



Trees for Cities
Breathing life into your neighbourhood

Trees for Cities projects in Tower Hamlets

St Leonards Priory

St Leonards Priory, situated in Bromley-by-Bow, Tower Hamlets, is the remains of an ancient church and its grounds, now very overgrown and in need of careful management. The Priory was originally part of a Convent and the site today is a small fraction of the original site of this large Benedictine nunnery, founded by William, Bishop of London, in the time of William the Conqueror. The nunnery housed a Prioress and nine nuns and has been immortalised in English literature as it was the Prioress from this convent who formed the basis for another William, Chaucer to base one of his fictional characters in his great work of the 1480s: The Canterbury Tales.

There is tremendous potential to develop this forgotten space into a local community area for local people to enjoy. In partnership with the Diocese of London, Poplar HARCA and the local community we will undertake site and archaeological surveys as well as consultation with the residents, community groups and other stakeholders to put together a plan for planting and development of the site. The resulting project will combine the themes of biodiversity, natural play, local history, community ownership and food growing to transform the area.



St Leonard's Priory, December 2010 (photo: Trees for Cities)

Westferry Estate

Westferry Estate on the Isle of Dogs is managed by EastendHomes and is fortunate in having three communal garden areas. Over the years a few local residents supported by the housing association, have worked hard to improve these sites, but they have yet to reach their potential and the majority remain underused and neglected.

Trees for Cities are working in partnership with EastEnd Homes, with local residents across the estate and the Tenants and Residents Association to rejuvenate the garden areas and kick start a community food growing initiative. The estate is populated by people of all ages and backgrounds and this project aims to bring people together for the benefit of their local environment.



Westferry Estate (photo Trees for Cities)

Manchester Estate

This is Trees for Cities' third year working with residents and landowner EastendHomes on the Manchester estate. The previous two years have seen the development of three new community gardens, a natural play area, tree planting and two new habitats (a wildflower meadow and woodland copse).

This year Trees for Cities have created a fourth community garden around Salford House to complete our work on the green spaces within the estate. TfC will be working with residents over the next few months to finalise the tree planting programme and ensure the perimeter of the estate reaches its wildlife potential. They will also be working closely with the young people on the estate and with children from local schools to develop the first Manchester Estate urban nature trail, as well as running green skills workshops for residents to ensure they can continue to get involved in the planting on their estate.



Volunteers planting wild flowers on the Manchester Estate (photo: Trees for Cities)

Manorfield Primary School

Manorfield Primary School in Tower Hamlets has recently undergone extensive building work to increase the school's capacity. After months of lessons in portacabins, the temporary structures are gone leaving the perfect space for a new Edible Playground.

The Manorfield Edible Playground will include an edible woodland area, a new orchard, a natural play space, and the development of the schools existing vegetable garden and outdoor classroom. Large canopy trees will also be added to the more conventional play spaces to create shade. Development of the design will be led by the whole school community as they participate in an engaging consultation process involving pupils, teachers, staff, governors and parents. A programme of design, curriculum linked activities and planting workshops will run until March 2011.



Manorfield Primary School (photo: Trees for Cities)

King Edward Memorial Park

Since Trees For Cities entered into partnership with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to manage this park, our landscaping team have undertaken some major renovation and made some impressive changes. A number of flower borders have been reinstated, there's a wildflower meadow, the pond has undergone renovation and replanting and, of course, a tree planting programme is well established. We are immensely proud to have been awarded our fourth Green Flag and a Silver Gilt in the London in Bloom competition.

Trees for Cities' training programme also operates from King Edward Memorial Park and our team has installed a poly-tunnel, classroom and other learning resources for the use of horticulture and arboriculture trainees. Come and see them for yourself; Ben, Richard, Ed, Kate or Paul are always out and about in the park if you have any questions.

This year we are planning to further enhance our biodiversity within the park by building a loggery to encourage beetles, planting woodland bulbs and perennials, and adding sensory plants to the children's play area. Through this work we will engage the local community and educate Londoners about the fantastic wildlife within parks. Our event will be a Stag Beetle Spectacular working in partnership with Tower Hamlets Biodiversity Action Plan.



Annual wildflower meadow, King Edward Memorial Park (photo: Trees for Cities)

Grundy Estate

Trees for Cities is working with Poplar HARCA to restore and improve the green spaces around Grundy estate. Key areas will be the communal gardens in Elizabeth Close and Chilcot Close, where tree planting, landscaping and the installation of seating will provide beautiful community spaces for local people to enjoy.

The project will also work with local residents to improve their own green skills so that private as well as public gardens can reach their full potential, whether that be planting for wildlife, food growing or swapping the invasive weeds for more aesthetic planting. We want to inspire people with all things green to help make this a happy and healthy neighbourhood.



Grundy Estate (photo: Trees for Cities)