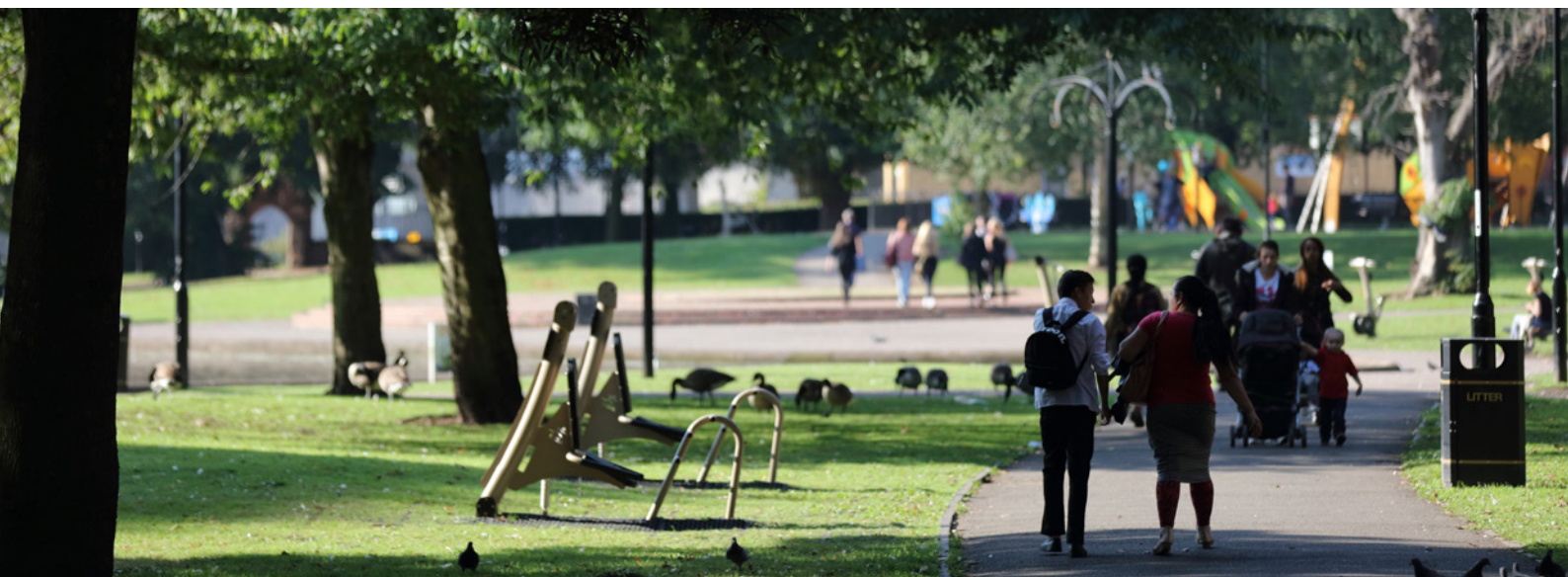


Coventry Parks and Play Areas

Coventry City Council



Project name:

Coventry Parks and Play Areas

Location:

Simon Stone Park and
Swanswell Park, Coventry

Value:

£310,000 renovation projects

Services:

Landscape Architecture

The Brief

Following funding from Section 106 monies (contributions paid from larger developments across the city) Coventry City Council identified two parks in need of redevelopment and refurbishment, having become outdated and heavily vandalised.

One were appointed following a successful tendering process for the design works for these two park schemes. The smaller of the two was Simon Stone Park located in a suburban, residential area next to a school. The second scheme, Swanswell, was a larger park in the city centre that incorporated park wide improvements including gateway improvements, island restoration and play area renovations.



Project Overview

The play area at Simon Stone Park was well used before and after school and all weekend. Initial consultation with the adjacent primary school identified the nature and type of play equipment the local children wanted, which in turn, informed the play area concept proposals. The final scheme retained and refurbished a large existing climbing frame and introduced new equipment around it to compliment the play space. The design also playfully linked the enclosed play area with the ball court space next to it through the introduction of natural play log balance beams, stepping stones and an informal tree line. The local school children were involved with the tree planting at the park which brought a further element of community involvement and ownership to the scheme.

Swanswell is a large inner city park in Coventry with a history stemming back to the 12th Century. The park provides an essential area of green public open space within a heavily urbanised area. The wider park had become worn and degraded through its popularity and overuse. One worked with Coventry City Council to deliver a site wide series of improvements and assisted them with the development of a co-ordinated masterplan for the whole park producing a robust design that was high in quality from the outset. The construction includes the installation of bespoke gateways, play areas, 'exercise on route' features and environmental enhancements to the lake.



The Benefits

- **Community ownership and pride** - The success of these schemes enhances the environment, regenerates communities and inspires ownership and pride. Our ambition has been to gather the hopes and aspirations of the local community groups and translate them into a play scheme that is far more exciting than they could ever have imagined.
- **Bespoke design that is fit for purpose clearly identifying the clients' needs and ensuring the design meets its function.** Play forms the heart of children's learning and is part of their everyday lives and experiences in childhood. Play space must be well-designed, imaginative and of high quality to attract children and families and become a valued part of the local environment. One's landscape architectural team has a reputation for inspiring intelligent, playful designs rooted in a thorough knowledge of the site and its context to ensure sensitive and creative play spaces. We have a wealth of experience in the design and delivery of parks, play areas and recreational facilities for numerous local authority clients.

“ The challenge faced when designing play areas for public spaces is multi-dimensional. Through our consultation and creative design process, we have successfully been able to deliver play areas and park improvements for two parks in the city of Coventry. Both schemes exceed the aspirations of the City Council, local residents and schools who all had a role to play in developing the final designs which have become loved and owned by the community. ”

Jennifer Roberts, Senior Landscape Architect



For further information
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