

Project: In harmony – securing a place for people and wildlife at Composers Park

Composers Park is a fantastic local resource of important colourful wildflower meadows surrounded by hedgerows and tree planting rich in wildlife. With a play area, ball court, five-a-side football pitch and benches for quiet enjoyment of the park, there are many ways to enjoy your local green space.

The Countryside Management Service (CMS) in partnership with Hertsmere Borough Council have secured a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for £56,300 with a further £3,500 contributed by the council for an exciting project to deliver a programme of improvements at Composers Park. Improvements to the park aim to increase accessibility to the park for enjoyment by a wider range of audiences, interpret the rich wildlife of the park and restore and enhance the wildlife habitats. The 18 month project will run from November 2012 through to June 2014.

The following works on site are proposed:

1. New challenging play equipment to be installed behind the current ball court. This will be constructed of mainly natural materials of wood and rope to blend into the surroundings of the park.
2. Information on the wildlife and history of the park available for visitors on a new interpretation board, accompanying leaflet including illustrations of what wildlife to see and where, and a map of the park showing the opportunities to enjoy the local green space.
3. Entrance ways to be clearly identified and made more welcoming and accessible with the installation of easy access kissing gates and new welcome signs including an archway feature at the main site entrance off the Watford Road.
4. New benches to be installed at key points around the site, including near the new pond.
5. Wildlife habitats to be restored and enhanced with the:
 - a. Construction of a small wildlife pond close to the old ditch.
 - b. Hedgerow will continue to be restored through traditional management of coppicing, layering and planting new hedge plants in the gaps.
 - c. New native hedgerows will be planted.
 - d. Areas of meadow will be restored through the clearing of invading scrub, to bring back areas of meadow wildflowers.
 - e. Areas of established mature scrub will be improved through layering and coppicing to improve the habitat for nesting and feeding birds.
 - f. Areas of tree planting will be thinned. This involves cutting down a small number of trees in order to allow the remaining trees to have space to grow.

In addition to the capital works listed above, a number of events and activities are planned to showcase the rich wildlife that can be found in the meadows of Composers Park and there will be opportunities for you to be involved in improving your local green space - e.g. hedge planting and learn about wildlife on your doorstep.

Images of natural/challenging play equipment

(Note: the equipment may not look exactly like this. We will have to get quotations from a number of play equipment companies)

