Parks for London

29 July 2026

Lunch & Learn

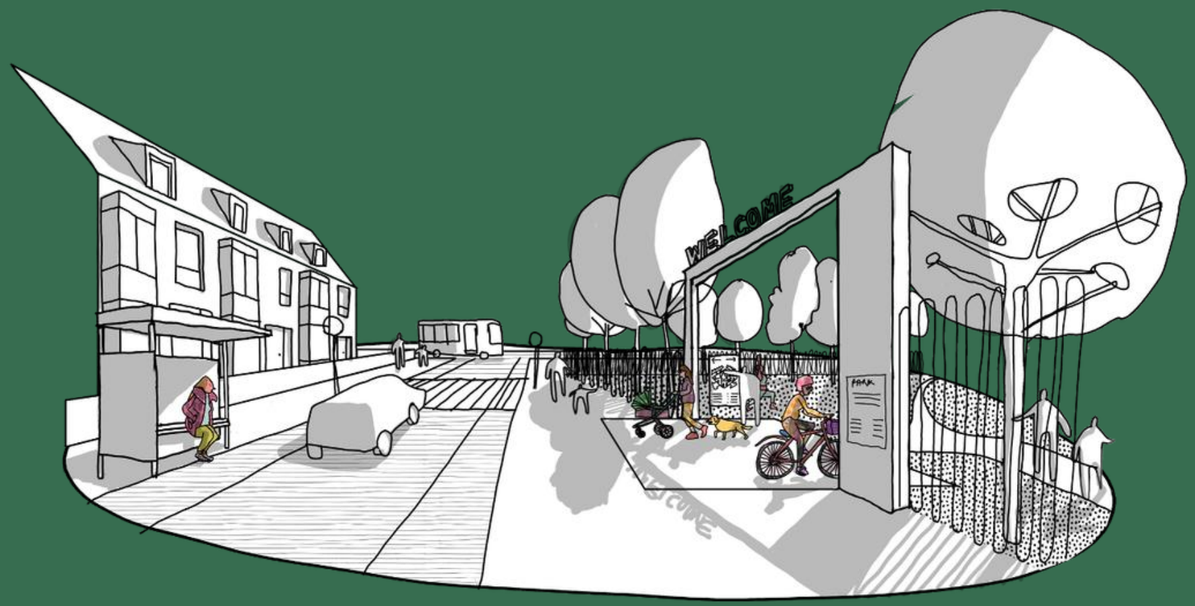
WEBINAR



Using open data to improve safety for women & girls

Dr Anna Barker & **Dr Fran Pontin**, University of Leeds

Using open data to improve safety for women & girls



Dr Anna Barker, University of Leeds
Dr Fran Pontin, University of Leeds

Parks for London's Lunch & Learn webinar

WHO WE ARE

LEADER IN WOMEN'S SAFETY IN PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING & OPEN-SOURCE DASHBOARD DEVELOPMENT

SPATIAL DESIGN & GENDER-SENSITIVE METRICS LEAD

URBAN DATA SCIENTIST - OPEN DATA & SPATIAL INEQUALITIES

URBAN DESIGN MANAGER

DEPUTY STRATEGIC LEAD FOR VAWG, RAPE AND SERIOUS SEXUAL OFFENCES

FRIENDS OF PARK VOLUNTEERS

PARK MANAGER

DESIGN OUT CRIME OFFICERS

DEPUTY MAYOR

CHARITY LEAD

GEOSPATIAL ANALYSIS & INCLUSIVE GREENSPACE FOR HEALTH &WELLBEING

NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF'S COUNCIL

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR











MAKE SPACE FOR GIRLS

Green Flag Award

KEEP BRITAIN TIDY.

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

West Yorkshire Combined Authority | Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire

City of BRADFORD METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICE CPI Police Crime Prevention Initiatives

