

Case study: Pasachalyne Eze (Lyn) age 29

Lyn is a regular volunteer at ICOS and frequents the park to volunteer and provide advice on major projects.

Lyn's frequent visits to the park come from her desire to connect with others in a relaxed, natural setting, socialising and bonding in this close community. She values the conversations sparked during casual meetups as they can offer new perspectives or make her laugh, the friendly faces that pass by build a strong sense of belonging and community. The park is a place where she comes to relax and detach from the outside world, as her job is incredibly difficult and stressful. The park and ICOS are something which provides an escape for her, somewhere she can enjoy the people and nature alike.

Socializing in the park has allowed Emily to be an active member of several community initiatives such as Backhouse Park's famous Family Day. She wants to get involved in other ICOS projects and sporting activities as she has plenty of experience in ball sports and wants to share her skills. This is partly the reason which sparked her interest in volunteering at ICOS. To get involved in the community and share her skills.

There are some areas which she has noticed which she is championing to be improved. The main one is levelling some of the fields in the park so ball games can be played, like football. Backhouse Park has several large green spaces that could be suitable for field games, such as football, but would require some effort to turn into a suitable pitch. If this could be done, Lyn could offer football coaching as she is an established player in the game, having trained for a significant amount of time.

The improvements Lyn envisions are more than just physical changes, they represent the community coming together to achieve something and work towards a common goal. Building a dynamic space that is more inclusive for the wider community, brushing differences aside and bonding over common interests.

Lyn aims to improve the park anyway she can, whether that be through direct intervention or ideas and thoughts.