

1 Introduction

Overview of developing a plan for the park

Welcome to the second consultation for the development of a Plan for Con Smith Park, in the heart of Cavan Town.

This forms part of an exciting and important process that is led by Cavan County Council - working to ensure that the park can provide an **enjoyable, engaging** and **memorable** place for those who live in, work at and visit Cavan Town.

...your **input** is really important!

Please look through these boards, which are accompanied by a **questionnaire** for you to fill out and submit. This form can also be completed online by scanning the QR code opposite using a smart device:

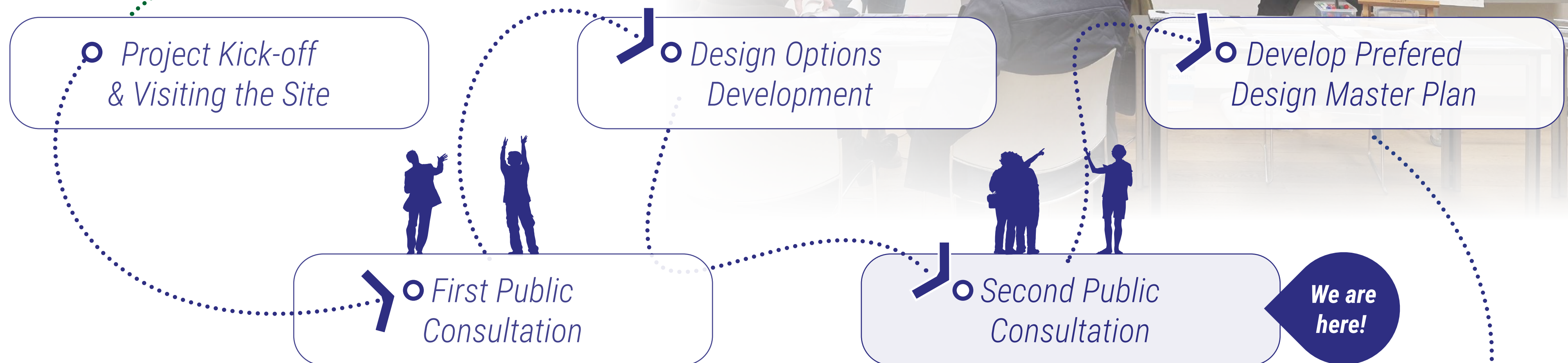


Do you think that **improvements** can be made to Con Smith Park?

Process of developing this plan

Following a successful first public consultation earlier this year, the team has worked closely with **public responses** - and a number of key local **stakeholders** - to develop a draft vision statement and a draft master plan for the park:

Engaging with attendees at the first public consultation (February 2023)



Key Aims for the development of this plan

A number of draft aims for the park have been developed - these are summarised for your comment and input below:

- 1 Vibrant recreational spaces**
- 2 Local riverfront engagement**
- 3 Rich ecological enhancement**
- 4 Exciting woodland access**

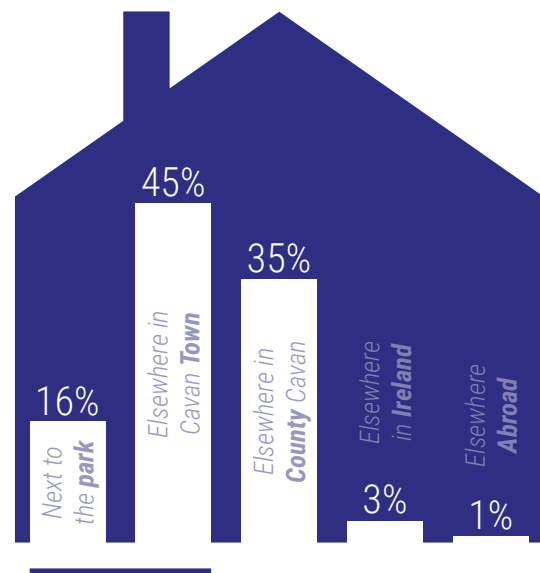
Do you think that these key aims as outlined above are **appropriate**? & ...are there any **other aims** that you think might be **important** for Con Smith Park?

