

# 6. Water Resources & the Water Environment

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### Olympic Park: Parklands and Public Realm

**DESCRIPTION:** The London 2012 Games were the catalyst for transforming a 2.5-square-km site of previously mixed industrial use in east London, much of which was heavily contaminated. Seven waterways traverse the Olympic Park. From an early stage in the project, the existing waterways were incorporated into the design. The discharge philosophy for the surface water drainage encouraged the incorporation of existing outfalls and watercourses where possible to minimise the complexity and cost of the on-site drainage systems. The water reduction strategy for the north of the Park was based on a planting regime that would not require long-term irrigation.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:** A surface water drainage strategy was developed to enhance and protect the water environment, mitigating the risks of groundwater contamination and reducing potential impacts to groundwater and human health. Consultations with the Environment Agency and British Waterways (now Canal & River Trust) at early stage for drainage design principles; SuDS components were provided at key locations in the Olympic Park, which included an innovative system of porous asphalt strips, filter drains, bioswales and frog ponds. Over 33,000 metres of Aqua Dyne was used in ground stabilisation throughout the site, equivalent to 184 tonnes of waste plastics being diverted from landfill and incineration.

**JUDGES' QUOTE:** *Even though it is the size and scale of this project that makes the SuDS outstanding, the techniques applied are scalable to even the smallest of developments.*



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Client: Olympic Development Authority | Designers: Atkins (North Park) and Arup (South Park) | Construction: BAM Nuttall (North Park) and Skanska (South Park) | Landscape architect: LDA Hargreaves | Irrigation contractor: Water Wise

