

Parks Project Update October to December 2024

Ward	Site	Project	Status
Barnes	Leg O’Mutton	Sediment sampling has been arranged to test the suitability for a flood resilience project on site.	Completed
	Castelnau Recreation Ground	The Parks Team plans to make improvements to the play area, outdoor gym and MUGA, we would also like to add a basket swing and other accessible play features. These are subject to public consultation and available funding. A supporters group has now been established for the Rec.	Ongoing
	Barn Elms Southside	Following a successful public consultation the Parks Team selected a supplier for installation of the gym at this site. The gym is has now been installed and is open for all to use.	Complete in November
East Sheen	East Sheen Common	Barnes Common Limited are continuing management of the woodland on the Common.	Ongoing
	Palewell Common	Barnes Common Limited are continuing management of the woodland and nature conservation areas on the site Common.	Ongoing
Fulwell and Hampton Hill	Holly Road Recreation Ground	The Parks Team are currently working with the Facilities Management team to see the feasibility and costs of adding a drinking fountain to this site.	In Progress
Ham, Petersham and Richmond Riverside	Ham Lands	The Parks team are currently considering the consultation results of the Multi-Use-Games-Area to the current informal pitch area by Beaufort Court. A quote document is currently with potential suppliers to see costs and to allow us to consider funding options,	In progress
		Week long litter pick events on Ham Lands to celebrate world Habitats day, in partnership with the Friends of Ham Lands and Habitats and Heritage	Complete
	Terrace Gardens	Aphrodite Fountain – The Parks Team, Krinkels UK Ltd and the Facilities Management Team were very pleased to receive a commendation for works completed to the fountain. The Parks Team attended a planting day on 6 th Dec 2024 to add a large number established camelias, azaleas and rhododendrons to add spring interest into the site. To complement the new scheme 600 winter aconites, crocus, snowdrop & native bluebells were planted across the site.	Complete
	Ham Common Woods	Restoration of the common verge along Church Road by removing self set trees, shrubs and bramble. Clearance complete by the end of December with stump grinding scheduled in January	Complete

Hampton	Bell Hill Recreation Ground	The Parks Team will be adding new planting to the existing shrub beds around this site in the winter of 2024/25 – Due by the end of Feb 2025	In progress
Hampton North	Hatherop Park	The Parks Team has donated 600 winter aconites, crocus, snowdrop & native bluebells were planted across the site by the Friends of Hatherop Park. We also delivered a mulch load to allow the site group to add mulch rings to help the new ash trees at the end of the main entrance.	Ongoing
	Oak Avenue LNR	TCV will be laying the hedgerows along the site boundary this winter, and The Ecology Officer will be investigating how best to fix the Oak Avenue pond.	In progress
Hampton Wick & South Teddington	Broom Road Recreation Ground	Parks team are planning to add play items to this site and will be consulting on the potential to add a new outdoor gym in 2025. We are seeking to add loggeries in the longer grass area towards the riverside of the site.	Ongoing
	Kings Field	The Parks Team has added a new sand play facility at this site and a new planting scheme around the cafes terrace was extended.	Complete
Heathfield	Crane Park	The London Wildlife Trust has added a publicly funded defibrillator to the Shot Tower. A mosaic that is to celebrate the sites wildlife including a kingfisher, water vole and a damsel fly will be installed by the end of Feb 2025. The 2 nd part of the river restoration works was completed to open up canopies, woodland thinning and replanting and adding deflectors to the watercourse. Following the clearance of the woodland glades, 200 new native trees were planted in early January.	Ongoing Winter works completed
	Hounslow Heath	The Parks Team are working with the Arts Service and have successfully consulted on adding a community garden to this space. Site meetings have been held and public engagement will be conducted over the winter months with a view to implementing this community led scheme in spring 2025. The Arts team have been holding engagement sessions with groups for this initiative. A new planting scheme will in put in at the site around the play area by the end of Feb 2025	In progress
Kew	St Lukes' Open Space	The Parks Team is working with local residents on improvements to this site, including additional picnic seating and providing more shade. The picnic table is expected to be installed over winter.	Ongoing
	Westerley Ware Open Space	The Parks Team with the Westerley Ware Association have picked a location near the new pétanque piste to add a picnic table. The	Due to be installed over winter