2 Approach

Findings from the first public consultation

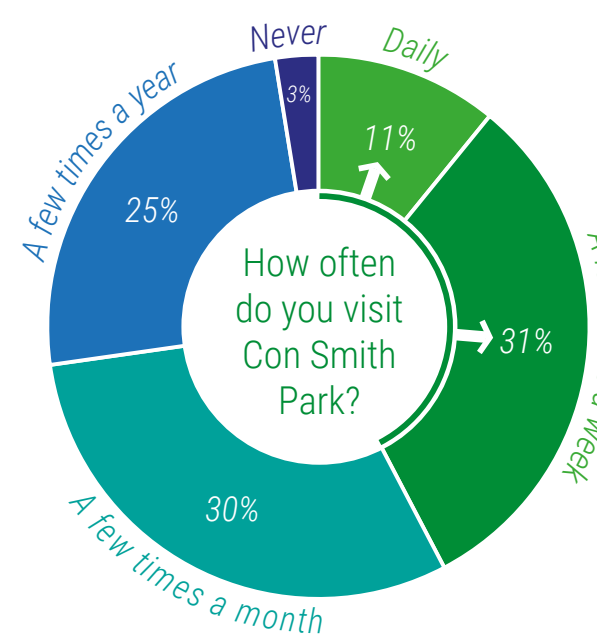
A preliminary public consultation was successfully held through February 2023, with valuable insights emerging that have now informed key ideas:

How close do you live to the park?

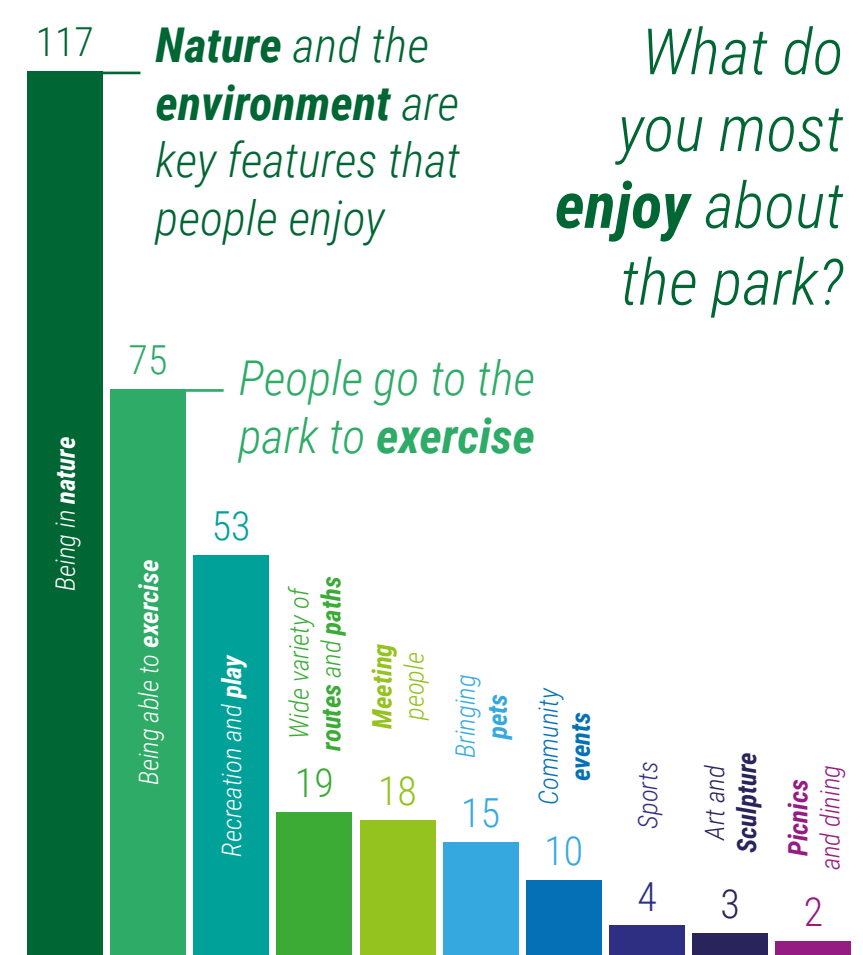


61% of respondents live locally to the park

and how often do you visit the park?



