



Growing Links; Make, Grow, Do - Project Outline

Growing Links - What is it?

The aim of Growing Links is to establish an active community gardening scene local to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park which supports growers, creates a network for sharing information, encourages people to 'have a go' and gives opportunities for people to get their hands dirty both on and off the park.

There will be online support through Project Dirt and offline support through the various taster sessions, skills workshops and a big Harvest Festival in autumn 2015 for local growers to share their wares.

Ok, I might be interested, tell me more...

The theme of the programme is 'Make, Grow, Do'. Groups and individuals who make their own produce, or would like to, have the opportunity to learn, share, enter into competitions and even sell what they produce. This could include anything related to gardening from prize turnips and chutneys to wind-chimes and garden crafts. In line with this theme, we are looking for groups who would like support with growing or making gardening produce for sale and would like to join a network of other growing groups around Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. We'd also like you to be part of our Harvest Festival on the Park, a chance to celebrate your growing season and the goods you've made.

Where will the programme take place?

Activity will be centred around four 'Hubs' which will be based in the former Olympic Host boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Waltham Forest and Tower Hamlets. The Hubs will host a variety of training and taster sessions, as well as offering a space for people to meet and network.

The Harvest Festival will take place in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in Autumn 2015.

Who is the programme aimed at?

The programme is aimed at networking and supporting groups or individuals who have an established garden, belong to a gardening group or would like to join one. However anyone is welcome to attend our taster sessions, skills and training sessions and the Harvest Festivals! Longer accredited practical horticulture training courses are also on offer, for

eligible people. Our main areas of focus are the areas and boroughs around Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Can you help us set up and build our community garden?

Through this programme we aren't able to support setting up of new gardens or provide infrastructure, tools or materials for sites as the main aim is to support existing gardening groups and individuals who want to join. However, we do provide advice on how to set up a garden and how to fundraise, and the skills and taster sessions and events are open to all, whether you are part of a gardening group or not. We can also help to find an existing gardening group near you that you could join.

What is available through the Growing Links programme?

- A chance to be part of a network of growers on or near Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.
- Skills development workshops, which you can help shape.
- Exciting and varied taster sessions on and near the Park.
- Online network hosted by Project Dirt to connect with other local groups/peer support.
- Fundraising ideas and signposting.
- Support with learning or progressing Grow to Sell and other enterprises.
- Accredited Horticulture Training.

How much does it cost?

The programme is FREE to participate in. At events there may be items and activities for sale but purchasing these is optional.

How long the programme will run for?

The programme runs for two years from June 2014 to June 2016, but we hope the network will continue beyond that.

How do I get involved?

- **Sign up** to the network – add your profile to the Project Dirt cluster and get in touch with Jessica Robinson at Groundwork London – details below.
- **Start planning for Harvest Festival** - think about stall or activity you might like to host, or what produce you might bring along.
- **Get in touch to find out more:** Jessica Robinson at Groundwork London – we would love to hear from you!

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