

Adastra Park
Landscape and Biodiversity Ideas and Opportunities
May 2026



Adastra Park: Landscape and Biodiversity Ideas and Opportunities – Key Plan

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The following table gives illustrations of opportunities to enhance the character, biodiversity and to provide more colour and interest in Adastra Park referenced to the plan. These suggestions are intended to be consistent with the proposals in the Park Masterplan Consultation.






The Parish has made substantial improvements to the park through implementation of elements of the masterplan and other improvements to the facilities around the park – tennis courts, play areas, drainage to the sports pitches, etc. Other elements have perhaps been less successful such as the rain garden for various reasons.







These proposals are focussed on the park perimeters as the main areas of the park are given over to sports provision.






Many of these are relatively low cost interventions or could be achieved through changes to management eg grass cutting regimes. The masterplan also included proposals for circuit or loop paths around the north and south fields. This is perhaps more practical in the north field as in the south field the cricket pitch runs very close to the eastern field boundary leaving little space for a path. A loop path would be a more substantial investment. Surface treatment for any loop paths should be low key and free draining but accessible to all, such as a bound aggregate.



The document is intended as a palette of ideas and opportunities, which could be implemented over time as opportunities arise.

Reference	Existing Image	Opportunities	Commentary
1			<p>Relax mowing regime bordering stream. Ideally later summer annual cuts with cuttings removed.</p> <p>Benefits to wildlife and over time will see an increase in wildflowers if cuttings are removed.</p> <p>Create scalloped edges and can add mown paths to add interest for users.</p> <p>Could trial with a no mow May to see reaction of park users.</p>
2			<p>Potential for board walks projecting out over the stream.</p> <p>Potential to add interpretation.</p>
3			<p>Footpath providing link to Grand Avenue. The area of tipped material is not vegetating well.</p> <p>Original masterplan envisaged scrapes and wetlands. May not be practical.</p> <p>Could oversee with a meadow mix as a simpler alternative.</p>

Reference	Existing Image	Opportunities	Commentary
4			<p>Plant native woodland edge shrubs such as dogwood, guelder rose, dog rose, hazel and field maple to create more interest and habitat on park boundaries.</p> <p>Can combine with Item 1 leaving a less frequently mown edge to the shrubs edge.</p>
5			<p>Heavily worn area bordering the playground.</p> <p>The use of herbaceous perennials which can be seeded following cultivation can create an attractive low cost option to increase colour and wildlife value in areas such as these. See for instance mixes and guidance on Pictorial Meadows https://www.pictorialmeadows.co.uk/</p>
6		<p>No image</p>	<p>Heavily used area around trees by the playground.</p> <p>One option might be install sleepers creating a large area around the trees and then mulching. Would be good to decompact a little first.</p>

Reference	Existing Image	Opportunities	Commentary
7			<p>There are gaps in the boundary hedge to the southern field Suggest these are planted with a native hedge mix eg of hawthorn, blackthorn, hazel, field maple and holly.</p>
8			<p>The rain garden has not been that successful. Rather than infill one option might be to create a winter garden with a mix of dogwoods, willows and ornamental grasses. Many species are tolerant of damp ground so there would be no need to infill the swale.</p>
9			<p>Small area currently with cricket nets and other materials stored. Understand the cricket nets are to be relocated. This could provide a location for meadow and possibly a feature such as a small community orchard.</p>

Reference	Existing Image	Opportunities	Commentary
10		No image	<p>The current path arrangements are not good and users often have to walk on the grass to pass each other.</p> <p>When these paths are re-laid need to think about ensuring these are an adequate width.</p>
11			<p>Part of the War Memorial Garden is in very poor condition and lacks interest. Opportunity to re-design with a mix of ornamental and wildlife friendly plans.</p> <p>Could look at features such as sensory gardens. It is quite shady which probably accounts for part of the issue with this area.</p>
Other opportunities which could be located around the park.	 	Sculptured benches and other features	

Reference	Existing Image	Opportunities	Commentary
			<p>Informal play equipment</p>
			<p>Bee hotels and other features such as habitat piles and hibernacula</p>