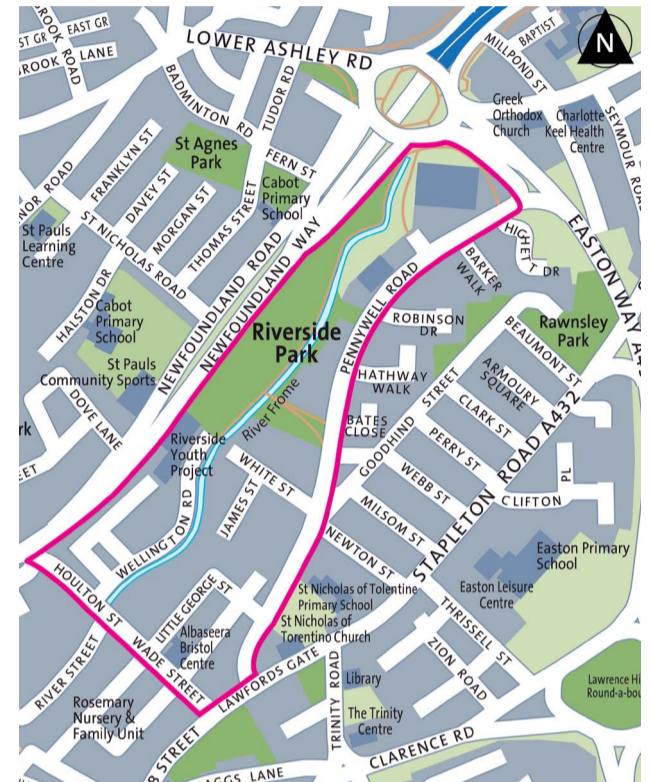


What is this all about?

This project is looking at ways to enhance Riverside Park and the River Frome in central Bristol, between St Paul's and St Jude's. It is focussing on the section of the river though Riverside Park, between Junction 3 of the M32 and Wade Street.



Riverside Park within the boundary of the Frome Regeneration Area

This project, which is led by Bristol City Council, aims to improve the river to make it cleaner, healthier, better for wildlife and more resilient to climate change. It is also looking at opportunities to improve Riverside Park and its connection with the river, so that it can become a more attractive space for existing and future residents to enjoy.

This project is closely linked with wider proposals for regeneration in the St Jude's area which are set out in the Frome Gateway Regeneration vision. Over the next few years, the area around the park and the river will see significant change. As this area is developed, and more people live here, it will become even more important that everyone is able to enjoy the park and the river.

Project funding

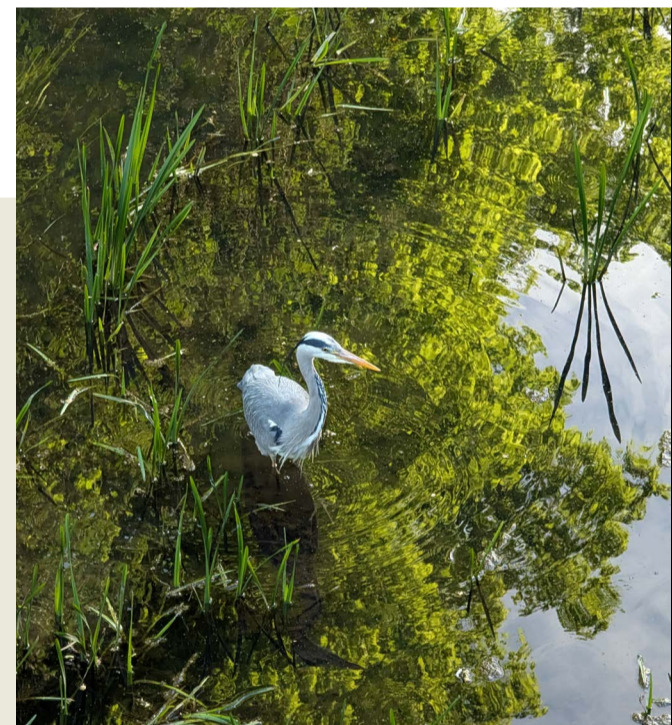
This project and the improvements proposed are funded by Central Government through Defra (the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) as part of the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP), which runs until March 2027.

