

Reconnected Belfast

Shared City Partnership

1 December 2025



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Project Background

Reservoir Safety Programme



- Council's statutory requirement to maintain the reservoirs
- £1.6m committed from council's capital programme

Reconnected Belfast



- Submission of PEACEPLUS bid in September 2023
- Investment Area 1.4: Re-imaging Communities which seeks to 'create a more cohesive society through an increased provision of shared spaces and services, which will benefit and embed peace and reconciliation.'
- Secured €13.5m for capital works and animation of Waterworks and Alexandra Park
- 7,080 participants from different communities engaged jointly within new shared spaces



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Engagement

- Visioning and engagement exercise (Summer 2023)
 - Workshops and interviews with key stakeholders
 - 3.99k visits to Your Say Belfast Page
 - Over 1,200 responses to the survey
- Pre-planning consultation (Jan-March 2024)
 - 4 public sessions in range of venues
 - 3 tailored sessions (access, youth, women and girls)
 - 2.48k visits to Your Say Belfast Page
 - Over 280 responses to the survey
- Continued engagement and Design Information Sessions (Spring 2025)
 - 5 public sessions in range of venues



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Vision

Alexandra Park and Waterworks Park will build on their unique natural and cultural significance to be cohesive places where biodiversity thrives, people from all communities are supported and prosper through leisure and recreational activities, and the parks become exemplar city green spaces for Belfast and Northern Ireland.



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Guiding Principles

1. Cohesive connection (celebrating USPs)
2. Active use of Open Space for Recreation & Play
3. Inclusive, Shared and Safe Space
4. Biodiversity and Climate Change
5. Animation of the parks / community engagement
6. Exemplar Approach and Delivery
7. Destination parks



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Masterplan & concept designs



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Reconnecting Waterworks and Alexandra Park

- Proposed improvements to current facilities
- New features proposed
- Enhanced entrance to include new/upgraded railings, gates, street furniture and signage
- Secondary entrance upgrade
- New or reopened entrance
- New lighting
- Cycle stand



Programming

- Capacity Building and Leadership Programme
- How to Manage and Implement Events Training Programme
- Events Programme
- Sports Facilities Games Programme
- Schools Programmes
- Biodiversity Education Programmes
- Cultural Learning Programmes
- Health and Wellbeing Programmes



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Interface Barrier



Interface Barrier



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Current status

- Planning application process ongoing
- Stage 4 Design appointed
- Ongoing engagement
 - City & Neighbourhood Services
 - Waterworks and Alexandra Park stakeholder group
 - Queens University Belfast Centre for Public Health and Planning
 - DoJ



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Timescales

Milestone	Dates
Detailed design	December 2025
Planning approval	Spring 2025
Works commence	Summer 2026
Works complete	Summer 2027
Animation	Summer 2027 - 2029

