



PRESS RELEASE

2 March

New route to the canal proposed in The Regent's Park

A proposal has been announced this week to create a new ramp and steps down to the Regent's Canal from Avenue Road in The Regent's Park.

The plans come from the Canal & River Trust – the charity that cares for the waterways – and The Royal Parks, in an effort to improve access to and from the canal.

The project is funded by Transport for London, and will also provide improved connections to The Regent's Park and onward routes including ZSL London Zoo, Camden, St John's Wood, Lisson Grove and Lord's Cricket Ground.

Susannah Miller, Canal & River Trust project co-ordinator, says: "The Regent's Canal is one of the most popular canals anywhere in the world. It's fantastic to have it weaving through the heart of our capital and better still that more and more people are using it every day for a huge range of activities. It offers a fantastic escape from the busy streets and roads, a place to relax and get more active. We know that improving access and signage to the canal can encourage more people to visit it, so we are pleased to be taking this scheme forwards. I'd encourage anyone interested in the proposals to let us know what they think."

Currently there are some rudimentary existing steps at this location (beside Macclesfield Bridge) which do not fully connect to the towpath. It is proposed to remove these steps and replace them with a new ramp and a full flight of steps to the towpath.

The design has been developed to take account of the existing environment, landscape and heritage features of the location, to limit the impact on the trees and vegetation and to take account of the access needs of our various visitors.

People can comment on the proposals via www.royalparks.org.uk/avenue-road-access and the closing date for comments is Friday, 23 March 2018.

Following this feedback the Canal & River Trust and Royal Parks will finalise designs and submit a planning application to Westminster City Council.

If the proposal receives planning consent, The Royal Parks will then build the access between Autumn 2018 and Spring 2019.

The project is part of the Canal & River Trust's ongoing programme of towpath and access improvements across London and supports the Mayor of London's Healthy Streets Approach to help create a vibrant, successful city where people can live active, healthy lives, through reducing car dependency and enabling a shift to more walking, cycling and public transport use.

Active travel – walking more, cycling more, using public transport more – provides the easiest and most affordable way for us all to get more active and live healthier lives. It is also widely acknowledged that access to green and blue space benefits mental health and well-being as well as physical health.

In addition to these health benefits, evidence shows that more active travel will reduce air and noise pollution, help combat social isolation, ease congestion, make us safer and bring economic benefits to businesses – large and small – across the capital.

For more detail about the project visit: www.royalparks.org.uk/avenue-road-access
Or contact the project team at AvenueRoadAccess@canalrivertrust.org.uk

Ends

Notes to editors

For more media information contact joe.coggins@canalrivertrust.org.uk 020 3204 4410

The Canal & River Trust is the guardian of 2,000 miles of historic waterways across England and Wales, caring for the nation's third largest collection of listed structures, as well as museums, archives, and hundreds of important wildlife sites.

We believe that *living waterways transform places and enrich lives* and our role is to make sure there is always a place on your doorstep where you can escape the pressures of everyday life, stretch your legs and simply feel closer to nature.

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