Secured by Design Official Police Security Initiative

WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Calderdale Council

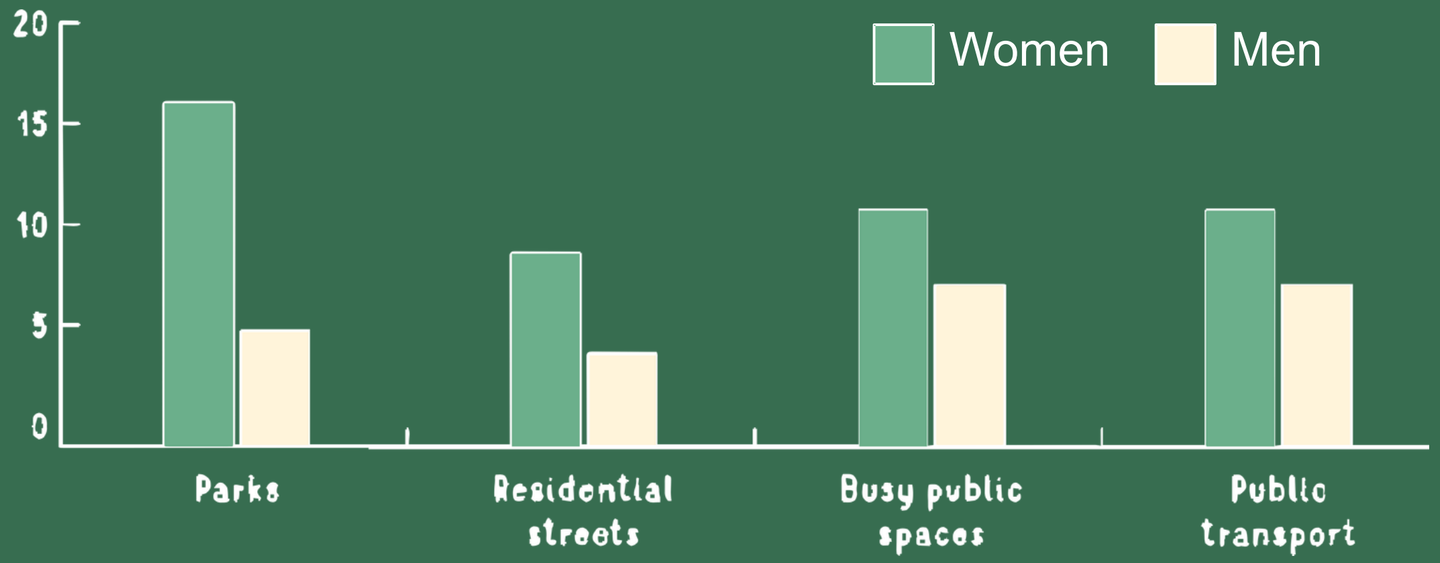
Kirklees COUNCIL

wakefield council working for you

Leeds CITY COUNCIL

THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

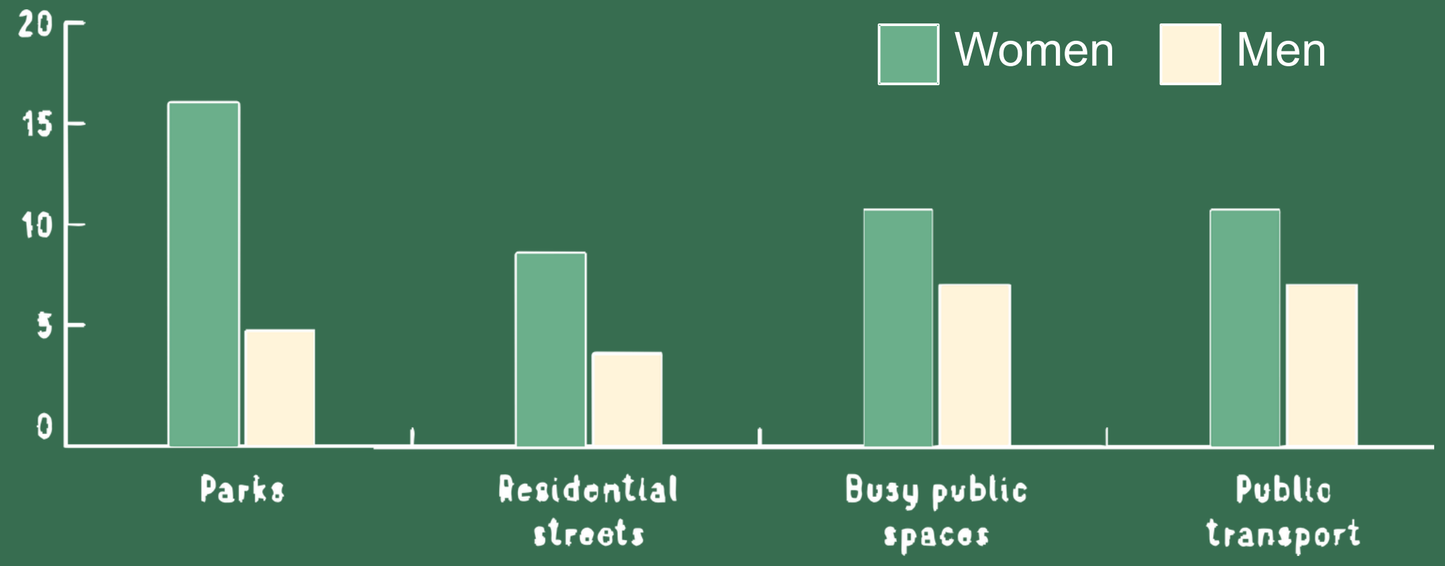
Proportion (%) of women and men who felt 'very or fairly' unsafe walking alone by public setting during the day, Great Britain



(Office for National Statistics, 2022)

THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

Proportion (%) of women and men who felt 'very or fairly' unsafe walking alone by public setting during the day, Great Britain



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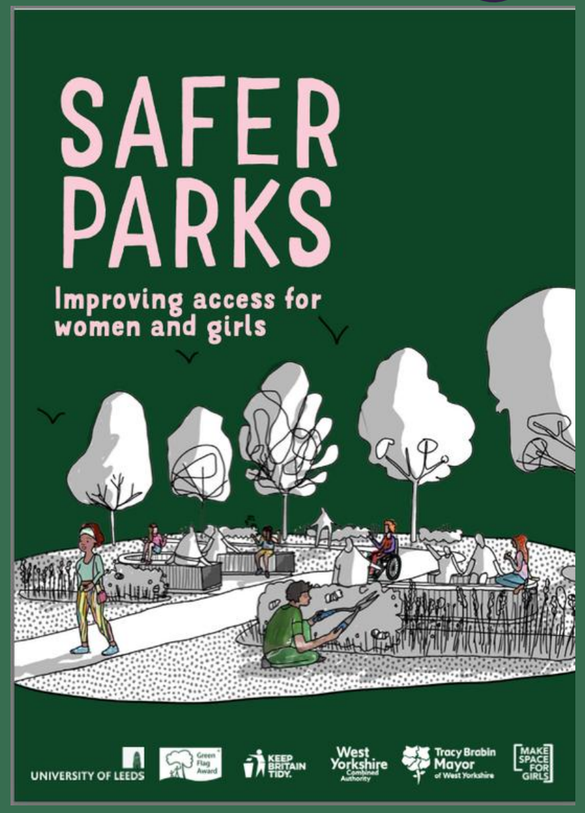


82% of women feel unsafe walking alone in parks after dark

Barker, A., Cape-Davenhill, L., Holmes, G., & Warrington, S. (2026). The gendered burden of safety work in urban parks: women's experiences in West Yorkshire's green spaces. Gender, Place & Culture, 1–22. https://doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2026.2668336

PREVIOUS RESEARCH FOUNDATIONS





https://lnkd.in/eVRU-_VQ

- EYES ON THE PARK
  - Busyness and Activation
  - Staffing and Authority Figures
- AWARENESS
  - Visibility and Openness
  - Escape
  - Lighting
  - Wayfinding and Layout
- INCLUSION
  - Belonging and Familiarity
  - Image
  - Access and Location
  - Co-production and Engagement

