

# Splash



The Spring 2009 Newsletter from SSP WaterPlay

Welcome to the Spring 2009 edition of 'Splash', SSP WaterPlay's newsletter that keeps you informed about the latest developments in technology, design and activity in the world of water parks, splash parks and water playgrounds. 2008 was our busiest year to date with many new splash parks completed, an exciting joint venture with Hippo Leisure and many new products. Our latest water play catalogue, packed with new ideas and inspiration is now available along with new PlugIn & Play and SoundPlay brochures.

## New Parks

Since SSP WaterPlay first introduced splash parks into the UK some 10 years ago their popularity has grown year after year. Local authorities in particular are discovering that replacing tired old paddling pools in municipal parks is a way of reducing running costs, providing state-of-the-art children's play facilities and winning popularity with the local community.

Our latest local authority parks are at Myatts Field in Lambeth, Swanley Park in Kent, Eling Recreation Ground in Southampton, Welfare Park, Aber Valley, Wales and a large installation at Bulwell Bogs in Nottingham. Commercial installations include those at Paultons Park near Southampton and Trecco Bay Holiday Park, Porthcawl.

## CHAS Accreditation

SSP WaterPlay has recently applied for and achieved CHAS accreditation. CHAS stands for Contractors Health And Safety Assessment Scheme and has been developed over the years by local authority health and safety and procurement professionals, with the support of the Health and Safety Executive. Public and private sector organizations use the scheme when short-listing contractors, suppliers and consultants tendering for projects.



SSP WaterPlay's accreditation demonstrates that the business meets acceptable standards of health and safety compliance and that the business can adequately manage health and safety issues.



This splash park replaces an old paddling pool at Eling, near Southampton



400m<sup>2</sup> splash park at Trecco Bay, Porthcawl



Above and below ground elements at Myatts Field, Lambeth

## SSP Hippo is born

SSP Hippo, a new joint venture between SSP WaterPlay and Hippo Leisure Products, has developed 'Plug In & Play' to offer value for money educational water play for nurseries and primary schools. Designed for children from 3 upwards, the modular, multi-functional system can house up to four different interactive water features per table. Features include triple tipping buckets, funnel squirts and water wheels. The tables are connected



together via interactive gullies which come complete with dam paddles and valve stops, challenging the user to move the water from one table to another.

The unique modular, interchangeable design allows you to purchase as little as a single tank and then add both features and extra tanks as required.

Constructed from a combination of robust GRP with hand polished stainless

steel, each table is preassembled and easy to install. The Plug In features can be removed for easy storage and each unit is year-round weatherproof.



Plug In & Play combines learning with fun

# Local Authority

In each newsletter we focus on one local authority project completed by SSP Waterplay in the previous year that demonstrates the positive impact that splash parks have on local communities. On this occasion we have chosen the Bulwell Bogs splash park in Nottingham because it is a good example of how communities can work with their local authority to improve recreational facilities for their children.

We asked Peter Broad, Project Leader and Senior Landscape Architect at Nottingham City Council for his perspective on the development of the new splash park at Bulwell Bogs.

***This was obviously a major enhancement of children's facilities in this area; can you give us some background to the project?***

There had been a paddling pool on the site near the centre of Bulwell beside the River Leen for over 70 years with the most recent feature dating back about 25 years. There were increasing concerns over the safety, efficiency and running costs of the old concrete facility and regulatory changes to dosing and supervision requirements meant the old pool had to change.

***Who were the participants in the development of the scheme?***

Nottingham City Council Resources Department was commissioned by NCC Community and Culture to manage this new water park scheme from design through to completion. The project team worked closely with the 'Friends of Bulwell Bogs', the Sports Leisure and Parks Development team and SSP WaterPlay to develop a unique and exciting theme led water play area in the heart of Bulwell.



*The splash park has been busy every day since it opened.*

***Did the project have local support?***

The general public and locally elected members gave the scheme their unanimous backing and support. The 'Friends of Bulwell Bogs' were, in fact, one of the principle driving forces behind the scheme having campaigned first to keep the park open when it was considered for demolition as part of a transport scheme in 2002, and then to upgrade the facilities for the benefit of local children. The Friends of Bulwell Bogs worked closely with the Neighbourhood Management Team, Bulwell Lift Centre, Design Services and the Parks and Open Spaces Team to progress this project from initial concepts through to completion.