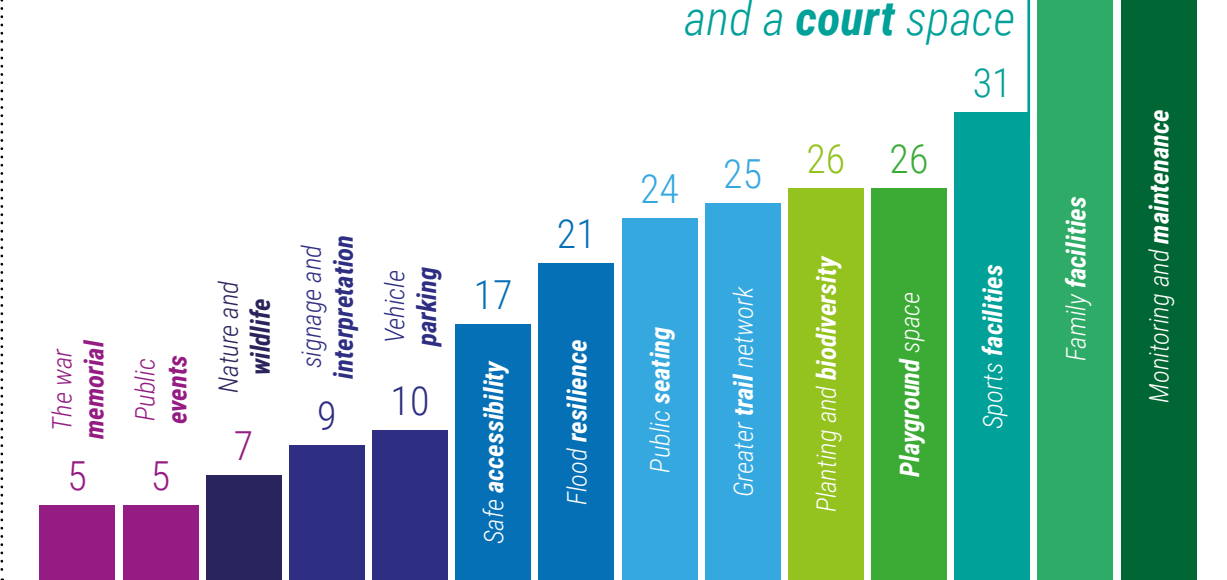
42% of respondents visit the park weekly



People enjoy access to nature, play, recreation, and exercise in the park

What do you most enjoy about the park?

...and is there anything about the park that you think can be improved?



and would like to see improvements in security, public facilities, play facilities and games areas

This is just a summary of the information that has been taken forward into drafting the below objectives for Con Smith Park:

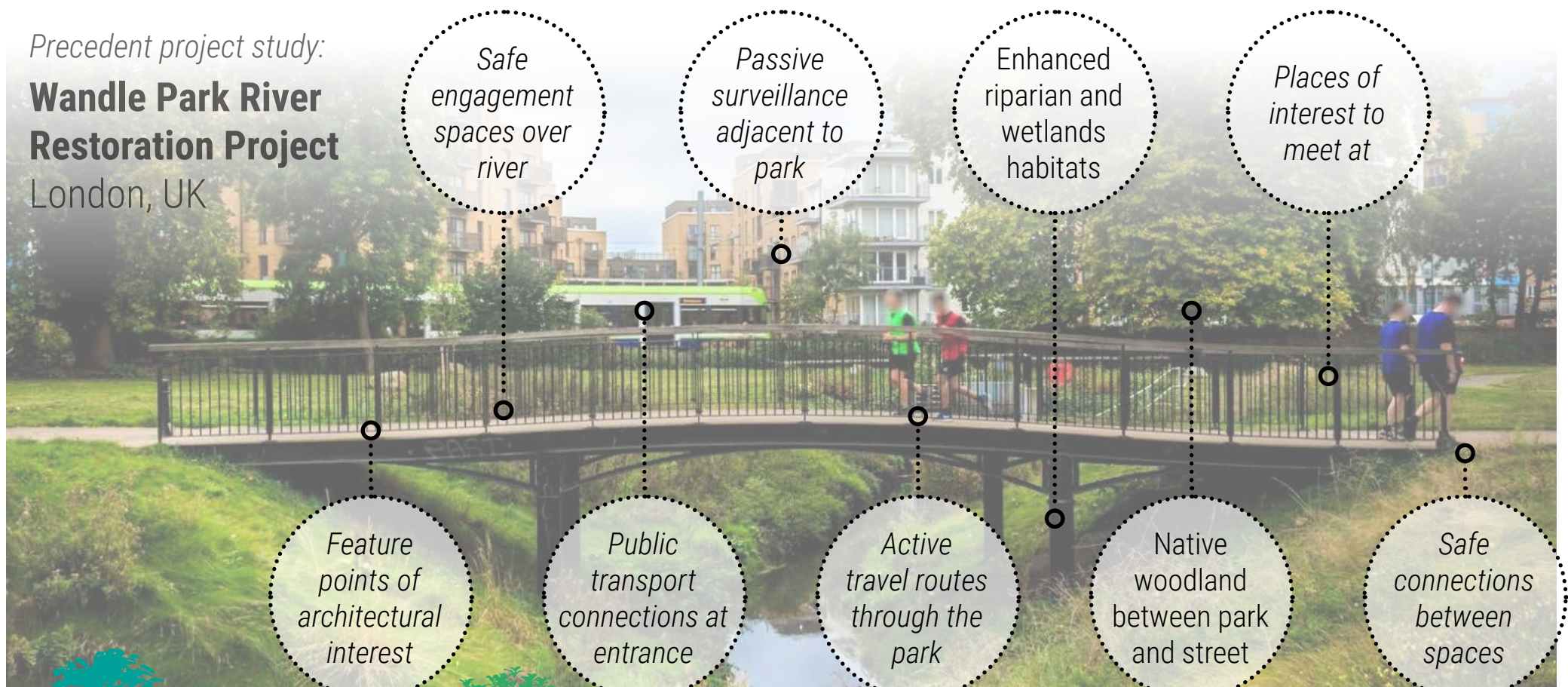
Is there anything about Con Smith Park that you think can be improved?

