



Call out for events/activity facilitators!

Be part of 'Make Space' York 2025

Sports & exercise, the 'arts', nature based or basically any event/activity that could work in a park - I'd love to hear from you!

In June 2023 the first ever 'Make Space' (for Girls) programme of events and activities in Rowntree Park and the festival ran again in 2024, including events being hosted in Homestead Park too! The focus is on getting teen girls into the park and trying new things, meeting new people, and feeling empowered in the public space - trying to address the drop off of park use as girls enter their teenage years. Each year around 350 girls are involved with amazing feedback. The project won a national award from Green Flag for the 'Best initiative in the UK to increase use of parks by women and girls' in 2023.

2025

I'm looking for facilitators to run events in June 2025. This year the festival will focus on two weekends and two parks:

14th & 15th of June (and maybe the evening of 13th) - Rowntree Park

21st & 22nd June - Homestead Park

(Potentially also some events at West Bank Park on Sunday 29th June as part of their summer fair - tbd)

Each weekend will be packed full of events and activities to encourage lots of girls into the parks and create a real buzz! As well as events and activities that are pre booked, there is the opportunity for people to run stalls and/or drop in activities (and maybe have some food/drink vans - all tbc).

In addition to the festival there will also be an exhibition in 2025 and related activities running to raise awareness of the key issue and present, and gather potential solutions. Creatives will be encouraged to contribute towards this.

Why is this programme needed?

As it stands, as girls enter their teen years, their use of parks decreases. At a time when they should be gaining more independence, many state they don't feel 'welcome' in parks and there is nothing for them. Facilities councils build for 'older children' tend to be BMX tracks, Skateparks, Multi Use Games Areas and Basketball courts - areas that end up dominated by boys. As a result of community engagement the idea of a special programme of events for teen girls was piloted in Rowntree Park to great success in 2023 and ran again in 2024 including additional parks. There is more to the project in general - see links below.

What key information you need to know:

Currently I'm asking facilitators if they'd volunteer for a session - as yet I've not managed to find funding for 2025. I'm still looking, so hopefully there will be some payments/material costs covered but I can't guarantee at this stage. Sadly rarely do grant funders agree to fund ongoing projects - just new ones!

Rowntree Park is a well known venue in York, and the Friends of Rowntree Park have a good reputation for events (most sell out) and a great social media reach, plus a monthly newsletter of over 2000 households. Doing an event in conjunction with us (I'm charity manager) will hopefully have some benefit to your business/organisation/cause. However, I am aware 'exposure' doesn't cover bills BUT if you want to be involved and can volunteer the time, that would be awesome!

2025 June programme - Key info

Examples of sessions in 2023/4 included dance, orienteering, football, basketball, pilates & yoga, running, musical theatre, drama printing, illustration, zine making, film making, photography, a spa day, Forest school related sessions and much more!

- **Ideally facilitators will volunteer their time.** However if you'd like to be involved but only if funding is available - also let me know if this is the case on the form.
- Events/activities can be 1-2 hours - it's down to you.
- **Session size is decided by you** - generally 15 people is an average number for sessions needing resources or has one facilitator. Some sessions can take more people - depends what works for you.
- **Run 1 session or run 2** - you decide!
- **Most sessions are pre-book** (via us) but in 2025 we may have some drop in sessions/activity stalls - if you prefer this for what you are offering, just indicate on the form.
- **Sessions are generally aimed at girls 10-18** BUT some can include younger, some may include teen girls and women (it's great for mothers and daughters to do things together), or it may be you have a 12+ or similar age range. You decide based on your activity - happy to discuss this with you.
- **Sessions will run at weekends only in 2025** between hours of 9-7.30pm. There is the potential for a Friday evening from 4.30-7.30pm.
- **Sessions are outside in the park** - the aim is getting girls into the public space (so your activity must be suitable for this). Weather can lead to events being postponed/cancelled but luckily this has rarely happened.
- **Facilitators need some some paperwork in place** - will need public liability insurance and to do a risk assessment (help and support can be provided if needed). If you have DBS checks - even better (not essentials and can be discussed). Parents/carers are asked to remain responsible for their child at sessions.
- **Events will be booked via our system** (if booking needed). Events are free to attend.
- **You are responsible for your event** -when agreeing to run a session, you agree to be responsible to run your event/activity and uphold the aims and values programme as well as professionalism. This includes bringing equipment needed, taking photographs/film for promotional material/social media sharing, using our promotional material in advance and on the day, and let me know regarding attendance/feedback. I will do lots of promotion and sharing of info with you before the day, and support as much (or little) as needed.
- **Need resources/equipment?** - There may be some funding available for resources if your event requires them, so let me know. We have some basic equipment that can be borrowed including foldable tables, a gazebo and stools.

All the other logistics can be discussed a little further along the line. I have basic funding to cover core costs (programme/advertising) and I'll be continuing to look for further funding/sponsors.

What information we need to know:

You can complete the 'expression of interest' form [here](#)

By expressing interest you are not committing yourself to be involved. I also can't guarantee all applicants will make the final programme as it's important there is a balance of activities and not too many similar things - variety is the spice and all that!

Summary

If you have any questions at this stage, do drop me a line at either makespaceyork@gmail.com or hello@rowntreepark.org.uk

Just for Information

- Our 'Best of the Best' award was awarded by Green Flag for 2023-24 Festival.
- I was invited to speak at York Theatre as part of the 'Women of the World' show in October 2024
- 'Safer Parks for women and girls' May 2023 - I presented at the conference at Leeds University along with the Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, and other key figures, and our work is included in the guidance distributed to councils - *Safer Parks: Improving access for women and Girls (Greenflag/University of Leeds)*.
- 'Make Space for Girls' in Rowntree Park is also mentioned in other research and publications including
 - Make space for us- Women in Sport/Yorkshire Sport*
 - Inclusive Spaces for girls and young people - Homes England*
 - Go Parks London*
- As well as a programme of events, with local girls I have been creating an area in Rowntree Park with equipment girls asked for. This opened in May 2025 and the aim is to continue to add to this when funding is found. Initial funders included the Sweaty Betty Foundation, the Whitwam Family Charitable Foundation & the Micklegate Ward.
- There is an organisation called ['Make Space for Girls'](#) who campaign for parks to be designed with teen girls in mind. I actually now work as an associate for the charity and do engagement work across the country and also run their social media. Although the York project I run is related in some ways - the festival and activity programme is separate and completely unique to us here in York, trailblazing in fact!

Any questions at any point, do not hesitate to contact me - and thank you once again for helping raise awareness that we need to 'Make Space for Girls' in parks (and all public spaces!)

