

Project Newsletter

October 2023

Welcome to the October newsletter for the Roseburn to Union Canal project.

Background

We are transforming public spaces along a route between Roseburn and the Union Canal, creating a 'green corridor' and cycleway and bringing disused areas back into community use.

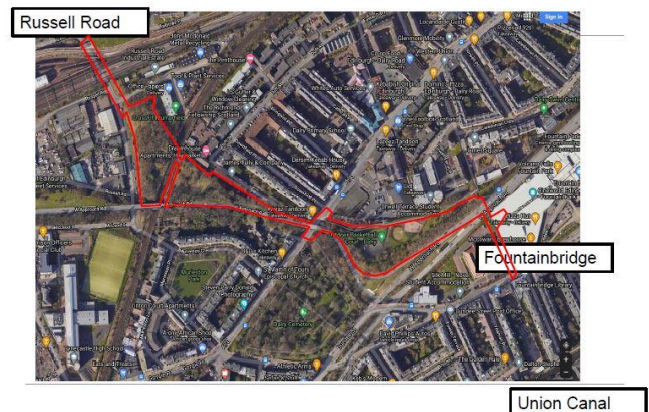
The new route will help to encourage more people to walk, wheel or cycle and spend time in their local community, in turn helping us achieve our net zero carbon by 2030 goal.

Funding for the project has been provided by Sustrans through the Places for Everyone programme, an active travel infrastructure fund backed by Scottish Government which helps deliver walking, wheeling and cycling improvements across the country. Other funding is being provided from the Council's capital budget.

Construction of the project started on 30 January 2023 and is expected to be completed in July 2024.

The scheme is split into three sections:

- Sauchiebank Gardens
- Duff Street Woodland
- Dalry Community Park.



Better connections

The route will fill a key missing link in Edinburgh's active travel network, delivering a 4 metre wide pedestrian and cycle path connecting the North Edinburgh Path network to Fountainbridge and linking in with the new [City Centre West to East Link](#), which is under construction.

Other benefits

- Two new bridges crossing over the Haymarket to Slateford railway line and over Dalry Road
- Community gardens at Sauchiebank (Russell Road) and Duff Street.
- Upgrade Dalry Community Park, including the playpark, designs which were developed after consultation with Dalry Primary School pupils. The sports pitch in the park will also be upgraded.
- New or improved access at several locations for people walking, using wheelchairs or mobility scooters or cycling.



Reviving woodlands and improving play areas



Along the route we will plant almost 5000 woodland and semi-mature trees.

We have a comprehensive planting strategy which allows us to manage what is currently underused and largely inaccessible woodland. Through this, we will create healthier and more diverse woodland, with a longer-term plan to enhance its ecological value.

The Landscape and Habitat Management Plan will be delivered through the Landscape Architect, Harrison Stevens, working with local community groups. Any groups interested in being involved should get in touch at the email address below.

Dalry Community Park



So far we have cleared the site, felled trees and removed the sports pitch and play area. This will be followed by earthworks, excavations and filling to create the new contours of the site as well as retaining walls and drainage. The new pathway and sports pitch will be created at the same time as we do the soft landscaping.

The park was closed to public access on **6 February 2023** and will be fenced off throughout the project so that we can work safely,

During excavation works in the park our contractor made an interesting discovery by revealing old infrastructure associated with the former Dalry Road railway station. They found the old platform as well as a sign dated back to 1898.

Site Progress

We have been working on site for over 31 weeks. In that time, we have carried out extensive earthworks to create the new contours of the route, and installed retaining walls and drainage. We have recently completed bored piling work in preparation for the delivery of the Dalry Road bridge.

Timeline

September 2023: piling works completed for Dalry Road bridge.

6 October: finish road re-alignment and construction of bi-directional cycle lane on Russell Road.

16 October: start of piling work at the Mid Calder railway line crossing.

February 2024: Dalry Road bridge deck lifted on to abutments.

April 2024: Mid Calder railway bridge deck lifted on to abutments.

July 2024: project complete.

Keeping you informed

We issue regular project updates to everyone along the route and notify those directly affected by specific construction stages.

You can also keep up to date with progress on our website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/roseburntounioncanal

We plan to work with local schools, community organisations and businesses to look at ideas and options for activities in the area to support active travel.

As outlined above, the Landscape and Habitat Management Plan will be delivered with local community groups. We are currently gathering details of community groups who may be interested in working with us for the remainder of the construction project and beyond.

Get in touch

Email: roseburntounioncanal@edinburgh.gov.uk