# Croydon Council unveils vibrant plans to transform College Green into an all-season urban oasis



Croydon Council has set in motion an ambitious plan to revitalise College Green, a once overlooked stretch of concrete nestled between Croydon College and Fairfield Halls, transforming it into a vibrant urban meadow designed to serve the entire community. The project, spearheaded by MICA Architects and led by Senior Associate Mark Tugman, promises to bring a breath of fresh air—and colour—to an area previously described as windy, noisy, and somewhat odorous, particularly near the Park Lane bus stops.

The redesign of College Green replaces the existing podium with a rich mosaic of gardens, walkways, and versatile seating areas. The plans include an amphitheatre-style seating arrangement, a children’s play zone, picnic benches, and a Multi-Use Games Area coupled with a dedicated dance space. The landscaping has been carefully curated to provide year-round visual interest, with carefully selected trees intended to blossom in every season, enhancing the area's appeal throughout the year. According to Mark Tugman, the initiative aims to create a lively and inclusive place where residents can relax, socialise, and engage in a range of outdoor activities.

Safety and accessibility are central to the project, with improved cycle and pedestrian routes, upgraded lighting, and CCTV installations designed to foster a secure environment. Importantly, the development will connect seamlessly with the nearby Tapestry housing scheme and provide a secure passage to East Croydon Station, underscoring the council’s commitment to enhanced urban integration and usability.

MICA Architects bring extensive experience in education, housing, and mixed-use masterplanning to the College Green project. Mark Tugman, with over a decade of expertise, has been pivotal in crafting designs that combine functionality with high design standards, as reflected in their previous works such as extensions to Lincoln’s Inn Library and residential buildings at Pembroke College. The architectural firm is known for creating spaces that respond thoughtfully to community needs, emphasising sustainability and detailed craftsmanship.

Such initiatives align with a broader trend in urban design that values well-conceived public spaces as vital community assets. International examples like the Canal Corridor in London and First Street Green in New York illustrate how dynamic, multi-purpose urban parks can foster community interaction, support everyday use, and host diverse activities that enliven city life. Similarly, London’s Cator Park demonstrates how the integration of green loops and event spaces can successfully blend natural elements with urban infrastructure, creating appealing environments for residents and visitors alike.

By transforming College Green, Croydon Council is not only improving a neglected site but also contributing to a growing movement that recognises the importance of accessible, engaging public spaces in urban renewal. This project embodies a thoughtful approach to landscape architecture where ecological sensitivity, community engagement, and urban functionality converge.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/south-london-new-park-b1253128.html), [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/south-london-new-park-b1253128.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/south-london-new-park-b1253128.html), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/south-london-new-park-b1253128.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/south-london-new-park-b1253128.html), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/south-london-new-park-b1253128.html)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.micaarchitects.com/people/associates), [[4]](https://www.micaarchitects.com/projects-index)
* Paragraph 5 – [[5]](https://www.architectural-review.com/awards/ar-public-awards-2024/10052204.article), [[6]](https://www.tododesign.com/first-street-green), [[7]](https://dirt.asla.org/2015/11/04/cator-park-london-uk/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[2]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/south-london-new-park-b1253128.html), [[1]](https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/south-london-new-park-b1253128.html), [[4]](https://www.micaarchitects.com/projects-index)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/south-london-new-park-b1253128.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/london/south-london-new-park-b1253128.html> - Croydon Council has unveiled plans to transform College Green, a neglected area between Croydon College and Fairfield Halls, into a vibrant urban meadow. The project aims to replace the existing concrete podium with gardens, walkways, seating areas, and spaces for community activities. Features include wildflower planting, an amphitheatre-style seating area, a children’s play zone, picnic benches, a Multi-Use Games Area, and dance space. The design focuses on year-round colour and variety, with trees selected to blossom throughout the year. The development also includes improved cycle and pedestrian routes, upgraded lighting, and CCTV to enhance safety and accessibility. The project is led by Mark Tugman, Project Architect at MICA Architects, who emphasised the importance of creating a space that serves the entire community and aligns with the adjacent Tapestry development. College Green will provide a secure foot and cycle way through to East Croydon Station, offering a place to relax, socialise, and enjoy outdoor activities.
3. <https://www.micaarchitects.com/people/associates> - MICA Architects' team includes Senior Associate Mark Tugman, an architect with over ten years of experience in education, housing, masterplanning, and mixed-use projects. He has a strong design and technical background, solving complex problems with high standards of detailing and design. Notable projects led by Tugman include the extension to Lincoln’s Inn Library and designs for two new buildings at Pembroke College to provide additional graduate student and studio accommodation. He has also conducted research into innovations in higher education and their impact on university typology.
4. <https://www.micaarchitects.com/projects-index> - MICA Architects' portfolio showcases a diverse range of projects, including the College Green development in Croydon, London. The firm's work spans various sectors such as education, housing, masterplanning, and mixed-use developments. Notable projects include the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn Workplace, Ashworth Centre, and the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The firm's approach focuses on creating spaces that are functional, sustainable, and responsive to the needs of the community.
5. <https://www.architectural-review.com/awards/ar-public-awards-2024/10052204.article> - The Architectural Review's Public Awards 2024 featured a variety of projects from around the world, including the Canal Corridor by Townshend Landscape Architects in London, UK. This project exemplifies innovative landscape architecture, contributing to the revitalisation of urban spaces and enhancing public engagement with the environment. The awards highlight the importance of well-designed public spaces in fostering community interaction and improving urban living conditions.
6. <https://www.tododesign.com/first-street-green> - First Street Green, designed by TODA, is an urban park in New York City that serves as a community hub for various activities and events. The park's design considers the daily interactions of local residents, integrating unplanned, everyday use with scheduled events. This approach creates a dynamic space that accommodates both spontaneous and organised activities, fostering a sense of community and engagement among visitors.
7. <https://dirt.asla.org/2015/11/04/cator-park-london-uk/> - Cator Park, designed by HTA Design LLP in London, UK, is a public space that exemplifies innovative landscape architecture. The park features a 'green loop' connecting various outdoor areas for year-round activities and events. This design integrates natural elements with urban infrastructure, creating a welcoming environment for the community and enhancing the overall quality of urban life.