Green Flag Award

www.greenflagaward.org

Secured by Design

Official Police Security Initiative

www.securedbydesign.com

TEN PRINCIPLES

EYES ON THE PARK

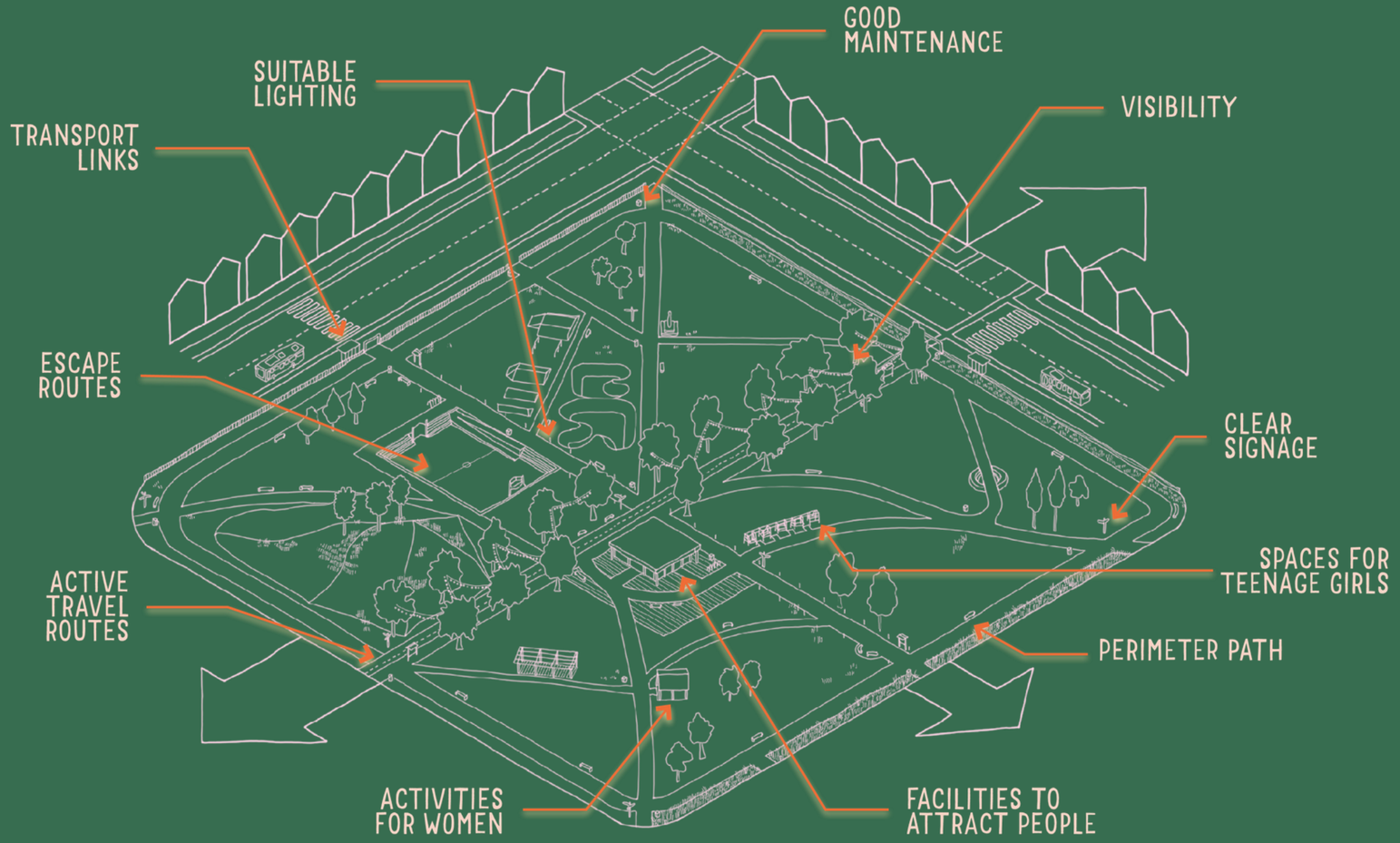
- Busyness and Activation
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AWARENESS

- Visibility and Openness
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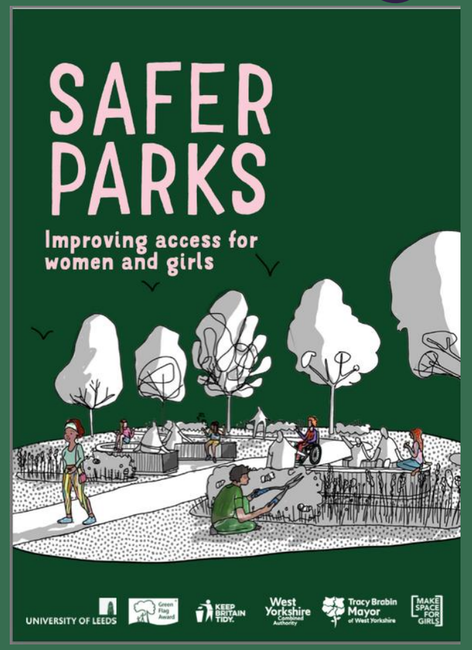
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- Belonging and Familiarity
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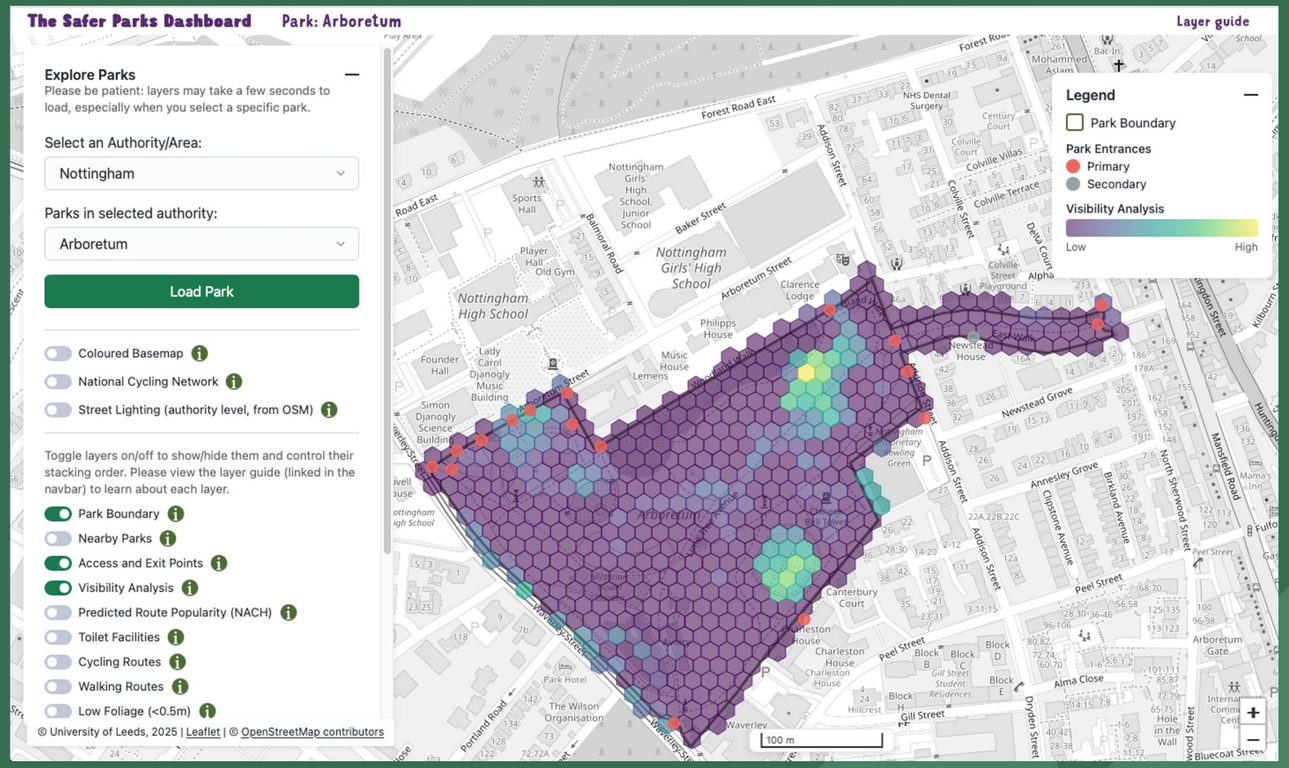


