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New *Watering Holes* Drinking Fountain Gets the Lick of Approval from Dogs

Designers of new drinking fountain seek approval of Royal Parks' pooches



The Royal Parks Foundation, the charity for London's eight Royal Parks, has been consulting with dogs to see how they react to a new fountain design, named *Watering Holes*, which has been created with support from the Tiffany & Co Foundation and caters for thirsty humans and canines alike.

Using a polystyrene mock-up, canine visitors and their owners were asked to test the first prototype. Following their feedback, the designers made a minor adjustment to enable dogs to drink from the fountain without fear or difficulty.

A shallow scoop has been carved into the lower watering hole, allowing dogs to lap with ease (as if from a bowl). At the final consultation with The Royal Parks' four-legged friends, the new design appears to be a huge hit.

Robin Monotti and Mark Titman, co- designers of *Watering Holes* comment; *"We want to ensure this new fountain not only looks fabulous but is a useful addition to The Royal Parks and their visitors. Whilst it does appear slightly comical, the dog consultation phase is actually a very important stage of the design process and has helped us to ensure the design is functionally suitable for all users - adults, children and man's best friend included. The addition of the new bowl feature has been very well received by dogs and owners have confirmed their dogs would be much more likely to drink from it now."*

Watering Holes is one of two British designs chosen in 2010 from an international design competition to find 'The Ultimate Drinking Fountain' for London's eight Royal Parks, launched by the Royal Parks Foundation and The Tiffany & Co. Foundation in partnership with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

As there is no off-the-shelf drinking fountain suitable for The Royal Parks Grade I listed landscapes, there was a need to find a simple, practical and aesthetically pleasing design that was functional for all users.

The first *Watering Holes* fountain will be installed in one of The Royal Parks later this year, alongside the other winning design *Trumpet*, by Ben Addy at Moxon Architects. More fountains of each design will be added later.

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Sara Lom, Chief Executive of the Royal Parks Foundation comments; *"We are delighted to have the lick of approval from Royal Parks' pooches. This new drinking fountain will benefit millions of visitors including runners, walkers, riders and cyclists, as well as dogs. We are hugely grateful to the Tiffany & Co. Foundation for their amazing \$1.25 million grant which is enabling us to restore and renew water features across the 5,000 acres of The Royal Parks."*

The programme, called *Tiffany - Across the Water*, focuses on ornamental and drinking fountains in the capital's eight Royal Parks and aims to restore historic drinking fountains and install new ones where old ones are beyond repair. The project will see the re-creation of a magnificent 20ft tall plume fountain in St James's Park, restoration of the much-loved 19th century Italian Gardens in Kensington Gardens, as well as improvements to drinking fountains to benefit the Royal Parks' 37 million visitors each year.

-Ends-

For more information please contact Edwina Bagge on edwina@ktbpr.com - 075000 58599 or alternatively contact 0207 924 7214.

Notes to Editor:

The advisory body consists of:

Jazz- a Burmese Mountain Dog (5 months old) and Lola a Golden Retriever (1 year old) however all dogs passing by at the time are invited to join in with their owners

The Winning Designs

Watering Holes - designed by Robin Monotti Architects and Mark Titman

Trumpet - designed by Ben Addy at Moxon Architects

The winning designs were judged on aesthetics, robustness for life in a public park, ease of maintenance and installation, sustainability and environmental impact and affordability. The judges felt that the *Watering Holes* design was very 'Art-led' and the *Trumpet* strongly 'Design-led' and thought that each, in its own way, held enormous potential for The Royal Parks.

About Tiffany & Co. Foundation

Established in 2000, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation is a philanthropic foundation that provides grants to non profit organisations working in two main programme areas: the environment and the arts. The Foundation's environmental conservation programme promotes responsible mining, healthy marine ecosystems, the enhancement of urban environments and the preservation of culturally significant landmarks. In addition, the Foundation fosters design excellence by supporting organisations dedicated to design and the decorative arts. www.tiffanyandcofoundation.org

About the Royal Parks Foundation

The Royal Parks Foundation is the charity for London's eight amazing Royal Parks. Established in 2003, we reach out to make the Parks part of more people's lives - raising funds for a wide variety of projects from wildlife conservation and landscape restoration, to community sport and art. Our charity registration number is 1097545, for more information, please visit www.royalparksfoundation.org

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About The Royal Parks

The Royal Parks is an executive agency of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The Royal Parks are: Bushy Park, The Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, The Regent's Park and Primrose Hill, Richmond Park and St James's Park. For further information please visit: www.royalparks.org.uk