TREES FOR CITIES

REDBRIDGE COUNCIL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP 2017-20

IMPACT REPORT - YEAR 1 (2017/18)

INTRODUCTION

Trees for Cities was delighted to announce our second strategic partnership with a local authority in 2017: our long-term partner Redbridge Council. Trees for Cities has been working with Redbridge Council and Vision Redbridge Culture and Leisure (VRCL) since 2006 to deliver community tree planting projects that bring together the local community and make improvements to outdoor green spaces across the borough.

Our partnership is for a three-year period (2017-20), which means that Trees for Cities can take a more strategic approach towards tree planting and creating high quality green spaces in the borough. Delivering a variety of planting projects including urban woodlands, Edible Playgrounds and community orchards in conjunction with community consultations and maintenance programs ensures that our projects will have a sustained impact on the local environment and have lasting benefits to the people who live and work in Redbridge.

2017/18 marks the first year of the Strategic Partnership. This impact report provides a detailed overview of the community greening projects delivered over this period, and the impact they've had on the local community.

SUMMARY

61
TREES

188
VOLUNTEERS

1
PROJECT

1
EDIBLE PLAYGROUND

35
STUDENTS ENGAGED IN PLANTING

3
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

96%
OF VOLUNTEERS RATED THEIR EXPERIENCE AS EXCELLENT

5
CORPORATE DAYS

IMPACT

Trees for Cities has an impact framework for each of the main project archetypes that we deliver - urban woodlands, neighbourhood trees and Edible Playgrounds – two of which were delivered in Redbridge during the 2017/18 planting season. The impact framework is verified by PwC and is based on our model of community engagement and capacity building.

Based on our framework, we expect local residents to see immediate social and environmental benefits such as an increase in greenery and shading, an increase in conservation skills, and more high-quality time spent outdoors. The broader longer term outcomes (up to and over 10 years) will be felt through localised mitigation of climate change, greater resilience of urban areas and improved health and well-being.

Trees for Cities target projects in areas where planting will have the most impact. Only 17% of Loxford ward is open space. This makes this project even more important for the local community and thousands of nearby residents in need of access to high quality green space.

2016/17 LEARNINGS

After working very closely with VRCL, Redbridge Council's Tree and Housing Officers, as well as key local stakeholders (e.g. Friends Of and TMOs), it has been made clear that due to the annual cap of 20 standard trees across streets and estates, Trees for Cities planting will have to be focused within existing parks and open spaces.

2017/18 POTENTIAL

In light of this year's learnings, Trees for Cities has been working with VRCL to devise a set of potential park projects. This initial plan includes a large tree replacement programme at Seven Kings Park (up to 50 standard trees) and creation of a new community woodland at Forest Road Extension (up to 15,000 whips).

This ability to identify a programme of projects well ahead of delivery allows sufficient time to apply for further funding, consult community groups, encourage collaborative volunteering and engage residents to positively improve their environment.

PROJECT 1: LOXFORD PARK

COMMUNITY PLANTING PROJECT

The local community were integral to this project from start to finish. Engaging in consultation and volunteering activities throughout has meant that the design of this project truly reflects the needs of the community. We began community consultation in June 2017 and held drop-in sessions, surveys and consultation meetings with key community groups. We decided on species selection and the overall design based on community feedback.

During consultation, residents expressed an interest in planting daffodils and tulips to beautify Loxford Park. We also received requests to plant insect-friendly tree species to help mitigate the decline in bugs and birds in the park.

Following consultation, we held two community planting events on the 18th and 25th November 2017 which engaged a total of 110 volunteers who planted 27 trees and 950 shrubs. Local residents enjoyed being able to socialise with other members of the community whilst

revitalising the park, particularly the sunken garden which families previously felt unsafe in using due to drug use and other antisocial behaviour in the area. The first planting event coincided with the launch of our **#GenerationTree** campaign which highlights the importance of protecting urban trees for the younger generation and future generations to come. There was an excellent turnout from the local community over the two events. The Councillor for Loxford Ward Taiffur Rashid attended the event and thoroughly enjoyed planting trees with the local community.

