

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5 - November 2023

 **AlderHeyHospital**

 **@AlderHey**



Park Restoration Continues At Pace

We continue to work really hard to finish the development of Springfield Park and we're making really good progress towards returning it to the community.

The Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), Trim Trail and Forest School are all completed and being used regularly which is great to see. Our planting scheme is well underway; around 150 trees are being planted over the next couple of months, with over 350 trees of several types and sizes to be planted overall. Find out more about our planting scheme on page 3!

Despite facing significant challenges – including accidental damage to underground pipes and cables, vandalism, and very bad weather, all causing unforeseen but sadly unavoidable delays – the majority of the park works are still on course to be completed by December, with the last remaining pieces of work to be completed in Spring 2024.



Lighting

We have reached agreement on the provision of lighting to the main routes within the Park. We know this was an important feature for many of you and the lighting equipment is already being installed, ready to be connected once the Park is complete.

PUBLIC MEETING

SPRINGFIELD PARK

Wednesday 6th December 2023
6.00pm-7.30pm (doors open at 5:30pm)
Institute in the Park at Alder Hey



Get Involved! Help us develop a Park that's right for you!

Contact SpringfieldPark@alderhey.nhs.uk or visit www.alderhey.nhs.uk for news about Alder Hey and Springfield Park!

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Football Pitches Underway

Recent bad weather has delayed work to the football pitches but initial seed planting has been completed. Grass needs a long time to establish before it can be played on, so we wanted to start seeding as soon as we were able to.

We were ready to begin drainage works on the football pitches in September, but torrential downpours halted work rendering the surface too soft for the drainage installation vehicles to drive on.

If the ground is too soft to support the vehicles properly, they will churn up and

compact the soil affecting future growth.

In consultation with our contractors and independent sports pitch specialists, we have been advised to now wait until Spring 2024 to install the drainage.

When we do come to install the drainage, we may need to dig up parts of the pitches where grass has grown, but we'll make sure that we will protect and replace the grass.

As with the rest of the Park, we remain committed to ensuring the pitches are of the highest quality before handing them over to the community.



Play Park Equipment

The new children's playground is taking shape; sand pit areas have been developed and the space is ready for the new play equipment to be installed in the coming weeks. Frustratingly, the delivery of the specialist bespoke benches required in the play area have been delayed by our supplier until January 2024. This means we are unable to undertake the final surfacing and complete the playground until early next year. The current playground will remain open until the new one is ready for use, although the accessible seesaw will soon be relocated to enable the new Park to open in its totality.



Image of seesaw is an example and for illustration only.

We are disappointed that progress to the pitches and the children's playground have been impacted; we have been working hard to complete these and we are sorry that we haven't been able to achieve the time frame we set out at the meeting with the community in September. We will continue to explore opportunities to bring these works forward and will do all we can to complete them as soon as possible.

Benefitting Nature Through Planting

The planting strategy for the Park sets out to create a mosaic of different habitats with an aim to increase biodiversity and the health of local wildlife.

The inclusion of a variety of types and sizes of tree and different plant species, alongside woodland areas, wildflower

meadows and swales will encourage ecosystems and microhabitats to thrive. These will provide perfect environments for lots of different species of insects, hedgehogs, bats, bees, birds and fauna. The planting design also includes wildlife features such as rotting wood piles, bare soil, water features,

hedgehog houses and bird boxes. Together with the diverse species of trees and nectar rich and fruit bearing plants, they will create food sources, foraging areas, nesting sites, shelter and perches.

Following consultation with Friends of Springfield Park we have adjusted the planting layout to include: the relocation of the cherry trees from the helipad area to East Prescott Road; removing proposed meadow turf to maintain open space for public use; assurance to only plant cherry trees in between some trees in the existing Park; and the relocation of some of the hedging to strengthen the fencing by the nature trail route and avoid anti-social use of the loop line.

Over 350 trees are being planted as part of the Park development. We are reviewing further options to see if it is possible to retain the three willow trees. This review is ongoing and is taking into consideration the different ground levels and the position of the trees in



Images of planting are examples and for illustration only.

relation to drainage routes and footpaths. If there is a chance to retain all three willow trees than we will endeavour to do so. A final decision will only be made when we have completed this review and informed the community.

Improving Drainage in the Park

There are challenges with drainage across the Park site and we have included features into the Park design to mitigate this. This includes adding recycling crushed material from the old hospital below the topsoil; enhancing planting on the Hospital campus to absorb run-off water and installing permeable paving to paths and play areas.

Included in the design is also a swale and basin to the northern boundary of the Park. Swales are an effective, sustainable and environmentally friendly

drainage solution as they provide a natural habitat for local wildlife while also reducing water run-off.

The swale will largely remain dry but will help divert excess run off water from the Park and the proposed development next to the site.

There are other options to reduce the risk of flooding that if necessary we can explore in the future. We will also continue to work with United Utilities around potential use of the drainage network and any additional acceptable measures.



Images of typical swales and basins are examples and for illustration only.

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MUGA Opens

We were delighted to announce the opening of the Multi Use Games Area in August. The MUGA features a multi-sports play court, outdoor Park gym and trim trail and is open from 9am to 10pm.

We have resolved the lighting issues but please continue to get in touch with us if the problem continues.



PUBLIC MEETING SPRINGFIELD PARK

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Find out more

To find out more about the Springfield Park redevelopment please email SpringfieldPark@alderhey.nhs.uk

Alder Hey has two dedicated community liaison officers - Howard Davies and Tracie Cousineau - who can help answer any queries and concerns from the local

community. Please contact them on SpringfieldPark@alderhey.nhs.uk or look out for them on their regular walkabouts in the Park.

Latest news and updates about the Park can also be found in the dedicated Springfield Park section on the Alder Hey website www.alderhey.nhs.uk