



Recreation Ground Strategy 2024 to 2034  
Adopted at Skipton Full Council 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

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## **Skipton Town Council's Mission Statement**

**“To proactively represent and provide high-quality, efficient, and cost-effective services to local residents. To work with others to help secure a robust economy for the Town - and to enhance and develop Skipton as a high-profile, vibrant and thriving visitor destination”**

Our Vision for Recreation is “for the town to offer sufficient outdoor opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to maintain their mental and physical health through exercise, play and enjoying nature. We will explore new but cost-effective ways to achieve this in partnership with other organisations.”

### **What the Strategy covers**

Skipton Town Council currently owns or manages a variety of greenspaces such as verges, allotments, churchyards and burial grounds, The Wilderness, and recreation grounds and play areas. Skipton Town Council also provides a number of public benches.

This Strategy is for Recreation Grounds and equipped Play Areas owned or managed by the Town Council. In providing for residents and visitors, Skipton Town Council will take into account other provision and the policies of Craven District Council (from April 2023 North Yorkshire Council) who are required to assess local recreational need for planning purposes.

### **Other provision**

In some recent housing developments the local communal play and recreational area is provided by the developer and maintained at the charge of immediate residents. In 2023 there are communal play provisions at Elsey Croft and Waltonwrays. Aireville Park NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play) is provided by Craven District Council (from April 2023, by North Yorkshire Council).

Skipton Town Council does not provide any formal playing pitches. The main sports provision for Skipton is at Sandylands which was donated to the people of Skipton and provides outdoor sports pitches, ball-game courts and indoor sports spaces. It is owned by the Coulthurst Trust.

Aireville Park has areas of mown grass, a skateboard and cycle facility, a pool and indoor gym complex, woodland, some items of outdoor gym equipment, a footgolf course and paths used by Park Run. The Park is owned by North Yorkshire Council from April 2023.

Skipton Woods provides informal space for enjoying nature and industrial history and has a variety of sculptures. It is opened to the public by the Woodland Trust. Canal and River Trust's canals and canal towpaths provide open space and opportunity for exercise.

The MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) at the former Ings School is a public provision, provided by North Yorkshire Council. For resting during leisure activities, public benches are provided

by a range of providers including Canal and River Trust and (from April 2023) North Yorkshire Council as well as Skipton Town Council.

### **Recreation Grounds & Play Areas**

Skipton Town Council maintains a significant number of recreation grounds and play areas across the parish. Many contain items of play equipment, all of which is regularly inspected to ensure the highest safety standards. There are MUGAs (Multi-Use Games Areas) at Shortbank and North Parade. There is some adult outdoor gym equipment for adults at Raikes Road.

Many of our sites are suitable for enjoying nature and have hedges, trees or wildflowers. None of our sites have water features or sand play. There are large open mown grassy areas suitable for informal sports at Raikes Road and Middletown Recreation Grounds and some recreation grounds have smaller areas of mown grass. Some areas include fenced 'runs' for the exercising of dogs.

The recreation grounds and play areas are:

Bold Venture Recreation Ground

Broughton Road Play Area

Burnside Recreation Ground

Lytham Close Play Area

Middletown Recreation Ground

Millennium Green Play Area

North Parade Recreation Ground

Pasture Close Recreation Ground

Raikes Road Recreation Ground

Shortbank Recreation Ground

The Ginnel Play Area

Broughton Road, Millennium Green, Pasture Close and Raikes Road play areas have recently been refurbished with installation of new and improved equipment, surfacing and facilities. Burnside Recreation Ground is scheduled to have new equipment installed in Autumn 2022.

Over the past few years the council has improved provision for disabilities at several sites.

Footpath access at Middletown Recreation Ground, Raikes Road, Bold Venture and Burnside has been upgraded to ensure that there is good access for wheelchair users to play equipment. Play equipment has also been upgraded.

The Council works with the Planning Authority to ensure fair amounts of funding from Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy arrangements for the provision of additional play facilities are required following the construction of new housing developments.

