

Project progress report

September 30th

Contractors have been busy over the last few months: the refurbished playground has reopened and has been busy with families enjoying the slides, the zip wire and the swings; and Headstone Lane car park has been resurfaced and is now open for use. The works to open up Yeading Brook were completed during August and the stream looks great as it winds its way through the new picnic area. The newly sewn grass in this area needs to establish before this space can be opened.

Cooler and wetter weather will help the establishment of new plants and trees which will be going in across the Park in coming weeks. The banks of the stream and the areas surrounding the wetland will soon start to look more naturalised as native wetland plants grown through coir matting will be put in place. The coir material, a waste product from the coconut, supports the growth and development of the plants which will include yellow flag iris, purple loosestrife and flowering rush.



Yellow flag iris H. Zell / CC BY-SA
(<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)

The new wetland ponds, located north of the Manor, will soon be connected to the main culvert bringing water into this part of the Park. Unfortunately, this water is often polluted with run off from roads which contains oil and heavy metals, and by foul water through misconnected drainage from homes and businesses (check your property for misconnections <http://www.connectright.org.uk/misconnections>). Polluted sediments will settle into these ponds and as the water trickles through the reedbed it will be naturally filtered before it enters the Moat.

Headstone Manor Park

In the south of the Park the Flood Alleviation Scheme (FAS) is underway. This large-scale project will significantly alter ground levels to create flood basins whilst improving drainage on the site for the benefit of park users, and sports teams in particular. The basins will hold back water in extreme weather events preventing flooding to downstream properties from overloaded drainage systems and from Yeading Brook. The FAS works will also improve wildlife in and around the brook itself as the removal of some trees and scrub, necessary during the earthworks, will allow more light into this heavily shaded habitat.

Works on site are expected to be completed towards the end of this year with a celebration event taking place in Spring 2021. Are you interested in getting more involved in the Park: helping to plant up the new habitats; looking out for nature and recording what you see; caring for the woodland; helping to run events? Do get in touch if you'd like more information about volunteering; or if you have any questions about the project and the planned outdoor programme for schools.

vicky.duxbury@harrow.gov.uk <https://twitter.com/headstonepark>

View the Park Master Plan [via this link](#)