RESEARCH INFORMED DASHBOARD





https://lnkd.in/eVRU-_VQ



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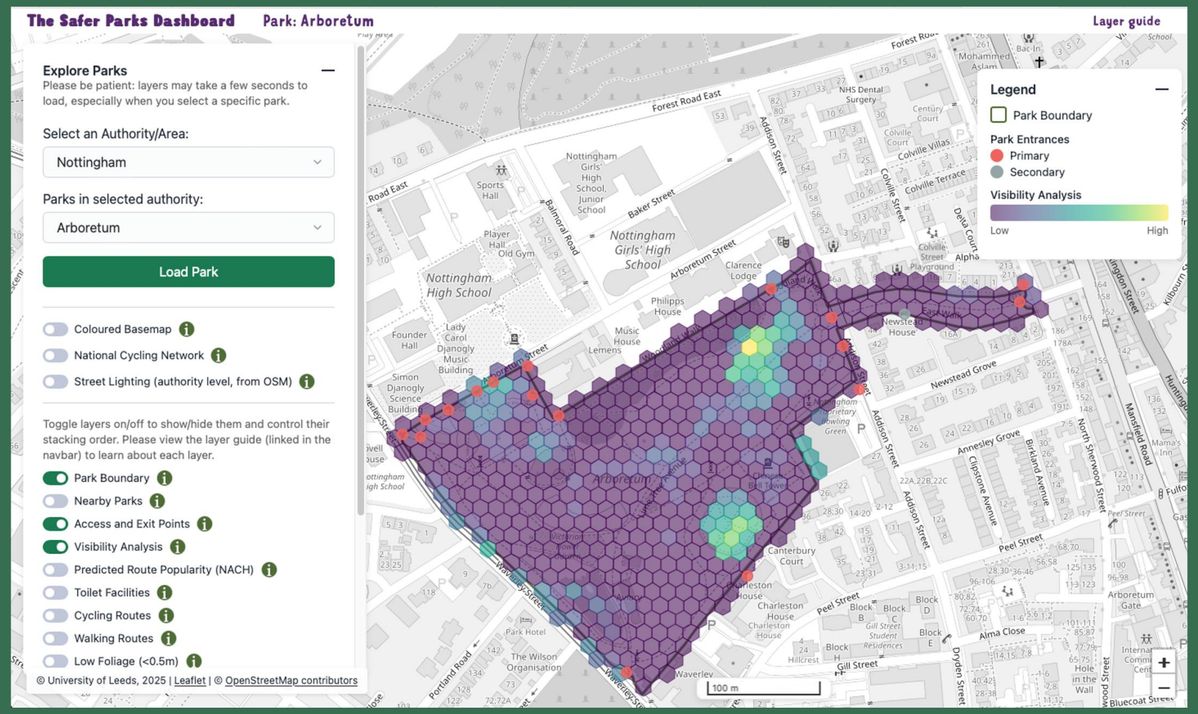
Secured by Design

Official Police Security Initiative

www.securedbydesign.com

THE SAFER PARKS DASHBOARD

An interactive tool that uses open data and spatial insights to help practitioners improve safety and inclusion in parks and green spaces across England and Wales.



Data layers:

- Visibility across the park
- Predicted route popularity
- Park features
- Trees
- Population demographics
- Lighting
- Active travel routes

