers - Get in touch if your group has tasks suitable for corporate volunteer teams.

Contact person	Project / Work Area	How to contact:
Judy Gowenlock	Health Network Lead / Wild and Well	<a href="mailto:judy@yourpark.org.uk">judy@yourpark.org.uk</a>
Rachel Ellis	Nature and Community - South Bristol Groups	<a href="mailto:rachel@yourpark.org.uk">rachel@yourpark.org.uk</a>
Suzi Brooke - Davies	Roots to Wellbeing	<a href="mailto:roots@yourpark.org.uk">roots@yourpark.org.uk</a>
Simon Day	Corporate Volunteering Team Days Co-ordinator	<a href="mailto:simon@yourpark.org.uk">simon@yourpark.org.uk</a> 07546 696 021

### More online information:

Your Park Website: [Your Park Bristol & Bath](#)

Your Park Facebook: [Your Park Facebook](#)

Your Park Instagram: [Your Park Instagram](#)

<b>Main support offered:</b>	Practical work sessions; training; site visits; guidance and advice; networking
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# Team Wilder



## What does Team Wilder do?

Team Wilder inspires and empowers people to act for nature, locally. Team Wilder is supported by Avon Wildlife Trust and enables local action with free, site specific, professional advice for gardens, community spaces and schools.

## How does Team Wilder work with Volunteers?

Team Wilder have a variety of resources on their website that are designed to help community groups that are working to protect and improve nature in their local area. For example, you can get free advice from the Team Wilder Community Ecologist. They also have resources to help set up and establish new community groups and a map showing local community groups.

Contact	Work area / project	How to contact:
Sophie Bancroft	Team Wilder Communications and Engagement Officer	<a href="mailto:communications@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk">communications@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk</a>
Team Wilder Ecological Advisory service	Community Ecology advise across Avon	<a href="mailto:tweas@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk">tweas@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk</a>

### More online information:

Team Wilder website: <https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/team-wilder>

### Main support offered:

Guidance and advice; site visits; tools and kit; training; seeds and plants; networking

# Bristol Parks Forum



## What does Bristol parks Forum do?

Bristol Parks Forum (BPF) is an umbrella organisation for volunteer park groups and organisations in the city. The Forum shares news and information; and hosts quarterly in person meetings for park groups. The Bristol Parks Forum is organised through a committee, and is currently chaired by Len Wyatt.

## How does Bristol Parks Forum work with Volunteers?

The Bristol Parks Forum provides a website with information for parks and green space groups, and offers practical advice where it can. BPF helps facilitate the sharing of information and best practice between parks groups and organisations, so groups can learn from each other. The Forum also coordinates responses from groups to local and national consultations and campaigns. The BPF works closely, and maintains regular contact with the City Council's Parks Department; and Your Park Bristol and Bath. It has a vision for Bristol Parks and Green Spaces in 2030 which can be accessed from the website below.

Volunteer Contact	How to contact:
Bristol Parks Forum volunteer committee	<a href="mailto:info@bristolparksforum.org.uk">info@bristolparksforum.org.uk</a>

More online information:
Bristol Parks Forum website: <a href="#">Bristol Parks Forum – for community park groups in Bristol</a>

<b>Main support offered:</b>	Advice and guidance; Networking
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# GoodGym



## What does GoodGym do?

GoodGym is a community of people who get fit by doing good. We run, walk and cycle to support isolated older people and community projects in our area. We do this to achieve our mission of building happier, healthier and better connected communities.

## How does GoodGym work with Volunteers?

GoodGym encourages anyone to come and give it a try. We're inclusive and there's no requirement to pay or have volunteered before. You can visit our website where you'll find all upcoming sessions listed, or request help from your local GoodGym group. We take on low-skill practical tasks that require some elbow grease and love if it helps improve the environment too. Because we have sessions running every week, we're always on the look out for more ways to help - if you've got a task that needs regular upkeep, even better!

Volunteer Contact	Work area / project	How to contact:
Mel Young	Bristol volunteer area coordinator	<a href="mailto:getinvolved@goodgym.org">getinvolved@goodgym.org</a>

More online information:
Good Gym website: <a href="#">GoodGym   Request practical support for a community organisation</a>

Main support offered:
Networking; Practical work sessions; guidance and advice



## Taking Action – 6 Guides

Bristol City Council Community Development team have produced a pack of 'Quick Guides' for active citizens and volunteers. These guides (also referred to as process maps) set out steps to take, who to contact and who to work with to improve parks and green spaces.

