

Fox Hollies Park Improvements



Possible Refurbishment Priorities

- ① **Security** - works to secure the park boundaries and entrances against unauthorised quad bike, and other vehicular incursion. To increase safety and encourage people to use the park
- ② **Westley Brook** - to help solve silting, flooding and debris build up. This will include vegetation clearance and cleaning, and a possible reinstatement of a more natural route for the Brook.
- ③ **Play Area** - rationalisation and refurbishment, including the provision of new equipment, fencing and surfacing.
- ④ **Vegetation Clearance** - in certain areas to improve sight lines and feeling of safety.
- ⑤ **New Path** - southern route to follow desire line, improve safe walking and path congestion. Adding distance markers to the site to encourage running and cycling.
- ⑥ **Fishing Pond** - opening up pond area to improve visibility, access and usage.
- ⑦ **Maintenance** - mowing regime to be examined in order to create a softer and more natural feeling western end of the park.

Other Possible Considerations

- Improvements to the Eastern Playing Field Section, especially concerning the Brook.
- Improvements to the Fox Hollies Park Pavilion, including new signage.
- Adding fishing platforms at the Pond
- More Wildflower planting generally

Pavillion & Nursery

Aesthetic improvements to the nursery building and surroundings, including new signage. Features Community Orchard behind.

Fishing Pond

Vegetation clearance will be investigated around the banks and surroundings. Crown lifting of trees would help improve overlooking and facilitate easier access. New access points would help even out and improve accessibility. Future works may also include adding small fishing piers or platforms.

Education Playing Fields

Existing Skate Park

Very popular and well trafficked

New Southern & Western Paths

A new path and footbridge would be added to ease passage across the park from this point. Its installation will ease path congestion and cut out the existing paved circuitous route, following an existing desire line into the park.

Westley Brook

There is a suggested mains drainage scheme to return a section of the Brook to a more natural course, outside of its current concrete channel. This would also involve removing a concrete weir and fish pass on this stretch.

It is anticipated this will assist with drainage generally in the area, as well as improving water quality. This would increase the watercourse amenity value and result in a new 'Wetland' habitat, with benefits for the Community and local wildlife biodiversity.

MAP KEY

- The Fox Hollies Pavilion & Nursery
- Existing Playgrounds
- Existing footbridge across Westley Brook
- Proposed new footbridge across Westley Brook
- Existing footpath
- Existing footpath to be assessed for possible repairs/replacement

- Proposed new Footpath route
- A park exit/open edge
- An existing access to the Fishing Pond
- An proposed new access to the Fishing Pond
- Proposed area of vegetation clearance
- Proposed new avenue trees

- Scheduled Monuments/Historic Environment Record - A - Broomhall Watermill, B - Burnt Mound II, C - Burnt Mound I Westley Brook
- Westley Brook concrete channel section to be rerouted
- Westley Brook original natural line of Brook
- Westley Brook proposed new Wetland Habitat

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Suggested Options

① Security

Improve security by installing railings and barriers. These may be either a metal estate railing, or a timber and metal railing. There would be access via chicanes, kissing gates or anti-motorcycle gates.



Above: Classic metal estate railings and a matching Kissing Gate

Below: A more modern timber estate railing and a matching chicane arrangement



There are a variety of entrances to secure, from very small alleyways to wide road fronts. These would all be treated with the same style fences and gates, in order to create a cohesive character throughout the site.



An alley to Oakhurst Road, showing motorcycle damage to tarmac

A main exit to Shirley Road

② Westley Brook

A previously suggested scheme from the Drainage and Flood Risk Management department to re-route the brook will be reinvestigated. As well as this, the brook would be cleared of rubbish and silt build up, and selected sections would be cleared of undergrowth.



A section of the Brook, obscured by undergrowth. Selective clearing could bring the Brook out as focal point of the park.

The concrete restricted section of the brook. In its present state, the brook moves quickly through this long straight section. In restoring a more natural route the water would be given time to soak away into the ground, and to shed any silt it carries through settlement. This has two main benefits; flow downstream should be somewhat slower, and this will contribute to reducing flash-flooding. This will also have benefits in reducing the frequency of silt removal operations downstream.

③ Play Area

Review the existing play equipment and play area. Play equipment would be updated, and surfaces in the play area could be replaced. Example equipment below.



④ Vegetation Clearance & Crown Lifting of Trees

Selective vegetation clearance would be employed at strategic places on site. These would focus on the brook and improving its visibility, and widening path sections where there is vegetation encroachment. It is hoped that in alleviating visually obstructive pinch points this will improve the legibility of the paths for visitors. This should make people feel more safe by facilitating better community observation through the park, and by making them easier to navigate.



⑤ New Paths, Southern & Western

A new path could be created, leading from the lower East corner and towards the fishing pond. This follows an existing 'Desire Line' worn into the turf. This would also include a new footbridge across the brook. This should streamline access to the park from this corner, reducing congestion on the main path to the north. Another path running across the top of the park could help to decongest the main path running north to south, and create an effective park "circuit", connecting all access areas smoothly.

Possible 'Southern' path



Possible 'Western' path



⑥ Fishing Pond

Fishing pond to be opened up to improve visibility into this concealed section. This would involve vegetation clearance and crown raising to the trees on the banks, as well as adding more and clearer access points around its perimeter. The intent is to make this a quiet but well trafficked and observed area, and to widen participation in the fishing activities here.

Future works may also include adding small fishing jetties around the perimeter of the pond. This could also generate income in sales of licences to fish, and community involvement in fishing competitions.



A photograph of Fox Hollies fishing pond in winter, exhibiting a much more open character.

⑦ Maintenance

There will be a review of maintenance practices. This may involve incorporating more sections of longer grass and wildflower planting, to create a softer appearance with greater biodiversity and wildlife value. The legibility would be maintained with a more regularly mown path through.

(Example from playing fields opposite FH park)



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