

Proposed Plan of Park at Neagh Road



Park Walkway



Play Islands



A Place to Meet



Planting & Natural Materials

Key Concepts

Have your say...

From discussions held with the local residents the priorities for the park redesign are to provide a safe, interesting, green space for people in the Neagh Road area and to focus the play area on younger children up to the age of 12. Is there anything else you think should be highlighted?

The play pieces indicated are a guide and may be subject to change. In principle the pieces will include a slide, a bridge, a swing, a 'Supernova' rotating ring and some interactive musical pieces. Accessibility to all is one of the main considerations in selecting the equipment. It is hoped that natural materials will be used as much as possible in the play pieces. What do you think?

An open grassed kickabout area is proposed - this allows for a range of other activities to take place in the space. Do you agree or would you think a hard surfaced kickabout would be more suited here?

An important aim of the project is to strengthen the parks identity. It will be totally transformed from how it looks now. Do you think it would be a good idea to change the name of the park and what would be your suggestion?

Any additional comments you may have.....

This form can also be found at
www.dublincity/recreationandculture/dublincityparks/pages/planningdesign.
 Please return your suggestions to Dublin City Council Parks by
 Wednesday 9th of September 2009.



Parks & Landscape Services Division
www.dublincity.ie

Proposed Park Design August 2009



NEAGH ROAD



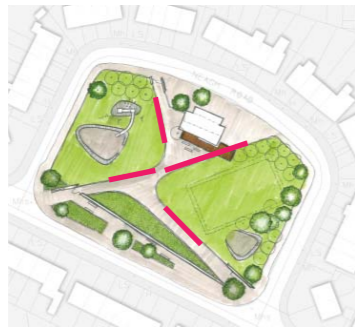
Have your say..!



Parks & Landscape Services Division

Background

Dublin City Council Parks & Landscape Services Division have been working closely with the local residents on the proposed redevelopment of the park at Neagh Road. To date there has been three meetings in total; an initial introductory one to establish the scope of the work, an interim presentation showing the developing design concept in April, and a presentation of the proposed design on the 18th of June. In addition visits were organised to five parks constructed in the last 4 years as part of the design consultation process. The concept design has been completed and the Parks Division are currently planning the design detail stage.



Concept Design

Initial meetings were held with the Four Roads residents committee to discuss the requirements, needs and wishes of the local residents, with residents presenting sketches and plans of how they saw the redesigned space. Out of these discussions the concept of a park as a place for people to meet, play, socialise, and relax in a very green, safe and natural setting arose. 'Increasing the green' was a priority both visually in terms of increasing grassed areas and in considering nature and the biodiversity of the area to create a space that would perhaps encourage more wildlife. Openness and accessibility for all was central to resident's requirements and it was also important that the park would look just as good from the outside as it would from within.

Features & Functions

Neagh Road Park covers an area of approximately 4000 sq metres - just under an acre. To the east of the space is the grass kickabout area. To the west within the sloping earthmounds are four 'play islands' containing play equipment.

Play Islands

The idea behind the play islands is to create a less prescriptive play area to encourage opportunities for more imaginative and creative play. The islands will be linked by play pieces such as a bridge and a slide along with carefully chosen equipment such as the 'Supernova' rotating ring and some interactive musical elements. Natural colours and natural materials will be used where possible. Here are some suggested choices.....



Kickabout Area

The grass kickabout area, measuring 15m X 24 m becomes a multifunctional space that can be used for picnics, relaxing and a variety of other active and passive events. Landforming is central to the redesign of the park, providing physical and visual interest to both park users and those passing by. By creating some gentle slopes, areas for play are made, and the kickabout area, surrounded by slopes on all sides, can be contained.

Planting

Where possible the existing trees will be kept and the new design will make the most of these, incorporating them into the entrances and enhancing the park boundary. New tree planting will include *Betula* (Birch) species, it's lighter leaf foliage will provide a good contrast with the existing mixed deciduous species including *Tilia* (Lime), *Prunus* (Cherry) and *Acer* (Maple). In addition naturalised herbaceous planting, grasses and wildflower areas will be planted to provide a soft contrast to the strong shapes in the park, and bring colour, texture and movement to Neagh Road Park.

Lighting



Lighting on the main pathways and also to the trees at the entrances create interest in the evenings, especially in winter when the days are shorter. The park functions as a visual amenity in times when weather might not allow the space be used.

Additional Information

The existing railings are not in good condition and cannot be re-used. Part of the design challenge was to create a safe enclosure whilst keeping an open welcoming atmosphere. It is proposed that a simple one metre high railing be used in conjunction with similar height walls (at entrances) to enclose the space. Planting ensures that the railings do not dominate the space. The Park Walkway creates a boulevard to the south that allows people walking past feel part of the park without always having to walk through. This will also provide an additional protective noise barrier from the passing Neagh Road traffic. Informal seating is provided by the plinth wall that is created as the path gently slopes down towards the centre of the park. Additional bench seating will be provided within the park itself. The park is served by four entrances.

An emphasis is placed on using natural materials and natural colours to provide a contrast with the green grass, planting and foliage of the trees. Bat boxes and bird boxes will be installed to encourage more wildlife to the park.