LOCAL AUTHORITIES



Poorly lit shortcut paths



Dense vegetation



Park management plan

POLICING



Poor lighting in areas with incidents



Areas needing patrol



Repeat incident zones

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS



Community event spaces



Safe play areas



Lack of signage & seating

DESIGNERS & PLANNERS



Understand local green space context



Inform site visits & community engagement

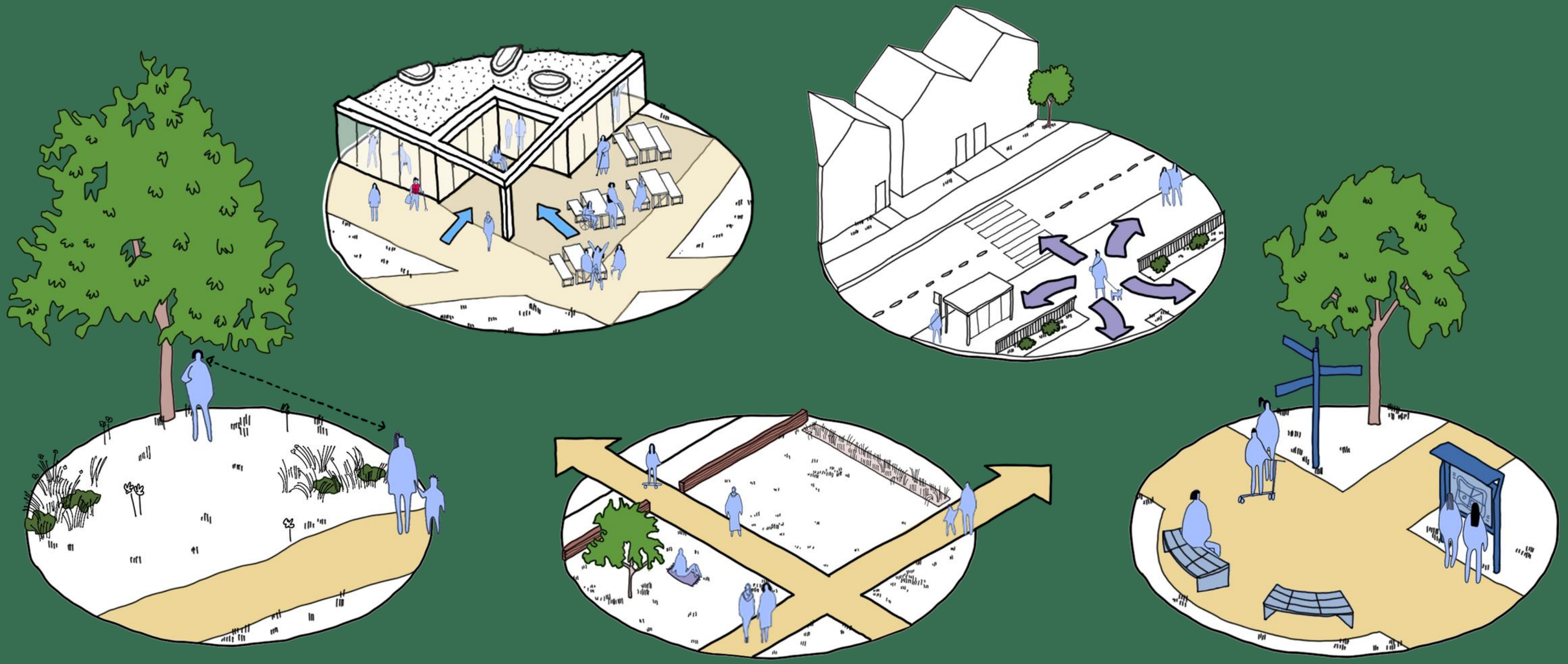


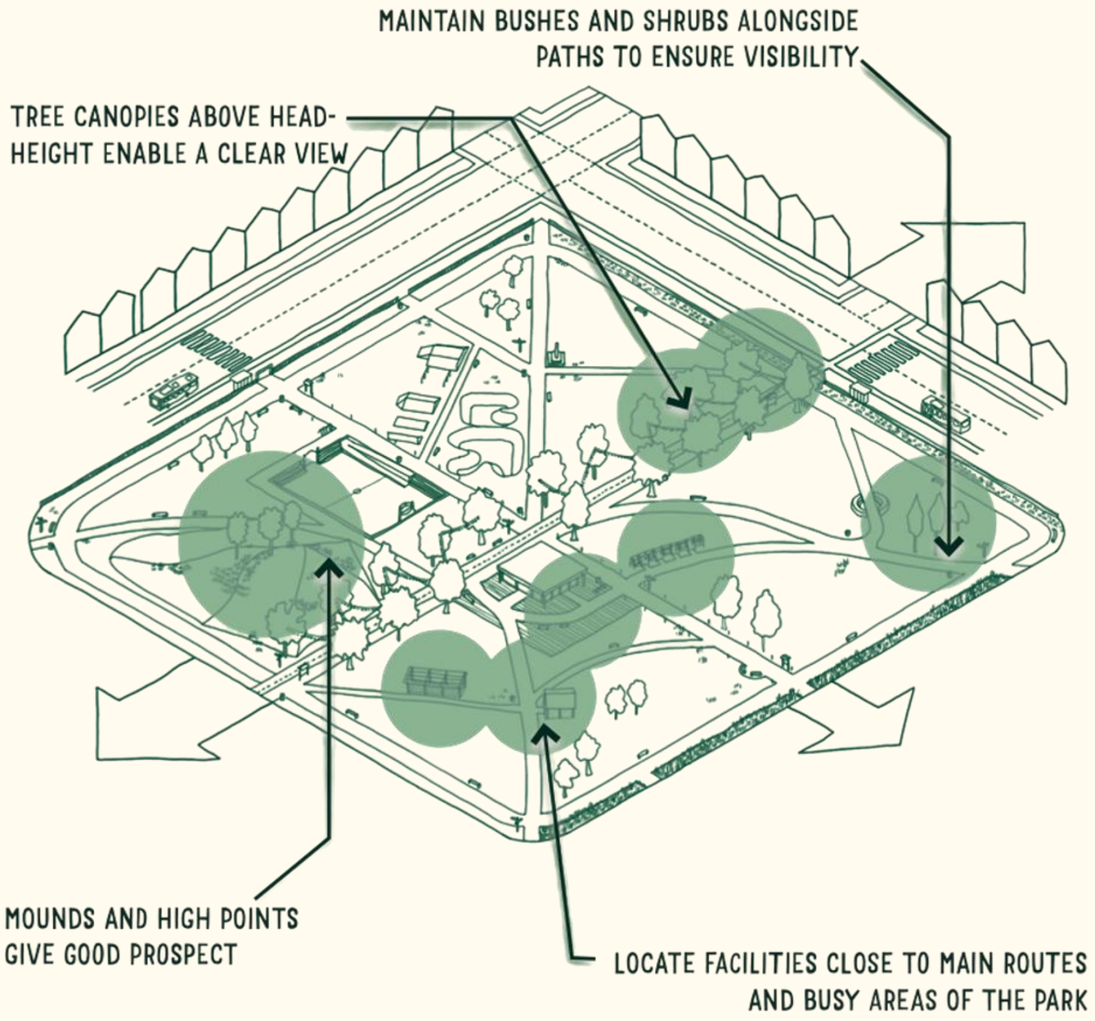
Shape design around women's & girls' needs

IDENTIFY RELEVANT OPEN DATA

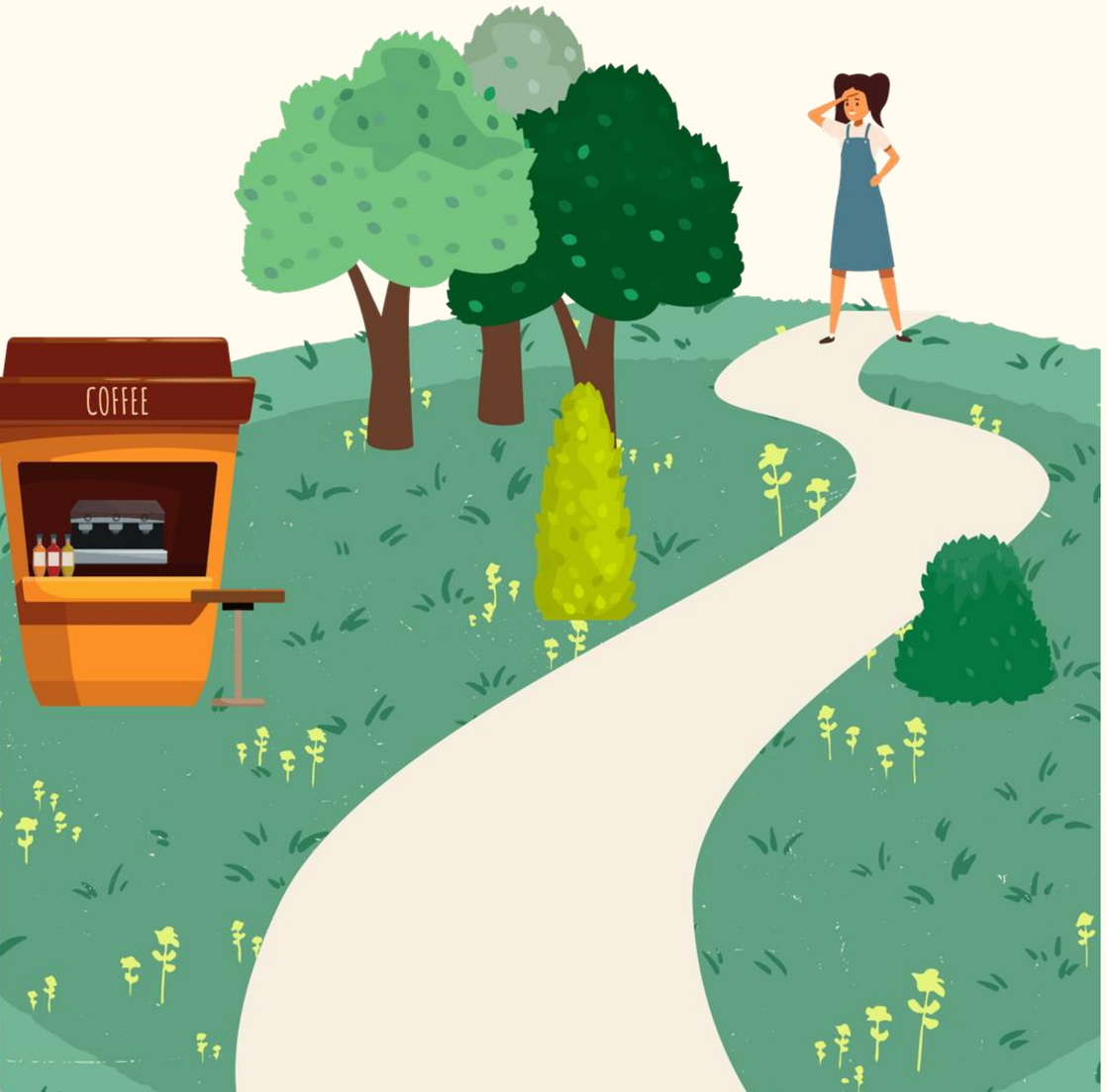
Busyness	My identity	Attitudes towards women	Vegetation	Organised activities	Amenities e.g. cafes	Women-only areas	Exits
Police	Crime	Teenagers	Reputation	CCTV	Familiar parks	Fences or walls	Help points
Presence of women	Drinking or drug use	Lone men	Mixed facilities	Lighting	Friends and family	Groups of men and boys	Mobile safety apps
Bystanders	People of similar identity	Teenagers	Park staff	Middle or edge of park	Harassment	Secluded areas	Darkness / daylight
Statues of women	Anti-social behaviour	Sightlines	Signage and maps	Walking boldly	Dogs	Personal safety measures	Tidy grass

