

What is the Flow Project?

This project uses Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) solutions to reimagine the area around the old pond at Barn Park entrance in Central Park for the benefit of people and nature. The project will reduce flooding, improve access, conserve heritage features and trees, improve amenity, increase biodiversity, be climate change resilient and provide a place to learn about water and wildlife!

What are Sustainable Drainage Systems?

Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) draw on natural solutions to manage rainfall. SuDS are great for wildlife, amenity, managing flooding and pollution and are sympathetic to the natural environment. We'll use SuDS solutions like ponds, swales and tree planting in the Flow Project.

How many ponds are you making? Will they dry out like the current one?

Ponds are great for carbon storage and for wildlife, so we're excited to be restoring the old pond and creating 2 new ones! The ponds are fed by rain water and are lined to ensure they have water in them all year round.

How does water get in and out of the ponds?

Water will reach the ponds by a number of routes; a new swale (which looks like a dip in the grass) which will run from the old Zoo Field to the existing pond area; stone-lined channels that replace the old drainage channels in the park, but reuse the granite blocks; a cascade feature, which will channel overflows from the sports pitch area. The ponds will be connected by pipes so water balances between the ponds. To prevent the ponds overflowing during storms, an outlet will direct water safely into the woods and away from footpaths.

Can I get to the water? Will there be places to sit? What if I have reduced mobility?

Yes, we've included safe places for you to access the water, although there will be fencing around most of the pond areas to protect wildlife habitat. There will be new viewpoints, signs and seating. Viewpoints by the ponds will have all-weather surfaces. We'll also make some paths higher at points which currently flood, which will also provide views over the ponds.

It sounds like you will have to do some digging? Will you cut down any trees?

Yes, we will need to dig in some areas and sadly we will be cutting down 11 trees. However, we will be planting 50 new replacement trees and creating new habitats to deliver a gain for nature overall. The ponds and swale have been designed to sit in the landscape, while keeping earthworks to a minimum. We'll create a new area of planting and low level natural stone retaining walls to form a visual showpiece on the slope down from the football pitches and incorporate wildflower areas and bee bricks to make new homes for nature.

[Will this all need looking after once it's done?](#)

We've designed the scheme to be low maintenance and have worked with the Council's parks service, ecologists, conservation groups and engineers to come up with a long term management plan. Some of the new planting will take time to establish, so we will keep the site temporarily fenced off until planting has taken. However, we think seeing this change over time will be exciting and worth waiting for.