

The Isabella Plantation Access Project Update

RICHMOND PARK
May 2012

PROJECT PROGRESS – HLF Stage 2 bid has been submitted!

After months of hard work, and a great deal of input from partners, community organisations and local people, the Stage 2 bid for funding the main phase of the project has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

As part of the bid assessment process, representatives from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery visited the Isabella Plantation and met with the Project Team on 27th April, and we now wait with fingers crossed to hear the outcome in June.

The Isabella Project Team with representatives from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund



FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE ISABELLA PLANTATION ACCESS PROJECT PROPOSALS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE (www.royalparks.org.uk) AND FOLLOW THE LINKS TO ISABELLA PLANTATION FROM THE RICHMOND PARK PAGE

Isabella Visitor Surveys

If you were at the Isabella Plantation on March 22nd or 24th, you might have been asked some questions about your visit. This is because we will be carrying out visitor surveys in March and May every year during the lifetime of the project.

On Thursday 22nd March, we spoke to 147 people, and on Saturday 24th March, we spoke to 182 – a total of 329 people! We will be conducting our next round of surveys during 'peak' visitor time – so look out for our interviewers at the Plantation on Thursday 17th May and Saturday 19th May.



**Isabella Plantation Access
Project**
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Holly Lodge, Richmond Park
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LOTTERY FUNDED

GUIDED WALKS VOLUNTEERS

Earlier this year we recruited 9 volunteers through our project partners, the Friends of Richmond Park and the Holly Lodge Centre. In February, the volunteers undertook 3 days of guided walks training with consultant Ruth Hayhurst, including one day of training dedicated to designing and delivering walks for people with visual impairments.

The initial training sessions were then followed by a training visit to Kew Gardens to shadow Kew volunteers, and in April the volunteers visited the Isabella Plantation for a superb guided walk led by Isabella gardener, Garry Scarffe.

ISABELLA GUIDED WALKS VOLUNTEERS



The guided walks volunteers will now be working with park staff to develop a range of guided walks around the Plantation, and these walks will be available in the future for community groups to book and enjoy! Please join our mailing list (see below) for updates.

Many thanks to our project partners at the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew for supporting our volunteer training, and many thanks to our dedicated new team of volunteers!

And don't forget that the Isabella gardeners offer excellent public guided walks in the Plantation throughout the year – dates and details can be found on the notice boards in the Plantation.

VOLUNTEERS ON A TRAINING DAY AT KEW



ISABELLA PLANTATION ACCESS PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

During the initial 'development' stage of the Isabella project, we have recruited two groups of volunteers to help with gardening and with guided walks. If we are successful in securing our main phase project funding, we will be recruiting more volunteers for a wide range of activities. If you are interested in volunteering with us, please sign up to our mailing list (see below) and we will update you as volunteering opportunities become available.

Toilet Facilities Refurbished

Thanks to additional funding from the Royal Parks, the existing toilet block in the Isabella Plantation has been fully refurbished and is now open for use. The toilet block now includes an accessible toilet cubicle and baby change facilities.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive project updates, please contact Hannah Pritchard, Partnership and Community Engagement Officer, at hpritchard@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk or on 0300 061 2218