SPATIAL METRIC DEVELOPMENT





VISIBILITY AND OPENNESS – THE ABILITY TO SEE AROUND FOR A GOOD DISTANCE AND BESEEN BY OTHERS – ARE CRUCIAL FOR A PARK TO FEEL SAFE …



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CO-DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

West Yorkshire Combined Authority | Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire

City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council

West Yorkshire Police

wakefield council working for you

Leeds City Council

Calderdale Council

Kirklees Council

Make Space for Girls

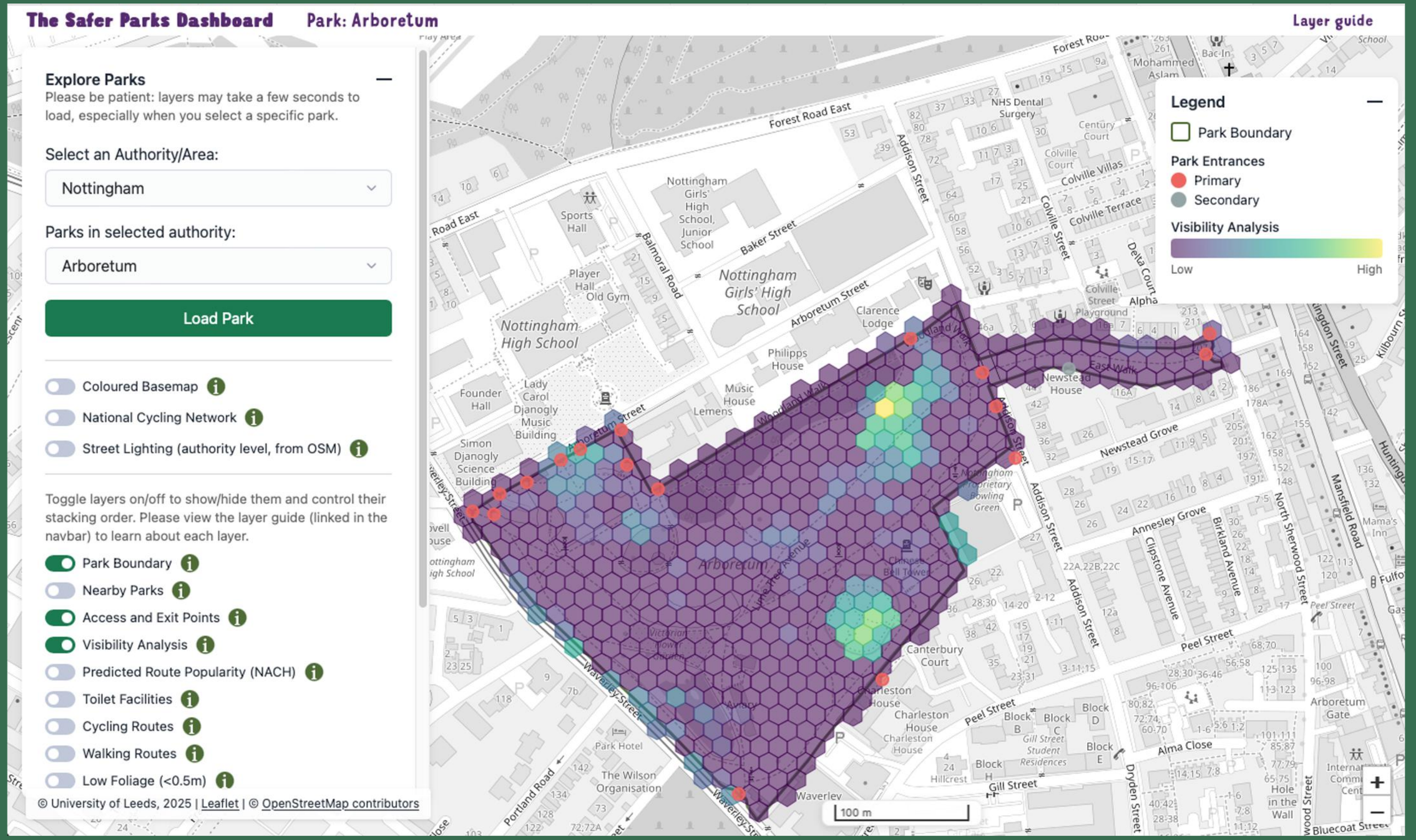
Green Flag Award

Keep Britain Tidy.

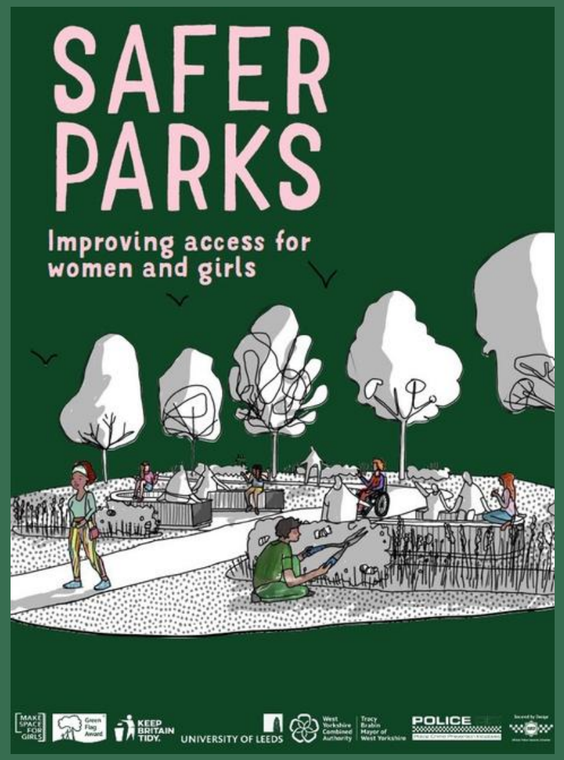
Police CPI – Police Crime Prevention Initiatives

Secured by Design – Official Police Security Initiative



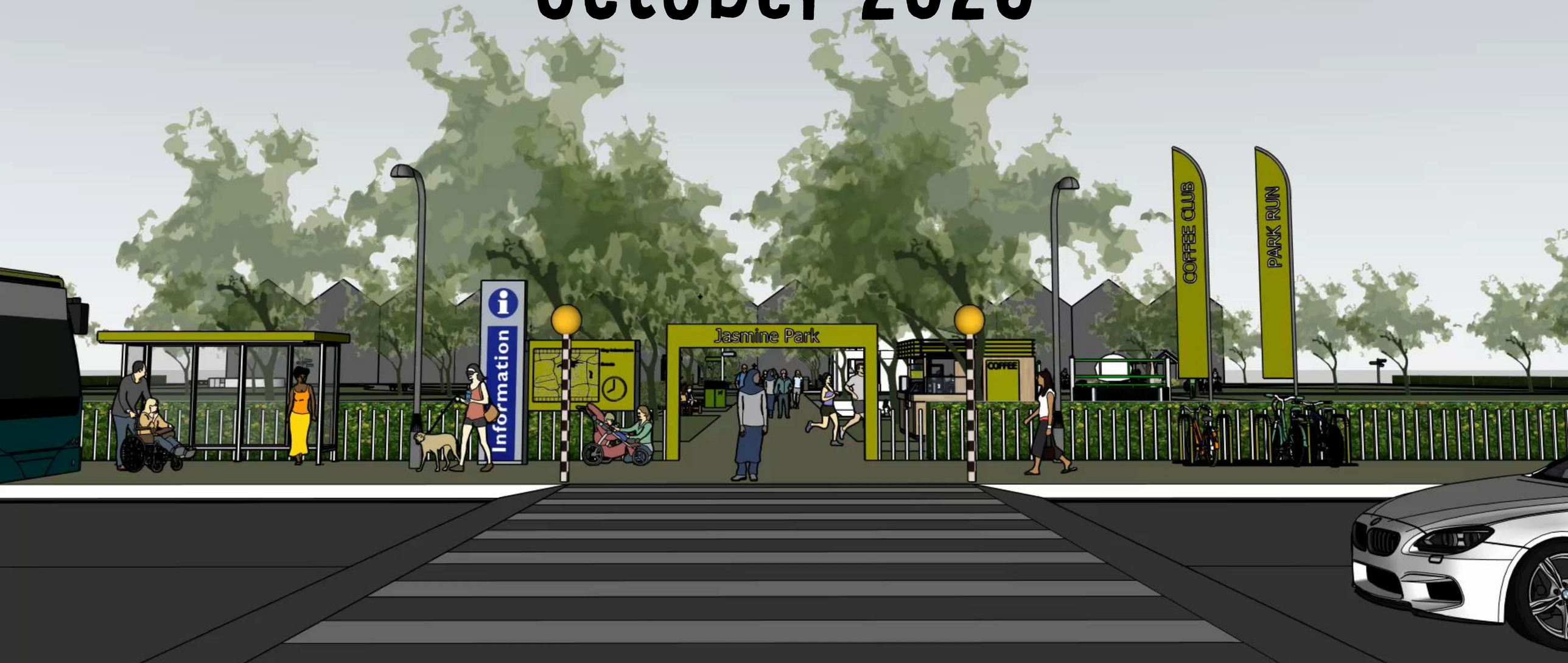

The Safer Parks Dashboard
Park: Arboretum
Layer guide
Explore Parks
Please be patient: layers may take a few seconds to load, especially when you select a specific park.
Select an Authority/Area:
Nottingham
Parks in selected authority:
Arboretum
Load Park
Coloured Basemap
National Cycling Network
Street Lighting (authority level, from OSM)
Toggle layers on/off to show/hide them and control their stacking order. Please view the layer guide (linked in the navbar) to learn about each layer.
Park Boundary
Nearby Parks
Access and Exit Points
Visibility Analysis
Predicted Route Popularity (NACH)
Toilet Facilities
Cycling Routes
Walking Routes
Low Foliage (<0.5m)
Legend
Park Boundary
Park Entrances
Primary
Secondary
Visibility Analysis
Low
High
Arboretum
Nottingham Girls' High School
Nottingham High School
Forest Road East
Addison Street
Arboretum Street
Waverley Street
Peel Street
Newstead Grove
Annesley Grove
Canterbury Court
Charleston House
Gill Street
Alma Close
Portland Road
Park Hotel
The Wilson Organisation
Waverley
Philipps House
Clarence Lodge
Newstead House
Lady Carol Djanogly Music Building
Simon Djanogly Science Building
Founder Hall
Music House Lemens
Player Hall Old Gym
Sports Hall
Nottingham Girls' High School, Junior School
NHS Dental Surgery
Century Court
Colville Court
Colville Villas
Colville Terrace
Colville Street Playground
Delta Court
Alpha
Nottingham Proprietary Bowling Green
Victorian Flower Garden
Lime Tree Avenue
Clipstone Avenue
Birkland Avenue
North Sherwood Street
Mansfield Road
Arboretum Gate
Gill Street Student Residences
Block A
Block B
Block C
Block D
Block E
Block H
Hillcrest
Dryden Street
Hole in the Wall
Bluecoat Street
Mama's Inn
100 m
© University of Leeds, 2025 | Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap contributors

SAFER PARKS DASHBOARD USES:

