

Audit Assessment

The Yard

August 2021



Introduction

The purpose of this report is to establish what is working or valued on the site already and what aspects could be improved or considered. This has been achieved through meeting with residents and observations of the site and how it is being used.

Taking these findings I have compiled a site map and made some possible interventions that could be made to the environment that would improve the space with consideration given to the needs of the community living there.

This document is intended to provide an accessible discussion and format for the interested parties to use to consider and springboard any future development. It should not be regarded as a specific design brief.





Enhance existing area for play with loose parts and permanent features



Replace the temporary slide and climbing frame with a more permanent slide, already owned. The slide would develop the use of the sloped bank and the bank could also incorporate tiered seating or steps. This would introduce opportunities for risk and challenge whilst creating an incidental social space too



Installing a few upright poles with holes would add fixed height working well as framework for building with the loose parts and creating more opportunities for co-operation and collaborative building. Temporary loose parts could be stored nearby to enhance the offer too.



Adding a few select large loose parts to the area would enable the children to start playing more collaboratively, creating playful journeys around the space particularly in the hedges. These would add some risk and challenge into the space and perhaps encourage children and young people away from the areas that are causing concern, whilst also encouraging various methods of traversing such as jumping, crawling, balancing etc.





Enable better flow and containment to spaces available and establish sense of place.



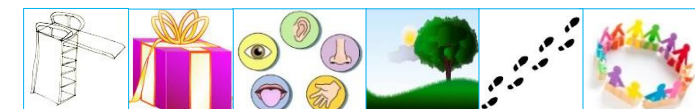
Enable a better flow around the site by extending the all weather pathway in a circular loop. This would enable a really good flow around this space increasing the amount of usable space in wet weather. Using different materials such as composite gravel, or grass matting or paving would provide a hard wearing, all weather surface while still giving a natural feel.



Introducing a sculpture (from a local artist) in this bottom space would help create a sense of place and destination. In combination with the pathway and moveable seating would also create a calmer incidental social space as well.



Creating two small natural green walls (marked on map) using planting or raised beds etc would create containment to the two sides of the site which would provide the site with more dual useability such as two different activities happening at the same time





Utilise trees and hedgerows for play and sociability.



Installing a small low level platform/s on the two more mature cherry trees would create take advantage of the trees whilst adding significant play value and incidental social spaces at low height. Add



Creating a fairy doorway area within the hedgerow would create a more enchanting place that could offer playful journeys extending play. These could evolve and even be built by or with children.

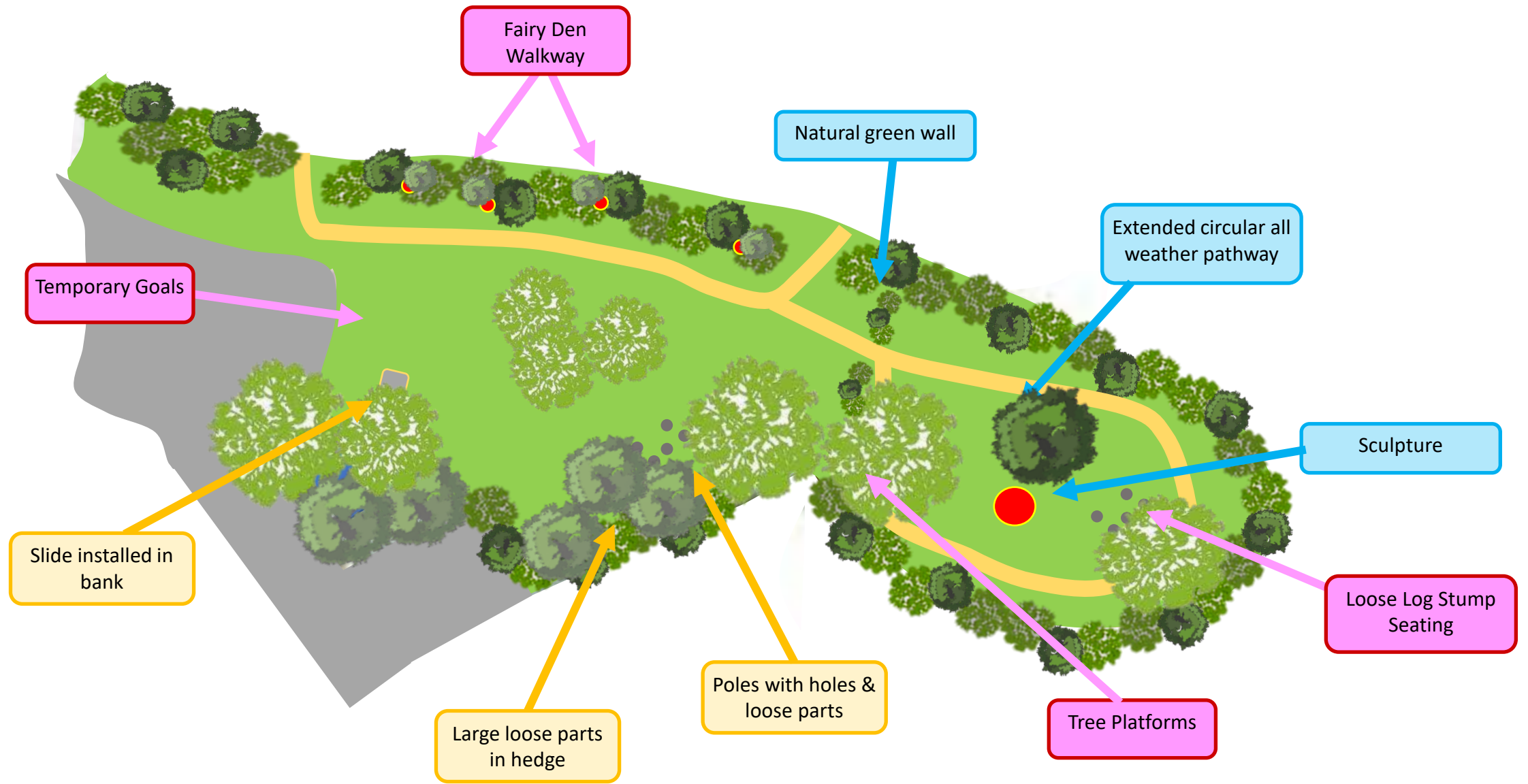


Putting in some more low level moveable seating such as log stumps would help create more incidental social spaces in different formats.



Planting around the bases of the smaller & more vulnerable trees as already done in conjunction would with the platforms would encourage less use of these to ensure their preservation. The gardener could make choices about suitable planting for this.





**The Yard
Concept Plan**