

Parks Project Update October – December 2023

Ward	Site	Project	Status
Barnes	Leg O' Mutton	Minor repairs were made to the fence line along the towpath with further repairs scheduled for Winter. The steps at the entrances are being repaired to ensure they are safe along with a repair to the gate.	Due to be complete by Spring
		Sediment sampling has been arranged to test the suitability for a flood resilience project on site.	Ongoing
	Castelnau Recreation Ground	The Parks Team have applied to the Community Fund for funding to make improvements to the play area, outdoor gym and MUGA. We will complete a public consultation for the addition of a basket swing. If funding is secured the Parks Team will move forwards with the improvement works in 2024	Ongoing
		Bulbs are to be planted along the pathway leading from the MUGA to the wooden play equipment, this is to enhance the display on site	Due to be planted over winter
East Sheen	East Sheen Common	Barnes Common Limited are starting a one-year contract for management of the woodland on the Common.	Ongoing
		Way makers to the play area and bungalow have been installed to aid visitors exploring the site	Complete
		The Parks Team have arranged for the net bridge in the play area to be replaced with a more robust bridge	Complete
	Palewell Common	Barnes Common Limited are starting a one-year contract for management of the woodland and nature conservation areas on the site Common.	Ongoing
		The Parks Team and Barnes Common Limited with support of the Friends introduced pollination stations on this site at the back and side of the main field and in the dog free area.	Ongoing
Fulwell and Hampton Hill	Holly Road Recreation Ground	The outdoor gym has been installed and has been well received by the local public. As part of the project there will be an extension to the existing footpath so that the gym is accessible in 2024.	Due to be completed 2024
Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside	The Copse	The Parks team are reviewing the section of pathway that meets the top of the access road through the site with a view to improving drainage in the area. Bark mulch was added as a temporary measure to improve ground conditions at the busy crossing area next to the access road in Dec 2023.	In progress
	Terrace Gardens	Aphrodite Fountain - minor repairs by Facilities Management still due following this the fountain will be back up and running. Bulbs have been added to the beds surrounding the fountain. Major reductions to old older woody shrubs due in winter with new plants and bulbs are being added to the woodland area. Hoarding has been placed around old toilet block to improve security of the building to help prevent antisocial behaviour in this area of the	Ongoing

		gardens. A selection of alliums have been added to the upper tier beds that surround the old toilet block.	
	Ham Village Green	In December 2023 Ham Village Greens Play Area has received a new wooden climbing frame to replace the existing log climber and three freestanding interactive play panels. The basket swing at site has been relocated to the opposite side of the play area to allow space for hoarding for the development of the new community centre that is part of the Ham Close Development. We ensured works were completed ahead of the commencement of the building works (Feb 2024), to ensure continuity of play provision for this site.	Complete
Hampton	Garricks Lawn	The Parks Team are working with the Trust on a new planting scheme which has been implemented. Pathways will be redefined, and the new beds will be formally edged. New planting to be gapped up. Winter works to reduce existing shrubs will be completed by the end of March 2024.	Ongoing
	St Albans Riverside	The Parks Team has replaced the metal railings that sit next to the Duke of Northumberland's confluence to the river Thames. Gravel was added to the sloped area by the sites gazebo to improve access.	Complete
Hampton North	Hampton Common	The Parks Team have created a large area towards the Oak Avenue and stable side of the site which has been made into a pollination station. The grass area has got routes cut through and through funding from the GLA there will be additional tree planting and the Ecology Team will be installing dead heading in the corner of the park favoured by hedgehogs for added protection. Bulbs to be added to the Buckingham road side of the site to increase the existing area. Funding has been received for use in the common. The funding will be used for tree planting, creation of pollination stations, ecological baseline surveys, creation of dark corridors by changing street lighting bordering on the nature conservation areas and promoting community engagement. Last September a portable toilet was placed in the former ambulance building on Tangley Park Road to provide toilet facilities for the youth football team. The presence of this new facility has not attracted any negative feedback since it came into use.	Ongoing
	Oak Avenue LNR	The Ecology Team arranged for a new nature pond to be created on site, this has been completed in October. The pond is due to be planted up in the spring. Forge Lane entry will have new fencing and natural daffodils planted before end of 2023.	Due to be complete by end of 2023
Hampton Wick	Broom Road Recreation Ground	Parks team are planning to add play items and consult with local groups for input on doing this	Ongoing

