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Pocket park life: London Power Tunnels team continues work with community in Hackney

National Grid works with contractors and the community in project to transform a former car park into a vibrant 'Pocket Park'.

05 Aug 2015

- Bug Hotel one of new attractions at blooming Pocket Park in Daubeney Road
- National Grid and contractors Costain-Skanska JV (CSJV) have worked with local community together to create vibrant 'Pocket Park'
- Park lauded at festival and exhibition

National Grid has been hard at work with its contractors and the community as it continues to transform a former car park into a vibrant 'Pocket Park'.

Earlier this year work began at the site in Daubeney Road, Hackney, with National Grid working closely with the community as well as Costain-Skanska JV (CSJV), the principle contractor on its London Power Tunnels project.

The 'garden in a car park' has now become home to a bug hotel (named 'Btingham Palace'), a recreational seating area, 20 grow tubs - some of which are decorated with designs from the local primary school and a living wall to act as a climbing frame for hops and other plants.

The garden, which received start-up funding from the Mayor of London's Pocket Park programme has also grabbed attention from further afield and was showcased at the Clapton Park Green Day, which is part of the annual 'Chelsea Fringe' community gardening festival. It is also set to feature in an exhibition of pocket parks in the Greater London Authority City Hall (Lower Ground Floor) from 3-28 August.

CSJV has donated over 450 volunteering hours with the help of its subcontractors Fannerys, Kilnbridge, Swords, Southgate and J O'Doherty, along with £3000 toward the removal of large sections of concrete to make way for further planting and improve drainage.

Work in the park has been coordinated by the Daubeney Fields User Group, Chairman Gerry Tissier said: "Being a part of this project, and seeing the positive impact it has had on the community, has been extremely rewarding for all of those involved.

"The garden has become a much-loved addition to the local community and I would like to thank National Grid and Costain-Skanska for their continued support in creating a park that will continue to serve the community for years to come."

Andy Firth Project Director from Costain-Skanska JV commented: "We have greatly enjoyed being part of this project, working with local volunteers to provide an important communal space for the local community. It is a great to see the park have a positive impact on local people, as well as attracting interest from the wider community.

National Grid Lead Project Manager Dave Palser, said: "As well as helping keep Londoners connected to their energy supplies we like to personally connect with the communities where we work.

"It's been great to see how the new pocket park in Daubeney Road turn has become such a success story."

National Grid's London Power Tunnels project is creating a new underground energy superhighway which will help ensure Londoners remain connected to safe and reliable energy supplies in future years.

For more information go to www.londonpowertunnels.co.uk

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