



**Gavin Jones** GROUP

Enhancing The Landscape

**Supplier of Landscaping & Maintenance Services
(Olympic Park) to the London 2012 Games**

Proud to be part of it!

THE OLYMPIC (Queen Elizabeth) PARK, LONDON 2012 - It took two years in the creation (and significantly longer in the planning), the landscape construction period included two drought afflicted summers and correspondingly freezing winters– yet few would dispute the Olympic Park offered a display of natural beauty which captivated the world, with sustainability as the key theme, and transformed a derelict space in the heart of our capital city. Centuries ago the area was undoubtedly home to a range of natural flora and fauna however in more recent times it had become contaminated by industrial pollution and fly-tipping. Happily it now presents as stunning parkland with sweeping expanses of lawn, wildflower meadows, reed-beds and wooded areas which have created natural habitats and enhanced biodiversity.

Gavin Jones Ltd was involved in the landscape construction of many significant elements of the Olympic Park and subsequent maintenance before, during and after the Games; this amounted to a labour commitment of over 50,000 man-hours (27 years in terms of the average working year!) - with the major challenges (apart from the weather) centred around security & logistics – with all deliveries requiring a 48hrs advance notice.



Wetlands, Athletes Village

Created from a wasteland area, the Wetlands (now known as the Water glades) is adjacent to the North Park and part of the Athletes Village. The Wetlands is a series of inter-connecting water bodies designed to harvest storm water runoff from the village, cleaning it so it can be recycled and used to irrigate the landscaped areas on the entire village.

Gavin Jones was appointed in November 2010 to create a series of natural habitats to encourage wildlife into the area. The works included forming new environments such as Wet woodlands, Dry woodlands, Marshland areas and Marginal & Aquatic planting. Planting included 700 semi-mature trees, 300,000 plants including a range of reeds, rushes, grasses, sedges. Many different native species of wildflowers were planted using seed and cuttings collected from around the UK. A number of wildlife refuges were also included for amphibians, insects and sand martins.

The site is still being maintained by Gavin Jones until Jan 2014 to ensure the successful establishment of the designed habitats.



North Park (east)

Provided the central venues for the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The parkland was carefully planned and designed to provide a variety of open spaces that would accommodate, at peak, around 250,000 visitors per day during the games. The site is

a linear park, divided into three main areas, centred on the restored River Lea, which has a strong natural structure that includes wet woodland planting, sweeping spectator lawns, stunning nectar-rich perennial meadows and woodlands, including concourse trees adjacent to the Velodrome (humorously referred to as “The Pringle” by many). Planting included 750 semi-mature trees, 1,100 smaller mix native plants, 53,000m² of ground preparation, laying of 10,000m² turf and planting of 30,000 herbaceous plants.

Connecting the parkland areas are a series of wide flowing footpaths, edged with timber using a macadam sub-base and a resin bonded gravel surface.

“Visited the Olympic Park; huge congratulations to @GavinJonesLtd for the wonderful landscaping... a great advert for the landscaping industry that will benefit us all: @enterprise

Hospitality Centre - In April 2012, on the strength of our delivery of the Athletes Village development, we were commissioned to undertake landscaping works to enhance the temporary Olympic Hospitality Centre. The works included the construction, planting and siting of timber planters, some semi-mature tree and shrub planting, and installation of 4,500m² artificial turf (which due to the then current hose-pipe ban was accepted as a viable alternative to turf) for the very steep banks – a key requirement of the client was that these be green.



Maintenance

Having completed the landscaping, Gavin Jones was subsequently delighted to be commissioned to maintain these areas throughout the course of the Games. Clearly with visitor numbers reaching many thousands each day, many staff were required for routine maintenance tasks to public areas throughout the night. We also had teams working in the highly-controlled Hospitality Centre and another maintaining the Athletes Village/Stratford Hill development. Whilst they experienced significant

challenges in respect of night-time working and security to name just two – the staff acknowledged how privileged they felt to be involved in such a high-profile event - and the athletes were very amenable to having their photographs taken with members of the team, which resulted in some very personal and highly-prized momentos of the grand occasion which was **LONDON 2012**.



Velodrome

Situated adjacent to the North Park East, this eye catching building had a very simple but effective soft landscape scheme. Slightly elevated above the ground, the building is ringed by steep earth banks planted with mono-culture *Hedera hibernica* – over 10,000 of them!

The Legacy - The Queen Elizabeth Park was never about just looking good for the Olympic Games – London 2012. Described as “unique” in terms of the design and commitment to sustainability/biodiversity in an urbanised setting, this is by far the biggest parkland area to be created in the UK during the last century. However, the story doesn't end here – the site, post-games, is currently being redeveloped to provide a 100-hectare parkland combined with housing and leisure facilities as a lasting legacy of London 2012; as such, we are now involved in the retro-fit to the Athletes Village, part of the overall transformation of the Stratford area into a new self-contained development - East Village; this will include new homes, shops, cafes & a school and is a springboard for further re-development of the whole area around the Park & Stratford.

The celebrated Queen Elizabeth Park will undoubtedly provide a magnificent environment for future generations to live and enjoy.



Stratford Hill

This was envisaged to be the final landscape package and GJ were appointed as the main contractor; the works included planting over 700 semi-mature trees, construction of 2000m² of paths, installation of a granite wall, creation of a dead wood feature, installation of railings, laying of 10,000m² of turf, the creation of a drainage system and the installation of an automated irrigation scheme.

"In 5 Olympic Games, I've never seen a park as green & beautiful as London's Olympic Park. It looked beautiful" Clare Balding@clarebalding1



By Appointment to
Her Majesty The Queen
Landscape Maintenance Contractor
Gavin Jones Ltd
Surrey



Honoured to be part of the 2012 Olympic success



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