## STRATEGY

Over the next ten years (2024-2034) we will have the following goals:

- Promote our recreation sites
- Reach out to the community to consult on provision
- Plan ahead for maintenance and renewal
- Improve facilities and equipment for estates staff
- Bring in external funding to enhance provision
- Keep usage and rules for usage under review
- Improve our sites for nature and sustainability
- Revise the Strategy annually and draw up an Annual Plan

## Annual Plan 2024/5

Our Annual Plan of Action for 2024/25 will include to:

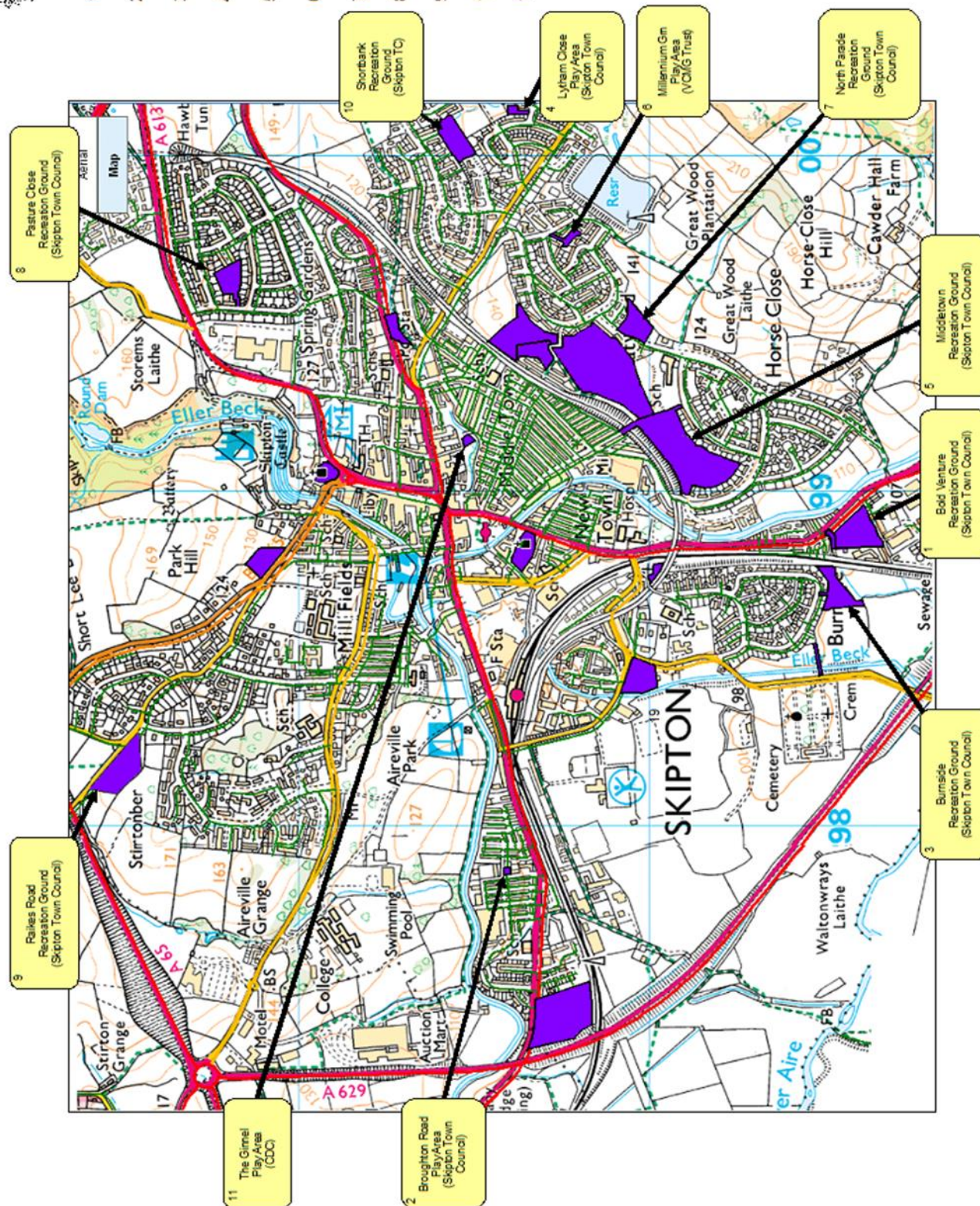
- Improve website information about our recreation sites and promote this
- Consider taking over North Yorkshire Council recreational assets or services
- Complete improvement of Burnside Recreation Ground Play Area using S106 monies.
- Work with schools to introduce 'Bug Houses' to suitable sites
- Consult with users and residents near Shortbank where equipment is 20 years old, identify need in that area for renewal or for changes to provision and potential funding
- Assess the level of provision in Skipton for different age groups and compare with other towns and benchmarks.



