

The Isabella Plantation Access Project Update

RICHMOND PARK
November 2012

PONDS AND STREAMS WORK BEGINS ON SITE

You may have noticed that gardeners and volunteers have already been busy cutting back azaleas and removing over-colonised Royal Fern from the banks of streams in the Plantation. This targeted pruning will reduce over-shading, allow more light into stream channels, and increase the opportunity for native flora to colonise. This has been the first stage of the ponds and streams enhancement scheme.

Removal of fish from Peg's Pond and Thomson's Pond was carried out in November by Bedwell Fisheries Services in advance of draining the ponds prior to desilting.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Salix Bioengineering to carry out the main works to the ponds and streams throughout the Isabella Plantation. They will start work on site in December, and in the New Year will drain the ponds for desilting, which will be carried out on Peg's Pond, followed by Thompson's Pond, and then Still Pond. Work on the streams will take place alongside the pond works and all works should be completed by the end of March in time for spring.

Salix are a specialist environmental contractor, working on the restoration of watercourses throughout the UK, including the new Olympic Park Wetlands. Salix are experienced in working in ecologically sensitive environments, employing experienced staff and using specialist machinery to limit any impact on the natural environment. Salix's projects bring them into close contact with many protected species of plant and animal, in some of the most protected and sensitive landscapes. They are passionate about enhancing our rivers, lakes and wetlands, many of which have been severely degraded over the years.

In addition to the works carried out by Salix, Isabella volunteers and gardeners will continue to remove and control invasive species such as *Lysichiton americanus* (skunk cabbage) and *Houttuynia cordata*. Additional planting of native species along margins will take place where appropriate.

Thomson's Pond, Isabella Plantation



**Isabella Plantation Access
Project**
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LOTTERY FUNDED

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DESIGN SCHEME

From mid-December 2012 until late January 2013, the final public consultation on the design scheme for the Isabella Plantation Access Project will take place.

Display boards showing the design scheme will be available to view on the railings outside Pembroke Lodge from 17th December 2012. Comments slips will be available at the Information Centre, giving you the opportunity to give us your opinions on the design scheme.

The deadline for comments and feedback on the scheme is 25th January 2013.

If you would like to discuss the design scheme with the Project Team in person, we will be outside Pembroke Lodge on **Saturday 19th January 2013**. We will be located next to the display boards from **1pm until 3pm**.

You can also comment via email at [**isabella@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk**](mailto:isabella@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk)

ISABELLA PLANTATION ACCESS PROJECT VOLUNTEERS Current volunteering opportunities

We are currently recruiting volunteers for a range of activities:

HORTICULTURAL VOLUNTEERS: Assisting our Isabella gardeners with a wide range of horticultural tasks, contributing to essential maintenance of the plant collection

GUIDED WALKS VOLUNTEERS: Delivering seasonal guided walks to local community groups, an exciting opportunity to develop confidence in leading guided walks and to introduce new audiences to Plantation (no previous experience required)

DIGITAL ARCHIVE VOLUNTEERS: Assisting with the creation of a digital archive of images and information relating to the Isabella Plantation, volunteers will be using computer scanning equipment to digitise our large archive of slides and photographs

Full induction, training, and ongoing support will be provided for all volunteers

For further details of our current volunteering opportunities please visit our website: www.royalparks.org.uk/volunteering or contact Hannah Pritchard, Partnership and Community Engagement Officer hpritchard@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk / 0300 061 2218

Toilet Facilities

The toilet block at the Broomfield Hill end of the Plantation will now be closed until Easter 2013. As part of the Isabella Plantation Access Project, an additional accessible toilet facility will be built near to Peg's Pond and will be open all year round.

The Isabella Plantation Access Project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund.