

Enterprise

maintaining the infrastructure of the UK

Case Study: Grounds Maintenance – The Royal Parks and the Tour De France

Background

Enterprise can proudly say that it is the first contractor to be awarded three parks to maintain at any one time.

These include Hyde Park, the largest covering an area of 350 acres. The next largest is Kensington gardens at 245 acres and the smallest park is St James and Green Park, covering a combined area of 144 acres.

We have over 100 employees working across all three sites, managing not only the regular maintenance of the lawns, flower beds, shrubbery and trees but also ensuring that the parks are prepared for the many events that take place in them all year round.

This year St James Park joins Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park in winning a Green Flag Award, which is the national standard for recognising welcoming, safe and well-maintained spaces that involve the local community. This could not have been achieved without the hard work of the Enterprise teams.

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Initial Situation

We achieve a high standard of horticulture work including grass cutting, fine lawns, bowling greens, planting and maintenance of annual bedding, large areas of shrub along with rose gardens and wildlife areas.

In addition to the horticulture side, the Enterprise team carries out a large element of cleansing duties, ensuring at all time the parks remain within the current EPA Grade A cleansing guidelines.

We organise and erect the flagpoles and flags along the Mall, Horseguards road and Parliament Square for various state events. We also carry out such work at Windsor when Her Majesty is in residence.

We maintain various areas for both the Cabinet Office and Home office, such as interior plant displays, soft landscaping and flag flying. We have a similar arrangement with 10 Downing Street, where we supply a full time gardener. Sites security for these locations is the priority, so we ensure that the relevant employees have security clearance.

Key Customer Requirement

As well as having cyclical, regular timetables that follow the seasons, we have to respond very quickly to both weather conditions and events.

Events like Live8 and the Tour de France bring thousands of people into the park at one time, which has wide spread implications for grounds and cleansing operations.

Our Response

We manage the preparation and cleaning operations for many events, including:

- Gun salutes for the Queen's birthday, Prince Phillips birthday and state visits.
- Caribbean show case
- Peter Pan outdoor performances run by Great Ormond Street Hospital
- 10km Capital run, 5km Flora run, 10km Nike run and the London Marathon.
- Old Comrades organisation comes to the park to remember fallen comrades.
- Beating Retreat, the military musical event.
- Trooping the Colour, three times a year.

This summer the Tour de France began in St James Park for the first time. This event required much preparation as the eyes of the World's media were centred on the Parks.

The event was spread across all three parks and more than 1 million spectators turned up to watch. Across the parks our staff worked from dawn to dusk on both days of the event, ensuring the race route was swept clean prior to the race and that at all times during the event the parks were clean of litter and debris. Some staff worked right through the night of Saturday/ Sunday preparing for the start of the next days race. The total volumes of rubbish removed by our team over that weekend reached in excess of 45tonnes.

Summary

Our successful work in the parks has been recognised by the Green Flag Awards and the organisers of the Tour de France, who were so impressed by the quality of the Parks, they want to bring the event back in a couple of years.