

THE NORTHAMPTON RACECOURSE MASTERPLAN



Legend

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|--|---------------------|--|------------------------|
| | Existing trees | | Buildings |
| | New tree planting | | Car Parks |
| | New garden planting | | Grassland |
| | Existing footpaths | | Sports pitches |
| | New footpaths | | Sports greens & courts |
| | | | Play spaces |



Title: MASTERPLAN
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REVENUE AND POLICY PROPOSALS

- a Avenue trees
Management of current tree stock to ensure longevity of canopy cover and tree health with replacement planting to reinforce important avenues and character areas
- b Sports pitches
Investment in improvement of sports surfaces to increase capacity, enable planned reduction in pitch numbers without major loss of playing time and improve quality and visual attractiveness of surfaces. Drainage, aeration and realignment of pitches to address long term lack of investment and minimum maintenance over recent years
- c CCTV
Car park security and user safety data identifies the perception of value placed on surveillance within this park. Linked to town wide network of CCTV and continually monitored
- d Park Ranger service
Additional, permanent full time ranger resource, to cover the site during hours of daylight, including evening and weekend cover in peak periods
- e Existing footpaths
Planned programme of improvements and re-surfacing on a cyclical basis to maintain overall footpath health
- f Footpath lighting
Further enhancement and replacement of lighting where needed on key routes and crossing points, responding to potential conflicts of users with increased cycle activity within the park
- g Signage
Co-ordinated strategy developed for the improvement of signs and information throughout and around the park, installation of new signage, development of new interpretation materials and resources, including town centre based directional signage and information at key information distribution points
- h Park furniture
Seating strategy developed including co-ordinated design style for all street furniture throughout the Racecourse. Increased numbers of seats, bins and dog bins are complemented with improved maintenance regimes to enable high standards of cleanliness within the park
- i Sustainable Events Strategy
Development of a Sustainable Events Strategy for The Racecourse in the context of the current plan to allow future Balloon festivals upon the site, addressing issues raised by fairs and community uses within an identified and researched, sustainable carrying capacity for the site, linked to improved maintenance and repair work, necessary infrastructure upkeep and exceptional overhead/capital investment planning

CAPITAL SCHEMES

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| <p>1 Kettering Road vehicle entrance
Quality of entrance enhanced. Sense of arrival and welcome created by reducing area of tarmac, adding fountain focal point and artwork/gateway feature plus new high quality and ornamental landscaping. Signage directs and orientates users with interpretation and information boards</p> <p>2 Kettering Road car park
Parking area divided - majority parking spaces relocated. Existing and relocated provision remarked and resurfaced to help provide improved setting for pavilion, sports changing building at main entrance to the park; includes feature planting and screen planting</p> <p>3 Kettering Road frontage
Establishment of significant new, high impact landscaped frontage, taking advantage of reduced scale of car park and relocation of kick-about areas. Extending parking provision provides opportunities for increased number of disabled accessible bays, wider bays and attractive setting with planting for car park.</p> <p>4 Main pedestrian entrances
Focal gateways established with opportunities for artwork and feature structures, new planting and landscaped settings created. Improvements to surfacing, signage, lighting, boundaries and gateway structures (where present)</p> <p>5 Secondary pedestrian entrances
Improvements to surfacing, signage, lighting, boundaries and gateway structures (where present)</p> <p>6 New footpaths
Establishing permanent routes in place of current desire lines and new routes provided across the park. Includes new surfacing, signage, some lighting and links new features and facilities within the park</p> | <p>7 Cycle routes
Current cycling restrictions removed to accommodate safe cycle routes on existing paths across the park with links to cycle networks beyond the park. Appropriate signage along routes and to perimeter of park</p> <p>8 Café
Re-use of current central depot building, using upper and lower floors to provide café, toilets, lift and panoramic views across the park. Refurbishment of structure makes full utilisation of current footprint with small extension and offers small scale, simple café facility within attractively landscaped setting. New facilities complementing the café provision include garden areas, seating, play facilities (landscape play and water), picnic benches and petanque pitch. Landform also creates performance space</p> <p>9 Pavilion
Re-use of the building's ground floor space to provide community facilities in support of the park, including bicycle hire, ranger office, community rooms police base and public toilets. Refurbishment of structure makes full utilization of current footprint only (no expansion) and includes improvements to entrances and external decoration</p> <p>10 Pavilion setting
Removal of old ranger block and redundant timber building immediately adjacent and to the front of the Pavilion. Creation of formal garden to front, side and part rear of Pavilion with high quality ornamental planting, feature flower borders and period style planting and complimentary colour schemes</p> <p>11 Sport changing rooms
Screen planting and landscaping to establish setting and create linkages/screening where appropriate to mitigate impact of poorly designed building frontage. Access around building and connectivity to relocated car parking to be improved. Enclosed footpath to rear created by building location addressed with tree management, improved surfacing to footway and signage</p> | <p>12 Toilet block and garden
Refurbishment and re-establishment of toilet provision with ranger room incorporated within current building footprint. Setting improved with ornamental planting and link made to major entrance improvements (Barrack Road entrance), new play provision and garden created around re-located Tram Shelter which functions as seasonal kiosk</p> <p>13 New car park
Small car park to serve west end of park, including sports users on existing tarmac foundation between avenue trees. Oversubscribed parking provision at Kettering road and local residential street parking pressures alleviated</p> <p>14 Central valley
Maximising natural landform to create a naturalistic feature as an alternative experience and destination to the sports and formal areas. Meandering central footpath, of informal nature with adjacent spaces which provide opportunities for informal play, water, feature artwork and sculpture and the establishment of a performance space. Ground works to create extended undulations for creative play with ribbons of planting supported with groups of new trees to define the area and provide sense of place without compromising individual or group security. Views retained into and along valley and CCTV coverage included. New experience brought to the park with new destination facilities. Emphasised linkage with improved signage and orientation information leads to increased structured use and higher levels of user traffic</p> <p>15 Football court
High quality multi purpose, free to access facility provided on part of current informally created kickabout area and adjacent to new car park</p> | <p>16 Basketball /Multi use courts
Provide two new, high quality free to access facilities with multiple markings and high specification surfacing to accommodate interest in a variety of sports for all and supported with lighting for evening use. Located on current basketball courts and linked to staffing resource at new sport changing building</p> <p>17 Play equipment
Improved play facilities adjacent to current popular playing spaces with complementary landscape settings, seating, picnic benches and signage/information. Equipment selections reflect target age groups and user profiles, provide the highest quality playing experience informed by current best practice in creating playful environments in a safe and protected space</p> <p>18 Adventure play
Development of new facilities for older children providing opportunities for challenging play within attractive and inviting settings, linked to user aspirations and supported by socialising spaces and places which have been shown as needed for older children and young people to meet and spend time</p> <p>19 Play in the landscape
Provision of features and places across the landscape setting of the Racecourse for creative play, imaginative play and for inspiring adventures for children of all ages. Integration of sculptural elements, focal points with multiple uses and incorporate a variety of attractive visual elements which enhance and define the immediate environment</p> <p>20 Exercise circuit
Waymarked circuits around the park supported with information/interpretation and printed materials on exercise opportunities within the park. Linked to focal points and features of interest around the Racecourse with a hierarchy of courses and circuits to retain longer term users.</p> |
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in a new light