# Skipton Town Council Recreation Grounds Map



1. Bold Venture Recreation Ground
2. Broughton Road Play Area
3. Burnside
4. Lytham Close Recreation Ground
5. Lytham Close Play Area
6. Lytham Close Play Area
7. Lytham Close Play Area
8. Lytham Close Play Area
9. Lytham Close Play Area
10. Lytham Close Play Area
11. The Ginnel Play Area





## Bold Venture Recreation Ground

What3words location <https://w3w.co/dozen.sandbags.dazzling>



Play Equipment	QTY	Approx Year of Install	<sup>1</sup> Replacement Date
Junior Multi-play	1	2002	2027
Swing - Toddler - 1 Bay 2 Seat	1	2002	2027
Swing - Junior - 1 Bay 2 Seat	1	2002	2027
Seating	2	Unknown	N/A
<b>Total cost of park equipment &amp; instillation</b>	<b>£10,750</b>		

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<sup>1</sup> Replacement Date – Calculated using the average manufacturers guarantee of fifteen years for wooden equipment and twenty five years for metal equipment. Replacement after this period is not imperative, providing ROSPA (or other independent park inspector) conclude during their annual park inspections, that the equipment is still suitable for use.

## Broughton Road Play Area

What3words location <https://w3w.co/speech.youths.cheeses>



Play Equipment	QTY	Approx Year of Install
Activity Net	1	2011
Wheelchair Roundabout	1	2011
Roll Over Bars	1	2021
Double Seat Springer	1	2017
Swing - Toddler - 1 Bay 2 Seat	1	2011
Swing - Junior - 1 Bay 2 Seat	1	2011
Pirate Ship	1	2011
Boulders	2	Unknown
Mushroom Seating	12	2011
Seating	3	Unknown
Sun Seesaw	1	2011
Pirate Den Play Cabin	1	2011
Noughts & Crosses Play Panel	1	2017
Donard multi-Play	1	2024
Basket Swing 2.4m high	1	2024
Frog Springer	1	2024
Basket Seat and chain suspension	1	2024
Wet pour under multi-play and patching areas needed.	1	2024
<b>Total cost of park equipment &amp; instillation</b>	<b>£74,357.00</b>	

## Burnside Recreation Ground

**What3words location** <https://w3w.co/inversely.onto.dabbling>



Play Equipment	QTY	Approx Year of Install	<sup>2</sup> Replacement Date
Wheelchair Roundabout	1	2022	2047
Sturdy Flying Saucer - Dish	1	2022	2047
Inclusive Single Springer	1	2022	2047
Triple Seat Springer	1	2022	2047
Talk Tubes (Pair)	1	2022	2047
Embankment Slide & Climbers	1	2022	2047
Swing - Toddler - 1 Bay 2 Seat	1	2001	2026
Toddler Multi-play	1	2001	2026
Junior Multi-play	1	2001	2026
Swing - Junior - 3 Bay 4 Seat 1 Basket	1	2022	2047
Vortex Overhead Rotator	1	2022	2047
Activity Net	1	2001	2026
Seating	3	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Total cost of park equipment &amp; instillation</b>	<b>£68,400 in 2022</b>		

<sup>2</sup> Replacement Date – Calculated using the average manufacturers guarantee of fifteen years for wooden equipment and twenty five years for metal equipment. Replacement after this period is not imperative, providing ROSPA (or other independent park inspector) conclude during their annual park inspections, that the equipment is still suitable for use.



## Lytham Close Play Area

What3words location <https://w3w.co/imitate.prancing.cyclones>



Play Equipment	QTY	Approx Year of Install	<sup>3</sup> Replacement Date
Inclusive Springer	1	2024	2049
Swing - Toddler - 2 Bay 2 Seat & 2 Cradle Seats	1	2024	2049
Flying Saucer	1	2024	2049
Rotating Cone Climber	1	2024	2049
Thermoplastic Snake Marking	1	2024	2049
Thermoplastic Hopscotch Marking	1	2024	2049
Junior multi-play	1	2012	2037
Play Panels	2	2012	2037
Seating	3	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Total cost of park equipment &amp; instillation</b>	<b>£25,603.00</b>		

<sup>3</sup> Replacement Date – Calculated using the average manufacturers guarantee of fifteen years for wooden equipment and twenty five years for metal equipment. Replacement after this period is not imperative, providing ROSPA (or other independent park inspector) conclude during their annual park inspections, that the equipment is still suitable for use.