***Why was a Splash-Park chosen?***

Several options were reviewed. We had to take running costs, resistance to vandalism and safety aspects into account. Certain project members had also visited previous splash-parks installed by SSP WaterPlay and were very impressed with the quality and popularity of the schemes so this became the preferred option when all aspects were considered.

***Why was SSP Waterplay selected?***

We went out to competitive tender once the scheme



*The Bull theme runs throughout the project specification had been agreed. SSP WaterPlay was selected based on the competitive nature of their proposal but also because of their track record of working successfully with other local authorities. The project team was also impressed by the creative design proposals submitted by SSP WaterPlay.*

***What budget was available and where did it come from?***

The overall cost of the scheme was £376,000 and financial contributions came from a variety of sources including Section 106, Area 1 Capital Allocation, Cleaner Greener Fund and the Parks and Open Space Team.

***What did the final scheme design comprise of?***

The scheme includes a splash pool, an exciting range of water jets, curved curtains of water, sprays and 'Sound Sticks' incorporated into the play equipment together with a number of bespoke paving, gate and fencing elements that use 'bull' and 'well' motifs to signify the



*The original CAD design for Bulwell Bogs*

connection with the animal that is believed to have discovered the natural spring in the village that was eventually incorporated into a well.

The water play area is located within a secure, fenced and gated compound which provides a safe and secure environment for children and children's play. The fenced area also includes a variety of informal seating spaces for parents/guardians/supervisors and for 'resting' children.

All existing vegetation was protected, retained and incorporated into the scheme and provides the site with a variety of sunny and partially shaded areas. Unlike the old paddling pool with its concrete edging the new scheme is easily accessible to all with no upstands or significant changes of level between the water play areas and the adjacent areas. All paving surrounding the pool allows level access onto the adjacent grass areas beneath the trees. The smooth, flowing curves of the edging dividing the paving from the grass, shrub and hedge areas were carefully designed to reflect the water theme.

**Did the scheme face any particular challenges?**

There were considerable planning hurdles to address, as is usually the case when redevelopment of public spaces is involved, but these were overcome successfully. Detailed consultation with the Bulwell LIFT project team and NET ensured that various ongoing projects were fully coordinated and

connected in with existing and proposed train, tram and parking facilities

As the majority of the site lies within the flood plain of the River Leen detailed negotiations with the Environment Agency were needed in order to gain the required approvals from them. In addition an existing 900mm diameter combined sewer runs under the site at an approximate depth of 4m below finished ground level. This required early consultation with Severn Trent and Nottingham City Council Drainage Engineers to ensure required easements were observed.



Opening day at Bulwell Bogs

**Would you judge the scheme to have been a success?**

Definitely! It has been a great success and is loved by the local community. The project, which is the first of its kind in Nottingham, was completed at the beginning of August

2008 and received some excellent publicity in the local press, regional television and NCC intranet. It was busy from the day it was opened in August until it was shut down for the winter season - that's another benefit of the SSP design; all above-ground elements can be removed for safe winter storage.

**Finally, what was it like working with SSP WaterPlay?**

We were very pleased with the way the whole project was handled by SSP WaterPlay. It was clear that their focus was on delivering a successful project and with goodwill on both sides we avoided any irritating 'extra' costs that other contractors often add to the agreed project costs. We are very happy with the quality of the project and with SSP's commitment throughout.

**Some comments about the Bulwell Bogs splash park**

*"This is a great example of partnership working and shows our commitment towards improving services for children and young people".*

Graham Chapman,  
City Council Deputy Leader.

*"It's the accumulation of nearly four years work to replace the old tired paddling pool and get a state of the art water-park for the people of Bulwell."*

Jackie Morris,  
Chairperson of the 'Friends of Bulwell Bogs'

# Commercial Parks

SSP WaterPlay has continued to develop themed waterplay systems for commercial site operators. A large 500m<sup>2</sup> splash-park was recently completed at the Trecco Bay Holiday Park at Porthcawl, Wales as part of a £7 million investment programme in the site. Trecco Bay is one of the UK's largest holiday parks and the new splash-park is packed with features including swaying palms that dump water and a red dragon centre-piece to add a bit of Wales into the tropical scene.