We also held additional planting workshops with companies based in London and Loxford Secondary School of Science and Technology. 32 students took part in the school planting workshop and collectively planted 3 additional trees.

Residents really valued the opportunity to be part of the planning and design process, one local resident stated:

"VERY VERY HAPPY TO BE PART OF THIS PROJECT!!! LOXFORD PARK NEEDS NEW TREES AND THE SUNKEN GARDEN AREA DESPERATELY NEEDS MORE FLOWERS AND PLANTING TO BRIGHTEN IT UP"

the launch of Redbridge Council's 'Our Parks' scheme coincided with the Loxford project. We promoted the scheme during our events which has sparked real interest and built momentum amongst local residents to sign up to the scheme and continue improving the local area. This is a great example of how Trees for Cities can help Redbridge achieve their objectives. Local residents have also began fundraising towards the restoration of the sunken garden's brick work and to plant street trees nearby.

188 VOLUNTEERS

2 PLANTING DAYS

61 TREES

950 SHRUBS

2 COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

YOU CAN SEE MORE GREAT PHOTOS HERE

OR READ OUR BLOG POST HERE

FEEDBACK

Trees for Cities gather feedback from our volunteers wherever possible to continue to develop and improve our days. We received 63 feedback forms from the Loxford Park volunteers:

96% rated their experience as **'Excellent'**

91% rated the organisation of the day as **'Excellent'**

100% said they would recommend volunteering with Trees for Cities

When we asked volunteers what the best thing about planting trees is, they said:

"a community spirit, developing a growing nature in our neighbourhood"

"it helps bring the community together and a great way to get fresh air and exercise"

"it's a community spirit opportunity, it feels environmentally satisfying. 10/10 experience"

"it feels great, it feels rewarding, loved it!"

"Our students worked really hard and showed great team spirit, they are so proud of what they have achieved they decided to name the trees Mavis, Matilda and Mable. Our students are really looking forward to being able to see their trees grow over the coming years and this was a fantastic opportunity for our students to be actively involved with their local environment and enhance horticultural knowledge."

