

Community parks engagement

Next steps











Community Parks Engagement

We appreciate your ongoing feedback and engagement, both in person and online. Your insights are invaluable in shaping our projects, ensuring they reflect your advice, recommendations, and needs.

You highlighted the importance of **inclusive design** that accommodates diverse groups, such as young people, older adults, and individuals with disabilities. In response, we invited you to help shape our designs.

This included the **revitalisation of the playground at Green Lane Recreation Ground (New Malden)** and the creation of an **entirely new playground at Fairfield Recreation Ground**.













In addition, two state-of-the-art outdoor gyms will soon be installed—one at Churchfields Recreation Ground (Chessington) and another at Latchmere Recreation Ground (North Kingston and Kingston).

The next stage of the design proposals has been informed by your feedback, and we look forward to sharing these developments with you.

Thank you once again for your continued involvement and support.











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You said:

- You need age-specific play areas, a zip wire, monkey bars, and play areas for older children.
- Need for more options for younger children, such as a sandpit, smaller climbing equipment, and an area designed exclusively for toddlers.

- A 25 metre zip wire is included within the original design, monkey bars are included, a number of items for older children are located in a new area adjacent to the existing play area.
- Due to space limitation and the desire to include numerous features it is not possible to install an exclusive toddler area, however a section of the site is designed to cater for pre-school age children.





You said:

- You would like new equipment. Suggestions for features like a themed wooden play structure (train or car), splash pads, and large rocks for creative play and sitting.
- Obstacle courses and trampolines are popular elements that attract kids of all ages.
- Borrowing libraries in both children's and youth zones would provide quieter options for families.

- Unfortunately splash pads are out of the scope of the current project. However, the Giraffe Play offers an inclusive play experience for younger children.
- Due to the number of requests a trampoline has now been included within the design.
- Installation of an obstacle course would require a separate project, however the design does include some elements of obstacles, such as climbing and clambering.
- Borrowing libraries are out of scope of this project at the current time, however we will discuss options with colleagues in the library service.











You said:

- You would like benches and shaded areas to make the space more welcoming for families.
- Paths around the perimeter of the park would benefit runners, walkers, and wheelchair users.

- New seating will be provided as part of the scheme.
- Two new footpath sections have recently been installed
 - around the perimeter of the site to improve accessibility.





The overall sentiment toward the proposed improvements to Green Lane Recreation Ground were positive, with the community appreciating efforts to update outdated equipment and introduce features like a youth zone and zip wire. We recognise the call for inclusivity in play options to cater to children of all ages and abilities. We consider that within the context and limitations of this Play Improvement Project that play options which cater for a wide range of children have been included.







Fairfield Recreation Playground

As part of the engagement on the new leisure centre for Kingston town centre, we heard how important the Fairfield East playground was, and the concerns about its closure during any future construction period for everyone's safety.

We therefore agreed that alternative play facilities would be installed in Fairfield Recreation Ground before the existing play area becomes unavailable, to allow for continued safe access to play spaces during construction.

This new equipment will remain in the Fairfield after the new leisure centre is built, alongside an enhanced play space offer as part of the leisure centre designs.

Due to the majority of the Fairfield site being occupied by formal sports pitches, suitable locations for a playground are extremely limited. As a result, the available space—and therefore the range of equipment—must be carefully considered. The design has been developed to reflect these constraints while still providing valuable play opportunities for local children.





Fairfield Recreation Playground

You said:

- Traditional swings are widely regarded as essential and are missing from the proposal.
- Baby swings, in particular, are vital for younger children and new parents.
- The design appears to cater primarily to older children (3+), with minimal options for toddlers or non-walkers.
- Wheelchair-accessible equipment, such as a roundabout, is missing.

- We have included a traditional 2 bay, one toddler, one flat seat swing by removing the mini basket swing.
- The design has aimed to cater for 3 8 year old age group primarily who can access the equipment unaided. Overall the design is suitable for use in an unsupervised, open access public locality.
- There is not enough space within the site to permit the installation of an inclusive roundabout, without reducing the overall play value of the site.
- Aspects of the design such as the multi play unit can accommodate children of all abilities.





Fairfield Recreation Playground

You said:

- A fenced area to protect children from dogs is deemed essential.
- Sufficient seating for supervising adults, including benches and picnic tables, is needed.
- Shade for summer and proper drainage to avoid water pooling are also key concerns.

- The area will be fully fenced with self closing gates to prevent uncontrolled dog access.
- Seating will be provided within the play area.
- Shaded areas are provided by the mature trees which border the site. Natural grassed areas have been retained within the site, which can have a cooling effect.







We will proceed with installing the new gym as per the original design, without modifications. We appreciate the concerns raised regarding ongoing maintenance and want to reassure residents that a **comprehensive inspection and maintenance plan** will be implemented to ensure the site remains in excellent condition. Your feedback has been heard, and while the design will remain unchanged, we are committed to upholding the quality and longevity of the facility.







Latchmere Recreation Ground

You said:

- There is a preference for natural-looking, understated designs over brightly colored structures.

We did:

- The colour of the equipment will be green rather than blue to blend in with the surroundings better.





You said:

The general sentiment toward the proposed gym is positive, with many welcoming the additions as a way to promote fitness for both adults and children. However, several respondents emphasised the need for more inclusive equipment, particularly for older adults, people with mobility challenges, and disabled users. Suggestions include balance beams, a "Dizzy" balance board, a high perching bench, and parallel bars that cater to diverse abilities.

We did:

We have been able to make some changes to the equipment to improve inclusivity. These include the addition of a cross trainer, skier, standing bike and a perch bench.

