

Creative Futures Moston Vale

Outcomes of a
participatory
planning process

Supplementary
Notes to
Landscape Plan

November 2003



Introduction

Between February and June of 2003, community members and other stakeholders were invited to participate in the early stages of creating a long-term vision for sustainability in Moston Vale and the Irk Valley in North Manchester¹. The envisioning was carried out with participants from NGOs, community groups, academia, public and private sector organisations.

These notes accompany the landscape plan created for the Moston Vale, providing more detail than the report for the envisioning process. The landscape plan and its accompanying report can be downloaded from <http://www.holocene.net/irk.htm>.

There are two tables. The first shows some detailed design notes for the plan, the second is a recording of the ideas developed in the workshops for the site, with notes as to location. The final heading in each table shows which category of the E.A.S.E.L.^{TM2} the ideas fall under.



¹ This process was undertaken in partnership with the Irk Valley Project, as part of Ph.D. research into participatory planning, based in the Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology, University of Manchester. The DesignWays process was tested, facilitated by its developer, Joanne Tippett. Zinnia Clark, also based in CURE, assisted with community mapping.

² The E.A.S.E.L.TM is framework for organizing design information, created as a Mind Map with moveable branches under the headings: Economics, Activities, Social Capital, Elements and Settlements, Landscapes. Each heading can be expanded to a more detailed Mind Map with sub-headings, which act as DesignWays' architecture for organising participants' ideas.

Further Design Ideas and Notes

Ideas	Benefits
Community Pavilion	Utilised by groups for: Displays, Performance, Workshops, Concerts, Arts/crafts, Talks, Events (BBQs) Provides minimum seating, Shelter, Storage, Consider materials: vandals, Recycled brick etc., Lockable: garage door Artistic panels, Display space, Notice board
Outdoor Theatre	Cultural displays, Health awareness, Centre of events at markets, Centre of events at football, it is a community structure. Use at festivals and activities, Storage: arts material, sports equipment (e.g. tennis nets). Could provide a venue for a Farmers' Market.
Skate Park	Seating for viewing of activities, multifunctional skate park and bike area, with challenging BMX track and skate features such as ½ pipe, Bowl: ¼ pipe, jump ramp, rail slide. This area needs further design work involving youth groups.
BMX (Bike) Path	Path width 2 metres, incorporates mounds and curves Start/finish Line, Think about dirt/ gravel/ mulch, Litter picking policy with youth groups using the site
Cycle/Pedestrian Paths	Width: 2.5 metres (cycle 1.5, pedestrian 1m) Use specifications of the Transpenine trail 2 metres or 2.5 metres same surface: fine gravel, light brown/white look Use edge: brick (recycled from demolition in the area) or P.C.C edge, Use rolled resin bound gravel (is permeable)
Play Area	Climbing, balance, Science area (e.g. water channels, big features for measuring): active play Rubber impact surface: coloured, Colourful, Fenced/kissing gate, Seating, Sculptural divide (community workshop to design and implement)
Parking (may be necessary in the future)	Problems in the past with prostitution/vandals, Keep close to road, Lighting, Consider 7 pm (10 pm summer) gate locked, Signage, Utilise existing hard standing at eastern corner of site.
Dog Runs	Fence at 600 mm, bow top fence: consider safety, Minimum 25 metres by 15 metres (plan)
Boardwalk	Consider recycled plastic (more difficult to burn) May need handrail
Planting	Low spots: silver birch clumps with wildflowers, Accentuate mounds, Deciduous/evergreen mix, Wildflowers on edges, Furniture: bolt on option for willow sculpture/temporary art
Interpretation	Information about former brick and clay works, Sculptures, Where's the brook? Witches ravine and wishing stone, Site of old stepping stone, historical use of waterways in the area for industry
General	Need signs in the area to point to the site, create a greenway path between schools and the site, Clear stem pruning existing plantings, to maintain site lines

Ideas for Moston Vale Plan from Workshops

Future Possibilities	Location On Moston Site	E.A.S.E.L.
Recreate a water feature, echoing Moston Brook, using scrapes and reedbeds in the existing marshy depressions, accentuated with sculpture, following the line of the brook, include interpretative materials about the former brook	along former brook line, by path, Witch Ravine	Landscapes
Highlight the former meander of Moston Brook with innovative lighting at night - e.g. underlit blue lighting	along former brook line, by path	Elements & Settlements
Pathways with seating	along paths	Elements & Settlements
Provide shelter	along paths	Elements & Settlements
Informal plantings of fruit trees and clumps of soft fruit bushes	along paths	Landscapes
More lighting	along paths	Elements & Settlements
Senior citizen's seating areas	Pond Area and along paths	Elements & Settlements
Educational display about site	Archway Moston	Elements & Settlements
Use of business park to showcase sustainable building and landscaping	business park	Economics
Business Park-more efficient water use -use of SUDS - e.g. road and roof run off into ditches and reedbeds, avoiding run off straight to sewage	business park	Landscapes
Snack bar at business park accessible by footpath	business park	Elements & Settlements
Kids science education area - includes interactive exhibits such as water channels - can be self managed with instructions	Central - north site	Elements & Settlements
Facilities for climbing	Central - north site	Elements & Settlements
Edge between 'adventure play' and small children play - could be a sculptured wall, designed and built in community workshops.	Central - North site	Elements & Settlements
Greening the streets – more trees	Church Lane	Landscapes
'No tipping' notices	edges	Elements & Settlements
Future allotments/community gardens	Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Pleasant seating areas	Honister Lane north edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements

Future Possibilities	Location On Moston Site	E.A.S.E.L.
alternative energy demonstration	Honister Lane North edge - moston	Elements & Settlements
planting for the senses (smells)	Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Landscape
education about composting at home and the need for composting - demonstration area and display, include history of site - interactive design	Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
community composting facilities and project	Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Machinery to chip branches	Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
demonstration urban gardens - showing possibilities for typical garden spaces in the area	Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Demonstration wildflower garden	Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Garden features from recycled materials e.g. sinks	Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
History of what happened to site - and landfill as part of interpretive materials	Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Drinking fountain and watering trough for horses and dogs	Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Stepping stone, also acts as informal seating	Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Bottle bank	Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Walking	Moston site	Activities
Jogging	Moston site	Activities
Archaeological excavations to uncover history	Moston site	Activities
More allotments if wanted	Moston site	Economics
Picnic Tables and benches	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Bird nesting boxes	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Dog fouling bins	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Rubbish bins	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Dog fouling signs	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Bird nesting boxes	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Dramatic Events - on site?	Moston site	Activities
Bike routes	Moston site	Economics

Future Possibilities	Location On Moston Site	E.A.S.E.L.
Good footpaths – improved paths, well defined, with lighting	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Bridleway	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
shrubs and flowers	Moston site	Landscape
remediation	Moston site	Landscape
Subtle/aesthetic Changing lighting - e.g. under lit paths	Moston site	Landscapes
Well lit paths	Moston site	Landscapes
Signs - dogs on lead outside of dog walking area	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Interpretative signs	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Dig out landfill - restore vale to original contours with brook and woodland	Moston site	Landscape
accentuate the small hills that have developed due to subsidence, planting them with clumps of singular species of trees (appropriate to the soil and site) so that they become more distinctive features	Moston site	Landscape
buddleia for butterflies (not on main visual areas)	Moston site	Landscapes
Marshland enhanced, create a boggy garden	Moston site	Landscapes
Provide lighting for footpaths	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
local poetry and art incorporated into seating, landscaping and interpretation materials	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Regular maintenance of Moston Vale	Moston site	Activities
More support for the project	Moston site	Activities
All weather walkways	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Seating	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Seating for retired couples	Moston site	Elements & Settlements
Small clumps of tree planting - used to accentuate the mounds on the site, creating a light woodland glade feel	Moston site - Central	Landscapes
An ecological demonstration house	Near composting cluster	Elements & Settlements
youth guidance workers	Near skateboard park	Social Capital
Scramble/bmx bike track	North East corner - North site	Elements & Settlements
Nature trail for kids	North East edge – Moston or South West corner - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Vehicle access reduction	North East edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements

Future Possibilities	Location On Moston Site	E.A.S.E.L.
Traffic control and safe crossings between north and south sites	North East edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Link the nature interpretation areas on site to a Nature Study Area at Moston/Ashton Lane entrance to primary school - signs leading to moston vale site	North of site - path	Elements & Settlements
Adventure play area	North site	Elements & Settlements
Skateboard park/area	North west corner - north site	Elements & Settlements
Youth hut	North west corner - north site or South East corner - North site	Elements & Settlements
ponds please!	pond area	Landscape
Reedbeds	pond area	Landscapes
Areas to grow artistic materials	pond area, Honister Lane North edge - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Pleasant seating areas	pond area	Elements & Settlements
pond dipping platform	pond area	Elements & Settlements
Wildlife viewing hide	pond area	Elements & Settlements
Pond dipping platform	pond area	Elements & Settlements
interpretation of wetland area	pond area	Elements & Settlements
enhance the wetlands	pond area	Landscape
Special area for picnics	pond area	Elements & Settlements
water feature path following moston brook - interpretation	pond area	Landscape
southern part of the site left for wildlife	South - Moston	Landscape
glades	South and Central Moston	Landscape
more trees	South and Central Moston	Landscape
southern part of the site left for wildlife	South and Central Moston	Landscape
use of natural shapes for planting, blended in with the landscape	South and Central Moston	Landscape
use of Rodwell's NVC communities as "guideline for development of grassland, wetland and woodland communities"	South and Central Moston	Landscape
Wildflower area	South East - Moston	Landscapes

Future Possibilities	Location On Moston Site	E.A.S.E.L.
Collection and recycling of materials for arts and crafts	South East edge - North site	Activities
Activities area	South East edge - North site	Elements & Settlements
Fresh produce markets	South East edge - North site	Elements & Settlements
Community Pavilion, Temporary stalls for a farmers' market could be set up in front of community pavilion, also used as an event to attract people to the Moston Vale Site	South East edge - North site	Elements & Settlements
Sandpit	South East edge - North site	Elements & Settlements
Community structure	South East edge - North site	Elements & Settlements
Space for cultural events and temporary displays	South East edge - North site	Elements & Settlements
Youth hut - storage for arts and crafts materials and tools	South East edge - North site	Elements & Settlements
Natural edge to the business park	South edge - Moston	Landscapes
Proper football pitch/ All weather sports pitch	South edge - North site	Elements & Settlements
Dog walking area	South West - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Nature trail - meandering pathways	South West corner - Moston	Elements & Settlements
Water feature path following moston brook - interpretation of historical use of water with brick works and dye works	South West corner - Moston	Landscape
Dog fouling area	South West edge - North site	Elements & Settlements
Preserve existing trees and hedgerows in construction and use of UU monitoring station	witch ravine	Landscape
Wildlife area enhancement	witch ravine	Landscapes
United Utilities monitoring hut - suggestions include a mural of the history of the site on the walls (painted with anti-graffiti paint), building it to resemble the former witches' cottage which was on the site, a listed building, and creating a small visitor's kiosk with displays and information, using the structure and a community resource.	witch ravine	Elements & Settlements