

# FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL RIVER VALLEY PARK STEPS

## SERVICES PROVIDED

- Infrastructure design
- Site-specific risk assessment
- Traffic management
- Removal of existing sleepers
- Drainage
- Installation of 3 sets of steps - 150m, 85m, and 60m
- Backfilling and final finish

## LOCATION

Swords, Dublin

## OVERVIEW

Via our team in Dublin, Integrated Utility Services (IUS) undertook the installation of three sets of steps at River Valley Park in Swords, on behalf of Fingal County Council.

The objective of the project was to provide safe and accessible pedestrian steps in the park, while adhering to strict safety, environmental, and engineering standards. The scope of work included the removal of existing sleeper steps, installation of drainage systems, and the construction of new steps, which were uniquely designed to blend seamlessly with the park's surroundings.



## THE PROJECT

River Valley Park is a public park, managed by Fingal County Council, giving access to green areas bounding the Ward River.

The scope of works consisted of retrofitting 3 sets of individually designed steps, to replace the existing dilapidated walkway, to facilitate safe access/egress to a series of paths throughout the park. This was particularly in light of increased usage arising from a change in work/life behaviour as a consequence of Covid. The solution was achieved via the compliant design of outdoor access infrastructure, which uniquely compliments the environment.

Before the commencement of work at River Valley Park, a comprehensive set of preparatory works was taken to ensure safety and efficiency. A site-specific risk assessment was carried out to identify and mitigate potential hazards. The existing sleeper steps were removed carefully, with excavation and base material levelling conducted to prepare for the new steps.

Drainage pipes were installed in parallel with the step construction, ensuring appropriate water management. The new steps were installed progressively, starting from the bottom, with concrete landings, step rungs, and side legs being placed, followed by backfilling and the installation of cellular paver grids filled with gravel.

Throughout the project, attention was given to environmental and safety considerations, including waste management, public safety through fencing and signage, and the protection of the nearby watercourse with sandbags acting as silt traps. The outcome delivered provides a durable, safe access way, whilst maintaining the integrity of the park's environment.

The successful installation of the walkways at River Valley Park in Swords highlights IUS' ability to plan and execute a complex project in a busy public space. By adhering to rigorous safety procedures, utilising the latest equipment, and following a structured sequence of works, the project was completed on time and in line with the requirements of Fingal County Council.

The new steps provide a safer, more accessible path for park visitors, while the careful attention to environmental impact ensures the park's natural beauty remains intact for future generations.

**"Fingal County Council is pleased with the successful completion of the River Valley Park steps project, which has significantly enhanced pedestrian access while preserving the park's natural beauty. IUS demonstrated exceptional planning, safety standards, and environmental responsibility throughout the process, delivering a unique solution that serves our community's needs while safeguarding the park's surroundings."**

Aileen O'Connor - Senior Executive Parks & Landscape Officer, Fingal County Council