

Greening Great Britain

Community Support Programme 2020



Growing Connections
Guidance Notes



We all know that gardening is good for us, but often what community gardeners value most is the chance to come together with others. Previous Greening Great Britain growers tell us how they treasure the friendships forged through bringing a shared project to life, with plants and nature as their canvas.

We also know that many people suffer from loneliness* and isolation, and that connecting with others – particularly when a common goal can be found – can be the best antidote.

That's why this year's Greening Great Britain theme is Growing Connections. We are inviting groups to connect with others in their community through the power of plants.

Groups are invited to apply for hands-on support from our Community Outreach team, along with a grant of up to £500, to help them transform an unloved space in their community, that will help to bring people together and/or create a growing opportunity to benefit others in their community.

Inspiration

In recent years we've supported schools and community groups that have come up with ever-inventive ways to bring different people together through a shared gardening challenge:

- **A place to share:** A church group in Gateshead worked with residents to revamp their garden into a productive space, growing fresh food to share with their local food bank
- **Being good neighbours:** A secondary school in Edinburgh worked with their neighbouring care home to brighten up its courtyard with colourful bulbs and herbaceous perennials
- **Spreading the love:** Brownies in Yorkshire helped to transform a train station and gave away colourful plants to commuters to spread the Greening Great Britain message
- **A new meeting place:** A Men's Shed group in Bristol created a garden out of a wasteland, creating a new gardening hub for people in the area to enjoy
- **A dementia friendly space:** An Essex garden offers a space for dementia sufferers, their family and staff to relax and practice mindfulness
- **Tackling isolation:** Greater Manchester groups joined forces to green-up their local area, working with people experiencing social isolation, supporting them to learn new skills and make new connections in the process
- **Gardens on prescription:** A community garden in Yorkshire expanded its space to cater for new gardeners referred by local GPs for the health and wellbeing benefit of growing with others



In 2020, the RHS is offering support to groups with creative ideas to improve local spaces and create connections in their local community through plants and gardening.

We are offering:

- Hands-on support and advice for your project from an RHS Community Outreach Advisor; for example:
 - Consultation and project planning
 - Horticultural advice and plant selection
 - Skills training and workshops
 - Aftercare and maintenance advice
- Or tell us what help you need for your project
- £500 grant to support your project



Please read the application guidance notes below carefully before submitting your application to make sure your project is eligible.

1. Theme – Growing Connections

We want to work with organisations with creative ideas to improve spaces and create connections in their local community through plants and gardening. Your application should demonstrate clearly how your greenspace project will involve and benefit other people or groups in your area, and how it will bring people together.

2. RHS Support

The aim of this project is to co-deliver your greenspace improvement projects with the active support from the RHS. We are therefore offering the following:

- Hands-on support and advice for your project from an RHS Community Outreach Advisor; for example, this could involve:
 - Consultation and project planning
 - Horticultural advice and plant selection
 - Skills training and workshops
 - Aftercare and maintenance advice

You should demonstrate in your application how you anticipate working in partnership with the RHS to deliver your project.

- £500 grant to support your project (breakdown of costs to be provided with your application)

3. Your Organisation

You must be involved with the RHS in one of the following ways:

- A community group involved in the Britain in Bloom or It's Your Neighbourhood campaigns
- An RHS Affiliated Society
- A school or group taking part in the RHS Campaign for School Gardening – it's easy and free to sign up and gives access to a host of useful information

We will check this at the assessment stage but please do get in touch if you have any queries.

In addition, your organisation must have its own bank account (such as a constituted group, charity, youth group etc – we are unable to make grant payments to individuals).

Please note that organisations like schools with local authority bank accounts are eligible.

4. Location

Unfortunately we are only able to provide hands-on support in regions where we have Community Outreach Advisors located. Please check Appendix for a list of eligible areas where we are able to offer support.

5. Your Project Site

- Your project should be located in a **publicly accessible** space (not on school grounds unless openly accessible to the public)
- You must have **permission from the landowner** to work on the land and written evidence of this must be provided prior to the start of the project
- You must have the **capacity** to deliver the project – RHS advice and support will be provided but the responsibility to undertake project work will lie with the successful group.
- You must be committed to the **ongoing maintenance** of the site and have a plan in place to support this
- Your project must be completed between **March – October 2020**
- All successful projects will be promoted by the RHS and its sponsor via various media channels

How to apply:

Please complete the online application on our [website here](#) before **Friday 14th February 2020**.

Please note that we will aim to assess applications as soon as possible after they are submitted and so recommend you submit your application as soon as possible.

If you have any queries, please get in touch via communities@rhs.org.uk



The RHS would like to thank M&G for its support of this programme in 2020.