

Linear Park (Suir Road to Basin Lane)

Consultation Report

Consultation details at: <https://consultation.dublincity.ie/parks/st-jamess-linear-park-masterplan/>

February 2021

Due to the Covid-19 Restrictions, we were unable to hold another public meeting to present the updated design proposals and get feedback. A solution was to consult online using Civic Space and we also displayed the design proposal boards in the park. The consultation ran from 18/11/2020 to 11/01/2021 and there was 106 submissions.

As outlined in the 'October St. James's Linear Park Update Report', the park will be delivered in phases subject to funding and local agreement.

Phase 1

The section of the park adjacent to Fatima station will commence once Covid 19 restrictions are lifted. The planning for this section is associated with the planning granted for the MISA entrance, thus its early implementation.

Rialto Bridge – Suir Road

This section of the parks sits along the proposed 7B cycle route as identified in the NTA's 'Cycle Network for the Greater Dublin Area'. DCC Parks department are working with DCC Environment and Transport department to develop the detail of how this cycle route will be integrated into the park, while ensuring that the park is retained as a safe space for walking amenity and children's play. The Environment and Transportation Department advises that it intends to prioritise the design development of this route in order to minimise delays to the development of the linear park. Stakeholders will be advised of the timeline on these works in due course.

Fatima Station to Rialto Bridge

The entrance to the Children's hospital from the Rialto Luas station is agreed as part of the hospital planning. Park lands contained within the construction compound will be reinstated as per the intention of the masterplan and the desire of the local community.

Basin Lane – Fatima Station

The design of this section, including a play space will be designed in 2021 with a view to implementation 2022.

Key feedback and responses

Naming of the park

The naming for the park will be inspired by the heritage and culture of the area and will be agreed as per guidance set out in the 'Policy for Commemorative naming of Infrastructure & the provision of monuments, memorials and plaques'.

Safety & Maintenance

The new space will be maintained by the Parks services to the same standard as other public parks in the city. Included in the works will be new amenities and activities throughout the park to enhance passive surveillance and a lighting plan that does not disturb existing habitats.

Rialto Bridge

The Rialto Bridge is outside the scope of the parks project. We have forwarded feedback to colleagues in DCC Environment and Transport Department. The park sits on the proposed 7B cycle route – Kilmainham to Thomas Street. The design for this cycle route is in early development stage and the Rialto Bridge across to James's Walk has been identified as an issue junction that should be improved as part of the project.

Site trees

With the exception of an area west Rialto Bridge where it may be required to remove four trees to accommodate a cycle track, there are no plans to remove any other trees on site. It is intended to plant over 100 new trees in the park and we will follow guidance set out in the Dublin City Council Tree strategy for species choice (see page 18, 35 and 36).

Herbaceous planting

The detail of the planting plan will be developed in the tender design stage. We envisage a hybrid approach across the site that follows the guidance in the Dublin Biodiversity Action Plan and the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. This includes letting areas naturalize to support the dormant viable seed to establish, create meadows using local seed where viable or Irish wildflower seed mixes and the inclusion of perennial herbaceous planting where appropriate to provide longer forage season for pollinators.

Note – currently there is no evidence of any invasive species on site.

Proposed community garden

There have been a number of requests for a community garden. We will set up a working group to look at the feasibility of a shared growing space in the park.

Habitat surveys

Specific to this site are swift and bat populations. We will work with DCC biodiversity officers to commission updated surveys so that proposed works do not negatively impact these communities.

Suzanne O' Connell CMLI
Executive Landscape Architect

Parks and Landscape Services | Culture, Recreation & Economic Services
T: 01-222-3370 | Mobile: 087- 6374397 | E. suzanne.oconnell@dublincity.ie |