- More **native** plants, shrubs and trees
- A **zip line** in the playground!
- The ground is very **wet** and unsuitable for **family picnics**.
- The park needs a dedicated **park warden**
- More **resources** for the weekly **park run** event would be really great.
- Requires **better lighting** at night on paths
- More **seating**, and develop the **river area** for the ducks and the other **animals**

Objectives that emerged from consultation

A number of areas of interest have emerged from this first public response; these are consolidated into **five key design objectives**, as presented below:

Do you think that these objectives reflect the **aspirations** of the local **communities** of Con Smith Park?



- 1 Recreation, Play and Exercise
- 2 Connections and Movement
- 3 Environment and Biodiversity
- 4 Climate Resilience and Adaptation
- 5 Quality Design and Placemaking

Design Statement (draft) to capture the community's ideas and aspirations for Con Smith Park:

Con Smith Park is reimagined as a unique and special place to **relax** in, **exercise** in, and to **meet others** at:

...it is envisaged as a **socially** vibrant and **environmentally** balanced park for all visitors and for the local community:

...a place that embraces and celebrates the **environmental**, **historical** and **social heritage** of the park and of Cavan Town.

Do you think that this draft design statement captures the desires of the **town's community** alongside the needs of the **local environment**?

3 Strategy

Draft Plan for Con Smith Park

A plan has been developed in response to the ideas and responses outlined across each of Boards 1 and 2; this begins to set out how the park could eventually be - **we'd love to know how you feel about these ideas!**

Overview of the key Design Drivers:

A number of important drivers are outlined below, each of which relate to the emerging Masterplan:

Environmental improvements along the road boundaries present opportunities to create framed **points of access** and sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

Enhancement of lands located north of Institute while in development abeyance: **ecological** enhancement, hedge buffer, casual **games/lawn** area, and seating.

Enhanced pedestrian **links** between Cavan Institute and parkland, creating a network of **campus routes** and nodes that connect to local **points of interest**.

