Open Space

The revised masterplan builds on the approach associated with the previous scheme, distributing high quality open space throughout the masterplan to create a strong network of public amenity spaces easily accessible to the community.

The strategy includes the enhancement of the existing woodland running adjacent to the Basingstoke Canal towpath and the redevelopment of several existing areas of amenity grassland to provide pocket parks. The existing outdoor sports facilities will be improved and the range of sports activities will increase with the introduction of a new Leisure Centre.

The provision of new centralised public open spaces will act as community hubs and define each neighbourhood. These public spaces include:

- **The Park**
- **A Linear Park**
- **Pocket Parks**
- **Green Streets (pedestrian-only streets)**
- **Central Square**

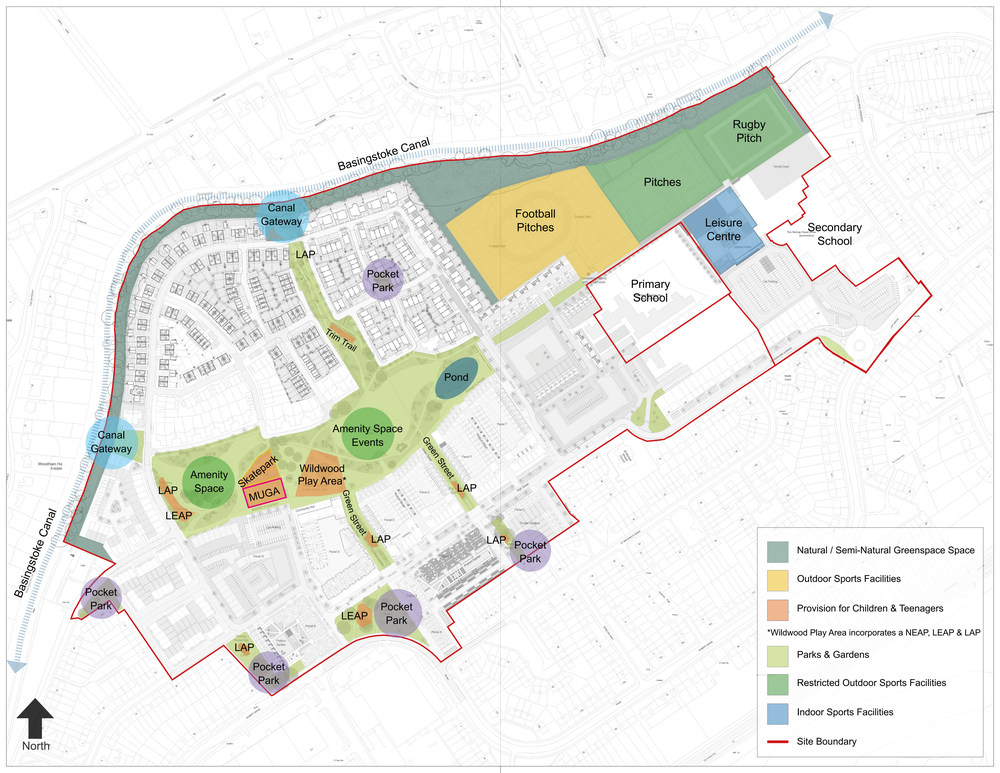
The intention is to create a series of well-connected public open spaces which form a distinctive landscape setting characterising the neighbourhood. These places act as destinations, providing opportunities for the local community, young and old, to come together and enjoy planned or spontaneous social interaction. The new proposals increase the size of the central park area, extending its scale primarily to provide versatile amenity grassland areas suitable for informal ball games, dog walking, family picnics and larger, organised community events.

Public open spaces are fully accessible, multi-functional and designed to respond to the changing needs of the community, engaging all age groups and supporting a wide range of recreational activities, such as relaxing, play, exercise, community productive growing and education.

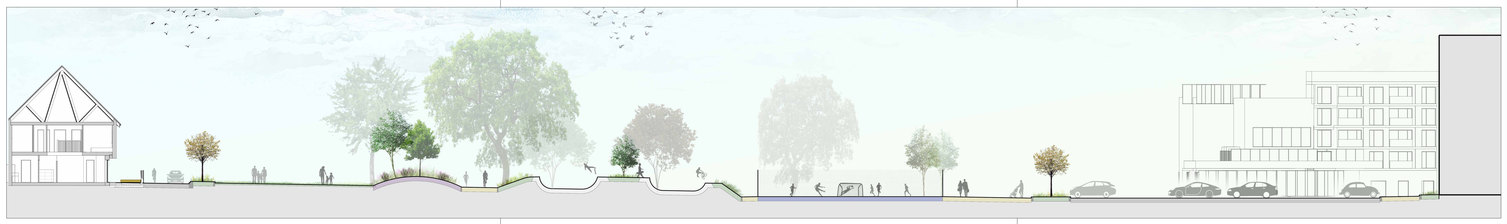
Each space possesses a unique atmosphere and character and ranges in scale from intimate seating areas, featuring textural and scented perennial planting, to larger, open areas of meadow and grassland.

The introduction of a diverse range of tree and plant species throughout the masterplan will form a strong ecological network and provide wildlife habitats, creating a series of attractive spaces where the community can engage with nature.

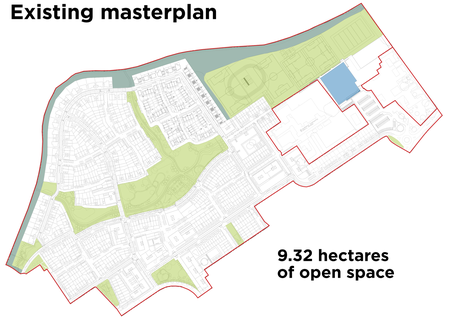
The revised masterplan increases public open space by just over one hectare – about one and a half football pitches.



Multi-use games area and skatepark section

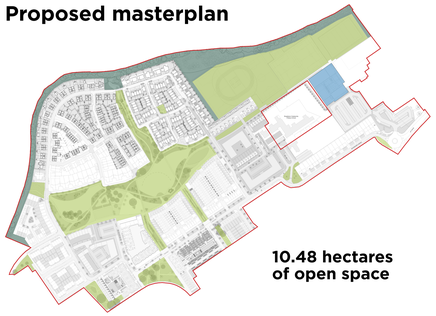


Existing masterplan



9.32 hectares of open space

Proposed masterplan



10.48 hectares of open space