

London Fields Lido

Teaching Pool FAQ

We have received a number of questions during the course of the consultation. The following Frequently Asked Questions provide responses to some of the questions asked. They have been organised so that they are grouped by subject matter and are easier to read.

Lido users

Q. Will the Lido main pool be closed during construction works for the teaching pool?

A. No - the Lido main pool will stay open throughout the construction of the teaching pool.

Q. Will some of the lessons in the main pool be moved to the teaching pool? How will the management and running of sessions change for the lido as a whole?

A. This will be discussed and reviewed with GLL over the coming months. However, the intention of adding a teaching pool is to offer more programming opportunities for the whole community.

Q. Will bookings of the training pool be possible by the general public like the main pool?

A. Yes

Q. The Lido main pool is very busy at peak times, how will the teaching pool be used to help with this?

A. As the teaching pool will have a 100% moveable floor i.e. a variable depth, we expect that families with younger children will prefer to swim in the new teaching pool.

Q. Will the free under-18s swimming be subsidised by increases in members fees?

A. No - the teaching pool development will not result in increased membership fees, however, these are reviewed annually with GLL as part of the Council's review of fees and charges.

Q. What impact will the new teaching pool have on existing users? Will it get busier?

A. We expect that families with younger children will prefer to swim in the new teaching pool which will have a 100% moveable floor i.e. a variable depth.

Q. Why can't younger swimmers use other facilities in the borough?

A. Young swimmers can and do use other facilities in the borough. However, we aren't currently catering for all sections of the community around London Fields Lido e.g. children's sessions tend to be limited to the warm weather months and we, therefore, need to provide an all-year-round facility that will encourage young people (and other non-swimmers) to learn to swim. We also have a shortage of water space in the Borough that the teaching pool project is working to try and address.

Existing Lido space

Q. What is happening to the open outside space?

A. The external area to the north of the teaching pool i.e. the old paddling pool enclosure, is intended to become a paved terrace and the area under the London Planes we hope to give back to the Park to form part of London Fields.

Q. Will there be changes to the landscaping and/or any loss of trees around the Lido?

A. The four mature London Planes within the paddling pool area will be unaffected by the new teaching pool proposal. However, three smaller trees (two silver birch and one ornamental cherry) will be removed for the development but these will be replaced, either around the teaching pool terrace or in the adjacent London Fields.

Q. Will the existing changing/shower facilities be changed by this proposal?

A. No - the existing changing rooms will not be affected by the new development. However, we intend to reconfigure the male and female toilets to provide 4 new super loos (toilet, wash hand basin and hand dryer in one cubicle) and a Changing Places facility - <https://www.changing-places.org/> (that will also be accessible for Park users).

Q. What facilities will be closed during the works? What will we keep access to?

A. The existing male and female toilets will be closed for part of the construction period to create a corridor into the new teaching pool viewing gallery, provide 4 new super loos (toilet, wash hand basin and hand dryer in one cubicle) and a Changing Places facility - <https://www.changing-places.org/> (which will also be accessible for Park users). During these works, temporary replacement toilets will be located on the poolside.

Q. There were some issues with separating street (dirty) spaces from pool (clean) spaces previously, how is this being considered in these new plans (especially with the buggy storage)?

A. We are considering further how to separate street (dirty) spaces from clean areas as part of the design development process and will also take into consideration the outcome of the public consultation.

Q. Will anything be demolished to provide these new spaces?

A. Yes - the depot wall will be removed to build the new changing facilities and plant room and a section of the east wall (where the current external showers and cubicles adjoin the paddling pool area) will be removed to connect the new teaching pool to the existing Lido. The external showers and cubicles will be replaced in a different area.

Q. Is it necessary to have sun beds in the facility with the park for these types of activities so close?

A. The sun loungers shown in the visuals are an artist's impression of how the space could be used. However, we (GLL/the Council) will not be providing sun loungers on the teaching pool terrace.

Teaching Pool

Q. How is the teaching pool used to replace the paddling pool? The paddling pool was a great space to cool off on hot days with younger children?

A. As the teaching pool will have a 100% moveable floor, the water depth can be varied including to a paddling pool level. The operator (GLL) will be able to replicate the paddling pool environment on hot summer days, as the teaching pool doors can open onto the terrace area for families to sit out in the open air. We are also focused on delivering a facility that can be used year-round by the community, not just for 8-12 weeks a year.

Q. Will there be a replacement splash pad?

A. No - there are four significant London Plane trees in the paddling pool area and any splash pad would encroach within the Root Protection Area of the four retained trees.

Q. Why was the paddling pool closed on health and safety grounds? Why can this not just be restored?

A. The paddling pool had reached the end of its life and was not safe, environmentally sustainable or cost-effective to continue to operate e.g. significant amounts of water were being dumped each week, following cleaning, which cannot be sustained throughout the increasingly hot summers. We are also focused on delivering a facility that can be used year-round by the community, not just for 8-12 weeks a year.

Q. Why is this not an outside pool?

A. As part of the design development, the project team looked into all possible roof options for the teaching pool, including open air (like the main Lido), retractable and fixed roofs. One of the aims of the teaching pool is to provide a facility where the community, particularly children and young people, can learn to swim all year round. The fixed roof option will offer this opportunity throughout the entire year whatever the weather.

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