

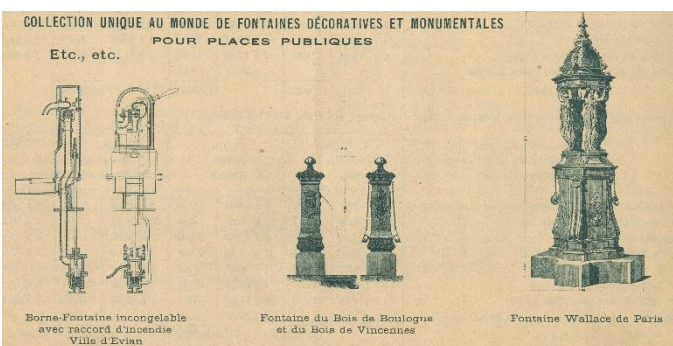
# Angers Finally Gets a Wallace Fountain in 1981



Rue de la Poissonnerie & Rue Baudrière,  
49100 Angers  
FRANCE

In 1910, the Boulanger road assistant asked the city of Angers to study the installation of a Wallace fountain in the Jardin des Plantes. The city wanted to make drinking water available to children playing in the garden. The chief engineer reported the installation would cost around 1,000 to 1,200 francs and the fountain would have a continuous flow of water, like those in Paris.

A more economical solution was to install a smaller push-button water hydrant, like those named for Wallace and installed in the Bois de Boulogne and Vincennes in Paris. An estimate was requested from the Val d'Osne foundry, the company casting Wallace fountains since 1872. The expense was projected around 130 francs. On December 15, 1910, the road commission approved the choice of the hydrant model. The fountain and installation expense would not exceed 285 francs and the funds were taken from the 1911 credit the city received for extending the Loire water pipeline and installing new standpipes. The work was carried out in August 1911. A replacement hydrant is still located in the Jardin des Plantes at the original location of the first hydrant.



Val d'Osne Brochure, Circa 1910 from archives Angers, France

The new hydrant that replaced the original one installed in 1911 at the same location in the Jardin des Plantes.



Angers had to wait until 1981 for its grand model Wallace Fountain. Since then, the fountain has adorned the Place de la Poissonnerie, near rue Baudrière. Its initial color was that of Parisian fountains and street furniture from the end of the 19th century, a deep green. In May 2019, it was repainted electric blue, undoubtedly in connection with the Cœur de Maine project and the inauguration, on June 29, 2019, of the neighboring esplanade overlooking the river.

**Photo Credits:** Delphine Charlier

**Source:** Sylvain Bertoldi, Directeur des Archives patrimoniales d'Angers

**Research** by Emile Delavaines