

Inspire and Influence

Showcasing innovative use of meanwhile space



Core Landscapes transforms vacant land in deprived urban areas into hubs for community engagement through horticulture, design, workshops, training and events - improving physical health, mental wellbeing and community cohesion.



Resulting in a green haven for the community by the community.

Core Landscapes is a movable community plant nursery, garden, event space and micro-allotment housed on temporarily available land. Everything is container grown designed to with stand moves to new locations. An innovative showcase of a meanwhile space for community benefit.

By creating different avenues of engagement be it garden visitor, volunteer, plot-holder, event visitor, plant sales customer, or people looking for ideas for their own community green space, Core Landscapes attracts a wide diversity of people from all ages and backgrounds - creating an inspiring space showing that anything is possible with community buy in.

Key Elements of Core Landscapes

- Inspiration for 'Meanwhile' projects
- Volunteering / Community Plant Nursery / Horticultural education
- Community Micro-Plots / Food Growing / Healthy Eating / Community Empowerment
- Construction and Landscaping / Life-long learning skills
- Community Garden area / Health and wellbeing
- General Support for other Community Projects
- Corporate Social Responsibility / Income generator / Sustainability
- Upcycling and Recycling / Low Carbon Footprint / Model of Good Practise

With a **successful 6yr track record** of connecting to local groups, organisations and relevant agencies to inclusively attract and engage local beneficiaries, Core Landscapes brings people with a wide range of needs together in a supported and friendly atmosphere.

In the last 2 years Core Landscape has had:

volunteer hours

3,000 volunteer hours

and over **1000** volunteer hours from Corporate Social Responsibility

and over **500** hours from Community payback

TOTAL = 4500+ combined hours to create and maintain the project

visitors

1600+ visitors

52 regular volunteers

30+ plot holders

760 visitors attending 3 x events

TOTAL = 2400+ people contributing to and benefitting from a space

THAT WOULD OTHERWISE BE LOCKED UP AND OUT OF BOUNDS



cascading impact...

31 other growing projects have been supported directly including schools, community gardens, hospitals, parks, street planter groups, guerilla garden projects, and other meanwhile sites with a combination of training workshops, site visits, signposting, design advice, subsidised plant stock, and horticultural support.

Approx 3200+ beneficiaries supported via these projects.

Community projects supported:

- Britannia Village Community Garden. Newham

Beneficiaries feedback:

- Community Payback Placements Newham

"I have poor mental health normally

- Fleet Street Hill Garden/One Love Community E1

so this really impacted on me and

- Friends of South Harringay Passage N4/N8

gave me an anchor, a sense of

- Friends of Fairlands Park N8

belonging and of the opportunities

- Ladder Children's Centre Harringay N4

to reach out and find work or

- Sieman's Garden E16

leisure possibilities."

- Shipman Youth Centre. E16

- South Harringay Infant and Nursery School N4

- STJH - Saint Joseph's Hospice E8

Beneficiaries feedback:

- Parkside Gardening Project

"I've learnt a lot about sowing, time

- Sydenham Community Garden SE23

length, watering and soil depth etc.

- Powerhouse E16

I've seen that there are so many people

- William Patten Community Garden Newham E16

who want a bit of green and cleaner

- Royal Docks Learning and Activity Centre E16

cheaper healthier living despite being

- St John's Green community food growing site Woolwich.

constrained by low incomes."

- Peacock Gym E16

- Brunswick Village Primary School Newham

- Otesha E8

Beneficiaries feedback:

- Core Arts Garden Hackney E9

"For my injury I was very

- Etz Chain primary school Mill Hill NW7

depressed. When I came here

- Anchor House Newham E16

I started to think 'Yes I can be

- Bam Nuttall

normal person'. This place is

- Parks and Green Spaces

perfect to keep people active"

- Homerton Hospital Hackney E9

- Residents Management Association Islington estate N1

- Canning Town Unitarian Church Garden E16

- St Luke's Church E16

Beneficiaries feedback:

- Sisk – Rathbone market E16

"The best experience was a BBQ gathering

- Friends of Harringay passage N4

where loads of different people gathered,

- Caravanserai E16

played volleyball chatted, exchanged

backgrounds - a wide scope of culture and

people were very comfortable because of the

pleasant haven we had collectively made."

Local people value:

(Core Landscapes surveys 2014/15)

'perspective and calm'
'having somewhere to de-stress and unwind'
'learning how to grow food for health'
'sanctuary of peace in a rhythm of restlessness'
'gathering and mixing different cultures'
'being part of something'
'safe place'
'an area to grow in that is mine'

Corporate volunteers say:

"I loved this outdoor gardening volunteering programme; we were busy all the day, we were offered different kind of activities and could switch between them. I am thankful that I had a chance to learn a lot!"

"Enjoyed day nice to see bit nature in city. Hope we helped."

"I enjoyed everything about today. It's been a great experience for a very worthwhile cause. I'll be back to buy some plants next year."

"Thoroughly enjoyable day. Lovely gardens and built a high quality bench!"

"Great day outside, making benches and strengthening mobile flower beds. An interesting and satisfying experience."

"Very enjoyable day for a very worthy cause, good luck with the move! Mixing the tasks was important to give everyone the chance to do all things."

"Excellent day. Good instruction, managed to achieve a lot during the day, Fun activities – excellent to be able to see all the progress we made good mix of strenuous/indoor tasks. Good equipment and help provided."

Plans for the future

New site – big plans...

- Relocation of community garden
- Mini allotment
- Training area
- Plant nursery
- Propagation space.



Cascading Empowerment Workshops:

“How To” horticulture, design and construction based sessions and bespoke workshops on:

- Sustainable and movable raised beds using recycled materials
- Innovative ideas for accessible container growing anywhere
- Vertical green walls for gardenless spaces
- Water harvesting irrigation systems for small urban spaces
- Green roofs for beneficial insects and rainfall capture
- Solar powered energy systems to run irrigation systems pumps
- Water harvesting irrigation systems for the raised beds

Project expansion intended beneficiaries:

- 3500 x project visits
- 280 x direct beneficiaries suffering mild to severe mental ill health of which 50 will be older volunteers (targeted)
- 25 x community plot holders/families (inclusive and targeted mental/physical health)
- 1850 x event attendees
- 15 x community projects supported
- 4500 x supported projects beneficiaries
- 6 x supported partner institutions (inclusive and targeted mental/physical health)
- 3 x supported organisations (targeted mental/physical health)
- 500 x corporate volunteers
- 20 x visits for ideas/inspiration for other projects



Overall Total Engagement = approx 10,000 +



Community plant nursery, garden & micro-plots

Contact:

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Horticultural Nursery Manager
Nemone Mercer: nmercerc@corearts.co.uk

Postal address:

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Core Landscapes is a branch of Core Art's award-winning mental health charity in Hackney.
charity no: 1043588 | company no: 2985939

core arts promoting positive mental health.