- Teacher at Loxford School of Science and Technology

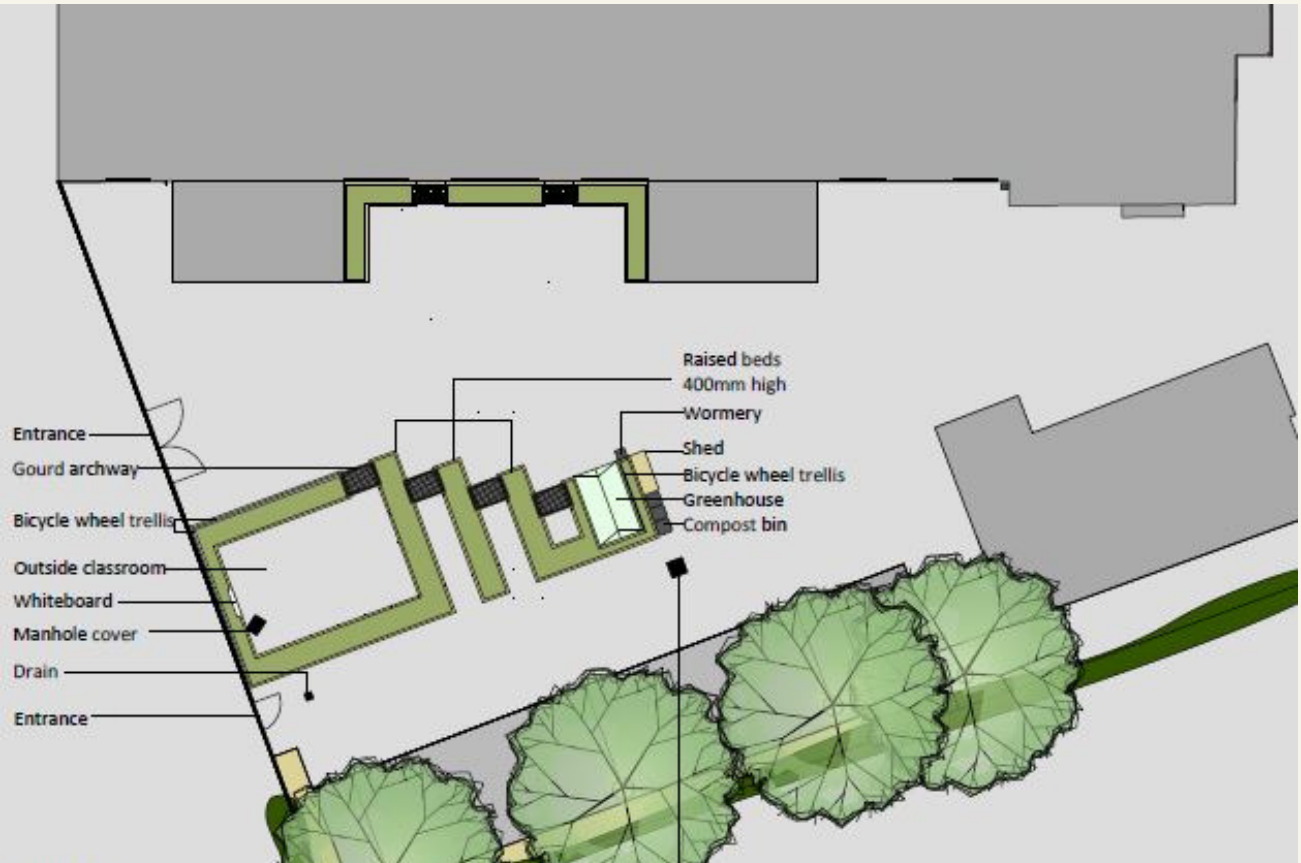
PROJECT 2: SNARESBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL

EDIBLE PLAYGROUND

Trees for Cities is delighted to have Snaresbrook Primary School showcase the first Edible Playground in Redbridge.

Edible Playgrounds transform areas in school grounds into vibrant outdoor spaces that excite and teach children about growing and eating healthy food. By instilling healthy eating habits at an early age, they help tackle obesity, food poverty and lack of access to nature head on, and provide a platform for fun and engaging lessons that support the school curriculum.

