

## Inclusive facilities

Dedication to accessibility shines through in the new toilet block at Mallards Pike, it offers gender-neutral and wheelchair accessible toilets, a baby changing unit, and a versatile family room. A ladies-only toilet has been maintained to respect individual preferences and religious beliefs. At the cafe most dietary requirements can be catered for and purpose built overhangs on picnic tables in the picnic area allow wheelchair users to sit comfortably at the table.



## Future thinking

Plans for a Changing Places unit are in the pipeline, inspired by requests from a local inclusive cycling group. Following the success of the accessible launch point on the lake for watersports, the Forestry England are in the process of finding a watersports operator to provide facilities for people with access requirements to enjoy sports on the lake.

# ACCESS ALL AREAS

Spotlighting Inclusivity in Gloucestershire

## Improvements

Forestry England have worked hard to ensure people of all abilities can discover the magic of nature at Mallards Pike. Consideration has been given to all access ways to make the site wheelchair and walking-aid friendly, including a carefully sloped car park entrance and purpose-built level access to the Cafe, toilets, and picnic areas. The 800-meter lakeside trail is hardened and gently sloped authentic forest floor surface. There are several accessible benches for rest stops, two wide pedestrian bridges and clear signage marking accessible routes.



## Planning ahead

Detailed accessibility information, is available via a dedicated guide on the Mallards Pike website. Information includes photos, measurements for access ways and toilet facilities to build confidence for visitors planning their visit. Maps and leaflets are available in alternative formats and can be requested before a visit.

## Transport

Mallard Pike is located near the Family Cycle Trail, Buses 727 and 717 connect Mallard Pike with local towns, however, the 20 minute walk from the nearest bus stop can be a challenge for some. For those traveling by car there is an ample car park with accessible parking spaces within 50 meters of the main entrance, and a drop-off point with a lowered kerb. Blue badge parking is also available close to the main picnic area, toilets, and cafe. Visitors can pay for parking at nearby machines or by phone or online prior to their arrival.

“Mallards Pike is actually a beautiful lake surrounded by woodland. The whole area is a delightful walking experience with different trails, although disabled are rather limited in what we can do, but more than enough to keep us happy. Toilets are available, and during the summer a small cafe which can be very handy. Your wheelchairs and scooters have an accessible ride all around the lake and no matter what time of the year you come here the scenery is a delight. We drove round to park in one of two disabled bays, right opposite toilet block. On the opposite bank, wheelchairs are able to cope to enjoy the delightful scenery.”

Disabled Traveler  
Birmingham, UK