

MULTI-MILLION POUND DEVELOPMENTS OF SALFORD QUAYS AND THE RIVER IRWELL

River Irwell £40m regeneration bid

A DESIGN team has been appointed to take forward a £40m project to regenerate the River Irwell.

The Irwell City Park project, which aims to revamp the 8km stretch of water which runs from MediaCity:UK and Salford Quays to Greengate and Victoria Street, will be led by Broadway Malyan, FoRM Associates and Gifford.

The North West Development Agency and council authorities awarded £1.1m for the initial stages of the project in November, after a £25m bid was rejected by the Big Lottery Fund in 2007.

It is hoped the newly-appointed designers will now create an outline vision of what is believed to be the 'largest single public realm project' in the country.

Eddy Fox, of Broadway Malyan, said: "The new linear waterside park will turn the tide on decades of neglect and heal the physical severance between Salford, Manchester and Trafford.

"Irwell City Park is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to lift the regeneration of Greater Manchester.

"The reappropriation of the River Irwell as a unifying element, meeting place and symbol of shared values is an essential next step in

BY LUCY McGUIRE

the process of recreating the city."

The regeneration project involves a partnership between the Central Salford Urban Regeneration Company, the North West Development Agency, and council's in Salford, Manchester and Trafford.

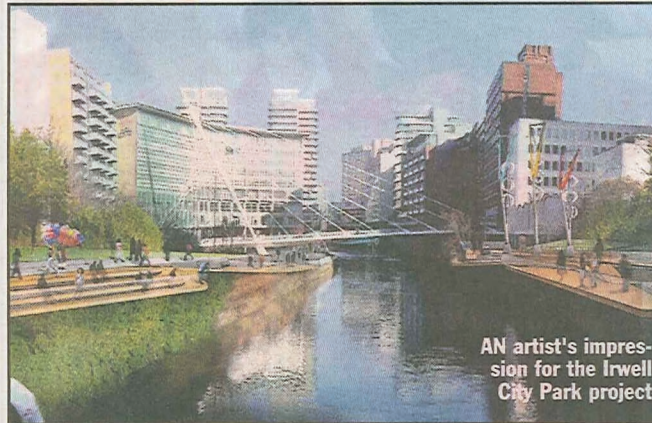
Their aim is to spend £40m on creating new cycle-pedestrian routes, three major public open spaces, and three new footbridges, to allow access across the river.

The Irwell City Park spans over 280 hectares of land and the development has been nominated for the final of the BURA Waterways Renaissance 2009 Awards Ceremony on March 31.

Designers plan to develop an outline for the project by March 2010 and it is expected to be complete by 2013.

Councillor John Merry, leader of Salford City Council, said: "The start of this new phase of Irwell City Park demonstrates our commitment to delivering this uniquely challenging and inspirational project."

For more information go to www.centralsalford.com



AN artist's impression for the Irwell City Park project

