

Capital Clean-up 2015

Case Study



www.london.gov.uk/cleanup

This summer the Mayor of London supported over 70 enthusiastic Community Groups, Charities, Residents Associations and Schools (amongst others) who were committed to make the capital a cleaner, greener and more pleasant place to live, work and visit.

PROJECT MITCHAM COMMUNITY ORCHARD AND GARDENS

GROUP SUSTAINABLE MERTON

GRANT/KIT GRANT £600, KIT

Award winning project, planting fruit and vegetables on a previously unloved path-side site.

Sustainable Merton transformed a derelict wasteland by a public right of way into a community garden and orchard. The path had a large grassy fly-tipped area on one side and an unattractive concrete barrier on the other. Many locals would not use the walkway as the neglected appearance led to a high fear of crime

The long site was divided into three areas: an orchard with local varieties of fruit trees; a food growing area for fruit and vegetables; and an area where locals can sit and watch the garden grow. The project aims to inform locals and children about food production and wildlife. This has all been managed by the local residents with assistance from other partners. There has been involvement from local church groups, resident associations and schools, with the development of weekend family gardening clubs. The project has been a resounding success.

The grant from Capital Clean-up allowed the site to be renovated using local support and enthusiasm. It has become a far more biologically diverse site with dozens of new species of plants, shrubs and trees growing on it. It has become an area of pride for local people.

The site received awards and accolades: Merton in Bloom and the National Clean Britain Community Awards. The latter recognises and rewards the achievements and contribution of community groups and volunteers in maintaining public places and spaces and are awarded by the Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM).

The judges at CIWM commented:

"We received a record number of entries this year which made the awarding process extremely tough but [Mitcham Community Orchard and Garden's] entry shone out against the others and our judges were really impressed with the sustainable use of the area for planting and growing vegetables and teaching children new skills and giving them a sense of ownership within the community."

No of Volunteers	130
No of events	1
Volunteer hours contributed	490
Rubbish Removed	4.8 tonnes
Area	1500m ²

Before



After



For more about Sustainable Merton, please see:

- <http://www.sustainablemerton.org/>
- <http://www.mitchamorchard.co.uk/>
- <http://www.projectdirt.com/project/7525/>

Capital Clean-up is a partnership campaign led by the Mayor to help Londoners work together to spruce up their city. It is supported by McDonald's and is part of the Mayor's wider Team London volunteering programme.