The funding is for enhancements that will make the local area more resilient to the effects of flooding and climate change. This is a fantastic opportunity to deliver real improvements to the park and the river as one of the first phases of the Frome Gateway Regeneration vision.

This funding is allocated specifically to this project and cannot be spent elsewhere, therefore the measures proposed are not taking funding away from other Council services or priorities.



Litter and debris affect the existing water quality.



Existing vegetation is poorly maintained and lacks biodiversity.



The existing high walls mean that people cannot see the river.

Opportunities

There are a number of existing problems and issues along this stretch of the River Frome and within the Riverside Park. Importantly there is huge potential to improve this area.

This board explains what we aim to achieve.



Create a community space for existing and new residents to enjoy and support local regeneration

We propose to:

- Improve the park so it's a more attractive for everyone to spend time in and so it becomes a central feature of the regeneration area.
- Encourage everyone to enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits of being outdoors.



Reveal the river and make it more visible

We propose to:

- Lower the walls alongside the river so that everyone can see the river from the footpath.
- Create seating areas, where people can look out at the river.



Make the park feel welcoming and safe

We propose to:

- Encourage people to use the park more so that it benefits from natural surveillance and feels like a safer space.
- Improve lighting (but use lights that are wildlife friendly).



Restore the health of the River Frome

We propose to:

- Improve access for teams to remove litter from the river. This will help to create safer habitats for wildlife and improve water quality by reducing chemicals leached into the water from litter.
- Install oil interceptors onto highway drains that discharge into the river. This will help improve the water quality within the river.



Improve biodiversity and opportunities for wildlife

We propose to:

- Prune trees on the riverbanks and remove invasive species so more light reaches the river and plants and wildlife can thrive.
- Create new, diverse areas of marginal planting along the river edge and plant a wider range of trees within the park to support aquatic species and terrestrial wildlife.
- Improve the culvert to enhance access for eels.



Ensure the park is inclusive and accessible

We propose to:

- Make sure that new areas of the park are designed so they are accessible to everyone and usable by all.



Improve resilience to flooding and climate change

We propose to:

- Reduce the risk of flooding by making space for water during a flood and help the area to be more resilient to our changing climate.

Vision for the river and the park...

The masterplan shows all of the improvements we propose to make to the river and the park. The following boards then provide more details about the main proposed improvements.

All the way along this stretch of the river from Wade Street Bridge to Junction 3 of the M32 roundabout we would:

- Remove litter and debris
- Take out invasive non-native species
- Prune existing trees
- Add new diverse planting to the river banks
- Make improvements to stop oil from the roads draining into the river
- Improve the culverts to enhance access for eels



- Existing trees
 - Proposed trees
 - Existing riverside wall lowered and replaced with railing
 - In-channel improvements including pruning and planting of trees and marginal planting
 - River channel enhancements
 - Enhanced, bat-friendly lighting
 - New seating areas
 - New pollinator plants
- N
0 20 40m

Seating terraces

One of the key objectives of this project and the wider vision for the Frome Gateway regeneration area is to try and improve people's connection with the river. This proposal looks at redesigning a central section of the park next to the river to provide more space for flood water, create an area of accessible terraced seating and improved planting, with views across the river.

We propose to:

- Replace the wall along the riverside with railings so that people can see the river.
- Create new accessible terraced seating so people can sit and enjoy the view.
- Plant a variety of new pollinator shrubs and greenery between the terraced seating.
- Redirect the foot/cyclepath around the back of seating area.

This would:

