

Transforming London's green spaces



Easy access for all: The tarmac path makes it easier to walk, wheel and cycle KOIS MIAH

BARKING PARK GIVEN NEW LEASE OF LIFE

LONDONERS can now enjoy the newly designed Ripple Greenway linear park, after it was officially opened last Thursday.

The 1.3km park in Barking provides a new walking and cycling route for thousands of local people and a much-needed accessible green haven for residents.

It also links the existing community with Barking town centre and the Barking Riverside area, which includes the Riverside School campus, new housing and Barking Riverside London Overground station, which is set to open next year.

Children can benefit from a range of 'play on the way' features such as wooden climbing logs, mini wooden bridges and a swing. There are also pull-up bars for anyone who wants to stay in shape, as well as picnic tables and benches.

The tarmac path makes it easier to walk, wheel and cycle, while the added seating gives people a place to sit down, rest and relax.

The park also features steel sculptures by artist Katy Hallett that illustrate the poem Tree Song by renowned writer Robert Macfarlane, which was written especially for the Ripple Greenway.

KEEPING IT LOCAL

Local residents' groups have been integral to the design process, which has given new life to this previously underused area that was overgrown and not easily accessible.

Sustrans ran extensive consultations and collaborative design workshops with residents, which gave people who are traditionally under-represented in consultations substantial input into the final design.

This transformation of the area was made possible with £440,000 from the Mayor of London's Green Capital grant and £350,000 provided by Barking and Dagenham regeneration experts, Be First.

Mayor Sadiq Khan said: 'The pandemic has highlighted the importance of access to green space to the health and wellbeing of Londoners. As Mayor, I am focused on creating more green spaces, delivering a green recovery and tackling the climate emergency.'

'The Ripple Greenway project in Barking is a great example of what a well-designed, good quality green space can do for local communities, which is why I was delighted to support it with funding from my Green Capital grants. I will continue to work with boroughs and other landowners to ensure all Londoners have access to quality green spaces.'



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MAYOR OF LONDON



We have lift-off: There are plenty of play areas, including wooden climbing logs, to keep children active KOIS MIAH

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