

TOWER HAMLETS PARKS SUPPORT

Location

Tower Hamlets

Client Type

Local Authority

Key Collaborators

LBTH Public Realm team; Thames Water; UKPN

Workstage

RIBA 1 - Feasibility

Summary

LBTH intends to install several water fountains in its parks as part of borough and mayoral commitments to reduce waste and improve public health. The initial work led to the investigation of numerous concession points for the installation of electrical supplies.

The Challenge

The LBTH Public Realm team required below ground asset information to inform decisions regarding the locations of the proposed fountains and electrical outlets for greatest efficiency, near existing water mains and suitable electrical supplies to avoid extended, costly trenches to connection points. The water fountains programme needed to progress swiftly, as time limited Local Infrastructure Fund moneys were at risk of expiring.



https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/leisure_and_culture/parks_and_open_spaces/victoria_park/victoria_park.aspx

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Our Approach

The Infrastructure Coordinator reviewed the water supply assets for 10 parks and coordinated with the LBTH Public Realm team to identify locations that were cost effective and would be highly utilized by the public. The Coordinator then liaised with Thames Water and discussed an efficient way of applying for multiple water supply locations. The Coordinator then researched the electrical infrastructure to find where connections were possible and reviewed preferred locations against hindrances such as other major below ground infrastructure.

Key Outcomes

The Coordinator created a set of maps outlining preferred locations for the water fountains and power points with an indication of the connection costs, as well as a sample water supply application that can be used for other parks in the future. These gave the Public Realm team the information necessary to allow them to prioritise their water fountain implementation programme and create funding applications for power points to then work with the Procurement and Asset Management teams to deliver the projects. This work also led to conversations with the heritage-at-risk officer about bringing historic water fountains back into use. A review of nearby water mains and drainage allowed for design proposals to reconnect the historic fountains to be developed and once in use, the assets can be taken off the at-risk register and benefit the community.

Testimonial

"... "Massive thanks [infrastructure coordinator] This is a great piece of work – and so helpful!"

Please advise the next steps we need to take to move things forward."

Keith Woodard, LBTH Clean and Green Team

