

Central Park Quarterly Update

January 2019



Happy New Year to all! 2018 was a busy year for the park with some exciting changes. There are a number of ongoing projects that we expect to see completed in 2019 including the café and sports hub. Thank you again for your patience and please be aware that construction areas are closed to the public for safety reasons.

Café, sports hub, play & more

Café and sports hub

The café and sports hub builds are starting to take shape. As part of this work it has been agreed with users that some trees and shrubs will be removed from around the bowling greens, but we will be planting more native trees, wildflowers and hedges, which is great news for the park's wildlife. There will also be temporary disruption to the paths around the clock tower. We apologise for any inconvenience.

We expect both buildings to be ready by the summer holidays.



*Concept design of new café
by Kensington Taylor*

Refurbished and Extended Play Area

It was wonderful to see the play area open in autumn and to see it so busy throughout half term. A big thank you to everybody who came to the opening celebration event.

Events Field

The majority of works on the Events Field have been completed and the site has been left to settle over winter. The contractor will be returning in spring to carry out the final landscaping works.

Path works

The wooded valley resurfacing works have been completed and we have added a handrail to cascade path, which runs from the Central Park meadow field down into the woods. There are further path works planned for the park, more details to follow in a future update.



New sculpted archway

Sculpture

We have a new sculpted archway in the park, created by **The Woodland Presents**. You can find it by walking into Pounds Park gardens from Barn Park. We will be adding a few more sculptures to this area later in the year.

New park map

We have replaced the old park map by the clock tower roundabout with a new updated map. You can download a copy at:
www.plymouth.gov.uk/centralparkimprovements

Sports Pitches

Phase 1 of the new sports plateau and the junior football pitch south of the bowling pavilion have been completed. The contractor will return in spring to complete the second phase of drainage works.

Dog show

Thank you to **Gables** and **Central Park Golf** for helping us to run a dog show in the park. There were games and competitions for our four legged friends. It was a great chance for people to meet and share their passion for dogs. There were around 200 people on the day and we hope this will lead to more events like this in the future.

Dogs on leads areas

We have been updating signage for dogs on leads areas around the clock tower area. Additionally, the new park map (mentioned earlier) gives an overview of dogs on leads areas in the park. Thank you for complying with the new signage and path markings.

Street Services and Waste

The team have been following up on work done earlier in 2018 by revisiting areas like the play area and Pounds Park to carry out necessary maintenance. They have been working on a project to tidy up the beds around the Life Centre Car Park over the last month and should be finishing this shortly. Expect to see them working on the parks hedgerows before spring.

Wildlife

Earlier this year a single waxwing was spotted feeding on berries near the golf hut. This is an unusual sighting for the park and unusual to see one by itself. This is a great reminder that the park supports a range of wildlife and the importance of continuing to make improvements for nature as well. If you are interested in helping us to survey wildlife on the park get in touch by emailing: wildlife@plymouth.gov.uk



*Waxwing in Central Park -
photo by Ian Teague*

Volunteer programme

Last year volunteers gave 900+ hours of their time to the park so a huge thank you to everyone involved and to the **Friends of Central Park** for their continued support. We hope that even more people will join us this year and we will be continuing to work with **Plymouth Environmental Action (PEA)** in 2019 to provide the volunteer programme. Our aim is that there is something for everybody, whether it is practical conservation, gaining new skills, or learning about wildlife. Volunteering on Central Park is also a great way to meet like-minded people, exercise and improve your well being in a wonderful green space, so why not give it a try!

Since September 2018:

The volunteers have put bat and bird boxes up in the woods, play area and wider park. They have carried out maintenance of the orchard and rockery, cleared out heritage gullies, fixed fences, planted hedging and carried out maintenance of a wildflower meadow! PEA also led a number of nature based sessions including bulb planting and activities at the play area opening day. **Thank you also to EDF volunteers** who joined the Plymouth Tree Partnership to carry out a number of tasks at the Family Tree Field. **Join us** in February when we will be doing dry stone walling, rockery maintenance and more bulb planting.



*Volunteers have put up 40 nest
boxes around the park!*

Coming up in 2019...

- Complete the sports hub and café
- Complete the Events Field, sports plateau and junior football pitch
- A plan for a new arboretum in Pounds Park
- Finalise the drainage designs for the park
- Install new benches and tables
- Community projects with the Friends of Central Park and Plymouth Tree Partnership
- Investigating how technology can support the park and it's visitors, for example through digital mapping
- Further access and general improvements
- Continue the volunteer and engagement programme

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