



Project Enquiry Form

Summary

What is the title of your project?

In no more than 15 words, please choose a title which you think best describes your project.

Explore, Discover, Learn - Awakening the senses and celebrating the Aquadrome's social heritage and natural environment

Reference number

PP-14-09112

Date received

18/02/2015

Section One - Your Organisation**1a Name and address of your organisation**

Name of your organisation	Three Rivers District Council
Address line 1	Three Rivers District Council
Address line 2	Three Rivers House
Address line 3	Northway
Town / city	Rickmansworth
County	Hertfordshire
Postcode	WD3 1RL

1b Details of main contact person

Name	Julie Hughes
Position	Principle Landscape Officer

Is the address of the main contact person the same as the address in 1a?

Daytime phone number, including area code	01923 776611
Alternative phone number	

Email address	julie.hughes@threerivers.gov.uk
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1c Are you a not for profit organisation?

Yes

Please tell us the type of your organisation.

Local Authority

1d Where did you hear about the Heritage Lottery Fund? Please pick from list or specify below.

Previous application to HLF

Section Two - The Heritage

2a What is the heritage that your project will focus on?

1. Local Heritage-Rickmansworth Aquadrome is a 41 hectare Local Nature Reserve at the end of the Colne Valley Regional Park. The 2 lakes in the park, were created by gravel extraction. Some materials were used to build the original Wembley Stadium. They naturally filled, aided by natural springs, when extraction stopped in the 1920's. The Aquadrome marks the point of convergence for the rivers Colne, Gade and Chess.

2. Social Heritage - The lakes became a hub for social and recreational activities for swimming, picnicking and play. They boasted their own pier and diving platform during its early years and there are a great deal of pictures, memories and experiences, from this time. All important memories, ready for sharing with the next generation. In 1941 the area was commandeered by the War Dept for army exercise and purchased by Three Rivers District Council in 1960.

3. Natural Heritage- As a local nature reserve with a green flag award, it is widely used as an overwintering destination for wild fowl and all year round sanctuary for a wide range of species. Important wildlife habitats include drainage ditches that run through the wooded areas, mature trees and areas of continuous scrub. Open water, wooded islands, sheltered scalloped lake edges, marginal vegetation and grassland make the Aquadrome a unique place. The reed beds support nationally scarce Red Data Book species e.g. bittern, reed bunting and sedge warbler, all have been recorded in the area in recent years. The site is a Protected Species Site and the Wet Woodland is managed through a Biodiversity Action Plan. 8 species of bats are within the km. radius of the site.

Section Three - Your Project

3a Is the address of your project the same as the address of your organisation?

No

Enter the address of your project.

Address line 1	The Aquadrome
Address line 2	
Address line 3	Frogmoor Lane
Town / city	RICKMANSWORTH
County	Hertfordshire
Postcode	WD3 1NB

3b Describe what your project will do.

The Aquadrome has become one of the foremost attractions in the area, providing the opportunity to enjoy a leisurely day out in a public park, a nature reserve, a river, a canal and experience some sublime scenery, aquatic life and lively activities. We want to bring alive the history, celebrate memories and awaken a new found interest in exploring the natural environment with 3 high impact projects.

1) Park Ranger Heritage Wildlife Centre and part time post.

Eco-friendly building, including an outdoor classroom, to provide a focal point for the provision of educational and ecological activities, focusing on local wildlife and natural heritage. Park Ranger post to develop programming to include conservation management, wildlife walks and talks, development of volunteers, engagement with key partners such as local schools, Wildlife Trust, RSPB and Waterways Trust. This will include creating a wildlife/nature crafts school demonstrating and passing on skills to the next generation through projects such as coppicing and creating faggots to prevent erosion. The wildlife/nature craft school would allow us to develop our relationship with the young offenders programme. An outdoor classroom would benefit all, especially visiting schools, who would also enjoy the ecological aspects of the Aquadrome.

Interpretation boards giving more background about the habitats, wildlife and fauna to enhance the visitors experience of the park. These will allow people to be more knowledgeable and therefore better able to record and share details of the species present in the Aquadrome via the recording log in the Heritage Wildlife Centre.

2) Nostalgic Journey - 'Once upon a time in the Aquadrome'.

An intergenerational project focusing on collecting memories and sharing experiences and feelings with a wider audience through a gateway of workshops, gallery space, discussion groups, digital and social media. Skills based workshops to record the memory journeys thus creating a visitors attraction and adding first hand accounts to the photographic history of the Aquadrome, capturing a snapshot of a reminiscent past. All delivered via partnerships with local schools and colleges, MIND, Friends of Aquadrome, Three Rivers Museum, Countryside Management Service, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

3) Sensory Experience Trail.

Currently there is 1.3km access path in the Aquadrome that is accessible for all. This project will enhance the remaining pathways, encompassing both lakes for a waters edge view to enable everyone to appreciate the park, lake and natural wildlife.

To increase the experience of visitors to the Aquadrome, we will provide visual, auditory and olfactory stimulus in the form of sculptures and movement using flora and fauna to create natural sensory experiences along the trail. An example of this would be a reed bed with six hovering dragonflies sculptures which sway in the breeze mimicking natural insect movement or a bed of native flowers providing stunning colour and a natural habitat for insects.

A Park Ranger will make the Aquadrome a better managed site. We aim to enhance the experience of everyone and provide an extension of the Aquadrome experience. The Colne Valley Special Sailors have their base within the established Bury Lake Young Mariners facility on one of the lakes, our work would enable this established group of users to extend their visit to the Aquadrome and enjoy the lakes from the land and not only from the the water.

The play area in the park will undergo a £200k redevelopment 2015/16.

Our vision, is that the Aquadrome will become a fabulous place to visit and will enhance peoples quality of life. It will provide an area of significant interest, beauty and learning for a wider audience.

Section Four - Project Management

4a When do you expect your project to start and finish?

We hope to start in April 2016 to December 2017.

We are lucky enough to be able to utilise the professional in-house services of our planning team including our building surveyor, parks and open spaces team, grounds maintenance, graphic designer and leisure development team who have a wealth of experience in delivering large scale recreational projects.

It should be noted that we currently have a further HLF bid submitted for Leavesden County Park.

Section Five - Project Costs

5a How much is your project likely to cost? If you know, tell us what the major costs are likely to be.

Wildlife Centre and outdoor classroom	£200k
Park Ranger , Part time 3 year post	£60k
Activities programme (over 3 years)	£80k
Pathways	£300k
Sensory Experience Trail	£200k
Total cost	£ 840K

5b How much are you likely to ask for from us?

£744,000

Please use the button below if you would like to attach any documents, such as images, to your form.

Once we receive this form we aim to contact you within 10 working days.