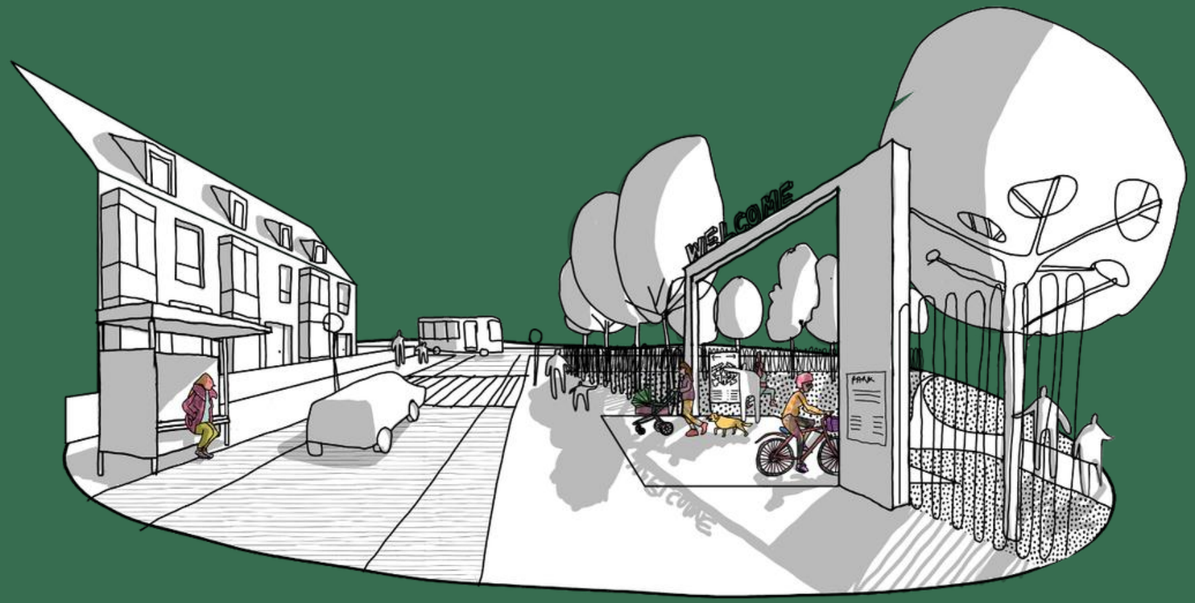


- Understand the local context for green space projects
- Shape designs around women's and girls' needs
- Inform site visits
- Park management plans and strategies
- Evidence for funding applications
- Evidence for targeted improvements / interventions
- Support collaboration with key local partners (e.g. police, local authority)
- Guide community engagement & walk-throughs with community or volunteer groups

SAFER PARKS CPD TRAINING: COMING October 2026



Using open data to improve safety for women & girls



Dashboard launch October 2026

Parks for London's Lunch & Learn webinar

UK Research and Innovation

Research England

Policy Leeds

studio 31

Harper Perry

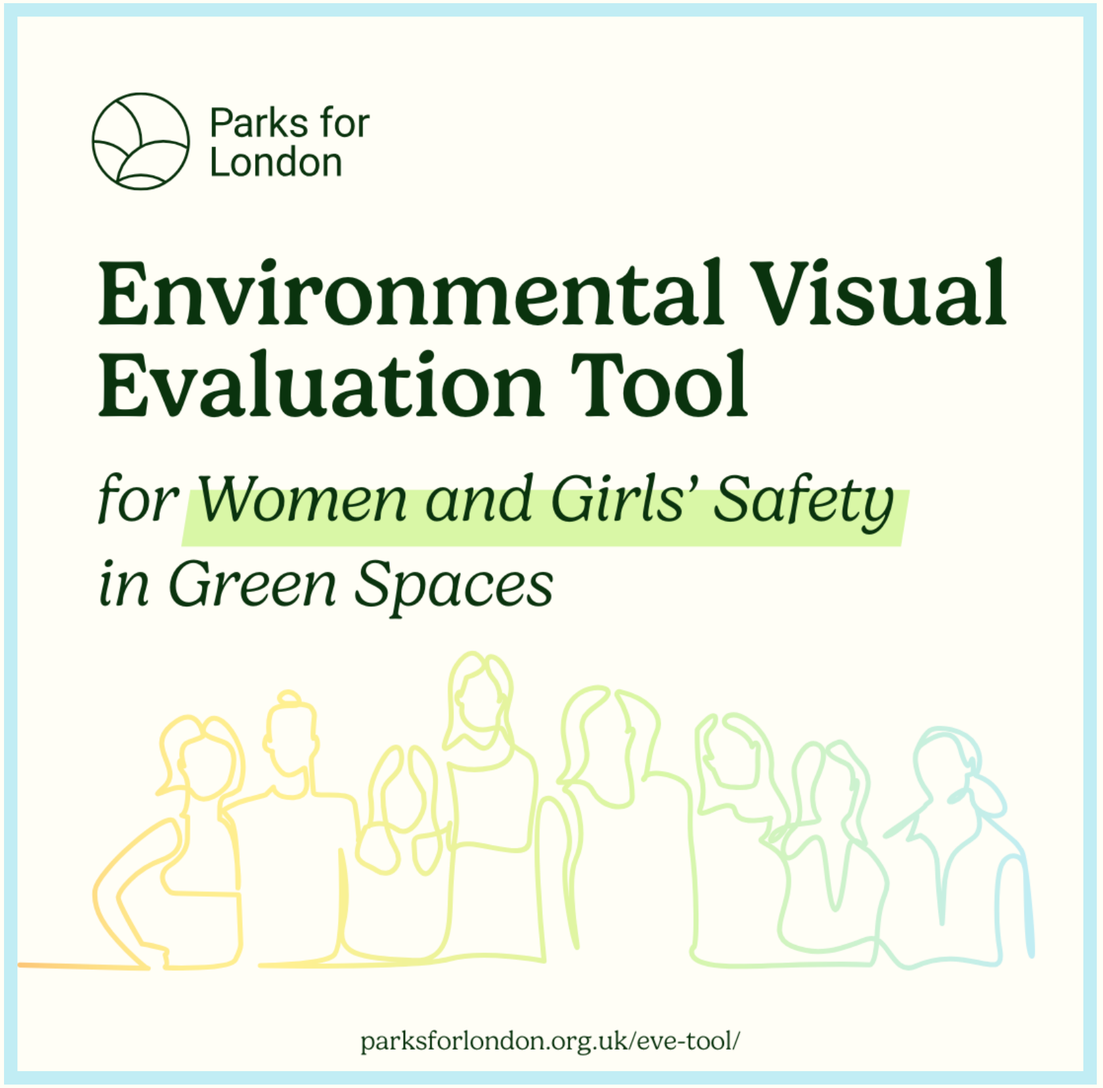
Josie Brookes

Parks for London

EVE Tool

Get your own copy of our free tool, which helps landowners and managers glean insights on women and girls' perspectives of safety in green spaces and identify interventions:

https://tr.ee/eve25



Parks for London

Thank you!

For more on our Lunch & Learn webinars and to save the date for upcoming ones, visit: https://tr.ee/lunch-learn



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@ParksforLondon