		during 2024. Also using data collated as part of our youth consultation.	
Heathfield	Hounslow Heath	The woodland area will be planted with 150 whips during the winter to succeed the many dead elms that dominate this area.	Ongoing
	Jubilee Meadow	A new hedgerow has been gapped up and mulched as part of a corporate volunteer day through TCV.. There will be 32 new trees planted in the meadow, 26 have already been planted the rest will be planted in winter. Hedgerow gapping up to take place over winter. Hedgehog habitats to be created and stag beetle loggeries have already been installed.	Complete
Kew	Westerley Ware	The Council organised the installation of a new spider net, wetpour repairs and a replacement boat in the play area.	Complete
	Kew Pond	Reedbed management work to take place during winter. Works will take place in November-January	Due to be complete by Spring
	Kew Pier	Following the tree fall on the towpath by Kew Pier the Parks Team have arranged for the railings to be repaired and repainted and the information board and post to be repaired and repainted. Further repairs are required to the railings which back onto Westerley Ware.	Due to be complete January 2024
Mortlake and Barnes Common	Vine Road Recreation Ground	The Parks Team organised repairs to the artificial grass play mound and slide in the recreation ground	Complete in September
		The Parks Team are organising repainting of the parking lines on site to ensure they are visible for all users	Due to be complete in January
	Barn Elms Southside	The Parks Team are investigating the possibility of an outdoor gym at this site, alongside this we will add a new entrance gate closer to the Beverley Brook side and reduce the mowing in the corner of the site to increase biodiversity. The first step is a public consultation, if there is support the project go ahead will be subject to available funding.	Ongoing
	Mortlake Green	Bulbs are being planted on the hill and in front of Cromwell Place to provide a spring display on the Green	Due to be planted over winter
North Richmond	Tangier Green	The Parks Team are arranging installation of interactive play panels on this site. These will be fence mounted and will provide inclusive play.	Due to be installed by February 2024
	Raleigh Road Recreation Ground	The Parks Team are arranging installation of interactive play panels on this site. These will be installed throughout the site and will provide inclusive play opportunities.	Due to be installed by March 2024
		Bulbs are being planted to provide a display in spring on the grass surrounding the pathway	Due to be planted over winter

South Richmond	Old Deer Park – adjacent to the carpark, formerly known as the Fun Fair Site	<p>The Council have been working with the Old Deer Park Working Group to develop a new linked footpath between the car park and the Riverside to increase public access and enjoyment of this attractive and historic area.</p> <p>The work has commenced, with the pathway and boardwalk being created.</p>	On hold due to weather conditions
	Mears Walk	Tulip bulbs are to be added to the beginning of the walk to create a visual display that can be seen from Richmond Bridge	Due to be planted over winter
	Rotary Gardens	Bulbs are to be planted on the pathway which leads up to Cambourne Path, this is to enhance the existing display on site	Due to be planted over winter
South Twickenham	Radnor Gardens	The Council have refreshed the planting in Radnor Gardens, additional planting has been added to the rockery and the rose garden and the planting in the herb garden is being refreshed.	Ongoing
	Wellesley Road Open Space	The Parks Team arranged for the surfacing to be repaired to ensure the site is safe and in a good playable condition.	Complete in September
St Margarets and North Twickenham	Craneford Way	The Council is exploring improvements to the facilities on the site including the addition of new play and fitness/sports facilities. There will be a public consultation, following this the project go-ahead is subject to available funding.	In progress
	Mereway Nature Park	New river renaturalisation project will be undertaken, removing another section of concrete bank and installing artificial berms and gravels into the river channel.	Due to be completed by March 2024
	River Crane at London Road	New berm to be installed in the river on northern bank	Due to be completed by March 2024
Teddington	Church Road Play Area	Fence mounted play panels have been ordered for this site – delivery due in Feb 2024.	Due March 2024
	Grove Gardens	The Parks Team has supplied the newly formed Friends of Grove Gardens with 300 white and lilac crocus to plant at site. Local beekeepers have prepared an area in the “old yard” at site and a small hive will be added in the spring of 2024. The Parks Team are rejuvenating one area of the shrub beds to add year round interest for pollinators.	Ongoing
	Manor Gardens	The Council have selected a contractor to reinstate the historic drinking water fountain at this site.	Ongoing
	Jubilee Gardens	Bulbs to be added to enhance the existing ones on the bund area. The Parks team will seek to improve the shrub beds in 2024 due to box blight in the existing hedge.	In progress
Twickenham Riverside	Orleans Gardens	The Council is reviewing proposals to improve the play provision at Orleans Gardens. Here we are proposing to install a new multi-play climbing unit	Ongoing