## Middletown Recreation Ground

**What3words location** <https://w3w.co/beaten.capillary.fills>



Play Equipment	QTY	Approx Year of Install	<sup>4</sup> Replacement Date
Dish Roundabout	1	2018	2043
Springer	1	2018	2043
See Saw	1	2018	2043
Toddler Multi-play	1	2018	2043
Swing - Toddler - 1 Bay 2 Seat	1	2018	2043
Seating	1	2018	N/A
<b>Total cost of park equipment &amp; instillation</b>	<b>Paid for by CDC S106, from Firth Mills Development.</b>		

<sup>4</sup> Replacement Date – Calculated using the average manufacturers guarantee of fifteen years for wooden equipment and twenty five years for metal equipment. Replacement after this period is not imperative, providing ROSPA (or other independent park inspector) conclude during their annual park inspections, that the equipment is still suitable for use.



## Millennium Green Play Area

What3words location <https://w3w.co/teacher.enlighten.filer>



Play Equipment	QTY	Approx Year of Install	<sup>5</sup> Replacement Date
Swing - Toddler - 1 Bay 2 Seat	1	2021	2046
Springer	1	2018	2043
Double Springer	1	2021	2046
Cone Climber	1	2021	2046
Seating	1	2008	N/A
<b>Total cost of park equipment &amp; instillation</b>	<b>£15,498 in 2021</b>		

<sup>5</sup> Replacement Date – Calculated using the average manufacturers guarantee of fifteen years for wooden equipment and twenty five years for metal equipment. Replacement after this period is not imperative, providing ROSPA (or other independent park inspector) conclude during their annual park inspections, that the equipment is still suitable for use.

## North Parade Recreation Ground

**What3words location** <https://w3w.co/beats.bookshop.ogre>



Play Equipment	QTY	Approx Year of Install	<sup>6</sup> Replacement Date
Multi Use Games Area	1	N/A	N/A
Seating	1	N/A	N/A
<b>Total cost of park equipment &amp; instillation</b>	<b>£3,130.00</b>		

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<sup>6</sup> Replacement Date – Calculated using the average manufacturers guarantee of fifteen years for wooden equipment and twenty five years for metal equipment. Replacement after this period is not imperative, providing ROSPA (or other independent park inspector) conclude during their annual park inspections, that the equipment is still suitable for use.



## Pasture Close Recreation Ground

What3words location <https://w3w.co/hairstyle.frames.roosters>



Play Equipment	QTY	Approx Year of Install	<sup>7</sup> Replacement Date
Junior Multi-play	1	2000	2025
Swing - Toddler - 1 Bay 2 Seat	1	2021	2046
Roundabout	1	2000	2025
Wooden Activity Trail - 5 items	5	2021	2046
Swing - Junior - 1 Bay 2 Seat	1	2000	2025
Multi Goals	2	2000	2025
Seating	14	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Total cost of park equipment &amp; instillation</b>	<b>£9,204.00 in 2021</b>		

<sup>7</sup> Replacement Date – Calculated using the average manufacturers guarantee of fifteen years for wooden equipment and twenty five years for metal equipment. Replacement after this period is not imperative, providing ROSPA (or other independent park inspector) conclude during their annual park inspections, that the equipment is still suitable for use.

## Raikes Road Recreation Ground

What3words location <https://w3w.co/beaks.exacts.stores>



Play Equipment	QTY	Approx Year of Install	<sup>8</sup> Replacement Date
Wheelchair Roundabout	1	2021	2046
Swing - 2 Bay 2 Seat 1 Basket	1	2021	2046
Stand On See Saw	1	2021	2046
Toddler Multi-play	1	2021	2046
Junior Multi-play	1	2021	2046
Trampoline	1	2021	2046
Play Panel	1	2021	2046
Steel Activity Trail (within fenced area)	1	2021	2046
Steel Activity Trail (outside fenced area)	1	2009	2034
Seating	1	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Total cost of park equipment &amp; instillation</b>	<b>£75,600.00 in 2021</b>		

<sup>8</sup> Replacement Date – Calculated using the average manufacturers guarantee of fifteen years for wooden equipment and twenty five years for metal equipment. Replacement after this period is not imperative, providing ROSPA (or other independent park inspector) conclude during their annual park inspections, that the equipment is still suitable for use.



