

Nineveh Trust Funding Report – Power To Grow Project 2022-2023

The aim of the project was to enable community groups to create or enhance their growing spaces through mentoring, workshops, design and planning.

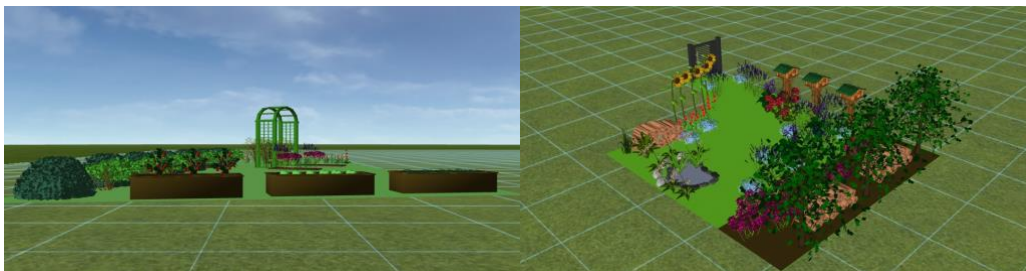
The project commenced at the beginning of April 2022 and completed in March 2023. We engaged with 9 community groups across Birmingham and the surrounding area, offering them approximately 10 hours of staff time to aid them to plan, develop and improve their growing space so that they can engage with their local community.

Where we have worked

Crick Community Garden, Handsworth, B20 2RJ – 2-day workshop to construct an earth oven. To improve their event facility and attendance for events by cooking on-site. The group have reported that it has enhanced their community garden and they now have more people attending their events due to being able to offer freshly cooked pizza and bread.



Bournville Parish Church, B30 2AA – designed five green spaces around the church to create a food growing area with an area for reflection, a wildlife garden, an herb and wildflower area, lavender beds along footpaths for pollinators. Helped with a budget and digital designs for funding proposals. The project will start in Spring 2023.

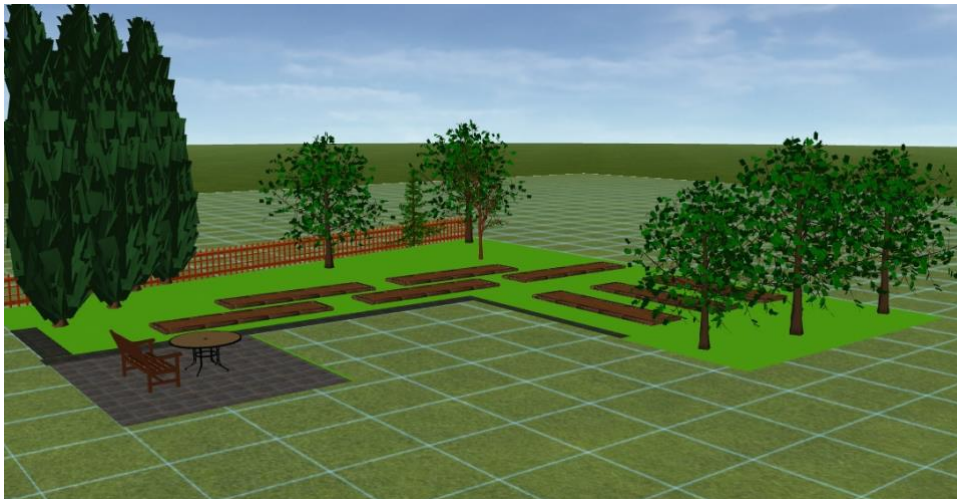


RSPCA, Frankley, B32 4AX – advised on food growing space and the visitor's garden. Referred corporate volunteers to help with the garden maintenance. Advised on a wildflower meadow and bee education area to enhance their space around the centre.

Billesley Primary School, B13 0ES– designed a community growing space that will provide fresh produce to complement their foodbank. Continued mentoring throughout their journey.

NHS Uffculme Centre, B13 8QY– Orchard maintenance plan, advised on recruiting volunteers, created a poster to advertise volunteer roles.

Hawkesley Community Garden, B38 9TR – designed community growing space and advised on activities along with recruiting an activity coordinator.



Welcome Change, Tile Cross, B33 0EW– advised on activities and events. Also advised on garden layout to make it more accessible for volunteers with special needs. Advised on how to use their existing earth oven to be able to celebrate volunteers and open up to events.

School Food Matters, London – helped with recruitment for a project manager to work with 4 schools across Birmingham with their Young Marketeers programme. The project will teach primary school children how to grow fruit and vegetables.

Roseland Community Garden, Dudley, DY2 7NP– advised on volunteer recruitment, event planning, bee education hub and designed a children's education booklet. They will have local primary schools visiting the garden to learn about food growing and the importance of pollinators.



We also matched 5 corporate volunteer groups to growing spaces across Birmingham to tackle some of the bigger tasks that were needed. This generated 300 volunteer hours.

Information Sharing

We created 5 information sheets on Volunteering, Design & Planning, Funding Advice, Seasonal Gardening, and a Tools & Equipment Checklist that now feature on our website for use by other community growing spaces. We have enlisted a videographer to create three videos to enthuse community organisations. Two of the three videos are in the process of being edited but one can be found on our website, along with the information sheets.

<https://ecobirmingham.com/project/powerogrow/>

Impact

It is hard to give an exact total of beneficiaries but each of the 9 community organisations will have at least 15 beneficiaries, through volunteering and attending sessions. For those that have enhanced their space for events, this will have at least 50 beneficiaries per event. So, we estimate that the project has benefitted 635 people.

Future Plans

It became apparent that we had a lot of enquiries about how to find community growing spaces across Birmingham, whether it be individuals or corporate volunteer groups. Therefore, we started looking at how we can map community growing spaces that are open for visitors and volunteering.

A volunteer has now taken on researching locations of community growing spaces across the 69 wards of Birmingham and we will be putting them on an online map. This will enable us to refer people to the map when they make enquiries.

We have secured part of the funding to continue our work through Power to Grow with 10 new and 5 existing organisations within the Birmingham area.



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