



Tiffany & Co. Foundation and Royal Parks Foundation launch major fountain restoration programme *“Tiffany - Across the Water”*

\$1.25 million grant includes restoration of drinking fountains, plus launch of an open international design competition to create a “standard model” drinking fountain

Tiffany and Co. Foundation is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a \$1.25 million gift to the Royal Parks Foundation (USA), a charity established to enable America to support the natural history and heritage of London’s Royal Parks.

The programme, called *Tiffany - Across the Water*, focuses on ornamental and drinking fountains in the capital’s eight Royal Parks and will see the creation of a stunning new fountain in St James’s Park, restoration of The Italian Gardens in Kensington Gardens, as well as improvements to drinking fountains to benefit the Royal Parks’ 37 million visitors each year.

Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, today launched the US/UK initiative by announcing an open international competition. Conceived by the Royal Parks Foundation and Tiffany & Co. Foundation, in partnership with The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the challenge is to create a well-designed drinking fountain to replace older Parks’ fountains which cannot be restored. The winning designer will see their work turned into reality in the Parks, with the hope that the design will eventually be adopted in other green spaces around the world.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: 'For centuries water fountains have provided a cooling, civilising presence to quell the heat of the city. Today drinking fountains are at a record low, so this generous donation from Tiffany is cracking news for some of London's most precious assets, The Royal Parks. I hope we create a great new icon to help make drinking fountains an every day sight, providing a refreshing gulp of water for parched people on the go.'

The number of functioning drinking fountains in the UK is at an all time low. A recent survey* revealed that only 11% of green spaces provide working water fountains. Requiring 2000 times more energy to produce bottled water than tap water**, drinking fountains are a practical and environmentally friendly way to refresh visitors and minimise waste. *Tiffany - Across the Water* will see The Royal Parks' drinking fountains undergo much-needed restoration after years of hard use, since they were installed in Victorian and Edwardian times.

A significant part of *Tiffany - Across the Water* will also be to create a stunning 'Tiffany & Co. Foundation Fountain' which will take centre stage in St James's Park lake. The twenty-foot plume will leap against the magnificent backdrop of Buckingham Palace and Whitehall and Horse Guards Parade. The aeration provided by the fountain will benefit the many species of wildlife dependent on the fresh waters of the lake.

The historic Italian Gardens in Kensington Gardens, dating back to the 1860s, are a popular spot for tourists and Londoners alike and will undergo major restoration work, including five small fountains and the monumental Tazza Fountain. The stonework, flint walls, benches and formal promenade will also be restored to their former glory. In addition, a new eco-friendly water system will be installed to benefit the Long Water and encourage wildlife to flourish.

"We are very grateful to the Tiffany & Co. Foundation for this fabulous opportunity to restore and renew water features across the 5,000 acres of The Royal Parks. The international design competition to create a beautiful, "standard model", drinking fountain will benefit millions of runners, walkers, riders, cyclists and other visitors to The Royal Parks and will, we hope, be adopted by other green spaces around the world", says Sara Lom, Chief Executive, Royal Parks Foundation.

Part of our Foundation's mission is to preserve the natural heritage that distinguishes great urban centers," said Michael J. Kowalski, Trustee of the Tiffany & Co. Foundation and Chairman and CEO of Tiffany & Co. "To that end we established a parks program that began with support for the green spaces of New York City, where Tiffany was founded, and now has expanded to include parks in other major cities. In supporting the beautification efforts of the Royal Parks Foundation we help to maintain London's tradition of parks that provide a respite and recreation to its citizens, and it is our pleasure to do so."

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Notes to editor:

*Only 11% of green spaces provide working water fountains – Children’s Food Campaign

** Energy implications of bottled water, Gleick and Cooley, Pacific Institute, Oakland, CA 94612, USA

About the International Design Competition and how to enter

The competition is open internationally to all design disciplines, including architects, engineers, product designers, artists etc. Inter-discipline team working is also encouraged.

Designs will be judged against the following criteria: aesthetics of the design, robustness for quality of life in a public park, ease of maintenance and installation, sustainability and impact on the environment and affordability.

For further information, competitors should visit www.royalparksfoundation.org/fountains To enter the competition please go to www.architecture.com/competitions to register. You can also contact RIBA Competitions on 0113 2341335 or riba.competitions@inst.riba.org for more information.

Closing date for entries is 2.00pm on 22 September 2010

About Tiffany & Co. Foundation

Established in 2000, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation is a philanthropic foundation that provides grants to non profit organisations working in two main programme areas: the environment and the arts. The Foundation’s environmental conservation programme promotes responsible mining, healthy marine ecosystems, the enhancement of urban environments and the preservation of culturally significant landmarks. In addition, the Foundation fosters design excellence by supporting organisations dedicated to design and the decorative arts. www.tiffanyandcofoundation.org

About the Royal Parks Foundation

The Royal Parks Foundation is the charity for London's eight amazing Royal Parks. Established in 2003, we reach out to make the Parks part of more people’s lives - raising funds for a wide variety of projects from wildlife conservation and landscape restoration, to community sport and art. Our charity registration number is 1097545, for more information, please visit www.royalparksfoundation.org

About The Royal Parks



The Royal Parks is an executive agency of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

The Royal Parks are: Bushy Park, The Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, The Regent's Park and Primrose Hill, Richmond Park and St James's Park. For further information please visit: www.royalparks.org.uk