



Job advert for Garden Designer The Rookery, Streatham Common

Summary

The Friends of Streatham Common have secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore this historic public garden in South London. Over the next 18 months, we will be re-designing areas of the Rookery that have been neglected, improving signage, and helping with general maintenance.

We are recruiting a garden designer to work alongside a group of volunteers to create new planting designs for the White Garden and areas of the formal gardens.

The new plans should reflect the garden's history whilst also taking in to consideration limited maintenance budgets and environmental concerns. Volunteers will be conducting research about the history of the Rookery and the White Garden and will be an integral part of the design process.

Key responsibilities will be:

- survey current planting in White Garden and Old English Garden, including review of Stephen Crisp's plans
- create new planting designs for White Garden and areas of the Old English Garden which combine the best of the past with sustainable, low-maintenance planting
- liaise with volunteers about planting plans and incorporate their ideas and suggestions
- compile plant order list and liaise with Lambeth Parks about order
- facilitate community planting days alongside Rookery Coordinator and Lambeth Parks team

We are looking for someone with an excellent track record in garden design who will enjoy working alongside volunteers in a collaborative manner. Previous experience on community garden projects would be advantageous.

Background

The White Garden was established in the early 1900s, pre-dating the famous Sissinghurst white garden by some 20 years. It was popular with Queen Mary and the Princess Royal who made a private visit to it in 1936. The design was most likely influenced by Gertrude Jekyll and the Arts & Craft movement.

In the 1990's garden designer and horticultural heritage specialist Stephen Crisp carried out a consultation with the Friends of Streatham Common, contractors and Lambeth Parks before designing a planting plan for the Rookery. The plan was in an English country garden style to restore Rookery back to the period when it was in its heyday. However, this plan was either not fully implemented or has been neglected.

The Rookery celebrated its centenary as a public garden in 2013. As part of the celebrations, a horticultural leaflet was produced with information about ten of its most interesting species including *Cedrus libani*, *Morus nigra* and *Gunnera manicata*.

Timeline

Jan	Advertise for designer
Feb	Deadline for expressions of interest – end of Feb
March	Invite 3 people to meet on site Deadline for quotes – end of March
April	Appoint designer and hold briefing session
May	Survey of current planting / liaise with volunteers regarding research
June	Survey of current planting / liaise with volunteers regarding research
July	White Garden draft design ready. Public consultation on design. Identify other areas of park which need replanting.
August	Final White Garden design ready. Order plants. Create supplementary planting plants for smaller areas of park, to be agreed with garden design group
Sept	Make recommendations to parks about further purchase of plants
Oct	Community planting day
Nov	Community planting day
Dec	Community planting day

To express interest

Please send your CV and a cover letter to Charlotte Dove at rookery100@streathamcommon.org. Three candidates will then be chosen to meet on site and quote for the job.

Deadline for expressions of interest: Sunday 2 March 2014