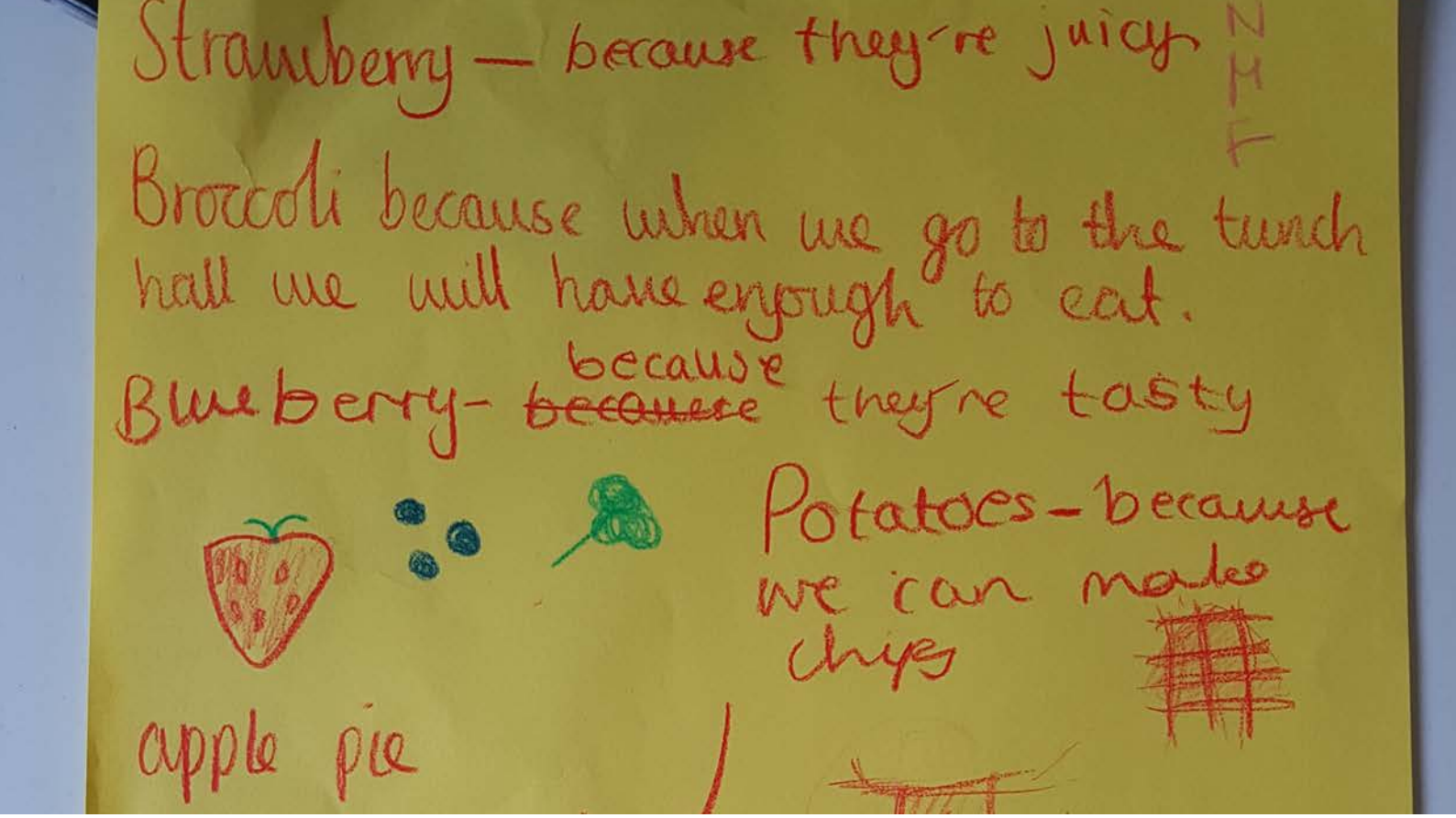
Construction was completed in March 2018 and includes: treated oak raised beds for food growing, a whiteboard and outdoor classroom large enough for 30 pupils, archways for climbing gourds that can be used for music and art lessons, a greenhouse for seed sowing, a bicycle wheel trellis to maximise growing space, compost bins and a wormery to enabled teachers to give lessons on soil composition and plant nutrition.



Trees for Cities' Edible Playgrounds Team will continue to build capacity for the school community to maintain and use the Edible Playground and fully integrate food growing in the school curriculum including 6-7 group training session for members of teaching staff, 3 on-site seed sowing, planting and harvesting classes with lead teacher and their pupils.

Following the first tasting session in April, the school council got to choose which fruits and vegetables should be planted based on their preferences. The first planting workshop was delivered in May, where pupils learnt how to plant strawberries, herbs and vegetables. A staff briefing has also been held to properly inform all staff of the project, present the supporting resource pack and inspire them to get growing. Snaresbrook School will be provided with a year-round Edible Playground maintenance plan as well as:

- Continued on the ground support through horticultural training and planting sessions with young people and staff until autumn 2018.
- Continued access to Online Hub training resources and ad hoc support as needed.
- Overall impact to be measured through follow up assessment with staff and youth workers.


Strawberry — because they're juicy
NHF
Broccoli because when we go to the lunch hall we will have enough to eat.
Blueberry- ~~because~~ because they're tasty
Potatoes - because we can make chips
apple pie

Lettuce
Carrots

TREES FOR CITIES

Registered Charity No: 1032154