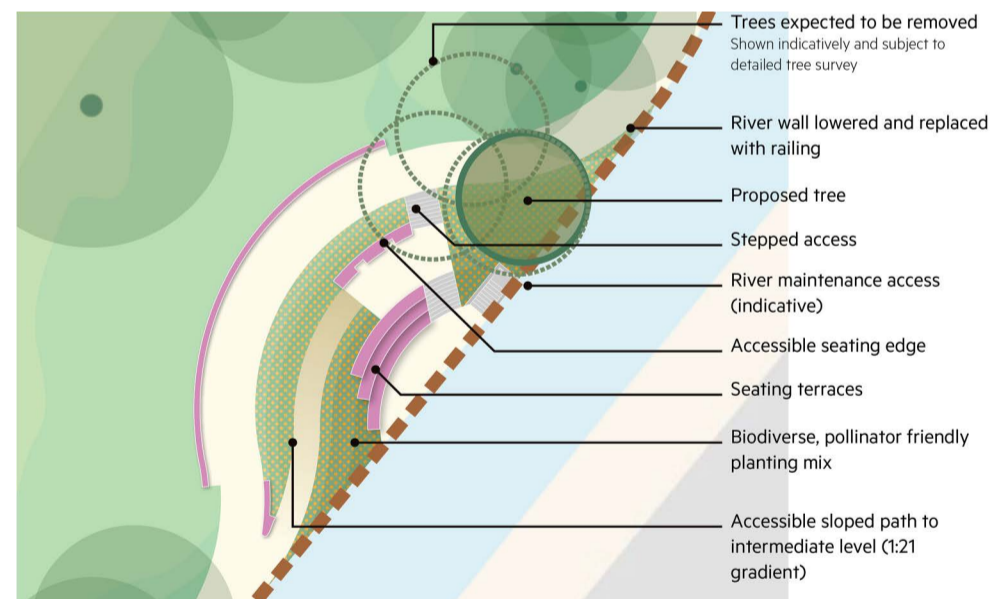
- Improve biodiversity, bringing in new flowering and pollinator planting to this part of the park.
- Create a focal point within the park that connects to the river.
- Provide additional space for floodwater and to be more resilient to flooding.
- Allow for maintenance staff to safely access the river via the new seating area - direct access to the river will be secured. This will provide opportunities for enhanced management of the river in the future.

We have carefully designed the seating to fit between the existing mature trees. However, we may still need to remove some of the Norway Maple trees. Through our ongoing design we will seek to minimise this as much as possible.

For every tree we have to remove we commit to planting new semi mature trees within the park in line with the Council's Tree Replacement Standard. Overall, the park will have more, and a greater variety of trees, than it does now.



■ Example of seating terrace. Source: Landezine/SLA



These improvements will:



Create a community space

Reveal the river and make it more visible

Ensure the park is inclusive and accessible

Improve biodiversity and opportunities for wildlife

Improve resilience to flooding and change

CONCEPT VIEW OF SEATING TERRACES

Indicative view for illustrative purposes only. Design proposals are subject to further survey information and detail design at next design stage.

- Riverside walkway re-routed 3.5 m width
- Seating edge to include benches with arm and back rests
- Accessible sloped path to intermediate level (1:21 gradient)
- Biodiverse, pollinator friendly planting mix
- Seating terraces
- Existing wall lowered to allow better views of the river
- Riverside wall lowered and replaced with railing

