

## St. James's Linear Park

Project Update: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

In July 2018, consultant landscape Architects were appointed by Dublin City Council Parks, Biodiversity and Landscape Services to undertake an initial site assessment of St. James' Linear park which encompasses a linear area (1.16km) of open space adjacent to the 'Red' Luas line, beginning at Suir Road Bridge to the west and ending at Basin View to the east. St. James' Hospital is located on the north-eastern boundary of the site.

Since then a number of community engagement and consultations has taken place with local residents and key stakeholders; TII and St. James' Hospital.

A draft masterplan for the park is now complete, a design that has been informed by site analysis, research and community and stakeholder engagement. Alongside this masterplan is a 'Design Research Report' outlining background research and site surveys.

The masterplan presents a new vision for the park, drawing upon pre-existing assets - connectivity, maturity of landscape, adjacency to institutional centres and engaged stakeholders. This masterplan has been shared with stakeholders who have taken part in the engagement events to date and it is now proposed to put the plan on public display in the park and on Civic Space, the DCC consultation tool for further feedback.

It is proposed that the scheme will be implemented, subject to funding in phases described below:

Phase 1 - The first phase of the scheme proposes an improved arrival space at the existing MISA building entrance to St. James' Hospital. The proposals include for improved circulation from the Fatima Luas platform to the existing gated entrance to the hospital, featuring high-quality hard and soft landscaping finishes. Bicycle parking and bench seating will be provided in a central focal space, featuring a specimen tree and Limestone sett paving. Existing tree planting will be supplemented with additional semi-mature tree planting in areas of amenity grass and wildflower meadow planting. This planning for this section is associated with the planning granted for the MISA entrance.

Construction was due to start in September but there has been some Covid related delays. Commencement is now Q1 2021.

Fatima Luas Stop East to Basin View - Works include the provision of play facilities and an amphitheatre style space which utilises the existing landform and topography. A community garden may also be provided subject to further consultation with relevant local stakeholders.

West from Fatima Luas Stop to Rialto Bridge - Works north of the LUAS line will include a 4m wide asphalt pathway connecting Rialto and Fatima Luas stops featuring a series of skateable elements along the path network and a variety of soft landscape interventions including a pocket play area for toddlers and young children as a resource for families visiting the hospital. It is envisaged that this section of the park will be completed alongside the opening of the hospital – due in March '22 – This program may change due to Covid delays.

Rialto Bridge west to Suir Road Bridge – Proposals include the widening of the existing path network running to the south of the Luas tracks to create a pedestrian and cycle route and wildflower meadow planting to enhance and promote biodiversity.

To the north of the Luas infrastructure and to the west of Rialto Bridge, the concept to construct a 2m pathway and a new entrance to the park from South Circular Road will require further discussion and agreement with local residents

A variety of tree planting is proposed including an area of orchard tree planting to the south of Mountshannon Lane with large specimen trees lining the path network. There is also potential to accommodate a community garden.

At the western end of the site, consideration is being given to activating the canal as a recreational amenity with the insertion of a timber decked kayak launching platform and facilities for kayak storage. This is being discussed with Waterways Ireland and various interest groups to consider options for improvements.

Drawings and research files were recently shared but here are the documents for your reference:

<https://dublincity.sharefile.eu/d-sd73746adfb54f209>

**Suzanne O' Connell CMLI** | Landscape Architect |  
Parks and Landscape Services | Culture, Recreation & Economic Services | Dublin City Council |  
Block 4, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 2, Ireland |  
T: 01-222-3370 | Mobile: 087- 6374397 | E. [suzanne.oconnell@dublincity.ie](mailto:suzanne.oconnell@dublincity.ie) |