		picnic table has been ordered and is expected to be installed in October. This is part funded by the Parks Team and the WWA.	
	North Sheen Recreation Ground	The Parks Team have organised for the roundabout to be replaced as the current one has come to the end of it's life	Complete November
Mortlake and Barnes Common	Jubilee Gardens	The Parks Team will be arranging for the shrub bed to be replanted to provide new interest to the site	Due to be complete over winter
	Mortlake Green	The Parks Team will be arranging for the shrub bed on Sheen Lane to be replanted with species that are beneficial for pollinators. More bulbs will be planted on the hilly area opposite Lower Richmond Road	Due to be complete over winter
North Richmond	Tangier Green	The Parks Team are arranging installation of interactive play panels on this site. These will be fence mounted and will provide inclusive play.	Due to be installed in winter
	Raleigh Road Recreation Ground	The Parks Team are arranging installation of interactive play panels on this site. These will be installed throughout the site and will provide inclusive play opportunities.	Due to be installed in winter
		In partnership with Habitats & Heritage, the Parks Team ran a consultation for improvements to this site to create a Green Hub. The proposal included creation of a 'Pollination Station' and community growing beds for local community and the nursery and asked whether residents would like to create a Friends Group. The results from the consultation will inform whether the proposals are progressed.	Ongoing
South Richmond	Old Deer Park – adjacent to the carpark, formerly known as the Fun Fair Site	The Council have been working with the Old Deer Park Working Group to develop a new linked footpath between the car park and the Riverside to increase public access and enjoyment of this attractive and historic area.	Completed
South Twickenham	Radnor Gardens	The Property Team with support of the Parks Team are looking for a new tenant for the café in the park.	Ongoing
		The Friends of Radnor Gardens and the Parks Team are arranging for the memorial gates to be repainted prior to Memorial Day through joint funding.	Complete in November
St Margarets and North Twickenham	Craneford Way	The Council is exploring improvements to the facilities on the site including the addition of new play and fitness/sports facilities. There will be a public consultation, following this the project go-ahead is subject to available funding.	In progress
	Mereway Nature Park	New river renaturalisation project will be undertaken, removing another section of	Ongoing

		concrete bank and installing artificial berms and gravels into the river channel.	
	River Crane at London Road	New berm to be installed in the river on northern bank	Ongoing
Teddington	Church Road Play Area	Fence mounted play panels have been ordered for this site. Repairs have been made to the wet pour safety surfacing. We are currently seeking quotations to completely renew the wet pour surfacing at the site, as part of this project the older play equipment will be painted.	Due to be completed over winter
	Grove Gardens	The Parks Team has supported the Friends of Grove Gardens by match funding spring bulbs that were added to this site by this group. A new main gate was installed at the site in December 2025. We are also in the process of apply to make this the first Green Flag site in the ward.	In progress
	Manor Gardens	The Council are working to try to reinstate the historic drinking water fountain at this site. Investigations are on-going with this project.	In progress
	Jubilee Gardens	The Parks team will seek to improve the shrub beds in 2025 due to box blight in the existing hedge. We are working with the Teddington Society to implement a new scheme they will be donating and have planned with us for the site. Planting will be completed by the end of Feb 2025	In progress
Twickenham Riverside	Orleans Gardens	The Parks Team are making improvements to the play area at Orleans Gardens. This will include repainting, replacement of the wheelchair accessible roundabout, fence mounted play panels and consultation for a basket swing.	Due to be completed by winter
	Orleans House Gallery	Two glades to be cleared in woodland for replanting with native species during winter. An alternative desire-line footpath will be created to compensate for the closed path underneath the cedar tree.	Due to be completed over winter
	York House Gardens	Facilities Management in collaboration with the Parks Team are arranging for repairs to the Japanese pond. This will include resecuring the boundary rocks, filling any gaps in the surface to ensure there are no leaks. Aquatic plants will be installed in the pond. The Parks Team will be replanting the rockery area around the pond with plants selected to continue the Japanese theme. The replanting is expected to be complete in January 2025.	Complete December Due to be complete Jan 2025
	Cambridge Gardens	'Friendly Parks for All' The Parks Team are working with Let's Go Outside and Learn to designate this park at the	Due to be complete Feb 2025

		<p>6th Friendly Park for All in the borough. We have worked with MenCap to address the barriers the group faces when accessing Parks and Open Spaces. A public consultation was run for further improvements including an outdoor gym, sensory/community garden and boat sculptures. As there was support for the proposals, the Parks Team has arranged for an outdoor gym to be installed and for the boat sculptures to be created, once installed these will be painted. These will be installed by over winter. The Parks Team will work with Mencap to establish the sensory/community garden and invite the community to use the growing spaces.</p> <p>The project will look to include a way marked trail to make this an accessible space.</p>	
West Twickenham	Kneller Gardens	<p>The dog-dip area has been installed at Kneller Gardens, and the Friends group are continuing to make improvements to the landscape around the area.</p> <p>The Parks Team are developing a Wiget board to support non-verbal children to communicate within the park, this will be placed within the play area.</p>	<p>Completed Nov 2025</p> <p>Expected by end of March 2025</p>
Whitton	Chase Green	The Council will install several new play and interactive fence mounted panels.	Due by mid-Feb 2025
	Murray Park	The Parks Team have successfully consulted to reintroduction of grass roots football pitches to the site and a weekend only mobile catering concession. Mobile catering will begin at site later in spring.	Complete