Opportunity for biodiverse, species rich grassland mix to park edge

Seating edge to park

Low-level biodiverse, pollinator friendly planting mix

Seating to include areas for wheelchair access and seats with arm and back rests

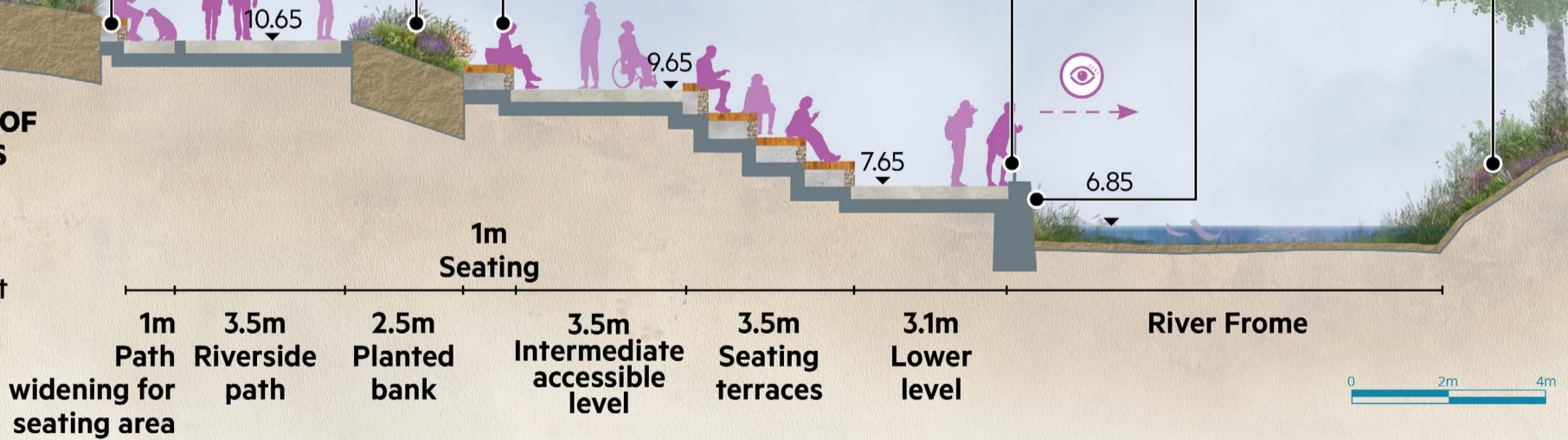
Proposed railing

Existing wall lowered

Existing bank shown indicatively

CONCEPT SECTION OF SEATING TERRACES

Indicative view for illustrative purposes only. Design proposals are subject to further survey information and detail design at next design stage.



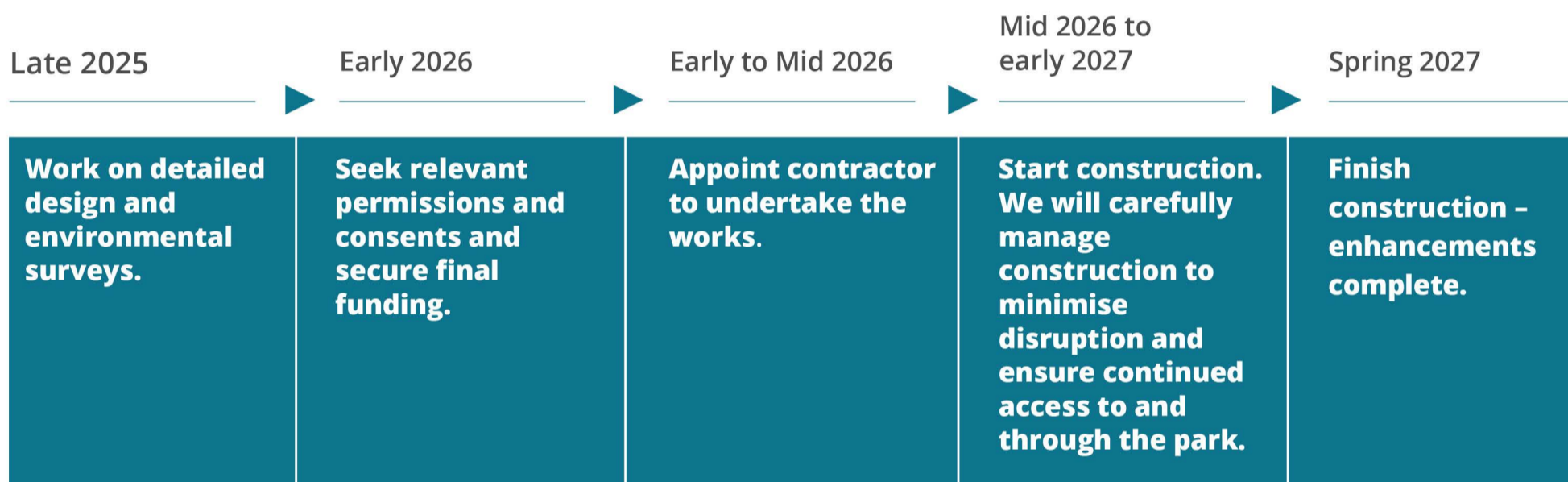
Next steps...

This consultation is an opportunity for everyone to have their say about the proposals for Riverside Park and the River Frome.

To have your say please fill in the online form on our website www.bristol.gov.uk/river-frome-consultation-2025 or ask a member of the team for a paper version.

Please make sure your comments reach us **by Monday 14 July 2025.**

Once the consultation closes we will review all the feedback and use this to help evolve and finalise our plans.



Future improvements

This project is just the first step towards improving this area. As the wider regeneration of the Frome Gateway regeneration area moves forward and as other funding streams could become available other projects will deliver wider improvements.

Some of the future projects we anticipate include:

- Work to improve the footpaths and cycle paths through the park
- Improvements to the basketball court
- Improvements to the bridges
- The potential addition of viewing areas / platforms looking over the river.

To have your say please fill in the online form on our website:
www.bristol.gov.uk/river-frome-consultation-2025
or use the Qr code