		and a basket swing. The project go-ahead is subject to available funding.	
	Oak Lane Cemetery	The northern side of the cemetery will be reseeded, this side of the cemetery will remain closed for a minimum of 3 month to allow the grassland to re-establish.	Ongoing
	York House Gardens	The Parks Team are arranging for repairs to the Japanese pond. This will include resecuring the boundary rocks, filling any gaps in the surface to ensure there are no leaks. Aquatic plants will be installed in the pond.	Expected to be complete by end of winter
	Cambridge Gardens	<p>'Friendly Parks for All'</p> <p>The Parks Team are working with Lets Go Outside and Learn to designate this park at the 6th Friendly Park for All in the borough. We are working with MenCap to address the barriers the group faces when accessing a Parks and Open Spaces. A public consultation was run for further improvements including an outdoor gym, sensory/community garden and boat sculptures. The results will be analysed and if there is support the project go ahead will be subject to funding.</p> <p>The project will look to include a way marked trail and other improvements to make this an accessible space.</p>	Ongoing
West Twickenham	Kneller Gardens	<p>'Friendly Parks for All'</p> <p>A new sculpture has been installed, the artist completed the engraving on site 'And still I rise', new railings have been installed around the sculpture. A sensory garden area an accessible pathway has now been installed around this sculpture. Bulbs to be added for spring interest in the area.</p> <p>300 spring bulbs added to site with CL, Friends and Green gyms support.</p> <p>Tree trail with waymarkers that have braille and rubbing discs to be added to the site. Plans are currently being finalised for the design of these.</p> <p>The Friends of Kneller Gardens offer a monthly subsidised lunch for older people working in partnership with the cafe.</p> <p>The cafe is working with Richmond Collage to offer work experience to students with special needs. There will be 15 students a year who attend using a training programme.</p>	Ongoing
		The Council alongside the Friends Group decided on improvements to the play provision at Kneller Gardens, these include a steel framed activity/trim	Ongoing

		trail and an inclusive roundabout. An existing springer may be relocated to accommodate the roundabout. Several fence mounted play or interactive panels will also be installed. The Parks Team have received quotes, a feedback poster will go up at site in January 2024 regarding these proposed improvements.	
Whitton	Chase Green	The Council has selected a supplier to improve the play provision at Chase Green. Here we are proposing to install several new thermoplastic graphics and games and renew the existing graphics. The Council will also install several new play and interactive fence mounted panels.	Ongoing
	Cypress Avenue Play Area	This play area has been completely resurfaced along with three play panels renewed/replaced.	Complete
	Murray Park	The Tree Team is working with the friends of Murray Park to establish a tree management strategy for the site, this will include provision for immediate and long-term tree planting, and a range of works to enhance the protection of and educational information relating to heritage and veteran trees. A new bench and plinth were added to the site and other bench plinths have been extended to cover eroded areas. We have added a new accessible picnic bench to the play area.	Ongoing Large mulch rings completed

Other Projects

Youth Engagement Consultation

The Parks Team have run a consultation to get a better understanding of young people’s engagement with Parks and Open Spaces in the borough. The consultation commenced on 11th of August and has been extended until the 15th of October. The consultation asks how the respondent currently uses parks and what they would like to see in the future. There is a prize drawer which can be entered following completion of the questionnaire.

As part of the consultation the Parks Team ran Youth Engagement fun day in Kings Field with the aim to promote the consultation and engage with visitors on the day. The fun day had various free activities, including street art, drumming, bike maintenance, tennis and table tennis sessions. The team received positive feedback from visitors on the day.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

The Parks Team ran the bi-annual customer satisfaction survey, this is to understand the overall satisfaction with Parks in the borough including their maintenance and facilities and to hear suggestions of what improvements can be made. The consultation ran from 31st of October until the 20th of November 2023. A results will be analysed and written into a report which will be published on the website.

