

# Reconnected Belfast

Shared City Partnership

1 December 2025



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City Council



**PEACEPLUS**  
Northern Ireland - Ireland

Co-funded by the



European Union



UK Government



Northern Ireland  
Executive



Northern Ireland  
Executive

# 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-imagining 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

Westland Community Centre to be developed separately under Urban Villages Initiative

New pathway

Path realignment and new footbridge

Dog park with agility equipment  
Timber D rail fence with hedge planting

Species rich grassland with mowed paths throughout

Accessible decking/viewing area with proposed amenity grass and tree planting

3m wide asphalt footpath

Proposed eco-trail within existing woodland - 1.5m compacted gravel path with tree protection system. Alignment to be agreed.

Replacement platforms

Wall to incorporate public art

Proposed floating ecosystems

Existing walls of tree pits to be re-rendered and seated top

Existing steps to be removed and planted with grass to tie in with existing embankment

New seating wall to replace existing wall

Decking area/ events space

Wetland planting with compacted gravel paths

3m wide exposed aggregate path

River channel to be restored

Minimal vegetation clearance

New 3x3 basketball court

Accessible ramp incorporated in steps

New building including community space, toilets and Changing Places facility

Picnic area with canopy

Upgraded play park

Existing building to be refurbished and extended

Existing pitch replaced with new 3g surface

Road resurfaced including pedestrian crossing  
(subject to DfI approval)

New box culvert

Footpath resurfaced

Upgraded playpark with 1.2m bow top railing

Event space with reinforced grass and pop up power units

New building with toilet and changing places

Footpaths to be resurfaced

Realigned footpath

Vegetation cleared  
Existing bridge to be replaced

Section of Peace wall to be replaced with sculptural corten steel fence  
Gates to be integrated within structure

Pitch relocated and extended with new cover installation

Play park upgrade

Proposed play sculpture with fencing and picnic area

Refurbishment of existing weir and dam embankment

Reopened pathway

Viewing space with seating

Existing bridge to be replaced



# 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



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