

# VIBRANT PARKS

## PARK IDENTIFICATION

The cycle starts with the identification of a park that has the potential to become vibrant. These areas have high potential in terms of development. This potential can lay in the high biological diversity of the park itself or the importance for the local community. Another essential element is the presence of a fenced area: because developing activities with young people is fun, but safety is permanent too! The last element that is taken into account is the proximity to schools and community centres to facilitate the connection between learning environments and green areas.

## SOCIAL ACTION

Moving forward it is important to understand the nature of the social action that can be developed in the park. We must consider that the park may be already used by the local community in more or less formal ways, from music festivals to walking the dogs. It is important to respect these needs, and build a social action that enhance and further promote the park and its needs.

## VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering can be the cornerstone of social action. By involving local people and actors, the park becomes a meeting point for community development and knowledge sharing. Moreover, people often forget about the benefits of volunteering such as job skills development and physical and mental health improvement. Parks need the people as much as people need the parks. By involving volunteering, everybody wins and the park becomes even more vibrant.

## YOUTH-LED REDEVELOPMENT

There is nothing more vibrant than a park full of children! The involvement of young people is important to ensure that the park becomes an educational resource for the community, and that both children and adults are involved together. Moreover, targeting young people to redevelop and improve their parks has huge benefits in terms of individual and social development. For example, the actions can involve the young people to learn about healthy lifestyles, decision-making processes, local heritage, rather than developing team working skills.

## EVENTS

Events create the opportunity for the community to come together and enjoy the park. And what is most important, the Vibrant park uses a “something for everybody” approach, meaning that during the event both adults and children will be able to play football, rather than getting dirty with some planting activities, or just relax and meeting new friends. Events are the perfect chance to bridge people together and create long-lasting relationships.

## SUSTAINABILITY

Once the park is vibrant, it is important that stays so. We can ensure that through the engagement of volunteers, the involvement of private and public actors, and through constant monitoring. A vibrant park will always provide new opportunities for developing new social actions, activities, and events.