The Welsh Dragon at Trecco Park

Another major ongoing project is under way at Paultons Park near Romsey in Hampshire. This extensive 880 m<sup>2</sup> splash park is an enhancement to the wide range of facilities already on offer at this well known theme park. The new "Water Kingdom" is due to open in Easter 2009 and work is already well advanced. There will be over 40 water features within the splash park including an extensive range of flush-mounted jets and lots of exciting above-ground elements. Swaying palms with dumping coconuts, a pirate ship prow, a Tidal Barrel that dumps water, a Daisy Raindrop, water fences, and many more features make this one of the most exciting projects we have worked on.



A Tidal Barrel is just one of the features

important in this scheme as with all others that SSP WaterPlay installs. All features are designed to conserve water and the re-circulating system feeds water back through the UV filtration plant and filters constantly to maintain standards despite the size of the splash park and the expected heavy use.



The plant room contains all the pumps and filtration equipment

Water conservation and the maintenance of the highest water quality standards are

# New Product: Steppers™

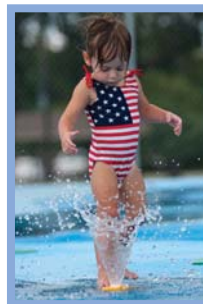
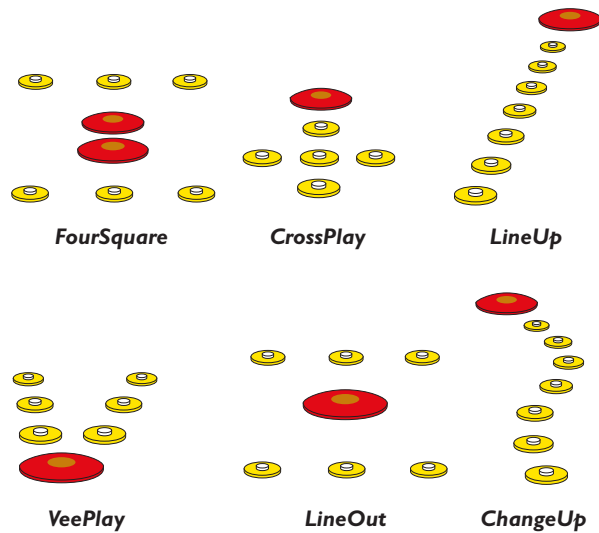


Steppers™ are a new way of activating flush-mounted in-ground units. They consist of interactive nozzles that are activated when a child stands on them; either to turn the flow on or off. They can be used individually or on common manifolds for greater interaction. These durable units are manufactured of

machined cast bronze with precision machined Delrin® movable nozzles and are available in standard Water Odyssey™ colours.

play Manifolds are designed to provide a creative interactive water play environment using Steppers™ nozzles with other in-ground play components. Working together, kids can divert water to the larger spray effect by standing on the Steppers™ nozzles to divert their flow. Fun wet play that also promotes team work and cooperation. The assembly includes the manifold, nozzles, and levelling bolts.

The Steppers™ nozzles can be set out in a variety of configurations and with different flush-mount water features such as the Aqua Arch™, Daddy Long Legs™, Jet Way™, Baby Long Legs™ or Water Weave™.



Just some of the Steppers™ nozzle effects

## New Offices Completed

SSP WaterPlay has now moved into its new, purpose built offices at Darwins Farm, Odiham, Hampshire. As Greg Seale, MD of SSP WaterPlay commented; "This has been a long process but it has been worth the effort.

We've now got the space to expand the business and a beautiful environment in which to work". The offices provide ample accommodation inside, plenty of parking and a 6 acre paddock as well.



SSP's new offices in Odiham



## Special Offer: 20% off SoundPlay



We currently have a range of SoundPlay outdoor musical instruments brought into stock for display at a recent exhibition. These stock items are available at a 20% discount. Offer applies only to the range of items in stock now.

Kalimba **KAL-THU-6**  
Original price £2395 **Now £1916**

Marimba **MAR-SG3-C5-11**  
Original price £5090 **Now £4072**

Metallophone **MET-SG3-C5-11**  
Original price £3625 **Now £2900**

Alligator Drum **ALL-DRU-PS**  
Original price £2465 **Now £1972**

Turtle Drum (painted) **TUR-DRU-PS**  
Original price £3260 **Now £2608**

Turtle Drum (Stained) **TUR-DRU-SS**  
Original price £2985 **Now £2388**

Tongue Drum **TON-I-2**  
Original price £505 **Now £404**

Rain Wheel with stand  
**RAI-STI-BLU+ST**  
Original price £1830 **Now £1464**



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