PROPOSALS & NEXT STEPS

The masterplan drawing includes 20 capital proposals that consist of both new and improvement works, to be implemented throughout The Racecourse as funding becomes available. The total cost of these proposals is in excess of £5 million.

A further 9 revenue and policy proposals involve longer term projects or have ongoing management implications which need to be delivered on a year by year basis. The total cost of these proposals is in the order of £1.2 million over a 10 year period.

The next stages in the implementation of the masterplan proposals will include the following:

- Appointment of a Project Manager
- Consultation on the masterplan proposals
- Forming a Project Management Team
- Implementing the funding strategy
- Development of detailed proposals
- Obtaining final approvals and support
- Arrangements for phased work on site

This work has already started but will take a number of years to complete.

fold 1

HOW TO SUPPORT & GET INVOLVED

The Friends of Northampton Racecourse are local residents and volunteers and we are always on the lookout for new members.

To help and support the development and implementation of The Racecourse masterplan proposals we are now looking for help in the following areas:

- Becoming a member of the Friends Group
- Project management
- Fundraising
- Sponsorship
- Consultation with children and young people
- Consultation with adults
- Taking minutes and letter writing
- Web site maintenance

If you are interested in finding out more and helping to improve The Racecourse, please contact:

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RIVER NENE REGIONAL PARK
INSPIRED SPACES

fold 2

NORTHAMPTON RACECOURSE MASTERPLAN PROPOSAL

fold 3

See the park in a

INTRODUCTION

Northampton Racecourse is one of the town's key parks and has a long history of providing sport facilities and hosting major events.

The Healthy Living Hub (HLH) vision for Northampton Racecourse is:

An exciting and safe green space, used throughout the week by people of all ages and cultures to improve their health and wellbeing.

In 2007, the HLH steering group (sub-group of the Friends of Northampton Racecourse) prepared a brief for the preparation of a masterplan which would deliver the vision for The Racecourse. The project was funded by the River Nene Regional Park and supported by the Racecourse Partnership Board.

The Racecourse Partnership Board members include local residents, MP's, Northampton Borough Council & Northamptonshire County Council councillors and officers, and representatives from the Friends of Northampton Racecourse, University of Northampton, West Northamptonshire Development Corporation, Unity College, Northamptonshire Police, Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust, the River Nene Regional Park and The Chronicle & Echo newspaper.

As directed by the project brief, a team of specialist consultants undertook research and consultation throughout 2007 in order to inform the preparation of the masterplan. A drawing which summarises the masterplan proposals was completed in February 2008 and is reproduced on the inside of this leaflet.

