

Central Park Quarterly Update

June 2019



Since our last update we have been very busy on the park & it has been great to see the new buildings taking shape. Thank you for your patience while we carry out works & please be aware that construction areas are closed to the public for safety reasons.

Café, Community Sports hub & more

Café & Community Sports Hub

Building works are progressing with most of the café structure completed & the roof & terrace area taking shape. Much of the hub extension & surrounding landscaping has been done, with the tennis courts now underway. We are aiming to have both these buildings ready by the summer holidays.



*Concept design of new café
by Kensington Taylor*

Bollards & benches

Work to install new street furniture around the park is starting this month. The idea is to have a consistent style across the park & some of the new benches were installed in the play area last year. Any furniture that can be reused will be saved for use in other parts of the city.

Events

The fair was on site in April & the new Events Field surface has held up well, with no signs of the drainage issues that used to affect this field. We are looking forward to holding further events here.

Coming up this summer we're celebrating Central Park with a **Big Bash** on **Saturday 27 July, 10am-3pm** as part of Love Parks Week. Join us for free fun activities & find out more about what's on offer at the park. Find us in & around the events field, play area, new Café & Community Sports Hub - there'll be plenty to enjoy including bouncy castles, nature activities, sports, geocaching and dance. There will also be opportunity to try the **new tennis courts** and talk to us about the booking system for the courts.

Park repairs

We have been sad to see maps, signs & the play area damaged in recent months. We have since replaced signs, fixed interpretation & made the play area safe again following a fire, with plans to replace the damaged equipment by the summer holidays. The clock tower face panels have also been repaired & all sides are working correctly. If you happen to be on the park at night you will notice that the clock has lighting too!



*New sculpture bench created by
The Woodland Presents*

Paths

There are further improvement works taking place in the park, meaning some paths will be closed temporarily. Work to widen the shared use path by the baseball pitch will be completed this month. Around the clock tower, we hope to resurface paths & install new seating in time for summer holidays.

Sculptures

The Woodland Presents have installed lovely new sculpture benches through the wooded valley & Barn Park area. The idea is that these will help to link Pounds Park with the walk through the woods. We will also be adding elm sculptures to Pounds Park later this year.

Sports Pitches

The contractor will return this month to complete drainage works on the new sports plateau & junior football pitch by the bowling pavilion. These pitches will be ready to use for the new football season in August.

Street lights

This month, new street lights are being installed along the path between the clock tower & the Life Centre. We hope this will make this path feel safer at night for park users.

Green Flag

Central Park is under consideration for a Green Flag Award. Judges visited the park in May & praised the Family Tree Field, Pounds Park & woodland in particular for their diversity, beauty & care put into these areas. A very big thank you to all the community volunteers & staff who have been involved in looking after & improving the park.



Pounds Park in May

Street Services and Waste

The shrub beds in Pounds Park have been looking particularly spectacular thanks to the work of the parks team! The hedgerows & trees in the Devon Banks have also been managed to allow a broader range of plants to come through this year; we recommend a walk along Venn Lane or Gilbert Lane on a sunny day. They have also been busy tidying up the beds & trees around the Life Centre. Well done for all their hard work, the park is looking great.

Wildlife

At our May BeeWalk volunteers recorded 90 individual bees on the park, including early bumblebees and ashy mining bees. Other recent sightings include orange tip, holly blue and brimstone butterflies, as well as swifts, swallows and parakeets. If you would like to help us survey wildlife on the park email: wildlife@plymouth.gov.uk

Volunteer programme

To take part in an event please contact **Plymouth Environmental Action (PEA)** to book your place through their website or Facebook. Thank you to the **Friends of Central Park** for continuing to support the programme.

Since January 2019:

Volunteers carried out a project to renovate the orchard area including cutting paths around the trees, clearing the footpath & opening up the path to Ford Park. They have cleared out the pond & spent a day in the Family Tree Field caring for the trees. **Thank you to Santander & Plymouth Tree Partnership volunteers** who joined us on the day. We held community events including a BeeWalk, bat walk & tree themed Easter activity day in Pounds Park. **Join us** in June when we will be dry stone walling & doing a plant survey in the wildflower meadows.



Volunteer day in the Family Tree Field

Central Park memories

We are supporting the Friends of Central Park to produce a timeline of the parks history to be displayed in the café. If you would like to help with this project by sharing memories, photos or stories please contact Lisa@fotonow.org

Coming up in summer 2019...

- Complete the Community Sports Hub and café
- Central Park Big Bash on Saturday 27 July, 10am-3pm
- Complete the sports plateau and junior football pitch
- A planting plan for new trees in Pounds Park
- Install new benches, tables and bollards
- Community projects with the Friends of Central Park and Plymouth Tree Partnership
- Continue the volunteer and engagement programme

Our next update will be out in autumn 2019. Keep up with improvements at www.plymouth.gov.uk/centralparkimprovements or on Facebook @NaturePlymouth