

# People Can



## be friends of parks and green spaces

The People Can Make a Difference campaign is actively promoting all the good things that people are already doing in their communities as well as encouraging more people to volunteer and get involved in community life.

**Parks, Woodlands and Moor lands can be amazing green spaces to walk, have picnics in, sit and chat, play with children, play sports, or to just sit in and enjoy. Setting up a Friends Group is a great way to take an active role in improving a park or other green spaces. It can be incredibly rewarding, sociable and fun.**

### **What do friends of parks and green spaces do?**

People volunteer to help with a wide range of different projects from small scale activities to large scale projects.

### **You can**

- Fundraise for improvements and events
- Do general gardening
- Set up exercise groups – running, walking or fitness sessions
- Help with the planning or management
- Run clean ups, plant trees or encourage wildlife
- Teach history or promote the value of green spaces

### **Plan it**

If there is a park or a green space you are interested in supporting find out who owns the land and gain their permission.

Visit [www.landregistry-service.com](http://www.landregistry-service.com) or ring the Land Registry on 01305 363636.

If it is owned by Bradford Council it may already have a Friends Group. Look for posters on notice boards or visit [www.bradforddistrictparks.org/friends](http://www.bradforddistrictparks.org/friends) you can also call 01274 431000.



## Get the word out

It really helps to find like-minded people who want to get involved. Here are a few ideas to help spread the word:

- Send out flyers or put up posters inviting people to an informal get together
- Talk to people who are using the park or green space, chat to neighbours or people after school in the playground
- Organise an informal and fun get-together and give people the opportunity to share their ideas and the changes they would like to make
- Use social media such as Twitter and Facebook to get the word o

## Some things to consider

- In the process of getting your group together you will gain an understanding of what the main issues and aims for the park/green space are
- It's important to remember that the aims of the group should not be just the ambition of one or two people but represent the views of the whole community
- It's a good idea to discuss your aims with the land owner to make sure they are achievable and can be maintained in the long term

## Types of groups

Having an **informal group** means you don't have to elect committee members or

hold Annual General Meetings. This may limit your access to funding however you could link to a 'constituted organisation' such as school or another local group.

Opting for a **constituted group** makes your group more formal and could help with decision making and accountability. To do this you would need to elect a committee and sign up to a constitution. This is often required for funding applications. Advice on how to set up a constituted group is available via CVS, email: [cvs@bradfordcvs.org.uk](mailto:cvs@bradfordcvs.org.uk) or call 01274 722772.

Gaining **charitable status** is a longer term option meaning the group will be eligible to apply for a wide range of grants. It can make fundraising much easier. This option will take more of your time and commitment. CVS (above) can help.

## Why not hold an event?

### Try it, its fun!

This would be a fantastic way of celebrating your local park or green area, encouraging more use and signing people up to the friends of group. There are lots of activities you could do from Easter egg hunts, family picnics to large scale Gala's and carnivals.

Find out more at [www.peoplecanbradforddistrict.org.uk](http://www.peoplecanbradforddistrict.org.uk)  
**Like us on Facebook and ask your Facebook friends to like us too**

 **Peoplecanbradford**  **Follow us on Twitter #PeopleCanBD**  
Please join in by keeping us up to date about what you are involved in to support your community by posting your pictures and posters.

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