

CASE STUDY

Wessex Water funds new park infrastructure to bring long term environmental and community benefits



CHALLENGES

The Friends' gardening group supports the work of the B&NES Council's Parks Department in maintaining the park's green estate. We faced a number of challenges, including no in-park supply of water for horticultural purposes, no recognised provision for composting green waste, and nowhere to store tools and gardening paraphernalia.

This meant mains water had to be hand carried into the park from volunteers' homes, tools were brought in and out of the park for each gardening session, and green waste was collected by the Parks team and transported to the Council's off-site composting facilities. In short, there were many inefficiencies crying out to be addressed.

SOLUTION

The Friends approached Quartet Community Foundation for grant funding from the Wessex Water Environment Fund. In July 2022, we were delighted to learn that we had been successful. With additional funding from B&NES Council and a little creativity, the Friends were able to fulfil its ambitious vision to install 1) a refurbished 400L rainwater harvesting system, 2) a new 2400L dual-bin composter, and 3) a new lockable 1000L tool chest. We now have a large, in-park supply of water, a means of recycling our green waste, and a place to safely store our gardening tools and equipment.

BENEFITS

We are seeing immediate returns such as savings on mains water usage and volunteer efficiencies. And we will soon have a sustainable compost resource for enriching the park's soil. But the benefits, both tangible and intangible, will continue and build for many years to come. Beyond this, we see these benefits as an important milestone in building our gardening capabilities and attracting more community involvement. We thereby hope to encourage local people to value and cherish this vital civic asset.

AT A GLANCE

Challenges

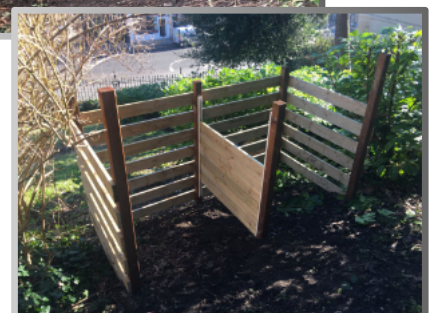
- No in-park water supply
- No composting facility
- No secure tool storage

Solution

- Rainwater harvesting system
- Large dual-bin composter
- Lockable tool chest

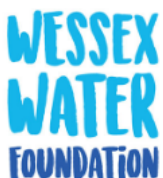
Benefits

- Immediate and multi-year returns
- Saving of 2m³ mains water usage p.a.
- Reuse of green waste, lower carbon footprint, environmental wins
- Better use of volunteer time, greater impact and visibility of our work
- More engagement with local community and NGO networks



Hedgemead Park and its Friends

Owned by B&NES Council, **Hedgemead Park** is a leafy Grade II listed Victorian park laid out over 5 acres of sloping ground near the centre of the World Heritage city of Bath. The **Friends of Hedgemead Park** was constituted in 2019 and is composed of a committee of volunteers representing a wider community of around 75 individual and group members. Our mission is to harness the aspirations and energy of the local community in cherishing and preserving this beautiful public space, now and for future generations.



Quartet
Community
Foundation