

Felixstowe Seafront Gardens

Stage D Masterplan



LEGEND

- Buildings adjacent to the Gardens
- Buildings within the Gardens
- Roads
- Footpaths
- Steps
- Seats
- Walls
- Ponds
- Grass
- Naturalised planting
- Ornamental planting
- Annual bedding
- Rose beds
- Trees to be retained
- Trees to be removed
- Proposed trees
- Fully accessible route
- Heritage Trail with feature/stop shown

RESTORE STRUCTURES & ENHANCE HERITAGE FEATURES

To repair, protect and restore original structures, shelters, walls, ponds, rockwork and built heritage features.

- Proposals:
- Stonework, walls and piers will be repaired or reinstated using historically appropriate materials
 - 1 • All the ponds and cascades in the Gardens will be restored to their original design or have their settings improved
 - 2 • The Round Shelter, Octagonal Shelter and their settings will be refurbished
 - 3 • The Cliff House Tea Rooms will be redecorated externally
 - 4 • The Pump House will be improved

ENHANCE INTERPRETATION, SIGNAGE & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

To interpret the special qualities of the site's social, landscape, ecological and geological heritage.

- Proposals:
- 5 • A new South Cliff Shelter will recreate a historical focal point in the Town Hall Garden
 - 6 • Information and interpretation will be available (leaflets for the Heritage Trail and signage) to inform visitors about the Gardens' rich heritage and to guide them through the Gardens
 - Clear signage will be limited to main entrances to avoid proliferation of signs impacting on the Gardens' historic character

IMPROVE FURNITURE & SEATING

To install an appropriate and accessible co-ordinated suite of furniture to protect and enhance the Gardens' heritage and character and to provide a quality visitor experience.

- Proposals:
- The Gardens will have new and refurbished furniture through out including an increased number of seats and bins
 - Furniture style will vary within the overall design concept to reflect the characteristics of the individual Garden compartments e.g. Edwardian benches in the Town Hall Garden and classical timber park benches on the Pram Walk

REINSTATE & ENHANCE HORTICULTURAL / HISTORIC GARDEN INTEREST

To manage and renew planting with a strong regard to historic precedent, but balanced by sustainable practices, level of public use, opportunities and constraints of the coastal climate.

- Proposals:
- 7 • Works will be undertaken to existing trees throughout the Gardens to prolong life, reopen key views and increase light levels to help undergrowth to establish
 - 8 • A new avenue of trees from Cliff House to Cobbold Road will focus the view to the Tea Rooms
 - 9 • Planting will screen less attractive views adjacent to Town Hall Gardens, Spa Pavilion service area, Spa Pavilion parking area and modern Chalets to the east of Long Shelter Garden
 - Overgrown planting beds will be refurbished using shrubs and permanent herbaceous perennial ground cover
 - Trees and plants suited to the maritime climate and popular during the Edwardian / inter-war period when the Gardens were created will be reintroduced
 - 10 • Seasonal bedding will be continued in prominent locations where it will enhance the setting of historic features
 - An underground storage tank fed by spring water will be installed to supply water to irrigate flower beds
 - 11 • Evergreen hedges will be planted along the sea wall to increase shelter for the Rose Garden lawns
 - Selective work to trees to open up, enhance and re-establish intended and historic views and vistas

ENCOURAGE ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

To protect and enhance the existing biodiversity value of the Gardens.

- Proposals:
- 12 • Sensitive habitats such as the Arch Cascade & Pond and the dry grass banks will be retained and protected
 - 13 • Colonised vegetation on the Red Crag cliffs will be managed to assist ground stability and to retain valuable habitat
 - The local population of Wall Lizards and their habitat will be retained and protected
 - The special habitat of wall plants will be retained and protected
 - Tree and shrub planting will be reinforced to enhance the habitat offer to migrating birds

PROVIDE HERITAGE TRAIL

The existing Gardens provide informal play opportunities for older children, but there is a need to provide facilities for younger children and families.

- Proposals:
- 14 • A Heritage Trail will run the entire length of the Gardens

ENHANCE COMMUNITY SAFETY

To create a welcoming Garden to be used all year round and into the evenings.

- Proposals:
- Town Hall Garden will have a completely new lighting infrastructure and equipment to provide appropriate levels of 'white light' for public use including ornamental lighting of vegetation and features
 - 17 • The accessible route from the Bent Hill entrance to the the Spa Pavilion will be illuminated to improve evening use
 - Pools and ornamental water features will be illuminated
 - Selected stonework and some groups of trees will be up lit
 - CCTV cameras will be installed to discourage anti-social behaviour
 - Work will be undertaken with Police to solve problems of anti-social behaviour and increase the perception of a safe place to visit

CREATE IMPROVED PUBLIC SPACE

To restore and strengthen the Garden's identity and introduce new facilities without compromising the character, quality and special features of the Gardens.

- Proposals:
- 15 • Improved quality of sitting space at east end of Gardens (site of Long Shelter) including removal of 'sand barriers' at entrance
 - 16 • Retained open lawn next to the Long Shelter site provides opportunity for temporary marquees, exhibitions and other events
 - Considered and sustainable plant selection adds visual interest and amenity throughout the Gardens

IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY & LEGIBILITY OF THE GARDENS

To improve visibility, sense of orientation and ease of use of the main entrances and primary routes within the Gardens, and between the Gardens, town centre and promenade.

- Proposals:
- Footpath surfaces, edgings and drainage will be repaired and improved throughout the Gardens
 - Steps, handrails and railings will be repaired and replaced
 - 18 • Steps will be replaced with ramps to provide a fully accessible route throughout the lower Gardens
 - All entrances will receive appropriate signage and new high quality surface materials to create a strong sense of identity
 - 'Way markers' will be placed along routes to denote accessibility
 - 19 • A new ramped link between Square Pond seating terrace and the path above has been created to improve access
 - 20 • New and restored footpath links to improve accessibility through the Gardens

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