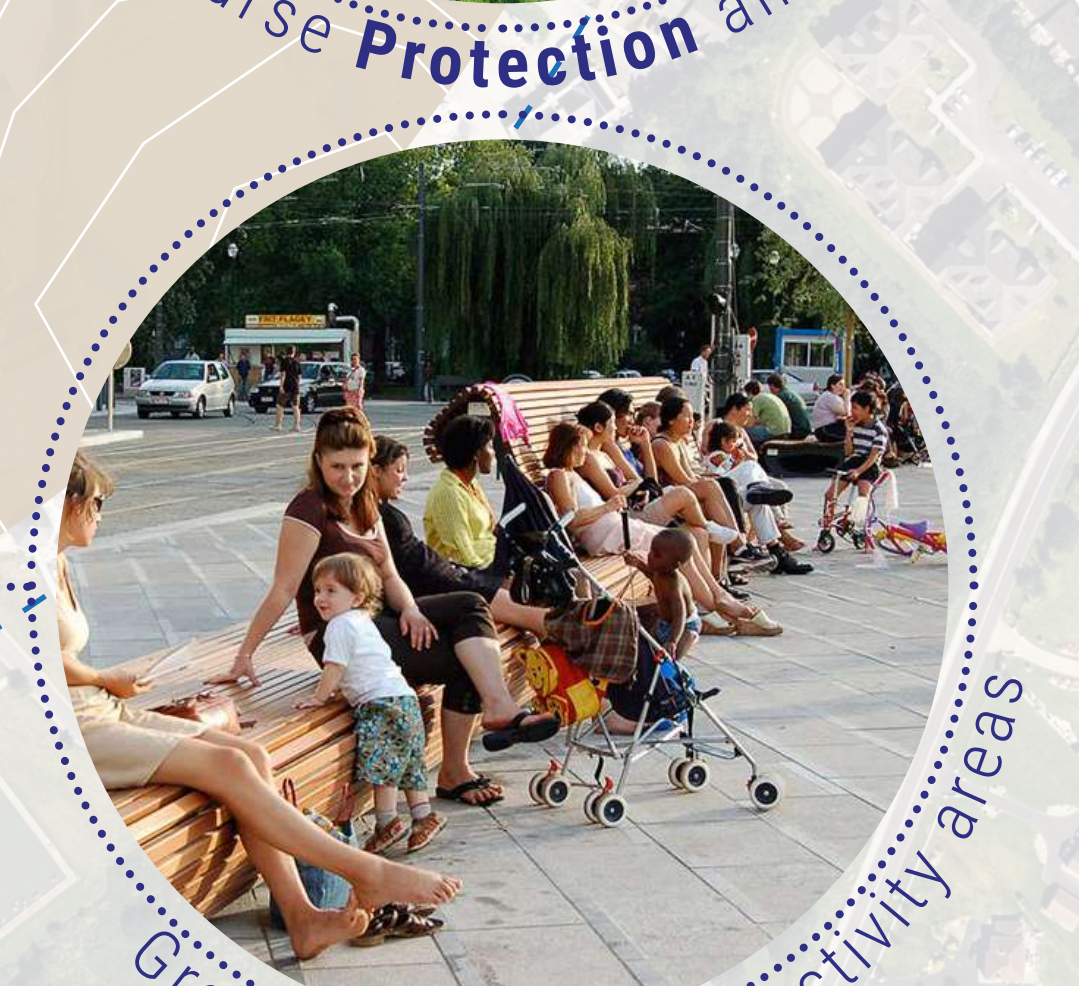
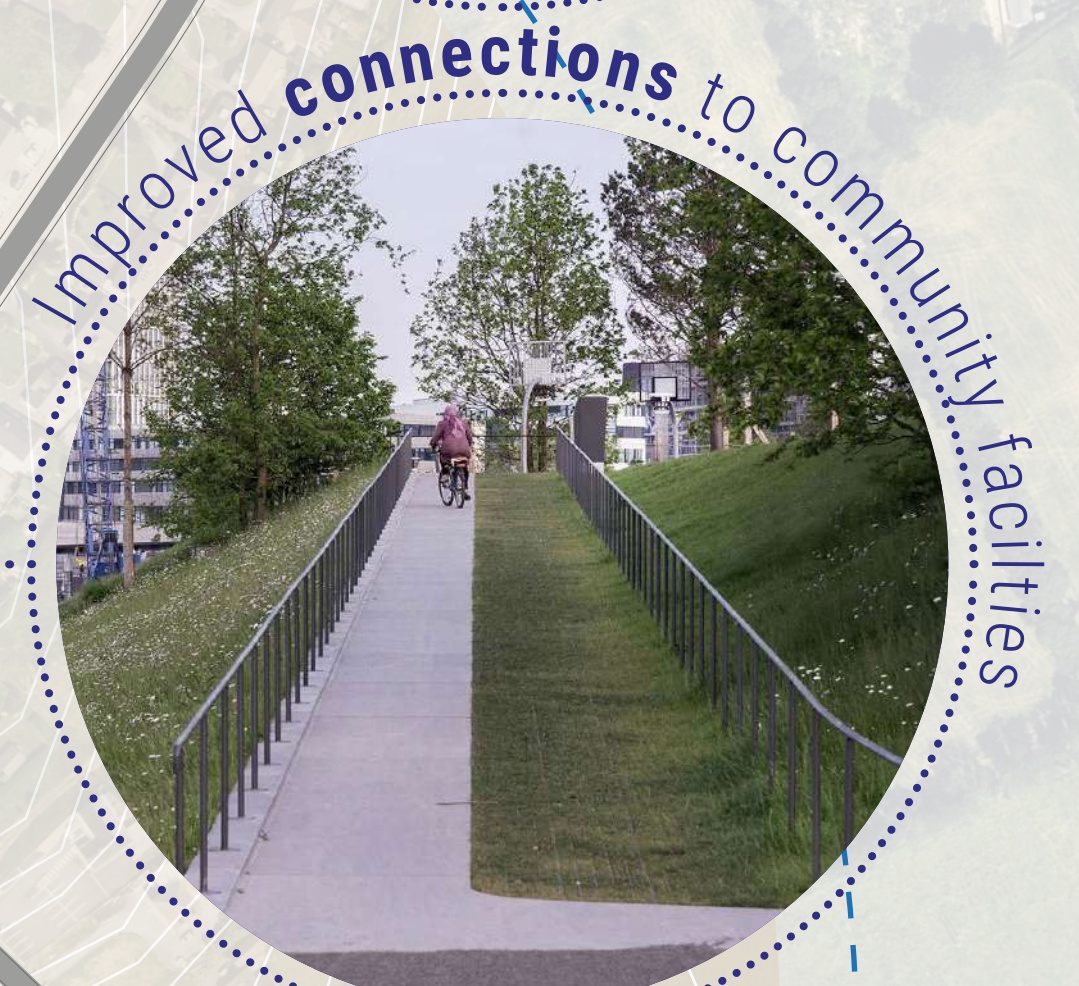
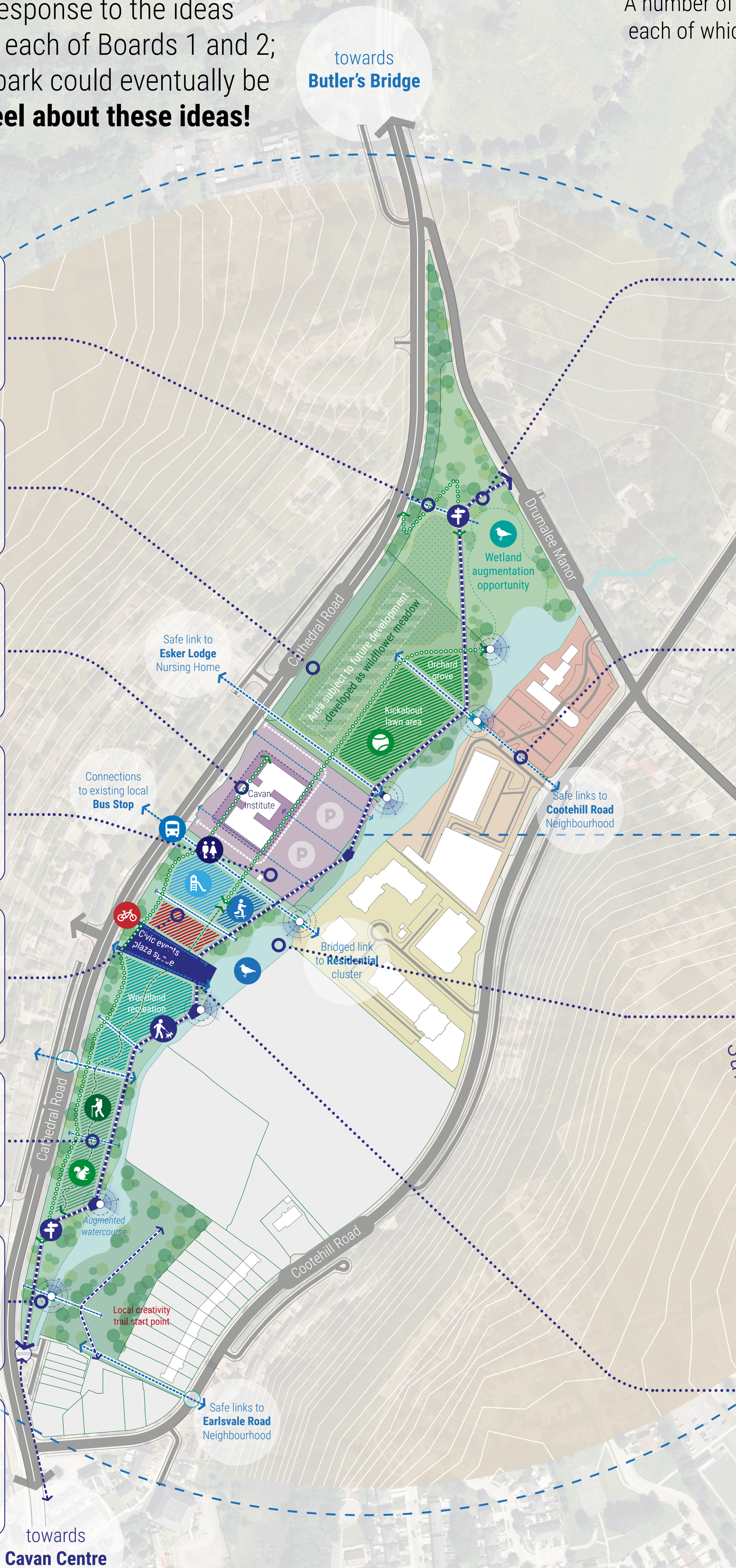
Opportunity for **direct connections** to Cavan Institute while rationalising the parking configuration and quantities, including increased disabled parking.

