

Press release

**The National Trust celebrates success at the APM Awards 2023  
Winning Social Project of the Year Winner & Overall Project of the Year Winner**

**Future Parks Accelerator Project set up by the National Trust and National Lottery Heritage Fund**



The winners of the annual Association for Project Management (APM) Awards 2023 have been announced at a prestigious awards ceremony taking place in London on Monday 20 November. The awards, sponsored by RPC UK Ltd, celebrate excellence within the project profession – from project organisations, projects, programmes and individuals working across a broad range of industry sectors in the UK and internationally.

The [Future Parks Accelerator \(FPA\) project](#) was selected as the winner of both the Social Project of the Year and Overall Project of the Year. The project was set up by the National Trust and National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2018, and local authorities across the UK, with support from Government.

It was set up across a cohort of cities, utilising agile project management and innovation incubator approaches to redefine the role of urban greenspace - placing it at the heart of plans for thriving future cities. FPA was designed to catalyse widespread systems change and ensure vital green and blue spaces were fit for the 21st century.

The Social Project of the Year Award is given to the team whose project demonstrates the most effective use of project management and the greatest benefits and outcomes to end users and communities in projects seeking to address the concerns of 21st century society globally. This may include (but is not limited to) sustainability and climate change, conservation, disease prevention & treatment, equality, diversity & inclusion and health & wellbeing.

The Overall Project of the Year Award is the pinnacle of the APM award ceremony, chosen at the discretion of the judges from the four winners of the Project of the Year categories (Social, Engineering, Construction & Infrastructure; Technology and Transformation).

The greenspace of the cities included in the Future Parks Accelerator project will serve communities most at need, delivering access to nature and its benefits, from health to climate mitigation, all underpinned by sustainable financing models. Blueprints from the programme will enable change to be delivered across the UK, with positive outcomes for people, nature and planet alike.

Victoria Bradford Keegan, Delivery Director at National Trust said “We are so delighted to have won these awards. This project is really important to creating thriving and healthy towns and cities. It really demonstrates the importance of working in partnership and the power of collaboration.”

Professor Adam Boddison OBE, Chief Executive of APM, said, “I would like to congratulate The National Trust for their success at this year’s awards, and for their outstanding achievements in project delivery. The Future Parks Accelerator project is a highly successful project that clearly delivered the defined benefits with an ongoing legacy.

“I would like to congratulate all of this year’s award winners and finalists for their achievements over the past year.”

The National Trust also saw success winning an organisation award category - Not-for-profit Organisation of the Year at this year’s ceremony.

Runners up in the Social Project of the Year category included Unlocking the Severn (Canal & River Trust), Clean Air Zone (AtkinsRéalis), Plastics Packaging Tax (HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC).

[For a full list of the APM Award 2023 winners visit apm.org.uk/apm-awards/](https://www.apm.org.uk/apm-awards/)

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#### **Notes to editors:**

##### **About APM**

APM (Association for Project Management) is a professional membership organisation that sets the standards for the project profession and raises its profile. APM is the only chartered organisation representing the project profession in the world. As a registered charity, APM delivers learning and networking opportunities, qualifications, research, resources, events and best practice guidance for the project community, helping the profession deliver better. APM currently has over 40,000 members and more than 400 corporate partners located in more than 140 countries around the world.

Visit [apm.org.uk](https://www.apm.org.uk) for further details.