Tree Planting

Over the 2022-23 season the Council has planted 787 trees, this is a net gain of 382 trees when considering the removal of 405 trees over the period spanning April 2022-March 2023. Planting

included 295 trees that were part funded through the Greater London Authority as part of the UK initiative 'The Urban Tree Challenge Fund' and planted in areas which have been identified as being lower than 20% canopy cover, this is in effort to increase canopy cover in Richmond's share of London's Urban Forest and to increase the benefits that trees can provide to our communities and environment. The planting included 17 new native black poplars, which are of rare and unique genetic material; this work was an important step towards supporting the species action plan for native black poplar (as set out within the Biodiversity Action Plan: [Richmond upon Thames \(habitatsandheritage.org.uk\)](https://habitatsandheritage.org.uk))

Towpath Tree Management

Alongside the Port of London Authority, the Council have created a wooded towpath management plan from 2022-2036. The management plan seeks to unify the approach to managing and maintaining the bank and towpath environment for the future. The plan focuses on tree and woodland management whilst considering the wider ecology, heritage and user matters. Tree works started in February 2023. The majority of the works will be carried out without any closures with diversions directing users to alternative routes.

Seeds of Change project - Walk this way

Wellbeing Walks / Accessible Wellbeing Walks

A new programme of walks has been developed for 2023 with partners. The dementia inclusive litter pick has been included in the programme for a 2nd year. All activities are listed on the council website https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/explore_richmonds_parks_and_open_spaces/friendly_parks_for_all

Climate Change project – Re-imagining Richmond

The project linked to the borough Climate Change emergency aims to get young people to envisage what an open space could look like and the role that it could play in mitigating climate change. The project will be working with the Friends of Heathfield and 3 local schools.

Dementia Friendly Communities Richmond programme


The Friendly Parks for All project has been included in the Dementia Friendly Communities Richmond programme https://www.richmond.gov.uk/news/april_2021/new_partnership_to_drive_efforts_to_make_richmond_dementia_friendly


Act of Kindness benches

An act of kindness bench has been allocated in a park in each ward in the borough. The benches will be marked with a plaque and included on the Thrive LND website. <https://thrivelndn.co.uk/campaigns/act-of-kindness-aok-benches/> There is a bench in each ward in the borough.

Public Space Protection Orders

The Council consulted on the renewal of the Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) for both anti-social behaviour and dog control with two minor changes to further clarify where restrictions are in place in June/July. There was support to renew the PSPOs with the proposed changes. The Council has agreed to renew the Orders for 3 years from September 2023.

The [Dog Control PSPO](#)  (pdf, 1.5 MB) replaces our existing Dog Control Orders and includes a restriction on the number of dogs that can be walked by one person.

The [anti-social behaviour PSPO](#)  (pdf, 14.4MB) outlines measures and restrictions to eliminate anti-social behaviour in our parks and open spaces.

Licences and permits

All 18 Professional Dog Walking licences were readvertised in September 2023, 12 Licences have been granted. These will run until September 2023 where all 18 licences will be re-advertised.

The licences permit up to 6 dogs to be professionally walked at the licenced site. They are not transferable to other locations. Residents with more than 4 dogs can also apply for a resident permit to walk up to 6 dogs.

Green Flag Award

The Council were awarded 21 Green Flags for 2022.

Below is a list of our 21 other Green Flag sites:

- [Buccleuch Gardens](#) (combined with Terrace Gardens)
- [Cambridge Gardens](#)
- [Carlisle Park](#)
- [Crane Park](#) (joint with LB Hounslow)
- [Garrick's Lawn](#)
- [Ham Village Green](#)
- [Hampton Common](#)
- [Hatherop Park](#)
- [Heathfield Recreation Ground](#)
- [Kew Green](#)
- [Kneller Gardens](#)
- [Murray Park](#)
- [North Sheen Recreation Ground](#)
- [Palewell Common and Fields](#)
- [Radnor Gardens](#)
- [Richmond Green](#)
- [Terrace Gardens](#) (combined with Buccleuch Gardens)
- [The Kings Field](#)
- [Twickenham Green](#)
- [Vine Road Recreation Ground](#)
- [Westerley Ware](#)
- [York House Gardens](#)