Increased and centralised location for **parkland play**, with improved links to lawn picnic space, outdoor seating and an **accessible network** of pathways.

Woodland **trail route** to create an adventurous link through an enhanced **native woodland** - located centrally and linking to key areas of visitor interest.

Enhanced links over the protected and augmented **river corridor** offer ease of movement, with **interpretive** points presenting unique visitor moments.

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Do you think that this draft Masterplan for Con Smith Park properly addresses the **needs** and **wants** of the park's users?

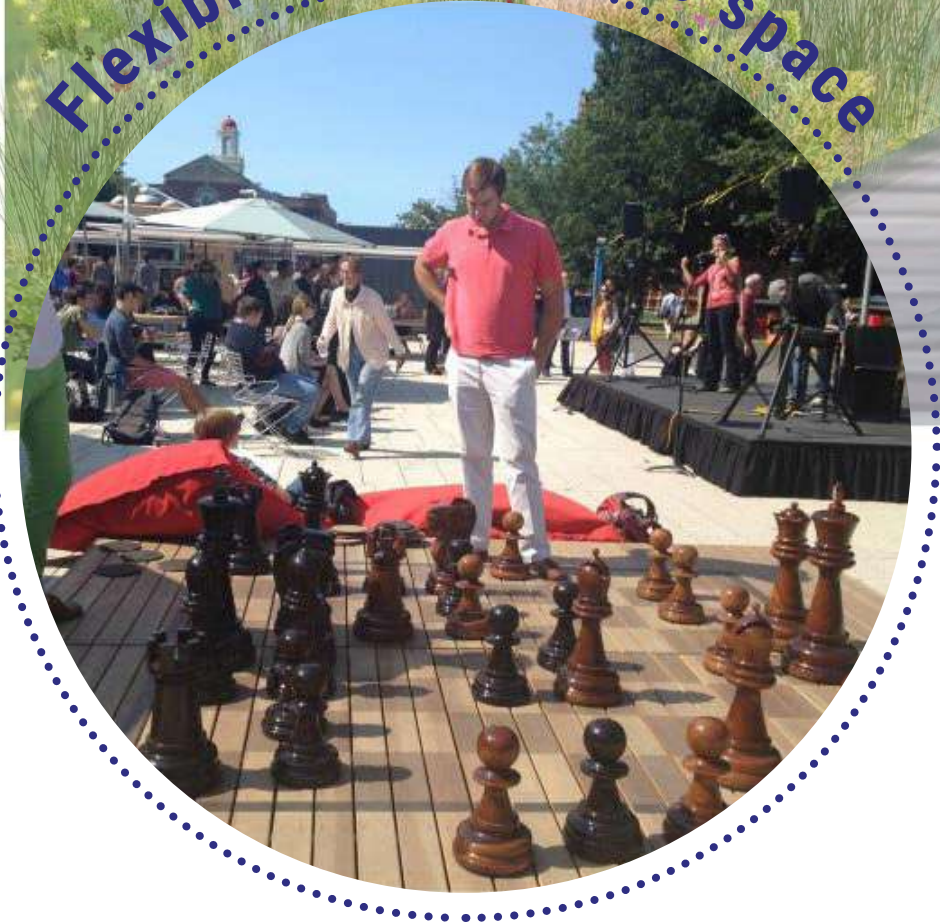
Is there anything **additional** you would like to see **included** in this Masterplan for the park?