Other Parks Projects

Towpath Tree Management

Alongside the Port of London Authority, the Council have created a wooded towpath management plan from 2022-2036. The management plan seeks to unify the approach to managing and maintaining the bank and towpath environment for the future. The plan focuses on tree and woodland management whilst considering the wider ecology, heritage and user matters. Tree works started in February 2023. The majority of the works will be carried out without any closures with diversions directing users to alternative routes.

Seeds of Change project - Walk this way

Wellbeing Walks / Accessible Wellbeing Walks

A new programme of walks has been developed for 2024 with partners. The dementia inclusive litter pick has been included in the programme. All activities are listed on the council website https://www.richmond.gov.uk/services/parks_and_open_spaces/explore_richmonds_parks_and_open_spaces/friendly_parks_for_all

Climate Change project – Re-imagining Richmond

The project linked to the borough Climate Change emergency aims to get young people to envisage what an open space could look like and the role that it could play in mitigating climate change. The project will be working with the Friends of Heathfield and 3 local schools.

Green Flag Award

The Parks Team achieved 22 Green Flag Awards for the below sites for 2024-25 and a new Green Flag for East Sheen Common.

Below is a list of our 21 other Green Flag sites:

- [Buccleuch Gardens](#) (combined with Terrace Gardens)
- [Cambridge Gardens](#)
- [Carlisle Park](#)
- [Crane Park](#) (joint with LB Hounslow)
- [Garrick’s Lawn](#)
- [Ham Village Green](#)
- [Hampton Common](#)
- [Hatherop Park](#)
- [Heathfield Recreation Ground](#)
- [Kew Green](#)
- [Kneller Gardens](#)
- [Murray Park](#)
- [North Sheen Recreation Ground](#)
- [Palewell Common and Fields](#)
- [Radnor Gardens](#)
- [Richmond Green](#)
- [Terrace Gardens](#) (combined with Buccleuch Gardens)
- [The Kings Field](#)
- [Twickenham Green](#)
- [Vine Road Recreation Ground](#)
- [Westerley Ware](#)
- [York House Gardens](#)

We will be applying to two new Green Flags for 2025-26, these are at Grove Gardens and Barnes Green. Each of these sites are in wards which do not already hold a Green Flag.

Tree Team Updates

Tree Planting Season 2024-25

An extensive programme of tree planting is taking place with over 800 trees due to be planted, details of the programme can be found here: [Tree planting - London Borough of Richmond upon Thames](#). Over 300 trees have been planted so far and the current focus is on the preparatory work involved in tree pit construction, which will allow for the remainder of the programme to be delivered by the end of the season.

Grant Funding

We received notification of a successful bid for Urban Tree Challenge Fund monies for tree planting and maintenance in the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons. We expect to deliver around 150 funded sites in the current season and will be eligible for funding 20% of the number planted in the following season.

Friends of Street Trees

2024 saw the formal launch of the Friends of Street Trees and its partnership with the London Borough of Richmond: [Getting involved - Friends of Street Trees](#). A call-to-action event is planned for spring to encourage people to join the friends ahead of the growing season, this will coincide with watering labels which promote watering and link to the Council web pages and Friends of Street Trees.

Public Survey – Tree Planting

The Council has reached out to our residents to understand attitudes towards trees and tree planting, this has received over 1300 responses and an analysis is currently pending. This will feed into the tree planting strategy being developed.

Free Tree Giveaway

Richmond Council has been running a free tree giveaway, this has generated strong interest with almost all the 950 trees available being reserved. The first event was run from Kneller Gardens on 25th January and saw 400 trees collected for planting within private property. The second collection event will be taking place at Old Deer Park on 8th February 2025.

Biodiversity

Planting to support the Council’s nature conservation efforts is taking place with trees being planted in Ham Lands, Hatherop Park, Pest House Common, Twickenham Rough, Crane Park, Old Deer Park, Kew Pond and Willow Way. This included resistant elms to support the endangered White-letter hairstreak butterfly, and cherry, damson, plum, crab apple, and pear to support pollinators and foragers.

Greening Richmond Schools

Trees team is working with Habitats and Heritage to support the Greening Richmond Schools project. The Council is providing advice and will donate trees for participating schools.