Community Parks Quick Guides can be found here:

[Community-Parks-Process-Maps-All-1.pdf \(bristolparksforum.org.uk\)](#)

Community Parks quick guides include:

- Small and medium scale parks projects
- Community Events in Parks
- Street Trees and Tree Sponsorship
- Large Parks Projects and Play Facilities
- Large scale tree planting projects
- Community Asset Transfers

## Using Bristol's Pinpoint mapping tool:

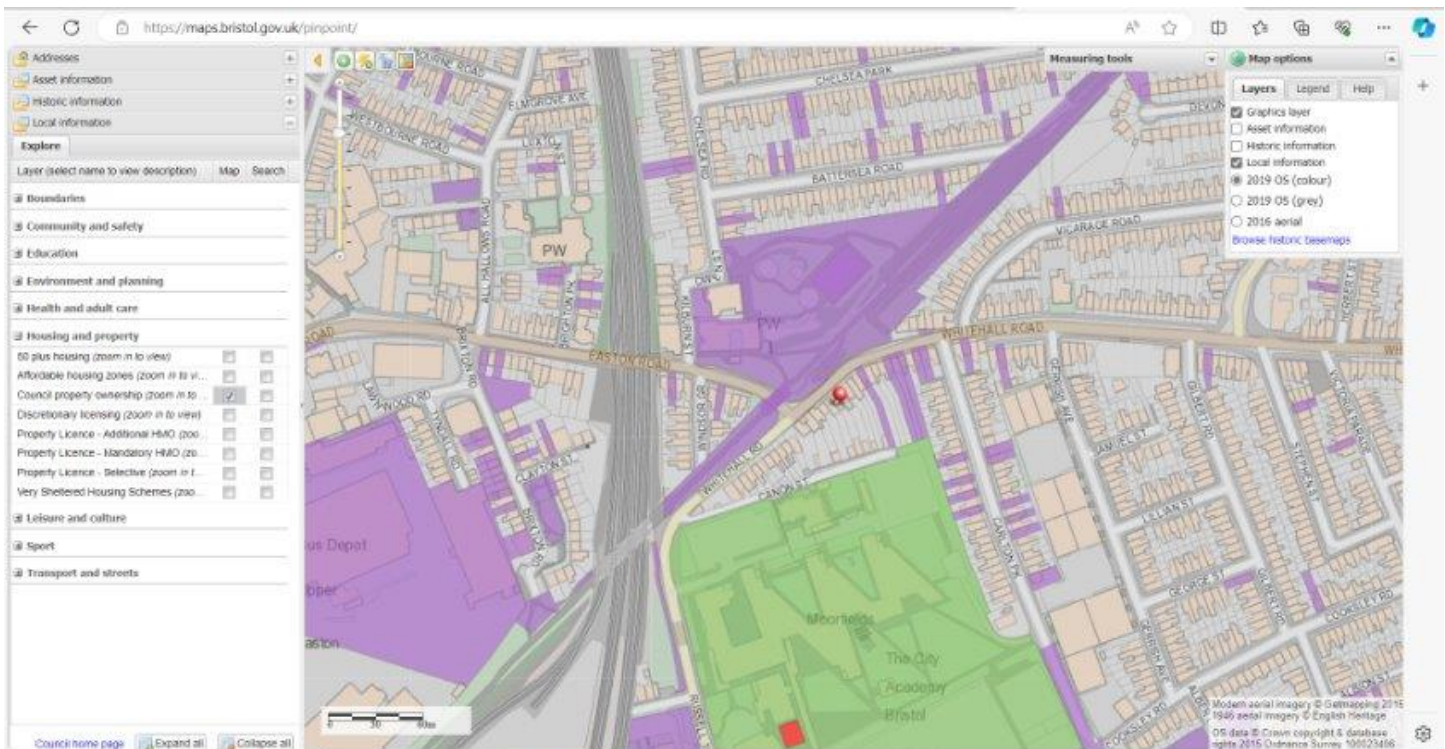
Know Your Place – Pinpoint mapping tool is online software that you can use to find out information about Bristol and our cities green spaces.

Find an online guide on how to use Pinpoint here:

[Pinpoint user guide \(bristol.gov.uk\)](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/pinpoint-user-guide)

### To find out who owns land in Bristol follow these steps:

- Go to [Bristol - Pinpoint local information](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/pinpoint)
- Put in an address near the area you want to find out about
- Tick “Local Information”
- Tick “Housing and Property”
- Tick “Council Property Ownership”



# Parks Community UK



Parks Community UK website provides a free online knowledge hub and network for Friends of parks and green space community groups across the country.

Parks Community UK aims to celebrate, support and empower community park and green space volunteers to be effective and resilient.

The websites 2 most popular pages are the Park Group [Case Studies](#) and [Advice Guides](#)

Parks Community UK operates within the movement of thousands of parks and green space Friends and community groups and we are managed by [The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces](#), the movement's umbrella organisation.

- Parks Community UK website: [Parks Community UK website](#)
- Parks Community UK case studies: <https://parkscommunity.org.uk/case-studies/>
- 'How to Guides' For Parks Friends groups including organising events, funding and site maintenance: <https://parkscommunity.org.uk/how-to-guides/>

## Document Amendments:

Bristol Parks Volunteer team have collated the information for this directory with sign off from the organisations, teams and individuals featured.

This is a live document and will be sent out for review in April and September each year

This is the first version of the directory, published October 2024.

To suggest updates email: [parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:parkvolunteers@bristol.gov.uk)