Connectivity and links with adjacent facilities such as Cavan Institute can enhance the **safety, accessibility** and **use** of both the park and the Institute.

Ease of **visibility** and **access** into fun and recreational spaces such as the playground and skatepark will allow for a greater **sense of safety** in the park.

Informal spaces for picnics, games and seating and relaxing is provided through a network of meadow grassland and lawn areas adjacent to the path network.

Flexible central civic space



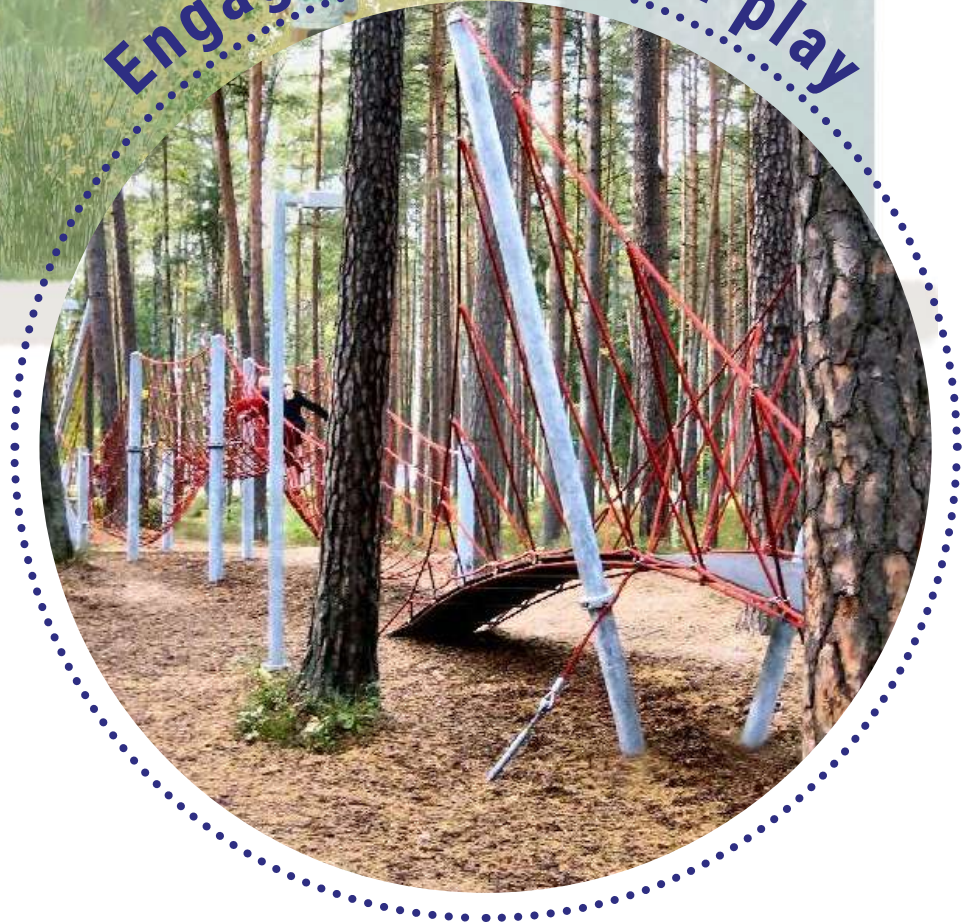
Exciting recreation spaces



Accessible woodland and riverfront



Engaging woodland play



Your **ideas** are welcome! Please be sure to fill out a few quick questions...

Do you have any further **comments** or **ideas** to make in relation to these emerging plans for Con Smith Park?

It is important to get input and ideas from the public - please scan this QR code to answer a few questions:



Expanding the town-wide network of quality public **open space** through stronger **connections** from the the park towards the centre of Cavan Town.

Greater legibility of routes, spaces and links through a unified network of **wayfinding** and signage points, enhancing park-wide **connectivity**.

Thank you for reviewing! A revised plan will be developed in response to this public feedback. These can be submitted in Johnston Central Library (Cavan Town) or online using the above QR code until the 18th August 2023.

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