## Shortbank Recreation Ground

What3words location <https://w3w.co/flow.valued.table>



Play Equipment	QTY	Approx Year of Install	<sup>9</sup> Replacement Date
Inclusive Springer	1	2024	2049
Flying Saucer	1	2024	2049
Embankment slide	1	2024	2049
Toddler Multi-play Unit	1	2024	2049
Bubble Stand in Sea-saw	1	2024	2049
Tricky Stick	1	2024	2049
Inclusive Wheelchair Accessible Roundabout	1	2024	2049
Adult gym equipment Unit	1	2024	2049
Swing – Toddler – 1 bay 2 seats	1	2024	2049
Thermoplastic ground play markings (snake & hopscotch)	2	2024	Unknown
Swing - Junior - 1 Bay 2 Seat	1	2001	2026
Junior Multi-play	1	2001	2026
Multi Use Games Area	1	2001	N/A
Teen Shelter	1	2001	2026
Seating	2	Unknown	Unknown
<b>Total cost of park equipment &amp; instillation</b>	<b>£44,816.00</b>		

<sup>9</sup> Replacement Date – Calculated using the average manufacturers guarantee of fifteen years for wooden equipment and twenty five years for metal equipment. Replacement after this period is not imperative, providing ROSPA (or other independent park inspector) conclude during their annual park inspections, that the equipment is still suitable for use.

## The Ginnel Play Area

What3words location <https://w3w.co/swing.output.partly>



Play Equipment	QTY	Approx Year of Install	<sup>10</sup> Replacement Date
Swing - Toddler - 1 Bay 2 Seat	1	2000	2025
Springer	1	2000	2025
Swing - Junior - 1 Bay 2 Seat	1	2000	2025
Seating	1	2000	2025
Slide	1	2000	2025
Climbing Net	1	2000	2025
<b>Total cost of park equipment &amp; instillation</b>	<b>£22,677</b>		

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<sup>10</sup> Replacement Date – Calculated using the average manufacturers guarantee of fifteen years for wooden equipment and twenty five years for metal equipment. Replacement after this period is not imperative, providing ROSPA (or other independent park inspector) conclude during their annual park inspections, that the equipment is still suitable for use.



## <sup>11</sup>What are LAPs, LEAPs and NEAPs?

Fields in Trust first originated these terms for play areas in the 1980s, when they saw the need to provide detailed technical guidance for authorities on what exact provision should be made for children's play.

### **LAP (Local Area for Play):**

A small area of open space specifically designated and primarily laid out for very young children to play close to where they live i.e. within one minute's walking time.

LAPs are designed to allow for ease of informal observation and supervision and primarily function to encourage informal play and social interaction for toddlers. The LAP requires no play equipment as such, relying more on demonstrative features indicating that play is positively encouraged.

### **LEAP (Locally Equipped Area for Play):**

An area of open space specifically designed and laid out with features including equipment for children who are beginning to play independently. The number and nature of equipment and structures is a matter for local decision, though provision for a minimum number of six play experiences is recommended.

Play features including equipment are an integral part of the LEAP and the attractiveness of such spaces, though it is also important that the space can be used for physical activity and games. LEAPs can also include landscaped areas of play; containing little formal equipment but imaginatively designed and contoured, using as far as is possible natural materials such as logs or boulders which create an attractive setting for play.

### <sup>12</sup>**NEAP (Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play):**

This is an area of open space specifically designated, laid out and equipped mainly for older children but potentially with play opportunities for younger children as well. It can provide play equipment and a hard surface area for ball games or wheeled activities such as roller skating or cycling. It may provide other facilities such as a ramp for skateboarding, a rebound wall, and a shelter for meeting and socialising. NEAPs can often be combined with LEAP provision.

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<sup>11</sup> Fields in Trust

<sup>12</sup> Fields in Trust

## 10-YEAR BUSINESS PLAN

Our equipment has been installed at different times by a large variety of providers and manufacturers. The Town Council in 2023 began tabulating dates of installation from which equipment life can be forecast. Renewals or installation costs can include:

Play surfacing

Path surfacing

Fencing

Play equipment (including markings in surfaces)

Adult exercise equipment

Benches

Litter bins

Signage

Well-maintained equipment lasts a minimum of 10 years. Some can last up to 20 years.

Surfaces often last less.

Other significant costs can be:

Hedgeworks

Treeworks

Drainage

